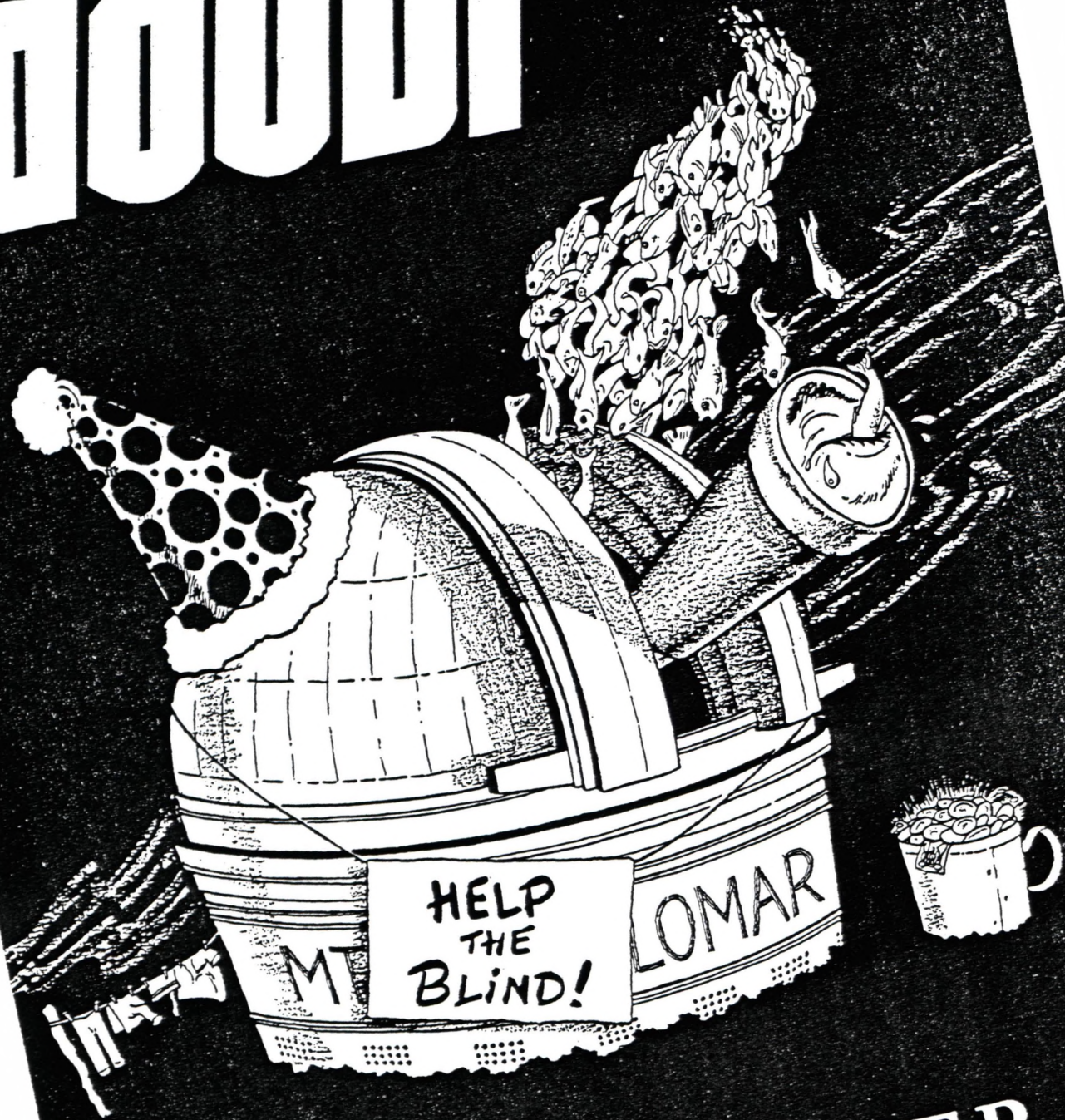


#25

doubt



MIT CASTILLO
EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the

FORTEAN SOCIETY

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FIRST PRIZE

Neck and neck for first place, a Briton and a Gringo, both veterans of the home stretch.

Elsender:

BUTTERFLY POISON

ROME, Wednesday—The entire crew of an American tanker, afflicted with strange blisters in mid ocean, were treated and cured—by radio instructions.

From mid-Atlantic the master of the ship, the Saguaro, despatched a call for help to Rome's International Radio Medical Centre. By wireless he was told that the trouble was due to dust from the wings of poisonous butterflies that had invaded the ship while it was in the Caribbean. *Daily Mail*, Nov. 11, 1948 old style.

Kerr:

BANKER CHOKES TO DEATH

Nathan M. D. McClure died Feb. 7, 19 FS, at Rye, N. Y., by choking to death on a piece of steak at the annual banquet of governors of the Investment Bankers Association at the Westchester Country Club . . . What could be more poetic?

Tied for second place—a Gringo and a Saxon.

Haliburton:

Natives of Kailahun, Sierra Leone, West Africa, sent their entire Easter offering (\$22.25) to an Episcopal Bishop—Wallace E. Conkling—in Chicago, to be used for "missionary work" in that city. *Holdenville Daily News* 2-24-19 FS.

Kerr (again):

The Navajos were snowbound in Arizona. 2-8-19 FS. Food was dropped to their relief by plane. One package hit an Indian woman as it fell—near Window Rock—and killed her.

Third place—two Limeys tie.

MFS I. O. Evans:

A friend in Buenos Aires reports this mystery as still unsolved.

A British business man, he says, was hauled from his bed in the middle of the night by the police. He protested in vain that he was only a visitor and had done nothing wrong. He was cold sober.

At the police station they told him they

didn't know what he was wanted for, but that he'd have to stay there until they found out. So they put him in a cell. A few hours later he was released without explanation.

He still doesn't know what they wanted, but what worries him more is that while he was lying on his back on the cell bed, gazing up on the ceiling, he saw there the distinct impressions of two feet. *News Chronicle*, 3 June, 1948 old style.

Tied with Russell:

SINCE THE FLOOD — — —

Two bearded men of 80 were found sitting in an out-of-the-way cubby-hole in the Paris municipal offices. "What are you doing?" they were asked. "We look after payments for the flood of 1910." they replied.

"But payments stopped in 1913." "Yes, but our salaries didn't." But they have stopped now. *Daily Express*, 2-4-19 FS.

The runners-up follow, more or less in the order of piquancy:

March 2, old style: Duane Free, a printer, has been ordered by a Chicago court to stop teaching atheism to his daughter and stepdaughter, aged seven and eleven. The injunction was issued after Mrs. Esther Free had filed a divorce suit against her husband, from whom she is estranged, alleging cruelty.

Mrs. Free said her husband told the children, "The story of Christ is a myth" and "There is no God." *Cr Russell*

For miraculous proof that "there is a God" see elsewhere in this issue. Meanwhile, Chicago members are urged to investigate the truth of this story.

What court issued the order?

What judge?

When?

What did Free's attorney do about it? What is his name and address?

See if you can get photos of the Frees, their daughters, the attorneys and the judge.

Jan. 17, 19 FS, Sacramento: State Assemblyman G. Delbert Morris, L.A., "proposed" to make mandatory the reading of the Bible in public, elementary and secondary schools for five minutes each day. *Cr. Hoernlein*

Nothing but silence has followed that squib, but if the topic ever came to debate, the minutes should be worth reading. Will some good Sacramento member search out the disposal of Assemblyman Morris, no matter how disgusting, and report?

Elsender (again): That a tadpole 9 months old died without ever growing up. Under examination — apparently at Aberdeen, Scotland, in early December, 18 FS, "the university experts (sic) who are investigating, think the tadpole may have had a thyroid deficiency."

For further fascinating occupations, see elsewhere in this issue, under heading — IT'S NICE WORK — — —

Russell (again):

The first German-made movie since the war will be exhibited in England by Sir Alexander Korda. "British film experts (sic) describe it as a masterpiece." *Liverpool Echo*, 3-20-19 FS.

The *Echo* goes on to say that the picture has been "banned" by the U.S.,

and in the U.S., but it does not say who the U.S. is in this case. The statement is that — "The Americans banned it because they said it was a distorted and satirical portrayal of conditions in the German capital." The title is *Berliner Ballade*.

Now, let's see, how would the Powers that Be go about "banning" a good picture they don't want us to see? Who would issue the decree — and to whom? Would that be the O.S.S.—Jack Warner—Harry Truman—Chase National—Doc Giannini—or Congress? As a matter of fact, there is no law against "distortion" or "satire" that I know of. If there were, Hollywood must have shut up shop twenty years ago. . . . There is no law YS ever heard of which can prevent an enterprising individual from obtaining and showing this new picture. These "bans" are not imposed by law, but by subtle (or sometimes not so subtle) coercion. It's all done with winks — as Pearl Harbor was. The boys who would exhibit the picture, the bankers who would put up the dough to buy it, and the politicians and newsmen who would be shown up as barefaced liars by its unreeling, are all members of the same club. They agree (but one hesitates to call theirs a "gentlemen's" agreement) to "ban" the showing. AND—fellow worms—you and I would not even know about it if we did not read the *Liverpool Echo!* Freedom and democracy—they're wonderful!

What do we do about it?

Well, the first step is for the several members who know Korda personally and have worked with him, to find out if HE owns the rights to exhibit *Berliner Ballade* in the U.S. If he does, ask him what office or agency or bureau took it upon itself to tell him he could not show it. If Korda does not have U.S. showing rights, where do they rest? Korda would know.

Aren't we all a little tired of being kicked around by anonymous but heavy feet?

Kerr (again): 4-12-19 FS, in Washington, the FBI reported a special agent missing since Saturday. "It could give no reason except that he has not been well lately." (Maybe we ought to call in the Canadian Mounties!)

Oltcher: 4-6-19 FS. In Tokyo a center of the tea producing industry, "Occupation authorities (that's us) authorized the Japanese government to offer for sale to its citizens 174 tons of surplus United States Army and Navy tea."

Just what is "surplus" tea? Tea does not spoil or go out of style. It is always tea, always usable. How can it become surplus? We were taxed to pay for it once. Now we will be taxed to pay for replacements. Moreover, it is India tea because that is all that was available when the Army was buying so heavily, and India tea is not popular in Japan or China. The 174 tons must be sold very cheaply. If you had the price—and the "in"—you could buy that tea now, for a song, and sell it back to the United States Army and Navy at a whopping profit in a month or so. That type of

fiddling with "surplus" has been going on right here at home ever since peace was not declared.

Russell (again): Infantile paralysis never had been known to the Eskimos until they began eating packaged cereals and other white man's food. 3-11-19 FS —thirteen cases were flown from the arctic to Winnipeg for treatment. If members send the Eskimos presents in the hospital, don't forget a few Schmoos.

Oltcher: That on April 1, old style, in Stalybridge, England, Herbert Collier, 65, sat down to write a suicide note, stating that he would use gas. He died of a heart attack before the note was finished.

Wakefield: That on 3-24-19 FS, the Serpent of Avarice crawled into the Rosicrucian nest where the Pelican tears her Sacred Liver out to feed it to her young. To put it somewhat less symbolically, the AMORC outfit (the most successful of modern public revivals of so-called "Rosicrucianism"), appears to have been founded in 1915 A.D., by Thord Kümalehto and H. Spencer Lewis. That is the allegation of Kümalehto's widow who is suing Lewis for her share of the take, which she estimates as worth \$2,000,000.

According to Mrs. Myra Kümalehto, as reported in the S. F. *Examiner*, Kümalehto was publisher and owner of a magazine, "Rosae Crucis" in 1915 when he met Lewis. They founded the Supreme Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Mystical Order of Rosae Crucis, Kümalehto putting up the cash and Lewis contributing his time and energies . . . The suit sets forth further that the order was more of a "business venture" than a religious organization, and that—"it was used as a device to disseminate lessons and information to others at a profit."

The progress of the Order can be followed from that time to the present by consulting the advertising sections of magazines of a certain class.

Thord Kümalehto died March 28, 1948 old style, and his widow alleges that H. Spencer Lewis, Mrs. H. Spencer Lewis, Ralph Lewis and Gladys Lewis have since taken over the assets "to their exclusive use and have refused to allow her to participate in the managerial affairs of the order or to receive an accounting".

