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 EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: ALLEN H. GREENFIELD
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EXPLOSIONS, POISONINGS AND OTHER ITEMS IN THE DAILY PRESS

There was an article in The Atlanta Journal for October 7, 1970, a UPI item, discussing an unexplained explosion which had apparently occurred on October 6th at about 9:30 in the evening.

Apparently at the time of the explosion fiery material was seen falling from the sky. I'm not absolutely clear on whether this took place before or after the explosion. If after, it might simply be material thrust up into the air by the explosion itself, whatever-it-was. The explosion may have been of considerable magnitude.

A couple of officials were mentioned in the article, and I sent off letters to both, dated October 9, 1970. I received a reply from one dated November 5, 1970, which apologises for the time lag in replying. It would appear from this letter that at that point, about a month after the explosion itself, the incident was still unexplained officially.

Now, items of this sort may have no meaningful relationship whatsoever to unusual phenomena in terms of their actually being part of some great, unknown Complex. However, within the static of a lot of perfectly conventional though unusual-sounding material we may find an element that does tie in with the hypothetical general fabric of the unknown.

If you have nothing better to do, you might try an experiment something like this: head for the largest newspaper stand in town; one that carries lots of out-of-town papers. (If you live somewhere in a remote jungle, you might find it appropriate to take a rain check on this particular experiment.) Buy up as many out-of-town papers as you are willing to carry home.

Next, once you are home, read through these papers looking for odd items; someone struck by lightning here, someone vanishes without a trace there. See what you come up with.

If you expect this to reveal some Grand Sinister Pattern to you, you might be disappointed. On the other hand, don't look too hard for any pattern, or you may just find one that isn't there at all. On the third hand - and if you have one of those you really have better things to do than sitting there reading newspapers - if you take a reserved-but-interested view, you may find that, even on a random day, quite a bit shows up of unusual phenomena interest. Not always something spectacular, but possibly minor items of interest, like the one in The Nashville Tennessean for December 13, 1970 which documents a wave of unexplained animal poisonings. It seems that over twenty animals

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THE FIRST LAW OF PHYSICS

By Allen H. Greenfield

There was a knock on the door and I picked up the phone; right away, I knew I was in trouble. A voice boomed out: "I am the god of physics, and I have decided to change the rules."

In panic I dashed out the door, up the stairs into the street. Gazing around, I could see the street cars clanging past, several cigar store indians chitchating, and the usual crowd giant bats flapping down the block. Everything seemed normal, but somehow I knew things weren't right when a voice issued forth from a manhole, saying: "I am the god of physics, and I have decided to change the rules."

Rushing about in all directions, I happened to trip over the leg of an elderly wino in pink leotards, who mumbled something vague in my ear. I would have taken extreme umbrage, but I suddenly recognized the bum as my long-lost aunt from Fort Wayne. (In the back of my mind I knew that there was no such place as Fort Wayne, but no matter.) We embraced, there in the gutter, and it was as if we'd never parted.

"The family fortune," she said, "is hidden in Rhode Island." I knew of the place, being an educated man. So, I stepped into an elevator shaft and was instantly shafted to Woonsocket. I hitched a ride into the desert, and there on the shore I could see the last, faint traces of The Old Mine.

I had no sooner dug my way under the wall, when sirens sounded and the warden's voice began blaring from behind the blinding floodlights through the loudspeaker system. "This is the Warden," he stated unnecessarily, "we have you surrounded." I was about to surrender my weapon, but I realized that I didn't seem to have one. Perplexed as to what I should do, I stood silently waiting. The warden's voice boomed again. "I am the god of physics," I heard, "and I've decided to change the rules."

"Meaning!" I shouted at the top of my voice. "Meaning! A story must have Meaning, or it isn't Relevant to Our Time!" But the voice only repeated itself from the troll cave beneath the bridge: "I am the god of physics, and I've decided to change the rules." (Did I really hear a change in inflection? Do gods change inflection? Do gods have inflection?)

