

DON'T FORGET THE GLORIOUS 23RD (and possibly last!) NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE'S ANNUAL CONVENTION, TO BE HELD MAY 16th-18th IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA! DETAILS AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 3 AND ON PAGE 8. C - U THERE!

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

SAUCER SMEAR

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EDITOR AND STILL
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James W. Moseley

NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

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MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1709
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33041

COMMENTS ON THE DEATH OF DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK (1910-1986)

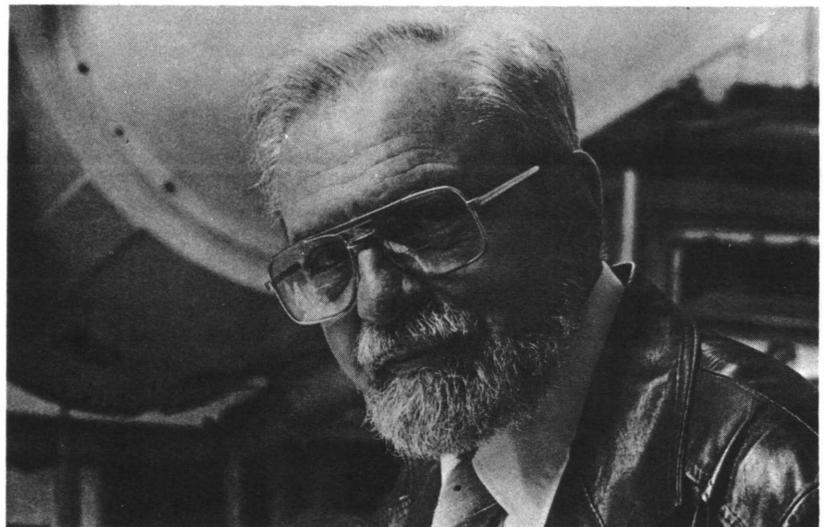
A SCIENTIFIC PIONEER IN EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN

As we understand it, Mark Twain was born in a year of Halley's Comet (1834?) and correctly predicted his own death in 1910, which was the next time the Comet returned. Dr. J. Allen Hynek was born in 1910, and after knowing he had brain cancer, he told friends that he "would go out with the Comet." His death on April 27th was on almost the exact day that the Halley Comet viewing period ended in the U.S.A. for this time around. Hynek did manage to see the Comet a few days before he died.

The above, though interesting, is irrelevant; for Allen Hynek was a scientist and not a superstitious man. As head of CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies) since 1973, he was the de facto leader of ufology for over a decade - replacing Major Donald Keyhoe (U.S. Marine Corps, Retired) who, as head of NICAP, was the acknowledged leader of the field during the 1950's and the 1960's.

Keyhoe was nothing more than a pretentious aviation writer who, because of his contacts in Government and the Washington, D.C. address for NICAP, was able to "snow" the public into assuming NICAP was somehow connected with the Government, at the same time that he attacked the Air Force endlessly for its alleged UFO cover-up.

Hynek, on the other hand, had authentic scientific credentials, and well deserved the respect he received. For 20 years (1948-1968) he was the chief scientific consultant to the Air Force's Project



Quick guesses or wishful thinking will not do -- only well supported, well-executed research will eventually yield answers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Allen Hynek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scientific Director,
Center for UFO Studies

Bluebook. From the point of view of UFO believers, Hynek's job was to successfully debunk all well-publicized UFO cases, in order to keep the public calm. The high point came in March, 1966, when Hynek was called in to try to explain a series of close-up sightings near Dexter, Michigan. Under pressure from the press to come up with an explanation, Hynek mentioned "marsh gas", and then the Shit hit the fan, because the explanation simply did not fit. For months after that, Hynek was ridiculed as "Dr. Swamp Gas" in cartoons and editorials throughout the U.S., and public interest in UFOs soared to an all-time high. (It was Hynek's "marsh gas" that led to your humble "Smear" editor being called upon to lecture to over one hundred colleges around the country, 1966-1975.)

