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Quarterly
Vol 3 No 4
Oct/Dec
1992

ANNALS
OF THE ENQUIRING

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VOL 3 -- NO 4

THANKS TO

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ANNALS

FIRST WORD

EDITORIAL

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Vol 3 No 4
Oct/Dec
1992
Issued
Quarterly

RATES

UK :
£5 / 4 issues
International :
[Air Mail]
£8 / \$12 US

Welcome to the latest ANNALS. An issue more frightening than a picnic with Hannibal Lecter ... well, erm, not quite.

It almost failed to make publication after I was beset by Gremfins in October. Both sets of working and master disks used for storing the contents of each issue became bugged. I had 90 per cent of Vol 3 #4 complete then but no way of dumping it to print. Anyway, a last minute run of luck has allowed me to retrieve this copy and produce 1992's final issue.

As for 1993, well some more changes are in the offing. Having now moved on to an inkjet printer, a proposed new DTP software program should also enhance the future clarity of print. Content will rise from 20 to 24 pages and with it comes an inevitable increase in subscription charges. Not much, just 25p per issue, or £1 per year. This does not affect existing subscriptions though.

Humanity has made through 1992 - no thanks to either the Davera Mission Church or the Mission for the Coming Days Church, both located in South Korea. The former predicted doomsday early in October and the latter followed up with its claim that the world would end on October 28. Perhaps the comet Smith-Tuttle will do the job in 2126 as suggested by some scientists recently.

Americans are full of surprises. A CNN/TIME Future Poll published at the end of September included the question: 'Do you think Earth will be visited by space aliens?' and only 32% said Yes. Looking at it another way, perhaps 68% think we already are!

More evidence has surfaced suggesting that we should not always believe what we read. From China comes the news that a 100-year-old sturgeon the size of a mini-bus, alleged to have been caught in the Yangtze River during October, was a fake story made up 'for fun' and passed to the state news agency Xinhua. No word yet on any transfer to the National Enquirer's payroll for the errant Chinese Communist official thought responsible.

GL

Nostradamus And The Balkans

DES E K I N

THE BALKANS - scene of the fatal shot that sparked World War 1, torn apart by a bitter civil war in the 1990s. Will this region be the target for the first major nuclear blast since Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Or will these embattled statelets of the former Yugoslavia be ravaged by some form of deadly chemical dust?

If we are to believe the French prophet Nostradamus, a catastrophe on this scale will hit the Balkans within the next few years. He forecast a major Moslem invasion of the Balkans through Turkey - a prospect that looms frighteningly closer with every day we read our newspapers.

Already there are serious threats that Islamic troops will intervene to help the persecuted Moslems who are among the victims of "ethnic

cleansing" in Bosnia. And Nostradamus, writing more than 450 years ago, was able to predict the devastation caused by such a conflict.

"In [the Balkans]: a very great famine, plagues through man-made dust. It will last for nine months throughout the whole peninsula."

Commentators believe that this apocalyptic scenario ties in with the major global conflict that Nostradamus forecast would take place in the 1990s, reaching a horrifying crescendo with the arrival of a "king of terror" from the skies in July, 1999.

The prospects of the Balkans becoming the target of a full-scale chemical war - or of an atomic blast, with its subsequent fallout of "man-made dust" and radioactive "plague" - was first advanced by Nostradamus-watchers back in the early Seventies, when the state of Yugoslavia was a rock of stability in eastern Europe.

Writing long before the breakup of Tito's republic, commentator Erika Cheetham said: "Nostradamus implies that a small atomic bomb will be let loose somewhere in Greece or the Balkans ... the only question I can ask is, what is 'false dust'? ... Could it be fallout?"

At the time, the prospect seemed unlikely. But in the light of recent events in Bosnia, Nostradamus's prophecy takes on a disturbing new dimension of credibility. It implies, of course, the total breakdown of President Bush's "new world order" of global policing through co-operation between the USA on the one-hand, and Russia and the Commonwealth of former Soviet states on the other.

But the 16th century prophet foresaw this, too ... He predicted the rise, and later collapse, of communism - right down to the fall of the Berlin Wall. He also foresaw that two major powers from the North - probably the USA and the former Soviet states - would get together in some form of alliance. But he warned that the alliance would not last long.

"One day," he wrote, "the great powers will become friends. Their great power will be seen to increase. The new land [America] will be at the height of its power. To the man of blood the number is reported."

The cryptic final sentence is taken as a reference to a violent leader whom Nostradamus dubs The Third Antichrist, and who is, presumably even now, monitoring the political changes.

Early in the partnership, after "three years and seven months" to be precise, the two powers will be forced to go to war when "two vassals", or dependent states rebel against them. Nostradamus assures us that the victor of this war will be American.

But Nostradamus goes on: *"The two will not remain allied for long. Within 13 years they surrender to barbarian power. On both sides there will be so much loss ..."* And there is a hint that the Vatican and the Pope will play a vital role in bringing peace.

Thirteen years from when? is the question. But most commentators believe Nostradamus predicted a major outbreak of war for the mid-1990s, culminating with the advent of the "king of terror", a man who will relish destruction like Genghis Khan, in the summer of 1999. Some commentators, deciphering Nostradamus's obscure star-dates, even give a precise date for the start of war - September 2, 1995.

Whatever the date, Nostradamus assures us it will be no picnic: *"The dreadful war that is being prepared in the West, the following year will be followed by the Pestilence: so very horrible that neither young nor old, nor animal will survive ..."*

Is the pestilence, again, the effect of nuclear fallout? Who will start this "dreadful war"? And why?

It seems that Nostradamus points the finger clearly at the East - most probably at one of the middle eastern states. *"From the east," he writes, "comes the dreadful act."*

He appears to forecast a "terrible Moslem attack and invasion" which drives deep into Europe through Turkey and the Balkans, causing awesome destruction and loss of life. In one verse, Nostradamus seems to name the aggressor - Persia (Iraq?) - and to describe the result in the only terms he knew:

"A burning torch will be seen in the sky at night near the end and source of the Rhone. Famine and weapon: help unprovided too late. Persia will turn and invade Macedonia (Turkey)."

A burning torch - missile or explosion? Whatever it is, it will be seen as far into Europe as Marsailles in France.

And what could cause this "terrible Moslem attack"? More adventuring by Saddam? Or an attempt by Islamic fundamentalists to support their Moslem brothers who are under persecution in Bosnia? Nobody knows, except possibly Nostradamus. The French seer is specific that "a warlike Arab prince" will launch a huge war campaign with "one million men".

He hints that the invaders will strike at Iran and southwest into Egypt as well as northwest into Turkey and the Balkans. Casualties will be high on the Arab side. In one engagement near a Turkish seaport - Trebizond - Nostradamus predicts "the Adriatic Sea is full of Arab blood."

He also seems to predict an invasion through Italy, in a campaign featuring submarines. Nostradamus knew nothing of subs, but he described one as best he could:

"When in a fish, letters and documents are enclosed, from out of it will come one who will then make war ... near the Italian shore." An entire fleet is destroyed in what appears to be a nuclear attack. A nuke flash - the same one? - leaves fish in the Aegean "half cooked."

But the main theatre of war is the Arab thrusy into the heartland of Europe, with the rampaging Arab leader pushing inland as far as the Danube - the former Yugoslavian states - and the Rhine - Switzerland and Germany.

"The great Camel who will not relent will come to drink in the Danube and the Rhine ..."

But Nostradamus predicts that the Islamic invaders will be finally halted - in a battle near the Alps. *"When occurs the battle of the great light horse, it will be claimed that the great Crescent [the Islamic invasion] is destroyed."*

CONTRARY TO POPULAR myth, Nostradamus does NOT forecast that the world will end in 1999 ... although he does predict major wars, earthquakes, floods and perhaps the End Of Civilization As We Know It.

