

"Gray Barker should have lived forever, but he didn't."

- JAMES W. MOSELEY, writing in the Dec. 15th issue of "Saucer Smear"

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

# SAUCER SMEAR

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EDITOR AND STILL  
SUPREME COMMANDER:

James W. Moseley

NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

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MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 1709  
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33041

IN WHICH WE OFFER A POSSIBLE SOLUTION  
TO THE LONG-TIME MYSTERY OF THE INFAMOUS "R.E. STRAITH" LETTER  
WRITTEN TO GEORGE ADAMSKI MANY YEARS AGO (CIRCA 1957).

Just a few months before Gray Barker's untimely death, your editor told him (again) that we intended to Confess to the "R.E. Straith" hoax if he were to die ahead of us. Barker simply said, "Oh, why do that?"

Why indeed? Hardly anyone remembers or cares very much any more, anyhow. But Kal K. Korff cares, having begun his own investigation of the matter several months ago - claiming that new techniques could pick up latent fingerprints on the original letter, even after all this time. (We still wonder about that!) We told him, quite honestly, that we have no idea where the original letter is, or who has taken possession of it since Adamski's death. And Richard Ogden must care, since he, as a wild-eyed pro-Adamski raver over the years, was a frequent suspect. And Timothy Good of England should care most of all, having written a 1983 book called "George Adamski: The Untold Story", together with an elderly lady named Lou Zinsstag. In their book, these researchers concluded that (as Good put it in a letter to "Smear"), "much of the evidence is circumstantial, but on balance there is more in favor of the letter being genuine."

What, then, was the Straith Letter? We don't have a carbon, but we remember it as beginning "My Dear Professor", in deference to Adamski's self-appointed title. It went on to say that some people in the State Department, including the undersigned, felt that Adamski's claim to have met a spaceman on the California desert in 1952 was valid. The letter was written on official State Dept. stationery, and was signed "R. E. Straith" of the Cultural Exchange Committee (which does not exist, nor did it ever)

For many years, your editor used to visit Gray Barker in Clarksburg, West Virginia for a weekend every few months - i.e., whenever it fitted in with our mutual schedules. On one particular occasion in 1957 (?), a young friend of Barker's with a relative high in the Government, had provided Barker with a packet of genuine official stationery from various Government agencies. To the best of our present recollection, through the mists of Time, Barker and I wrote not one but seven (count them!) naughty letters that evening - emboldened by the evil of alcohol and fully enjoying the hilarity of this chance to throw long-term Confusion into the UFO field.

Of the seven letters, only the one signed "R.E. Straith" (in deference to "R.E. Palmer") achieved immortality. One of the others went to Coral Lorenzen of APRO; another went to Laura Mundo, a long-time pro-Adamski researcher; still another went to one of the Inner Circle of the old



(2)

Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York (CSI) - either to Isabel Davis, Ted Bloecher, or Lex Mebane. There are two of the seven that we can't remember anything about at this stage, but all were written on a different genuine, official letterhead. The seventh and most frightening of the letters, purported to be an official reprimand to your "Smear" editor's father, written by a Government official objecting to his having indulged in extreme right-wing political activities while on a military pension.

Your editor returned to Fort Lee, New Jersey via Washington, D.C. (as he often did), following that weekend. Whereas Barker had written the letters on his own typewriter and signed them in your Editor's presence, it was your Editor himself who pursued the matter by actually mailing them from Washington. Not all seven, mind you, but only six. Wisely, he decided that the letter threatening to revoke his father's military pension was "too hot to handle", and threw it out. (General Moseley subsequently died in 1960, at the age of 86.)

There ensued an FBI investigation, not so much out of fear that Adamski's claims would prosper, but because of an understandable Governmental concern about misuse of official stationery. (After all, had we been Evil, we might have used the State Dept. stationery to try to start World War III!) Barker was eventually questioned by the FBI, although your Editor never was. Barker ended up mangling his offending typewriter and "burying" it in various walls. He was so paranoid about the matter that he never quite told us what he did with it exactly, but needless to say, the typewriter was never found.

