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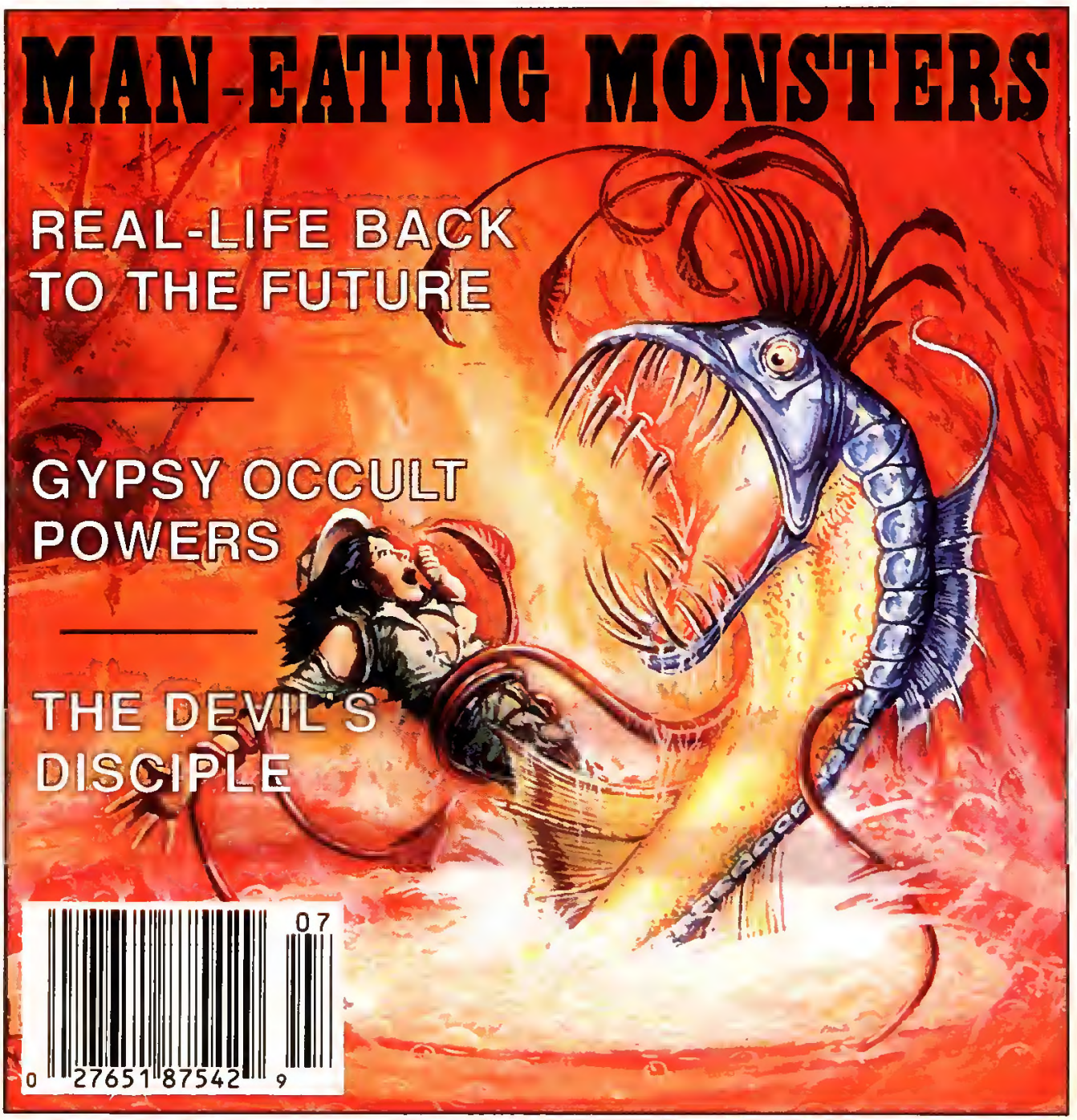
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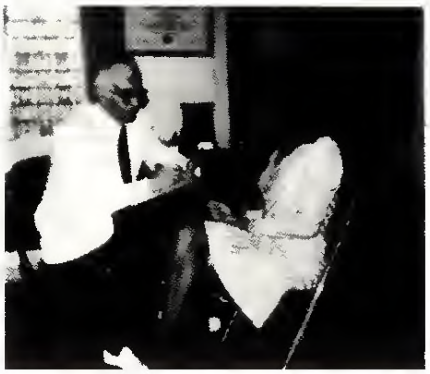


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I SEE BY THE Papers



By Donald Michael Kraig

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:
[Astrology] shares with racism and sexism the idea that you can divide the human community into a few slots and you can decide about people by knowing which of the 12 slots they happen to fit into...

—Carl Sagan
Quoted in the *Skeptical Inquirer*

Imagine for a moment that there is a belief system called *systema* and that this system's beliefs included personal freedom and democracy. Imagine, too, that I had a huge national following and went around telling people that systema followers broke laws and committed heinous crimes. By telling people that systema was evil, and with my public popularity, I might be able to get the practice of systema outlawed.


Donald Michael Kraig

Note, however, that a false and misleading image of systema is what was decried and outlawed, but the *real* systema suffered.

Knowingly or unknowingly (and I am inclined to think—considering Mr. Sagan's wisdom—that it is probably the former), this is exactly what Carl Sagan is trying to do. He has defined astrology in the terms of the tiny, two-sentence comments found in newspapers and has condemned it as "bunk." This is like reading a primer meant for tiny children and condemning books for being simplistic.

The 12 signs described in newspaper astrology (Aries, Taurus, etc.) are only one aspect of astrology. Not included in this "definition" of astrology are the positions of the planets throughout the horoscope, the relationship of the planets to each other as well as numerous other variables. The position of a planet is frequently calculated to the minute, meaning that there are 21,600 (60 minutes in a degree and 360 degrees in the circle of the horoscope) possibilities for the position of one planet in a horoscope. Multiply



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that by the number of planets and other items used in a horoscope, as well as the relationships (known as oppositions, conjunctions, etc.) between them, and the possibilities are almost endless. In fact, it will take over 25,000 years for someone to be born who will even stand a chance of having a horoscope identical to yours! This hardly places people into a mere "12 slots."

We are forced to wonder if the astrology debunkers, such as Mr. Sagan, are on their last legs. Certainly comparing astrology with racism and sexism is not only false, but is trying to promote a non-existent racism/sexism/astrology relationship. What is implied is that if you are against racism and sexism you must also be against astrology. It just isn't so.

But this last gasp by the astrology debunkers isn't limited to Carl Sagan. Also in the *Skeptical Inquirer* we are told in a bold headline that 28 papers use an astrology disclaimer with their astrology columns. This is it? Out of the hundreds—if not thousands—of newspapers and magazines, both large and small, that publish astrology columns, all they could find was a mere 28 that support their debunking views. Perhaps the debunkers should be hiding their heads in embarrassment.

On the other hand, we are not trying to imply that every aspect of astrology is 100 per cent accurate 100 per cent of the time. Still, millions of people find astrology to be one useful method of guidance, just as they might find guidance from their doctor or stockbroker. What is needed is more research to establish what works and what doesn't.

The last time that the cocksure debunkers tried to disprove an aspect of astrology which had been verified through scientific research they failed miserably (see "sTARBABY" by Dennis Rawlins, FATE, October 1981). They continue to try to prevent research into *any* field of the paranormal.

We will continue to support scientific research that promotes human knowledge and understanding.

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Good Science and Bad Science

Cholesterol in the diet can increase the amount of cholesterol in the blood. This can build up in the blood vessels and cause an increased risk of heart attack.

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Nathalie Bardot

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If you have read, as I have, statements made by big time winners (over $1,000,000), then you know they very often admit to having been helped by being dictated all or some of the numbers. They will acknowledge this fact openly though some may not believe them.

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Not exactly. In fact, they tested only 20 people, 16 of whom were women. The average age was only 30, and their cholesterol levels were so low at the beginning of the test that you could add 10 points and they would have still been in a desirable range.

So this test started off with young, healthy women rather than older, not-so-healthy men. Further, the diet these people ate included more of every type of fat, another contributor to cholesterol.

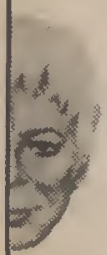
This test was a set-up. Giving a fat-filled diet to a group of mostly young, healthy women did not lower their cholesterol levels. But why should that have surprised anybody?

continued on page 12

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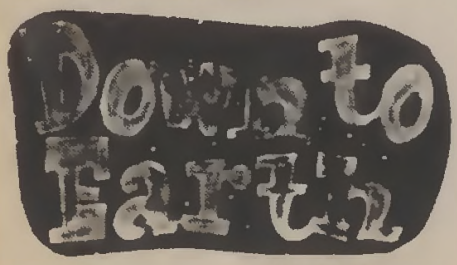
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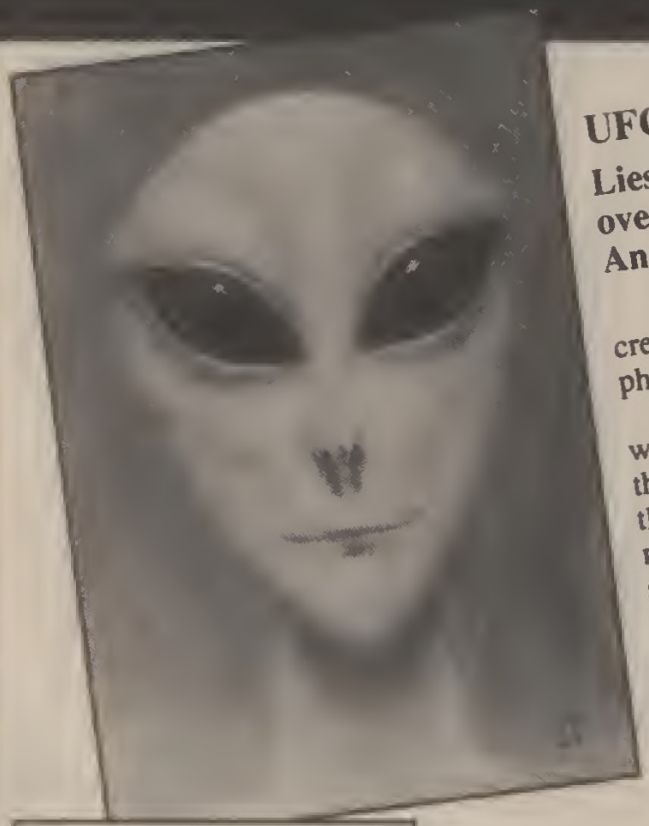
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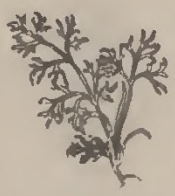
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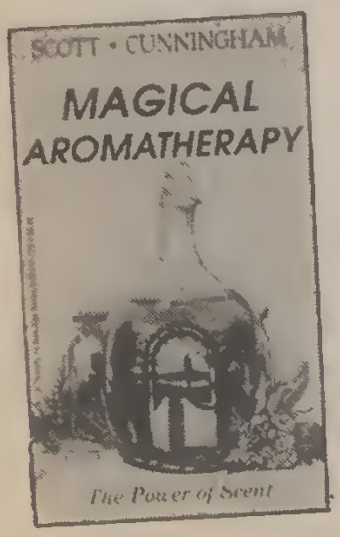


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continued from page 9

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Remember this the next time a new discovery is touted or something that was previously accepted is debunked.

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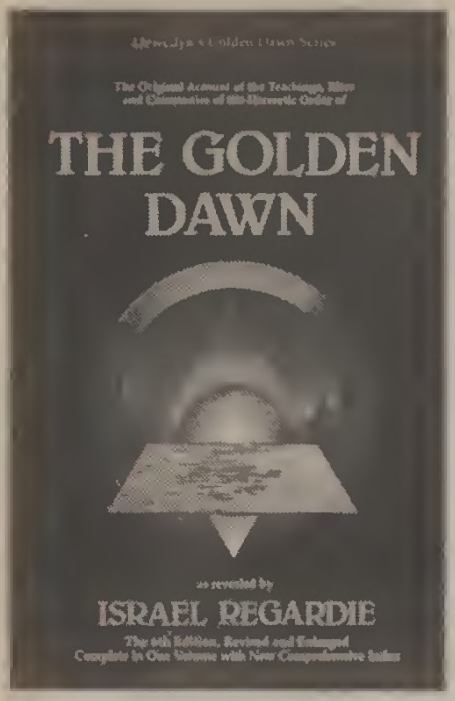
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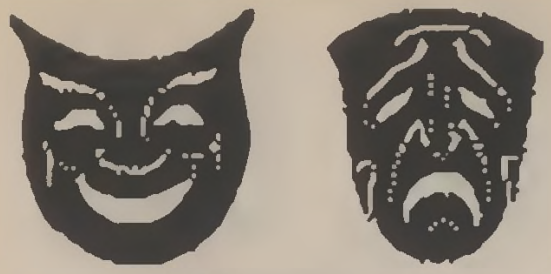
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Noreen Renier, a psychic from Orlando, Florida. In the release she claims to have won a $25,000 libel suit against skeptic John Merrell.

Merrell, she claimed, also lost an appeal, so he filed for bankruptcy. Copies of the court documents included with the release indicate that the United States Bankruptcy Court determined that the judgment plus interest are not dischargeable under bankruptcy laws. In other words, Merrell still has to pay.

Then Merrell allegedly sought to have the lawsuit dismissed, charging that the judgment was the result of perjury, fraud and misrepresentation by Renier. According to the release, his motion was denied when the court found no evidence to support such a claim.

Other ideas were included in the press release that we are not listing here as they are opinion and not fact. For example, the release had statements by her lawyer rather than the findings of the court. Still, the evidence indicates that Merrell did lose the case against Renier.

But in a recent issue of *Saucer Smear*, Merrell claims that Renier "deliberately lured [him] into the alleged libel by letters written by Renier herself under a phony name" and is now counter suing her for "fraud, misrepresentation,

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and other misconduct."

My mother has an expression, "The second liar doesn't stand a chance." This is not to say that anyone involved in this case is a liar. Rather it points out that the first person who makes a claim tends to be believed until counter-claims are so strong that they cannot be ignored.

Rather than simply accepting any one side—whether it be psychic-versus-skeptic or scientific study-versus-scientific study—it becomes necessary to look closely at the details and wait until all evidence is in. Did Renier lure Merrell into the alleged libel against her? Is Merrell trying to delay payment to Renier by filing another court case? After all, he has already tried other means so as to not have to pay. This case has been going on for well over two years, and we are still forced to say that only time, and the courts, will tell.

NEWS BITS

• According to an Associated Press item that reminds us of some aspects of biorhythms, a study that links natural body rhythms to fat and cholesterol indicates it may be possible to lose weight without exercise or diet.

All you would have to do is take a drug called bromocryptine at a certain time. When given at that time, the body inhibits its

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production of fat. Within six weeks, the first 33 patients in the study lost 25 per cent or more of their fat with no special exercise or change of diet.

• It appears that the wild elephants may yet be saved ("A Great Loneliness of Spirit," FATE, August 1989). According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the worldwide ban on ivory that had been agreed upon in the U.N. in October of 1989, has forced the price down by about 50 per cent and diminished the demand.

• Scientists have believed for many centuries that there are two basic forms of matter: amorphous matter, in which the atoms have no patterns, and crystals, in which the atoms form neat rows.

"Quasicrystals," discovered in 1984, were believed to be a defective form of crystals. But researchers at Bell Laboratories have confirmed Israeli scientist Daniel Schechtman's discovery that quasicrystals are a new form of matter. The atoms cluster in intricate, pentagon-shaped patterns.

Bell Laboratories grew quasicrystals easily from an aluminum-cobalt-copper alloy. Immediate uses include new construction products, ball bearings, electrical fuses and resistors. Future uses are unknown but unlimited.

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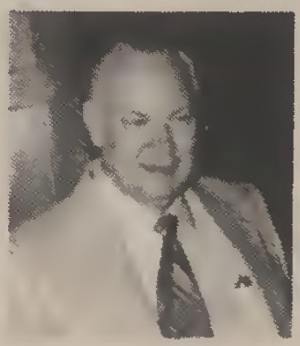
BEYOND THE KNOWN



By John Keel

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD—AGAIN

A couple of hours from where you now live there is a wonderful underground city with bowling alleys, a beauty shop, a fully equipped hospital, a movie theater and hundreds of cases of fine whiskey. If you live in a major city, it may be even closer. The one in New Orleans is right in the city itself.



John Keel

These underground metropolises—there are over 90 of them—are one of the worst-kept secrets of the Cold War.

But they haven't been overpublicized, either. They sound like one of the fantasies of the late Richard Shaver (remember the "Shaver Mystery" about the underground world?) and they frequently provide fodder for the wild rumors of a whole delusionary subculture that has sprung up around them.

Oldtimers will recall that back in the 1950s, when Cold War paranoia peaked, everyone started building atom bomb shelters in their back yards. We had almost no Civil Defense program, and if a nuclear war had broken out we would have been in big trouble.

In contrast, the Soviets were building shelters of heavy concrete in the basements of every new building they were erecting. The theory—part of the madness of those times—was that the nation with the most survivors would be the winner of the war!

In 1962, there was the Cuban Missile Crisis. This was a major confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. We came very close to World War III—so close that President Kennedy and Congress had to face the grim fact that our civilian population had no protection whatsoever. If war had come, we would have "lost" because we would have had the fewest survivors.

Something had to be done. Part of the answer was to allocate funds for the construction of major shelters all over the country. Eventually many billions of tax dollars were spent. Semi-secret underground installations were built, not only in this country, but in several foreign countries as well.

THE BIG SECRET

While the underground cities were being dug, local citizens were given a cover story. They were usually told that a major underground telephone installation was being built in their area. Ma Bell got the blame for all the furious activity. Once a "Facility," as they were called, was completed, a few local people were hired to keep it clean and ready. They weren't sworn to secrecy but they weren't expected to blab about it, either. Local newspaper editors were also politely advised to ignore what was going on.

Every state has at least one of these installations. Some states have several. Each one has large dormitories with many bunks, kitchens, bathrooms and equipment to comfortably accommodate several hundred people.

That was the problem. In case of war, millions of people would be on the move, fleeing the cities and roaming homeless over the



SHARI'AH

"And with Him are the keys to the hidden treasures."

—Quran, Surah al-An'am, 6:59

Referring to the interior realms of light and spiendor, Hazrat Isa ibn Maryam (Jesus, son of Mary) has said: "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have toid you." Hazrat Muhammad has also mentioned the ceiestial heavens in his teachings. He once toid his discipies that in Paradise there is a tree so immense that a rider on horseback could travei in its shadow for one hundred years and stiii not reach the end.

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countryside. It would be impossible to house and care for all the refugees in these underground facilities so the semi-secrecy was deemed necessary.

A scandal broke out in New Orleans because their shelter had only a few beds for black people despite the city's huge black population. (This was in the early 1960s when segregation was still being practiced.) If you were black, you were going to get nuked while all the white politicians, or "city fathers" as they sometimes call themselves, would be bowling underground.

In most cases, there are no signs pointing the way to the installations and access is by simple dirt roads. The main entrances, which consist of huge, heavy steel doors, are concealed in hillsides behind shrubbery. You have to know exactly where the facilities are and exactly how to get to them or you'll never find them. It's all part of the cunning plan to build multi-billion dollar shelters so that the people who might need them can never locate them!

There is a law, however, that these places must be open to public inspection one day each year. The public is never informed of this, though. You have to know someone who works at the installation to find out the chosen day. That's how I

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managed to visit the "New York Facility" a few years ago. It is located in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains and seemed like a set from a James Bond movie. You could live there quite comfortably for years without ever having to go back into the outside world.

During my travels in the 1960s, I came across several others under construction. One was near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, not far from the notorious Three Mile Island atomic plant. Another was in the tiny state of Connecticut.

ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN

Occasionally one of these facilities gets into the news very briefly. Back in the 1970s, an airliner had the misfortune to crash in Virginia, not far from Washington, D.C. Firemen and rescue workers were prevented from approaching the wreck by swarms of soldiers. The plane had crashed right on top of one of these underground installations.

In the 1980s, the Japanese government began a campaign to have the island of Okinawa returned to their custody. The U.S. has claimed the island ever since we lost 50,000 men taking it in World War II. We don't want to give it back because we have built all kinds of tunnels and underground installations



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on it, according to the news reports.

Recently a young man who had just been to Australia came to me and excitedly reported that he had seen a remarkable thing in the Outback country, smack in the middle of the subcontinent. He had been sightseeing when a black military plane suddenly appeared and, while he watched, zoomed toward a high plateau in the center of the desert. To his amazement, a door opened in the side of the plateau and the plane flew into it. The door closed behind it. He felt that he had been an accidental witness to some top secret event.