A suit of this kind can set back boob-bumping twenty years.

Russell (again): 2-14-49 old style. Dorothy Vine, *ae* 13, of Hull, ran screaming with her hair and clothing ablaze. Rescuers "understood" her to say: "A man did it." . . . But detectives who spoke to her in hospital last night decided: "Dorothy set herself alight playing with a bottle of lighter petrol and matches."

Feel snugger now?

Sheeley: "Last Spring" — 18 FS — Richard Pitcher of Providence, Oregon, fell and cracked his left kneecap. An operation removed one broken piece. On 1-19-19 FS, while standing on the sidewalk at the home of a friend, he heard a snap, and felt pain in his right knee-

cap. It had broken — like the other — but from no apparent cause.

Bonavia: The column of John J. O'Neill, in the *Her-Trib* March 20, 1949 old style, is a dilly.

John is always pretty good at double talk, but this time he outdoes himself, introducing to a gaping world its new Messiah — the Mathematician turned to "Social Physics".

Boy!

Get this:

"Three new books reveal the scope of the new field and some of the achievements already made. Dr. George Kingsley Zipf, of Harvard University, presents the results of twenty-five years' research in a monumental volume, *Human Behavior and the Principle of Least Effort*. (Addison-Wesley Press, Cambridge, Mass.). Dr. Norbert Wiener, professor of mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, presents the results of ten years' work in *Cybernetics* (John Wiley & Sons, N. Y.). Dr. N. Rashevsky, of the University of Chicago, presents his latest findings in *Mathematical Theory of Human Relations* (The Principia Press, Bloomington, Ind.). Professor John Q. Stewart, of Princeton University, has not yet assembled his material into a book (sic). but the title he has given his work, *Social Physics*, seems to be favored by most workers in the new field."

Thank you, John. Now, folks, you are about to have man's inhumanity to man reduced to a geometrical formula for college profs to hassle and rattle with at so much per diem. Let's congratulate Messers Zipf, Wiener, Rashevsky and Stewart. It's nice work if you can get it. (Incidentally, do you suppose Stewart is a Commie — with a foreign name like that?)

IT'S NICE WORK

Clearly, this department overlaps the labors of PPP. Most if not quite all the occupations listed below could be augmented to the *n*th power, thus making war unnecessary. The only difference between the boondoggles suggested in the past as planks in our Perpetual Peace Platform, and those listed below is that these are now, or have been, or will be, in operation under the patronage of institutions other than the Fortean Society.

One of the oldest ways for the genteel, professor type to keep its belly full has been running around over the pyramids, yardstick in hand. In 1921 A.D., the Ministry of Finance (Egypt), published a brochure extending these investigations to the "Great Temple of Ammon at Karnak". Our copy was contributed by LMFS Annie Barley.

Why not treat Stonehenge the same way?

On Dec. 10, 1935 old style, AP papers stated that the Geodetic Survey ship Pioneer was going to find out why the floor of the sea off La Jolla, Southern California, "growls strangely" beginning at 11:00 a. m. every day.

The N. Y. Times printed, Nov. 11, 1938 old style, the information that a check and record of "ocean swells" was to be maintained. "The observations are sponsored by the International Meteor-

ological Organization, with supervision of the work in charge of the Sub-Commission for Swell, of which I. R. Tannehill, chief of the Marine Division of the U. S. Weather Bureau, is the American member."

YS has written to the Sub-Commission for Swell several times, just asking how things are going, but nobody ever answers. Want to try your hand? The address above is all we have.

In the year 9 FS, one Donald C. Bradford, director of the University of Pittsburgh's seismological observatory was attempting to form amateur observing stations, with home-made seismographs, in Western Penna. Try asking *him* how it's coming.

Probably the most inspired waste of funds before the United Nations was conceived was the pollen count. Edwin Neff, writing in a D. C. wyper of Aug. 16 FS, states that ragweed pollen counts are taken daily in Washington, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Madison, Toledo, Chicago, Nashville and Dallas.

Putting together so-called "prehistoric" skeletons was pretty bright. It has something of the De Mille touch. In the year 16 FS, one Norman H. Boss had been at the business 42 years for the Museum of Natural History, Washington, D. C. He was breaking in an "assistant preparator" on bones purported to be those of a *Camarasaurus Lentus*. The assistant was called Arton Murray, and the bones were estimated to be worth \$250,000 when put together. *Cr* Reagan.

Asking people questions about their sex life enters the archives at this point, 16 FS. As appears from interviews with Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey, he has sufficient funds available to keep on at the same pace for 20 years.

December, that same year, Mr. Lindgren, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, confessed that an abandoned "fog dispersal apparatus" at London Airport has cost nearly \$2,000,000. An "improved" version of it was being installed at Blackbushe, near Camberley, but whether the "improvement" lay in fog dispersal or tax disbursement is not clear from the report of Air-Cmdre. L.G.S. Payne, in the *Daily Telegraph*.

Surveying "wild life" also costs money, or *pays* money, depending upon where you sit. Dr. Hartley Jackson is quoted as lamenting 50 species of North American wild animals "almost extinct". If we could sell Dr. Jackson on Iktomi's plan we could all, once more, enjoy the thrills of Little Red Riding Hood and other tamers of grizzly bear, big wolf, Maine giant mink, Arizona merriam elk, southern sea otter, reindeer and 44 other varmints.

Listening to the sun crackle on the radio began to be an occupation, Jan. 17 FS, but no salary is stated by the Liver-pool *Echo*.

The *Herald*, however, names £800 a year as the honorarium offered by University College, London, for someone to tutor an octopus. If you wish to check on the present status of this employment, address Prof. J. Z. Young, as above.

In the year 17 FS, Dr. Erwin Schroedinger, professor of the school of physics in the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, finished 30 years of work by announcing that he could — at last — “relate the Einstein theory to electromagnetics.” He arrived at his theory by relying on a “general nonsymmetric affinity,” whereas other scientists had failed to solve the problem because they used a “symmetrical affinity with only 40 component parts instead of a general one with 64 — — — I believe I am right.” said Dr. Schroedinger. “I shall look an awful fool if I am wrong.”

Yea, brother.

In Jan. 13 FS, three pals at Manchester University, announced a new field for employment — that of the mesons. The men were Dr. G. D. Rochester, Dr. C. C. Butler, and Prof. P.M.S. Blackett. “The meson particle was predicted (sic) by a Japanese (formerly dirty little yellow-belly) theoretical physicist, Yukawa, in 1935 (old style), but theoretical and experimental difficulties subsequently confused the picture. The discovery of the cosmic ray meson seemed to fit in with the Yukawa particle, but two types of meson were recently discovered during research work at Bristol and, almost simultaneously, the announcement has been made of further types discovered by French scientists and the Manchester research workers.” The French announcer was Prof. Joliot Curie. *Cr. Russell.*

In February 18, the U. S. Army Signal Corps planned to “explore the moon with radar.”

In October 18, Cornell unveiled “an eight-ton radio telescope — — The only college-operated machine of its kind and one of only a few in the world — — is expected to expand knowledge in the relatively new and unexplored field of radio-astronomy.” Only think of the possibilities! — — Dr. Charles R. Burrows is the Cornell swami to write to for dope. *Cr. Gee.*

In October, 18 FS, Dr. Frank E. Peabody, U of Calif., Berkeley, climaxed his career by coaxing “salemanders to walk across sheets of smoked paper.” From that he figured to draw a lifelike picture of the Chirotherium, “a reptile which (Peabody thinks) lived about 200 million years ago.” — — — Gad! Is there no end to their genius? *Cr. Reagan.*

The Aussies were making a profession of listening to dark-star remarks by radio October 18, FS. “The point of origin of the signals is in the constellation Cygnus.” *Cr. Castillo.*

Taking the temperature of Earth 60,000,000 years ago, was invented as a means of livelihood or as a fascinating avocation by Harold C. Urey, Samuel Epstein, Charles McKinney and John McCrea. They do it by observing whether thunderstones of that age — 60,000,000 years — were made up of oxygen atoms of weight 16 or weight 18. So help me, that was sent out by A P. *Cr. Reagan.*

Nov. 14, '48 old style: “Tide-predicting machines which can work out the time and height of tides at any port in the world, have been made at Liverpool Observatory for Russia, Spain and Nor-

way. Price £5,000 each. *Cr. Bailey.*

Nov. 1, same year, *Chanticleer* reported that Dr. Robert Alkinson, Asst. Astr. Royal had gone from London to Mombassa, E. Africa to make a two-minute motion picture—of a solar eclipse. “While the sun is eclipsed, he will also photograph the moon, hoping that his pictures will help locate the moon’s exact position — a question that has always worried astronomers.” *Cr. Elsander.*

December 18, FS — — — “An error of more than 100,000,000 years in the age of rocks in northeastern Brazil has been corrected by a “find” uncovered by Dr. Kenneth E. Caster of the University of Cincinnati.” *Cr. Gaddis.*

Jan. 19 FS — — — George F. Will of North Dakota Agricultural College, “has pretty well blasted the idea that there have been great cycles of wet and dry weather.” He does this blasting by studying tree rings which — in N. Dak. — chart growth from 1406 to 1940 AD. *Cr. Mealy.*

Phyllis Freier of the U of Minnesota cosmic ray group has not only assisted Edward P. Ney, Frank Oppenheimer, and Edward J. Lofgren to expand their means of livelihood, but she created an aphorism at the same time. The group made the papers by asserting that they had photographed a naked nucleus of a particle traveling 167,000 miles a second — almost 20 miles up in the air. (Counting the miles is a separate study — a separate source of income.)

Miss Freier quipped: “In the upper atmosphere, the abundance of elements heavier than iron is limited.”

Jack Benny could use her.

The Manchester *Guardian* wept a full column Jan. 31, '49 old style, because old Greenwich Observatory has no funds to move with and nothing left to move with the funds it has.

Jan. 25 old style, Dr. R. D. Coons of the U. S. Weather Bureau and Dr. Irving Langmuir of General Electric, studying the same evidence and data, report that (Coons) useful rain cannot be produced by “cloud-seeding”, that (Langmuir) useful rain can be produced by this method. The Air Force has been working on it too — — “reported it had little success” —BUT, the project has been moved from Wilmington, Ohio, to Sacramento, Calif., so the jobs will still go on.

Science! — it’s wonderful!

The U. S. correspondent of the Daily *Express* sent both these bits Jan. 31.

WEATHER: A group of New York scientists is making a five-year test to see if grandpa’s methods of forecasting weather were more accurate than science’s. Fifty years ago New Yorkers predicted what kind of winter they would have by the way the brown and black bands ran on the back of one kind of woolly caterpillar. Their records so far show the caterpillar 100 per cent correct.

SPORTS: In from London, George Hackenschmidt, 71-year-old ex-champion wrestler, challenged Einstein to wrestle with him — about human problems. His message to the professor: “Would you care for the benefit of humanity to debate with me all present-day trends and de-

velopments.” Einstein has not answered.

The Hackenschmidt item has some Fortean interest, inasmuch as YS joined the ex-Russian Lion in a catch-as-catch-can encounter in a certain New York City bar. If space permits, the details will be found elsewhere in this issue. If not — see next issue.

Feb. 19 FS. Wilton Krogman has invented an art to be paid for — — — It is guessing how the forearms of fossilised female skeletons came to be fractured. Wilton thinks the arms were busted when their cave-men mates swung clubs at the gals’ heads. You are at liberty to make a counter guess, but YS does not know who pays you for it.

Birmingham U, (Eng.), is proud of its growing Synchrotron. It costs more than a cyclotron. *Cr. Russell.*

March, 19 FS. No yellow fever in Panama for 50 years — until 8 cases broke out: 6 of them died. Odds on, they’ll spray the canal with DDT.

March — 19 FS

ATOMIC POWER FOR SHIPS PROJECT

Washington, Monday — A big new research project for atom-powered ships and submarines is to start soon, said Senator McMahon, chairman of the Congressional Atomic Energy Committee, today.

The United States Atomic Energy Commission would spend about £125,000,000 in the next five or six years on building new atomic reactors for the project in a western state. — Reuter. (Idaho, is named later)

March — 19 FS

Dr. E. C. Rosenow, *ae* 73, tapes glass-wool on the front of the Chief to trap common cold virus. *Cr. Marshall* . . . There’s only one Chief, but *you* can use the Delaware Lackawan.