The guns fell silent, then, and I knew that the ship must have entered the eye of the storm. Quickly activating the subdrive, I blasted my way through the horde of Knujs, my magical sword howling with the lust for death. Unmoved, I inched forward. A wiseman grasped my sleeve and asked for directions to Bethlehem. Instead, I sold him some Christmas Seals and gave him a five minute lecture on air pollution. He thanked me profusely.

He also told my fortune.

There was only one thing left to do. The Woonsocket Chamber of Commerce. Pressing a series of buttons on my repulser belt, I found myself before the desk of -- the god of physics? -- No! The Chairman of the Woonsocket Chamber of Commerce.

"Now, look here you," I said unprofoundly but with disarming directness, "you cannot hang the Duke." The man seemed unamused. His cruel smile revealed a mouth filled with yellowed and decaying teeth. The stench was frightening. Nevertheless, his honeyed voice rasped, "So you've come about the family fortune, eh? We know how to deal with your kind."

The comment sounded vaguely anti-semitic, but it didn't matter because I wasn't Jewish. "Alright." I recovered. "So you say." My comment sounded vaguely anti-Chamber of Commerce. He flew to his feet.

"I resent that Suh!" he said, his mint julip falling to the floor. "If you will so honah me, suh, we shall meet upon the field of valour."

"You mean the field of honour, don't you?" I replied helpfully.

"But we don't honor credit cards, sir." The waitress replied. "Well then," said I, "I'll pay cash." As I reached across the table for the check, my eyes fell upon the paper placemat. Sure enough, it was in reality a map giving directions to the family fortune. Asking if I might keep it, I received a positive response. I dashed out the door, pacing of a number of steps down a neighboring alley.

There, at the end, was my goal. Scrambling the last few paces, clawing my way to the peak, I grabbed the chest and, upon planting the flag and saying a few Appropriate Words, shot off the ancient metal lock with my musket.

Naturally, the box was empty, save for a note which read:

TAKE A DEEP BREATH.

I did.

As my lungs filled with water, my life seemed to pass before my eyes. A voice from somewhere inside my head bubbled, "I am the god of physics, and I really have changed the rules."

"But," I gasped as I went under for the last time, "meaning -- what is the meaning?"

"Huh?" the voice answered, rather inelegantly, I thought.

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in a fairly small area of Nashville had been poisoned without explanation inside of a month's time. Another item in the same day's Nashville Tennessean dealing with railroad-related accidents mentions the unusual demise, on December 11, 1953, of a former soldier named Walter Knox Winchester. Winchester, it appears, was walking rapidly straight down the tracks looking up at the sky when he encountered - as one might, walking on railroad tracks, a train. The engineer sounded bell and horn, etc., but Winchester simply didn't get out of the way.

---- shg
December 15, 1970

review

TODAY'S WITCHES - by Susy Smith - Prentice-Hall

"...accurately detailed figures will never be available, because the one thing witches learned long ago was the importance of anonymity and secrecy...."

- Susy Smith
in Today's Witches

Just how large is the witchcraft cult in the world of atomic energy, advanced communication and manned lunar landings? Is it a problem, a joke, a fad; just what is it?

That there is such a cult, or at least the rumour of it, may be apparent to alert observers of the current scene. Estimates of size vary. In The Parafuologist, Volume One, Number One, we find an estimate from an article in True magazine of "a minimum of 5000 active witches in New York, possibly double that number in L.A., with other groups elsewhere...." In the work presently under consideration the author mentions the estimate of "....as many as 60,000 witches and warlocks...." in the U.S.A. alone. A UPI item in The Atlanta Journal and Constitution for December 6, 1970 by Kathleen Neumeyer quotes Arthur Lyons Jr.'s estimate of 20,000 Satanists in this country!

Now Satanism and witchcraft, let me hasten to say, are not necessarily the same cult. One might argue that witchcraft, at some levels, is the opposite of Satanism; the difference between positive and negative movements dealing in the same area. To look at it in another way, one might define Satanism as being a negative subcult within the framework of "witchcraft philosophy". Author Smith might seem to be holding with such a view when she states (page 3):

"...I have a number of friends who are witches. In fact, I was initiated as a member of a white witches' church. I did not join the cult, however, and am not a witch; but I believe I understand them as much as any layman is likely to, and I like much of what I have observed...."

