

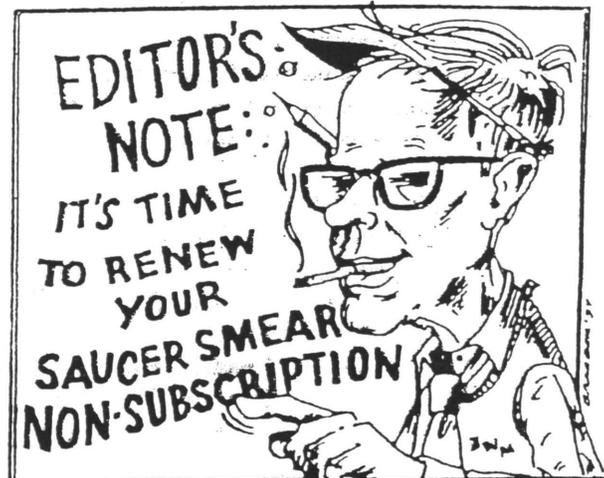
THE SECRETS OF DELLSCHAU: THE SONORA AERO CLUB & THE AIRSHIPS OF THE 1800s
A book by Dennis Crenshaw and P.G. Navarro - Below is a quote from Page 284:

"...The person I feel we all owe gratitude to more than anyone else for making it possible to hold this book in our hands is my very good friend James Moseley, editor and publisher of the longest-running UFO publication in the world, 'Saucer Smear'. Were it not for his persistent pushing and probing the (UFO) community for someone to come forward and publish 'The Secrets of Dellschau', the manuscript might still be gathering dust in my filing cabinet."

See our brief book review on Page 4 of this issue.

SAUCER SMEAR

A LIGHT-HEARTED BUT POSITIVE LOOK AT THE FLYING
SAUCER SCENE, SHOCKINGLY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!



EDITOR AND STILL
SUPREME COMMANDER:
James W. Moseley, J.S.

NON-SCHEDULED
NEWSLETTER

Vol. 56, No. 10

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER & UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

PITIFUL PLEA FOR DONATIONS:

Yes, it's that time of year again, when we try to think of creative new ways to persuade our loyal non-subscribers to continue their financial support for our humble efforts here at "Smear".

Times are tough all over, even here at our palacial headquarters. We have had to fire several of the lesser servants, and the moat around the castle has run dry, for some reason! We sit here gulping cheap domestic beer and wishing the good old days would return!

Seriously, folks - if there's an "X" on the label of the envelope in which you received this issue, you will be cast into Limbo (whatever that is) unless we hear from you very soon. Please make checks or money orders payable to the editor by name, not to "Saucer Smear". (Cash is okay too!)

Your editor is not a Prophet, nor does he seek to Profit from this zine. We do dream, still, of our ultimate goal in ufology, which is to Break Even.

Merry Xmas to our friends, departed & otherwise - especially to the late Gray Barker and Karl Pflock. May the Farce be With you, one and all!...

"Socorro Saucer in a Pentagon Pantry": This, if we remember correctly, is the rather strange title of a 1976 book by a researcher named Ray Stanford, who was one of the on-the-scene investigators of the classic UFO landing (April 24th, 1964) near Socorro, New Mexico.

In briefest outline, the case involved a local policeman named Lonnie Zamora, who saw a craft, apparently with two little men nearby, that had landed in the desert in broad daylight. Dr. J. Allen Hynek was one of the many other investigators of this case,

still officially believed to be "unknown".

Several theories were considered, including the possibility that it was a lunar Surveyor craft being tested earlier that same day at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, N.M. We are flattered to read in one of our recent Net items that the first public mention of this "new angle" was in the July 15th, 2000 issue of "Smear". However, the details of the description of the craft Zamora saw simply do not fit, as much as some people would like them to.

Then there was arch-skeptic Phil Klass' absurd theory that the event was a hoax inspired by the mayor of Socorro, who owned property near the landing site, and who hoped that the event would make the little town into a tourist mecca - much like what happened years later at Roswell. However, nothing remotely resembling this ever happened at Socorro, and we often teased our friend Phil about this in the years after 1964.