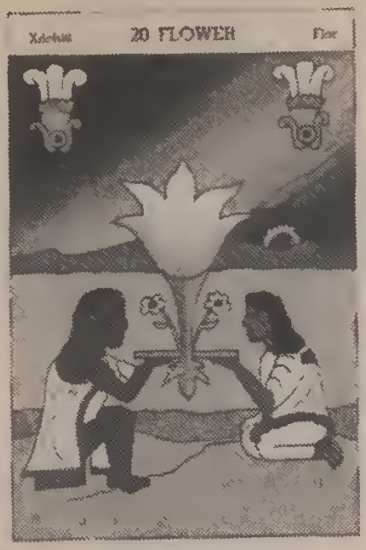
In a way, he had. He had seen another one of our worst-kept secrets. No less an authority than the *New York Times* had spilled the beans back in the mid-1960s when they published a long article describing our plan to build a huge installation in the middle of the Australian outback.

We recruited contractors and engineers to live in that inhospitable area for at least seven years. They were permitted to take their families with them and we even planned to build a small American community there for the duration of the project. It had theaters, soda fountains and the inevitable bowling alleys.

continued on page 26

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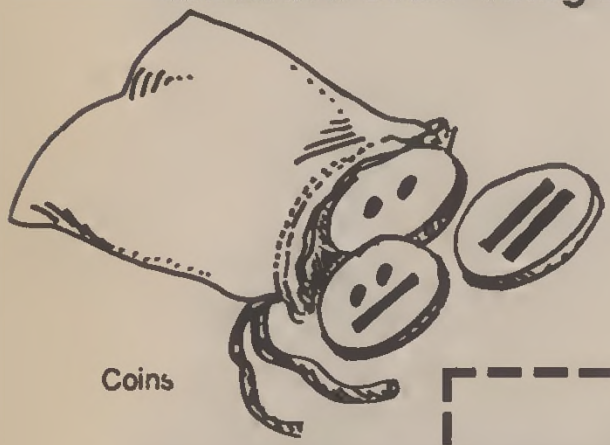
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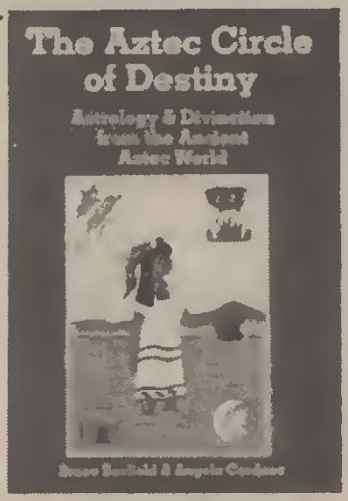
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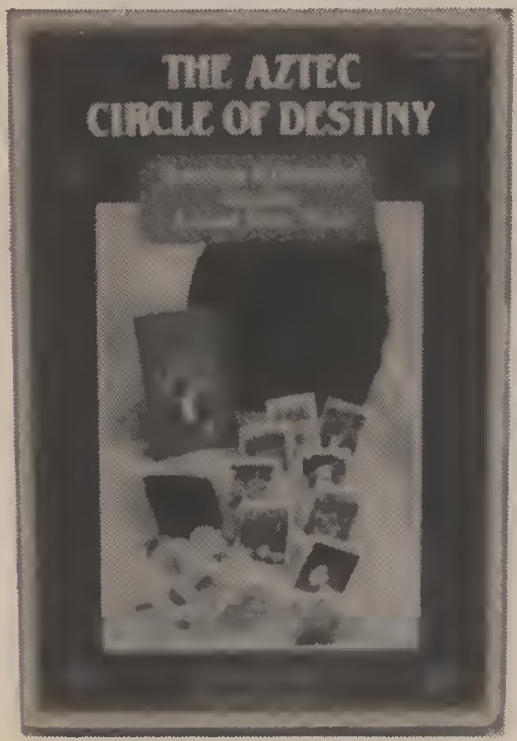
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continued from page 23

I sent copies of the *Times'* story to correspondents in Australia and they eventually reported back that they had never heard of the project and it was never mentioned in the Australian press. But apparently the job was completed and supply planes visit it on a regular schedule.

The average Australian still doesn't know that it's there.

HOLES IN THE DESERT

Closer to home, we have been blowing holes in the Nevada desert for years with our underground atomic tests. Hundreds of atomic blasts have been set off north of Las Vegas near a place called Skull Mountain. Each one has melted a very big hole in the ground there. These holes intersect and now comprise a vast network of underground caverns.

No outsider really knows what all these caves are being used for, but they are probably being used for something. Since the underground tests have been going on for a long time, an enormous area is involved—an area big enough for a really spectacular underground city.

A fringe cult of a few dozen people has sprung up, advocating the existence of a Shaver-like underground city there in the Nevada Proving Grounds. They

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∞

John Keel is the well-known author of such books as Jadoo, Mothman Prophecies, *and* Disneyland of the Gods. *He is the president of the New York Fortean Society, named after Charles Fort, the famed chronicler of unexplainable, strange events. People wishing to contact the society may write to them at PO Box 20024, New York, NY, 10025.*

DIARY OF A MONSTER HUNTER

Real—or imagined? Colin Wilson and Ted Holiday address this issue in THE GOBLIN UNIVERSE with some startling revelations. It's the world of psychic phenomena, ghosts and poltergeists, UFOs and the Men in Black, Dragons and Yetis and the Loch Ness Monster, of prophecy and retrogression and other paranormal mysteries.

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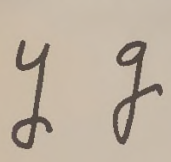
"His new insights into the accounts of Bigfoot, Yeti, dragons, out-of-pace crocs, and the whole trooping Phantom Menagerie alone is worth having the book ... I couldn't put it down until I was finished." Loren Coleman, *Creatures of the Outer Edge*

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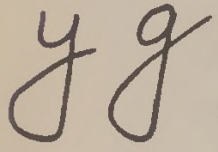
What Your *Handwriting* Reveals About You ...



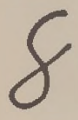
Which letters resemble your handwriting?



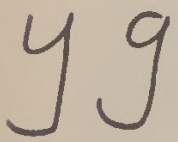
Small, cramped loop: a wide variety of friends or selective?



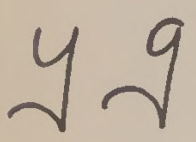
Large, full loop: Friendly or a curmudgeon?



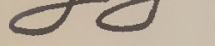
Greek: Literary talent or uneducated?



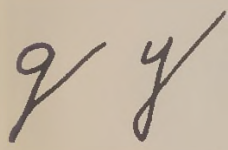
Open loop: Financially secure or bankrupt?



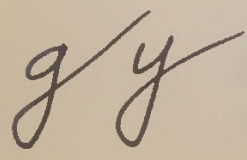
Left arc: Sexually promiscuous or discriminating?



Left-pulled loop: Attached to the past or forward thinking?



Last stroke swinging out and up: Stingy or altruistic?



Upward swing to final stroke: Optimistic or pessimistic?

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UFO Reporter

By Jerome Clark

HELP FOR ABDUCTEES

When Budd Hopkins embarked on the research that one day would make him the best-known investigator of the UFO-abduction phenomenon in the world, his mail was the last thing on his mind. Yet everyone who allows himself to be publicly identified with the UFO phenomenon can count on getting letters from persons seeking the sympathetic hearing they may not be getting even from friends and family. Today, more than four decades into the UFO age, witnesses to UFO appearances frequently have no one else to turn to after a UFO experience. Much of society still refuses to hear them out. As recently as June 1989, Daniel Goleman, who writes on mental-health matters for the *New York Times*, characterized as somewhere between "benign" and "worrisome" the "delusion" that one has had a UFO experience.



Jerome Clark

In reality there is no evidence that psychiatric disorders and UFO sightings are linked. In fact, there is a great deal of evidence to the contrary. The majority of those who report extraordinary close encounters, including interactions with UFO beings, are "normal," as a number of psychological studies have shown.

What isn't generally known, except to ufologists and mental-health professionals who deal directly with them, is that witnesses may suffer mightily from psychological distress following an encounter. This stress may result from the ridicule to which they were subjected. It may also have to do with the nature of the experience they underwent.

As Hopkins learned in the course of his abduction studies, "no other area of UFO research has such a constituency of people in need." In the early 1980s, psychological tests conducted by Drs. Aphrodite Clamar and

Elizabeth Slater found that abductees have the same profiles as victims of violent crime, and they suffer the same kinds of anxieties, fears and low self-esteem associated with what is called "post-traumatic stress disorder" (which became known to the psychiatric community from studies conducted of Vietnam veterans). Such symptoms, Dr. Slater has written, are consistent with those we could anticipate if reports of abductions, in which persons are taken against their will and subjected to painful and degrading intrusions into their bodies, are literally true.

Another psychiatrist familiar with abduction phenomena has observed that if abduction stories are imaginary, this is the first time in the history of clinical psychology that persons were deeply traumatized by something that did not happen to them.

NOWHERE TO TURN

Someone who believes he or she has been kidnapped by alien beings may not know where to turn for support except to the author of a popular book on other people's similar experiences. Following the publication of two widely-read books, *Missing Time* (1981) and *Intruders* (1987), Hopkins was inundated with thousands of letters from frightened, desperate people, far more than he could handle. In some cases where the need was urgent, Hopkins involved himself personally, either dealing directly with correspondents or directing them to a responsible investigator or therapist.

TYPES OF ABDUCTIONS

As time and resources permitted, Hopkins divided his mail into five categories. The first were probable abductions in which at least three or four indicators appeared in the report. The second were possible abductions, involving one or two suggestive details. The third category consisted of letters from scientists, psychologists, psychiatrists, physicians, and investigators offering help or useful ideas. In the fourth category were letters describing non-abduction UFO sightings. Category five consisted of "possible psychotics."

In May 1989, Hopkins, who had been paying his enormous printing, copying, postage and telephone bills out of his pocket, got funding from a private source. This allowed him to hire secretarial help and establish some semblance of order. He and his associates made a 3 x 5 card for each letter and color coded it according to the category it represented. Letters requiring an immediate response received one; included were information

kits instructing the writers on how to pursue their experiences, if they wished to do so. Hopkins and his helpers would also refer them to the nearest psychotherapist in the network of mental-health professionals who had volunteered to participate in investigation and research. Information received through these procedures was computerized.

THE "IF" IS BORN

All that was missing now was a formal structure, and that is where the Intruders Foundation (or IF, as Hopkins prefers to call it) comes in.

"We had a large number of needy people [abductees] out there who needed a foundation to address their concerns and no other," he says. "We were looking for an organization a little bit like CAUS [Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, Box 218, Coventry, Connecticut 06238. They research official UFO interest and documents]...a single-issue UFO organization. We already had in place a network of therapists, hypnotists and investigators. We had a structure but no umbrella organization. I was being asked by many people to start a not-for-profit foundation to fund research and therapeutic help. From the research point of view, of course, abduction study is the richest vein to mine, in terms of the amount of information about the UFO phenomenon it is going to bring out. But even more than that, abductees need help on all levels."

IF came into existence last year. In March 1990, the first issue of *IF: The Bulletin of the Intruders Foundation* was published. Well-edited, sober and informative, with articles on all aspects of the abduction experience, it became one of the handful of must-read periodicals for those with a serious interest in ufology.

Hopkins wrote, "Our network of specialists is small as yet, but is growing month by month. So far we have hypnotist/investigators, most of whom are also therapists, working in 17 American and Canadian cities. There are many other cooperating radiologists, gynecologists, neurosurgeons and other medical personnel—as well as psychiatrists, psychologists and therapists who do not carry out regressive hypnosis—located in various cities and towns in the United States and Canada...All, however, operate under the premise that these seemingly incredible UFO experiences may actually be occurring exactly as described...

"IF, through its role in public education, will also seek to bring the problem of the UFO abduction phenomenon to an ever greater public awareness. A speakers' bureau will be estab-

lished, and slides, videotapes and other materials will be standardized and made available for this end. The systematic training and enrolling of more therapists and hypnotist/investigators will take place in more and more localities. Our growing data bank will provide research possibilities for qualified investigators interested in statistical and other studies of the abduction phenomenon, and at every stage we will work to interest mainstream scientists and medical personnel in this crucially important subject."

Hopkins is far from starry-eyed about the problems he faces. For one thing, he isn't willing to work with just *anybody* who flashes scientific or medical degrees. "Even if somebody has credentials," he says, "you don't know what you're getting." He has a litany of horror stories.

There was, for example, the psychiatrist who led Hopkins onto her porch so that, he recalls, "she could point out to me a nearby hill on which, she said, 'The Mafia sets up their lasers and aims them at my house in a plot to drive me away.' She also showed me some normal-looking corrosion on a window frame as evidence that the Mafia was pouring acid on her storm windows."

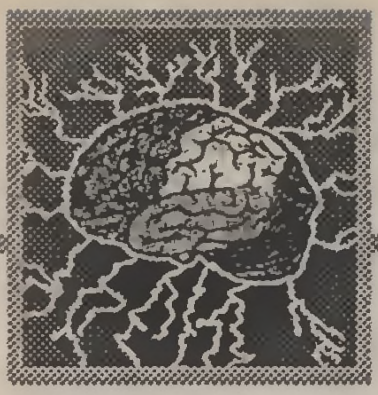
Another psychiatrist Hopkins met has since left a series of bizarre threats over his phone-answering machine. Hopkins says, "We're extremely picky about whom we use in our network. People have all kinds of hidden agendas and you've got to be careful. I've also had abductees complain that the psychiatrists they've dealt with were cold, unsympathetic and expensive."

Some of the psychologists and psychiatrists in Hopkins' network are leading figures in their fields. They are fascinated by the abduction phenomenon and dedicated both to unlocking its secrets and to treating its victims. Yet they have not exactly advertised their interest to their colleagues. As some of them step forward into view in the future, those who have scoffed at the abduction phenomenon will be in for some unpleasant surprises.

Hopkins and co-author Penelope Franklin are writing a book on this subject. It's entitled *A Crack in the Universe: The Psychological Impact of UFO Encounters*. Hopkins says, "There's a strong subjective flavor to it because everybody responds differently. The emphasis is not on the details of abduction experiences, though of course they'll be there, but on the reactions people have to these incredible events."

IF's address is Box 30233, New York, New York 10011.

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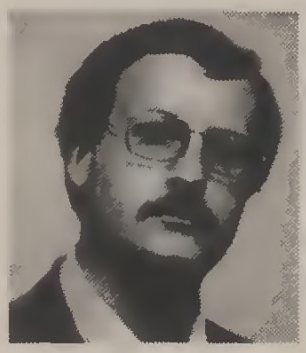
ON THE PSYCHIC FRONTIER

By D. Scott Rogo

A RECONSIDERATION OF ROBERT MONROE

Over the years I've been rather hard on Robert A. Monroe, the businessman whose out-of-body voyages were first recorded in 1971 in his book *Journeys Out of the Body*.

Mr. Monroe began his career in the radio business, where he soon made a fortune. The late Long John Nebel, a New York character who pioneered talk radio, once told me that Monroe was the best radio writer with whom he'd ever worked.



D. Scott Rogo

Robert Monroe's out-of-body experiences began suddenly in 1958. Both curious and frightened by his experiences, the Virginia businessman began seeking out people to help him understand his experiences.

Eventually he ran into Dr. Charles T. Tart, then a young psychologist with the University of Virginia who recruited him for some experiments. Would he be willing to submit himself to the laboratory in hopes of documenting his psychic voyages? Monroe agreed and the results were published in 1967 in the *International Journal of Parapsychology*. While the results of the experiment were not clear-cut, some curious brain wave readings were procured while Monroe was traveling in the astral plane. Monroe was identified in the report simply as Mr. X.

My skepticism of Monroe and his claims began in 1972 when I reviewed *Journeys Out of the Body* for FATE. Included in the book were strange reports of encounters with nonhumans, never described before in similar books. I wrote in my review that "some novel claims in this book have not appeared in other reports.

"Monroe claims to have contacted some sort of 'parallel universe,' to have communicated on a

subliminal level with those he visits during OOBEs, although he later retains no memory of such communications, and to have met all sorts of strange denizens of the astral world." I suggested that perhaps some out-of-body voyagers simply refrain from discussing their crazier experiences. The strangeness of Monroe's book could be due to his greater candor. I concluded my review by saying that while "I am familiar with most of the literature on the OOBE, I rank this volume as the strangest I have encountered on the subject."

BIASED AGAINST MONROE

My skepticism grew in 1973 when I met David Black, a personable East Coast writer researching out-of-body experiences for a book on which he was working. I had spent the previous summer engaged in laboratory research on the out-of-body experience. The Psychical Research Foundation had obtained the services of a Duke student, Keith Harary, who could wilfully project himself from his body, and I was consulted on the PRK's plan to study his powers (as told, in part, in my book *The Return from Silence*).

As David Black and I talked, it was soon clear that he too was extremely skeptical of Robert Monroe, whom he had recently met in Virginia. (Monroe has an institute there which helps people expand their minds. Inducing OOBEs is part of the program.) The writer claimed that Monroe was evasive and that people mentioned in his book couldn't be traced. The implications were obvious, and Black panned Monroe and his book in his own *Ekstasy: Out-of Body Experiences*.

It never dawned on me that Black had a grudge against Monroe. Both Mr. Black and I were journalists taught to put our prejudices behind us when we worked.

CONTRADICTORY CLAIMS

My real disillusionment came when I discovered that before publishing *Journeys Out of the Body*, Monroe had provided a version of his story to Dr. Andrija Puharich, who placed it in his 1962 book, *Beyond Telepathy*, in which he is called Bob Rame. Here Monroe's out-of-body experiences were not spontaneous but resulted from glue-sniffing! This was a far cry from the pristine story published in *Journeys Out of the Body*, where the OOBEs resulted from a strange "sickness."

I used both the Black material and the Rame discrepancies to criticize Monroe in *Mind Beyond the Body* and *Leaving the Body*. I raised them for a third time in FATE, when Monroe's second

book, *Far Journeys*, was published in 1985. That book concerned his further out-of-body encounters, strongly influenced by partially "channeled" information so boring it became unreadable.

When I harshly reviewed this book in the May 1987 issue of FATE, I recounted the Black and Rame issues for a third time and personally criticized Monroe. I stated frankly that he no longer carried any credibility with his readers.

LAWSUIT THREATENED

The result of that review was a strong letter from Monroe, threatening a lawsuit for labeling him a drug user. We went back and forth in private correspondence trying to sort things out. At first acrimonious and strident, we eventually became simply puzzled by each other. When it finally came out that Monroe's material had been published by Dr. Puharich with certain "emendations," I publicly apologized to him. Mr. Monroe has been gentlemanly and gracious to me since that time, although we had little contact after the *Far Journeys* controversy.

I don't know what Mr. Black's problem was with Mr. Monroe. When we discussed his criticisms, Monroe simply sent me a list of phone numbers for the people mentioned (sometimes under pseudonyms) in *Journeys Out of the Body*. And that was the end of that!

CATAPULT

I offer this reconsideration of Monroe as a result of the publication of *Catapult—the Biography of Robert A. Monroe* by Bayard Stockton (Norfolk, VA: Donning Co., 1989). Stockton recounts Monroe's early life during the Depression, his radio days and his first out-of-body experiences. The book is extremely personal, with Stockton describing his own metaphysical and conciousness-expanding experiences while taking part in the programs offered by Monroe's Virginia institute.

As a piece of psychic literature, the book is flawed. It is too long and rambles. Like many "authorized" books, it walks that delicate line between biography and hagiography. Despite these flaws, the book is engaging and I couldn't put it down—reading until late in the night, retiring, but then getting up to read more.

The story told in *Catapult* concerns a bright kid on his own in a hostile world and becoming a self-made millionaire in New York's radio business in the 1940s. (Monroe later switched to TV and game shows before his out-of-body experiences transformed his life.) There is no Horatio Alger sentimentality to

the story, which reminded me of similar stories of "making it" in the world I've heard from my own family of that generation.

A MYSTERY REVEALED

What I really enjoyed is that the Rame story is finally explained. It seems that Monroe had recently suffered a heart attack in North Carolina and was recovering. His wife, Mary, was concerned that her husband's condition was the cause or result of his out-of-body experiments. So she took Monroe's personal notes and gave them to Dr. Puharich, whom she had recently met in New York. Since he was both a physician and a parapsychologist, she figured he could shed some light on her husband's experiences. Monroe said in an interview with Stockton:

"Mary didn't mention it when I got back to New York. Not that she was hiding it, I'm sure. She simply forgot.

"Several years later, Puharich brought out his second book. By that time, our paths had taken us in different directions, not because we weren't friendly, but we were both busy.