This is said early-on in the book. I don't know that the qualified positive judgement this statement may reflect is borne out by the rest of the work, considered as a whole. In this globe-encompassing book we find ourselves, in Chapter II, witnessing a primitive ritual in Haiti; in Chapter III, we find an American case of unpleasant personal disruptions via witchcraft; in Chapter VII yet another disagreeable encounter, this time in South America.

A defender of witchcraft might argue that, while a great amount of nastiness connected with witchcraft exists, this is only 'black' witchcraft; there is also 'white' witchcraft.

Could be. However, one might be deeply disturbed by the implications of the entire witchcraft scene. Perhaps we are now at the end of one era, a physical, non-psychical one, and the beginning of another that will contain, as one of the prime ingredients, a psi factor. The witches of today could be the vanguard of such an era; adepts who will guide the world into the responsible use of tremendous new powers. Possibly. But I, for one, am not part of the sweetness-and-light crowd. There are too many gas ovens, wild-eyed fanatics and needless deaths in my history book for that. My instincts regarding the new witches and

the possibilities of a wonderful psi age are more guarded. Whether occult powers work or not is another matter. But if they do - and there is some evidence that indicates as much - the possibilities for misuse can be a grim area for contemplation. Some kind of movement to deal with these matters would seem much in order. I should think that responsible parapsychological research fills this bill in theory, though one might wish for a considerable improvement over the present status of things. Witchcraft, though some advocates may be perfectly well-meaning, is a more dubious proposition from some vantage points. It remains to be seen whether this will prove to be the correct consideration of the matter. It remains also to be seen whether the current witchcraft cult will be just another flash-in-the-pan or something more meaningful.

Near the end of Today's Witches author Smith states: "...The opinions of our many articulate practitioners of the art indicate that there is a potent force for good in the world that the majority of us are constantly ignoring and wasting. It would seem that if we did more than just leave it to the witches, we could have more success in our daily lives...." This is all very well. But I am afraid that the history of mankind - if nothing else were to be considered - would suggest that in this quotation the word "potent" should carry a considerable weight in our considerations of the matter. Psychic forces may create a world of light, but so might have atomic energy, had things been different.

And if it wasn't raining it would be a clear day.

review

THE PSYCHIC READER - Edited by Martin Ebon - Signet

A reader not too up on the world of psychic research wishing to get a balanced, intelligent, across-the-board view of the current situation, or a more advanced student wanting a refresher course in the basics might give consideration to this volume.

The Psychic Reader does cover a wide range of psychical matters, from telepathic experiences, through paranormal photograph, and on to the nitty-gritty of life-after-death.

In a section written by Kent Jordan the reader finds an account of the life of Helena Blavatsky. Induced telepathy is discussed in a segment by George Mavros. Eva Hodges discusses Ted Serios.

In chapter 15 (pages 119-126) Michael Ballantine recounts an experience with an apparition. The gentleman who happened to have this particular experience was a fellow by the name of Nathaniel Hawthorne, of whom you may have heard. The incident is recorded in a letter written by Hawthorne. It is regrettable that this letter was apparently written many years after the phenomenon manifested itself; Hawthorne seemed unsure himself as to the exact time lag. In any case the incidents in question took place in a Boston library which he was then in the habit of frequenting. An elderly minister by the name of Harris, another frequenter of the library, passed on.

Fine. (Unless you happen to be Harris.) But, sure enough - since this is supposed to be a ghost story - Hawthorne kept right on seeing Rev. Harris at the library.

The first encounter with the ghost of the late Reverend Doctor Harris took place, it would seem, before Hawthorne knew that the elderly gentleman had gone on to his reward (or back to the library). Upon being informed that Harris had shuffled off Hawthorne, who was under the impression that he had seen him earlier in the day was a little taken aback.

Next day, back at the library, Hawthorne walks in and, sure enough (though, according to the account, he may've hardly expected it), there sits Harris in his usual place reading a newspaper.