Eventually Hynek, as an intellectually honest man, came to realize that some of the UFO cases he was called upon to identify really were strange and not easily explainable in conventional terms. He lost his Air Force contract and eventually founded CUFOS, where he tried to walk the tightrope between scientific objectivity and advocacy, i.e., Belief. Some fault him for having been less than perfect in performing this almost impossible task. Your editor knew Hynek as an open-minded mild-mannered gentleman who did the best he could. Though he tended to believe in UFOs, he was not wedded to any particular theory - which was entirely to his credit, though it greatly annoyed some interplanetary Believers. Actually, Hynek was quite sympathetic to the "4-D" (or "3½-D", as we call it) Theory, & stated so publicly many times, as well as privately to your Editor and others.

Our only quarrel with Hynek was a mild one, just a few months ago. As noted in "Smear" at the time, Hynek's last signed editorial in the "International UFO Reporter" came down hard on "Smear" for having printed a letter he didn't agree with, written by Jerry Clark, his own editor. We never took this up with Hynek directly, because we assumed that he was already a victim of the terrible disease from which he soon died. His memory and no doubt his sense of proportion were already failing, and we are told that by the time of his death he could not even physically recognize his family and friends. Death was a merciful release.

Hynek's last years brought him, sadly, a sense of failure, for he fully realized that he had not solved the Mystery, nor had CUFOS attracted significant funding, nor, in general, had other prestigious men of science followed his lead, to become openly involved in UFO investigation. Someone with a more forceful personality might have done better, but only by a terrible lowering of standards.

Who will take Hynek's place as "Numero Uno" in the American UFO movement? We know of no one on the scene who can match his qualifications. Phil Klass, who has always accused Hynek of having "switched sides", tells us facetiously that he too would be willing to switch if the price was right. Few if any ufologists would even consider accepting Klass in such a role, though in reality he would probably do a more objective job than most people. But no, we are not advocating Klass as leader of ufology! Let us just wait and see what happens in the next few months.

Marijuana called top cash crop in nation

Illegal alien wins \$2 million in lottery

SAN JOSE, Calif. — A young Mexican who sneaked across the border in search of the American dream will go home with a big piece of it after winning the California Lottery's \$2 million jackpot.

Jose Caballero, a 24-year-old illegal alien who earns \$200 a week, will be able to collect his winnings — \$100,000 a year for 20 years, less taxes — but he'll have to leave the country or risk deportation, officials said Tuesday.

That's fine with Caballero, who said he'd planned to go home anyway to see his parents and eight brothers and sisters, who thought he was joking when he called them from Los Angeles after winning the jackpot Monday.

Our friend James ("The Amusing") Randi is to the field of parapsychology what lovable old Phil Klass is to the field of ufology. On the night of April 22nd, Randi reached the height of his career as a debunker, as he was the first and longest (nearly a half hour) guest on the nationwide Johnny Carson Show. Of the material Randi showed and discussed that night, the most interesting to us was a film of faith healer Peter Pop-off, being fed "psychic" information about his audience through a tiny receiver in his ear! Quite a bold expose in this era of right-wing religion being openly supported by President Reagan himself! We can well imagine that both Carson and Randi attracted some hate mail out of this television interview.

And speaking of hate mail, Randi was involved recently in another newsworthy incident. Back in March, he lectured for the Southern California Skeptics at Cal Tech, in Pasadena, Ca. A ufologist unknown to us, named John De Herrera, had sent a highly derogatory letter about Randi to the FBI before the lecture, with a copy to the people running the meeting. Randi was neither amused nor amazed. He tells us that he read the full text of the letter to the assembled audience and then punched De Herrera in the face in front of everyone, dropping the man to the floor!

The gist of the letter was apparently similar to a "blackmail packet" about Randi that was distributed a few years ago to various parapsychologists and others, by supporters of alleged psychic Uri Geller, whom Randi has exposed endlessly. We have never seen the packet, but your editor became aware of its existence while attending the first annual CSICOP convention in Buffalo, N.Y. At least one well-known attendee there had received this packet, and the matter was discussed in detail among various people there at the time.

The main charge being made against Randi is that he has allegedly had homosexual relationships with various young boys. Whether the charge is true or not, it would not seem to pertain to anything psychic, and shows the vicious methods being used by pro-psychics to get even with Randi for his exposes.