But he goes right on making prophecies for the human race right up to the year 7000. In fact, he hints that if we stick around into the next century, there'll be a thousand years of peace with an entirely new culture and religion.

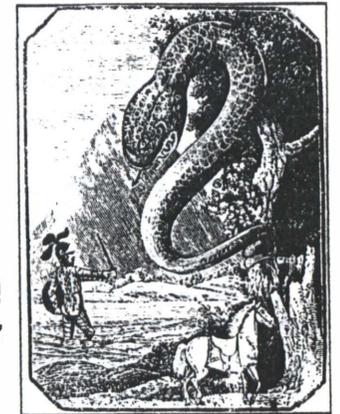
SO WHAT ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD?

Nostradamus has it sussed. The Earth will finally end after a bombardment of fiery meteor showers -- in the year 3797. So don't go making any plans!

REPTILES

A man, angered by a snake that bit him, swallowed the reptile whole and is now in hospital in the town of Seremban, Malaysia, with severe stomach ache, newspaper reports in August said.

A South African farmer bit a 12ft python to death in a 30-minute battle, after the snake dropped on him from a tree and tried to crush him in its coils. The Johannesburg Star said in September that Edward Mkhize, exhausted but unhurt, dragged the 88lb snake home after the attack.



Visitors From The Unknown

BRIAN SIGNAL

dressed like a bee. In a horizontally striped one piece outfit with a black belt and topped by a snug-fitting black helmet. Something like a miner's helmet without the lamp.

I called him 'Chamber,' although why I do not know, except when I was a toddler toilets were outside in the yard and chambers were essential things that stayed under the bed for night-time emergencies. Chamber would appear spontaneously when I was alone outside in the garden and I would play with him just as I would my own friends.

I have no idea how often or over what period these visits took place, except to say that one day Chamber appeared and informed me that this was to be the last meeting as he had to go away. I remember being distraught at the news, not comprehending why and was upset for quite some time. He did leave me with the message that one day he would return, but has so far to fulfill that promise.

Childhood imaginings, I have always thought, but in recent times my reading has led me to wonder - was that little character really a figment of fancy and could I have really put myself through the trauma of announcing the end of those visits? I don't know. I suppose I will always wonder.

Moving on to another strange incident in my life, if you like. Or, at least, a dream that I had some ten years ago now and one which I remember vividly because of its impression on my mind.

By way of an introduction, I will tell you now that I have held an interest in the Ufo subject and the thought of alien intelligencies existing 'somewhere' since my teenage years. (What possesses some of us, I wonder, to take a particular interest in certain subjects and not in others?).

WHITE WITCH DENIES BLACK MAGIC MUTILATIONS

Farmer Bill Dunkerton of Baltonsborough, near Glastonbury, called police when he saw two men acting suspiciously in his field on Thursday night.

PC Guy Wilcox said he went to the field at 9.30pm and found a round hole about a foot across. "There was a rune about the size of a thumbnail, a fox and a dead crow under that. The fox had almost undergone a post mortem. It was cut all down; its entrails were hanging out, but complete, and its brush was removed," he said.

Rollo Maughling, a self-professed white witch who also lives at Baltonsborough, pooh-pooed the idea of a black magic ritual.

"I have looked into it and it seems the fox and the rook were found dead, and it was just someone's way of giving them a decent burial. No more significance than that," he said.

[Source: Wells Journal 3 September 1992]

I HAVE ALWAYS carried in the back of my mind somewhere some of the earliest memories of my life as a child. A few such relate to the formative years when I appear to have been one of the many who was befriended by an invisible playmate.

This, I believe, is an accepted part of growing up for many children and regarded by the adult world as being nothing unusual. It is something, in my case, I have never felt totally able to accept.

The events took place in my pre-school years and I would guess this placed me at about three or four years-of-age. I remember this little playmate who popped up one day, quite clearly. Smaller than myself, he was older in his way. What I remember most was that he was

interested in the Ufo subject and the thought of alien intelligencies existing 'somewhere' since my teenage years. (What possesses some of us, I wonder, to take a particular interest in certain subjects and not in others?).

Anyway, in the dream I was a child of about 12 or 13 years playing in a particular park in the city I used to live in as a child. The grass has a long slope at this part, with a low hedge running down to a path. I was alone, when I looked up and saw what I can only describe as a traditional style 'flying saucer,' complete with dome and wide rim.

It was very low and its nearest point to myself was tilted down towards me. Its colour was a non-reflective, dirty grey and what absolutely petrified me in my dream was its absolute silence, even though it was moving quite low above my head. It was heading for me, I had no doubt and I remember taking off up the hill in order to make good my escape.

So frightened by the event was I that I awoke from the dream that in reality was a nightmare, only knowing I was grateful that the event was not a real one - or could it be, perhaps? As I have learned since that abductions, real or imaginary, often feel like dreams.

EXERCISING THE MIND

- Stretch Your Imagination •
- Jog Your Memory •

SHOCKING STORIES FROM JAPAN

A TEACHER IN Japan gave 100-volt electric shocks to five pupils because they had not brought textbooks to class at a Kizu high school, *ITN Oracle* reported 6 November.

This is not an isolated incident either. Earlier this year *The Independent* reported that a 28-year-old schoolteacher in the town of Kitakyushu had been reprimanded for dishing out electric shocks of up to 100 volts to students who got bad test marks or turned up with the wrong books for class.

He forced students to hold a steel bar through which he passed an electric current, the strength of the shock depended on how bad he felt the crime was.

Punishments like that are common in Japan: two years ago a 15-year-old girl was killed when a teacher with a stopwatch slammed shut a heavy metal gate on her as she rushed to school a few seconds late.

A HAIR-RAISING STORY FROM JAPAN

A JAPANESE PHARMACEUTICAL company claims to have discovered a cure for baldness: Mozart's French Horn Concerto No.3!

When combined with the Daiichi company's shampoo, conditioner and hair tonic - a set containing the hair product plus a Mozart CD costs £56 - effective hair restoration is claimed. Cynics won't be surprised to learn that it hasn't been proved to work yet - the company has admitted that no middle aged balding men subject to the treatment under laboratory conditions have yet to show any noticeable hair growth.

THE \$100- MILLION ten year search by NASA for alien intelligence was begun on October 17. Formerly dubbed SETI - Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence - the administration felt uncomfortable with the title and has now changed the name to High Resolution Microwave Survey.

Samuel Gullis, a project scientist, said on *ABC News* 12 October that the computers used to translate the information received will be looking for anything "anti cryptographic".

A 68-year-old woman came back to life after a Seattle emergency medical team declared her dead and her body had been taken to a funeral parlour.

[Source: ITN Oracle 2 Nov. 1992]

FANGS FOR THE MEMORY

APPARENTLY THERE ARE only 850 vampires worldwide but a scary thought is that 650 live in North America.

Dermot Purgavie reports for the *Daily Mail* 16 November, that The Vampire Research Centre in New York keeps track of these people with strange drinking habits and is fiendishly busy right now explaining vampires and their funny ways to a nation that seems to be in the grip of vampophilia.

"Without question, more people are entertaining themselves, diverting themselves and obsessing over vampires than at any other time in history," says David Skal, author of *Hollywood Gothic: The Tangled Web of Dracula from the Novel to Stage to Screen*.

Did Charles II Attend 20th Century Ball?

LYNN PICKNETT

was something very special about them both that made us all stop and stare."