"I was astonished to find a chapter on my activities in his book, thinly disguised. Most important, however, he had reworked my notes, moving parts entirely out of context, so as to convey that my Out-of-Body's had begun as drug related, the product of 'glue-sniffing'...

"Monroe claims to have contacted some sort of 'parallel universe,' to have communicated on a subliminal level with those he visits during OOBEs... and to have met all sorts of strange denizens of the astral world."

"What had actually happened was that, in trying to figure out what was going on, I had gone back into my past and had recorded in my notes some sensations I had experienced while gluing a formica counter top in a nearly-enclosed alcove in our house. This happened about a year before the onset of the OOBEs.

"In his book, Puharich made it appear as if the two were the same event. He was heavily into

reporting drug-related experiences; his first book dealt totally with such events.

"Mary was furious and it was then that she told me how Puharich had obtained copies of my notes.

"He had used me in an attempt to tie the new book to the readership of his older work, in the opinion of those who reviewed the situation."

Monroe and his wife consulted a lawyer, who felt his client had a case but suggested that the resulting publicity could be damaging.

This is the same story, I might add, that Mr. Monroe offered to me in our private correspondence. I wrote to Dr. Puharich and requested a response from him, but never heard a word back from him. (His secretary merely assured me that he would reply to my letter in time.)

OOBE PROGRAMS

The second part of *Catapult* deals with the programs developed by Robert Monroe and offered by his Monroe Institute of Applied Science in Faber, Virginia. This is a private foundation where people can engage in various experiential exercises, which "free" the client from consensus reality. Included in the book are reports of Stockton's own otherworldly travels and his possible contacts with the dead. We also read reports by other people taking the courses, often consisting of visualization exercises while listening to tapes. They report strange adventures within the mind's twilight zone—out-of-body experiences, encounters with extradimensional beings and mystical enlightenment. It was material somewhat like this that prompted my skepticism of *Far Journeys*. But I've grown softer over the years, even though I still don't think that book was very good.

Since first learning of Monroe's experiences, I've been privileged to talk or correspond with several people empowered with the skill of leaving the body, including Sylvan Muldoon (who first popularized the subject in 1929), Keith Harary and Ingo Swann.

ALTERNATE REALITIES

I've come to learn that the out-of-body world isn't anything like the reality in which we live. It is partially a mental realm. Maybe it really exists "out there" somewhere in the universe, but it is partially constructed by the psyche of the psychic traveler. Perhaps it is a realm we can only partially observe because we lack the proper perceptual organs to directly perceive it correctly. I've encountered some bizarre things

while experimenting with the psyche's inner realm, including recently inducing a classic near-death experience while working with a lucid dream-related out-of-body experience.

The bizarre claims of Monroe and his institute's visitors should not be dismissed *merely* because of their strangeness. Some of the people reporting to Monroe could be crazy or lying. Other people probably enjoy experientially "real" encounters while listening to his tapes, even if these experiences lack consensual validity.

Catapult: the Biography of Robert A. Monroe is not for scientifically-inclined readers, but for people sincerely interested in the multitudinous inner realms of the psyche. I didn't like every part of the book, but it is a fascinating look at a self-made millionaire representing the best of the American ethic who was forced to become a psychonaut and rests today with feet in both worlds.

If you would like to order Catapult: The Biography of Robert A. Monroe, *please see the offer on page 111.*

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A GHOSTLY DEATH AMONG THE ROCKEFELLERS

By Doris McClure Humphrey

Bellita Lincoln, a grand niece of financier John D. Rockefeller, was eight years old and visiting the summer home of her Grandmother Rockefeller in Connecticut, when her grandmother's sister, Great Aunt Elsie, who lived across the street, died suddenly of a stroke.

The day of the death, Bellita had seen Great Aunt Elsie enter Grandmother Rockefeller's house, and the little girl followed her up the stairs, where the woman opened the door of an unused bedroom, went in and lay down upon the bed to die.

So vivid was the experience that Bellita assumed her great aunt had, for some reason, decided to die upstairs in Grandmother Rockefeller's house. Fifty years later, now a married woman and mother, Bellita asked an uncle why Great Aunt Elsie had come over from across the street to die in a bedroom in the grandmother's house. The uncle insisted that Elsie had died in her own home.

We hear accounts of people who have been seen in two places at once. Perhaps this was a case of someone dying in two places at once.

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OUR STRANGE WORLD

by Mark Chorvinsky

GLOWING EYES II

If movies can have sequels, so can columns. This column is a sequel to the very successful *Glowing Eyes* "Our Strange World" column that ran in the December 1989 FATE. To refresh the reader's memory, Barbara Howard of Keavy, Kentucky, described a man whose eyes glowed during daylight hours with his back toward the only window.



Mark Chorvinsky

To recap briefly, as far as science is concerned, there are two conditions in which human eyeshine can occur. The first is if the illumination is intensely bright, in which case some light actually reflects off the back of the eye, bouncing off of the red blood vessels. The second condition occurs when eyes reflect a directional light source in a very dark place with little competing light.

As I explained then, there are hundreds of references to glowing, blazing, and fiery eyes in close encounters with unusual entities such as monsters, phantom black dogs, ghosts, demons and UFO occupants. Often the first thing a witness notices are the entity's glowing eyes.

I described the phenomenon of "nightshine" and animal and human eyeglow when there is an external source for the light, but the only modern case of human eyeglow with no seeming external source that we were able to find was Barbara Howard's. My request to FATE readers for any additional information about these phenomena brought in some really interesting responses that I would like to share with you this month.

"BLACK TOP DIAMONDS"

On October 22, 1989, Rev. Louis G. Pope, Retired UCC clergy, from Blue Springs, Missouri, wrote to me in reaction to the first *Glowing Eyes* column.

Rev. Pope had lived in White-

water, Kansas, from 1952-1962 and while there he often noticed that when he drove on blacktop roads during the summer, tiny lights occasionally reflected off the road. He had always assumed that the lights were tiny glittering rocks reflecting from the blacktop.

When Rev. Pope investigated further, he found that the tiny reflective lights were coming from spiders' eyes. Rev. Pope surmises that the prairie grass spiders, which were approximately 1 1/2" in diameter, would sit on the blacktop in the evening, when it was very cool in the grass. He tells of returning from Lawrence one evening with friends when he spotted a light on the road and stopped quickly.

"It took three stops to find my 'black top diamond,' he writes." We could see the reflection in the eyes of the spider until we were almost on top of it, but close enough to know the light came from that source. [My companions] were very skeptical until the third try. Your article on glowing eyes has reminded me of this whole episode and so I write to you to add to your information concerning glowing eyes, even spider eyes..."

NEW CLAIM OF EYEGLOW

Our next report is a recent claim of human eyeglow (although "eyeflash" might be a more accurate term in this case). On June 11, 1989, Shirley Lee Ryan of San Diego, California, had an unusual experience which she recorded in her daily diary. My *Glowing Eyes* column caused her to go back and find the account, which she was good enough to submit. We quote from Ms. Ryan's diary entry:

"This evening around 5 P.M. my neighbor Ellie dropped in for a cool, soft drink and a little conversation, when, much to my amazement, I saw [that] in her right eye the pupil was enlarged, and deep in the black, a light flashed. It looked like a star that twinkles. I could not believe my eyes, so I asked that she look directly into my eyes again. It appeared in just the one eye again. A clear flash or shimmering light, and then it disappeared, and matched her other eye. All right, what did I see twice?"

Ms. Ryan did not feel that this was a visionary experience of any sort, and is convinced that she actually saw the eye glow. She notes in her diary, "It was not reflection or my imagination, because I double checked...I tried to tell myself, when I saw it, that it was a reflection, but the other eye disagreed. I remember thinking, how could a reflection

touch outside on her lower eyelashes? I had never heard of this before, and wondered why I saw it."

Her description of the light in her friend's eye was "...that it had the glitter of a lovely diamond."

EYEBEAMS?

In mid-to-late July of 1977, Janet Yost, then Janet Karges, was 28 years old and living in a small town of Carsonville, Michigan. She was in her bedroom conversing with two friends one evening when, suddenly, they backed away from her and became very frightened, asking, "How did you do that?"

When they calmed down they both told of seeing the same thing: They said that her "eyes had begun to glow as if there were lights behind them." They stated that they had glowed white or whitish-yellow.

At the time of this phenomena the bedroom was dark, except for the light from the kitchen, which was coming in through the half-opened door. To get to her bedroom from the kitchen, one had to go down a short hall. The only source of light in the kitchen was a 60-watt bulb in the ceiling that was to the left of the hallway. Her bed was on the left side of the room, (the door was on the right side), and up against the far wall. Therefore the light had to go around one corner to shine down the hall, and around another to shine into her bedroom and onto her bed. There were no streetlights near enough to shine into her room and the night was overcast with no visible Moon.

Both of her friends made the comparison to seeing beams of light coming from her eyes, "much like the way you can see a flashlight beam on a dark night."

Janet Yost has supplied me with the names and locations (from 1977) of her friends, who should be able to verify her claim. I will look into this case further in the future and may report on any significant results of my investigation in an upcoming column.

"THE LAMP OF THE BODY"

Dale C. Allison, Jr., also in response to Part 1 of this column, sent me an article that he had written entitled "The Eye is the Lamp of the Body" (Matthew 6:22-23 and Luke 11:34-36) published in *New Testament Studies* (vol. 33, 1987, pp. 61-83).

Allison cites Hans Dieter Betz's article entitled "Matthew vi. 22f. and Ancient Greek Theories of Vision" [in *Text and Interpreta-*

tion: Studies in the New Testament Presented to Matthew Black, ed. E. Best and R. McL. Wilson (Cambridge, 1979) pp. 43-56], in which Betz discusses pre-Socratic beliefs that provide clues to the meaning of the above quote, which is attributed to Jesus.

Betz notes that Plato wrote about "light-bearing eyes" and basically believed that people have a light inside them that emanates from their eyes [Plato, *Timaeus*, trans. G. R. Bury, Loeb Classical Library (Cambridge, Mass., 1929), p. 101]. Empedocles of Sicily (5th cent., B.C.) and Parmenides of Elea also held the same belief that there is an "elemental" or "primal" fire in the eyes.

Betz concludes that the notion of the eye being the lamp of the body should not be taken literally, although the claims of human eyeglow recounted in this column may give us reason to think twice about this ancient belief. Allison has found that the Greek belief that the eye may be likened to a lamp was also found in a good number of ancient Jewish sources and that in ancient Egypt, China and India the notion of self-luminous eyes existed.

Allison stresses that belief of a fire or light in the eye was "taken for granted by the populace at large" and was a part of common wisdom (Allison, p. 63). He lists some ancient instances of eyeglow and references to it, including light coming from Typhon's eyes (Aeschylus, *Prometheus Bound* 356), an evil fire coming from the eyes of snakes (Theocritus, *Idylls* 24. 18-19), eyes emitting rays (Sophocles, *Ajax* 70 and also Euripides, *Andromache* 1180); as well as the statement that people generally believe that the eye has a fire in it (Aristotle, *de Sensu et Sensibiliis* 437a 22-26).

Allison lists some who believed that the eye emits a ray, light or fire, including the Pythagoreans, the Stoics, Theophrastus, the Peripatetics, Euclid, Seneca, Pliny the Elder, Galen, St. Augustine, al-Kindi, Roger Bacon, Leonardo da Vinci, Galileo, Thomas Willis, and Goethe, as well as many others (Allison, p. 63).

MORE TO COME

Clearly, the notion of light emanating from the eyes is an ancient concept, and we will continue to collect data and report to FATE readers on this fascinating phenomena.

Consulting editor Mark Chorvinsky (PO Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20847) edits Strange Magazine *($17.95/4 issue subscription published twice a year) and researches and investigates a wide variety of strange phenomena.*

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MAN-EATING MONSTERS



Giant Creatures—More Than Tall Tales

By Matthew A. Bille

"HOW BIG DO THEY GET?"

Everyone who's ever gaped at a giraffe or an elephant has asked that question. So has every sailor who saw some huge animal appear out of the deep and vanish again, and every explorer who ever watched a shadowy form crash away through the jungle.

We know how large giraffes and elephants grow. The biggest whales have, in all likelihood, been weighed and measured. But there are still questions about other animals—land and sea. After all, many of the reports that still come in about strange monsters of the tropical forest or the

deep ocean *could* be outsized specimens of creatures already known.

GIANT MEN AND FISH

Giants occur in all types of animals. Humans weighing over a thousand pounds or standing almost nine feet tall are on record. In the lower animals, an interesting example is provided by Jacques Cousteau in his book *The Living Sea*. While exploring a wreck off the coast of Africa, Cousteau's divers were startled by a 12- to 15-foot fish they called the "truckfish." The creature was eventually identified as a *wrasse*, which has a normal maximum length of three feet. Even if we assume the "truckfish" was only 12 feet long (four times longer than the normal size), that would still make its total mass (length times width times height or 4x4x4) 64 times the normal size of the species.

AMAZING SERPENTS

Everybody's favorite question in this category—at least so far as land animals are concerned—is, "How long do snakes get?" Answer: nobody is sure.

The Guinness Book of World Records accepts 32 feet, nine and one-half inches as the overall record. This was a reticulated python of Southeast Asia. The book puts the South American anaconda second, with an authenticated length of 27 feet, nine inches. However, anaconda specimens ranging up to 39 feet long are accepted by some zoological writers.

A snake 39 feet long is a true monster, fully capable of swallowing humans. But that's just the beginning of giant-snake claims. Zoologist Bernard Heuvelmans, founder of the International Society of Cryptozoology, quotes a story from March 1947 of two Frenchmen who reported



Giant snakes have appeared in monstrous sizes and have attacked humans.

killing an anaconda in a Brazilian swamp. It measured 75 feet. (The ISC is a scientific organization devoted to the discovery of new animals of all types and sizes).

Percy Fawcett, a famous explorer of South America, claimed to have shot and killed an anaconda at least 60 feet long on the bank of the Rio Abuna River in western Brazil in 1907.

In 1922, missionary Father Victor Heinz reported that an 80-foot specimen drifted past his boat. His native crew called it a *sucuriju gigante*, or "giant boa." One of them claimed to have seen a 150-footer.

A South American acquaintance once sent the late Loch Ness investigator Tim Dinsdale two newspaper photos of snakes allegedly killed in the late 1940s. One was 131 feet, the other 145 feet. Unfortunately, neither photo showed the snake next to anything that would provide a scale.

In 1981, *Science Digest* asked readers to submit reports of the longest snake. They were inundated. Among the wilder reports: explorer Algot Lange claimed to have killed a 58-foot boa constrictor in 1910; a Peruvian hotelier told writer Peter Matthiessen of a 99-foot anaconda killed locally; a vocational education teacher said tribesmen in Bolivia told him of a 115-foot anaconda.

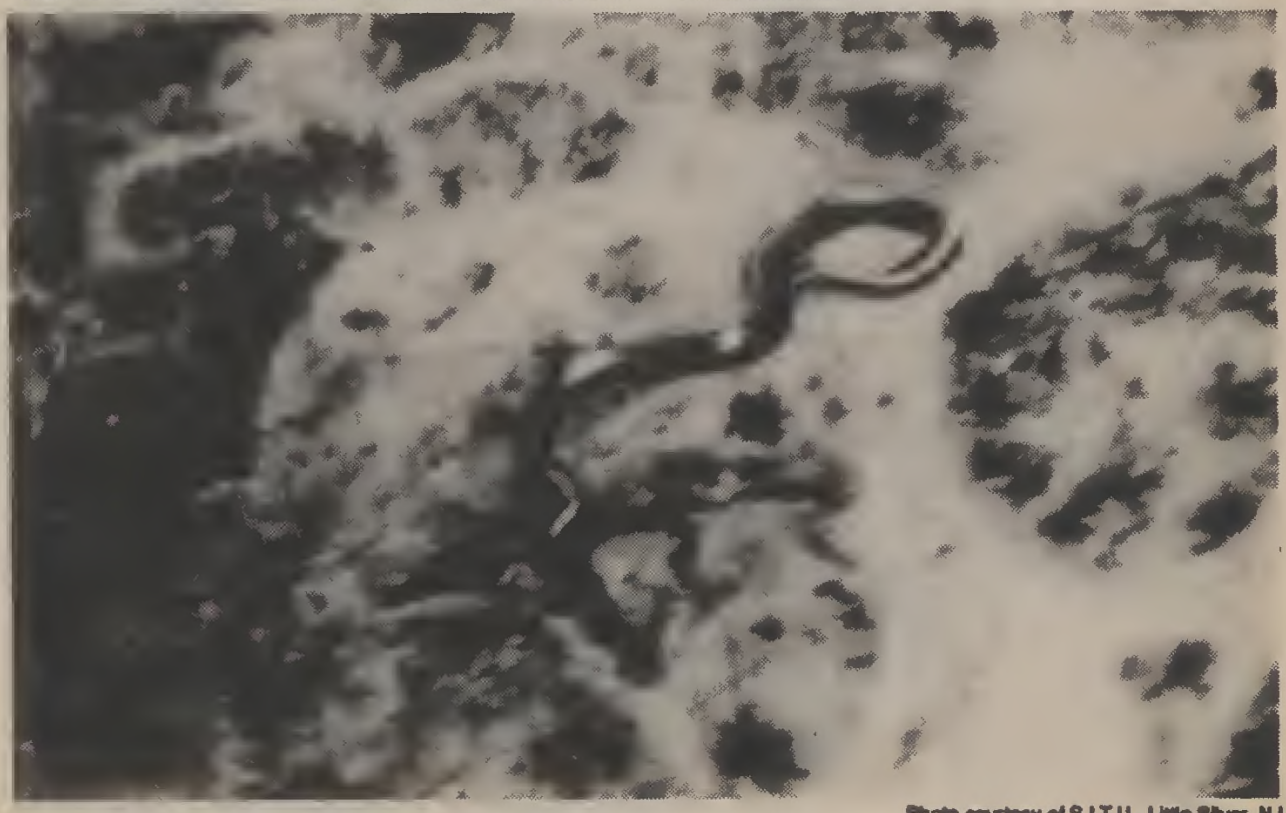


Photo courtesy of S.I.T.U., Little Silver, NJ

Photo taken by a Belgian military pilot from 250 feet in the air. Author Ivan Sanderson believed it to be real. If so, the snake would be over 100 feet long.

JACKALOPE SNAKES, TOO

Of course, not every tale is authentic. One photograph of an alleged giant snake has been made into a postcard in Brazil, where it is reported the locals promote their 130-foot snakes the way Texans do the "jackalope."

One other letter to *Science Digest* came from the curator of the New York Zoological Society. He advised that a reward, first established in 1910 and now worth $50,000, is still offered for a live snake over 30 feet long. It has never been collected.

Africa has its giant-snake reports, too. Game warden C.R.S. Pitman reported native accounts of a python 130 feet in length. An aerial photograph of such a monster has turned up, but no one is certain about the size of the plants and other background details in the picture. It may show just an ordinary python. Speaking of pythons, 40 footers have been claimed from Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Finally, giant snakes have also been reported in the wilds of Soviet Central Asia.

OTHER CRAWLING OR CREEPING MONSTERS

Aside from snakes, there don't seem to be many rumored giants among the land animals. An exception is the Australian monitor lizard. This animal, known as the perenty or giant goanna, reaches at least eight and one-half feet. In the vast outback, though, some people claim they're bigger—up to 30 feet.

Once we move out into the ocean, there are all kinds of interesting claims. Everybody's candidate for "least favorite animal to go swimming with," the great white shark, is a good example. The largest record the *Guinness* book accepts is 21 feet. Other authorities will go to 26.

However, one seen by fishermen in 1977 was estimated at 31 feet. Author Zane Grey reported a 40 footer in the Pacific in the 1920s. Some speculate that the really big reports are not of great whites at all, but of a monstrosity called *Carcharodon megalodon*, a supposedly extinct relative that measured in the 45-foot range and may have been larger. (It is also probable some such reports are misidentifications of harmless basking sharks and whale sharks; the latter reach at least 40 feet).

Top honors go to a report from Port Stephens, New South Wales, made in 1918. A shark hove alongside a 115-foot wharf, and the shark, the local fishermen claimed, was as long as the wharf.

The scary-looking but harmless manta ray deserves a mention. It is known to measure at least 22 feet in "wingspan."



Giant jaws from a prehistoric shark dwarf a man.
It was thought that such a shark might have measured 80 feet in length, but some scientists believe that it was "only" 43 feet long.

However, a witness wrote to *Sea Secrets* magazine in 1968 to report seeing one 50 to 60 feet across in the eastern Pacific. The editors responded that the little-known manta probably does exceed 22 feet, but advised, "it's hard to believe that it was quite the size you state."