This phenomenon appeared to go on day after day for a long period of time. Annoyingly, but perhaps interestingly, too, Hawthorne never attempted to communicate verbally with the shade. From the account, N.H. seems to have been quite aware of the oddity of this aspect of an already odd story. It may strike some readers of this review as odd, too, but the present writer can somewhat understand the possibility of such seemingly inappropriate response to an outlandish situation. Others who deal with unusual phenomena might also know of such experiences.

If I have dealt a bit lightly with this story in recounting it here, the reader should not go away with the impression that this is an unimportant incident. It would hardly seem to constitute "proof" of the survival theory, but it does constitute another link in a chain of evidence.

In another chapter the Houdini communication business is discussed. A section by Dr. Gertrude R. Schmeidler perhaps gives us an indication of the degree to which scientific methodology can be applied even to field investigations of paranormal manifestations. Such application might extend a long way into the area of meaningful discoveries.

The Psychic Reader could use an index, but then, I fear, so could a lot of books that lack one. As far as I can see, this Reader lives up to the title.

review

THE OTHER PEOPLE - by Pat A. Brisco - Powell - fiction

Or is it. Fiction, that is. Upon opening the cover of this paperback one may find a little blurb, or whatever-you-would-call-it that indicates, with how much seriousness I do not know, Brisco's support of ~~beliefs that there is~~, indeed, such a group of individuals.

What sort of individuals? Vampires, werewolves, witches. But with a difference. The creatures that roam this novel constitute a subculture of sorts within modern civilization. They are actually a kind of anti-human; creatures that originally evolved as a natural enemy of man, but had survived beyond their usefulness in this function. They had therefore attempted to adapt themselves to human civilization.

THE OTHER PEOPLE deals with the lives of some contemporary examples of these creatures. Advanced students of unusual phenomena might readily recognize certain similarities between the fictional world here depicted and the shadow world of certain aspects of unusual phenomena research.

PRELIMINARY NOTES TOWARDS A HISTORY OF THE PRIVATE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT FIELD IN THE UNITED STATES

I. THE "PREUFOLOGY" OF THE 1940s

- (1) Kenneth Arnold
 - A) The explosion of 1947
- (2) The "preufoology" structure of the 1940s
 - A) Borderland Sciences Research Associates
 - 1) Meade Layne
 - 2) History since the 1940s
 - B) The Fortean Society
 - 1) Charles Fort
 - a) His works
 - b) His philosophy
 - c) His life
 - 2) Tiffney Thayer
 - 3) Publications
 - C) The Shaver Mystery
 - 1) Ray Palmer
 - a) During the period in question
 - b) Subsequently (briefly)
 - 2) Richard Shaver
 - a) During the period in question
 - b) Subsequently (briefly)
 - 3) Organized Reaction to the Shaver Mystery
 - 4) The nature of the enigma
 - D) The Dawn of the 1950s
 - 1) Early books and articles
 - a) Frank Scully
 - b) Major Donald E. Keyhoe and True
 - 2) 1952

II. THE UFOLOGY MOVEMENT OF THE 1950s

- (1) Albert K. Bender
 - A) The IFSB
 - 1) History of organization
 - 2) The mysterious closing
 - B) Albert K. Bender subsequently
 - C) Publications
- (2) George Adamski
 - A) Leslie
 - 1) Flying Saucers Have Landed
 - 2) the initial contact experience
 - 3) subsequent encounters
 - 4) criticisms
 - 5) Adamski's later life and following (briefly)
 - 6) other contact accounts of the decade
 - 1) George Van Tassle
 - 2) Truman Bethrum
 - 3) Reinhold Schmidt
- (3) Personalities and organizations of the 1950s
 - A) Gray Barker
 - 1) They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers
 - 2) The Saucerian (publication)
 - 3) Saucerian Books
 - B) James W. Moseley
 - 1) Nexus (publication)
 - 2) Saucer News (publication)
 - 3) The Saucers and Unexplained Celestial Events Research Society