Lynda realised that the man was dressed, down to the finest detail, as a late 17th-century grandee in a wig of flowing dark curls. His brocade coat had a slightly flared skirt, and he wore knee-length breeches, thick stockings and high-heeled, buckled shoes. His companion's dress was beautiful - full-skirted with lots of ruffles - and her pretty face was framed by a mass of ringlets.

"I couldn't take my eyes off them and neither could anyone else in the room," recalls Lynda.

Although the couple appeared to realise the effect they were having, they simply nodded and smiled in a distant manner, and then wandered off into the bustling Assembly Rooms.

"The doorman was so fascinated that he'd forgotten to take their ticket!" says Lynda. "On an impulse, I said I'd run after them for it. Although they'd only just gone in, I couldn't see the couple anywhere," she says. "I suddenly felt very odd, as if I was trying to walk through thick, invisible foam."

Suddenly, a small dog rushed out of a doorway and came towards her, yapping furiously. Lynda walked into the room, which was gloomy, and suddenly she felt very cold. "The man was standing by the fireplace but there was no sign of his lady companion. I was fascinated by his face," she recalls. "It was long and handsome, with a pointed black moustache."

As she stared, the mysterious guest stared straight back, and for a moment, Lynda was filled with terror. "His eyes were intensely magnetic. They seemed to burn into me," she remembers with a shiver.

Just then, Lynda heard David, her partner, calling to her. She turned for a second, but when she looked back, the stranger had vanished. "I couldn't believe it," she recalls. "I remember feeling foolish as I called: 'Is there anyone there?'"

Slowly Lynda walked from the room but as she left, she noticed a painting on the wall. "It was a portrait of the man!" she says. "He was even wearing the same brocade coat and breeches. But the plaque describing it said the painting was of King Charles II. In his arms he was holding a small dog just like the one that had yapped at me - a King Charles spaniel!"

Lynda rejoined David and told him of her ghostly encounter. She tried to enjoy the rest of the ball, which ended with an early-morning walk around the hushed city.

She and David strolled into a nearby hotel for a chat with the night porter, Ted, whom they both knew well. "We found Ted in a state of shock. Apparently a man had been there earlier, looking lost. Ted had asked him if he could help, at which the man simply faded away into thin air!" says Lynda. "When I described the 'ghost' I had seen - it was obviously the same man."

An added mystery is Charles II died in 1685, and the Assembly Rooms weren't built until 1732. "Who knows - maybe Charles II enjoys going to dances...after all, he was known as the 'Merry Monarch'," says Lynda. "As for me, I'll never forget that night to my dying day!"

LYNDA READING KNEW her costume looked perfect as she swept into the grand ball. Dressed as the Empress Josephine, she wore a glamorous wig and her dress had a dramatically plunging neckline.

The glittering fancy-dress ball, at York's famous Assembly Rooms, was one of many events held in 1971 to celebrate York's 1,900 years as a city. As a junior member of the city's public relations office, 24-year-old Lynda had been invited and was accompanied by David, one of the lads from the office who was dressed as a hussar.

The couple spent ages watching all the other guests arrive at the Assembly Rooms and admiring their costumes. "Just as we decided to go in, a couple walked in wearing full historical dress," she said. "There

Welsh Family Does Not Lack Spirit

GHOSTLY GOINGS ON at a terraced council house have finally driven a family from their home in September.

Terrified Kathryn Meredith said she and her two children, Nicola, 11, and Alex, 10, came face-to-face with a ghost sitting on the bed.

They also had to put up with electrical appliances switching themselves on and off and an exploding cup which injured Kathryn.

The house in Treherbert, Mid-Glamorgan, had been blessed by a local vicar but the terrifying incidents still continue.



MAN - THE WATER BABY

MORE AND MORE scientists subscribe to the theory that man is descended from a kind of aquatic ape.

At the British Association Science Festival, held in Southampton during August, it was claimed that humans evolved from an ape that was forced to adapt when its habitat near the Red Sea was flooded.

Supporters point out that humans share many physical characteristics with marine mammals, such as lack of hair.

And obstetrician Dr Michael Odent told the conference that human babies look very like baby dolphins.

KINKY JABBER NABBED

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED a 36-year-old man dubbed "the vicious wolf" who prowled Shanghai jabbing unsuspecting women in the rear with knitting needles.

Jilted lover Guo Weichang had stabbed 20 women in revenge attacks on the city buses before he was seized by a police chief on the same bus as the 21st.

[Source: ITN Oracle 24 Aug / Daily Mirror 25 Aug 1992]

IS IT SONNY BONO ?

A **UGANDAN WOMAN** regularly digs up her husband's corpse and takes it home "to enjoy the sunshine".

She said the husband appeared to her in a dream complaining it was chilly in the grave. [Source: The Star-Dublin 15 Sept 1992]

POT PUFFING GRANNY

A **ZIMBABWE GRANDMOTHER**, aged 71, was fined a token £4 in a Bulawayo court for smoking cannabis, after saying a witchdoctor had recommended it to ease her asthma. [Source: ITN Oracle 25 Aug 1992]

DUCHESS ON WAY OUT

NAIROBI NEWSPAPERS REPORTED in August that self-styled "ghostbuster" Mohammed Bakari Naaman is offering to exorcise demons from the Royal Family to save it from ruin.

FACING FACTS ABOUT LIFE ON MARS

ON AUGUST 28, 1975, Viking 1 blasted off on a journey to Mars. Its mission was to determine if any form of life exists on the red planet. In spite of optimism by some scientists, Viking 1 and Viking 2 - which followed it less than one month later - both failed to produce evidence of life as we know it. Mars is an inhospitable place.

However, some believe that evidence has been uncovered to support the theory that an ancient civilisation existed. Several intriguing features on a desert region known as Cydonia have been identified and include symmetrical mounds similar to Egypt's pyramids and a near perfect formation resembling a man's face upturned to the sky.

This has raised the curiosity of scientists and two years after the Viking mission two computer engineers under contract to NASA noticed the face in a journal and began to investigate all the original Viking photo's.

Vincent Dipietro and Greg Molinaar soon turned up the picture, already labelled by NASA 'head'. They then subjected it to minute scrutiny and, using enhancement techniques, were successful in revealing detail even greater than that visible in the raw pictures. Dipietro states that within the eye cavity of the face there appears to be what looks like an eyeball. The two found a second photograph, taken some 35 days later and at a different time, which seemed to verify that the face looked the same regardless of the light or the

camera angle.

Another scientists working independently of the men used a different form of photo enhancement based on shadow depth. He found a detail on his copy of the face that the others had missed - teeth!

Dipietro and Molinaar continued scanning the wealth of pictures and turned up yet a second head, although this formation was located thousands of miles from the first and on the other side of the planet. Its measurements were extremely similar to the Cydonia face.

Dr Michael H Carr, a geologist and leader of the Viking Orbiter photographic team was much more cautious. He believes that the face is merely an act of nature and says that he has found other pictures of natural or unnatural objects to illustrate his point. One particularly amusing picture shows Kermit the Frog in mid leap. Carr concludes that such anomalies are merely a combination of geological factors.

NASA have agreed that its latest mission to Mars will include specifically photographing the Sphinx-like head and it is expected that the new pictures will be 50 times sharper than those taken during the Viking mission.

Toys R Sussed

During the first weekend of August police were called to investigate sightings of a kangaroo-type animal seen "hopping about on the road" in the suburbs of Durham City, according to ITN Oracle.

Early in October police officers from Peckham, south-east London, were summoned to Honor Oak Park one Saturday night after someone reported seeing a tiger. They searched bushes in the park and found a large cuddly toy. Scotland Yard said later that the stuffed toy was being held at Peckham Police Station until the owner comes forward.