MYSTERY EELS

The last vertebrate on our list definitely exists, but no one is sure what it's the giant version of. Eels and some other fish pass through a larval stage where they are known as *leptocephali*. These normally measure less than four inches.

In 1930, a Danish research ship collected a leptocephalus about six feet long. A three-foot specimen was caught off New Zealand in 1959.

The Danish scientists who made the original catch thought it was the larva of an eel. The adult form could measure over 90 feet. Other researchers have identified the giant leptocephali as belonging to a group of fish called the *noticanthiforms*. These include the "spiny eels," eel-like bottom dwellers which were previously thought to be about eight inches long.

So there is a giant fish out there, eel-shaped if not actually

an eel. The fisherman who brings in the first one will have a story he can tell for the rest of his life.

THE FAMOUS GIANT SQUID...

The giant squid is a favorite animal to all those who search for unknown creatures. It was ridiculed by most scientists in no uncertain terms until a 55-foot specimen washed ashore in Newfoundland in 1878. A 57-footer washed up in New Zealand. The apparent record belongs to one 65 feet long that was found in a sperm whale's stomach. All these lengths are mostly tentacle, but this still makes for a very satisfactory monster.

The suckers on the arms of these beasts measure three or four inches across. Scars of at least 18 inches have been found on sperm whales which hunt the huge, deep-water squids. It's true the whale's skin is loose and may be pulled together by the sucker, and also the scar grows as the whale grows. It's anybody's guess how much these factors account for the scar size and how big the suckers might really be.

There are witnesses who claim to have seen squids of colossal size. A man named J.D. Starkey claims a squid came up alongside his trawler in the Indian Ocean. It was at least the length of the ship—175 feet. Cousteau once



Although not accepted as real by all scientists, giant squids and octopuses have been seen by many researchers.

saw the eye—just the enormous eye—of what he called an "utterly fantastic cephalopod" looking in through the porthole of his Diving Saucer.

...AND THE GIANT OCTOPUS

Now comes the saga of the giant octopus. In the *American Journal of Science* for 1897 is a note from Professor A. E. Verill, an expert on cephalopods (octopus and squid). A letter was forwarded to him from Dr. DeWitt Webb, a medical doctor and amateur naturalist in St. Augustine, Florida, describing a carcass washed up on the beach. The boneless lump was about 10 feet by 18. Webb thought it was an octopus; Verill suggested it was a squid. There were subsequent letters, samples sent, and some confusion about whether stumps of tentacles had been definitely found or not. The end result was that Verill changed his identification to octopus and then to the head "of a creature like a sperm whale in structure."

There the matter rested until 1962, when Marineland Research Laboratory curator F.G. Wood and cell biologist Joseph Gennaro obtained from the Smithsonian Institution actual samples that Webb had provided of the creature. The samples were connective tissue, the cells of which are arranged in different patterns in different types of animals. When slides were made and the tissue compared, the closest match was an octopus. A chemical analysis by Chicago biochemist Roy Mackal published in 1986 came to the same conclusion. The octopus had weighed several tons and had a tentacle span of perhaps 200 feet.

There were reports of such things. Bahamian fishermen told Wood about "giant scuttles," the local name for octopus. Wood's chief informant described them as having arms about 75 feet long.

TASMANIAN GLOBSTER

The St. Augustine creature may not be the only one that has washed ashore. In 1960, another boneless, featureless carcass, nicknamed the Globster, was found in Tasmania. It was roughly 18 by 20 feet. Other strandings of blobs came in 1968 and 1970. The most recent, eight feet long, turned up in Bermuda in 1988. Tissue samples were saved but are not yet tested. Are these giant octopuses, with the tentacles largely chewed off by sharks? Or are some just masses of whale blubber, or even the remains of something completely unknown?

The giant octopus has not been completely accepted by science, perhaps due to fears of uncertainty in typing tissue that

has soaked for decades in formaldehyde. At least some hard evidence is in hand. The 1982 *Guinness* book accepted the giant; the latest editions don't mention it, giving the "largest octopus" title to a Pacific octopus with a 23-foot span.

We think of jellyfish as little things, but they too allegedly have their monsters. *Guinness* reports an Arctic giant jellyfish with a bell seven feet six inches across. That's big enough, but writer Richard Winer claims to have been diving south of Bermuda when an enormous purple jellyfish appeared beneath him. He is certain that it was at least 50 feet across.

That, as far as I know, covers the field of giant varieties of known animals. Perhaps the witnesses are wrong, and there are no such monster specimens. I like to think I'm too conservative, and that the jungles and seas hold even more astonishing surprises. One day, we will know for sure. Until then, we have the fun of speculation and wonder.

(Note: Numerous sources for this article are on file at FATE. If you would like a copy of the sources, you may send a SASE and request them.)

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THE WOMAN WHO MADE ASTROLOGY RESPECTABLE

By Lina Accurso

Evangeline Adams was the first astrologer to bring respectability to the field in America, advising the rich and famous of her day, and conducting a radio show until just before her death in 1932. Her autobiography, *The Bowl of Heaven*, describes the sad event which ironically launched her career.

In March 1899, her chart told her that it was a good time to move from her native Boston to New York City and practice astrology there.

She moved into the Windsor Hotel, and its owner, a Mr. Leland, became her first client. She did his chart, but gasped that he was "under the worst combination of planets, bringing conditions terrifying in their unfriendliness."

Mr. Leland laughed, saying that the stock market was closed the next day, St. Patrick's Day, so nothing could happen to him.

The next day Windsor burned to the ground, killing many guests and several members of the Leland family, including his daughter. Despite his shock, he managed to tell reporters that Evangeline Adams had warned him of the tragedy. Thereafter, her client list was assured.

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SORRAT EXPERIMENTS— REAL OR FAKE

Experiments performed by the Society for Research on Rapport and Telekinesis (SORRAT) are considered highly controversial. Some have described the experiments as dubious at best. Still, FATE believes that the reports are interesting enough to be presented to our readers. We invite you to draw your own conclusions. The following report was written by a SORRAT member.

By George C. Andrews

John Neihardt was the famous author of the 1932 book, *Black Elk Speaks*, the biography of a Sioux medicine man and prophet. With the success of this and other books, he was able to buy property near Columbia, Missouri, which he named Skyrim Farm. The location had been chosen clairvoyantly by his wife. He built a Sioux prayer garden in an enclosure near his house, and began conducting experiments in parapsychology with a group of friends, along lines suggested to him by Dr. Joseph B. Rhine.

Neihardt was particularly interested in the subject of telekinesis (the movement of objects by mental or psychic means), and obtained some spectacular results with this and other types of phenomena. He decided to call the group the Society for Research on Rapport and Telekinesis (SORRAT). One of the friends who Neihardt invited to participate in these group experiments was Dr. John Thomas Richards who, with other members of the original group continued the experiments. Paranormal phenomena continue to occur. I have participated in some of these SORRAT sessions. What follows is a description of one of them.

On the evening of December 15, 1985, I went to Skyrim Farm with Dr. Richards and his wife Elaine, as well as Dr. Berthold Schwarz, his wife Ardis and his daughter Lisa. There we met Alice Thompson, John Neihardt's daughter, who was alone in the house, except for her 88-year-old friend, "Uncle" Dick Cook, who was severely ill and confined to his bed. Because he was too sick to participate in our group activities, there were originally seven of us. An eighth person, Joe Mangini, who had been a close friend of John Neihardt, arrived shortly after the session had begun. This was a much smaller group than on the two previous occasions when I had taken part in the sessions at Skyrim—on each of these occasions there had been over 20 people present.

In order to simplify my description of the evening I shall refer to the participants on a first-name basis (Tom being Dr. John Thomas Richards, and Bert being Dr. Berthold Schwarz).

AN INFORMAL BEGINNING

The evening began with coffee in the living room. Alice had never met Bert, Ardis or Lisa, so they became acquainted. Bert and Tom took some pictures. I stepped out of the house for a few moments to pay my respects to the Sioux prayer garden, and to "center" myself while giving a good hug to the symbolic Tree of Life at its center. Upon my return to the living room, there were some remarks made during the general conversation before the session began.

Alice said that some visitor had stolen Black Elk's staff from her father's workroom, in which the sessions are usually held. Tom told Bert that on a previous occasion a skeptic had accused him of jumping up and down on the floor to create a spurious "earthquake effect." I had been present on that occasion and a previous one when the earthquake effect manifested. I said that in my opinion the earthquake effect could not be plausibly explained by any such gymnastics. Bert promised to keep a close watch on Tom during the proceedings.

A UFO CONNECTION?

Bert asked Alice if she had ever seen a UFO. Alice replied that she had indeed seen a UFO, and a large one, at close range, as it hovered directly above the farm. It had happened in 1971. She had noticed a strange light at night, had gone to the door of the trailer she was living in at the time, and had seen an enormous, orange globe hovering only a few hundred yards away. It had what looked like cables or hoses dan-

gling from it. She had called out to her assistant, Uncle Dick, to awaken him. He had come to the door, still half-asleep, and had exclaimed, "Oh my God, the Moon is on fire!" Alice then pointed out to him that the Moon was plainly visible in another part of the sky, and what they were looking at was something entirely different. The diameter of the orange globe was approximately equal in length to a Piper Cub aircraft. It made no noise, and hovered near them for about 15 minutes. Alice phoned in a report to authorities, and later found out that 12 other neighbors had also phoned in reports. There had been an article about the incident in the local *Columbia Daily Tribune.*

Bert asked Alice if the paranormal phenomena began to occur at Skyrim Farm after this incident. Alice said, "No, the phenomena had already been occurring for about ten years." Tom mentioned that he, Elaine, and two other SORRAT members had once seen a UFO while on their way home after a session at Skyrim, and that during one particularly successful session in 1976, grapefruit-sized lights had appeared at a low altitude directly above the Sioux prayer garden.

Alice reminisced about the first meeting between her father and Black Elk in which she had been present. What impressed her the most about that first meeting was the contrast between Black Elk's clothing (a pauper's rags by contemporary U.S. standards) and dwelling (a hovel by those same standards) and the exquisitely refined nobility of his attitude. Neihardt and Black Elk became close friends. It is my opinion that this close friendship was not severed by their respective deaths, and that the phenomena which occur at Skyrim are in a large part caused by their continued collaboration as discarnate spirits.

Faint sporadic raps began coming from the floor in the vicinity of Alice. Tom showed her two separate rings which had been made by a skeptical metallurgist from a combination of metals (of which only the metallurgist knew the proportions). The rings were then double-coated with different types of enamel and sealed in transparent plastic with tamper-proof seals. Tom asked Alice if she thought that it might be possible to link the rings.

THE SESSION BEGINS

Instead of answering, Alice decided that we might as well start the session, and got out the small metallic TV table that was commonly used during SORRAT experiments, telling Tom to place

the rings on it. On my previous visits, the sessions had always begun in John Neihardt's workroom, but Alice said it was too cold in there.

We moved our chairs to form a circle around the TV table in the living room. Almost as soon as we put our hands on it, it began to tremble and shake and raps were heard. This took place *before* Alice asked Tom to turn out the light. Any attempt at cheating would have been obvious.

The skeptics who want Alice to conduct her sessions with the lights on and under antiseptic laboratory conditions ignore the essential factor of "rapport" (or relationship of mutual trust and understanding) which is a major ingredient in the mix that SORRAT believes necessary for the paranormal phenomena to occur. Furthermore, Alice is not interested in proving the reality of the phenomena to skeptics. She does not engage in this activity to gain prestige or any financial reward. She wants only to communicate with her beloved deceased father and mother, and their good friend Black Elk. She doesn't care about the opinions of other people.

Shortly after Tom turned out the lights, we heard a car drive up, and the eighth person, Joe Mangini, arrived. As soon as he pulled up a chair and joined the circle, the table rapped out a greeting to him by name according to the numerical values corresponding to letters of the alphabet in the code selected long ago by John Neihardt: "Hi, Joe."

Lisa said that she had once been in an earthquake that had measured 5.6 on the Richter Scale, but that it had not been as intense or of as a long duration as the earthquake effect we had just experienced.

THE RINGS ARE LINKED

Tom asked if it would be possible to link the rings. There was one rap, meaning "yes." Alice took the sealed, plastic container in her hands and went into a deep trance, breathing heavily. I felt a very strong other-dimensional presence in the room—a

spectacular surge of psychic energy. Alice exclaimed triumphantly that the rings were now linked. Bert and Tom felt the container excitedly, and confirmed by touch that the rings had linked. The lights were turned on momentarily to confirm this by visual inspection, then they were turned off again.

The table began to move of its own accord toward the kitchen, levitating slightly (a few inches) now and then. After getting to the icebox, it changed the direction of its movement and went to the closed door of Neihardt's workroom. Alice shivered, saying, "It's going to be cold in there!" I was in shirt sleeves, but was so excited that I didn't care.

The workroom door was opened and the table moved of its own accord directly to the "power point" near the window. This is where many of the phenomena occur.

THE EARTHQUAKE EFFECT BEGINS

The floor began to tremble and quiver, just as the table had initially done. Then the whole room began to shake. Bert put his hand on Tom's shoulder to make sure that he was not performing any "gymnastics." We were all grouped around the table. Since there were only eight of us, any uncalled-for movements would have been obvious.

Some skeptics have cast me in the role of a naïve and gullible "true believer." They have directly accused Tom, and indirectly, by inference, accused Alice of fraud. Therefore, let me remind readers that Bert, Ardis and Lisa were on the lookout for any attempts to cheat. Also, the earthquake effect was not mo-mentary, but was continuous from the time it started to the end of the session.

Raps beat out the rhythm of "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night." We sang along. The table levitated several more times to a maximum of about a foot above the floor. On previous occasions it had risen beyond our reach, nearly to the ceiling. The table rapped out "Took my staff," referring to the theft of Black Elk's staff, then rapped out "Didn't take us," causing general laughter—spirits can't be stolen.

The table rapped "Embrace," which Alice said meant that we should stand in a circle with our arms around each other's shoulders or waists. We stood like this for about ten minutes with the table in the middle of the circle, during which time the earthquake effect was continuous. There was no way any of us could have been jumping up and down or performing gymnastics as we were all holding on to one another.

THE EXPERIMENT ENDS

As the earthquake effect diminished and disappeared, the table rapped out "End." We went back to the warm living room, closed the door to the workroom and turned on the living-room lights. We all looked again at the rings, which remained linked, and the seals on their plastic container, which remained intact. Lisa said that she had once been in an earthquake that had measured 5.6 on the Richter Scale, but that it had not been as intense or of as a long duration as the earthquake effect we had just experienced. She was astonished that the house had not collapsed.

GYMNASTICS CAN'T CAUSE EARTHQUAKES

Bert said that he had not seen anyone jumping up and down, and that in any case the earthquake effect we had just witnessed could not be plausibly explained by such activity. Alice said that it had been a very successful evening, and that she prefers working with a small group of positive people to working with a large group with confused or negatively-oriented people. Tom said that a persistent pain had gone away, and that he felt much better.

We all expressed the wish that the healing effect would extend to Uncle Dick. Everyone thanked Alice, wishing her a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Raps continued in the kitchen area, in full light. We said good night and took our departure.

Stephen A. Schwartz refers to "a healthy sense of professional survival" as having prevented an anthropologist from publishing unconventional findings. The sense of professional survival of the skeptical metallurgist who had prepared the experiment with the rings turned out to be so strong that he was horrified at the news that the experiment had succeeded. He refused to allow his name to be associated in any way with the experiment, fearing damage to his career.

All of this leaves me with an attitude similar to Alice's. I am not particularly concerned about the opinions of other people, but am willing to make an effort in good faith to transmit the essentials of the information associated with that unforgettable experience.

Editor's note: The poor quality of photos provided prevent us from showing you the linked rings. Such photos were published in Pursuit *(Third Quarter, 1986) in the article "Paranormally Linked Sealed Rings" by Berthold E. Schwarz. Again, we leave it to our readers to determine the truth of this article.*

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GYPSIES AND THE TAROT

For centuries, the amazing deck of cards known as the Tarot has intrigued seekers of wisdom. The beauty of the 22 picture cards known as the Major Arcana of the Tarot has held the attention of many, including artists and authors.

But where did these cards come from? Here an authentic Gypsy gives his answer, and tells how he was able to reconstruct an ancient Tarot deck.



By Raymond Buckland

Many people believe that the Tarot cards are somehow linked to the ancient Egyptians and that these divinatory cards date back to those far distant times. In the past, a number of writers, including Gebbelin, Levi and Crowley, have alluded to this "fact" in order to bolster the esoteric nature of their subject. Yet there is no evidence to support it.

The oldest known Tarot deck dates from about 1350. The fact that this

date coincides with the first appearance of Gypsies in Europe is more than coincidental. The Gypsies—or Romanies, to give them their true name—originated in northern India.

This is borne out by the Gypsy language, *Romanes*. As Stewart Sanderson states in *Man, Myth and Magic*: "Although Romany, the Gypsy language, has developed several varieties amongst the main branches of Gypsies, it clearly belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and is descended from Sanskrit. About half its primary vocabulary (the words for numbers, parts of the body, and basic nouns, verbs and adjectives) is closely connected with the languages and dialects spoken today in northern India, while many grammatical forms follow Sindhi and Hindi patterns. Onto this basic stock have been grafted words from various Near Eastern and European languages, which reflect contact with these cultures as the Gypsies migrated and eventually developed sub-cultures."

MIGRATION FROM INDIA

Why the Gypsies originally left India and migrated east and west, we do not know. Over the next few centuries they spread across Europe and Asia. By the early 1400s they were in Germany; by 1430 they had reached England. Because of their unusual appearance—with dark skin and brightly colored clothes—they were taken to be descendants of the ancient Egyptians. Here is the first clue to the origin of the Tarot being ascribed to the Egyptians.

In trying to rid France of the sudden inundation of "undesirable nomads," the Parliament of Paris in 1539 recorded an expulsion order, and the States General of Orleans called on "all those imposters known by the name of Bohemians or *Egyptians* (author's italics) to leave the kingdom under penalty of the galleys." Similarly, in 1596 England there were statutes enacted against "the Egyptians or Bohemians." Indeed, it is from the word *Egyptians* that they got the name Gypsies. Egyptian was shortened to 'Gyptian and then to Gypsy.

THE OCCULT HERITAGE

The Gypsies carried with them much occult knowledge. As vagrants they were obliged to live off their wits. This they did well. By the time they reached western Europe, the Gypsies carried with them seemingly authentic "Letters of Protection" from various rulers, including Sigismund, King of the Romans (actually King of Hungary) and even Pope Martin V. On the basis

of these letters, initially they were generally well received. It was a time when the Church had elevated charity into a virtue, so charity was universally extended to these colorful vagrants.

One of the first to appreciate the Gypsy/Tarot connection was Vaillant, who lived for many years with the Romanies. They instructed him in much of their traditional lore and he wrote of their use of the Tarot in several of his books. That the Tarot came to us by way of the Gypsies has been supported by such writers as "Papus" (Phillipe Encausse), E. S. Taylor, and others. It is of note that the Romany word for a deck of cards is *tar*, which in turn comes from the Hindustani *taru*.

It seems certain that for many centuries the Gypsies made use of the Tarot as one of the tools of their trade. They came to be recognized as possessors of (real or imaginary) arcane esoteric knowledge. They are generally recognized as having a certain "power," an indefinable mystique with which they are able to almost "mesmerize" *gaujos* (non-Gypsies).