Undated — from Auburn, Ala. A “fantastic” — it’s *their* word, not mine — new electric brain has been created at Alabama Polytechnic Institute by Dr. Raymond Pepinsky with \$125,000 granted to him by the U. S. Navy . . . “One of its first missions is to join in the fight against cancer!”

Parole!

“April, 19 FS. Scientists aboard the University of California’s laboratory ship, *Velero IV*, have failed to locate a mountain reported to be rising off the Lower California coast. For the past several months fishing vessels have reported the submerged peak near the tip of the peninsula. They said it had risen to within 40 fathoms of the surface. Capt. Allan Hancock of the *Velero IV* radioed that the ship had searched the area with electronic fathometers for more than two hours and had failed to locate the mountain. Hancock said, however, that the fishermen may have reported the exact location incorrectly.”

For variety’s sake, the girls in *red* hats will report inexact locations correctly.

MFS Julien Parr — who has given excellent account of himself in these columns before, writes:

“I’ve found another oddment in the German magazine, *Heute*, of 30 Mar 49 . . . if you think it absurd — as I do

— I'll send the whole thing with a translation . . . Apparently an astro-physician, Dr. Alphons Tchetchin of Sydney, has invented a new 'electron-telescope'. With this instrument, he took photographs of the Nebula *Lirpa* — a supposed quick-silver gas nebula — 760 trillion Kilometer distant.

"This instrument naturally magnifies celestial objects much better than any telescope invented or used before. And, after enlarging his photograph of the nebula 70,000 x, Dr. Joke, his assistant, saw a *reflection of the earth*. After enlarging the photo 500,000 x, he could discern the actual continents of the earth — as they were 160 million years ago! (the point being, this is the length of time the light would take from earth to this "cosmic mirror" and back). At that time, even, the earth had two moons — all there, in the photograph:

"That's not all. After detailed study of the North-American continent, as shown in the reflection, Pro. Tchetchin shows figures that are possibly prehistoric monsters!

"Let me know if you want a copy of this article — and the photographs!" (We have asked for complete details.)

April, 19 FS

Waste materials from England's "atomic energy research establishment at Harwell" are being dumped into the Atlantic in drums, "about 20 sealed drums at a time" . . . "It will be enclosed in something heavy, such as concrete, to ensure that it goes right to the bottom." *Cf Russell.*

Or — maybe Dr. Walter R. Miles of Yale will let you join him and Lloyd H. Beck. They place large cock-roaches in a cage over an aluminum checkerboard. The alternate squares are lampblack. By applying heat, Mesers Miles and Beck have learned that roaches can "smell" black!

Or — failing all the above — if you know how to milk a mouse, you may apply for employment to Dr. Samuel Graff, Columbia U. College of Physicians and Surgeons. The dairy turns out about two quarts of mouse milk per year at \$10,000 per quart. Unfortunately the milk is cancerous. God knows what it would cost if it was healthy.

COINCIDENCE AT HOME

The first letter below is from MFS Charles J. Jacobs, dated Oct 23, 17 FS . . . A few sentences at the opening are deleted.

Then:

"My duties as instructor have left me no time for such research or even to work the original statement to a more organized or more pleasing form. However, the aforesaid duties (in my English Literature class) have led me across the perennially interesting trail of Roger Bacon, and therefrom develops another mild brain storm to keep company with my former aberration.

"You are, I am sure, familiar with the story of the Roger Bacon manuscript turned up in 1912 in Italy by Wilfrid Voynich of New York (the so-called Voynich Manuscript). You will be also familiar

with the subsequent failure of all experts (archaeologists, cryptographers, medievalists) to break the cipher in which it is written. Dr. William E. Newbold, of the University of Pennsylvania, who claimed in 1921 to have made a decipherment, has been generally discredited by competent scholars. There seems to be only two possible clues to the meaning — the sentence in Latin characters on the last page (*Michiton oladabas multos te fecer cerc portas*) and the drawings which occur in the text — among which are said to occur the constellation Hyades (including the bright star Aldebaran) and a spiral figure mistakenly identified by Dr. Newbold as the nebula in Andromeda; other drawings are said to resemble various botanical specimens.

"As a student of the short story in its various forms, I have also been interested in the horror stories of H. P. Lovecraft and the preoccupation of some of them with the star Aldebaran. While Lovecraft is believed to have been influenced in his cosmic mythos by the early work of Robert W. Chambers (*The King in Yellow*, 1895), he lived for a time in Brooklyn and might well have had access to reproductions of Bacon's drawings and test in Dr. Newbold's book in the New York Public Library. All of Lovecraft's stories of cosmic horror came after the appearance of Newbold's book. For all that, however, practically all of Lovecraft's writing occurred after 1921; so this does not actually prove anything.

"However, in the somewhat fantastic spirit of the season, I suggest that there may be a connection between Roger Bacon and Lovecraft's conception of Things from Outside and our Flying Saucers. In fact, that spiral thing in the Voynich Manuscript which is not the nebula in Andromeda must be something else — so why not go the limit? One thing is certain: Friar Bacon had something so hot that he put it in a cipher (?) that has stumped even experts who have been able to decipher both dead and foreign languages with which they were not familiar: and this is a matter which has two edges — (1) the matter must be much more grave than anything else he wrote about; (2) if the cipher does not yield to earthly rules, perhaps it is of non-earthly origin.

"Ironically enough, although I am within an hour of New York and half an hour of Yale, I have not found opportunity during the past few months to check either Newbold's book or anything else on the subject."

The next letter is dated Nov 1, old style, the same year, and it was written by MFS F. Frederick Clouser, who writes for many popular magazines.

Sezee:

"Rummaging through one of my old notebooks recently, I ran across two clippings, copies of which are attached, recounting a story of the translation of some double-cipher manuscripts attributed to Roger Bacon, which were said to anticipate the telescope, the microscope, speculations and discoveries in astronomy of the time of Kepler, speculations and discoveries in biology of the time of

Pasteur, and chemical formulae far in advance of anything thought possible of the thirteenth century.

"If the manuscripts are even to a degree what they were cracked up to be, the matter is definitely of Fortean interest.

"Of especial interest, I think, is the consignment of the whole business to limbo. Doctor Newbold stated he would prove 'that the black-magic of the Middle Ages consisted in discoveries far in advance of twentieth-century science,' and that the manuscripts contain 'information on the origin of life and other mysteries that will stagger the scientific world.' Even after making allowance for possible excessive enthusiasm on Doctor Newbold's part, one strongly suspects that he had hit upon something really significant. Why did the matter peter out?

"Certain things immediately come to mind — such as: L. J. Hendershot's miracle motor and J. W. Keely's Hydro-pneumatic-pulsating-vacuum-engine (*Wild Talents*, chap. 32), and John Andrews' substitute for gasoline (R. DeWitt Miller's *Forgotten Mysteries*, chap. 1).

"As for the Bacon manuscripts: if the scientific world was staggered, it recovered its poise with remarkable—even suspicious—agility; if Bacon did anticipate discoveries far in advance of twentieth-century science, a most peculiar amnesia, or at least a strikingly whimsical unconcern, seems to have seized our scientific gentlemen. I should like to know why."

Clouser's first enclosure reads:

From The Youth's Companion, May 5, 1921:

"A STRANGE MANUSCRIPT IN CIPHER

"A convention of scientific men who met in Philadelphia the other day listened to the extraordinary story of a manuscript written in cipher more than six hundred years ago and only now translated.

"Mr. Wilfred Voynich, a Polish antiquarian and bibliographer who is a naturalized British subject, discovered the manuscript among a lot of medieval parchments that he had bought in Europe, and Dr. W. R. Newbold of the University of Pennsylvania has worked out the cipher with great ingenuity. Both men are confident that the manuscript is the work of Roger Bacon, the Famous Englishman who may be said to have been the pioneer of modern scientific discovery, and who re-established in human thought the experimental, open-minded methods of Aristotle, forgotten or neglected during the ignorance and superstition of the Dark Ages.

"The manuscript is in double cipher. It is written in strange symbols not unlike shorthand in appearance. The translator had first to find the key to the symbols, and when he had found and applied it he still had only a meaningless jumble of monkish Latin and early English words. The second cipher had then to be worked out but when that was done the remarkable character of the book stood forth, though only in part, for it took Dr. Newbold nearly four

months to decipher a single one of the three hundred pages, and he has translated less than forty thousand words out of the eight hundred thousand that the book contains.

"The extracts show the book to be a treatise on almost every branch of science, and if it is really the work of Roger Bacon it proves him to have made discoveries and worked out theories for which the world had to wait hundreds of years. There are indications that the writer made and used both telescope and microscope, and that he had ideas about the character and motions of the heavenly bodies and about minute forms of life that were not reached again until the days of Kepler in astronomy and Pasteur in biology. The book also contains references to physical and chemical experiments that show Bacon — if he was the author — to have been even further in advance of his age than has commonly been supposed.

"It is not hard to see why those things were so carefully buried in cipher. Bacon, though a Franciscan friar, was in frequent disfavor with his ecclesiastical superiors on account of his daring speculations and his refusal to accept traditional views of science and philosophy. More than once he was forbidden to study those subjects or to write on them, and he spent fourteen years in prison for doing too much independent thinking. The common people stood in great awe of his curious learning. For generations he bore in his native England the reputation of being a wizard, deep in the confidence of the Evil One — owing, no doubt, to his early experiments with gunpowder. It is reasonable to believe that the book contains the account of discoveries and speculations that he dared not give to the world for fear of punishment and persecution.

"There remains of course the question whether the manuscript is genuine. Of that we can be no judge, but men who are learned in the field that it covers are convinced that it is. There are marginal notes that show that antiquarians knew and labored over the book in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; but since 1680 it has been neglected and forgotten by those who fell heir to it — given up, perhaps, as hopelessly unintelligible. If it is a hoax it is a great one, and if it is what it purports to be its story is stranger still and more fascinating."

And Clouser's second enclosure:

From *The Youth's Companion*, January 13, 1927:

"OUT OF THE DIM PAST"

"Five years ago Dr. Wilfred M. Voynich, a collector of old books and manuscripts, brought to this country a set of volumes written on vellum and constituting a sort of encyclopedia of scientific knowledge. At the monastery from which he bought them there was a tradition that they were the work of Roger Bacon, a Franciscan friar who lived in the thirteenth century and has long been regarded as one of the great scientific minds of the Middle Ages.

"The books were written in a strange tongue and a complicated cipher, which no one had been able to solve until Doctor Voynich submitted the volumes to Dr. W. Romaine Newbold of the University of Pennsylvania. He found the key and translated at least a part of the manuscript.

"It was announced at the time that they show Bacon to have had knowledge both of the telescope and of the microscope. Doctor Newbold is even reported to have said that when the time came he would prove to the world that the black magic of the Middle Ages consisted in discoveries far in advance of twentieth-century science, and that the books contain information on the origin of life and other mysteries that will stagger the scientific world."

"Last September Doctor Newbold died, whether with his task of translation completed or not we do not know; but a recent memorial meeting in his honor a most interesting announcement was made. Among the formulae in the books was a rule for making salts of copper. Doctor Newbold submitted it to a chemist, who said he had never heard of it; but he tried it and found that it works, though it is too complicated to be of commercial value today.

"The incident is interesting for two reasons; it shows that the friar of more than six hundred years ago had knowledge not common to the men of his day, and that he knew how to set that knowledge down. It whets the appetite of the scientific mind for other secrets that the books may contain.

"There is a sort of archaeology of learning, of knowledge, as there is an archaeology of the more material aspects of civilization, such as architecture, household utensils and armor; and out of its dust heaps long-buried jewels flash from time to time a ray that broadens the horizon and grips the fancy."

PRESENT ANARCHY SERVES

The spokesmen for euthanasia who wish to make mercy-killing legal and subject to medical supervision, continue to circularize us, and to invite us to their debates and doings.

YS never has joined this group, and could not urge the Fortean Society to espouse this apparently worthy and sensible cause. It is not disagreement with purported aims of the Euthanasia Society which keeps us out, but the opinion that this matter is very well handled right now, without any law being passed, without any politics involved, and with a minimum of medical supervision.

