

THEY PAID ME TO SAY THIS!

"Folks,
you've
been had,
and here's
how I
know"

I have known Bill Moore since 1988. In that time I have seen him go from prominence as the "discoverer" (along with Jamie Shandera) of the MJ12 documents to emerging as an even more controversial figure in the UFO community. This was the result of a speech he made at the MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) convention in Las Vegas in 1989 wherein he intimated that most of what all the other researchers had been told by their government intelligence contacts was pure fabrication. The publisher of a well-known magazine left the room in tears, and I saw Bill English (one of the "aliens-are-eating-us-while-they-take-over-the-world" UFO personalities) run past me hollering "I'm going to get a fire hose!" The conference host came to the podium more than a few times to call for order. This initiation into the primate pecking-order of UFOlogy convinced me beyond a doubt that many members of MUFON were just like anyone else with a mouth full of words and an empty mind - push the right buttons and they explode. What was it that caused so much emotion? I finally cornered Bill at his office in late January to find out in detail what "made him do it" and who really pulls the levers.

At no time have I ever known Moore to be rude, evasive, or secretive (at least in the "I know something you don't" mold.) Only the most paranoid (or gullible?) person would suspect much ulterior motive in his conversation. To me he has been at all times intelligent and compassionate. In fact, while we walked to a restaurant for lunch, he told me the stories of two homeless people we met. Apparently he looks out for them in the rough neighborhood around his office, and has a genuine interest in their welfare. I was told one man whom we met was the bodyguard for an American Indian leader who was imprisoned in the aftermath of the Wounded Knee fiasco of the early 1970s. I asked how Moore knew this. "He and I knew some of the same people before we met" he said, meaning intelligence agents in the government. "There's a story there when and if he's ever ready to tell it." Leaving this bit of intrigue for the moment, we sat down to talk spy stuff over spicy Thai food...

Q: This has been gone over many times, but what is it that pissed off so many people in Las Vegas at MUFON 1989?

MOORE: I think that they were outraged that some-

one would get up there and tell them that they'd been had.

Q You don't think that could have happened to you?

MOORE: Sure it could have. And maybe it has. That was exactly the point. If they (government agencies) could manipulate a situation like the Bennewitz affair the way they did, and plant information which was at that point the hottest thing in the UFO grapevine, which a lot of people were really interested in and remain interested in to this day...

Q: Bennewitz was the one who thought he was receiving highly secret transmissions from an air force base in New Mexico, and was scared by what he heard or thought he heard?

MOORE: Yes. That was it. The whole story of Government/ alien involvement, treaties with aliens, underground bases, a plot to take over the planet, implants, two different races of aliens, one hostile and one friendly, etc. was all cooked up by the counter-intelligence people for the purpose of discrediting Bennewitz. He bought it, and a lot of other people in the UFO community

bought it, and they continue to buy it today. Dulce, New Mexico is still a catch word. All of that stuff was cooked up as part of the operation against Bennewitz. Bennewitz was meeting with everybody who was anybody and telling that story to anyone who would listen. John Lear, and ultimately through him to Bill Cooper, Bill English, Wendelle Stevens...they all revolved around that information. It was the kind of paranoia that they wanted to hear. And so here's John Lear, organizer and host of the conference in Vegas, one of the chief proponents of that kind of information, staking his so-called reputation on the fact that it was all true. Linda Howe has gotten in over her head over it, all those people prepared to tell their stories, and become important forces for good in the UFO research community. Then I get up and tell them, "Folks, you've been had. And here's how I know. It isn't that I've heard it, I was part of it. I was there. I watched it happen. I knew who was doing it, and I was privy to it."

Q: Were you inferring by that statement that they could have found out the same thing if they did as you did?

MOORE: No, they couldn't have. That was the point.

Q: Why not?

MOORE: Because they weren't a part of it.

**BILL
MOORE
EXPLAINS
HIMSELF**

Interview copyright
Gregory Bishop
1993

Q: That's why they were angry.

MOORE: It was because I had allowed them to be hooked before I got up and said, "Hey folks, you've been had." I could have kept them informed all along.

Q: That would have tainted any information that you were getting, though.

MOORE: Well, of course. It would have destroyed my ability to get anything. I couldn't tell anybody. I was just as upset at what happened to Bennewitz as they were. But they couldn't begin to understand why. According to them, "I (Moore) did it to him." I didn't do it. I was only fortunate enough to be in a position where I could see it.