Eventually the FBI investigation was dropped, either (a) because no proof could be obtained as to who wrote the letter; or (b) because it was so obviously a harmless hoax; or (c) because the father of the man who provided the stationery put pressure on the Government to lay off. We really don't know which factor was most important, and quite possibly all three factors were involved.

Those researchers who chose not to believe Adamski anyhow, merely assumed the letter was a hoax and let it go at that. Some suspected that Barker/Moseley were behind it, and this may indeed be the Top Secret reason why Walt Andrus has never allowed your humble editor to join MUFON. A 1950's era researcher named Lonzo Dove wrote an accurate, detailed expose of the letter as having been written on Barker's typewriter. He made the mistake of submitting it to SAUCER NEWS for publication. Not surprisingly we turned it down, and Dove never forgave us!

Other researchers who chose to believe Adamski assumed the letter was genuine. Their belief was bolstered by the fact that, when Richard Ogden and others sent certified mail to R.E. Straith at the State Dept., Straith always signed for his letters! Thus, by "saucer logic", Straith had to exist!

Adamski reveled in the letter, and kept showing it around to bolster his claims, in spite of Government warnings not to do so. Did even he believe it was genuine? We'll never know for sure.

And finally - is your editor sorry for what he and Gray Barker did? Your editor never saw any great harm in it, but we can easily understand why Completely Serious Researchers were offended. Was Gray Barker sorry? Only sorry that the Feds turned out to have no sense of humor!

So - with one less mystery to solve than yesterday, let us all Press On now, to a reasonable and hopefully accurate solution to the flying saucer enigma.

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**Tester links  
pygmy defect  
to shortness**

THE EVENING PRESS  
(BINGHAMTON, N.Y.) 10/22/81

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**Idaho group organizes  
to help service widows**

THE IDAHO STATESMAN 3/30/82

**British left  
waffles on  
Falklands**

THE GUARDIAN 4/28/82

TID-BITS OF TRASH:

You will note that this time we have saved our Coveted Back Page for a number of semi-humorous items. Our favorite is the first item on Page 8, taken from the front page of a recent issue of the prestigious Miami Herald (newspaper). Tiny little Key West must have a lot of influence in far-off Miami to rate so much space for such a trivial dispute! Incidentally, your editor ran an ad for his pre-Columbian antique gallery in the very same playbill that was so cruelly censored, but ours was a small, modest ad on an inside page, and thus there was no trouble about it....

Another serious tragedy has struck what's left of the UFO field: Just a few days following his recent UFO convention on Staten Island, N.Y., SBI Director Pete Mazzola was involved in a terrible car accident, in which he apparently almost died. At last report he was still in the hospital recuperating, and the SBI organization was grinding along slowly under the direction of an office manager named Dorothy Soultanokis. Since Pete is also Director of the now semi-defunct North American UFO Federation (NAU-FOF), he is the titular head of all Ufology. We wish him well in his recovery....

Our thanks to OMNI Magazine for their nice write-up about "Smear" in the current January issue (Anti Matter column, page 85). Modesty prevents us from revealing the contents of the article here. OMNI is well known for its anti-UFO bias, but nevertheless seems to Dig our humble Zine. - Thank god they omitted our address, because we aren't looking for new non-subscribers. (We have enough trouble with the old ones!) Our contact at OMNI is, strangely enough, the Games Editor - a long-time non-subscriber named Scot Morris. We have seen him do his stuff on the Johnny Carson TV Show, and he is brilliant....

Every year, we (as does the Skeptical Inquirer, apparently) do the Unthinkable, and save the National Enquirer's predictions made at the beginning of the year, to the very end of the year, to see how well they Make Out. We regret to report that in 1984 they blew it again! Among the predictions that didn't make it: Prince Rainier and Jackie Onassis will marry; John Lennon's ghost will save Yoko Ono from a fiery death; proof of life on other planets will be found (they make that one every year!); "Mr. T" will be hit by lightning; Nancy Reagan will be involved in a helicopter crash; John Denver will be buried alive in a snow avalanche (while High in the Rockies??); Liberache's fingers will be broken by a piano lid; Frank Sinatra will suffer a heart attack; etc., etc. Of course, there's a couple of those that maybe should have happened but didn't; and then there's the prediction about the price of gold hitting \$1,000 per ounce, which really should have happened - since we invest in (among other things) gold. It's a good thing that no one in their right mind takes this stuff too seriously!....