Any respectable practitioner faced with a suffering incurable who wishes to die, and whose nearest of kin agree, lets the patient expire by means best suited to the individual case. This is standard, humanitarian practice and has been so for years. Hardly a day passes without an instance of it, but the only cases which ever reach the papers are those involving doctors or widows cursed with unstable emotional systems or those who become priest-ridden if the Church is cut out of the will.

For every doctor brought to book for a "mercy-killing" there are thousands never heard of outside the family circle. This is quite as it should be, and the men and women who would prefer to throw the question into the stinking political arena at Washington, D.C., with a Cabinet Secretary—like the late Forrester, for instance—passing out licenses to do away with folks, are simply out of their minds.

ANTI MEDICINE

We have a few copies of *THESE CULTS*, by Annie Riley Hale, "an answer to Dr. Morris Fishbein." Long out of print and rare. While they last, \$5.00 from the Society. (We have too few of these to list in book circular #7, now on the press.)

In the same spirit, we recommend *MEDICAL SABOTAGE*, by Nell Foster Rogers, wife of LMFS Guy Rogers. A penny postcard to them will bring you one copy, or a dollar will bring you 100 copies. Address Nell Foster Rogers, Route 1, Box 27, Gainesville, Fla.

ADD EXPLOSIONS

Inadvertently, the name of Carlo di Iorio was omitted from the list of sufferers from anaesthetic explosions. DOUBT #24. It happened in New Rochelle, Feb. 16, and cyclopropane was being used. *Cr* Flag.

DID PASTEUR RECANT?

A non-member writes to say that he has heard tell that Pasteur repented his sins on his death-bed and disavowed the germ theory of disease. Can you recall reading that? Where?

A. L. (THE MAN) JOQUEL

He comes and he goes, and we can't always find him, but whether he is within hail or not, Arthur Louis Joquel III is a first class Fortean all the time. He started a Fortean Chapter in Los Angeles as far back as the year 7 FS, he has contributed important pamphlets to the Society Archives, he discovered St. George (Malter), and now he has applied himself so well to the Fort bibliography that he found a *Popular Magazine*, August, 1905, containing *The Marooned Campers*, a short story, by Charles Fort, and he has presented it to the Society.

As you will see, p. 351 of DOUBT, we had no copy of this text until Joquel found it. As soon as we can afford to strike medals for signal services, Brother Joquel gets one.

THE CHAPTERS

The Drussai baby arrived the day after the 11th meeting of Chapter Two. Garen and Kirk found "Milo" to be the appropriate name for the Fortean Society's own "Virginia Dare": the date, April 21, 19 FS. Understandably, the minutes of the 11th meeting of Chapter Two are not very detailed, but we observe that MFS Bob Johnson "gave a near-perfect talk on Forteanism, which should be written out and mimeographed for our elucidation" — — — Okay. Let's have it.

No other Chapters reported any activity, but George Leite, proprietor of DALIEL'S, 2466 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, is looking for people who are

"unable to sleep". DALIEL'S sells DOUBT, so you can send friends there for extra copies.

F. U.

The first examination at F. U. was administered in Korzybski, the last week in April, 19 F.S.

NOMINATIONS

The following have been nominated by members for Fortean Fellowship:

Irene Castle Enzinger McLaughlin (for anti-vivisection activity).

ABOUT HALLEY'S COMET

The appearance of Halley's comet in 1910 — and the way Fort brushes it off — have raised the wind a good many times in YS's personal experience. In short, it beats hell how well grown-men can remember seeing what they were told to see in the sky in 1910. They will get sore about it if you belittle that spectacle.

YS was a sweet child of 8. He was taken into the back yard by his father and other adults who had read about the comet in the papers. Although directions for finding it were explicit, the grown-ups took a mighty long time locating anything to gush over, and honest John me — I never did find it.

Luckily we do not have to rely on personal observation and memory. If Halley's was the spectacle so many say it was — where are the awesome photographs? The Camera Obscura was in use in 1910 — in observatories, by astronomers. Members will confer a favor by searching their local papers and the magazines of the period and reporting photos of Halley's comet.

NO RAIN FOUR YEARS

MFS Kelley states that no rain fell in "the Valley of Mexico" — wherever that is — in the years 1452-1456. Does anybody recognize the datum? It sounds like a guess based on tree-rings.

SOLUNARISTAS

You folks who have been buying MFS Knight's Solunar Tables every year for 50c should have some evidence or data by this time. Tell us about your experiences, not only as you apply the Tables to hunting and fishing, but any other observed phenomena.

DEPLORABLE

Lou Alt, a former MFS, now an atheist kingpin in Philly, permits his publication, called "The Liberal" (God deliver us from a "liberal's" caress!) to defend dogmatic evolution. The "Liberal's" challenge is addressed to Jehovah's Witnesses who publish AWAKE — which is, aside from its mystical nonsense, a well reasoned and well written paper.

We suggest that the Philly Liberals, Alt & Co, challenge MFS McAtee to debate "evolution" with them. McAtee is no deist and no Witness for Jehovah. In fact, he's a practicing, teaching biologist, U of Chicago, but he doesn't hold with Darwin, and he has his own definition of evolution.

JERSEY JUSTICE

Across the river, where Damon Runyon and his fellow Hearstians served up Bruno Richard Hauptman to a regime

in need of a blood sacrifice, a similar railroading is in the course of realization for the politicians that be. Six innocent Negroes are slated to die for a murder they did not commit, for a murder which the jury, judge and prosecutor's office all know they did not commit.

Thus, the term "Jersey Justice" is defined accurately. The State of New Jersey does not care whether it catches the guilty person or not. If the legal machine exacts a life — any life — after a capital crime, that is "Jersey Justice". If it exacts the lives of six Negroes for one "William Horner", that is "Jack-pot Jersey Justice."

If you care to help six black men escape the maliciousness of the white ones who rule the State across the river, send any sum of money from two-bits up (a dollar is suggested), to the "Committee to Free the Trenton Six," Civil Rights Congress, 205 East 42nd Street, New York 17, N. Y.

RUSSELL WRITES

"Note Parr's Colorado beetle mystery. If someone's systematically going in for agricultural sabotage, there are signs of it in the Land of Eng in the shape of widespread outbreaks of farm fires destroying hundreds of tons of baled hay, etc., in spite of cold, misty, damp weather. Latest one, four days back, burned out EIGHT barns full, brought fire brigades from five towns. This was at Trefnant, North Wales. Fire-fighters raced from Denbigh, Ruthin, Rhyl, Prestatyn and Holywell.

"Chibbett reports that he and his wife, together and separately, have heard the strange noises commented upon as having been heard 'by people all over the place' in *Daily Mirror*, Jan. 19th, and *Sunday Express*, Jan. 23rd. Chibbett says it resembles 'the hum of a radio when turned on and no music playing,' source not identifiable, no neighbors' radios operating at the time. Couple of times in Liverpool there has been an elusive, very low-pitched noise, hearable more within the skull rather than by the ears, which at peak causes momentary lightheadedness or muddle-mindedness. Source not known — officially. Myself, I think sonic weapons are being developed, and occasionally tested — — — on the sheep. Ultimately, we'll face super-blitzes, and plunge into battles obediently, without fear. Fortean and non-Fortean alike, yourself included, because we'll have no minds with which to think. You'll be alive and kicking all right — — — but you'll kick when and where you're told. You'll be civilized whether you like it or not."

Parr's beetles — mentioned above — from *British Zone Review*, of July-August 1948.

Colorado beetles made a mysterious appearance in North Rhine Westphalia recently, cloaked, as it were, in red rubber mystery, when a rubber pouch containing approximately fifty live but not fully developed beetles were discovered in a potato field in Duisberg. This followed a similar discovery in the Celmold area, where a pouch of the same pattern and texture was found in a potato field, by two small boys. The pouches were made of fine red rubber, similar to that

used in toy balloons, with fragmented edges. So far, investigations have produced no answer to the mystery. A photograph of one of the pouches was taken for publication in newspapers, so that any similar discoveries would be recognized."

The sound — mentioned by Russell above — first noticed in our British press about May, 18 FS. Again Nov.. Again Dec. Again Jan. If our suspicions are correct, it is not a topic for debate but one for demolition. Find the source of the sound and STOP it.

DOUBT will not print the data we have on this subject until more of the same is in hand. SEND every piece you can find — every mention. (Cr Block, Lasko, Elsender and others).

In another letter, Russell comments upon the datum: "Eighty ex-navy men were recently recalled to active service by mistake. See clipping below. Mistake my elbow! I think it was a try-on, to see what percentage responded.

"I am a sucker for the subtlety of Chinese humor, such as their ancient curse: 'May you live in interesting times!' I like Chinese comments, such as:

"After three days a guest stinks.'

"Inferior pigs forage over the hill.'

"Everyone pushes a falling fence.'

"Keep your hearts together — and your huts apart.'

"Two proud men cannot ride upon one ass.'

"Some of these are as old as time, so old that they've been attributed to others. A nice Fortean one, for example, is now credited to the Arabs: 'The dogs bark, but the caravan passes on.' A crack aimed at me by a Spanish friend was traced by me back to the Moors, thence to the Chinese: 'Let the foreign devils work — they are more advanced!'"

(Here follows the datum.) Bewildered Navy men from Bristol's suburbs made their way to the pitch-hulked Flying Fox moored alongside Hotwells-road, half-a-mile from the city docks.

At the deck end of the gang-way, they met 63-year-old Chief Petty Officer Herbert. He laughed and said: "It's all a mistake boys. You can go home and back to work."

And across the road in a small room which serves as the divisional office, 35-year-old Chief Writer Frederick Wood said: — "I was clearing away some forms and things ready for a new man who is coming to take my place, and somehow the mobilization forms got in the wrong envelopes and were posted."

HIS WONDERS TO PERFORM

January, 19 FS. Father Lucien Hamel, priest at St. Theresa's mission at Bela Bela, in Basutoland, South Africa, was having poltergeist trouble, stones falling, etc. He tried to exorcise a native woman, Maria Maketha. She sued and was awarded £20 damages. Cr Sharpless.

Feb. The nylons began disappearing from girls' legs in Jacksonville, Fla. It had happened before, in Washington, Chicago, Minneapolis, Nashville, and aboard ship. Cr Deacon, Oltcher, Anderson, Russell, Herbert. Later, it happened in Brooklyn.



March, Near Altoona, Penna. A grave was opened and the army uniform of the corpse was removed and burned to rid the widow of a hex. *Cr* Herbert, Bonavia, Oltcher and others.

March 20, 49 old style. Six children were burned to death in a cabin at Accomac, Va., while their parents were attending church services. *Cr* Herbert.

April 2, a talking canary bird is reported in Wales, at Rhuddlan. *Cr* Russell.

April 4. Walter J. Nunn Jr., is said to have told the coroner at Edgard, La., that he killed his wife "to get the devil out of her". He is charged also with the murder of his infant son.

April 5. The pious of Bogota, Colombia, had been praying for rain ten days. When it came, the Army and the Red Cross were called out to save 50 families marooned by flood waters.

April 5. The bells of a church in Cuernavaca began ringing at 11:30 Saturday night — inexplicably. They rang three times during the night, although watched closely, and the rope had been disconnected. Isn't that the town where they have a statue similar to the Manneken of Brussels?

April 14. A British hen laid 6 eggs in one day, bringing her total for 44 days to 65 eggs.

April 13. Eclipse of Luna predicted. Northwestern U. S. and some of Canada shaken by quake . . . Eclipse occurs.

April 14. A "live" wire fell in Pittsburgh and burned two men. No fatalities. Same day, in Grand Island, Neb., a "live" wire fell and electrocuted a minister and his wife. *Cr* Oltcher.

April 14. A statue wept when Shirley Anne Martin kissed it, according to Shirley Anne and friends in Syracuse. *Cr* Young, Leclde, Wakefield, Anderson, Oltcher and others.

LOST SHEEP

Who can help us find any of these MFS?

Evans, Will Bert—Navy
Farrow, Wayne—Los Angeles
Mendicino, Felix—Woodside, L. I.
Bodtke, Richard—Baltimore
Steeves, Theodor—Hamilton, Ont.
McElroy, F. O.—Needham, Mass.
Wildes, Harry Emerson—Valley Forge
Giannini, Francis A.—New York
Baker, Florence E.—Ulets, Fla.
Schlezel, Ernest—Rochester, N. Y.
Kaup, Mary A. R.—Pittsburgh
McCarthy, Thomas F.—Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Quinn, Hohn H.—96 Fighter Sqdn.
Brancato, E. L.—(Army) San Francisco
Brisler, George W.—Tacoma, Wash.