Even more ludicrous was the theory proposed by the late Dr. Leon Davidson, an atomic chemist who became very interested in UFOs in those early days. There was apparently a symbol on the side of the Socorro craft. According to Dr. Davidson, this symbol, when turned on its side, clearly reads CIA!

One idea never mentioned by anyone was that the event was an elaborate "school prank" by college students at the local college, New Mexico Tech. But now, based on extremely flimsy evidence, researcher Anthony Bragalia is pushing that theory. We learn that Dr. Stirling Colgate, then president of that institution, wrote to another scientist a brief notation: "I have a good indication of the student who engineered the hoax. Student has left." No details whatsoever are given as to how this incredibly complex stunt was accomplished!

This is the same Anthony Bragalia who recently tried to show that the U.S. government, in the months and years following the Roswell Incident, tried desperately to duplicate weird "memory metal" found at the crash site. Here again, the evidence provided by Bragalia was far, far from being conclusive.

That time Bragalia was stretching known facts in a pro-ET direction. Now, with Socorro, he is stretching the facts in the opposite direction. Our firm opinion: Bragalia is merely a very studious attention-grabber, who seeks to draw sensational conclusions where none are warranted. Thus his methods are quite similar to those of the recently-defunct "UFO Hunters" on TV.

Regarding Socorro, we are led to believe that a few academics in New Mexico knew or suspected all along that the incident was a student prank. What would have been their motive to never say so publicly?

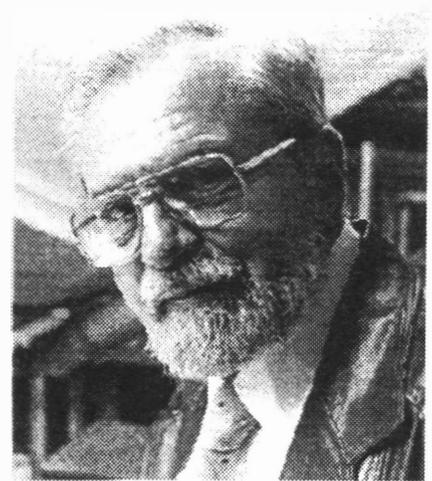
Your editor can add a significant piece of evidence to this discussion: In 1996, we spent a whole afternoon alone with Professor Charles Moore of Roswell/Mogul fame. He was until recently employed at New Mexico Tech, and was interested enough in the Socorro landing to volunteer to guide us to the exact site - now marked by a small circle of stones in the desert. All day we talked about Roswell and Socorro. Moore obviously had moved in New Mexico's academic circles for many years (at least since 1947!), but in our discussions that day he never mentioned the possibility of Socorro's UFO incident being a hoax. In fact, we distinctly remember him saying, "If it wasn't a Surveyor, then I don't know what it was."

What do you say to that, Mr. Bragalia?? Your "Smear" editor is not on the Net, but maybe one or more of our many readers can inform this guy of our personal experience with Prof. Moore...

In our last issue we promised you the above Socorro update, and also details about Lt. Col. Kevin Randle's kindly offer to withdraw from the UFO field. Though he was no doubt merely being sarcastic, we do wish we were in a position to help him out!

Says the good Lt. Col: "To those who wish that the old geezers (in ufology) would

Dr. J. Allen Hynek



Had The Courage to Change, then
Speak His Mind

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get out of the way, I say this: Buy my files, records, tapes, microfilms and photographs for one million dollars...and I'm gone. I won't write any more UFO books; I won't appear at any more conferences as a speaker, and I will take down this blog. Then you youngsters can have an open field. Just let me know when you have the money. Thanks."

Lt. Col. Randle seemed to us like a reasonable but utterly persistent advocate of the Roswell Incident being ET in origin. But his belief system rests largely on the statements and reputation of the late Jesse Marcel Sr., whose military dossier showed a history of lies and exaggerations. In correspondence with your editor, however, Lt. Col. Randle insisted that Marcel deserves "the benefit of the doubt" simply because he was a military man.

We will merely observe that this country might be a lot better off today if we had not given military men "the benefit of the doubt".

Meanwhile, at a ceremony at this year's Roswell Festival, Jesse Marcel Sr. has become the first inductee into the "Roswell UFO Hall of Fame". Can your "Smear" editor be far behind?? Probably not!...