HOT PRESS-TIME FLASHES: Dr. Leon Davidson, who for some 30 years has been propounding the theory that the CIA is secretly behind the hard core of unexplained UFO sightings, has just phoned us to say that he has "received an offer he can't refuse" and will therefore discontinue his research into saucers, assassinations & such. Leon will devote his remaining years to playing with his home computer, says he. Way to go, Leon!.... By coincidence or otherwise, "Dr." Williard McIntyre (formerly of Maryland's MAR-CEN, now of California) sent us another long hand-written letter just a few days ago, praising Davidson's CIA theory and expanding on it in detail. McIntyre has been a Mystery Man in the UFO field ever since he joined NICAP many years ago as a photographic consultant....Still no firm date for the 1985 NUFOC convention, but it will probably be April 25th. Stay tuned!

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES:

AUGUST C. ROBERTS writes:

"I know it's sad, and will bring tears to lots of eyes regarding Gray Barker. I know I will miss him deeply. To me, he was like part of my family; and now forever, the four of us - Gray, Dom (Lucchesi), Jim and I - can never again hold up our glasses and say to the whole world, 'To the last cup and saucer.'

"....Gray was a big man in size, but a bigger man in quality. He will be missed!"

Amen. - Editor.

RICK HILBERG of Cleveland writes:

"Although it did not come as unexpected news, Carol and I were deeply saddened to hear the news of Gray Barker's passing. In what turned out to be his final public lecture at last September's National UFO Conference (NUFOC) in Cleveland, Gray indeed looked very tired and ill. Still, the death of one of the pioneers of the UFO movement, and a personal friend of many years, merits a few lines of fond reflection.

"Simply put, Gray was probably the finest writer the UFO movement has seen to date. So skilled was he as a true wordsmith that he could make an ordinary UFO sighting seem somehow special and almost magical. In this light his 1970 book, 'The Silver Bridge', comes to mind as an example of a beautifully woven work of art not usually seen in the UFO literature. Also, who can forget his 1956 'They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers', and the sense of terror one experiences reading it on a dark and quiet night. I literally had shivers the first time I read it, as a youthful saucer buff!

"However, more than anything else I will remember Gray as a true gentleman. In some twenty years I really can't recall him saying anything bad about another ufologist. He was also ever so patient in answering questions from his many fans at UFO meetings and conventions.

"Such a giant will be dearly missed."

BOB SCHILLER writes:

"....The announcement of Gray Barker's death really got to me.... I don't give a damn if Gray did make some of his stuff up - it was good reading. It made the world seem exciting for awhile. It really contrasted with the dry statistical-type UFO reportage that is the norm today...."

Contactee JENNINGS FREDERICK writes:

"....I just felt that I should pay tribute to a man (Gray Barker) whose contributions have made their mark upon Ufology, and also to the memory of a fellow West Virginian....

"I am sure Gray Barker was no saint! For Gray did not give me a fair shake on my book about my personal UFO experiences - although I am sure he had his reasons for rejecting my book, and after all it is a free country! So I hold no bitterness toward Gray or his memory. Yet it is indeed true that he may have profited as well as sensationalized in reporting the UFO situation in Point Pleasant, W. Va., and as such he did the UFO witnesses a 'wrong turn' (their exact words!) in his 1970 book 'The Silver Bridge'.

"In closing I can only say that I hope my research and forthcoming books will be as widely accepted as those of Gray Barker...."

KEN BEHRENDT writes:

"I was truly saddened to hear of the demise of Gray Barker, especially since he had a manuscript of mine which he was considering for publication. Come to think of it, over the last few years practically every publisher that has offered to advance my UFO literary career has either wound up in prison, the intensive care unit of a hospital, or the cemetery. What a remarkable coincidence! Kind of like all the Warren Commission witnesses who beat trillion to one odds and died prematurely after the Kennedy assassination!