IN ORBIT

FOR THOSE WITH satellite TV there have been a number of interesting programs embracing our interests these past few months. *Phantastische Phänomene*, hosted by Rainer Holbe, has just ended its latest weekly series on the German SAT 1 channel.

A studio format, they often have US guests or film clips so language is less of a problem. Recently we watched American guest Peter Sugleris who claimed and demonstrated abilities similar to Uri Geller. He also produced film showing himself levitating in a kitchen. His head wasn't visible but his arms looked awful funny. He can also turn Yellow Pages - without his fingers doing the walking.

One of those famous magnetic anomalies was also featured. This time in the form of a hill located in Italy, somewhere between Rocca de Papa and Rome. No gentle rise this as it was noticeably steep. Water from a bottle ran up, as did balls and even an unoccupied car. A spirit level confirmed the distinct gradient.

On another satellite, French station TV5 ran a French Canadian show entitled *On Aura Tout Ou* and viewers were given a tour of Lac Memfremagog, Quebec. There was some excellent close-up footage of the alleged water monster, eye witness interviews and historical references to the creature.

In November Sky News ran a special report: *The Question of Extra-Terrestrial Life*. Featured were Timothy Good, Roy Lake of the London UFO Studies Group, Roy Dutton and others including several professed British abductees.

The latter all claimed to have witnessed the landing of a Ufo and became the victims of subsequent abduction by aliens. Their experiences only having been uncovered and relived often years later through the use of hypnotic regression, something that solicitor Harry Harris specialises in. His work involved among others Linda Taylor a housewife, and former policeman Alan Godfrey.

Linda says that during the course of her 'missing' fifty-five minutes, when she was subject to examination, the aliens must have left with her coat as it disappeared during the incident. Recalling it on camera brought tears. It must have been an expensive coat.

Alan Godfrey ended up with a split in his boot and a small itchy burn mark about the size of a penny on his foot. He recalled later that little creatures attached bracelets to his wrists (!) and plugged devices into them.

Also interviewed was Linda Jones from Manchester. Her story relates back to a November evening some ten years ago when she was walking with her young son and daughter. They encountered a half-moon object with girder-like structure that landed vertically and noiselessly in front of them. Linda likewise claims to have been abducted but the experience was not one she wished to share on camera.

Sky gave us glimpses of the annual conference Quest International held in Leeds. Film shown there was also featured in the program and included a Soviet video taken in April, 1990, apparently of a 'giant saucer', although this looked suspiciously like a lenticular cloud formation.

What did provoke interest was an amateur video taken in the US of a large disk and two smaller diamond-shaped objects, filmed in the early evening sky above hills at a military base near Las Vegas. The transport aircraft shown on a landing approach added to the perspective and authenticity.

The Ghost With Murder On Its Mind

JOHN MACKLIN

astonishing when, in the spring of 1960, she suddenly became outspoken and disobedient, according to her mother Mrs Tricia Barber.

"She would be sitting quietly, perhaps reading, and then suddenly she would throw the book down and start cursing and swearing. She was in a sort of trance when she did it and afterwards when I told her off, she would say she had no idea what I was talking about."

Nights in the Barber household became violent and disturbed. Elaine had nightmares almost every night and the mother was unable to comfort the sobbing child.

"All she would say when she woke was that she had dreamed about a man with black hair and a beard who was telling her about crimes he had committed. She would be shaking with fright. It was a terrible time for us all."

But things got even more worse when, in April, 1960, the mysterious bearded man started taking over Elaine's life and personality. While in a trance, speaking in a rough cockney accent, she would say that she was Jack Hay from Rotherhithe, a thief who had murdered an elderly ship's watchman, but had not been caught.

The accent and vocabulary were quite unlike Elaine's and some of the slang had not been heard for more than 100 years. Upset and mystified, Mrs Barber first contacted her local vicar and then a well-known psychic medium, Mrs Margaret Bowers, who agreed to conduct a seance attended by Elaine, her mother and the vicar, the Rev Leslie Spender.

Mr Spender later wrote an account of the incident in a psychical magazine, saying that Elaine sat next to Mrs Bowers at the head of a long table. Within minutes, the medium had gone into what appeared to be a deep trance and was speaking in a low whisper.

Mr Spender wrote: "Elaine, who also seemed in a trance, replied to the questions but the replies were in a completely different tone - a husky masculine voice speaking in a thick cockney accent."

Part of the dialogue went like this:

Mrs Bowers: "Who is that? Who am I making contact with?"

Jack: "This is Jack Jackie Hay. Get me out of this place. I cannot breathe. There is no light. Why don't they give me any light?"

Mrs Bowers: "What is it you have done which is causing you so much suffering?"

Jack: "Joe and me croaked this old fellow. He was a watchman on a ship at Wapping and we followed him back and made him give us what he had. Then he set up a devil of a row and Joe held him while I put my hands on his throat."

"I was meaning to keep him quiet, but he fell down all of a heap and we dragged him behind a wall. It was a mistake, God knows, but no one will..."

Mrs Bowers: "Jack - can you hear me? Are you still there?"

Jack: "I've got to go now. They won't let me..." And the voice faded away.

According to Mr Spender, both the medium and the girl then awoke from their trances, but claimed to remember nothing of the exchange.

During further seances, Elaine supplied details of 18th century London which were later checked by historians and found to be uncannily accurate.

But rather than exorcising the possession, the seances seemed to make it worse. Elaine's behaviour became even more violent and in May, her mother awoke one morning to find her daughter hurling crockery and furniture around the house.

"She was shouting in that strange voice and seemed to be in a deep trance. I was very frightened and phoned the doctor, who called an ambulance. Elaine was taken to hospital where she was put under sedation."

Then followed a course of psychiatric help and slowly the possession seemed to leave her. By the end of 1960 she only had an occasional nightmare, and a year later had apparently forgotten about the whole thing.

But Mr Spender hadn't. In 1965 he wrote to me: "After a great deal of research I turned up a reference, in the *East London Courier* of 1798, to the murder of a ship's watchman at Wapping. The authorities, it reported, were on the lookout for the chief suspect... a man with black hair and a beard..."

ONE MORNING IN May, 1960, a ten-year-old girl was carried bodily by three flustered ambulancemen from her house in Camberwell, London, amid a flurry of oaths more suited to an 18th-century alehouse than a 20th-century council estate...

To say that little Elaine Barber was not herself, was something of an understatement. Indeed, the violence of her strange behaviour led to the widespread belief that she was possessed by the spirit of an 18th-century murderer and criminal... and it was his voice that resounded round the council estate as Elaine was hurried off to the hospital.

Elaine had always been a quiet, reserved child, in the shadow of her boisterous 12-year-old brother, Kevin. Which made it all the more

Could It Be More Blarney Among The Barley?

Well, agree with it or not, about the only thing of note this year in the cornfields of Britain has been the Crop Circle Making Competition, promoted by *The Cereologist* magazine.

Held overnight on a hillside in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, during July 11-12, a first prize of £3,000 for producing a circle "which in the opinion of qualified judges best reproduce the features observed at crop circle sites," was on offer.

It went to a three-man team from Westland Helicopters, based at Yeovil, Somerset. Quite appropriate when you think about it. Second prize was awarded to entrant Jim Schnabel and his trusty garden roller. The pair had been in action before, as Schnabel admitted having carried out an earlier circle hoax prior to the competition.

Entrants were asked to reproduce a complicated pattern, within a time limit of five hours, designed to test the argument that crop circles are the work of hoaxers.

Apparently, the judges concluded that none of the teams was able to recreate certain key elements common to all circles; such as the triple lay, where stems are braided together. It did demonstrate, however, the ability of hoaxers to produce impressive fakes.