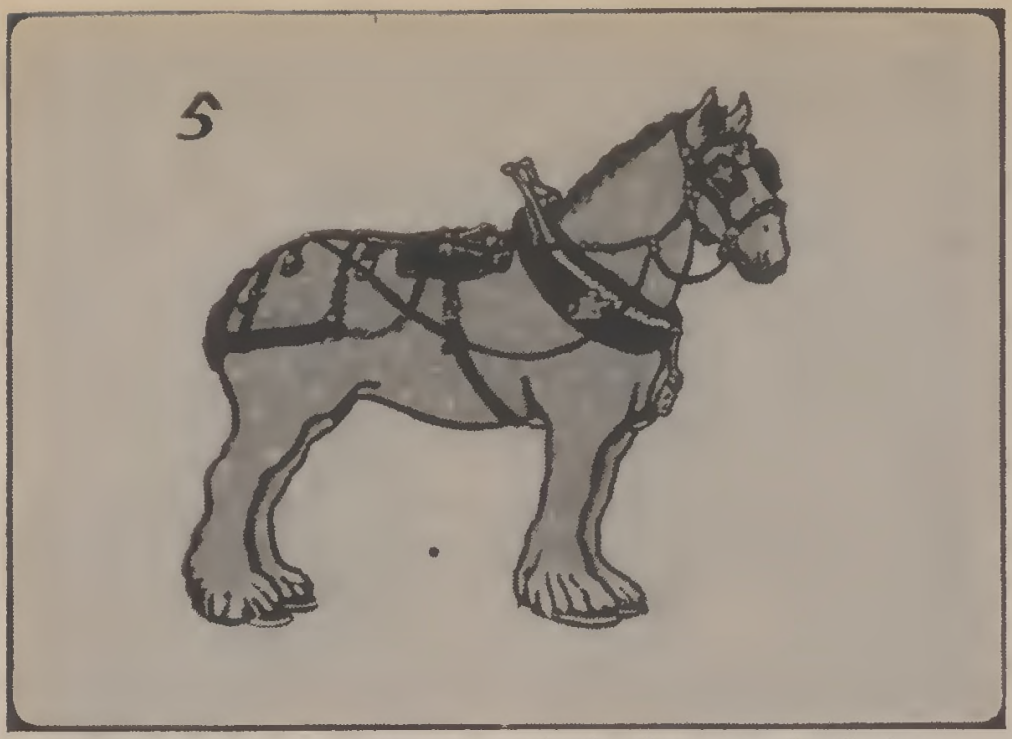
GLAMOUR AND CHARM

In Scotland this power is referred to as *glamour*. Sir Walter Scott spoke of it as "the power of imposing on the eyesight of the spectators, so that the appearance of an object shall be totally different from the reality." The Scottish Parliament referred to it as "charm." An Act passed in 1579 was against "the idle people calling themselves Egyptians, or any other that fancy themselves to have knowledge of prophecy, *charming*, (author's italics) or other abused sciences."

GYPSIES' CHIEF POWER

The Gypsies' chief "power" was in foretelling the future. This was what the gaujos wanted, so this was what the Gypsies gave them. Men and women from all stations and walks of life would seek out a Romany encampment and find a *Rawni* to *dukker* (read their fortune) for them. Some Gypsy Rawnies favored palmistry, reading the many lines and interpreting the shapes of the fingers. Others would read tea leaves, dominoes, or dice. Still others would gaze into a crystal ball for visions of the future. But the favorite was the cards.

Today there are well over 250 different Tarot decks from which to choose. They can be found in any one of a vast number of easily accessible bookstores. But this has not always been the case. It was certainly not so around the turn of the century. Such decks as were owned by Romany families were jealously guarded. If one was lost or stolen, or if a further



deck was needed, it wasn't always possible to find a vendor—so the Gypsies improvised.

Regular playing cards were always available. These probably derived from the "Minor Arcana" of Tarot decks. At some point—probably in France—the Tarot suit of Cups became Hearts, Swords became Spades, Wands became Clubs, and Penta-cles became Diamonds (some, however, give different versions of this change). Also, one face card (the Knight) from each Tarot suit fell by the wayside and we were left with an Ace through Ten, with Page (or "Jack"), Queen and King.

It was the Major Arcana of the Tarot deck—22 pictorial cards—that was not generally available. The Minor Arcana was obtainable in the guise of a poker deck. When the Romanies needed a new tarot deck, they made their own Major Arcana and added it to a poker deck. Thus they had a full Tarot deck (still minus the Knights).

As a young boy, growing up in England, I have vivid memories of my grandmother's use of the cards. Both of my paternal grandparents were full-blooded Romany. My grandmother was a true *shuvani*, or "wise woman," who used to dukker with the cards on a regular basis. She also used to smoke like a chimney. I can still see her sitting with a cigarette in her mouth and at least an inch of ash hanging precariously from its end. The ash used to fall onto her clothes, onto the tablecloth, on the floor but never on the cards. She seemed unaware of the ash's imminent departure from the cigarette at all times except when it was over the cards she read.

The cards she read fascinated me. There were the regular playing cards, with which I was sometimes invited to play, and the "picture cards" (as I called them) which I was never allowed to touch. The pictures had been drawn on blank card stock, many years previously. Who had drawn them and painstakingly colored them I do not know, but they had been in the family for years. My grandmother inherited the cards from her mother.

In Ronald Lee's book, *Goddam Gypsy*, there are illustrations of similar cards made by his family (or tribe). Several of them are unmistakably Indian in the representation of the figures on them. Many also bear a certain resemblance to Tarot Major Arcana cards, although there are differences. The cards my grandmother used also had some symbolism in common with the more popular tarot decks, but most were quite unique. Different Gypsy tribes had distinctive cards. Each family made their own without reference to anyone else's deck.

In my grandmother's deck there were pictures of *vardos* (Gypsy wagons) coming and going, and I particularly remember a card with a solitary horse on it. This one, she said, was for loneliness. The horse had been taken from the rest of the horses owned by the tribe and was to be sold. I remember how dejected the horse looked. There were other cards, with pictures of a Romany encampment, dukkerin' a burning vardo, Gypsies working, double-horse teams, and so on. Each had its own meaning. These were the Buckland family's (tribe's) dukkerin' cards.

During World War II my parents and I moved north to live in Nottingham, the Midlands area of England. We frequently visited my grandparents in London. It was on these occasions that I watched my grandmother with the cards. After the war we moved back to London. When my grandfather, died we moved in with my grandmother. She died in 1952 at the age of 92. Right up to the end she read the cards.

It wasn't until I was living in New York in the mid-1960s that I became interested in the Tarot. It was some years later when I remembered my grandmother's cards. What had become of them?

A number of things had passed on to my father's brother such as my grandfather's Gypsy violin—a beautiful instrument with the neck carved like a horse's head. Had the cards gone to him also, I wondered? By this time both my father and my uncle were dead so it took some research to find out where things were. I finally discovered that my

grandmother had felt there was no one with the interest she felt was necessary to take over her beloved cards. Therefore, in true Romany fashion she had the cards buried with her.

The cards came to mind once again after I had written a book on Gypsy fortune-telling that was published in 1989. I decided to try to reproduce those cards. They were originally hand done, after all.

I tried to take my mind back more than 40 years to see again that wonderful lonely horse and the traveling vardos. I managed to find some old engravings from *The London Illustrated News* of various dates in the late 1800s. The magazine had done a number of articles on the Gypsies at that time and illustrated them with wonderful pictures. I used some of those illustrations—the ones that reminded me of some of the old card pictures—and adapted them. Many I had to draw from scratch. Finally I ended up with a full set of 22 "Major Arcana" cards. They were as close as I could remember to my grandmother's cards. It was very exciting and brought back many memories. I used them to read for numerous people. I was gratified to discover that this new yet ancient deck worked.

My grandmother was very psychic. She could read with or without the cards. It is the Gypsy women who generally do the dukkerin'. The men are usually busy with the horses, or with making clothespins, repairing kettles, or sharpening knives. The men, however, do keep an eye on the women and what is going on. My grandfather certainly could read the cards almost as well as my grandmother, but he would



not do so in public. The male Gypsy is very much the protector of the group. The Elders of the tribe are invariably male. Yet it is a matriarchal society and the *puri-dai* —oldest, most powerful/psychic woman of the family —is the one who invariably has the last word.

There is an important distinction which should be made between divination and fortune-telling. The former is the more serious of the two and may well be practiced within the tribe itself. The latter is the dukkerin'—that which is done to earn money and which may or may not be valid psychic material. How much is genuine, psychically-received material depends upon the mood of the dukkerer. If she happens to be psychically attuned time of the reading, then genuine material will result. If she does not happen to be "in the mood," she will still produce, because she is being paid to do so. However, *what* she produces under these circumstances may or may not be worthwhile.



My grandmother's powers were very highly regarded by the whole family. I remember when we were living in Nottingham, during the war, and my grandparents came to visit. We were experiencing a lot of bad bombing raids at that time and the whole family would sleep the entire night in the air-raid shelter in the back garden. The first night my grandparents were there we were preparing to go to the shelter when my grandmother refused to go. She said—*and she knew* —that our house would never get hit by a bomb. However, my mother, who was not Romany, was equally insistent that we

play it safe and go into the shelter. I remember later looking out from the shelter and seeing German bombers droning overhead, dropping bombs all around us, and my grandmother happily busying herself in the kitchen, making cups of tea for us all.

Charles Godfrey Leland said that "Gypsies...have done more than any race or class on the face of the earth to disseminate among the multitude a belief in fortune-telling, magical or sympathetic cures, amulets and such small sorceries as now find a place in Folklore. Their women have all pretended to possess occult power since prehistoric times. By the exercise of their wits they have actually acquired a certain art of reading character or even thought, which...is in a way true in itself, and well worth careful consideration."

As a student of Gypsy lore, I hope that the reconstruction of my grandmother's fortune-telling cards can aid in any careful consideration of Romany occult knowledge.

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IS YOUR FATE IN YOUR BLOOD?

By Claire Metzger

Want to find your ideal job, friends or even mate? Many Japanese feel your blood type has distinct personality traits. In fact, says Alexander Besher, co-author of *You Are Your Blood Type*, many Japanese firms check their applicants' blood types when hiring.

Here's how they interpret blood types:

Type O—People with this blood type are sexy and sociable, but also power-hungry and jealous. They make good accounts and politicians but would be poor journalists or janitors.

Type A—A person with this blood type is patient and detailed. He or she may also be shy and violent. Such people make good librarians and lawyers but poor football players or TV news anchors.

Type B—A person with this blood type is honest and passionate but can be irresponsible and lazy. Such a person would make a good psychiatrist or golfer but a bad doctor or diplomat.

Type AB—People with this blood type are moral and sensible but also indecisive and disloyal. They will make good actors and bartenders but bad police officers or pilots.

Quoted in *USA Today*, Dr. Paul Ness, head of Johns Hopkins blood bank, says, "I don't know of any scientific basis for what they're saying."

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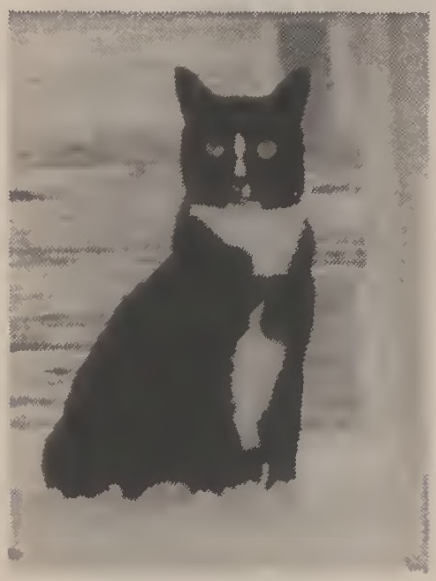
TRUE MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

by the Readers

SUGAH CHOSE US

By Kathryn Donelly

When I went to sleep on Wednesday, November 2, 1983, I was on an emotional and mental "high" following a very exciting psychology class. I found it difficult to fall asleep. This is unusual for me because most of the time I



Sugah the Cat

fall asleep easily and sleep like a rock. That night was muggy and very warm, the window was open at the top and the curtain across the bottom was translucent. The street light reflected into the room giving it a soft glow.

I had no recollection of sleeping, except for the time before I looked at the clock and saw that it was 3:30 A.M. I thought I had better get some sleep as I had to get up at 5 o'clock.

Then I felt something depress the mattress at the foot of the bed and saw the figure of a cat leap off. I could see that it was large, black, had long legs and an exceptionally long tail. It hit the floor hard and I could hear it pad down the hall and steps.

For a second I thought that my cat Yanni was leaving. Then I realized that Yanni doesn't have a long skinny tail—hers is fluffy. I put my hand down by the back of my knees and there was Yanni,

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sound asleep.

I thought about it for a while, checked the clock and turned over and went back to sleep.

The following spring in 1984 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Yanni started having trouble walking and I took her to the vet. He diagnosed the problem to be cancer—well advanced, and though it broke my heart I had her put to sleep. She had been a very special cat, a beautiful brown tiger with the ability to read my thoughts. When she was out, she would come home at once when I called her mentally. I decided that I couldn't replace her.

The summer passed, and in September my husband Thomas started a campaign for a new cat. The only requirements were that it was a black and white "Boo" cat (white blaze, chest and stockings) and that it would be a male.

I finally gave in, and got the paper from the night before. There were six ads for kittens looking for a good home. I called the first five and the lines were busy or they didn't answer. The sixth one was answered by a very nice-sounding lady. When I explained what I wanted she said, "I'm looking at him right now. He is the boldest of the litter."

I made arrangements, and a friend and I went over to pick him up. We brought home the boldest and smartest kitten I have ever had.

Months passed and we enjoyed the brat. He intimidated our dog and took over running the house. Nothing was sacred to him and still isn't. As the years passed he became bigger and heavier. When he ran up and down the stairs, I remembered the night that the big, black cat visited me. Sugah, as we named him, is the same size and has the same long, black tail and heavy footsteps.

As I look back I often wonder, "Did we choose him or had he already picked us out?" Had his visit to us been to check us out before he decided to incarnate? How much control could he have had? If someone else had answered their phone that day I might not have had him. The lady did tell me that she had taken the ad out of the paper and the issue I read was the last time it would be printed.

When things like this happen I wonder how much control we really have.—*Moosic, PA*

THE LOST WALLET

By Marie Kobres Bone

On March 7, 1959, my brother Rudolph Kobres lost his wallet in Jackson Lake, Georgia, while gigging frogs. It contained $276.00.

Skin divers tried to find it without success. For three nights,

over a period of five months I dreamed that the wallet was in a hole near a stump in the lake.

I diffidently told my family and friends about my dreams, and they laughed. In the first place they didn't believe in dreams, and second, there was no stump in the water in that area.



Marie Kobres Bone

On Sunday, August 30, 1959, I returned to Jackson Lake and "walked" out (on land) and reached into a stump and pulled out the wallet with the $276.00 still in it. The bills had been nibbled at by the fish, but were still good enough to be redeemed by the Federal Reserve Bank in Atlanta.

The lake had gone down, exposing the old stump and the hole in which the wallet had dropped.—*Dallas, GA*

VISIT TO A HAUNTED HOUSE

By Richard B. Billings

In July of 1982 I lived in an apartment building in Havre de Grace, Maryland. My upstairs neighbor and friend, John Wayne Turner, took me to Delaware to visit a long-abandoned manse reputed to be haunted. Built sometime in the late 18th century, it had once been the home of the wealthy duPont family and had changed hands many times over the years.

It was finally abandoned and boarded up in the early 1970s. No one would live there for long, he told me, because eerie happenings would drive residents away. Wayne himself had lived there briefly in the mid-60s when the manse was used as a boy's home. He had heard phantom voices and footsteps as had the other boys.

We arrived shortly after noon, and Wayne parked his blue Chevrolet along the road on a hill. The manse was located at the end of a stone walkway and loomed amidst a grove of trees. It was a three-story stone and brick structure, ivy-covered and boarded. We hurried down the walk and ran into what felt like an invisible wall of ice (yet it was 85 degrees out that day). Wayne disappeared around the side of the house, while I climbed the verandah steps and approached the front door. I touched its wood

surface. It felt oddly cold.

Wayne called out to me, and I joined him. He motioned to a first-floor window. I looked inside. What I saw was a strange, faint, yellowish glow—moving, like someone carrying a candle.

Suddenly, it grew very dark and a fierce thunderstorm erupted. We turned to leave when a movement near the rear of the house made us pause. What we saw terrified us. A dark, man-like figure appeared to rise as if from the ground and stared silently in our direction.

We wasted no time in hurrying back to the car. Before I got inside, I glanced back at the house and watched as an eerie, greenish-yellow glow appeared in the uppermost window facing the road. As the storm was worsening, I didn't stand there for long. Besides, both Wayne and I wanted to put as much distance between us and that house as quickly as possible.

Wayne and I never did return to that house, nor would we ever.—*Valdese, NC*

THE ESCAPE

By Pam Roberts

In 1978 I was working for the secure treatment program for adolescents at the Oregon State Hospital. It was an unseasonably mild February. I awoke early one morning from an odd and unusually vivid dream. Shaking my husband, he grumpily noted the time. It was 4:15 A.M. I told him about the strange dream.

In it, I found myself on the second floor of the girl's dorm at the State Hospital. I drifted to the end of the hall toward Nancy Hogan'slocked door (pseudonym —her real name is on file at FATE).

Without a key, I somehow entered her room. I watched as Nancy walked up to her tiny window and pulled it open. The 45-degree angle opening was considered too small for escape.

Nancy dropped a rope made from her bed sheets through the window. I wondered how she intended to squeeze through the narrow opening. Almost as if answering me, Nancy said softly, "All this dieting better have worked."

She pulled a chair to the window, got on it and tried to squeeze through the small window. Her hips wedged and she grimaced in pain. Struggling and twisting, she finally managed to get through.

She rapidly lowered herself to the ground. I saw her glance furtively back and forth. Seeing no one, she ran rapidly into the night and was soon lost from sight.

The dream ended and I awoke, impressed at the vividness and reality of the dream.

Later that morning I went to work as usual. I soon saw the floor supervisor, Ron Fruits, and

told him about my strange dream. He listened attentively and then told me that Nancy had indeed escaped between the 3 A.M. and 5 A.M. bed checks that morning. The staff had found the makeshift rope in her room.

Nancy was apprehended and returned two days later. Her hips were bruised from being wedged in the window.

Did I, in some unknown fashion, travel to the hospital early that morning and witness her escape?—*Norman, OK*

THE PSYCHIC CALL

By Melanie Leinbach

Mothers and children frequently have a unique psychic bond with each other, and this bond may well save a life.

Our family had returned from a vacation the night before this incident occurred in July 1989. I was puttering about the house while my daughters, Marjorie, 5, and Frankie, 3, played in the living room. I had been feeling fine, rested and content, and I am generally healthy, so I was surprised when a feeling of great heaviness came over me.



Melanie Leinbach with daughters Frankie on left and Marjorie.

I became hot, broke into a sweat, and couldn't catch my breath. My heart pounded in fright. The feeling worsened and it occurred to me that I would surely pass out. I instinctively made my way to the living room to check on my children, to make sure they were safe before I fainted.

The three-year-old was sitting on a suitcase, laughing, but the older girl was nowhere to be seen. "Where is your sister?" I gasped.

"I'm sitting on her," she replied.

I quickly lifted her from the suitcase, opened it, and found my five-year-old daughter—sweaty, frightened and short of breath.

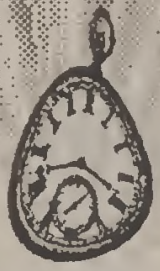
"I was choking and couldn't call you!" she sobbed.

But she had called me, via that mystical mother-child bond that caused me to feel her danger as though it had been my own, and we were spared from tragedy. —*Milford, DE*

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Time-Slips

Exploring Time Dysfunctions



By Christopher Gordon

You are walking through a wooded area one afternoon. It is a beautiful day and the air is warm. A slight breeze is blowing and you are feeling strong and adventurous. As you walk along, you notice birds in the trees, squirrels playing, and hear the sound of the wind stirring up dead leaves. The area you are in was a thoroughfare for travelers going west—but that was about 200 years ago.

As you reach the crest of a hill, you look out over a green valley. A silent river flows in the middle, and the sky is clear. This land seems familiar to you even though you have never been here. It is more than *déjà vu*—you feel comfortable here, as if you have traveled through or lived here. You wonder if maybe it's a past life memory. Just within the range of your sight you suddenly see a faint line of people behind a horse-drawn wagon. The vision lasts but a few seconds, a minute at most. Could it have been your imagination? Was it a vision of ghosts? Or has time "slipped," allowing the past to come forward or you to travel briefly to a bygone time?

TIME TRAVEL TO VERSAILLES

In 1901, two women (a Miss Moberly and a Miss Jourdain) visited the mansion of Louis XVI in Versailles, France. While walking through the gardens, they found themselves in the midst of a scene from the 1700s. The people were dressed in costumes of that period. The music heard, the servants, the coaches were all consistent with the time period of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette! As the women left the garden, the "vision" disappeared also, and they were back once again in 1901.

FICTIONAL TIME TRAVEL

The theme of time travel has been explored widely in literature and films. One of the first and most famous is H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. The machine in the story allows one to sit down, press a few levers and travel backward or forward in time. Years go by in seconds. The main character travels forward in time to see the outcome of civilization, and helps a future community to survive and prosper under their own power.

More recently, the movie *Somewhere in Time* (based on the novel *Bid Time Return* by Richard Mathieson) proposed the idea that the current time can be altered by mental concentration. As presented in this book, time is a state of mind. The main character goes back 60 years to meet his true love. An interesting paradox arises when he gives a watch to



her (in the past) and she later returns it to him (in the present) before she dies and before his journey back in time.

TIME TRAVEL PARADOX

The most famous time paradox is this: if you could travel back in time, could you kill your own grandfather before your father is conceived? Since he no longer can have a son (your father), you no longer exist, either. If you no longer exist, you cannot have been in the past to kill your grandfather and he then re-materializes. Your father is eventually born, you are born, and the cycle repeats *ad infinitum*.