"Anyway, my own efforts to publish a UFO research journal are still on schedule, and the first issue should be available in late Jan. or early Feb. of '85. Since I am now my own publisher, I will be wearing a bullet-proof vest and carrying a .45 caliber automatic - just in case!..."

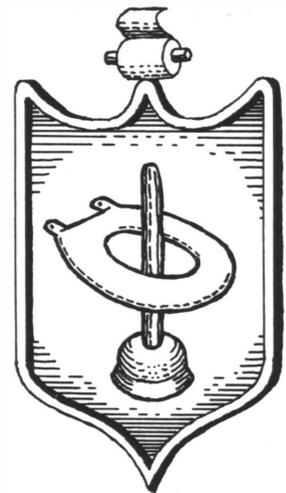
BARRY HOFFMAN delights us with:

"We have thoroughly researched your family tree and are forthwith providing you with a most accurate facsimile of your glorious Coat of Arms (shown at the right.) Your crest contains: (1) The sceptre of esoteric knowledge; (2) The ring of anti-gravity, which acts as a barrier against excessive immersion in esoteric knowledge; (3) The sacred scroll of purification, at the crest's apex, upon which is written the occult knowledge of the Cosmos. This Coat of Arms precludes all others which may have been provided to you by other sloppier research establishments.

"Good day to you, kind sir.

"I remain at your service,

"Sir Randolph Suction-Pipewallow III,  
Royal Order of the Water Closet (ROWC)  
Flushing on the Thames (FOTT),  
United Kingdom (UK)"



Egads, what can we say?? - Editor.

P.H. TATE, who really is from the United Kingdom, writes as follows in regard to our Nov. 5th "Smear":

"....Re the remarks made by Al Greenfield, in regard to so-called researchers and the organizations they form, and how they love important-sounding titles to boost their egos: I suppose we shouldn't begrudge them their fun, but when they turn up at what is supposed to be a serious conference dressed up in motley 'uniforms', complete with baseball caps, and worse still, a knowledge of the subject that would embarrass a moronic gnat, it makes one wonder what is loosed on the public in the name of Ufology. At least they are not likely to generate enthusiasm amongst the Hoi Polloi!...."

"Dear old Klass - what would we do without him? No need to answer that. He's always good for a line or two, I think. He really loves it all; otherwise he would surely have called in the CIA (or OGPU) and finished off his critics long ago. I see he quotes corresponding with kooks and dum-dums. Has he never heard of like calling to like, birds of a feather, etc?...."

For instance, Wyatt Earp and his brother, Morgan, once wondered whether a dying person sees heaven or hell in his last moments, as Morgan had once read.

On March 17, 1882, as Morgan lined up a billiard shot in a saloon, he was hit from behind by a round of .45 slugs. He crumpled to the table and confided to his brother:

"You're right, Wyatt. You don't see a damn thing."

—Steve Marshall

And, speaking of our favorite Ufological Devil, PHIL KLASS writes:

"Enjoyed 'Smear', as always. But I am a bit surprised that you published Jerry Clark's comments about my alleged role in termination of future University of Nebraska/Lincoln conferences, without an Editor's Note quoting from the Associated Press article I sent you earlier. In case you mislaid it, I enclose a duplicate."

The clipping in question states in part: "University of Nebraska/Lincoln officials say they decided not to sponsor a conference on unexplained phenomena this year because similar conferences in 1982 and 1983 lost money." - Editor.

BOB GIRARD of Arcturus Book Service (263 N. Ballston Ave., Scotia, New York 12302) writes:

"I could not help but notice your moral outrage in the 12/15/84 'Smear' over the offering of John Keel's manuscripts for \$1500. It is most satisfying to see that an Arcturus catalogue is capable of revving people up into such frenzies!

"Actually, John Keel wrote the advertisement; I put in the comment about rare manuscripts, etc. The entire offering was intended to show Keel (who has been trying of late to get me to charge \$50 for George Adamski books so that Arcturus will be able to survive as a business) that I do not underprice material."