And as Paul Fuller notes in his editorial of Issue 12, *The Crop Watcher*, 1992 especially has become a year dominated by the faking of crop circles. In fact, he cites the rumours that some of the leading lights among Britain's cereologists have become so disillusioned they are forsaking these shores for the United States. **ETA**

NOUGHT BUT CROSSES

One summer's day in 1596, the God-fearing folk of Wells were attending a divine service in the Cathedral church when they heard two or three claps of thunder, accompanied by a bright light. So loud and terrifying was the noise that the whole congregation threw themselves down on their knees.

Afterwards, many who attended the service were found to have had the marks of crosses imprinted upon their bodies. Even the Bishop's wife wife was likewise afflicted, and later he himself also found a cross on his own arm.

Matthew of Westminster narrates a similar occurrence happening in the year 790 AD, when the sign of the cross was seen to appear on the garments of men.



CASTLES in the AIR

By Michael J
Webster

WHEN ST JOHN had his vision of the New Jerusalem on the island of Patmos during the second century A.D., he could never have envisaged the phenomenon recurring nearly two thousand years after. According to the Book of Revelation, chapter 21 informs us that it was a holy city 'coming down from heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband'. Perhaps St John's experience was one of the first cities in the sky to be documented, but such visions of islands and cities are not so rare as one might believe.

Castles in the air are held to be figments of the imagination, but over the years, whole books have been devoted to describing them, along with the reports of many witnesses from all over the northern hemisphere. Many explanations have also been offered in support of them but the outcome is always the same with the mystery invariably being left open to speculation. This century has seen the subject of cities in the air taken over by science fiction writers with the result that actual sightings of huge aerial visions are not taken seriously any more. Prior to the advent of the sci-fi boom however, things were rather different.

In 1684, Roderick O'Flaherty wrote of a phantom island which was often to be seen off the west coast of Ireland. He also put forward some explanations to account for the sightings. Firstly he suggested that it was the island of O Brasil, a location which was known to cartographers but nobody else. He also maintained that it was a terrestrial paradise which was normally kept out of everyone's sight by special ordinance of God. Further theories of O'Flaherty included illusions of the clouds, and fabrications of evil spirits. He seems to have been a man to hedge his bets, but his statement that 'it is more than our judgements can sound out' seems to be the wisest of all.

The reference to O Brasil, and sometimes Hy Brasil, was continued by W G Wood-Martin in 1902. He recorded several appearances of it, one of these being in 1885 off Sligo. Another witness to the mysterious vision wrote of it: 'I myself, upwards of half a century ago, saw a wonderful mirage resembling that recently described as having been visible off our Tireragh coast (Co.Sligo), and had I been looking on the Bay for the first time, nothing could have persuaded me but that I was gazing at a veritable city - a large handsome one too, trees, houses, spires, castellated buildings etc.'

Wood-Martin claimed that the visions of such magnificent cities were reflections of real cities which were situated somewhere else. By way of underlining his solution, he referred to the claims made by sailors in Dublin Bay. They had frequently reported that they could observe the 'looming' of Mount Snowdon, this being a hundred miles distant.

Wood-Martin's theory however could not hold good for the visions from Ireland's west coast. The nearest city to the west is New York, and none of the familiar New York skyline has ever been included in the description of the phantom island.

At least two accounts have been recorded of the sighting of a distant land from the island of Sanday in the Orkneys. In 1840, and again in 1857, a beautiful landscape which included magnificent white buildings was observed in the sky. On the latter occasion, the image lasted about three hours. Apparently the phenomenon is not uncommon in northern latitudes, Orcadians being of the belief that the vision is of the crystal and pearl city of the Fin Folk, a mysterious people who occasionally open their city to mortal view.

Western Greenland must have been the most unlikely place to yield a vision of a large city. Nevertheless, it is on record by Captain Scoresby of the ship Baffin on 18th July, 1920. When he pointed his telescope at the then unexplored shore, he observed 'an extensive ancient city abounding with the ruins of castles, obelisks, churches and monuments with other large and conspicuous buildings'. Scoresby made some drawings of his discovery, which were later used by Sir David Brewster, who put them together into a panorama and used them in his book 'Natural Magic'.

A strange occurrence takes place quite regularly in Alaska where, between 21st June and 10th July each year, a wonderful spectacle appears in the sky. The general consensus here is that the vision resembles the city of Bristol more than any other. It is said that the Alaskan Indians were aware of the heavenly formations well before the time of the new settlers. The aerial city was photographed by Willoughby in 1887. A report in the New York Times on 31st October 1889 refers to a Mr L.B. French seeing quite plainly; 'homes, well defined streets and trees. Here and there rose tall spires over huge buildings, which appeared to be ancient mosques or cathedrals. It did not look like a modern city - more like an ancient European city.' The description concerned Mr French's vista in the sky near Mount Fairweather, Alaska.

In the Yukon, another correspondent in June 1897 beheld another great city in the sky. Other members of the man's party speculated as to whether or not the city was that of Toronto, Montreal or even Peking. Their conclusion however was that it was certainly historical, probably from the remote past.

Opinions have nearly always been divided whenever a new example has been discovered. Initially, the prime thoughts are of St John's vision, with the heavenly spectacular being turned into the New Jerusalem. With continued observation, various theories are put forward, the general idea being to find a logical explanation. Often the most popular theory is to place the phenomenon with a local origin. This was the case in Ashland, Ohio on 6th March, 1890. The report in the New York Sun spoke of a large unidentified city which was seen in the sky at 4 pm. A minority held the belief that it was the arrival of the New Jerusalem, descending from the heavens in true epic style. Most of the

population however were divided as to it being a manifestation of Mansfield, thirty miles, or Sandusky sixty miles away. With traditional American aplomb, the outcome was the dilemma over whether heaven resembled Sandusky, or, more to the point, could Sandusky be considered to be a heaven?

Further examples of cities in the sky were recorded by Charles Fort (the father of modern phenomenalism), in his collection called 'New Lands'. These include an Edinburgh skyline seen over Liverpool on 27th September, 1846, a snow covered inhabited village seen over Pomerania on 10th October, 1881, said to be part of the island of Bornholm a hundred miles away, and a series of spectral cities reported from Sweden between 1881 and 1888.

These cases are strange enough, but probably the most classic examples from the collection of Fortean cities in the air are Irish. On view for about three hours on 2nd August, 1908, above Ballyconneely on the west coast was a strange city of phantom houses all built in differing styles of architecture. Above Youghal in June 1801 was seen 'the most aristocratic city of mansions set in shrubberies behind white palings'. Also in Youghal, on two occasions, 'the apparition of a walled city in the sky appeared, these being in 1796 and 1797. There have been others.

There is an on-going agreement on one aspect of cities in the sky. Commentators recount the vision as being wonderful to behold, and never forgotten by the beholder. Why the subject matter is nearly always a city is difficult to understand. Why so many reports indicate ancient cities is even more difficult to come to terms with. Perhaps many observers of cities in the sky have subconsciously thought of St John as he watched the New Jerusalem float down from above. The phenomenon is not just castles in the air, for if we could only find the correct answer to the mystery it would be a revelation indeed.

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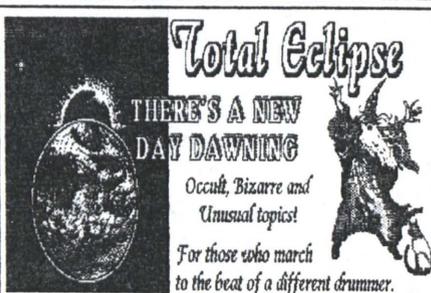
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MORE MUTILATIONS

This year there have been seventeen mutilations of horses in Hampshire, reported Sky News on 27 September.