WORLD EVENTS

The presentation of Scott Nearing's observations on current events has undergone some changes. *World Events* is now a quarterly, at \$1.00 a year. Its value to you is that it views events in the per-

spective of history even as they occur. A very good Fortean habit. Send \$1.00 to World Events, 125 Fifth St., N. E., Washington 2, D. C.

CASTILLO ON CERBERUS

When the Cerberus drawing is finally printed, I rather think some sort of special significance should be attached to it. It is, after all, a visual manifesto of the Society's contemporary aims (which shall, in all likelihood, be valid for the next million or so years). That is to say, it points a direct finger at our triadic Opposition showing no partiality or favoritism whatsoever. Since the dawn of history the Unseen Empire has pretended that it was a heterogeneous thing, merely a conglomeration of little Orthodoxies and Orthodox groups without much relation to each other except in their dogmatical stands. By presenting such a false picture Orthodoxy could more or less befuddle its critics and enemies by getting them to assault merely some minor facade of the fortress while the rest of the monster escaped punishment. By so doing, anti-Orthodoxists were left in the position of a man trying to catch with his bare hands all the water that has fallen out of a bucket.

Thus, those who attacked Church and State, like the atheist papers and the more liberal publications, usually find themselves praising the greater glories of Dogmatic Science. While those who found materialistic science and the machinations of the so-called modern state twin atrocities usually find themselves defending the Church with fanatical zeal. And those who reject both religion and science usually find themselves wild-eyed "revolutionaries" demanding respect for the august State.

Now, at last, Forteanians are enabled to see that all three are merely Orthodoxy in a different suit of clothes, and it seems to me that the heaviest Fortean emphasis should be on pointing out to anyone who cares to listen and digest it, that Church-State-Science are not three unrelated and different things, but departments subject to the same "cosmic" chess-game, that the ludicrous settings on the world-stage are not solely the products of stupid leaders and mechanically idiotic masses, of dictators and popes and bank presidents and diplomats and countries squabbling over one thing and another, but the result of one and one only, esoteric control — a machination which George Malter melodramatically, but apropos, called the Unseen Empire. When more cataleptics and psycho-somatic robots substituting digestive tracts for brains can be made to see the entrenched unity behind all this artificial diversity, then, and only then, will any sort of "progress" be made, or even started.

(And — in another letter Castillo continues . . .)

Like the sham battle between industrialism and socialism, the idiotic capers about enforcing a "separation of church and state" is too absurd for sane comprehension. Going to the table of the State for crumbs after the manner of

Scott and McCullom merely lowers the prestige of one Authority and builds up that of the other. The Fortean Society is something unique in historical annals because it is the first association of philosophers and thinkers to succinctly point out just what our opposition is, rather than veering away like all the others or siding up with one department of Church-State-Science, and I humbly suggest that the broadness of that accusation be brought out much more vividly than the timid souls are wont to bring it . . .

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE WASHINGTON

Rains of Fishes, Toads, Frogs, Etc.

Reports of rains of organic matter have been recorded in all parts of the world, from ancient to very recent times, and the truth of such phenomena is quite well established. Among the materials reported as having been observed as having fallen from the sky are fishes, frogs, toads, birds, insects, earthworms, plants, etc. The U. S. Weather Bureau has collected and published many references to such occurrences, in a paper by Waldo L. McAtee. This paper is out of print, but it may be possible to consult it in libraries which receive Government publications. It is cited among the titles given at the end of this memorandum.

Reports of toads and frogs falling in showers from the sky have come from various foreign countries, but the Weather Bureau has found no such occurrence reported for the United States. But for fishes, there are several reports; one instance may be cited. In the Monthly Weather Review for June, 1901, p. 263, is the note that Mr. J. W. Gardner, voluntary observer at Tillers Ferry, S. C., reports that during a heavy local shower about June 27, (1901), there fell hundreds of little fish (cat, perch, trout, etc.) that were afterwards found swimming in the pools between the cotton rows.

Dr. McAtee, in the article referred to above, writes substantially as follows: All strong winds have some lifting power, as is well known, especially when they begin to whirl, when their lifting and carrying capacity increases enormously. It is on record that by a tornado at Beauregard, Miss., April 22, 1883, the solid iron screw of a cotton press, weighing 675 pounds, was carried 900 feet, and there are records of other heavy material being transported distances by wind. There seems to be, therefore, no reason for general suspicion toward the accounts of organic showers. Watersprouts are reported as having emptied harbors and fish ponds to such an extent that the greater part of their bottoms were uncovered. Naturally under such circumstances, fishes and any other organism in the water may change their habitat very abruptly.

Another explanation for the sudden appearance of young toads after rain is given in "The Frog Book," by Mary C. Dickerson, p. 71, published by Doubleday Page and Co., New York, 1906. She states that young toads, on first leaving the water, are very sensitive to a dry

atmosphere, and by day have the habit of hiding under stones and in protected places; on the occurrence of rain they leave their hiding places and sometimes suddenly appear in great numbers. This may account for their sudden appearance in many instances. This happens generally between the middle of June and the middle of July, according to the advancement of the season.

Among a great number of papers on the subject of rains of fishes, etc., the following are cited:

Gardner, J. W. — A rain of small fish. Monthly Weather Review and Annual Summary, Vol. 29, p. 263. 1901.

Gudger, E. W. — Rains of fishes. Natural History, Vol. 21, No. 6, pp. 607-619. 1921.

Gudger, E. W. — Rains of fishes and of frogs. Ann. and Mag. of Natural History, Ser. 10, Vol. 3, p. 1, Jan., 1929.

Jochelson, Waldemar—Fishes fallen from the skies. Science, Vol. 58, p. 516, 1923.

*McAtee, Waldo L.—Showers of organic matter. U. S. Dept. of Agri., Weather Bureau, Monthly Weather Review, May, 1917, Vol. 45, pp. 217-224.

Martin, W. V. L. — On the fall of frogs, toads, and fishes from the sky. Re-creative Science, Vol. 3, pp. 328-334. 1862.

Prinsep, James — Fall of fishes from the atmosphere in India. In Amer. Jour. Arts and Sciences, Vol. 32, pp. 199-200. 1837.

Sykes, (Col.) — Fish and grain rain in India. In reports British Ass'n Advancement of Science, 18+0, 10th Meeting, p. 40.

Symonds, W. S. — Account of the fish-rain in Aberdare, Glamorganshire. In Report, British Ass'n Advancement of Science for 1859, 29th Meeting, p. 158.

*Especially provocative, scholarly, and prolific of references further in this matter.

6/1938 — 300 Although issued as of this date, this mimeographed paper is currently mailed out in answer to pertinent queries. Cr Bloch

THE RIDDLE OF "MONSTRATOR"

A Fortean Speculation . . . by Norman Markham

THE *Books of Charles Fort* contain many data that should be worked up into more circumstantial detail. When Fort's source material is gone into by a researcher, discoveries are made.

Take Fort's comment on "Monstrator" (BCF, p. 199). He spent less than one page in describing this datum, about which much more could have been written. But when the vast amount of his material is taken into consideration it is seen that any adequate handling of it would require so much space that several sets of volumes, big as Encyclopaedia Britannicas, would be inadequate to the purpose.

When Fort wrote of "Monstrator" he doubtless had many thoughts regarding this phenomenon, which he had not space to utter in his books: this must be so, for he allots to it more wordage than

he did to many of the other "Fortean." In the following article the subject of "Monstrator" will be enlarged like a photographic print, in order to show the possibilities of dealing at greater length with these unusual reports.

Working by himself, it would have taken Charles Fort several life-times to go into the minutiae of the investigation he originated. As it was, he must have used up most of his time and energy left after collecting the data, in thinking out its relatibilities and possibilities. It is all very well for men of lesser talent to bedevil the memory of Charles Fort, for they have nothing to do but follow prescribed forms and think as they are bidden by authority. Let them attempt an assault upon a new idea: they would soon learn why it is that sketch-work is necessary and why one cannot go into details when faced by a whole new world of existence.

Here follows the story of "Monstrator," as transcribed from the source material: ANNUAL REGISTER, 1766-120:

"The 9th of August, 1762, M. deRostan, of the economic society at Basle, whilst he was taking the sun's altitudes with a quadrant, at Lausanne, to verify a meridian, observed that the sun gave but a faint pale light, which he attributed to the vapours of the Leman Lake; however, happening to direct a fourteen-foot telescope, armed with a micrometer, to the sun, he was surprised to see the eastern side of the sun, as it were eclipsed about three digits, taking in a kind of nebulosity, which environed the opaque body, by which the sun was eclipsed. In the space of about two hours and a half, the south side of the said body, whatever it was, appeared detached from the limb of the sun; but the limb, or more properly, the northern extremity of this body, which had the shape of a spindle, in breadth about three of the sun's digits, and nine in length, did not quit the sun's northern limb. This spindle kept continually advancing on the sun's body, from east towards west, with no more than about half the velocity with which the ordinary solar spots move; for it did not disappear till the seventh of September, after having reached the sun's western limb. M. Rostan, during that time, observed it almost every day; that is to say, for near a month; and, by means of a *camera obscura*, he delineated the figure of it, which he sent to the royal academy of sciences at Paris.

"The same phaenomenon was observed at Sole, in the bishopric of Basle, situated about five-and-forty German leagues (80 miles) northward of Lausanne. M. Coste, a friend of M. deRostan, observed it there, with a telescope of eleven feet, and found it of the same spindle-like form, as M. deRostan, only it was not quite so broad; which might be probably owing to this, that growing near the end of its apparition, the body began to turn about, and present its edge. A more remarkable circumstance is, that at Sole it did not answer to the same point of the sun as it did at Lausanne; therefore it had a considerable parallax: but what so very extraordinary a body, placed between us

and the sun, should be, is not easy to divine. It was no spot, since its motion was greatly too slow: nor was it a planet or comet, its figure seemingly proving the contrary. In a word, we know of nothing to have recourse to in the heavens, whereby to explain this phenomenon; and, what adds to the oddness of it, M. Messier, who constantly observed the sun at Paris during the same time, saw nothing of such an appearance."

The reader will ask himself what this thing might have been that had been visible for such a long time—29—days against the sun. He will wonder why other people did not see it. Why was it not reported by others, as well as by deRostan and Coste?

Most men are not interested in the sky. Men do not ordinarily walk about staring at the sun.

Messier did not see this thing, evidently because it was too close to the earth. Paris is considerably over two degrees of latitude north of Basle, which is one degree to the northward of Lausanne. Messier was in such a place as to be cut out of the line of the thing's visibility.

At the roughest possible estimate, this object was 4,000 miles from the earth and about thirty miles in length along its major axis.

It was moving in the same direction as that of the orbital motion of earth, but a little faster — gradually drawing ahead of our planet.

Its motion cannot be attributed to circular velocity — for circular velocity is the orbital speed at which an object in space "falls around" the earth, constantly maintaining a fixed position with reference to one spot below it. Had this thing been traveling at circular velocity, even had it passed across the sun it would have been but instantaneously visible: the thing called "Monstrator" by Fort, was in a relatively fixed position with reference the sun only, and would have been seen anywhere on earth along the same belt as that portion of Switzerland demarked on the north by Basle and on the south by Lausanne.

The fact that "Monstrator" paced the earth for 29 days or more, maintaining same position with reference the sun, is a phenomenon of the most anomalous sort — for this means it was pursuing the same plane of motion as that of the earth. No asteroids, no comets are known to follow such a plane of motion. These bodies are observed to move at all sorts of angles to the ecliptic. Further, even had "Monstrator" been an asteroid, it would be hard to explain how it could have remained at such a distance without being pulled either into collision with, or into an orbit around the earth. During the 29 days of its visibility against the sun it accompanied our planet along approximately one twelfth of our entire orbital distance.

Even now this thing cannot be explained in any known astronomical terms. We are still as helpless as the scientists of 1766 when it comes to explaining "Monstrator" — as long as the thing is

treated as a planet. Of course — if it is looked at in a different light, a different explanation is possible.

"Monstrator" is an anomaly — an unusual thing indeed unless it is relatable to other unusual bodies — the "intra-Mercurial objects" of the last century.