Q: So are these (government) contacts who you made then still talking to you?

MOORE: Some of them are.

Q: Why only "some"?

MOORE: I don't know. I still have a very solid network of contacts within the (government intelligence) community. I still have a strong flow of information and the ability to verify things, and I still feel that there is a lot more to this whole picture than anybody else has even begun to look at. I still see disinformation going around in the UFO circles that originates with these people. Not with my people, but within the counter-intelligence community, and the UFO people still fall for it. In other words, nothing has changed.

Q: Why is it made up in the first place?

MOORE: That is the question, isn't it? I know why they did it in Bennewitz' case—to discredit him. Why did they feel they had to do that? Because he was on to something that they didn't want him to be on to. I never knew what that something was. I just know that he was detecting radio signals, picking up on things that were going on from within the confines of the Sandia-Manzano-Kirtland (AFB and research) complex, and he had categorically refused to cooperate with the government in maintaining security on whatever it was. He told people he was on to the truth, that it was something really important.

Q: And he didn't realize the consequences.

MOORE: They called him in and had a big high-level meeting with him. They asked him to cooperate and told him he was on to some national security items and that it was extremely important that he protect the national security by cooperating with them and maintaining his silence. It was like waving a red flag in front of a bull. Instead of cooperating, he told them to all go to hell and proceeded to try to tell everybody. He was writing letters to the president, the Congress, Senators, newspeople, everybody imaginable who came along and even banged on his door, he told them.

Q: To the effect of what?

MOORE: That there were aliens coming and that there was some kind of project going on at Kirtland...

Q: When was this?

MOORE: Early 80s. 1979 to '81.

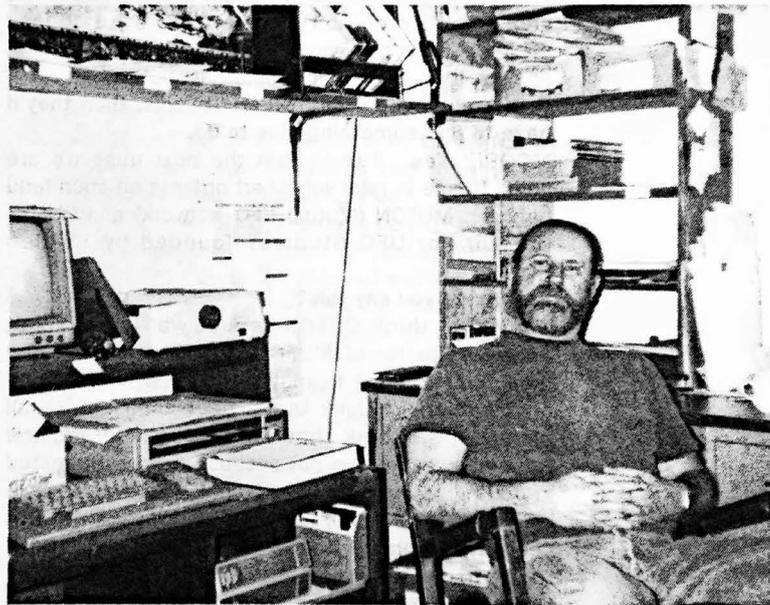
Q: How did you happen to get in touch with him?

MOORE: I was on the APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) board. Bennewitz communicated everything that was going on to APRO by means of long communiques and reports. He called it project Beta. Today, there's a story going around that there was a government project and that was what he was on to. That's not true. Project Beta was his own project, that's the name that he gave it. He was sending all this stuff to APRO and I was reading it and wondering "who was this guy, and what's going on here?" And then I was approached ostensibly for the purpose of getting involved in a project to systematically release some information to the public.

Q: Weren't you suspicious of this?

MOORE: Of course. I still am. I had a choice: either you play, or you don't play. If you do, you play by their rules. If you don't play, then they get somebody else who will. It's that simple. Linda Howe was one of the people that they had considered, among others, for the role I played. She didn't work out for some reason, and they dumped a load of disinformation in her lap and pissed her off. To this day she refuses to believe that. To this day she thinks she was privy to some interesting stuff. I think that they thought whatever she was told she

Bill Moore in his fabulously appointed office--all paid for by the U.S. government of course--Hollywood, CA



would immediately run her mouth to anyone, and that she couldn't be trusted.