The latest involved a family's pet horse in the Meon Valley, near Basingstoke, where the animal had apparently been beaten with an iron bar about its mouth. The injuries were so severe that the horse's jawbone had been exposed. Sky News said these incidents had been going on for the past ten years and often the attacks were sexually oriented.

A man drilling a water well hit ice believed to date from the Ice Age 180 ft below the surface at Jackson Hole in Wyoming.



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The Mystery Of The Winding Stairs

O J ROBERTSON

THE OLD CITY of Santa Fe, New Mexico, founded in 1610 and now the capital city of that south-western state in the United States of America, has a mystery which will probably remain a mystery forever.

The object of the mystery is the winding staircase in the beautiful Chapel of Our Lady of Light, part of the Convent of the Sisters of Loretto.

In the Autumn of 1852, a group of Sisters of Loretto, previously living and working in Kentucky, after a long and tiresome journey, jolted into Santa Fe in a caravan of covered wagons. Once settled they, with hired labour, established a convent and began working with the Indians and Mexicans who lived in the town and in the surrounding countryside. Some years later, the Sisters contracted other local workers to build a

school which they called Loretto Academy of Our Lady of Light. A Gothic chapel was also built.

While work on the chapel was in progress, someone in the construction crew made a mistake. The mistake was the beginning of the mystery. There was no way to go from the chapel to the choir loft! Expert carpenters were called in for advice. All of them said it was impossible to connect the chapel floor and the loft. The height was too great. Besides, a conventional stairway would take up too much room in the chapel itself.

Naturally, the Sisters were very disappointed but not daunted. They thought about and discussed possible solutions to their problem. As no practical ones came to mind, they decided to make a Novena to St Joseph. He had been a carpenter. He was a Saint they had loved. Prayers to him might help.

As the legend goes, on the last day of the Novena, a grey-haired man riding a donkey and carrying a toolchest stopped at the Academy. He informed the Sisters that he had heard of their dilemma and offered to build a stairway from the chapel floor to the loft. His offer was quickly accepted.

The stranger began work. The Sisters at the time said the only tools the man used were a saw, a T-square and a hammer. Where he obtained lumber for the stairway, they did not know.

When the stairway was finished and it was time to pay the unknown helper, he could not be found. And the local lumber company had no record of any purchases for the project.

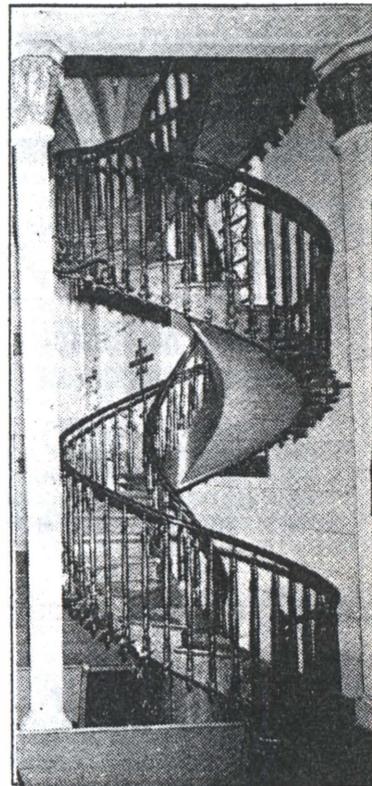
Why is the stairway in the Chapel of Our Lady of Light so extraordinary? Why do many tourists who go to Santa Fe seek it out, climb the winding stairs, wonder at its construction and say to themselves, "Who was the man who made this?"

The stairway is circular, winding like a corkscrew. It consists of thirty-three steps and two complete turns, each of 360 degrees. There is no centre support. It rests against the loft at the top of the chapel and on the floor below, where the weight seems to be supported. No nails hold the pieces together. The fasteners are all wooden pegs. The railings, an additional work of art, was not made by the mysterious builder. Two years after the stairway was built, the railing was added as a safety feature.

Architects who have inspected the winding stairs shake their heads and wonder how the stairway manages to stay in place. The curved stringers were evidently put together with precision and skill. On the inside, the wood is spliced in seven places. On the outside, nine splicings are seen. Each piece forms a part of a perfect curve. Wood experts attest that the wood, a hard variety, is not native to New Mexico. Its origin compounds the mystery.

Many people who climb the stairway to the choir loft say they seem to feel a slight vertical springiness as they ascend and descend. This, no doubt, is part of the secret of the stairway's construction.

As the winding stairway continues to stand the test of time, the present Sisters of Loretto, like those of the past, ponder the mystery of its building. Some think it was St Joseph himself who came in answer to the prayers of the original Sisters. If it was not he, then who was the mysterious carpenter who, with a few basic tools, fashioned this unsolved mystery?



SOUL TO SOUL

DEAD REGGAE LEGEND Bob Marley has got in touch with his wife and family...from beyond the grave. The singer communicates with his widow Rita and their children by speaking in their dreams.

Eldest daughter Cedella, 25, revealed that the superstar still has a guiding influence on all their lives. She says: "We all miss him terribly but we are comforted by the fact that he regularly appears to us in our dreams. That's how we talk to each other. He comes to my mother and I and helps us through our day-to-day lives.

"We've had our share of tough times since his death and he tells us to be strong and never lose hope. Rita still considers herself married to him...Death cannot separate them."

Marley, son of an English Army captain, died of a brain tumour at the age of 36, ten years ago. [Source: Daily Mirror 17 Sept 1992]

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DRUMMER'S PHANTOM LIMB

DEF LEPPARD DRUMMER Rick Allen gained a phantom limb after he lost his left arm in a car crash eight years ago. Rick confessed about his ghostly arm to Lynn Redgrave on BBC TV's *Fighting Back* show in August.

What wasn't broadcast was his revelations that other people could actually feel the missing limb as well. Said Rick, 29, "If I said to somebody: 'Put your hand where you think mine is', they could actually feel it." [Source: Daily Mirror 25 Aug 1992]

Vision At Holy Well Crash

A DUBLIN SECURITY guard has turned faith healer after claiming the Virgin Mary appeared to him.

Each Sunday afternoon hundreds of sick people gather at the site of the alleged apparition in the hope of being cured by Fred Bradley. The 34-year-old Finglas man boasts that he has the ability to cure virtually every type of illness, according to Cathal O'Shea, a *Sunday World* reporter.

In a feature on the "miracle man", published 13 September, readers learned that Bradley is the seventh son of a seventh son and became a full-time faith healer six weeks earlier. He now claims to have helped cripples walk and accident victims to regain consciousness from comas.

Bradley said he learned that he should be devoting his time to curing the ill after a recent motorcycle accident and is convinced that the Virgin Mary appeared to him after his bike skidded into a holy well at the side of the road in Mulhuddard, Co. Dublin.

"It was while I was praying for someone to come to my assistance that she appeared," he declared. "I felt a deep heat down my back and all of a sudden she was there."

"I never saw anything so beautiful in my life. She was floating about three feet from the ground and smiling. There was a warm wind blowing, but she did not say anything to me."

Bradley told the newspaper that although the Virgin Mary did not speak to him he somehow knew instantly that he had been presented "with the gift to heal". He now returns to the well every Sunday afternoon to meet with the hundreds who congregate there in the desperate hope of being cured by him.

Those who attended his "healing session" the weekend earlier included many seriously ill people, some of whom had travelled several hundred miles for the occasion. A number were confined to wheelchairs while others could only move with the assistance of walking frames.

Also present were several people suffering from incurable illnesses desperately hoping that Bradley could help them where the medical profession had failed. So many gathered at the scene of the claimed apparition that traffic lights had to be directed by gardai.