A Very Bright Idea for Stephen Bassett of the Paradigm Disclosure Project (or whatever):

Gary McKinnon, the dreaded British hacker who broke into several U.S. military computer systems a few years ago, has not yet actually been extradited to our country, though this will probably happen very soon.

Bassett, now on a whirlwind world speaking tour, is very energetic indeed in his efforts to break through the wall of America's alleged UFO secrecy. We suggest, non-sarcastically, that he might have a better chance of success if he adopted a brand new strategy:

Instead of taking on the U.S. government head-on, he would be well advised, once McKinnon is actually here, to spearhead a "Justice for McKinnon" campaign. For some reason a Cause often goes better when it is focused on just one individual or small group.

If propagandized cleverly, this campaign could be made to look like a highly moral battle between one helpless and repentant individual, vs. the terrible power of our military strength. Publicity would be immense, and a lot of well-meaning people might jump on the bandwagon. Then Bassett could make his pitch for money, and the crusade would roll on from there!

Who knows - Obama himself might be cornered into making a public comment, and then - the sky is the limit!...

Well, it's worth a try anyhow...

Here's a hot item for all you fans of famed Mexican researcher Jaime Maussan, who is a well-known personality on television in his native land. He has also lectured several times in the U.S., and seems to make a good living from his various activities.

It seems that Jaime is being sued by a Mexican lady known as Professor Ana Luisa Cid, who "refused to lend her support to a (UFO) case that he claimed was real, and which now, according to many people, turned out to be a hoax". For reasons that are not clear to us, Maussan accused her of being a fraud during various TV interviews and on his own show. It is now generally believed that the video in question is "a product of computer trickery". The case in question is known as the "Alvin, Texas UFO". Obviously a lot of details are missing here.

We have never met Jaime Maussan, but according to widespread belief, he has never seen a Mexican UFO video that he does not accept as genuine. This includes the story of an "alien baby" that allegedly was found and killed by a farmer in 2007.

A vast number of UFO videos have come out in recent years, and Jaime never fails to run with the ball. Perhaps he is just gullible, as Linda Moulton Cowe is rumored to be. So goes ufoology!...

It was the lead item on the US Government's daily threat matrix one day last April. Don Emilio Fulci, described by an FBI tipster as a reclusive but evil millionaire, had formed a terrorist group that was planning chemical attacks

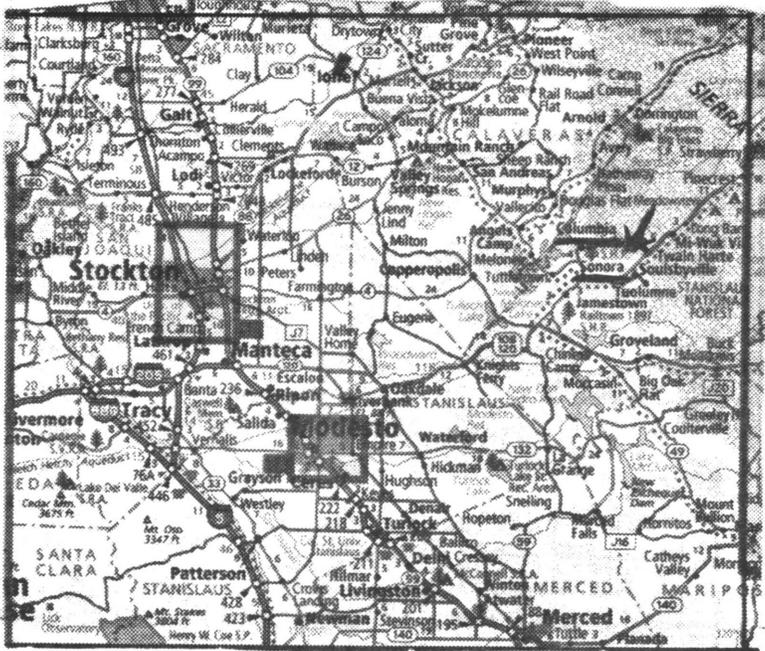
against London and Washington. Then a White House staffer used the Google Internet search engine and found that Fulci is the crime boss in the video game *Headhunter*. *US News & World Report*, 17 May 2004.