The case of Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens of Arizona comes to mind, although there are important differences. Stevens pleaded guilty to three felony charges involving pornography and sex with female minors under the age of 15 (said to actually have been about 10 years old). Stevens is now serving six years for this, in an Arizona prison. He insists that he was framed because of his pro-contactee books, and in particular his support of the infamous Billy Meier (of Switzerland) contactee case. Incidentally, "Saucer Smear" was the only zine fearless enough to publish the facts surrounding Stevens' difficulties with the law, at the time they occurred.

PRESS-TIME DETAILS ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING PHOENIX CONVENTION (See also Page 8): The convention will be dedicated to the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek. It is likely that several speakers will have something to say about this, including MUFON's Walt Andrus, who (surprisingly!) will participate in the convention & speak briefly at the banquet, as we understand it.

Our apologies to ERIK BECKJORD whose name was omitted from the list of speakers on Page 8.

Here's an abbreviated (due to space limitations) schedule of events: Fri. May 16th, 5 to 8 p.m.: "get acquainted" cocktail party. Sat. May 17th: 8:45 a.m.: Your "Smear" editor, as Permanent Chairman of the National UFO Conference (NUFOC), will open the convention and introduce master of ceremonies Hal Starr. Sat. at 9 a.m.: ERIK BECKJORD, with the famed New Zealand film; 10:30 a.m.: Daniel Fry; 1:30 p.m.: Robert Sheaffer; 3 p.m.: Brad Steiger; 4:15 p.m.: William Moore; 7 to 8 p.m.: "no host" cocktail party; 8 to 10 p.m.: Banquet, with Stanton Friedman (main speaker) & Walt Andrus. Sun. May 18th, 9 to 12 a.m.: "Open Forum" with a group of second-string speakers (including your editor) participating.

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES:

PROFESSOR ALVIN LAWSON of "Birth Trauma" fame writes as follows:

"Dear Mosey:

"Since you persist in PR-ing UFO gang-bangs, you probably don't give a rat's (ass) as a whole for this - but UFOs have probably been explained (cf. 'Geophysical Research Letters', 4/86). It seems ultraviolet photos have turned up 'spots' in Earth's atmosphere - 20 per minute worldwide! - which may be caused by bodies from space which average 40 feet across, travel at 20 k/sec., appear in localized areas, and then vaporize. They are made of matter but don't often register on radar. One proponent says that hundreds of thousands have visited Earth over the years. He claims they are spent comets. I say, whatever they are, dust, varying gases, etc. make them visible. Sorry, pal, but the UFO/ETH party's over!...."

Very interesting! - Editor.

THOMAS CANNON, a Black philanthropist and retired postal worker from Richmond, Virginia, writes as follows:

"....I have lived the 'black experience' for nearly 61 years now, so I do feel qualified to make personal comments on the subject of 'colored ufologists'. Christopher Allan's question (in 'Smear') was a good one as well as an understandable one. The answer to his question not only can shed some light on why 'coloreds' don't display more interest in UFOs - but why they don't show more interest in other areas of concern dear to the hearts of white activists (the peace movement, women's liberation, the environment, etc.)

"Before I comment on 'coloreds' and ufology, Jim, I must confess that I never cease to be amazed that many whites seem to believe that blacks are not concerned over the same kind of issues that concern whites and all other racial categories of humanity. After all, blacks are a part of the very same Universal Life-Force that spawned the human race here - so why on earth would their thought processes differ from that of any other race of humans? Just because they don't participate in a particular crusade or cause on a massive scale - this does not necessarily indicate that they have no serious interest or belief in that cause or crusade. They just don't blindly follow every white leader that jumps out of the bushes. Like whites, they prefer to follow their own black leadership on issues they feel are important, at a timing of their own choosing.