Q: So what have you been doing about all of this in the last couple of years? I haven't heard anything from your office in awhile.

MOORE: I've been very busy. Aside from a lot of personal problems that I've had, I was continuing the work I was doing before. It's basically just a quiet effort to see what I can learn. One thing that I find the most outrageous...actually there are two things. One is that most of the people who are into UFO research are their own worst enemies. They sabotage their own efforts before they even get under way through ignorance in how to proceed.

"...the greater
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Through a preconceived position of "well this is what I'm going to find, so if I find anything that doesn't fit, I'll ignore it." and by broadcasting far and wide exactly what they're doing, and by their blind belief that in what the Freedom Of Information Act is going to get them. What happens is when you tell somebody what you know, it immediately shows up on the (UFO rumor) grapevine. If you've told your friends, you've told everybody. If there's anything to it, people who are custodians of the information can detect where it came from immediately, and will rush to protect it.

Q: Why tell anyone?

MOORE: Well I don't anymore.

Q: No, I mean why tell (from the government agent's point of view) a UFO researcher?

MOORE: Ego.

Q: As "leaks" it makes them feel important?

MOORE: To some extent.

Q: They've told you this, or you're guessing?

MOORE: I'm guessing. I think there's an organized plan to let some of this stuff out too. I just think honestly a lot of them don't know what to do with it.

Q: Well, if they have access to the information, obviously they are supposed to be doing something with it.

MOORE: The other thing that bothers me is that the greater portion of the UFO community exists to feed off itself. In other words, they don't want to find an answer—they want to find more questions.

Q: If they "figured out" what "it" was, then they'd have to find something else to do.

MOORE: Yes. I think that the next thing we are going to see in relatively short order is an open feud between MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) and CUFOS (Center For UFO Studies --founded by J. Allen Hynek).

Q: Why do you say this?

MOORE: I think CUFOS is just waiting for Walt Andrus (director of MUFON) to lose control. And then they're going to move to be the number one organization. I think that's been their motive all along, and I think that's why they usurped the Roswell investigation—not because they're interested in getting to the bottom of it, but that it's a vehicle by which they can push their organization into a position of prominence.

Q: Were they supporting Schmitt and Randle? (Two UFO researchers who recently completed another book about the Roswell UFO crash—Bill Moore published his in 1981).

MOORE: Yeah. Consider: Before they espoused Roswell, where were they? Hynek had died, and had put their organization into disrepute because of his association with a couple of contactees in Phoenix of questionable reputation. Their magazine was ready to fold. They had to do something to keep going. I think what they decided to do was make themselves the center of attention by working on what they regarded as the hottest case of the week. And my getting up and saying what I did in Vegas proved useful to them because it provided them with a way to trash me.

Q: Did you receive letters from them or see evidence in the UFO media that they were trying to refute your claims, or what?

MOORE: They certainly didn't spare any effort to attack me when they had a chance. They knew what was going on. They knew what I was going to say.

Q: How did they know?

MOORE: Because I had been in touch with Don Schmitt, who had lied to me. He had come to me on the pretext of them cooperating with me. They were not interested in publishing anything of their own, they were only interested in helping with my investigation.

Q: This was after Vegas?

MOORE: Before. Their whole espousal of the Roswell case amounts to nothing more than an effort to save their own asses. I think they knew exactly what it was they were going to find before they started. They had already decided what story they were going to tell. Whatever fit was fine, whatever didn't they would change.

Q: I'm at a loss here, because I didn't read their book.

MOORE: You didn't miss a lot.

Q: What was it, a rehash of your book?

MOORE: Basically a rehash, with some of their own stuff thrown in. They never gave me credit for anything that I had done. To hear them tell it, they had done everything and I had done nothing—there was no prior investigation before them. Don Schmitt gave his MUFON paper in 1990, I think. The whole paper, an entire thing on Roswell, and didn't once mention me. No one mentioned that there was a prior investigation, never once mentioned that anything had come out before their own work. To read that paper, and know nothing about it, one would assume that they had uncovered the whole thing and done all the work.

Q: Did Stan (Friedman) help them out? He did another thing with someone else, right?