A VISION OF ANCIENT ROME

A bus load of tourists visiting the ruins of a third century Algerian city watched as a file of ancient Roman soldiers walked past and vanished in the distance. Accounts appeared in European scientific journals, and quoted American and Japanese witnesses who said there were 16 soldiers in armor and iron helmets. They were reportedly accompanied by an officer on a gray horse and a supply wagon pulled by a donkey.

"The soldiers looked exhausted...they were unshaven and their lips were blistered by the

sun," said Austrian school teacher Heidi Kroger. "They walked right past the bus but didn't even glance in our direction. It was as if we didn't exist for them—even though they existed for us. The officer wore red and black feathers in his helmet. He led the soldiers into the city, then they simply vanished."

At least 25 of the 40 tourists took pictures, but when the films were developed, nothing showed except the ruins of the city. Dr. Howard Moser (a researcher of the paranormal) said in his report that he is convinced the soldiers "are living, breathing, entities just as we are. But for them, it is 1,700 years ago. There is no doubt in my mind about what [the witnesses] saw. It's only a matter of proving that a time warp is causing the havoc."

In *The Philosopher's Stone*, Colin Wilson writes, "We live too close to the present, like a gramophone needle traveling over a record. We never appreciate the music as a whole because we only hear a series of individual notes."

Using this analogy, suppose we could "lift the needle" of the present. Would we then see the past, as well as the future? Could we even interact with those other time periods?

THE MULTIPLE REALITIES OF PHILIP K. DICK

Philip K. Dick, prolific and noted novelist (1928-1982), lived in two realities at once for approximately 12 months. It began in February 1974 when he was in deep pain from a wisdom tooth extraction. When a pharmacy sent a prescription to his house, Dick answered the door and was struck by a reflection of light from the delivery person's necklace. It was a gold fish of Christian design. He immediately "remembered" a past existence, although it was a distant past (45 A.D.). The ancient personality seemed to be alive in 1974. Dick continued to see the present (1974) and past (45 A.D.) superimposed over each other for the next year (known as "stereographia").

As an "early Christian," Dick remembers being "garrotted" (strangled) in a cave under a Roman amphitheater. As a child of five in this life, Dick had experienced difficulty with swallowing to the point of malnourishment. His dreams contained writings in a dead language, Koine Greek, which he was not able to understand. When translated, however, the writing made meaningful sentences. Koine Greek was the widely used language of the first century.

This time displacement was to prove to have such an impact on

his life that he wrote about it for the next eight years (until he died from a stroke and heart failure in 1982) in a manuscript called the *Exegesis*. The manuscript, reported to be some 6,000 handwritten pages, is currently being edited for publication.

He put forth his theories and experiences into this document as well as into two novels, *Valis* and *Radio Free Albemuth*. He said that he felt like he was living in one of his own novels. His books often included time disturbances and questions about reality (among them: *Martian Time-Slip*, *Time Out of Joint*, *Now Wait for Last Year*). Dick's life was a disturbing and fascinating one (see *Only Apparently Real* by Paul Williams for further details).

In one novel, *Dr. Futurity*, Dick tackles the grandfather time paradox by presenting a character who has to kill his own grandfather. This comes about because the grandfather plans to kill his son (the protagonist's father). It is complicated by time travel mishaps—for one thing he ends up meeting himself a number of times, but with typical Dickian cleverness and humor, all is tied up neatly at the end.

(For more information about Philip K. Dick, contact the Philip K. Dick Society, Box 611, Glen Ellen, CA 95442)

MYSTERY AT THE GRAND CANYON

Eastern religions look at time as a never-ending wheel. In the West we tend to regard time as a linear progression. If the Eastern theory is correct, what if one slides off the wheel and slips onto another part of the wheel where the time zone is different? Consider the following occurrence:

Charles W. Ingersoll of Cloquet, Minnesota, had planned to see the Grand Canyon with his parents for years. It looked as though 1948 would be the summer when they would go. However, due to business concerns, the trip was postponed. It was not until 1955 when the Ingersolls were able to make the trip.

The sights were impressive to Charles who wished he had brought a movie camera to capture the view. He did, however, cautiously step out to the rim of the canyon and take a picture using slide film in his 35mm camera.

Ten days later, they were back home in Minnesota and Charles then decided to buy a Bell and Howell movie camera and projector from the local photo store. Noticing a film of the Grand Canyon in the store, he also purchased it and that night showed it to his parents. The dealer told him that the film had been made in 1948.

As they watched the film, they were startled to see Charles in the film! He walked to the rim of the canyon with his 35mm camera and took a picture. In the background were 1948 cars and people in clothing of that year. Charles looked at the box the film came in—"Copyright Castle Films, 1948."

Ghosts are often seen as if they are still living in the past. For example, pirates sometimes appear in a pirate ship of old. Could this be a "time-slip" where the past is being viewed by those in the present?

"I have shown this movie to many people," Ingersoll said, "not informing them that the footage reveals my picture. They all say, 'There's Charlie! Did your dad take the picture?'

"The skeptics say that I had the film made up after I arrived [home] from the trip. This is not possible, as not even a week had passed from the time we left the Grand Canyon to the day I bought the film. The possibility of the film being added [to] is out, as the quality of the film is the same and subject to the closest scrutiny. In addition, the dealer will testify that this particular reel of footage in the Castle Film series had been on his shelf for well over a year!"

Could his desire to see the Grand Canyon in 1948 have caused a mental projection of himself to actually travel there? Or could his physical trip of 1955 been one where a time "bridge" connected him to 1948?

In the film *The Philadelphia Experiment*, a "time bridge" was formed by two similar experiments spaced 20 years apart. This caused the people of the past to be able to come across into the present (their future). Maybe that is what happened to Charles Ingersoll: his strong desire to go to the Grand Canyon in 1948 set up one end of the "time bridge." In 1955 when he finally did travel there, it set up the other end of the bridge and he momentarily slipped across into the past.

What would have happened if

he hadn't come back? That is a question which might answer the many disappearances that have occurred throughout history.

"TIME-SLIP" HYPOTHESIS

Let us look at other paranormal experiences and note whether they can be fitted into the "time-slip" hypothesis. Ghosts are often seen as if they are still living in the past. For example, pirates sometimes appear in a pirate ship of old. Could this be a "time-slip" where the past is being viewed by those in the present? This could explain those instances where there is no interaction between "ghost" and witness.

And what of those who dream of the future or who can predict future events? Perhaps they too are participants in a time dysfunction, one which allows them briefly to slip into the future.

Many UFO sightings have been observed some 20-30 years before a major technological breakthrough. Balloon-like ("cigar-shaped") UFOs were common before hot air balloons and dirigibles were in use. Airplane-like UFOs appeared in the late 1800s, and today spaceship-type UFOs are most common. Since a future "time-slip" might explain some of these occurrences, maybe it also tells us that space ships will be commonplace in the near future (ours or extraterrestrial?)

The Black Hole Theory includes a time travel corollary derived from Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Because space and time are related, a two-way time machine is possible.

In simple terms, if an object with sufficient gravitational tides (such as a massive spinning cylinder or "Black Hole") can be approached with a spaceship, and sufficient measures have been made to protect the occupants of the vessel, then that ship and its occupants can be transported to a past time.

Although there are problems of substantiation and interpretation of "time-slip" episodes, there is much that cannot be dismissed easily with other explanations. Maybe some day, when physicists can construct a "time-machine," we will learn the truth about the structure of time.





MY PROOF OF SURVIVAL

by the Readers

COMFORT FROM BEYOND

By Ellen M. Tillery

My mother, Mrs. Jane Palmer Ballinger, had always arranged to be with me whenever I had given birth. However, she passed away, the victim of cancer, seven months before my last child, a son, was born. Because she had been suffering so, I had not told her of my pregnancy.

The delivery in June 1960 was a drawn out, difficult one, and at one point I lost consciousness. In my oblivion my mother's face appeared to me, looking as she had before her horrible illness had exacted its toll. Total blackness surrounded her face so that she looked like a beautiful cameo set on black velvet.

"You're all right now, Ellen," she said. "You're all right."

I seemed to sense the words with my mind rather than hear them with my ears.

Later, lying in my hospital bed, I could not erase the experience from my mind. It had been more real, more vivid, than anything in this life.



Ellen M. Tillery

I was reluctant to tell anyone about it for fear of being ridiculed. The urge to discuss it was so persistent, that at last, reluctantly, I told my doctor, Dr. G.M. Fredericks of St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota, of the phenomenon. He had been our family physician for years and knew my mother well.

FATE will pay $25.00 for each story published in this department. Stories must deal with an actual experience proving spirit survival. They should be less than 300 words and typed double-spaced on one side of the paper (dot-matrix draft mode or script not accepted). They may be mailed to FATE Survival Editor, P.O. Box 64383-F9007 St. Paul, MN 55164-0383. Manuscripts must show author's name and address and include a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.

Rather than make light of it as I had feared he would, he listened attentively and seriously.

When I finished relating the experience, he nodded and said, "Yes, I can understand that and I'm sure it happened just as you say. That would have been when we thought we'd lost you. We had to use every means at our disposal to bring you back. You should be happy and find peace in knowing your mother was with you this time just as she's always been."—*Thonotosassa, FL*

A VISIT FROM THE OTHER WORLD

By Elynore M. Quinlan

I was always very close to my father, Eugene Farrington. When a massive heart attack claimed his life in 1968, I had a hard time adjusting to the loss. Hardly a day passed that I didn't think about him and miss our frequent visits. My last thoughts at night were about him as I said a special prayer.

But life has a way of going on, and I had three young children and a husband to occupy my mind. We were living in New York City. I still thought of Pop often and said my prayer nightly, so it came as no surprise when I observed him standing at the foot of my bed one night early in July, 1969. I was in that state of presleep during which one is totally relaxed, and he was as clear as if he were actually there.

He spoke first and said, "I see Minnie is coming Thursday." I remember thinking it was about time—my aunt Minnie Fullerton had been suffering from cancer for over a year and we all prayed for her release.



Elynore M. Quinlan

I spoke aloud, "How about me?"

Just before he faded from view he replied, "No, you have awhile yet."

It seemed so natural that I didn't question the vision, and just drifted off to sleep. The following Thursday, July 17th, was my 48th birthday, but it also marked the passing of my aunt, as predicted by my father.

I have thought of that night

many times over the years, and I can still see him standing there as clearly as though it were yesterday. I might have dismissed the experience as imagination, but since his prediction came to pass just as he said, I have to believe Pop did visit me that night.—*Pharr, TX*

A WINTER BLOOM

By Kaye Wiland

My next door neighbor, Charles Marin, always had a manicured lawn. Flowers were not his specialty, however. When his sister gave him a lovely flower to plant by his garage, he winced and remarked that he did not want to hurt her feelings. He guessed he would stick it in the ground and hope it would die.



Kaye Wiland

From my kitchen window in Warren, Ohio, I watched the flower bloom yearly. I have never been able to ascertain the name. Its foliage is similar to the velvety-gray Dusty Miller plant. The flower is a gorgeous crimson color.

Anyway, one day he came over with the plant and said he wanted me to have it. He was tired of all flowers and their maintenance.

I found just the spot for it right behind my garage. True, I could no longer admire its beauty as I washed dishes, but a little walk back there and I could enjoy it in my own surroundings.

Shortly thereafter, he died of a heart attack. He was a dear fellow, and had remarked on several occasions that he would come back and give me a sign of life from the hereafter.

He was buried in October. The snows were unusually heavy that year. I walked back behind my garage to clear a path to feed the birds. Imagine my surprise —amidst the sparkle of piled and drifted snow, there appeared a beautiful crimson blossom. It has never blossomed in winter since. I daresay it never will again.

Chuck—wherever you are—thank you for remembering your promise. No blossom has endeared me as much as that first bloom on that memorable day in December of 1979. —*Warren, OH*

GRANDMOTHER'S HANDS

By Bernice Couey Bishop

I was the eldest grandchild of Hazel Miller Sanders. She and I have had a special relationship which has lasted *after* her death!

She was a very unique person, gifted with a good mind. She was inquisitive, eager to learn, and always wanted to know more about everything in the universe, as well as the life to come.

She often spoke of things in the "Hereafter," as she called it, as though she was very familiar with this dimension. In fact, at one time in 1965, in Anderson, South Carolina, by all medical terms she "died." However, she was resuscitated and lived to tell us a wonderful story of what she saw on her journey into the Hereafter.

She found herself walking down a long broadway, the sides bordered with walls on which blooming flowers were growing. It was a place of great beauty, with a peaceful atmosphere, and she seemed to be walking toward an unknown destination. She told us later that she regretted not looking to see if the streets were paved with gold as described in the Bible.

When she told me things like this I would be enthralled and filled with wonder. We had such a special rapport that what happened after her death did not surprise me one bit.

One day after her death in July 1976, I was not feeling well and was lying on the couch napping. I awakened to hear my grandmother coming down my uncarpeted hall. I recognized her step.



Bernice Couey Bishop

When she came into the living room where I was lying, I felt her pause beside the couch. I could sense that she was standing there, looking down at me. Then she walked to the head of the couch. I distinctly felt her two hands placed lovingly upon my head, as though blessing me and telling me everything would be fine.

I have often wondered, "If I had opened my eyes, would I have seen her?" This was such a beautiful experience for me.

My grandmother is dead physically, but she has let us know that her spirit still lives. —*Rome, GA*

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The Devil's Disciple



What sinister force possessed this man of many faces, "one of the nicest people you'd ever want to meet"?

By Suzanne J. Hansberry

The man was dressed in a fine wool suit. His trim Van Dyke gave the impression of a gentleman, perhaps a scholar. He was a charming man, one of the nicest people you'd ever want to meet.

Slowly the man rose from a thin cot that served as his bed and walked to a small table. It was only a step or two away. Sitting on the table top was a pen, an ink well and a small stack of plain paper. The man sat down, reached for the pen and began to write. When he was finished, the distinguished-looking man with the trim Van Dyke had confessed to 27 murders.

Such is the legacy of Herman

Mudgett, who made his career under the name of H.H. Holmes, his favorite of several aliases. No one knows for sure how many people Herman Mudgett murdered. Over the years, the number has swelled into the hundreds. Perhaps even Holmes lost count after awhile.

Accounts of Holmes' horrible deeds came to light during his trial in 1895, but the horror of his actions was quickly replaced by fascination when stories of his "evil eye" and an "astral quality" about Holmes appeared in the daily newspapers.


From a Chicago picture

Throughout the 1880s, H.H. Holmes wandered about the country, marrying women and then deserting or murdering them once he'd emptied their bank accounts.

HOLMES' CASTLE

Holmes finally settled in Chicago where he built a four-story gabled house later dubbed "Holmes Castle." It was here that the swindler and murderer did most of his business. It was a weird house; an intricate pattern of mazes with winding passages and stairs that led nowhere; a house full of trap doors and rooms with no windows or doors.

Holmes stayed in Chicago until 1893 when he traveled to Philadelphia. It was there that he joined forces with another swindler named Benjamin Pitezel. Together the two hatched a well-planned life insurance policy swindle.

The plan was for Holmes to find a cadaver, plant it in a rented office then blow up the place. Holmes would then identify the body as Pitezel's and the two would split the insurance money. Pitezel's wife begged her husband not to go through with the plan, but he refused to listen. The two men took out a $10,000 life insurance policy with the Philadelphia Fidelity Mutual Insurance Company on Pitezel's life naming Mrs. Pitezel as the beneficiary.

The plan went smoothly with one small exception—the charred cadaver *really was* Benjamin Pitezel.

THE DEVIL INCARNATE

The hunt for Holmes began. Pinkerton detective and a Philadelphia detective, Frank Geyer, chased Holmes across the country and into Canada before finally catching him in Boston.

He was brought back to Philadelphia to stand trial for the murder of Benjamin Pitezel.

Almost from the beginning Pitezel's widow, Carrie, was convinced that Holmes possessed hypnotic, evil powers. Here was a man who'd murdered her husband and three of her four children. She believed Holmes was the devil incarnate.

Others believed he possessed evil powers, too. The April 27, 1896 edition of the *North American* reported: "...He (Holmes) tried to hypnotize Detective Crawford (of the Philadelphia Police Department) ...and he boasted of his power for many months even after his trial. When Dessa Pitezel (the only surviving Pitezel daughter) took the stand, she spoke of the eye of the man sitting in the dock...and remarked that he had an awful influence over the whole family."

In addition to the "evil eye" stories, great attention was paid to Holmes' horoscope. Astrologers agreed that a combination of planets denoted changes in his life, great mysteries, emotional temperament and a fickle character.

For people who crossed his path, especially those involved with his conviction and death, they said, there was strong evidence these people would meet misfortune, even death.

A PROPHECY OF DEATH

Three weeks before Holmes was scheduled to hang, the prophecy began to unfold. The execution was set for May 7, 1896, but Holmes would outlive many of the people who helped send him to the gallows.

The first was the coroner's physician, Dr. William Mattern. He had conducted the post-mortem examination on Pitezel, and had been an important witness against Holmes at the trial. Three weeks before the execution, Mattern returned to his office after another post mortem. Suddenly he grabbed his chest, went into convulsions and died within minutes. The official cause of death was listed as a heart attack. Later, many came to believe it was the evil work of Holmes.

Soon after Holmes' trial, Mattern's boss, Coroner Samuel Ashbridge became deathly ill. His friends worried that he too would not live to see Holmes hang.

There was the near-fatal illness of the man who tried and sentenced Holmes—Judge Michael Arnold.

Superintendent Perkins, who supervised the prisoners at Moyamensing Prison where Holmes spent the last months of his life, committed suicide.

Even lawyers who tried to

help Holmes by defending the convicted mass murderer met with disaster. Holmes' Chicago attorney George Chamberlain died suddenly and there was professional misfortune in store for Holmes' other attorney, William Shoemaker. The young lawyer who first defended Holmes was disbarred from practicing.

The jury did not escape Holmes' power either.

Two weeks before the execution the jury foreman, Linford Biles, was struck by lightning and killed instantly. His link to Holmes, however, began before the two ever laid eyes on each other in the courtroom. The Biles' house stood in the shadow of a cemetery, a prime target for the occasional contact of live telephone and telegraph wires that ran above his roof. Frequently sparks flew during storms, especially when the high winds blew.

One Saturday afternoon a fire broke out on the roof. It was the same afternoon Holmes was arrested in Boston. History was to repeat itself for Linford Biles. He awoke one morning days before the execution to find another fire burning on the roof.

A group of neighbors watched as Biles climbed to the top of the house, intent on removing the problem wire. Soon they heard a heavy thud, then silence. Biles was dead—his left hand scorched, his forehead bruised, a scar on one foot. Biles had touched the end of the live wire on the wet roof and electrocuted himself.



As an Ann Arbor student

The timing of the first fire, the way Biles died and the warning in H. H. Holmes' horoscope was accepted as being much more than coincidence.

Eight days after Biles died, Peter Cigrand, father of a Holmes victim, was badly burned in a gas explosion. At the time of the accident he was preparing to go to Philadelphia to witness the hanging.

EVIL UNSCATHED BY FIRE

All of these events were curious and admittedly a bit bizarre, but it was the death of a priest who attended Holmes and a fire in the Fidelity Mutual Insurance building that convinced the public of Holmes' supernatural powers.

Holmes and Pitezel had taken

out the bogus life insurance policy from the Fidelity Mutual Insurance Company. Since the original scam was against them, the company was anxious to see Holmes brought to justice. O. LeForrest Perry was assigned the case, and the fidelity Mutual employee proved to be instrumental in the capture of Holmes. Proudly displayed in his office were two photos of Holmes along with the arrest warrant.

For no apparent reason, fire broke out in Perry's office. Fortunately, it was brought under control before it could spread to other parts of the building, but Perry's office was destroyed. The carpeting was gone, along with the office furniture, papers and files—everything except the framed arrest warrant and the two photos of Holmes that hung over Perry's desk.



In Rogue's Gallery

Heat from the fire cracked the glass and flames burned the frame, but the warrant and the photos were undamaged.

After his execution and burial, stories about Holmes and his evil powers died down. They were quickly resurrected 16 months later.

EVIL BEFALLS THE PRIEST

As assistant rector to the Church of the Annunciation, 35-year-old Father Henry McPake was one of the most popular priests in the diocese. Moyamensing Prison fell within the church's parish so it was not unusual to see McPake at the prison with the parish priest, Father Daily, counseling prisoners.

Such was the case when the call went out for the two men to counsel Holmes. McPake assisted in the baptism of Mr. Holmes a few days before he was executed, and also heard the murderer's confession.

Six months after Holmes was buried, they found McPake's body in an alleyway at the bottom of four steps. His pockets had been gone through, a watch and a pair of glasses plus his wallet were missing. A sacred scroll had been ripped from his shoulders. Detective Frank Geyer, who had chased down Holmes, was immediately called in to investigate the death. The newspapers quickly labeled it a murder, theorizing robbery as the motive.