Since we are dealing with an unusual phenomenon, we should be licensed to take exceptional means toward formulating some speculation which might fit the facts regarding it.

From description, it may have had a lenticular figure. It was said to be spindle-shaped. The dimensions quoted in the *Register* make it out to be of a fat cigar shape. It was said, toward the latter end of its visibility, to have narrowed. One gets the impression of a lens-shaped object seen almost edge-on — possibly a prototype of the recent "flying saucers," but of much vaster dimensions.

Whatever it was, it maintained a discreet distance from earth. It did not come so close to our surface that it completely eclipsed the sun. Had there been an eclipse by this thing, one small area of the earth's surface would have remained in darkness for several days. There seems to have been a suggestion of tactical inobviousness in the way this thing kept itself edgewise to the sun — much as though — if it were a spaceship — it did not want to attract too much attention. This could, of course, be accidental.

But a lenticular thing hovering just so, over one belt of the earth's surface, may have been a dirigible under full control. A space-ship of stupendous bulk. The way it seems to have hovered, powerfully suggests such a possibility.

It was said to have been surrounded "by a kind of nebulosity." This would suggest an envelop of gas, or of atmosphere. It is difficult to conceive of a small body like that, holding about it an atmospheric blanket. The known laws of the motion of gas-molecules would render such an atmosphere an impossibility unless the gas were very heavy, or unless it was being constantly replaced. For the gas would escape into space unless subjected to some form of attraction of sufficient intensity to hold the flying molecules.

The moon is a much larger body than was "Monstrator." If ever the moon had an atmosphere this has now been reduced to such a tenuous state that no evidence of nebulosity surrounds the moon.

It is possible that solar action upon its surface may have caused "Monstrator" to generate an atmosphere that left the vicinity of its slight attraction almost as rapidly as it was generated — like the process said to bring about the formation of the tails of comets. Maybe "Monstrator" had a tail; but if so, this would not be visible to observers owing to the object's proximity, and to the fact that the glare of the sun on all sides of it would have rendered such a tail inconspicuous indeed.

Cometary nuclei are said to be tenuous: so much so as to be able to pass over stars without occulting them. But

there may be other objects than comets which can generate tails, just as there are assuredly other sources of gaseous emanation than solar bombardment by photochemical action.

Rocket-ships for example — or ships with engines which burn fuel and exhaust gas into space.

If a rocket-ship lay in space so near the earth as to run risk of being pulled down and destroyed, it would be necessary for it to balance against attraction by maintaining a continuous blast from its rockets. This would result in a constant emission of gas into space. To an observer directly below this ship, the ship would appear to be surrounded by a halation — or nebulosity — exactly as in the case of "Monstrator."

Such a "tail" would probably be of quite high visibility. The ship — seen from one side — would look like a small, bright comet.

But if we insist on treating Monstrator like a space-ship, we would not necessarily have to furnish it with rocket-tubes for propulsion — there may be as many different styles of space-drive as there are races of intelligent beings in the Cosmos. Engines, let us say, exhausting gas of some kind — transformers of fuel into dynamic energy — carbon and cyanogen in the spectra of comet's tails may not always be from solar bombardment of the nuclei . . .

Whatever it was, it hovered in sight for 29 days — and possibly many more days before and after the period of its visibility. It slowly drew ahead of the earth — it was last seen 125 days before inferior conjunction of Venus.

Maybe the thing was dawdling so for a purpose. Take off time was not yet.

Inferior conjunction is the time when Venus comes closest to earth, and it only happens once every 584 days on an average.

Maybe "Monstrator" went to Venus — or to "Neith", which at that time was still in evidence in the neighborhood of Venus . . .

— — — — —
"Neith."

"Supposed moon of Venus."

It is not there now, but from the time of its discovery in 1645 until the time of its disappearance in 1791, something was hovering near Venus—in an orbit around the planet, if Montbarron's observations are worthy of consideration.

It was as big as our moon and as far from Venus as our moon is from us. It was seen by several astronomers, and among those who saw it there must have been some who were as meticulous in their habits and as careful in their judgments as these who nowadays follow the same profession.

But it is not there now; therefore, say our modern astronomers, it never can have been there.

The difficulty seems to be that astronomers are prone to look upon any body seen in space as a mindless, volitionless, insensate hunk of matter, blindly obeying the laws *we have so far discovered*, immune to any we have not so far discovered. Astronomers cannot concede

was merely a planetary body — or so it is safe to accept.

The "supposed moon" did not fall onto Venus. No Venusian cataclysm has ever been reported. It can hardly have fallen into the sun.

The (Werner) Encyclopaedia Britannica, in its article on astronomy, calls this thing a "ghost image," and says it was an optical illusion caused by the bright light of the planet reflected off the eyeball of the observer, back to the surface of the ocular lens of the telescope, and thence back to the eye of the observer.

Richard Proctor, writing of "Neith" in his book, *OTHER WORLDS THAN OURS* (pp. 47-48), says, however, that this supposed body was seen by Montbarron to have been occupying different position during times of his observations of it on March 15, 28 and 29, 1764; and that Scheuten, watching the transit of Venus of 1761, saw a satellite follow Venus across the sun.

With such observations recorded, the "ghost-image" explanation looks to have been a "cutting of truth to fit the heart's desire":—

A satellite in "varying positions," and the sight of a small black dot following a larger black object across the sun do not appear to accord with the learned explanations of the astronomical purist who wrote the article in the Encyclopaedia.

It seems more likely that "Neith" did exist than that it did not.

It is quite safe for astronomers, at this late time, to say that though "Neith" was believed to exist by 17th and 18th century astronomers — who had over a hundred years during which to observe it — that it never was in existence only because it is not there now . . .

But there is the testimony of deRostan and Coste, and the peculiarities, certainly extraordinary, of the object they reported.

"Monstrator" is not there now; it did not fall on the earth; something that big — if it had been solid — would have shaken a lot more than astronomers out of their cosmic isolationism and concomitant complacency.

They now say the early telescopes were faulty, and played tricks on the astronomers who used them. They still disregard the observations of Montbarron and Scheuten.

Twenty nine years after the disappearance of "Monstrator," "Neith" also vanished.

There are speculative possibilities that there was some affinity or connectability between the two phenomena.

What if "Neith" was the mother-ship which had launched "Monstrator" into the void a long time before its apparition at Basle and Lausanne?

What if, somewhere else in this cosmos — or in a narrower sense, in this solar system — there exists a vast and powerful — but peaceful — culture of intelligent entities who engage in some form of roving commerce? What if "Monstrator," during its more than 29 days of proximity to the sunward side of earth, contained entities who studied the earth at relatively close range — as-

tronomically speaking?

Impossible.

This is God's footstool.

that any planet can be induced to relinquish its grip on a satellite—or pseudo-satellite — or satellite-like object — unless this is left from the primary by some source of greater attraction.

What if moons — or what look like moons — can develop legs of their own and walk off into space? This would be unthinkable behaviour — if the thing

We are the only thinking, artifacting, scientific creatures in the Cosmos.

The universe was created by God for Man.

"Created He man in his own image."

We still throw rice at weddings; we still unconsciously hang by the biblical, anthropocentric idea that this is all ours — that we are all there is. We dream of "outsiders" in stories, but never accept that there could *actually* be an intelligent alien.

The astronomers must think exactly in that manner. Otherwise some of the reports that indicate anomalous conduct on the part of bodies in space, would assuredly be looked into.

"Monstrator" . . .

Maybe something only waited out there, thinking in terms of voyaging onward, supremely and utterly aloof to anything like contact with the swarms of humanity milling here below . . . Something out there with loftier things to do than hold concourse with marauding, warlike, self-aggrandizing, selfishly enterprising small white vermin out to do small red and small black vermin out of whatever they could.

Their attitude — not mine entirely: I'm human, remember! I have to live here. This world is all I *know*.

But they?

Argonauts between the worlds, possibly between suns or galaxies . . .

These things have been reported.

There have been many more reported.

Students had better get busy.

If by some unbelievable miracle—something even more incredible than "Neith" and "Monstrator," and all the other titanic innominata of space—we avoid the war that is coming and which carries in it the seeds of our cultural annihilation, we may grow up enough, some time, to invade space with space-ships.

Students had better begin now — regardless how dark the horizon looks.

Some day we may wish we had found out what is out there!

HI-SPOTS IN MAIL

From Noble:

"I am enclosing a group of photographs and paintings of aurora displays cut from the National Geographic Magazine of November 1947. I believe these pictures should be in the files of the Society. Some interesting facts are contained in the article from which they are taken. I am especially interested in the 'Pulsating Arc' type which the writer tells us flashes up and disappears with a regular rhythm, pulsating with a period of one to thirty seconds, in color usually bluish green. The writer tells us that there is

no truth to the reports that noises sometimes accompany an aurora display, because of the 'great height' at which these noises occur, and because 'sound does not travel in a vacuum', and because 'the atmosphere at those heights is so rarefied that it is essentially a vacuum.' This is utter nonsense. Any Newfoundland trapper can tell you that the Aurora sometimes is accompanied by crackling noises, somewhat like eggs frying in a pan. I have heard these noises myself when travelling over the Newfoundland barrens in the winter. MFS Charles Horwood has also heard them, in company with me. They were not caused by the 'freezing of the observer's breath as the exhaled moisture freezes in the extreme cold.' Neither was it 'the swishing of wind among particles of snow', nor 'the crackling of ice floes.' There are no ice floes on the Newfoundland barrens. I have also seen an aurora bright red in color, flashing from the horizon in rays, converging from all directions into a permanent pool of light at the zenith.

"One interesting fact contained in the article is that in spite of the scarcity of auroras in New York (about fifteen a year or less), they appear rather regularly on the fourth of July. Another point is that the earth's atmosphere extends to at least six hundred miles (if their methods of measurement are to be trusted, which I doubt.)

Another point is that the spectograph pictures record the presence of only two gasses in the upper atmosphere. These gasses are oxygen and nitrogen. If there is any trust to be placed in spectrographic analysis, this completely upsets the prevailing theory that the upper atmosphere is composed of hydrogen. Apparently it is composed of exactly the same gasses as the lower atmosphere. Mark up a score for Fort."

From Marshall:

"I would like to call your attention to an article in the July issue of Liberty entitled *Is a Major Earthquake Overdue?*

"While such a subject is always interesting one paragraph in this article fairly smites one just about any place one could be smitten. According to the author an eminent authority on earthquakes, one Professor Perry Byerly, would not be surprised if an earthquake in the San Francisco area, comparable in violence to that of 1906, occurs tomorrow, and not surprised if there is no such a quake for 60 years. Long limb.

"Also to be noted is that for one reputed to be an expert on shocks (quakes) the good Professor Byerly seems to be quite shockproof.

"Thanks for the scoop on Land Drop In Florida, Doubt #21 and I wonder if anything has come out of the investigation of the huge bird near Alton, Ill. (Investigation ordered by the mayor)."

From Bump:

"I am enclosing a copy of *The Myth of the Post Office* by Frank Chodorov, which I think you will find of interest.

"Chodorov is intent (like Nock) on attacking the 'State', which I identify in principle with the 'Orthodoxy' which Fort

and Forteanism attack. Chodorov claims to be advocating 'social power' as against the power of the 'State.' But actually and by logical necessity he is advocating freedom of 'private enterprise' to operate and grow.

"Fort in opposing orthodoxy is also advocating freedom of enterprise altho he makes reference to it only rarely, as on page 588 of *The Books* where he says: Resistance to notions in this book will come from persons who identify industrial science, and the good of it, with the pure, or academic sciences that are living on the repute of industrial science.

"The basic conflict is between growth and reaction, between those who want to grow and want sufficient 'freedom of enterprise' in order to grow and those who cannot or will not grow and therefore can only act as resistance to growth, as mass, inertia, reaction.

"The resistance to growth is partly human and partly non-human, hidden, esoteric, occult. It tries to keep hidden because to the extent it is understood, it loses its power.

"To the extent that an individual is 'de-horned' and loses his power to fight effectively against the hidden control, he is sanctified and blessed and becomes a part of orthodoxy, a mere puppet of the hidden control.

"The official advocates of both 'free enterprise' and its theoretical opposition, socialism are zombies, mindless agents of the hidden control. They are always united in opposing any *real* freedom for growth.