MOORE: Yeah. For a while they wooed Stan in, then they kicked him out. And he went on to do his own book which has now been thoroughly discredited by the very same people who went after me. I think the whole Vegas deal came down to one thing. That is that a lot of people who had their own egos on the line were horrified that somebody might be on to something that they didn't know about, and they couldn't deal with it, so I had to be the bad guy.

Q: That was certainly the impression when I was sitting there. (At the MUFON convention).

MOORE: I've been roundly accused, and continue to be accused of being one of the principal "disinformers" in the country. According to some people, I orchestrated the whole project against Bennowitz. I'm the spreader of disinformation. Not one of them has pointed to anything that I've spread that was supposed to be disinformation. Not one of them.

Q: Not to change the subject too quickly, but about a year ago I had talked to you and you said you had discovered what you thought was the answer to the men in black enigma, and you had

published it in your magazine. Would you elaborate?

MOORE: It hasn't been published yet. The truth is that I haven't yet had the time to sit down and write the whole thing up the way I feel it needs to be done. I have talked about it publicly. It basically stems from a covert group within the military community who are very good at playing games. And one of the games that they devised was this men in black thing in order to obtain information and leave behind a legacy of mystery which would be good cover for them. There is a group, I've worked with some of them.

Q: So all the strangeness associated with them is a result of confusion and fear generated by the encounter?

MOORE: Or by people who have written about these occurrences and have added to the mystery because they want a mystery. There really are men in black—or were. They perpetuate the image deliberately as a cover. They are part of a special unit out of the counterintelligence community which employs a whole array of strange people—from safe-crackers to con artists, to fast talkers...

Q: With the understanding that they will stay out of trouble if they cooperate.

MOORE: Yes. They recruit a lot of these people from the prisons and make deals with them that if they will serve so many years, they'll be given a clean bill of health and a new identity. And somewhere way back when, they cooked up this men in black thing as a device for enabling them to get information out of people, particularly physical evidence without having to give them a government receipt for it. They were involved with Bennewitz. I knew it. I knew a couple of them, and as far as I know the group, although it's changed its name, it is still very much alive. It's not the only thing they do of course, and they operate all over the world.

Q: It seems a rather expensive joke just to get some information out of people.

MOORE: How?

Q: In the sense of creating a mythology and keeping with it, and keeping up the rlgmarole and theatrics, as you describe it.

MOORE: First of all, don't make the assumption that getting UFO information was all they did. That was a very small part of their activities. Very insignificant. Most of their efforts were directed in other areas.

Q: So you're saying the paranormal activities associated with them that have been written about have all been the result of fanciful writers?

MOORE: As far as I know. It's a mythology that has grown up.

Q: I thought there were precedents for this kind of thing long before the present.

MOORE: Well, there were—back to the '50s anyway.

Q: No, I mean like the Alchemists who "got too near the truth" and were supposedly harassed by them.

MOORE: Oh yeah.

Q: Is that something that these people are aware of and capitalize on?



"Men In Black "
by Jim Dallmeier
1992.

MOORE: What do you mean?

Q: It's a phenomenon that people have had experiences with for many centuries in some form or another, and perhaps this group has tapped into the collective fear that we have of that kind of image, and capitalize on it. Is that one of the motivations for behaving like they do?

MOORE: What they do is plan and base it on things that have worked in the past. If you are a professional cat burglar, with 30 years of experience, and the government says, "We need cat burglars. We have a use for such people—safe crackers, con artists, what have you. We'll make a deal with you. You come work for us, and we'll get you out of the slammer. You're our slave for seven years. You do your job well, and the time is up, we'll give you a new identity and a certain amount of money, and goodbye. If you fuck up, you go back to jail and the records show you were transferred briefly from one prison to another, it didn't work out, and you were sent back. You want to come work for us, or stay in jail? Take your pick." What do you do?

Q: You know what my choice would be. Fun and adventure.

MOORE: Sure. "So all right. You come work for us. There's these people in Michigan. They've got some film we're interested in. Go get it. You're not to leave any indication that it was the government that got it. You're not to leave any traces as to who you are. If they won't give it to you outright, find some other way to get it, but get it." What do you do? You sit and plan with other people how you're going to do this. What they came up with was this whole men in black thing.

Q: What about people who are visited before they even tell anyone about it?