KATHY DOBKIN, a professional writer of some note, writes:

"....Much of the flap about the earlier UFO sightings in and around Kingston (N.Y.) and, I believe, Gardiner or thereabouts, has died down. But every now and then, one hears the vague drift of notions such as - There Are Aliens Among Us Now! At the time of the sightings, one of my husband's colleagues, a very abnormally normal sort of person, a Republican and Tillson Estates resident who otherwise believes that all will be well with the world as long as the day is begun with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and ended with a dry martini, - saw the thing and was temporarily thrust into that psychic state peculiar to those whose faith in the Ordinary has been irrevocably shattered by virtue of their eyesight. He has not become a True Believer, however, and now will not speak of it unless forced or cajoled into it with threats of the cancelling of Happy Hour...."

The inevitable ERIK BECKJORD writes:

"....Bigfootology calls upon me to respond to Master Tim Curry (19) on his comments on the Patterson film, in your Nov. 5th 'Smear'. Briefly, this: A picture is worth a thousand words, and two seconds of movie frames - 32 frames - speak far more strongly than the words of someone who was 90 feet away, 17 years ago, looking at the back of the BF entity. Babies tend to hang onto the fronts of humanoids when they are walking, and the front of the creature is visible for only two seconds in the whole film, which lasts 58 seconds. Gimlin, with all due respect, couldn't see much in two seconds from 90 feet away, when the baby's head is only six inches or less in size. It is also black, and blends in with mama's fur.

"....In response to Rabid Rene Dahinden's letter in your current issue, attacking ye olde editor for printing the likes of me, I should point out that his very virulence is evidence that I have gotten somewhere in BFology. It has been said that when the attacks increase, you are getting closer to some sort of achievement....Rabid Rene is upset because after 28 years he's never seen a Bigfoot, while upstarts like myself have done so

a few times. Also, I assisted Mrs. Roger Patterson, a lovely widow lady, to get her husband's film of Bigfoot copyrighted, which has caused Dahinden much grief in his attempts to claim 100% ownership via various lawsuits, most of which he has lost. As an example, he sued Peter Byrne, a retired Bigfootologist, a few years back in Federal court in Portland, over alleged copyright infringement of a single photo from the Patterson film. He wanted \$50,000, but thanks to legal assistance I gave Byrne's lawyers, Dahinden lost the case and some \$17,000 he had spent on it over the years. I have copies of the ruling for anyone who wants to read it. All legal.

"Then too, Rabid Rene is upset because yours truly has suggested in print that there might be a UFO/paranormal connection with Bigfoot, while he, the grand old curmudgeon of Bigfootery, is stuck with old ideas."

Our olde pal RON SCHAFFNER writes:

"....I am really sorry to hear about Gray Barker's death. I met him in Chicago at the FATE Convention in 1977. I've always liked to read his material, even though it was all bullshit. His shittiest work was 'The Silver Bridge'. He always had kind words for OUF0IL. He was a good person, and I was honored to have seen him again in Cleveland recently.

"Your comments on Keel were definitely worth publishing. When I first became active in Ufology, I was a follower of 'Keelology', but after becoming objective, I now find holes in much of his work. The only credible research that may be half documented is the Mothman case. We (Brent Raynes & I) went to West Virginia in 1976 and talked with the original witnesses....To us, they seemed really sincere in what they claimed took place...

"But the best entertainment of this 'Smear' was on pages 7 & 8. Rene Dahinden and I have been corresponding since 1980....I will be the first to admit that his writing style sucks. However, he knows Bigfoot research probably better than anyone else. He has been around in the field since the 1950's. He knows all the crazies and he really tells it like it is. His English isn't very good because he is Swiss. All the info he has on Pilichis, etc. comes from me. Like us, he has become more skeptical over the years. I think his turning point was in 1977 when the Canadian bus driver was hoaxed. (I mentioned this in my Cleveland lecture.) Rene was the only researcher out west to smell something rotten in Walla Walla. I think that his latest and most precious endeavor is to totally destroy Erik Beckjord.

"Speaking of Erik - I wish him luck in Los Angeles....The Bigfeet and the anthropodal robots should throw him a farewell party before he leaves the northwest!...."