- C) Max Miller
 - 1) Saucers (publication)
 - 2) subsequently (briefly)
 - a) Real in the middle 1960s
 - D) Norbert Gariety
 - 1) S.P.A.C.E. (publication)
 - E) Frank Edwards
 - 1) Radio broadcasts
 - 2) My First Ten Million Sponsors
 - 3) subsequent history (briefly)
 - 4) publicising CRIFO
 - F) Leonard Stringfield
 - 1) CRIFO (organization)
 - 2) CRIFO publications
 - a) CRIFO Newsletter (publication)
 - b) CRIFO Orbit (publication)
 - c) Inside Saucer Post 3-0 Blue
 - 3) Leonard Stringfield subsequently
 - G) Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York
 - H) Major Donald E. Keyhoe
 - 1) Prior to NICAP
 - 2) As director of NICAP
 - 3) NICAP history (briefly)
 - I) Mrs. Coral Lorenzen
 - 1) APRO
 - 2) books
 - a) The Great Flying Saucer Hoax
 - b) others
 - J) Ray Palmer
 - 1) Mystic (publication)
 - 2) Search (publication)
 - 3) Fate (publication)
 - 4) Outer Space (publication)
 - 5) Flying Saucers (publication)
 - K) National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena during the 1950s
 - 1) The Early period
 - 2) the organization during the 1950s
 - 3) The UFO Investigator (publication)
 - 4) The controversy with the Air Force
 - L) Captain Edward J. Ruppelt
 - 1) The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects
- III. A BRIEF LOOK AT SIGHTING REPORTS DURING THE 1950s
- (1) Huge number of cases
 - (2) the French cases of 1954
 - (3) the photographic cases
 - a) McMinnville
 - b) the Adamski photos
 - c) the Utah movie
 - d) the Montana movie
 - (4) the Lubbock lights
 - (5) 1957 wave
 - (6) Rev. Gill
- IV. AMERICAN UFOLOGY IN THE 1960s
- (1) the teen ufology movement and a new generation of ufologists
 - (2) new personalities
 - a) Timothy Green Beckley

- 1) INS
 - 2) Searchlight (publication)
 - 3) books
 - 4) E.S.P. (publication)
 - b) Harry Siebert
 - c) Alan Kats
 - d) Rick Hilberg
 - e) Allen Greenfield
 - f) Dale Rettig
 - g) Jerome Clark
 - h) Edward J. Babcock Jr.
 - i) David Halperin
- (3) cases, publicity and the explosion
- a) slowness of early decade
 - 1) lack of publicity
 - 2) low number of sighting reports
 - 3) outstanding reports
 - A) X-15 cases
 - b) the explosion
 - 1) Lonnie Zamora - 1964
 - 2) the Summer, 1965 wave
 - 3) Michigan, 1966 and the wave of 1966
 - 4) public interest
 - A) television and magazine coverage
 - B) Flying Saucers-Serious Business a best-seller
 - C) 1967 New York flying saucer convention
 - 1) thousands attending
 - 5) governmental interest
 - 6) The Condon Committee
- c) turning-point and decline: 1967 onward
- 1) fall-off of publicity
 - 2) the negative Condon Committee conclusions
 - 3) the closing of Project Blue Book at the end of the decade
- (4) another new generation - new personalities and publications from the middle 1960s onward
- a) Joan Whritenour
 - 1) Saucer Scoop
 - 2) books
 - b) the midwest- clue to the future (?)
 - 1) Skylook (publication)
 - 2) UFO Potpourri (publication)
 - c) Steve Barnett
 - 1) Scientific Union of U.F.O. Organizations
 - d) Riethe Flah
 - 1) The Kansas Newsletter (publication)
 - e) Kevin McCray
 - 1) The A.F.S.I.C. Bulletin
- (5) Congress of Scientific UFOlogists
- a) Rick R. Hilberg
 - 1) conference call, 1962
 - b) convention proposed approximately 1963
 - c) Cleveland, Ohio, 1964
 - 1) Allan J. Manak
 - 2) Rick R. Hilberg
 - 3) Earl J. Neff
 - 4) James W. Moseley
 - 5) David Halperin
 - 6) Allen H. Greenfield
 - d) subsequent conventions