MALE ORDER BRIDES

Four married sisters in Chongqing, China, visited doctors when they failed to get pregnant - and were found to be men. *Sun*, 2 May 2009.

SURPRISE STASH

A crow dropped six rings, two bracelets and four necklaces worth £243 into a sock on Ron Page's washing line in Nether Wallop, Hampshire. *Sun*, 12 Mar 2007.



Sonora and its sister town Columbia, still exist about 125 miles east of San Francisco.

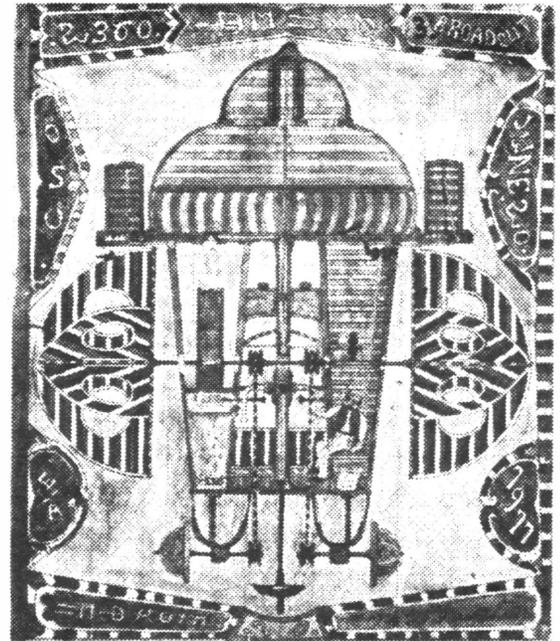


Fig. 2.3. Black and white photo of Dellschau's Plate 2360. The P. G. Navarro Collection.

" THE SECRETS OF DELLSCHAU "

We love this book, because it tells an utterly unique story which may well be related to the UFO mystery. Or, it may not.

The narrative is mainly about a German artist named Charles Dellschau - born in 1830; immigrated to the U.S. in 1853; apparently living in Houston, Texas most of his life; and dying there in 1923 at the age of 93. For the last twenty years of his life he was a recluse, producing literally thousands of drawings of strange airships supposedly constructed in the late 1850s by a highly secretive small group of technical people who called themselves the Sonora Aero Club. Sonora was (and is) in the 1849 gold rush section of California, as shown on the above map.

We don't know for sure if Dellschau was really out in Sonora or for how long. He left no coherent manuscript - only marginal notes among the drawings. These notes are in bad English, bad German, and in a simple substitution code that was broken by another artist named Pete Navarro, who is co-author of this book. Even after painstaking analysis, these notes do not form a narrative or even have a clear meaning in many instances. Some even seem to be tongue-in-cheek!

Pete Navarro is an American graphic artist, now 89 years old, who has spent a huge amount of time over the years studying Dellschau's material - the known portion of which is in the form of twelve very thick scrapbooks. These were rescued from a Houston garbage dump in 1968 by a black antique dealer who eventually sold them to Pete.

Unless the whole thing is a myth, the Sonora Aero Club made a great number of designs for flying machines, some of which actually got into the air for test flights. How the club members and their machines could exist in a fairly populated area without being discovered is indeed hard to understand. The craft were propelled by a very mysterious substance called "NB gas", which is so exotic that one rumor has it that it was given to the group by aliens!

The real era of powered flight began officially in 1903 with the Wright Brothers. Their airplane used a gasoline engine, a propeller, and fixed wings. The Aero Club machines did not look or fly that way at all.

Not mentioned sufficiently in the book (though in other writings by Dennis Crenshaw) is the intriguing possibility that these craft of the 1850s were connected somehow to the well-known UFO flap of 1896-1897. There are those who insist that this UFO flap was mainly or entirely a series of literary hoaxes by bored newspaper editors of the period; but we do not agree, nor does Crenshaw. The main witnesses (unlike today!) are all named, and are usually well-known citizens of their area who never denied the

stories. In other cases the unknown craft flew at night, low and slowly over various western and mid-western towns. They were seen by hundreds of people at a time. However, their exact shape, size, and means of propulsion were not apparent.