Bradley, who says his own seven children include a seventh son, claimed that among those he had cured were countless ill people who had been on regular heavy doses of medication prior to seeing him. But he maintained that once they had been "treated" by him they found they no longer had to take any tablets or medicine. He told the newspaper, however, that he always suggested they first get their doctor's advice before stopping.

Unlike most other faith healers he was not in the business for the money. "I have been given the gift of healing and do not believe I should be charging for it," he said. "I refuse to accept a penny and have turned away cheques for as much as £5,000 and £3,000."

"I tell people who want to give me money to make their donations to one of two Dublin hospitals instead."



THE IRISH CLERGY, villagers and Dublin's *Evening Press* are all united in blaming the activities of wealthy Dublin socialites for the mutilation death of a child's pet donkey in July.

The animal's body was discovered on East Mountain at Howth Head facing an outcrop known as 'Devil's Rock'. Three of the donkey's ribs, her liver and vertebrae had all been skilfully removed.

In a special report, carried by the newspaper on 14 September, the killing has been regarded as one of the most serious incidents of Satanic practise uncovered so far in that part of Ireland in decades.

Father Martin Tierney, who has studied the occult for more than 20 years, joined other Irish clergy in saying it is not unlikely that wealthy business executives, their spouses and friends may have been behind the "ritual slaughter".

The donkey was mutilated and beaten on a number of occasions before and local people said that a ruined cottage near the scene has been used for some years by practitioners of the "black arts". Burnt candles, pages from The Bible and occult symbols were among other evidence found at the scene by gardai. Fears were expressed in the report that similar acts might be carried out at the next Satanist "Feast" - 21 September, date of the Autumn Equinox.

DEATH FROM DEVIL WORSHIP

THE MOTHER OF 33-year-old Margaret Robson claimed that her daughter killed herself after falling into the clutches of a witches' coven, and she is now fighting to have Devil worship outlawed in this country.

Mrs Robson had long suspected that her only daughter had been trapped in satanism, said a report in the *Daily Telegraph* 15 September, and her fears were confirmed when she and her husband called to see Margaret at the £70,000 farmhouse they had bought for her in Mellor, near Blackburn, Lancs.

"There were two life-size witches at either side of the dining room table," she said. "They weren't cardboard cut-outs, they had gnarled fingers and everything. It was horrible."

Mrs Robson said her daughter tried to hide peculiar marks carved on the inside of her right arm. She noticed the same marks on two women who shared the farmhouse.

She said: "Margaret told me she had scratched herself on barbed wire. But the marks definitely weren't caused by wire." Mrs Robson added: "She always carried two small black cats around with her wherever she went, which was very bizarre. She wouldn't let anyone else touch them."

Once Mrs Robson noticed a book called *The Magical Arts in Margaret's* car while she was visiting them at Hexham. Her daughter died in May and during the inquest Mrs Robson expressed her fears about satanic involvement.

One of the women who shared the farmhouse told the inquest that marks on Margaret's arms were caused by a bacon slicer and figures of witches were for a Halloween party. The coroner ruled that Margaret committed suicide while the balance of her mind was disturbed.

Mrs Robson said: "Satanism and witchcraft are not illegal in this country and they should be. It's my mission to make them illegal."

IRISH ANIMAL MUTILATION IS LINKED TO SATANISTS

Fr Tierney, a Dublin priest, is an acknowledged expert in cults and sects, although he has never personally come across a genuine case of demonic possession. He said that while genuine Satanism is very rare in the country, a decline in spiritual values in favour of materialism had produced a craving for knowledge of the future.

Evening Press reporter Greg Ryan concluded his article with statements from Dr Charles Meyer, of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and Dr Massimo Introvigne of Turin, a leading European expert on the subject.

Dr Meyer says there are four levels of involvement in Satanic practices, ranging from the curious who treat it as a game, the dabblers who give minimum credence to Satanic principles, to the serious who are convinced of the genuine power of Satan and the fully committed who "stop short of nothing, even ritual murder."

Even those who carry worship to this extreme are unlikely to experience any direct contact with the Devil, says Dr Introvigne.

"Those cases of possession which have occurred are among people who have never sought any such contact and those who actively seek strange phenomena seldom if ever encounter it."



Premonition Or Simple Prophecy

MARI-ANNE DRAFFIN

I CAN'T BELIEVE that I'm the only one who has recurring incidents of "Seeing things". What is it that allows some of us to 'see' an occurrence before it happens? Sometimes only minutes before, but sometimes years.

For instance, I always knew, over 20 years ago when first married that "There should be four of us, but I only see three". As the years went by, we found ourselves with one child, then a second was on the way, but it never felt "right", and when a miscarriage came it was no surprise, and amazingly little trauma. I knew it would happen, and so we were "just three".

Or like the numerous telephone calls that I would take in the office everyday, but even tho' the ring was the same, I always knew when it was my husband for me.

And the number of times I would think something, only to have it voiced immediately following the thought as tho' my partner had read it in my head, right down to a particular peculiarity of expression or wordage.

So, two days ago, having returned from a 1200 mile trip, rather than park on our street which has limited overnight parking, I parked the car in an area where traffic wardens fear to tread, and in doing so felt relief that I'd found a "safe" parking space. For suddenly I 'saw' a white paper note in the windscreen wiper saying "Cannot Start", so that a parking ticket wouldn't be issued. And yesterday, when my husband went out to go to work, I waited by the door for his return. I hadn't mentioned any feeling of the car not starting - but sure enough, in ten minutes he was back - it wouldn't start. So we tried to push start it but only succeeded in arriving onto double yellow lines, and having to put the white paper saying "Cannot Start" under the wiper!

Is this a reluctant gift, or just coincidence? Somehow I don't think so. I would not want to be a Seer, but is this how the word evolved?

Acting The Goat

Ringo, an 18-month-old billygoat near Port-Vendres, south-west France, who has sired 45 kids, also produces a glass of milk every night.

The rare hermaphrodite goat has two small nipples near his male genitals. "This is a very rare natural phenomenon," said the local veterinarian.

[Source: AFP via Daily Telegraph 5 Sept 1992]

Big Red Little China

Tourists have swamped a national park in central Hubei, China, hoping to see a giant, man-like beast covered with red hair, said to roam there.

[Source: ITN Oracle 8 Sept 1992]

UNABLE TO PASS CUTLERY

A MAN IS facing a lingering death in jail . . . because his stomach is being destroyed by cutlery he has eaten.

Compulsive fork eater Allison Johnson, 47, has already had about 30 operations, a court heard. Now doctors have given him a year to live. Lincoln Crown Court was told Johnson still has eight forks and the metal sections of a mop-head lodged in his stomach.

Adrian Robinson, defending, said Johnson repeatedly went to restaurants and ordered a slap-up meal. Unable to pay, he would tell the owners to call police - and would eat the cutlery in the meantime.

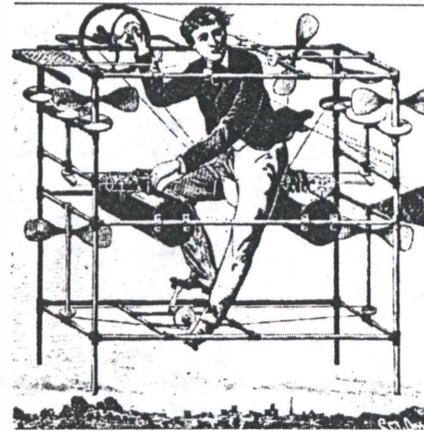
Mr Robinson said: "He is in pain and holds his stomach all the time. He finds it hard to eat and obviously has difficulty in going to the toilet.

"He has had two more operations for things he has eaten while in Lincoln prison. The cutlery swallowing and inability to stay away from alcohol comes from his lack of self-esteem. He punishes himself for his lack of it."