LARRY ("Old Red Eyes") PETERS writes:

"....Please pass it along to Mr. Dahinden that I would be more than happy to meet him out there, and then he can judge for himself whether I am crazy or not. These experiences that we have encountered are very unusual, and it is enough to drive one crazy. All I am saying to anyone who will listen is: Walk in my shoes, then tell me my feet stink; but don't shame me unless you have been there ahead of me!

"When Mr. Dahinden referred to Ray Wallace, the confusion came about when I requested Ray Wallace to put up or shut up. I asked him to produce evidence that his film was not a hoax by having him explain the dates, times, procedures, etc. - things that would satisfy me that his films are real. Mr. Wallace can't produce this information because he knows those are men in monkey suits and the footprints are made by man. He has never responded to my simple inquiry, so if this makes me crazy, then tell Mr. Dahinden I am crazy, alive, and doing quite well!...."

# Bottom line: Ad's flesh is too fresh

By CHRIS VAUGHAN  
Herald Staff Writer

KEY WEST — It was curtains for the rear cover of 1,500 playbills when Florida Keys Community College censors deemed an ad featuring the uncovered rears of eight men "inappropriate."

The program's inside back cover for the Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center's production of *Oliver!* featured the ad for La Te Da, a gay-oriented restaurant and guest house on Duval Street.

"We felt [the ad] was inappropriate for a college publication," said college spokesman Linda Jones, who said college President William Seeker assigned her to take care of the project. Seeker is out of town and unavailable for comment.

When the offending ad was discovered, Jones said, college officials tried to cover the barely-clad backsides with a "Censored" stamp and silver ink, but neither worked.

So they decided to snip out the ads.

A different ad for the restaurant will take the place of the first picture when the next set of programs is printed for the fine arts center's January production, the *Bits & Pieces Puppet Theatre*.

"I don't know why they have a problem with flesh," said La Te Da proprietor Lawrence Formica.

"We thought it was kind of cute."

Formica blames "the usual small minority of big mouths" for the removal of the ad, which appeared on the inside back cover of the program. He says if college officials found the ad offensive, they've had two months to say so.

"They had plenty of lead time on this," Formica said. "The first time anybody said anything was at the gospel program."

The ad appeared in the program for *Ministry of Song*, a gospel music performance that began the fine arts center's winter season Nov. 23. It was excised before *Oliver!* audiences got to see it.

Jones said the college received no complaints about the ad. She said she and Helga Bazo, Seeker's assistant, made the decision as soon as they saw the ad.

"The college never had an opportunity to see the cover," said Jones. "It wasn't printed until the last minute."

Jones said the college made adjustments to the bills of La Te Da and another advertiser, Fast Buck Freddie's, to compensate them for the loss of paid advertising. Fast Buck Freddie's spokesman Bill Conkle, who said his store was an "innocent bystander" in the controversy, refused comment on the content of the ad, but blamed college proofreaders for failing to identify a problem until much too late.

Formica said he is "not annoyed, but disappointed" about the removal of the ad: "I've never seen so many pretty buns in my life," he said.

La Te Da business manager Stephen Hoel said there may be a silver lining in the controversy.

"We've been getting such good feedback on this that we're thinking about making a poster out of it for the people who didn't get to see it," Hoel said. "It could be a big seller around here."

DEAR EARTHLING:

Hi! I am a creature from outer space. I have transformed myself into this piece of paper. Right now I am having sex with your fingers. I know you like it because you are smiling. Please pass me on to someone else because I am really Horny

Thanks!



Dead Man Found in Desert —  
Later Sold at Auction  
as Human Raisin

## Police take dim view of his monkeyshine

NORTH WALES, Pa. — Jerry McGaghey, who was celebrating his 20th birthday in a rented gorilla costume, was charged with frightening children. Police Sgt. Robert Freed, who made the arrest, said he heard yelling and grunting sounds in a densely forested area. Then he spotted "the alleged gorilla" swinging in a tree next to a private road used by kids to get to a swimming pool. McGaghey was issued a citation and released.