"The purpose of their sham battle is to distract attention from the real war, which is between growth and the resistance to growth, and the inevitable result of which is the gradual victory of growth.

MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

The material on this page and those following comes from the MSS notes of Charles Fort. The notes begin with the year 1800 AD. and we are printing them chronologically, transcribed to the best of our ability. As you have observed from the several we have produced in facsimile—life size—the handwriting is difficult, to say the least; many are written in symbols and code, a personal shorthand. Each date is on a separate scrap of paper. They fill 32 boxes. The boxes are in two series, one numbered, one identified by letters of the alphabet. The numbered boxes contain records of non-human phenomena, the others, records of persons. It is our device to alternate the two series so that the printed record is chronologically consecutive.

The letters BA refer to Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which many US libraries have.

"In the general sense, there will always be reaction or resistance to be overcome, since growth and resistance exist only in relation to each other, like force and mass. But any particular resistance can and must be overcome. In order for growth, that is, life, to continue, a succession of resistances and reactions must be overcome."

THE \$50 CONTEST

The essays on *Charles Fort and the Religion of Self Respect* should be kept under 3000 words.

FLAT EARTHERS

Thanks to MFS Firestone we found C. S. DeFord, and thanks to Paul Kiel, we found Maxwell Pruitt. We also discovered another flat-earthier who has a brochure on the subject. He is (non-member) Earl C. Butterworth, 135 East Market St., Indianapolis, Ind. He asks 20 cents a copy for his booklet, *The Big, Flat World or The Astronomical Crisis*.

We should hesitate to call the text Fortean, but this paragraph we like.

"These religionists who believe in the second coming of the Lord — which direction is the Lord coming from? If the earth is a ball the heavens would be wrapped around the ball, and every direction would be up. And again, how could the Lord and his crowd hop on with the earth going hell west and crooked through space?"

EINSTEIN REFUTED AGAIN

One Roger Dagan is the latest thinker to join the long list who disagree with "the Einstein Theory". The Dagan hypothesis appears to have been presented in a lecture at Columbus Circle, N. Y. C. Dagan was interviewed by Ed Wallace, a staff writer of the *World-Tel*. We are attempting to obtain a documentary presentation of the criticism.

POOR SOCRATES

The glory that was Greece hit bottom Feb. 11, old style. John Tsoukaris, a conscientious objector, was executed in Larissa for refusing military service.

EZRA DOUBTS

The award jury of the Bollingen Foundation is to be congratulated for naming Ezra Pound the first Bollingen Award winner. His *Pisan Cantos* were specially mentioned, and there one reads:

"Oh to be in England now that Winston's out.

"NOW THAT THERE'S ROOM FOR DOUBT.

"And the bank may be the nation's."

The Bank of England has not yet become "the nation's" but a good many Forteans are continuing to work toward that end.

DAMNED REDS

No sooner had Prof. W. T. Astbury, Leeds U, England, announced that "influenza germs could be made into cloth" (Newcastle *Mail* 1-2-48 old style) than Pravda came back from Moscow hissing that they were growing colored cotton right on the bush. Brown and green have been achieved. Blue and rose are coming up.

SINO HAUSER

Just before midnight, March 17, old style, a boy — apparently Chinese, apparently about *ae* 18 — was "picked up" in the Penny Station at Newark. No cop and no local Chinese could understand him. He was sent to Ellis Island — neither the Immigration officers, nor any Chinese interpreters or local residents had understood him as of press time. *Cr* Jack Campbell (who is back in N. Y. C. and married to a potential Fortean.)

The numerals, such as '11 or '64 etc., in connection with BA sometimes refer to volume number, sometimes to year. In applying for this material at your public library, mention that to the attendant and you should have no difficulty.

Back numbers of DOUBT contain all the notes to the point where we begin below. Subsequent issues will continue them until the 32 boxes are printed.

1851

Box 2 (Continued)

- Mar 26 Le Moniteur / of metite that fell on the "clocher" of the church at Larnignac (Lot) was in part "schisteus" (At this point the paper is cut. TT)
- Apr 2 Note up to 20th more shocks / 2/21/388 (But no source named. TT)
- 2 Violent quake Valparaiso / on

4th heavy rain set in and lasted 74 hours / Stryker's Amer Register. 1851

- 2 Quake and flash / From Report of the U. S. Naval Asto. Expedition to Chile - by Lieut J. M. Gilliss - "Some hours before the quake there was a vivid, quick flash of lightning to the N.N.E. so intense in brightness as to illuminate within the observatory where I had been at work some hours" No thunder / Am.J.Sci 2/21/388 (See two notes above. TT) See May 24

Box A (Resumed)

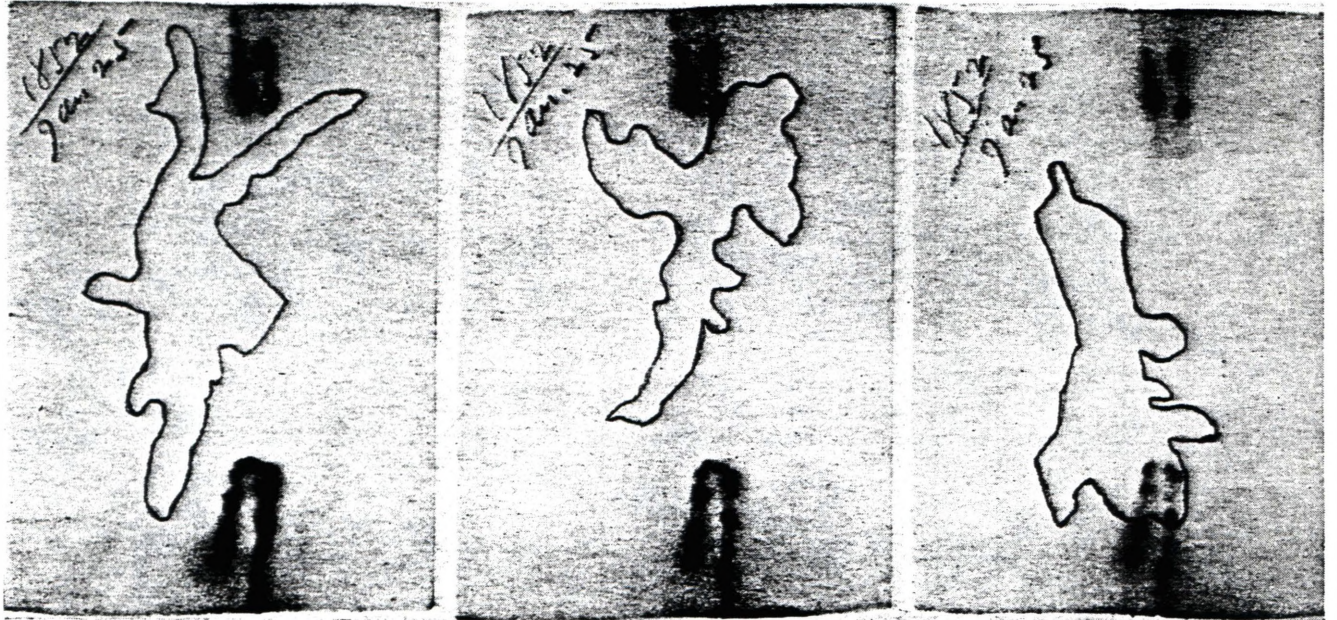
- 2 LT p. 5 Wild Woman of Navido

Box 2 (Resumed)

- Apr 3-13 Quakes Chile LT p.5 / at 6

- a.m. many buildings fell / first shock the severest (N.M.)
- Box A (Resumed)**
- Apr 5 Hauser / Athenaeum of this date—from the "Correspondenz of Berlin. A stranger picked up at end of year 1850 in a small village near Frankfort-on-the-Oder; how got there no one knew. He spoke German imperfectly. He was taken to Frankfort / On being questioned by the burgomaster, he said that his name was Jophar Vorin and that he had come from a country called Laxaria, in a part of the world called Sakria. He understood no European language except some German but read and wrote what he
- (2) called the Laxarian and Abramian tongue, one the written language of the clerical order of his people and the other the common language of the people. His religion was Christian in form but was called Ispatian / Laxaria was many hundreds of miles from Europe, separated by vast oceans. He had gone to Europe to seek a long lost brother, but had been shipwrecked on the way; where he did not know
- (3) His unknown race had considerable geographical knowledge, knowing the continents of the Earth as Sakria, Aftar, Astar, Anstar and Euplar. He was sent to Berlin where he became object of great interest.
- Box 2 (Resumed)**
- 10 Atmosphere phe London / LT p.5 / Also - Ap 15, p.8, Ap.21, p.8
- 13 Quakes Armenia, Sweden, Austria BA '11 See quakes Feb 18, 1889
- 17 Gutersloh, Westphalia metite (F) BA 60
- 19 Acto Dr Buist investigation this of 19th was a mistake for 20th / See other note
- April Lyriads abundant / Nature 99-133
- Apr 19 ab. 10:30 p.m. at Kolapore "The entire sky in the north was seen in a perfect blaze with meteors shooting from east to west / ab. 5 minutes / BA 51-48
- 19 In Rept BA 52-226. Editor of & 20 Bombay Times quoted that from other evidence he had concluded that there were displays both of these nights (reverse) quotes "one of the oldest and ablest observers in India that at Madras, on 19th, from 8:30 to 9:30. facing east, he had counted not less than 40 meteors from N and NE to S and SW
- 19 10 p.m. at Mazagon, near Bombay, from point ab 15 degrees
- 20 At Cawnpor mets like 19th from 8 to 10 p.m. constant 8 to 10 p.m. All from north to south
- 25 At Cuneo (Piedmont) Italy / Immense swarm of butterflies too early in year for them to have hatched out in Italy / Taunton Courier May 21
- 25 to May 1 / Hurricanes India / An Reg '51-73
- 27 Durham / great met 10:5 p.m. BA 51/42
- Summer Quincay, France / met (F)
- May 2 10 p.m. Madras - sky overcast - a circular illumination - thought be from a meteor BA 52-228
- 8 10:20 p.m. St Ives, Hunts / meteor "issued from below Jupiter & near him" BA 1851-36
- 8 LT / that acto Prof. Tosti, a luminous meteor had recently set fire to a barn at Lardabourg, Calabria
- 15 8:10 a.m. shock California time of eruption of Mauna Loa Reg May 13, 1850
- 15 to 25 / Quake - torrent / 1:45 a.m. / Majorca (spelled Mayorque) CR 33-23 / before the shock the air was charged with electricity. Some days before torrential rains had ended a long drought
- 15 } Spain } quakes BA '11 (reverse) Some q's Feb
- 16 } W Indies }
- 17 } Cent Amer } 18/1889
- 17 Bushels of snails fell at Bradford ab 12 miles from Bristol (reverse) Stroud Free Press
- 22 At (indecipherable) near Madras brilliant meteor left a streak that lasted 2 minutes (reverse) BA 52-228
- 22 India / Ice size of pumpkins / D-176
- 24 See June 16 LT p 5 quake China
- 24 Chile Andes "large fireball; earthquake about the same time" BA '60-91 See Ap. 2
- 24 quake and large meteor / Andes BA 60-90 See Ap. 2
- June 1 Calcutta 8:30 p m splendid meteor BA 52-229
- June Cotopaxi, Ecuador. active after long inaction Nature 4-212
- 20 11:30 pm, Great meteor Bath BA 51/49
- 22 Meteor Kingston Ireland? Proc. Roy. Irish Acad. 5/198
- 29 Le Moniteur July 1 that meteorite fell through roof of a house in Vielle (Landros)
- July 6) Meteor Paris
- 7) Det meteor Epinal / BA 60-90
- 14 Quake Calabria Am. J. Sci. 2-12-443 700 bodies found up to Aug 26.
- 14 Quake Calabria 100 miles S E of Naples A. J. Sci. 2/12/443
- July Comorin quake Hun BA '11
- 28 Total eclipse sun Norway C.R. 38-295
- 30 Copenhagen / Met. train ? or thing like (indecipherable) meteor / B Assoc 1872/68
- Aug 8-12 Mauna Loa 2/13/395-299
- 8-20 Mauna Loa A. J. Sci. 2/12/299-395
- Aug Maximum of Perseids Observatory 46-169
- Aug 13 Ice lumps / New Hampshire / D-176
- 14 Southern Neapolitan territory great quake. An. Reg 50 villages damaged
- 22 4 p m West Cambridge, Mass. / Tornado / Finley's Rept.
- 24 Besancon C.R. 33/272
- Aug (Clipping from newspaper) Eruption of Mount Pelee. The Courier of Martinique of the 6th instant says:- An extraordinary phenomenon, the like of which does not seem to have been ever before produced in Martinique, presented itself during the night of Tuesday and the morning of Wednesday last, spreading the greatest consternation over the northern part of the island. At about 7 o'clock on Tuesday night a strong rumbling sound was heard to proceed from the Mont Pelee, followed soon after by a loud detonation and that kind of hissing which would be produced by an immense steam generator with the valve partially open. At the same time slight shocks of earthquake were felt at St Pierre, and to the great terror of those inhabiting the quarters in the neighborhood of the old volcano, a shower of ashes came down scattering to a distance around. The houses were abandoned by their inmates who fled terrified to St. Pierre. The town of Prescheur was entirely deserted and when the morning opened, clearly showing the columns of smoke which arose from different points of the mountain, and all the surrounding houses and woods were seen to be covered with a sort of soft grey ash, and the water of the river changed into veritable less, the panic became general, and everyone in the neighborhood sought safety by precipitate flight, carrying with him the most portable of his effects, and driving his livestock before him. Anxious to ascertain if possible, the precise cause of these perturbations, we started early on Wednesday morning to examine the scene and judge for ourselves. As the particulars of our excursion would require some development, which the publication of our packet intelligence prevents us from entering into, suffice it to say that