Recorder Michael Lee QC jailed Johnson after reading psychiatric reports saying he was not mentally ill."

[Source: Daily Express 25 Aug 1992]

AURORA SHAKING THE HEAVENS



THE SKY QUAKES AND earth tremors reported to have jolted northern Holland in late August have been blamed on one of America's top-secret aircraft undergoing test flights over Europe. Perhaps for the second time.

In June, California residents were regularly disturbed by mysterious rumblings that could not be attributed to earthquakes. Often, they occurred at roughly the same time each morning and seismologists there put it down to sonic booms.

Analysts from Jane's Defense Weekly, based in London, believe it is likely to be caused through testing of a new spy plane, nicknamed Aurora, and one which is capable of speeds up to 4,000 mph.

Some reports indicate that the vehicle is both revolutionary in design and propulsion. It is credited with having the ability to fly both very slowly and at great speed, with very little noise. However, the US Air Force denies that such an aircraft exists.

OPTICAL DELUSION

MOSCOW opticians fear that they will have to deal with a weird new epidemic of eye problems in coming years.

It's because rich young Russians refuse to peel the labels off their sunglasses when they buy a pair of Ray-Bans or other trendy shades. The risk of going boss-eyed is much less feared than the possibility that someone will think you are wearing Russian sunglasses.

[Source: Daily Express 25 Aug 1992]

NOTED ARTIST

An under age boy in Moscow drew 500 Rouble notes with a ballpoint pen and got it accepted. Militarists who spoke with the youngster said he undoubtedly had artistic talent.

Dead Lucky

A TEENAGE GIRL came back from the dead as her family lit candles and mourned around her coffin in Tamise, Belgium.

Waitress Delphine Barbiaux, 19, was reported missing to police after she vanished from her home. Her death was announced after police found a girl's battered body in a ditch ten days later.

Delphine's step mother identified the body as her step daughter - and put a death notice in the local paper. The coffin was placed in the family home. Wreaths began to arrive. Then the phone rang.

"I've heard that I'm dead and the burial is tomorrow," said Delphine. "But I'm very much alive and staying with friends. There's nothing wrong with me."

Said a police spokesman: "This is very embarrassing. There was a muddle because the dead girl was badly disfigured."

[Source: The Star-Dublin 15 Sept 1992]

MORE than 8,000 Australian racing pigeons vanished without trace after starting a 300-mile race to Sydney five days ago, organizers said. [Source: ITN Oracle 3 Sept 1992]

Dear Mr Lovell

I wanted to write and thank you for yet another exceptional issue of *Annals*. They seem to be getting better with each succeeding one. I also wanted to comment on your report of the Cornishman who is building his own Stonehenge.

Here in North Yorkshire we have our own monolithic version, in the form of a folly named Ilton Temple, constructed nearly 180 years ago near Masham by a local eccentric William Danby. It is a charming place to visit and I only hope Mr Fryne's circle (*Annals Vol 3 No 5*) is half as nice when completed.

Signed

Mrs M Maitland, Lottthouse

Dear Gerry

Thank you for the new *Annals*, as lively and interesting as ever, or even more so this time. It was good to be reminded of poor Crosse. No doubt he was right in some way but the news he brought was unwelcome.

Ian Campbell's 'Circles of Time' is a fascinating serial. He is well and truly in the world that lies between truth and coincidence (like Crosse?), and I look forward to the next installment. The idea of a circle of sites is quite an old one - Major Tyler, a Watkins contemporary, explored it in his *Geometrical Arrangement* book, and Bruce Chatwin was interested in it since it fitted his 'nomadic round' idea. Like all such recurrent themes, it no doubt has some truth lurking in it but no one has pinned it down (Has anyone ever really pinned down anything?). Perhaps Ian Campbell with his energy and computer resources will do so.

Signed

John Michell - Editor The Ceresologist, London

Ed comment; Ian continues his contribution next year. Alas, my drawing of Crosse (executed using a mouse) did not do him justice. He looked more like the late Liberace - perish the thought!

Dear John (No Phil, it's Gerry-Ed)

... I was interested in your comments on page 7 (*Annals Vol 3 No 5*) about the way disabled people were taken to crop circles and led to believe that they would be 'healed' by the energies. You were quite right to agree with the Channel 9 reporter's comments, for most crop circles are man-made hoaxes that have been created to sustain a flying saucer fraud! ... You will see from *The Independent Magazine* that a group of hoaxers have just been exposed in Wiltshire. This expose strikes at the very heart of the crop circle fraud and the controversy will now begin to hot up as the crop circle 'experts' resort to more and more crazy means of saving their reputations and keeping the money rolling in ... The Bulleigh Woolton circles of 1990 and 1991 were both hoaxes perpetrated by 'travellers' operating in your area. If you know anything else about these people the NFU have requested that we supply names and addresses which might lead to prosecutions!

Signed

Paul Fuller - Editor The Crop Watcher, Romsey

Ed comment; It is sad such hoaxing on a grand scale has had the effect of ensuring that, should there be a naturally occurring phenomenon, others have been allowed to bury it under so much chaff. As all forms of research in the UK are notoriously underfunded any likelihood of serious sustained research will have been delayed, perhaps indefinitely. While some is continuing, must we necessarily have to rely on the Americans and Japanese to tackle the mystery in an appropriate manner?

Letters TO THE Editor



Dear Gerry

I have various ponderings or wanderings, whatever you care to call them, and I do spend a lot of time thinking! For someone like me that is probably dangerous, but regarding Evolution!

Darwin's theory of evolution concludes that we are evolved from the apes. Now, I don't mind that, for I reckon we are quite well-refined if that's the case, but I do object to the thought that I was just worked on to shorten my arms a bit, make my bottom a little less like a monkey's, and become hairless except for certain parts of the anatomy; to restructure my face so that it looked less as though someone heavy had sat on it and been given an appetite for things like spaghetti, bacon and eggs and Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding, as opposed to eating leaves and picking nuts.

I'd like to think maybe that when God's creatures were roaming the Earth, that He took the best of each of them to create man. If you think about it, we could have the dolphins' intelligence; the fish's ability to swim; the ants' capacity to build; the bees' working ethics; the cunning of the fox; the sharpness of the lynx; the strength of the lion; the speed of the panther and so on.

Personally, if that's how He arrived at me then I still consider Him to be a brilliant creator.

Signed

Doris Dickson, Newcastle

Ed comment; You'll not make a monkey out of me, Doris. Your bananas are in the post.

Dear Sir

The following incident took place in the sky above our town one Thursday afternoon in late August, and has left not only myself perplexed but also others who shared in the incident.

It had been one of those all too rare perfect days, warm, calm and with a clear blue sky to the horizon. Suddenly the peace was shattered by the loud roar of a jet aircraft travelling overhead and quite low. We are quite used to this due to Shafterbury's close proximity to the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovil.

I had a good clear view of the sky but searched in vain for the aircraft but was unable to spot it. I thought no more about the incident, until approximately ten minutes later the roar from the sky returned. Once again I stared upwards and scoured the sky from horizon to horizon, asking my wife to do the same. Still nothing was visible.

In fact, the 'invisible' aircraft actually passed over the town five times and at no time was it the slightest visible. Another couple walking nearby had also stopped to look and were as bemused as ourselves at how it could be possible to miss such a low flying plane.

We still have no answer,

Signed

D and S Taylor, Shafterbury

A MERRY XMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR

**NEXT
ISSUE**

**BROTHERS FROM OUTER SPACE ...
WEYMOUTH SEA MONSTER ... LUNAR
MADNESS ... THE HOUSE THAT DIED ...
REVIEWS ... AND MORE ...**

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