In a few cases the 1896-1897 craft actually landed, ordinary-looking humans got out, and even conversed briefly with nearby people on the ground. There seems to have been no belief that these were aliens. They seemed to be inventors on their way to their destination. One man introduced himself as "Mr. Wilson" in at least a couple of landings, but there is no clue as to who he actually was.

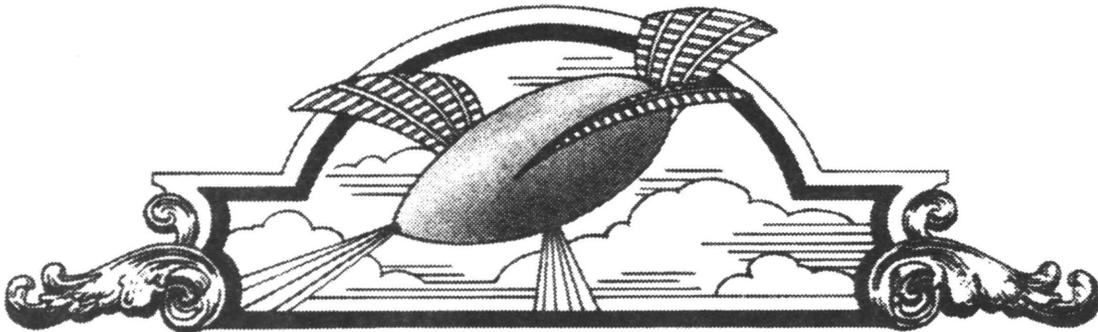
We first heard about the Aero Club in the 1980s from famed, now retired, ufologist William Moore. According to the Crenshaw-Navarro book, Moore briefly took a strong interest in the Dellschau story, investigated it a bit, and borrowed some irreplaceable material which he has never returned to this day.

There is much more to tell about Dellschau, but no Space. Our opinion is that the Sonora Aero Club was probably mythical, but if it existed it consisted of ordinary human beings. The 1896-1897 airships were probably real, totally unexplained craft piloted by ordinary humans who will never be identified. The only possible alien angle in all this is the exceedingly strange "NB gas".

In contrast, all the saucer flaps since World War II have involved "aliens" of various sorts - some with exotic philosophies, some looking a lot like us, some looking very little like us, some trying to confuse, frighten, and even abduct us, etc., etc. Clearly, the 1896-1897 flap was a different, though possibly related, phenomenon.

This is a wonderfully thought-provoking book, but it would be unlike "Smear" not to criticize something severely: There are a couple of references to possible unknown "alien elements" below hydrogen in the Periodic Table. Alas, this is not possible. There may be an infinite number of chemical compounds not yet known to us humans, but take our word for it, dear readers - there are no elements below hydrogen in atomic weight anywhere in this universe. Egads!

"The Secrets of Dellschau" is available from Anomalist Books (the publisher), or from Amazon.com., etc. We again commend Anomalist for their fortitude in publishing books of this kind.



U.F.O. HISTORICAL REVUE

NUMBER 13

EDITOR: BARRY GREENWOOD

SEPTEMBER 2009

It is interesting to note that our friend Barry Greenwood has very recently revived his "U.F.O. Historical Revue", which features new info on old cases, including the above-mentioned airships of 1896-1897. The print version will not return, but the new Web address is <http://www.greenwoodufoarchive.com/> - The zine will be non-scheduled, as it was before.

We love the logo, no doubt suggested by these airships. Greenwood believes that the 1896-1897 flap consisted mainly of newspaper hoaxes - though we do not agree.

The September 2009 issue is mainly another painful look at the infamous "Ramey Memo", which is one of the most vexing sub-mysteries of the Roswell Incident. A lot of work has gone into Barry's analysis, and the Memo does not seem to be a classified communication of any kind, though most of the print therein will always remain too out-of-focus to ever read fully.

LOS ANGELES (Oct. 17) - A Southern California immigrant rights group on Friday asked Target stores and a costume company to stop selling a Halloween "illegal alien" costume it said is offensive to immigrants. The costume features the mask of an alien with a green card and an orange jumpsuit with "illegal alien" written across the front. (Our thanks to Matt Graeber for this one!)

FLASH! On October 23rd we learned that UFO/paranormal researcher Mac Tonnies has just died. He was only 34 years old, and was one of the new wave of people in the UFO field whom we admire greatly. Nick Redfern, Greg Bishop and film producer Paul Kimball are among the others in this group.