Readers were in shock and disbelief when the new coroner's

physician said uraemia was the cause of death and that Father McPake died of natural causes. People asked each other: do men, especially priests, die of uraemia in a dark alleyway after midnight? Does uraemia produce superficial wounds about the head and result in missing valuables from a man's pockets? Would uraemia produce bloodstains on a fence and bloody boot marks under the body?

The questions were never answered. The young priest was buried three days after he died. As one of his last duties, McPake had officiated at Holmes' funeral. As fate would have it, six months later the man of God was laid to rest in the same cemetery where the man they called the Devil's disciple slept.

THE CURSE ENDS

With the death and burial of Father McPake, the string of bizarre events ended, but not until five people were dead, one career destroyed, and three people taken seriously ill. Their lives were very different with the exception of one common thread—they had all crossed the dangerous path of H.H. Holmes.

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CHAMPION SNORER

By K.L Jones

Melvyn Switzer slept his way to a world championship in Japan in June 1984. Switzer, an automotive salesman, who lives in Totten, Hans, England, has the distinction of being the world's loudest snorer. He is even listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

His nocturnal rumblings have reached 87.5 decibels in volume, when measured at a distance of one meter from his amazing throat. Decibels are a measure of sound levels with ten being barely audible. Seventy decibels would generally be described as loud. Switzer's snores have been compared to the sound of a freight train at 50 yards.

Switzer's neighbors have never complained about his snoring, but then there have been seven of them in the last ten years. The Switzers will be moving to a more remote location where his snoring will be less likely to disturb anyone. His wife Julie does not mind the snoring, since Switzer doesn't do it continually. It must be pointed out, however, that she is also deaf in one ear.

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ASTRO ALMANAC

By Anne Lyddane

The best astrological days to participate in the following activities during July 1990. Combines Sun, Moon and Planetary Aspects with Sign Positions.

Apply for a job:
6, 10, 17, 30

Ask for a raise or promotion:
12, 17, 24, 25

Ask for credit or a loan:
6, 9, 12, 17, 24

Buy antiques or jewelry:
13, 17, 24, 25

Buy a car or have repairs done:
6, 12, 24

Buy a permanent home:
12, 17, 24, 25, 30

Buy real estate for speculation:
12, 13, 18

Consult a physician:
12, 17, 24, 25

Cut hair for added thickness:
2, 6, 7, 16, 24

Cut hair to increase growth:
3, 12, 17, 21, 30

Cut hair to retard growth:
5, 10, 13, 25

Entertain:
3, 5, 12, 17, 24, 28

Fishing:
12, 16, 25, 31

Gardening:
13, 17, 19, 31

Hunting:
17, 20, 24

Marry for happiness:
6, 10, 24, 29

Meditation:
12, 24, 25

Mow lawn to retard growth:
9, 10, 11, 18, 26

Permanents, hair coloring:
6, 9, 12, 17, 24

Purchase electronic equipment:
2, 9

Purchase major appliances:
17, 25

See dentist for extractions:
6, 20, 24

See dentist for fillings:
3, 6, 12, 25

Sell home, property, possessions:
3, 6, 12, 17, 24

Sign important papers:
24, 25

Speculation/Gambling:
9, 12, 17, 24

Sports activities:
6, 17, 20, 24, 31

Start a weight loss program:
12, 25, 30

Stop a bad habit:
4, 7, 12, 25

Travel by air:
9, 24

Travel for business:
17, 20, 24

Travel for pleasure:
17, 18

V.I.P. SUPERSTITIONS

"Let me make the superstitions of a nation and I care not who makes it laws or its songs either." — Mark Twain



By Paul Steiner

We all know that many famous people are superstitious, so we asked some prominent people about their beliefs:

Madonna: "Psychics may be able to help me contact famous singers and actresses long gone, to give me career advice from the spirit world."

Lena Horne: "I adhere to all show business superstitions like whistling back stage. You name 'em, I observe 'em."

Renata Scott, opera diva: "I avoid black cats, never walk under a ladder, never wear anything purple, especially in a theater. I'm Italian and Italians consider purple bad luck."

Former New York Mayor **Ed Koch:** "I'm not superstitious about anything."

Henry Youngman: "I'd never sleep 13 in a bed. And I don't like a cat on a bed, either. Or a hat, for that matter."

Suzanne Farrell, New York City ballet leading dancer: "I'm not a bit superstitious. There's enough to worry about without asking for more trouble."

Margaret Whiting, songster: I'm against all this stuff. I'm always out to disprove these things. I'd walk intentionally

under a ladder. I don't try to avoid a black cat. But backstage, I wouldn't whistle in a dressing room because most fellow performers would resent that."

Mary Travers, folksinger: "My good luck charm bracelet that I've worn for almost two dozen years. You'll never see a photo of me without it. I never take it off, and even took it with me to the hospital when I gave birth to my two daughters."

Elaine Kaufman of Elaine's: For luck I usually wear the 1977 World Series ring that my friend George [Steinbrenner] gave me."

Brooke Shields: "I try to make my own luck. I still hold on to Blabby, a little doll I've had since I was one year old."

Walt Frazier, basketball great: "I wear a gold piece with Chinese lettering on a chain, which I got some 17 years ago in Hong Kong. But I wear it *under* my shirt. After all, this is New York."

Dr. T.D. Nicholson, Director of American Museum of Natural History: "I wear only museum neckties from our gift shop. I won about four dozen with different designs—dinosaurs, tigers, lions, elephants, fish, whales. I have at least six with different dinosaurs on them."

John McEnroe, tennis great: "I avoid stepping on any lines on the court when the ball is not in play."

Wayne Gretzky, hockey star: "If my shirt hangs out during a play it may signal bad luck. Velcro on my shirttails keeps my shirt firmly inside my pants."

Anne Meara, actress, scriptwriter: "Like many legit actors I won't say 'Macbeth' unless I was actually in that Shakespeare play. I can truly say that I'm devoutly observant of all theater superstitions."

Joe Franklin, TV and radio host: "I don't like to have only 13 people in the studio audience when I'm taping."

Ted McCrary of Tex and Jinx Fakkenburg TV fame: "Superstitious? I gave up all that stuff long ago. I did marry a gal named Jinx you know."

Mario Buatta, designer-decorator: "I always carry a small chintz pillow with me as my security blanket."

Leonard Bernstein: "Whenever I conduct, I wear Koussevitzky's cuff links. His music was my initial inspiration. When I got married (at Tanglewood) I wore his white suit. I also wear the Picasso dove of peace (that Mitropoulous wore) around my neck."

Eileen Fulton, soap opera "queen": "I think it's bad luck to be superstitious."

FATE columnist **Paul Steiner** insists: "I'm not superstitious, touch wood!" Nevertheless, he avoids walking under a black cat.

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Where Is William Butler Yeats?

THE FAMOUS POET AND OCCULTIST MAY NOT BE IN HIS TOMB!



By W. Ritchie Benedict

The grave of the great Irish poet William Butler Yeats, who was buried in a state funeral in 1948, probably doesn't contain his remains, according to a researcher.

Yeats was fascinated by the occult and was a member of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn in the 1890s and early 1900s, along with such luminaries as Aleister Crowley, Dion Fortune, Charles Williams, Algernon Blackwood and Israel Regardie.

The tomb in Drumcliffe, County Sligo in western Ireland, said Diana Souhami, more likely contains the remains of an anonymous Frenchman with whom Yeats shared a pauper's grave before being brought to Ireland for reburial.

Souhami's conclusions, which met with disbelief among some of the keepers of Yeat's memory, are based on letters of Yeat's friend, the painter Hannah Gluck. Souhami read the letters while writing a biography of Gluck.

Yeats died in France in 1939. He wanted to be buried at Drumcliffe, which is visited by thousands of visitors annually. Yeats scholar John Kelly was quoted by the *Telegraph* as saying Souhami's findings, if true, represent "a very cruel irony."

Canon Pat Wood, president of the Yeats Society in Sligo, said, "It's an old, old story and I don't believe it. He said Anne Saddlemyer, author of a biography of Yeat's wife Georgie, examined the controversy and concluded

that the remains at Drumcliffe are the poet's.

Suhami said that from letters she found among Gluck's papers, it appeared Georgie had Yeats buried in a cemetery in Roquebrune, southern France, believing the grave would be left intact for 10 years. Perhaps unfittingly, she had bought a pauper's grave in which Yeats was buried with four or five others. This grave was cleared in 1946 and the bones placed in a common ossuary, a receptacle for the bones of deceased people. "Why she chose the communal grave isn't clear. Perhaps she thought she had a 10-year concession. What is certain is that she didn't and it was all cleared out in 1946.

In 1947, Gluck and the journalist Edith Herald visited the site and were shocked to find no trace of Yeat's grave. Gluck then contacted Yeat's friend Edmund Dulac, who wrote to the priest at the graveyard asking whether Yeat's remains could be dug up and identified.

Among Gluck's papers, Souhami found a letter to Dulac from the priest, a man identified only as Biancheri, which said: "Is it possible to find the bones of the poet Yeats in the ossuary? Yes! If we empty the entire contents of the ossuary, and if we have details of the distinctive characteristics which will enable us to reconstruct the skeleton after painstaking research carried out under the direction of a medical expert."

Yeats' purported remains were exhumed and shipped to Ireland just one month later—much too soon to enable the bones to be identified under the terms described by Biancheri, according to Souhami.

According to the Associated Press, Yeats' son Michael, who lives in Dublin, could not be reached for comment.

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STRANGE COINCIDENCES

By W. Ritchie Benedict

• In 1906, six babies were born on board the German ship *Grosser Kurfurst*, sailing from Borneo to New York—one in first class, twins in second class and triplets in third class.

• In 1678, the murdered body of English politician Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey was found on Greenberry Hill in London. The three men arrested for the crime were Robert Green, Henry Berry and Lawrence Hill.

• In 1974, an employee at a Pepperidge Farm plant in Downington, Pennsylvania, was killed when he fell into a vat of chocolate. His name was Robert C. H. Hershey.

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REPORT FROM THE READERS



by the Readers

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Each month, FATE editors choose an especially noteworthy letter to share with our readers. The writer of the letter receives $10.00 for his/her fine efforts.

This is in reference to Russel Fidler's letter (*Report From the Readers*, FATE, May 1990). Although according to the U.S. Supreme Court we are a "Christian Nation," I have serious doubts as to whether the Supreme Court has the right to make that ruling unless they were referring to the nation statistically.

I would prefer that we would be known as a "Godly Nation"—then all of our non-Christian citizens could be included. I believe that it doesn't matter what you name Him (Yahwe, Allah, Lord Krishna, etc.). It's still the same God.

Religion—whether it be some form of Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, or whatever—is only the method we use to worship. We each have our own personal style of worship. The fact that we do worship and believe is important. The style or method isn't.

Too many people lose sight of that and get lost in all the claptrap and paraphernalia of religion. "What religion are you?" is one of the first questions asked in almost any kind of relationship these days. My answer is, "I believe in God."—*Janet G. Rivenbark, Leland, NC*

CORRECTION

No, we're not perfect. Occasionally we make errors and we try to correct them as soon as possible. We regret that three errors occurred in one article, *The Presidential Death Cycle* (FATE, May 1990). The corrections are: first, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865 (not 1866), second, Franklin Delano Roosevelt died in 1945, not 1944, and that the article referred to William Henry Harrison and not

These columns of FATE are set aside each month for your comments. Send your neatly typed opinion of articles, columns, and stories of unusual occurrences to REPORT FROM THE READERS, FATE Magazine, P.O. Box 64383-F9007, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383.

Benjamin Harrison (William's grandson). We thank the sharp-eyed readers who pointed this out and regret any problems this may have caused.

NOTICE:

Many of you took part in our survey from last year. In fact, the response was overwhelming. As a result, we ran out of copies of one of the free booklets we were sending out to those who completed the survey.

The booklet, *The Truth About Psychic Self-Defense*, is being reprinted. When it arrives, your copy will be sent to you. We regret the delay and thank you for your understanding.

FUGO IN NEBRASKA

I would like to share an event with the readers that relates to the article by John Keel (*Beyond the Known*, FATE, March 1990). A Fugo balloon landed next to my home during the spring of 1945 in Omaha, Nebraska. It may not be known that they traveled that far inland.

I was a school girl at the time. On the night of the landing (in the early hours) I was transfixed by the novel I was reading, *The Robe*. I had just finished the book and turned out the light when there was a loud explosion. My bedroom was filled with a greenish light which faded slowly away. Surely this must be the end of the world, I thought!

The next day we children were told that the FBI had investigated the incident and that it was a balloon sent by the Japanese. No one was hurt, though a neighbor was knocked down by the explosion.

We were told not to divulge the incident to anyone so as to avoid letting the Japanese know that their balloons were successful. Until now I have kept my mouth shut!—*Shirley E. Forbing, Ed.D.*

Editor's Note: FATE and John Keel have received numerous letters about Mr. Keel's column on the Fugo balloon/Roswell incident controversy. In a future issue we will run comments by some well-known people along with Mr. Keel's comments.

SPYING ON THE KOOKS

Jerome Clark's *UFO Reporter* series entitled "Spying on the Kooks" (Parts One and Two, FATE, March, April 1990) is particularly interesting to me and not just because it is one of the best examples of writing in the UFO field. I have had some involvement with William L. Moore over the years as he has been an honorary member of the Canadian UFO Research Network, Inc., of which I am Secretary and Co-Director.

The so-called Aquarius document teletype was sent to me by Moore in 1982 after AFOSI altered it. I showed it to Canadian Air Force Captain Frank Evans who pointed out flaws in it without stating himself that he thought it was disinformation. It turned out that Evans himself had been recruited by AFOSI to visit ufologist Leonard Stringfield and report back to AFOSI as to what Stringfield knew about crashed UFOs. I found out in July 1989 about Evans' involvement with AFOSI when Moore gave the information about Evans to my Co-Director Harry Tokarz at the MUFON UFO Symposium in Las Vegas. This was a case of a repentant Moore informing on a fellow AFOSI recruit after Moore had admitted to the MUFON audience that he had worked for AFOSI. This was doubly ironic because Evans was also an honorary member of our group in the early 1980s.

UFO groups such as CUFORN, Inc. have learned to be suspicious about so-called government documents released to them. It took a few years to get to that point, admittedly, but I would like to express my gratitude to AFOSI for being instrumental in instilling extreme caution in our ranks. We keep a file on disinformation here in Canada. All "documents" are checked out thoroughly as far as our resources allow. There are two such investigations under way as of now. The Carp, Ontario report mailed anonymously to us and the MJ-12 papers have yet to be resolved completely. They may never be, however, as disinformation by definition contains fact and fiction mixed. The government does sidetrack us somewhat from investigating legitimate reports as it requires a fair amount of time and resources to probe into potentially false government documents. We shall persist in our efforts as long as the UFO phenomenon is unresolved.—*Lawrence J. Fenwick.*

Editor's note: The address for the Canadian UFO Research Network (CUFORN) is P.O. Box 15, Station "A," Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2N 5S7

FROZEN FISH

In your April 1990 issue, Mark Chorvinsky (*Our Strange World*) writes that "fishes were brought to life after being frozen." All fish in northern climes will survive freezing.

I used to catch crappie through the ice in northern Minnesota. The temperature could reach 40 below. The fish would be thrown on the snow and freeze solid in less than a minute.

After hanging in gunny or jute

continued on page 98

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continued from page 95

sacks for up to five months I would dump a sackful into a tub of cold water to thaw them out for eating. After standing over an hour, one could notice an occasionally twitch in this fish or that. Many of these fish had broken fins and tails which snap off easily when frozen. Soon, after many twitches, jerks and false starts, all the fish would be swimming about.

In the 1920s the estimate was that at least 2500 people were buried alive in this country every year. Many exhumed remains were found to have worn their fingers to the joints trying to claw their way out of coffins. As I recall, all of those coming to life after being pronounced dead—some on the way to their own funerals—were men.—*Albert C. Dennis, Campbell, CA*

MORE ON THE KOOKS

Reading Jerome Clark's excellent series, *Spying on the Kooks* (FATE, March, April, May, 1990), has strengthened my opinion that those who claim to have the answer to the UFO riddle end up looking like fools and serving as pawns of their own delusions of grandeur. The wiser among the witnesses—or should we say "victims"?—of "incidents of high strangeness," who may even wish this strangeness had never

happened, suffer their scars and insecurities in silence and anonymity. They don't want their family, friends and neighbors to think they're kooks.

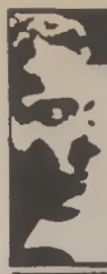
Now, it seems, they also have to worry about the government mounting disinformation campaigns against them, harassing and frightening them out of their wits. Not only must they contend with the fearful unknown, but also with a sinister and, in some ways, scarier human element.

It wouldn't surprise me if there came a day when no one will readily report seeing or coming in contact with a UFO. Dealing once a year with the IRS is as much government contact as most people can stand.

Nor is it safe to report sightings to any of the UFO groups across the country since one can't be sure the group hasn't been infiltrated. This sad state of affairs is either a perfect example of paranoia feeding on itself, or even worse, the result of a diabolical conspiracy between the government and "aliens," in which case, one couldn't be blamed for concluding that we are all doomed.—*Joe La Rosa, Oakland, CA*

DISAPPOINTED

I read with interest the *UFO Reporter* column in your February 1990 issue, but must say I was

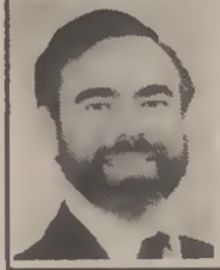


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disappointed by Mr. Clark's opinion the the sightings of 1897 were a hoax. Perhaps certain ones could be termed that, but surely not all of them.

My mother, Hilda Stoll Wallace, born in 1888 in Beatrice, Nebraska, was a child of nine at that time. I have heard her tell many times of the strange air ship (cigar shaped) that she and her family witnessed as it passed slowly over their farm. They were very much in awe and could not imagine just what it was. She began to speak of this when stories first began circulating about UFOs, wondering if what they had seen all those years ago could have been such an object. At that time they knew nothing of any kind of a machine which could fly.

Unfortunately, I have no sworn affidavit from her. She passed away in 1979.—*Audrey M. Wagner, Cambridge, NY*

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

I'd like to respond to two letters in the March 1990 *Report From the Readers.*

Berry Berkley was asking about the Viking galley in the Salton Sea. It is a historical fact that the Spaniards were sailing up the Gulf of California in 1540. In 1905 the Salton Sea was caused by a broken levee on the Colorado River. Yet, in 1853 a geolo-

gist named William Blake learned from the Cahuilla Indians of a legend of a large lake that extended "from mountain to mountain" in ancient times. Perhaps a Spanish galleon sailed up the Gulf and sank where the present-day Salton Sea is located.

Jenny Larson's UFO cloud is actually a lenticular altocumulus cloud, usually formed over a mountain when strong wind blowing uphill meets a stable mass of humid air and sculpts it into a saucer or cigar. Sometimes it even mimics the mountain over which it forms.—*Richard Magnan, Tehachapi, CA*

CSICOP FINALLY PAYS ATTENTION TO US

In his *I See By The Papers* column in the May 1990 issue [of FATE], editor Donald Michael Kraig chides the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) and the *Skeptical Inquirer* for a variety of reasons.

Of particular interest to me are his comments concerning an article in the *Skeptical Inquirer* by Philip J. Klass detailing his investigation into the MJ-12 hoax documents. Kraig labels Klass' work as "anti-scientific," and writes, "The document may be a fake, but you cannot win against illogical thought."

Later in the issue Jerome Clark

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states [in UFO Reporter] "Critics have found that President Truman's signature on an alleged executive order bringing MJ-12 into being is exactly like that on another letter. Apparently a forger appended a real signature to a fake letter. It appears the MJ-12 document is just another addition to the disinformation paper flow." This is exactly what Philip Klass wrote in the *Skeptical Inquirer.*

I would seriously question the motives of a publication which on one page blasts a researcher as being "unscientific," while a few pages later refers to that researcher (as the anonymous "critics") as having conclusively proven that the documents are fake.

Why doesn't FATE give credit where credit is due? Philip J. Klass has finally buried the MJ-12 controversy.—*Barry Karr, Executive Director [of CSICOP], Buffalo, NY*

THE EDITOR RESPONDS

In FATE, like other newspapers and magazines intended for a wide audience of people, we try to keep the writing at a level that can be understood by everyone without compromising the content. Every month we receive numerous letters asking us questions and requesting more information about what has appeared in FATE. Although you saw a contradiction in what Jerome Clark and I wrote, I find it interesting that *not one* of our readers had any trouble understanding that Jerome Clark was talking about a document while I was talking about how debunkers work.