- (6) NICAP in the 1960s
 - a) growth of organization
 - b) administrative problems
 - c) controversies
 - d) reorganization
 - (7) theoretical changes in the UFO field in the United States
 - a) back look: UFological theoretical thinking from the early 1950s through the middle 1960s
 - 1) the extraterrestrial theory
 - 2) other theories
 - b) middle 1960s: John A. Keel and the new theoretical thinking
 - 1) earlier views along similar lines (?)
 - A) Tom Comella
 - B) Meade Layne
 - 2) John A. Keel
 - A) speeches and articles
 - B) coming books
 - 3) Jacques Vallee
 - A) earlier books
 - B) Passport to Magonia
 - (8) the new contact cases
 - a) John F. Reeves
 - b) Woodrow Derenberger
 - c) Sid Patrick
 - d) the Hill couple (briefly)
 - (9) the Hill case
 - a) the involvement of writer John G. Fuller
 - 1) Incident at Exeter
 - 2) The Interrupted Journey
 - b) Barney Hill's passing
 - (10) scientific involvement
 - a) the J. Allen Hynek story
 - b) Dr. Donald Menzel - critic of the ufo phenomena
 - c) Dr. David Saunders
 - d) Dr. Barthold E. Schwarz, M.D.
 - e) Jacques Vallee
 - (11) the contactee movement in the United States during the 1960s
 - a) Giant Rock conventions
 - b) Adamski during the 1960s
 - c) the post-Adamski period
 - d) other movements
 - (12) Deaths in the UFO field in the United States during the 1960s
 - a) Edward J. Ruppelt
 - b) Prof. Charles Maney
 - c) Frank Edwards
 - d) George Adamski
 - e) Robert Loftin
- V. UFOLOGY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1970s
- (1) sighting report lag
 - (2) 1970 Congress of Scientific UFOlogists
 - a) held in Columbus, Ohio
 - b) small public turn-out
 - c) fairly large turn-out for delegate sessions
 - d) plans for 1971 - the Congress continues
 - (3) continued interest
 - a) an active movement in the midwestern states?
 - 1) Midwestern UFO Conference
- b) UAPA

- 1) Mansk-Hilberg merger
- 2) Flying Saucer Digest (publication)
- c) NICAP
- d) APRO
- e) ICUFON
- f) Flying Saucers (publication)
- g) Anomaly (publication)
- h) The Paraufologist (publication)

C O M M E N T A R Y : Oh, help me Mr. Moskowitz

Well, gang, here we are. Or, rather, here I am, sitting at the old typewriter at about twenty minutes of five in the morning, having finished the above outline which you may've taken the trouble to read through.

Now, to those who know me, my being up typing at such an hour doesn't mean that I've been working away to the edge of human endurance; this is as much prime time for me as any.....whatever that means.

The outline above may or may not ever become anything more than what it is as you see it. If it falls short of what you think an outline on this or any subject should be, it does. Outlines are not exactly a daily habit:

In theory,

what specialty publications lack they make up for in the kind of specialised material they publish. So, o.k., am I not serving the function well here? When did you last see an outline of ufological history in print? So, with whatever flaws you find, there it sits, above.

Actually, I think perhaps it isn't done too badly at all.

Where it goes from here, I don't know at this writing. I should think the subject is worthy of a book, but don't count on me to write it. I suspect I'll never get myself to sit down and do a real honest-to-Uris book for a long while yet, if I should live so long. I've been knocking out publication stuff for a number of years now, but I doubt that anytime soon I'll be ready for the big step-up to a book. So, if some writer wants to pick up on this, feel free to use my outline, and if it serves any major purpose, you might dedicate the book to me or something.

As to fleshing it out to an article or group of articles, well I might one of these days hit the right mood and do that.

Having written the thing, perhaps it will in and of itself serve a purpose. Those who basically know what I know about UFOlogy history can flesh it out inside their own heads, and perhaps those who don't will be able to get something out of it as well.

Comments on the outline are invited.

---- Allen H. Greenfield