MOORE: Perhaps somebody knew what they had done, even though they hadn't told anyone. It may be that the image they got wasn't a UFO at all, but an experimental craft of some kind. Somebody saw them land. Who knows how the information ultimately gets to its destination? Once they have it, they decide, "What's the best response?" They tried to use me one time to get footage out of somebody who had it and wouldn't give it up. I couldn't do it. They wouldn't give it to me either (as a UFO investigator.) They ultimately got that film. I don't know how they got it, but I know they did. The assumption on the part of a lot of people is that, "If Bill Moore was knowingly involved in that kind of activity, automatically Bill Moore has to be the bad guy." I wouldn't do things like that. My point is if I hadn't cooperated, if I hadn't gotten to know how these things work, nobody would know about it to this day. You don't learn how to swim unless you get into the water. You can read all the books you want, you can listen to all the people you want, but until you get into the water, you don't learn how. It's the same way in projects like these. Until you get involved with them, you don't know what happens. When you do get involved, there are rules. And they're not your rules. You either play by them, or they very quickly find somebody else who will. Then they dump your ass out with a load of shit, and if you go public with the load of shit, you look like an idiot. This is what Linda Howe did.

Q: Are there little people with glasses on typing out these stories to be given to dupes?

MOORE: I don't know. There are 30 or 50 people that work out of that office.

Q: "That" office?

MOORE: The one that was orchestrating the Bennewitz affair. They had about that many people working in it who did nothing but cook up wild-eyed schemes to accomplish what they needed to. In other words, a think tank.

Q: There are a set of circumstances, and "what do we need to tell this guy to jibe with the facts as he sees them, as well as leading him off the track."?

MOORE: Yes. They do a complete psychological profile. They know exactly what they're dealing with, they know exactly what to feed him that he will believe, and they know exactly how to do it, and they do it.

Q: You do realize that they could and might very well be doing this to you.

MOORE: Sure. I've always known that.

Q: But is it interesting and entertaining enough to continue to play?

MOORE: First of all, there is something to the subject that is so important that they're devoting all this time and effort to it.

They wouldn't devote it to stories about Hitler being alive in Antarctica. It says there's something there: What?

Q: That's what I was about to ask.

MOORE: I don't know. Whatever the secret is, it's such a high magnitude of importance and would have such an impact on the mundane day-to-day circumstances of our society that anyone who gets close enough to see what it is says, "Oh my God. We can never tell anyone this. Because if we do, it will bring down the whole fabric of our society." That to me automatically suggests certain things.

Q: Such as...?

MOORE: Most of them either seem to have economic or religious implications.

Q: And the only conclusion you draw from that is extraterrestrial contact of some sort?

MOORE: No. Either there are aliens and they are coming here--there is a limited interaction with this race, and whatever lies behind that is of such earth-shattering proportions that if the truth came out about it it would shatter Christianity to its very foundations--maybe. Or somebody (plural) in a very highly placed position with a lot of assets at their disposal is desperately manipulating events to try and make it appear that way. I tend to favor the former more than the latter.

Q: Why?

MOORE: It fits more with the parameters involved. The latter one, first of all to support that, you have to go back a long

way. You have to assume a concerted effort on the part of someone that goes back to at least WWII. And you have to assume that they've never made a mistake. They've had to orchestrate all these events somehow without being exposed in the process. And why I rule that out, human nature being what it is, is that if it were human-inspired they would have made enough mistakes by now or had enough of an ego or frustration that something would have come out about it. Something more than speculation. There's too much in this that is seemingly beyond the capability of ordinary humans. Especially if you assume those capabilities in the late 1940s.

Q: Such as what in the late 1940s?

MOORE: The quality of UFO sightings and especially close encounter cases back then. Today a sophisticated group might be able to stage something like that. They might be able to stage a Bentwaters (UFO landing at a military base in England) or a Cash-Landrum affair (two women in Texas injured in a close encounter) or even a Gulf Breeze. I don't see how they could have done that in the 1940s or '50s or '60s. We have a lot of cases from that time which are just rock solid. So I tend to say



that it is more reasonable to assume that is is more out of our hands more than in our hands. Part of the reason for the secrecy is that you can't tell the world that this is out of your hands and you have no control over it. There's a school of thought which says that if you can unite the planet against a threat from outer space, then you're one step closer to ruling the world—the "One World Government." And that works only if you put it in a limited context.