As I wrote, the document in question "may be a fake." The validity of the document had nothing to do with the point of my column. I am sorry that you did not understand this. I contended that if Mr. Klass had determined that the signature was not like other signatures, he would have called the document a fake, also. In short, it was a "lose-lose" situation for the document. In my opinion, this is nothing less than intellectual dishonesty. Predetermining the outcome (a lose-lose situation) is definitely anti-scientific.

I have recently seen a report that other handwriting experts do not agree that the signature is identical. I have not been able to check on this, and only time and real research will determine the validity (or lack thereof) of MJ-12. When *all* the evidence is in, if Mr. Klass' work led to conclusive disproof of the MJ-12 documents we will gladly tell the whole story in FATE.

Contrary to your claim, Mr. Klass did *not* write that MJ-12 was "another addition to the dis-

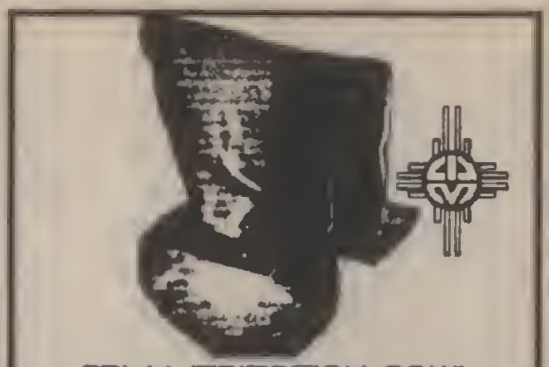
information paper flow" as stated by Mr. Clark. In fact, Mr. Klass doesn't even discuss disinformation or the role that MJ-12 may play in government UFO disinformation as Mr. Clark was discussing.

Mr. Karr, it is clear that you did not understand my column. It is also clear that you did not understand Mr. Clark's column. You are also wrong when you claim that what Mr. Clark wrote is "exactly what Philip Klass wrote."

Since you asked, our motives are simple: to fairly present any and all sides of controversial issues dealing with the paranormal. We have published articles that support some claims and have exposed false claims. Our goal, as stated on the cover, is to publish true reports of the strange and unusual.

On the other hand, perhaps you will tell *Skeptical Inquirer* readers why CSICOP, after almost a decade, *still* has not apologized for the deceptions it perpetrated on the public as reported in FATE (the now-famous *sTAR-BABY* article). So far, all that has been admitted is that "mistakes" were made. Sorry, but falsification of results is not a mistake.

Your readers, our readers and the rest of the world are waiting. —*Donald Michael Kraig, St. Paul, MN*



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VELIKOVSKY

Velikovsky pointed out that there was an error in *Biblical* time chronology—and he is right. As a small example, in *The Lost Books of the Bible*, "Book of Nicodemis" 22:10-20 there is a discourse on time periods that shows only one Exodus—400-500 years disappeared. The reason is that the Hebrews' building of Uri-Salem as serfs of the Shepherd Kings is the labor used for the Moses story and transposed to the Exodus of Joseph. Truthful, and yet not. There is no record of a second Exodus.—*Casimir Urban, Staten Island, NY*

Velikovsky must be reckoned as the major proponent of the application of Freudian dream-analysis techniques to mythology. Freud made three points that are particularly relevant to an appraisal of Velikovsky's work.

First, Freud emphasized that the "manifest dream" (the actual dream as reported) cannot be taken literally, since it involves a more or less complete distortion imposed by the "dream censor" that seeks to disguise threatening, or at least unacceptable, "unconscious" thoughts. As as result, the superficial context of the dream (or myth) must be virtually ignored in favor of dealing individually with each element of the dream (myth).

The second point is that there can easily be a confusion generated by strongly persisting and unacceptable (infantile) wishes and the material contributed by the latent dream thoughts. In Velikovsky's view, these thoughts will also color the "elements" of mythology while the "latent thoughts" of mythology will have to do with real and perhaps catastrophic events.

The third point requires that the entire context of the dream (myth) be considered.

I feel that Velikovsky earnestly attempted to abide by these guidelines in his "interpretation of mythology." He carefully reviewed the "elements" of the myths while taking into consideration the entire context of the "patient's" situation (i.e., the nature of humanity as seen by history). That his interpretations may very well be partially or even totally in error goes without saying. But for those who carefully and dispassionately read all of Velikovsky's reconstructions of ancient history, while keeping in immediate and close touch with recognized texts in the area, Velikovsky manages to sow numerous seeds of doubt.

Finally, we must be constantly aware that both Velikovsky and his critics are dealing with events which occurred (or perhaps did not occur) thousands of years

ago. It is ludicrous to pretend that absolute certainty is possible here any more than it would be in reconstructing a crime occurring long ago. I feel that it is important to use every procedure and include enigmatic events in the history of mankind. In dealing with the obscure events of the distant past, it seems foolish to discard any valid method of research [including Velikovsky's]. I urge FATE's readers to review the literature, pro and con, and draw their own conclusions.—*Kemper McCue, Miami, FL*

CAN YOU HELP THESE READERS?

I'm looking for information on the Urim Thummim, which Joseph Smith, who founded the Mormon church, had and used. It was said Smith hid the Urim Thummim somewhere in New York state before he left the area for good.

I tried getting information about the Urim Thummim from the Mormon Church, but they can't tell me anything more than is written in the *Book of Mormon*—*J. Grimes, P.O. B. 4553, Zanesville, OH 43702-4553*

A month of so ago something awoke me a 7:00 A.M., two hours after my husband left for work. He was standing by my bed looking at me. I was so stunned I



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couldn't move. In a few seconds he just faded away. I told my husband and he said it was an old Bohemian warning of death. No one has died. There must be another meaning. Do any FATE readers know what that meaning is?—*Thelma Cihak, East Jordan, MI*

I am hoping that FATE readers will be able to help me locate material related to the late Albert Coe of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Coe claimed to have been in contact with extraterrestrial beings for a period of more than 50 years, beginning in 1920. He published one book, *The Shocking Truth*, and was apparently working on two other manuscripts at the time of his death.

It is known that he gave several talks to various research groups (and, perhaps, civic clubs) in the Pennsylvania/New Jersey/New York area. In addition, he appeared on various radio and TV discussion and interview programs. If anyone has tapes of any such appearances by Mr. Coe, I would very much like to obtain copies of them and will gladly pay all costs involved. Any additional information from persons who may have known Mr. Coe will also be very welcome.

I am also looking for any other taped material from the "early days" of UFO research, as well as books, periodicals and other material pertaining to this subject. —*Lucius Farish, Route 1 Box 220, Plummerville, AK 72127*

I have in my possession a round object called a "desert pumpkin." It was found in the high desert of California some years ago. I was told it was one of many that formed a very large circle and no explanation was given except it would have taken intense heat to have formed these "desert pumpkins." No matter how warm my home is it remains cool to the touch. I would appreciate it if any FATE reader could help me solve this puzzle.—*Maxine Parker, Florence, OR*

I need a source of supply for a spiritualist's trumpet and a book on the subject, new or used. —*Alvin L. Jackson, Capshaw, AL*

As a sequel to my book, *Ghosts on the Range: Eerie True Tales of Wyoming*, I would like to find stories about Montana. If you know of any spooky stories that took place in the state of Montana—whether they happened to you or to someone else—please write to me as soon as possible at the following address. —*Debra D. Munn, 516 S. Ingalls, Powell, WY 82435*

continued on page 114

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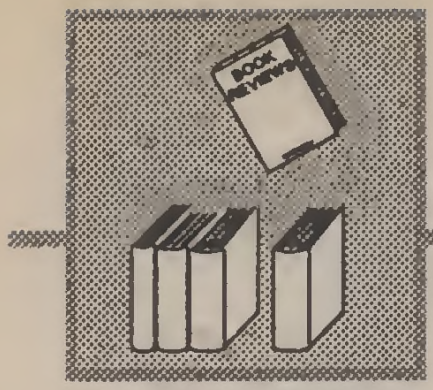
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BOOK REVIEWS

SECRETS OF THE GREAT PYRAMID

By Peter Tompkins

Harper & Row, NY, Hardcover, 1978, 416 pgs., $15.95

Pioneer Peter Tompkins sensed some significant misconceptions when he wrote this book 20 years ago. This work is being substantiated by others today, resurrecting the questions of who built the Great Pyramid, whether it contains unexplored chambers, how it was constructed, and the pyramid's purpose, etc.

Tompkins said that Cheops was not the builder of the Great Pyramid, and noted that the cartouche Col. Howard-Vyse discovered above the King's Chamber may "have been a far earlier king with a similar cartouche." Zecharia Sitchin (1985) supports this possibility, concluding that Cheops' "inventory Stela" clearly establishes the existence of the Great Pyramid before the reign of Cheops. Going one step further, however, Sitchin (1976) confirmed that Cheops' inscription was forged by Col. Vyse. This confirmation was corroborated in 1983 by an eyewitness to the forgery, Humphries Brewer.

Tompkins suggested the existence of hidden chambers, and in 1977 a joint team from Ain Shams University at Cairo and Stanford Research International, using an acoustic sounder, may have located one beneath the King's Chamber. Reuters (1987) announced that the Japanese also discovered inner spaces—one beneath the sarcophagus of the King's Chamber—using electromagnetic scanners.

Secrets of the Great Pyramid examines the various methods of pyramid construction including spiral ramps and theoretical machinery, but ultimately agrees with Sir Flenders Petrie that "the Egyptians must have had some more efficient means that remain unknown to us." Joseph Davidovits (1988) makes a compelling case that the blocks were cast in wooden molds at the pyramid site.

Tompkins convincingly establishes that the Great Pyramid

contains genuine secrets. Demonstrating that the monument could have been an almanac of the ages, a geodetic marker, a fixed landmark, a celestial observatory, a repository of an ancient and possibly universal system of weights and measures, and more, Tompkins' research is becoming self-evident. Now that many have caught up to him, it's time he wrote *"Secrets of the Great Pyramid Revisited."—Dr. Robert Hieronimus, Ph.D.*

OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

A CENTURY OF SPELLS

By Draja Mickaharic
Weiser, York Beach, ME
Softcover, 1988, 150 pgs., $7.95

As a result of viewing too many silly films, many people start to look at magic—real magic—as if all you have to do is say a few words and the magic will occur. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, some people with this attitude end up wondering why the magic does not occur the instant they wave their hands and say a few words. Then, assuming they continue in their studies, they become frightened when changes begin to occur. Those who study with groups are told what to do, but some books do not cover the subject of protection. Beginners in magical practice expose themselves to new spiritual influences and need to guard themselves against adverse psychic pressures. The author starts with protection spells, a good point for any book of this type to begin.

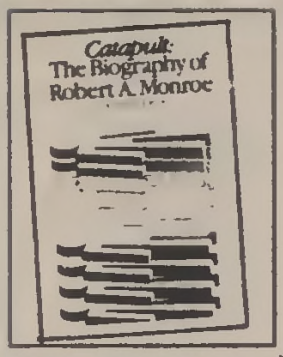
The wide variety of spells in this book make it impossible to discuss each one. Readers will find this a useful sampler of several magical methods, including water spells, incenses, herbs, oils, obeah and wanga (Voodoo), and spoken and written spells.

While fascinating to the reader (and experimenter), magicians practicing from this book will need to exercise common sense in avoiding some rather bizarre spells such of dubious origin. For example, I would urge anyone to avoid the spell in which a bottle of water is filled with pins and heated until it explodes. Also avoid the one that suggests biting off the burned end of a candle which has been extinguished in dirt.

Other than these strange rites, this is a handy primer for the beginner. Besides merely telling how to do rituals, it gives a good rationale for magic and each step of the process. Thus, for each spell the magician knows exactly what he/she is doing and why. *—Priscilla Schwei*

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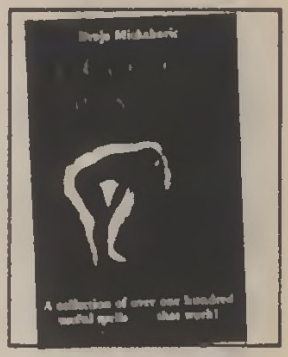


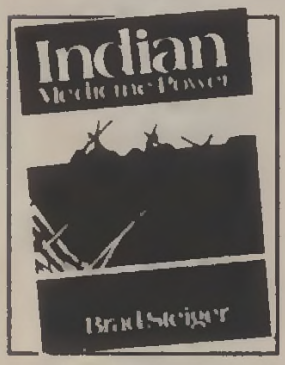
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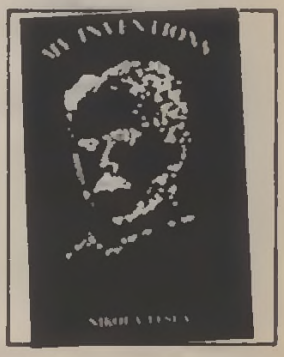


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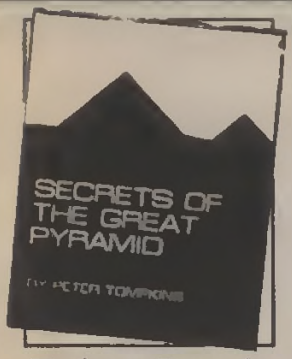
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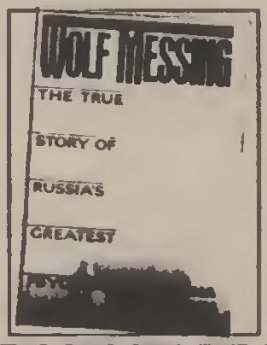
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WOLF MESSING:
The True Story of
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By Tatiana Lungin
Paragon House, New York,
Hardcover, 1989, 183 pgs., $18.95

Wolf Messing—the name captures the imagination, suggesting a person of mystery, strength, and courage. Biographer Lungin shows the great Russian psychic to be all of these, as well as a compassionate and caring friend.

A Polish Jew, Messing became aware of his psychic and telepathic gifts early in his youth, performing mind-reading acts before audiences all over Europe.

His course took a sharp turn in 1937 when he predicted the downfall of Germany if they continued on their apparent course of aggression against eastern European countries. Suddenly he was a hunted man with a price on his head. Using his psychic abilities, he hypnotized prison guards and escaped to Russia.

Messing continued to perform as an entertainer in Russia, and eventually attracted the attention of Soviet government officials and Stalin himself, who set up various experiments to test Messing's psychic powers. Messing later participated in extensive laboratory and field test research in parapsychology, psychism, and telepathic suggestion.

The book is filled with anecdotes and details of Messing's experiments, illustrated with photos of him in both public and private life.—*C.C. Helgeson*

INDIAN MEDICINE POWER
By Brad Steiger
Para Research, Inc.,
West Chester, PA
Softcover, 1984, 210 pgs., $12.95

There has been a surge recently of books on Native American spirituality and culture that has gotten somewhat tiresome. Tiresome because many are written by non-Indians who are capitalizing on the current fad appeal of this ancient culture. But after reading this book, written by a white person, I came away invigorated, charged by the immense power of this spiritual path.

This book's power comes from the personal interviews with medicine people (holy men and women) of various tribes. It is they, not the author, who demonstrate how ancient Indian practices can be used to attain mind and body wisdom and to "walk in balance" with Nature. Topics explored in this book include the healing powers of herbs, prayers and crystals; the nature and importance of the vision quest; the power of prophecy; meditation techniques; and rituals that enhance psychic powers. Indeed, the metaphysical and magical

events that occur daily in the life of an Indian holy person rival anything reported in FATE.

This book spoke to me, not only because of its universal truths and astounding mystical happenings, but also because this is the religion of this land. "Carl Jung once warned Westerners that they should be cautious of an extended practice of yoga, as it was not a metaphysical practice of the soil on which they had been reared." (p. 25.) Steiger hypothesizes that illumination, cosmic consciousness and extended awareness may come more quickly to us North Americans if we engage in native spiritual practices.

Who knows? I look forward to trying the techniques discussed in the book and finding out for myself.—*Tracy Whartman*

MY INVENTIONS
By Nikola Tesla
Hart Brothers, Williston, VT
Softcover, 1982, 112 pgs., $7.95

Appreciation of an ingenious work is only heightened by an appreciation of the actual genius who created the work. Mozart's concertos seem twice as heavenly when you realize that he carried finished pieces around in his head. Similarly, exploring the electrical inventions of Nikola Tesla is twice as thrilling when you know the inventor's unique and eccentric background.

My Inventions is a collection of articles Tesla wrote for *The Electrical Experimenter* in 1919. It is a diary of his life—from the early formations of his inquisitive mind, to his first efforts at invention, his later endeavors and rise to fame and the creation of his most precocious inventions.

Tesla describes how he used to see three-dimensional views of a project before his physical eyes—visions that he described as in-distinguishable from reality. He talks of how he envisions a day when such thoughts could be recorded (as if with a VCR), and how such "mental experimenting" is much more logical and efficient than building physical prototypes. He discusses the creation of several inventions in-depth, including the Tesla coil and telautomatic (remote control) machines.

Although its factuality suffers from the inventor's immense ego, *My Inventions* is probably the most authoritative look at the important moments and discoveries in Tesla's 87 years. There has been a lot of "fiction" written about this inventor, due largely to his own mischievous personality and his aloofness during the heyday of his career. This gets beyond some of the yellow journalism to reveal Tesla's own view of the world around him.—*Steve Deger*

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I have controlled multiple personality, controlled meaning that some of my extras speak in my head and through my voice box but no longer run wild in my brain as they once did. My personalities are unable to become alternates, though in the past a few were able to block me out and talk crazily in the presence of others. I have received many psychic messages and many have proven to be true. I am interested in corresponding with others who have this mental disorder, especially those with psychic ability as well as extra personalities. It is my theory that people who channel are actually channeling messages from psychic alternate personalities who are no more than multiples.—*Shelba Krambeck, Everett, WA*

I am looking for a former teacher/psychic named J. Bell. He lived in Pueblo, Colorado, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, but then moved to another state. If any FATE readers have information about him and his present whereabouts, I would appreciate it.—*C. Julian, Tucson, AZ*

I am seeking to locate a gentleman named William Peebles. He was in his early 40s in the late 1970s and worked in the oil fields.

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continued from page 114

He traveled a good deal. Mr. Peebles was a student of Eastern philosophy and studied through a Colorado ashram.

He was about six feet tall with long, brown hair and blue eyes. He was divorced and has a son who may now be in his mid-20s. I believe he was from Michigan or one of the Great Lake states.

If any reader knows of this gentleman's whereabouts, please write to me. I must locate him. —*W. Darden, Valley, CA*

I worked at the Burlington International Airport for eight years. I used to leave home at 4:30 in the morning.

About eight years ago while driving down the pike while it was really dark I saw a large UFO flying very slowly over me. It made no noise. It had windows of all colors.

Another car pulled in front of me. There we both sat with our lights off. I had a funny feeling of, "well, here we go." I was afraid to get out of the car to talk to the other person.

The UFO moved very slowly and headed for Lake Champlain and New York state. I was really excited but didn't tell anyone at work because they might think I was crazy. By the way, there were no night flights up there. There was a mail plane but it only had three lights on it—the UFO had many.

If the person who stopped in front of me reads FATE magazine it would be nice to hear from him.—*Marena Warren, 2911 Banbury, Liverpool, NY 13090*

Editor's note: If you want to write to any of the above people and an address is not given, please put your letter in an envelope with postage on it, put the person's name on it and place this in another envelope and mail it to FATE. Please include a brief note telling us the month and year of the issue where the letter appeared.

DEUCES AND FOURS

Mary Livengood writes in your April 1990 issue (*Report From the Readers*) that every hand of card dealt her in the past three years contained a deuce and four, and she wants to know what the cards are trying to tell her.

In the Runic alphabet and esoteric system which originated in pre-Christian northern Europe, the letter associated with these numbers is Jara, meaning "year" and with an extended meaning of prosperity.

I must note that I am struck by the correspondence between the rune meaning and Mary's surname.—*James M. Peterson, Chippewa Falls, WI*

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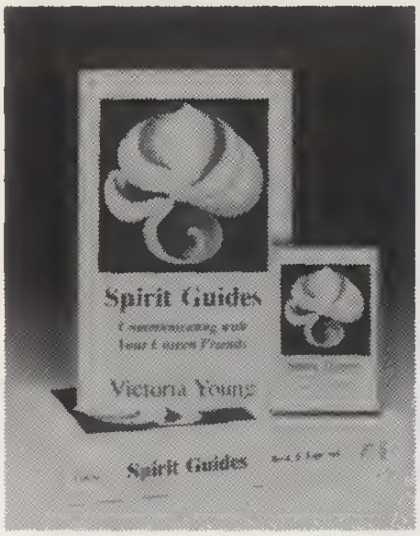
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