- we were the first to arrive at the craters, which we found to be eight in number, and presenting a surface of muddy boiling water, and with intermittent roars pouring out volumes of thick whitish steam of smoke smelling strongly of sulphur. From evidences on the ground it was evident that the eruption and the opening of the earth were far greater at the moment of the explosion than when we visited the spot. From the Place - Berlin (St. Pierre), large columns of smoke are yet to be seen rolling above the apex of the mountain. Until now there has fortunately been no accident to be deplored as a result of the explosion. It may be just hoped that this opening of a vent by the subterranean fires will prove a safety valve to secure us from those earthquakes which are inevitably caused by confined vapours. (29th August, 1851) Port of Spain *Gazette*.
- Sept 1 Light Sky Minnesota Smithson Rept. 1855/281
- 4 bodies Read / D-208 (reverse) See Herschel Obsjs & Magnetic disturbances Oct, 1870
- Sept 3, 6, 29 / Ext aurorae / Am j. Sci. 2/12/442
13/128
152
- Sept 13 LT p 7 Meteor
24 LT p 6 Meteor
29 Aurora A J Sci 2/12/442
13/128,152
- Oct 2 Aurora Proc Roy Irish Acad 5/222
- 5 Met "beneath the moon" near Oxford. B. Assoc. 1852-219
- 5 5:30 pm / great whirlwind at Limerick An Reg. 1851-163
- 17 9 pm / At Stone / Met from one degree under Saturn about 1½° E to W / Cut / B Assoc 1852/ (indecipherable)
- Feb 20 about Great rains in China in this period Chambers Journ NS 17/230
- Mar 26 Quake / Gelos Basses-Pyrenees C R 33/467
- Oct 22 about 20th? / shock in Ohio same night a great (reverse) meteor that left a 20-minute train in eastern states Strykers Amer. Register 1851
- Box A (Resumed)**
- Nov Harry Phelps, Stratford, Conn. polt. boy sent to a boarding school in Philadelphia (reverse) Here, school disturbed by loud raps, and his clothese were torn to ribbons.
- Box 2 (Resumed)**
- Nov 4 Meteor / near Brancato 5:30 p m / "from just N. of Jupiter. B Assoc. 1852/202
- 4 7:35 p m / At Stone / Met from Saturn to Beta Ceti B Assoc 1852/214
- 4 Near Aylesbury / Meteor as if from below and a little to the right of the moon B Assoc '52-221.
- 5 Tarragona, Spain Meteorite BA '60 (F) over (F) - Nulles, Catalonia
- 11 Met listed by Lowe as "curious" / Cast. Donington Rec. Sci. 1/137
- 16 Highfield House / Seen by Lowe / Met listed by Lowe as "curious". Rec. Sci. 1/137
- Nov 18 Meteor at Cherbourg / C R 33/581 Fr
- 20? Singular tide / LT Nov 20 p 3 1851
- end of
- Nov to Very few meteors act an observer's records in Rept. BA Aug 1852
- Nov 24 / Rumbings / Livorno / Rumbings and rise and fall of the sea See 1816.
- 30
- Dec 16 Ext. spots on sun. Am J. Sci 2/13/442
- Nov 29
- Dec 1 Beeston Observatory / Meteor seen by Lowe listed by him as "curious" Rec. Sci. 1/137
- 8 Prof. DeGaspari of Naples discovered faint star "near Saturn, which he considered a new planet Am J Sci. 2/3/28 (reverse) Prof Challi must have been Jupiter, one of the sats of Saturn - if so -
- 8 Two enormous waterspouts swept over Sicily - of "immense spherical bodies of water" An Reg. 51-199. (reverse) their cones nearly touching the earth. ab a quarter of a mile apart, travelling with immense velocity - human beings and cattle raised in vortex - fall of cataracts of water and masses of ice.
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 15 Stratford, Conn. phe ceased Not Oct.
- Box 2 (Resumed)**
- 22 Moths / W B Clarke camping upon a mountain in the Australian Alps bet 6 & 7000 feet his camp. (Reverse) "about sundown immense flight of moths came down from the granite peaks and nearly extinguished the fire. H C Russell - Climate of N S Wales, p 28 1852
- 1852 Have Friend of India this year mostly
- 1852 Northern News, Vryburg, Transvaal. March 21, 1925 (Newspaper clipping:) : MORE FROGS FROM THE SKY / With reference to the correspondence which appeared in our last week's edition re the above, the following letter from Uitenhage goes to prove that other places have had similar experiences. To the Editor. Rand Daily Mail. Sir, - In regard to a letter from Mr Charles Fort of London, which appeared in
- the Rand Daily Mail under the heading "Frogs From the Sky," I have written to him as follows: "I was much interested in reading your letter "respecting Frogs from the Sky," and it brings to my mind an occurrence of a similar nature, which took place in 1852. In that year I was travelling with others of my family across what is known as the Springbok Flats, in the division of Uitenhage, and about fifty miles from the town of Uitenhage. At a point quite close to the Cocks-comb mountain, the highest peak of the Groot Winterhoek range, we noticed that the springboks in the distance were behaving in a most extraordinary manner, jumping from side to side as though being tickled. On closer approach we were amazed to find that the cause was numbers of frogs and small fresh water fish commonly known as "kurpers" pouring from the skies. At the time, and for some hours previously, a strong westerly wind was blowing. Some of the old people in the neighborhood informed me that a similar occurrence had previously taken place. The vehicle we were using was what is today known as a voortrekkers' wagon, and this was the only type of vehicle in use in those days. I may mention that I made a model of this vehicle, and it is now to be seen in the South African exhibition at Wembley."
- C. J. Grewar
Uitenhage
- (N. B. The original letter, signed by C. J. Grewar accompanies the newspaper clipping. T. T.)
- 1852 White hairs said been found after a quake in China. Nature 34-56
- 1852] Moodus sounds Dec. 3
- 1885] & 1897]
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 1852 Dunsink, near Dublin obj & phe necktie. See Lum Obsjs.
- (ab) Sleeper Susan C Goseye near Heckman. Ky. See Oct 27, 1873
- 1852 Lum Obsjs. / Elec. Intelligence / Eng. Mec. 16-363. R Packenham William on the Dunsink Observatory near Dublin, writes that about the year 1872 (P writes 20 years later) a young man was experimenting with a telegraph wire and so he accounts for a luminous phe he saw. (Reverse) he thinks that it was an electric charge that left this wire. But his own first view of it was when high in the air. It had picked up a cravat that was bleaching on



Tracings slightly reduced

- a lawn and high in the air carried it half a mile then dropping it. The cravat was not even scorched.
- 1852 or 1853 Cor to Daily Mail, Dec. 13, 1922, writes that at Cotswolds he saw in snow (reverse) strange tracks, even on roofs. See Feb, 1855 Also ab this time
- 1852 Jan Polt & flames Russia
Box 2 (Resumed)
- 1852
Jan 10 }
Feb 11 }
Apr 30 }
June 30 } quakes See England See Nov
Aug 2 } 9, 1810
11 }
Nov 27 }
Jan 23 } Neilore, Madras, India (F)
24 } Quake, India Upper Sind Murree Hills BA '11
- Jan 24 }
Feb 22 } (indecipherable)
July 7 } quakes / (reverse)-same in-
Nov 20 } decipherable word -quakes,
Feb. 18, 1889
- Jan 24) Sind, India
24) Mexico
25) Spain
26) France quakes BA '11 (reverse) (indecipherable) quakes, Feb 18, 1889
- 24 India Upper Sind Murree Hills great quake BA '11
- 24 Op Mars A1
- 25 Gardeners Chronicle Feb 14 cor sends tracings he made around lumps of ice that fell from sky at (indecipherable) Jan 25. (reverse) It was a thunder storm. Ice fell about 3 p. m. (See illustration this page. T.T.)
- 26 2 a m / quake Castillon-sur-Bordogne. N M / C R 34/218.
- 26 2:15 a m / quake & sky / France / Detonation and quake Bordeaux "the sky at the time was of a dark reddish color as if from the effects of a luminous fire at a distance. Sc. Am. 7-208
- Feb Red snow Switzerland N. Italy
3 & 4 A. J. Sci. 2/13/442
- 17 Mauna Loa See June '32
- 19 Ext. Aurora A. J. Sci. 21/13/426
- 19 At Delaware College at 10:5 p m a column of the aurora passed precisely over Mars. Am. J. Sci. 2-13-430
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 21 LT p 5 Spon Comb.
- Box 2 (Resumed)**
- 22 France and Central Asia quakes B '11 (reverse) indecipherable Feb 18, 1889
- 23 LT p 8 Aurora
- 29 Observation at Santiago de Chile 7:40 pm of an unknown star (reverse) - one that could not afterward be recognized. Sid. Mess. 3-315
- Mar 11 7:56 p m / Dieppe Meteor C R 34-772
- Mar 18) 3 aerolites in thu. storm in
Apr 30) India Brit Assoc. 1852/239
- Sept 25)
- Mar 24-25 Train (?grain?) / Prussia / La Belgique Horticole 2/319 See Aug 1890
- 30 Red rain Lyons R May 26 '46
- Apr 1 5:30 a.m. / inscombe, Axbridge quake LT p 12
- 2 Bolide France C R 35-676
- 8 Ab 7 p m / a pillar of fire in the Western sky extending about 15 degrees from horizon
- at a point near intersection of the ecliptic with the horizon - lasted ab 20 minutes - appeared to follow the sun - (over) L T Apr 10, p 6. Apr 12, p 7, Apr 14, p 5, Apr 15, p 8, Apr 28, p 8.
- Apr 10) L T p 5
15) p 8
21) p 8 Atmospheric phe
London
- 19 Ab 1 a m / London heaven seemed aflame - messenger after messenger arrived (reverse) At Brighton West of England fire engine station requesting the aid of foremen to subdue what was supposed to be a terrible fire. LT April 10 to 19
- 9 London sky fire L T p 10 etc. (over) See Met and (indecipherable) A column had been seen from sun
- April Auroras See Aug 21 Etna
- April Auroral (beam) Am J Sci 2/14/130
- 9 L T Ap 10 of Apr 8 Cor writes that at 7 P M a fiery column had been seen as if up from the sun
- 17 Meteorite Gutersloh A J Sci 2/15/290
- 19 Ab 7 p m / Chatham Another sky fire L T p 21
- 20 Meteor / Oxford Acc to Lowe - "curious". Repulsed by Aurora. Rec. Sci. 1/137
- 26 Aurora - sun-column / LT p 28 / 7:22 p m The Sun Column again seen - by E J Lowe. Buston. near Nottingham.
- 30 5 p m Near Harmony, Ind / Tornado / Finley's Rept.
- 30 Th. stone India See March 18

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