"Now, on this business of their lack of involvement in ufology - some of the answers given in 'Smear' are quite perceptive and 'right on target'. For example, Ken Behrendt strikes home when he stated that 'perhaps because of racial discrimination they would feel awkward interviewing UFO witnesses who are mostly white.' Precisely! Because blacks know very well that most whites are racist and hostile toward them, few, if any, blacks would seek to interview them at all (and I surely would not be among that few.) Even those friendly whites who would like to cooperate would hesitate to do so for fear of being branded a 'NIGGER LOVER' by their social peers. So the black ufologists would have a problem not faced by their white counterpart.

"Bob Schmidt says in 'Smear': 'First they (coloreds) carry a superstition around which is a genetically-rooted fear of matters unknown.' This is absolute racist Ku Klux Klanish bullshit! All races of people tend to fear 'the unknown', and one's genes don't have a damned thing to do with this fact.

"I don't know of any 'colored' ufologists in this area, but hell, I don't know any white ones, either. Nevertheless, I feel certain that there are 'colored' ufologists all over, in the sense that they are quite interested in UFO phenomena. As to why they don't step forward and publicly announce their interest and involvement in ufology - why should they?"

The conservative 'Christian' society we live in gives whites hell who confess to a serious interest in UFOs. Blacks have enough problems just being black - let alone being 'colored ufologists'....

"Then too, Jim, any 'coloreds' seriously interested in UFO phenomena would likely have a much higher than average level of intelligence and awareness. If there is anything white racists don't know how to relate to, it is a black man who thinks for himself. So a 'colored' interested in UFOs just isn't going to get a lot of publicity unless he captures one. The national news media has always seemed far more interested in spotlighting black weaknesses, criminality and immorality than in showcasing any kind of black intellectualism. The 'black inferiority' stereotype must be perpetuated at the expense of interracial peace, harmony, and progress. Thus we have witnessed the very recent TV network obsession with 'black illegitimacy' and 'the break-up of the black family', as if the weakening of family life and illegitimacy isn't a growing problem generally. This is the kind of negatively-selective treatment that tends to keep most blacks away from that which they consider to be 'white interests' - like ufology...."

Famed UFO researcher GEORGE FAWCETT writes:

"I continue to enjoy 'Saucer Smear' in its coverage of UFO facts and fiction, but most of all because of the coverage it gives the human personalities, who did and continue to bring light to the darkness of UFO investigations and research.

"One of the best and most involved black UFO investigators I've met was Rob Anderson, a science school teacher in Winston Salem, N.C. The congenial Rob served as President of the Tar Heel UFO Study Group in 1982, as well as Master of Ceremonies for the 7th Annual MUFON of N.C. UFO Conference, also held in 1982. His leadership attracted several blacks into the organization and to the conference in 1982. Perhaps leadership sharing in the UFO field with blacks would make UFOs a racial success also...."

Non-subscriber BILL RETOFF writes as follows:

"Many thanks for the latest 'Smear', which came today.

"First I read the various comments about why there are hardly any blacks involved in the UFO field. Then I read your remark on Page 2: 'In ufology, everybody wants to be a "chief" and nobody wants to be an "Indian". All of which got me wondering: How come there are so few Indians involved with UFOs?

"Ugh!"

BILL STEINMAN of California, a hard-core crashed disc devotee, writes as follows:

"....Since I wrote to you the last time (July 19th, 1985, to be exact) a lot of information has surfaced, pertaining to the solution of the flying saucer mystery:

"1. The Group MJ-12 has been identified by actual members' names, as the group of individuals who are totally responsible for covering up the truth concerning flying saucers and classifying the subject matter as the 'most highly classified subject matter in the U.S. Government'. MJ-12 was originated by General George Marshall while he was Secretary of State under President Harry S. Truman, in July of 1947. The group still operates today. Their purpose remains the same. The members have changed from time to time. (Life memberships!)

"2. There were at least 3, maybe 4, original recoveries of crashed and/or disabled flying saucers of unknown origin, between 1947 and 1950.

"3. The recoveries after 1950 were our own (mundane, as you say.) -

The U.S. Government, once they had the original very high-tech hardware, went on an all-out campaign to duplicate what they had found. This campaign was futile, because the technology involved with those originals was thousands of years in advance of our own.