We know Tonnies slightly but never met him. We currently have no further info regarding his untimely death, but if we learn more details we will print them in our next issue - due out in early January, 2010...

In our last issue we asked our readers if they would like to receive doses of our personal UFO & paranormal experiences over the years. Amazingly, more than 2 or 3 people wrote in, in a positive fashion, so here goes:

We will start with the worst and the best of our four UFO sightings. The worst, in terms of credibility, was the time about 1990 when we observed the Gulf Breeze (Florida) UFO, affectionately known as "Bubba". We have told this tale before, as recently as our Sept. 10th, 2009 issue. So we will pass right on to the best:

This was during our Peruvian treasure hunting days, in the late 1950s. Your editor was involved in a long-drawn-out treasure dig in a little mountain valley in southern Peru, called Quishaurani. One evening we saw two UFOs as we, together with a partner, rode a narrow-gauge railroad from the major city of Arequipa to the obscure valley in question. Our friend, long deceased, was a Dutch adventurer named Andy Rost.

Several miles away, on the horizon, was Mount Chachani, a well-known major volcanic mountain in the Andes range, the top of which was over 23,000 feet above sea level. Andy called our attention to the fact that (this one night only) there were two extremely bright pure white lights on Chachani, perhaps a few thousand feet below the mountain peak - which was silhouetted against the skyline. These two objects were about the same size, stationary, a short distance apart, and very mysterious.

If we assume that the lights were at least 16,000 to 18,000 feet above sea level, that would be at the top level that even mountain Indians could breathe. There were no roads on the mountain and no reason why anyone, even Indians seeking wood, would go up that high, as it was way above the timber line.

We watched for awhile, from the open space between railroad cars, as the train wound through the foothills of the Andes. Your editor went back to sit down eventually, and thereafter Andy came back in to tell us that the two arc lights had disappeared in front of his eyes, going straight up. Frankly, your editor did not see this himself, and has always wondered if Andy, who knew of our interest in UFOs, was putting us on. There is no way to ever find out for sure.

Theoretically these could have been helicopters, though this is very unlikely, nor do we have any idea if helicopters could have looked so extremely bright from such a long distance away.

The only thing we can add is that we have read several stories, before and since, about unidentified lights just like these wandering through the mountains of Peru and other nearby South American countries.

P.S: The treasure turned out to be iron oxide, which had caused a positive reading on a metal detector several months before this incident. There is not much of a market for iron oxide!...

One-armed
man applauds
the kindness
of strangers

**Federal Agents
Raid Gun Shop,
Find Weapons**

source & date unknown.

Decision to
defrock naked
jogger can only be
made by Vatican

Boulder (CO) Camera, 14 June 2008.

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LETTERS TO THE OLDE EDITOR

JAMES RANDI of the James Randi Educational Foundation, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, writes us (for the first time in many years) as follows:

Jim, while I appreciate your efforts in "Smear" to commiserate with me, I must say that your announcement of my probable imminent demise lacked a certain accuracy. While I have not seen the Australian "Daily Grail" article, I suspect it might have been derived from the somewhat inaccurate "New Times" item that was published here in the USA.

I'm particularly amused at your statement, "At age 81, he may not have long to live." Duh. Since I have already passed the average age of survival, that is surely evident. However, I must correct you concerning the James Randi Educational Foundation financial status. We're hardly in "financial trouble," and our accountant has told us that of the thirty not-for-profit organizations he serves, we were the only one who had gains last year, and we have operating funds – at this present moment – *sufficient for the next 2 1/2 years.*

I have no idea where the Daily Grail got the idea that I'd ever been compared to Bob Dylan and Pablo Picasso, nor from whence you came up with the notion that I have "unilaterally decreed what is worthy of belief and what is not." I'd be delighted to have examples of the evidence upon which you based that conclusion, please.

You state, "Randi is now very feeble and spends most of his time in a wheelchair." The only time I've *ever* been in a wheelchair, Jim, was for a two-day period during our latest Las Vegas conference – with 1,007 attendees – because of the long distances I would have had to walk to get from venue to venue, while undergoing chemotherapy. That's hardly "most of [my] time."