Q: How limited?

MOORE: In time. If you run that kind of an operation for 40 years, it gets old real fast. Somebody's going to tell about it—make a mistake. It's the same with the CIA and its black helicopters. Yes, there are cattle mutilations. Yes, there are black helicopters. However, if you assume that it is the CIA doing these cattle mutilations, what are the odds that some irate rancher is going to shoot down one of these helicopters and embarrass the whole thing? No matter how you plan, there is no way to guard against all possibilities. They would be risking an awful lot. If you are a project officer, are you going to risk that? This suggests to me that there is something going on beyond that. They might try it once or twice, but they're not going to try that kind of shit over 30 years—it's too dangerous.

Q: How does the crop circle phenomenon fit in with all this?

MOORE: I don't know. I don't know what to make of crop circles. I've never seen any. I have a completely open book on that subject. The one side of that says that it is created by a group of people who are out to create clever hoaxes. The other side says there is something very mystical about it all. And in the middle is me. I don't know. I can't imagine why the intelligence community would perpetuate something like that, but then I can't imagine why they would perpetuate a lot of things.

Q: I've heard Jacques Vallee theorize that the only thing that can bend the crops as they are microwaves and the heat involved.

MOORE: How does he know that?

Q: With known human technology. Well, but why wouldn't they just practice in a field on a military base? It seems a lot of trouble for something that they would like to keep secret.

MOORE: Or they could keep a herd of cattle! I agree.

Q: Where do UFO encounters and sightings and abductions fit in with all you have been telling me so far?

MOORE: The bottom line is, there is something going on. There are aspects of it that are beyond the pale. Until we know more about it, I don't think it's safe to speculate. The minute people start speculating, and others quote them, they're locked into defending that position at all costs. I don't like to be in that position. I think in the case of the Roswell crash, the explanation that best fits the evidence is that it was something extraterrestrial. But that's predicated on the evidence at hand—here and now. Something could turn up tomorrow to completely change that position, and if it did I'd be the first one to say so. It's not the only explanation, but it's the one that best fits with the information that's been uncovered so far. The extraterrestrial one fits all the criteria. It doesn't leave any objections.

Q: In that case.

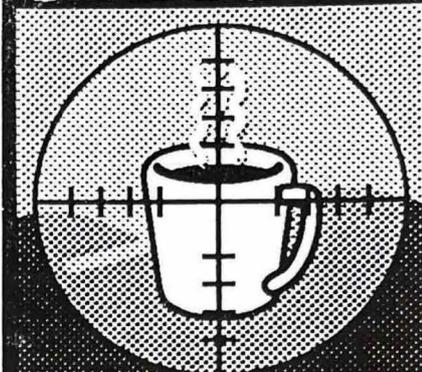
MOORE: Yes. But then, since we don't have all the pieces of the puzzle, maybe the ones that are missing would change the whole picture.

NEXT: BILL MOORE SPEAKS OF GnosticISM, PHILOSOPHY, ETC. (PLEASE WRITE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS—OTHERWISE WE MAY SKIP IT.) ☞

NOTES FOR MOLDING CLAY

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|---|----------------------------|
| (1) Garrison, Jim, <u>On the Trail Of The Assassins</u> , Los Angeles, Warner Books, 1991. pg. 178. | (3) Kirkwood, pg. 278. |
| (2) Kirkwood, James, <u>American Grotesque</u> , New York, Harper Perennial, 1992. pg. 275. | (4) Garrison, pg. 268. |
| | (5) Garrison, pg. 271-272. |
| | (6) Kirkwood, pg. 218. |

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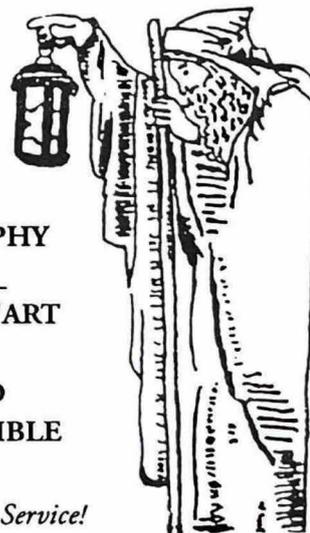
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