"4. Around 1954-1956 contact was made with the beings responsible for the original flying saucers. A trade-off took place between these 'other-worldly beings' and our newly-formed National Security Agency (NSA), with the go-ahead from MJ-12. The 'other-worldly beings' traded some of their own technology in exchange for land bases in the United States, from which to operate and perform their own experimentation, the purpose of which is known only to them...."

Most intriguing! Now prove it. - Editor.

Non-subscriber ROBERT DAVIS writes:

"....Here's something interesting: In a book published by Arkham House, I have stumbled upon a 1927 letter from Vincent Starrett to H. P. Lovecraft, discussing politics at the editorial office of the pulp magazine 'Weird Tales'. At one point Starrett gives a long list of contributors to the magazine, and buried in the list is the name of one 'Donnie Keyhoe'.

"It would seem that major saucer guru Donald E. Keyhoe carefully concealed this part of his literary background, as it does not appear to be mentioned anywhere else. Can any of your readers supply further details? Upon reflection, it is easy to discern the influence of pulp writing on the Major's UFO books."

Yes, it is! - Editor.

RON SCHMIDT kindly writes:

"Your newsy newsletter is truly a valuable listening post to all of us diehards out here who like to keep right up to date on current developments. What can I say but keep up the good work?!"

And, from TOM HIGGINS:

"Don't you dare eject me from your mailing list. Unfortunately I am now a 'Saucer Smear' addict, and look forward to receiving my monthly fix. Take care and keep flying!..."

Philosopher DAVE REISSIG hits us squarely with:

"All of the UFOs I've ever seen had prominent sex organs. Some people will be surprised to learn that UFOs are really biological, not merely mechanical. They reproduce much as we do, but not usually in parked cars. Or moving cars, for that matter. Among themselves, in the privacy of their mother ships, UFOs tell jokes and fondle each other quite affectionately. This 'secret of the UFOs', as humans call it, is being revealed here for the first time, but no one will believe it or repeat it. It's what is called an 'absolute secret'. Even in cold print, it can't be fathomed. If you try to think about it, you'll lose your erection and probably forget who you're with. Whom you're with. So better forget it."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our apologies to all those, including ERIK BECKJORD (the lead-off speaker at the forthcoming Phoenix convention) whose letters failed to be printed this time. Instead we have a long letter (Page 7) from PHIL KLASS in answer to Tom Benson's letter in our last issue. Klass repeats his well-known challenge to all those who believe in a UFO conspiracy.

PHILIP J. KLASS
 404 "N" ST. SOUTHWEST
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024
 (202) 554-5901

April 19, 1986

Dear Jim Moseley:

Tom Benson claims that I have "in the past claimed pro-UFO researchers are Communists..." In response I propose a sporting wager for Benson. I will pay him \$10,000 for each and every instance he finds in one of my three books where I make that charge if he will agree to pay me \$1.00 for each page in the three books where he cannot find such a charge.

At most Benson risks less than \$1,000, whereas I risk much, much more-- if his charge is correct.

Perhaps Benson was thinking of gross distortions that have been widely circulated about my Aug. 23, 1983, telephone conversation with Robert Mortenson, director of conferences at the University of Nebraska/Lincoln, in connection with the then upcoming UFO conference, titled "Cosmic Watergate?" During that conversation, when Mortenson sought my views on the "Cosmic Watergate" claim, I replied as follows:

"I emphasize to you that I am NOT, repeat NOT, suggesting that any of the people or any of the organizations (involved in the conference) are in any way affiliated with Communist Fronts or with the Soviet Union. But as a patriotic American, I very much resent having the charge of "coverup," of lying, of falsehoods, charged against not one Administration, not two, but eight Administrations going back to a man from Missouri named Truman, a man named Dwight Eisenhower. Because if this charge is true--Cosmic Watergate-- then all of these Presidents were implicated, and all of their Administrations.

"When we finish, I would suggest that you might want to read, or re-read the promotional literature that is going out (on the conference). And I would point out to you that in seeking to discredit not just one Administration, but eight Presidents and their Administrations, they seek what the Soviet Union does--to convey to the public that our Government cannot be trusted, that it lies, that it falsifies..."