As for "remarks we made in 'Smear' about [Randi's] crude attempts to hide his homosexuality," that has never been the case, as you well know, Jim. I have always been upfront with everyone, answering inquiries in a forthright manner, and being square with the world. I assure you that I intend to continue that stance.

Please do us the favor of sending us a current statement about your sexuality. We are still curious! - Editor.

DR. CHRIS ROTH, one of our vast stable of contributing editors, writes:

"...Regarding James Randi and the 'Amazing Meeting' in Las Vegas, please tell me why the little Randi dolls for sale had glasses, bushy beards, and - handcuffs? Was this an attempt to equate him with Houdini, or does it indicate some of his more private proclivities?"

"I, too, enjoyed the David Huggins book and have been urging friends to buy it.

"The Dellschau book, though - that's the one I'm interested in now. I saw some Dellschau originals this summer at a local museum that specializes in outsider art. 1890s Airship news clippings were incorporated into some of the bizarre collages..."

Dreaded skeptic ROBERT SHEAFFER of California writes as follows:

It's so funny to see you and Gary Posner arguing over which one was "closer" to the late Uncle Phil. Actually, neither of you was very close, not like I was. In our internal "daisy chain" of correspondence, Phil was "Plasmarian 0.01." I was "0.02". Jim Oberg was "0.03." There were a few more later on, but I don't think either of you was on that list.

I stayed over in Phil's apartment many nights before I moved permanently to the Washington, DC area. From 1973-1980 I lived near DC, and spent a great deal of my spare time with Phil. We went to UFO and Fortean conferences together, and traveled to a number of places, like Civil War battlefields. We had dinner many times in his favorite seafood restaurant. I sailed with him several times on his sailboat on the Potomac. Phil went so far as to write up a document naming me his heir, both UFOlogically and financially, which was of course nullified when he got married. Phil mentioned me and my investigations on ten different pages of his book *UFOs Explained*. I don't think that either of you can match anything like the above.

Two things happened in 1980: Phil got married in the spring, and I moved to California in the fall. Obviously things were a bit different after that. Nonetheless, Phil visited me several times when I was living in San Jose, sometimes accompanied by his wife Nadya.

Famed UFO historian JERRY CLARK writes as follows, quoting from a 1896 Wisconsin newspaper:

Max Menzel, the eleven year old son of Gus Menzel, the Strongs avenue butcher, has suffered from an experience which seemed almost incredible, yet it is affirmed by positive evidence.

Last April, little Max was driving cattle near Junction City and being very tired and thirsty, drank from a pond of water near the road side. Sometime later he began to suffer with intense pains in the bowels, which it seemed impossible to relieve. The attacks became more frequent and the boy's health began to fail. About two months ago he was confined to his bed and was treated by Dr. Walters. About two weeks ago, the boy's life was almost dispared [sic] of and his sufferings were intense. But he grew better and within the last week has mended rapidly. A movement of the bowels expelled a dead snake nearly a foot in length and decomposed. It was greenish in color and evidently belonged to the small variety of grass snakes. It had probably been dead several days.

The little sufferer is recovering rapidly and will suffer no ill effects from the strange experience. It is needless to say that Mr. and Mrs. Menzel are overjoyed at the discovery of the cause of the childs [sic] strange malady.

Finally, ROB MACGREGOR of Bermuda Triangle fame, writes:

"I agree with others who say 'Smear' is yours and wouldn't really be 'Smear' if someone else wrote it. And, you are unique - like everyone else!

"I noticed that there was a lot about death in your last issue, with mention of deceased Dick Hall and Karl Pflock. To that you added that 81-year-old Amazing Randi may not have very long to live, and then you gave him a 'warm-up' obituary, prepping readers for the real one to come.

"But you really outdid yourself with Budd Hopkins, literally putting him in the grave with this remark: '...Hopkins was a very opinionated, dark and complex individual.' So, he's either dead, which might be news to him, or in your opinion no longer very opinionated, dark or complex. Maybe we'll find out next issue!"

Paint manufacturer
plunges into red
Quantum, 25 Feb 2009

"MADONNA ROMPS WITH
JESUS IN BRAZILIAN HOTEL"
Memo, c.12 Feb 2009