In my opinion, any American who levels such gross charges against eight American Presidents should not do so without impressive evidence to support such charges. If Benson, or others, believe that such evidence exists, then I urge them to bring it to Washington and to present it to some of the nation's top investigatory journalists in a press conference, at the National Press Club. (I am willing, as an NPC member, to arrange for the conference room and to pay its rental expense.)

Then, let us see if the nation's top news media consider the alleged evidence impressive. If they do, we can expect to see ABC, NBC, CBS, The NY Times, The Washington Post, and many, many other publications organize major teams to crack the coverup, as they so successfully did a decade ago with the Watergate Scandal. With so much talent devoted to cracking the (alleged) "Cosmic Watergate," the facts will soon be in the public domain. I am eager to do my bit to help by suggesting and helping underwrite the cost of such a press conference.

Let the news media examine the alleged evidence and then let us see what happens. If the news media is not impressed, then those making such wild claims should stop making such slanderous statements.

(8)

HAL STARR

Radio & TV Production
312 West Frier Drive
Phoenix, Arizona 85021
Telephone (602) 944-4211



Billed as a "free-for-all" symposium with all views welcome, the 23rd annual National UFO Conference, titled "UFO, FACT OR FANTASY?", will be held Friday through Sunday, May 16-18, 1986 at the Executive Park Hotel, 1100 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85004. A "get acquainted party" will be held Friday evening, papers will be presented all day Saturday and at a banquet that night, and Sunday will see a morning-long forum with questions from the audience answered by the experts attending. Talks will be given by:

STANTON FRIEDMAN (New Brunswick, Canada), a nuclear physicist and one of the world's best known UFO lecturers. Friedman's irrefutable logic and wit will both amaze you and amuse you. His persistent prying into areas of official "cover-up" has made him famous in UFO circles and feared by many government agencies. An exciting speaker.

DANIEL FRY (Alamogordo, New Mexico), one of the few remaining "pioneers" in UFOlogy. Fry was Vice President of Crescent Engineering, working in rocketry since 1945, and more recently, founding World Understanding, Inc. His report of contact with extra-terrestrials in his book, "The White Sands Incident" is a bench-mark in UFO history.

WILLIAM MOORE (Los Angeles), a famous UFO researcher and writer. He was co-author with Charles Berlitz of the mind-boggling "Philadelphia Experiment" upon which a motion picture was loosely based, and "The Roswell Incident", probably the most thoroughly researched UFO case in history. Moore's startling evidence will leave you astounded.

ROBERT SHEAFFER (California's "Silicon Valley"), one of the nation's best-known and persistent UFO debunkers, and an officer of CSICOP, The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. Sheaffer will present his evidence to completely shatter several famous UFO cases that have been the mainstay of the UFO faithful.

BRAD STEIGER (Phoenix, Arizona), the world's most prolific writer on the subject of UFOs with over 100 published books to his credit. His other areas of expertise in the paranormal and esoteric fields often find a common denominator in the UFO enigma. Don't be fooled into thinking his quiet attitude won't leave you breathless. It will.

Also committed to be on hand for panel discussions and to answer questions will be such well-known experts as publisher/writer TIMOTHY GREEN BECKLEY, researcher/writer GARY KINDER, researcher/writer KAL KORFF, researcher/writer/publisher JAMES MOSELEY (Permanent NUFOC Chairman), abductee/writer TRAVIS WALTON (& witnesses in his crew), representatives of CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies), FUFOR (Foundation for UFO Research), MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), and others whose confirmations are still awaited. Also, a separate room has been set aside for display and sale of UFO materials.

A special \$50 per night room rate (single or double) has been arranged. Admission to each session (Sat. AM, Sat. PM, or Sun. AM) is \$4, and the Sat. banquet is \$15 per person. A special package price of \$120 for one and \$140 for two (same room) has been established for all events.

Only a limited number of rooms and Conference Hall seats are available, so immediate action is important. Make room reservations by check or money order direct to the hotel or by credit card to toll-free 1-800-USA-EXEC. Specify "UFO convention". Additional data are available from the conference moderator, Hal Starr.