

Fate: Not really a conversation topic for the dinner-table

...But it's good reading

By Chicago Daily News correspondent,
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CHICAGO — Curtis and Mary Margaret Fuller are well groomed, well-dressed, well-off, pleasant people who love their children, grandchildren and two dogs, and have labored long to make a comfortable success of the family business.

Yet, inevitably, they're presumed to be wierdos because of that business.

"In earlier years, we didn't talk much about our work at dinner parties."

much about our work at dinner parties," Mrs Fuller confesses.

"It made some people uncomfortable."

That is a shame, because any conversation would be enlivened by the stuff of which the Fuller's success has been made.

Stuff such as ghosts, levitation, the "evil eye", prophetic dreams, the "Watseka wonder", the "crystal skull," "foo fighters" and pink snow storms.

And have you heard about the reluctant breakfast egg that screamed when faced with a pot of boiling water? Or about the man haunted by loud buzzing noises after he swatted a fly? Or about all those scaly, green monsters and UFOs.

If you haven't, you probably aren't a fan of Fate Magazine, which will celebrate its 30th Birthday today.

"The original concept is still the same," said Fuller, 65 founder and publisher of Fate.

The original concept of the magazine was to present the unexplained, the bizarre, the extraordinary and "make the incredible seem credible" according

seem credible", according to Fuller.

The leader

Today, with a circulation of about 120,000, Fate is the leader in its admittedly specialised field of psychic phenomena and the occult. Fate has virtually no competition.

Instead of being housed in a weed engulfed, Gothic mansion, Fate emanates from a modern, one-storey office building, surrounded by neatly-trimmed lawns and splashes of petunia beds, all on the edge of a residential area in Highland Park, Illinois, near Chicago.

"It's harder for the kooks to find us out here." Mrs

Fuller, Editor of Fate, said.

Like their offices, the Fullers are somewhat conventional looking.

"One of our advantages is we don't look like the

is we don't look like the lunatic fringe," said Mrs Fuller, 63, who was dressed for an interview in neat white blouse and slacks, making her look more socialite than seeress.

No flowing gowns, turbans or clanking talismans. And no black cats, although the Fullers' jet-black standard poodle, Every Night Josephine, and large Alredale, Jerry of the Islands, wander throughout the offices.

"We always bring our dogs to work. One of our old dogs died here. It's one of the privileges of ownership," Mrs Fuller explained.

Despite smirk-provoking articles such as "the vengeful succubus," and "Was I a temple prostitute in ancient Greece" and "Julie London's ESP", the Fullers insist they are still just what they set out to be when they met as students at the University of Wisconsin: serious journalists.

"We don't say we believe everything we publish, but we say it has to be cap-

We say it has to be capable of belief," said Mrs Fuller. "We throw down the gauntlet to scientists. What about this? How do you explain that?"

One of the unexplained happenings that helped launch *Fate* was the sighting of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) in

1948 by Kenneth Arnold over the Cascade Mountains, an event that touched off the whole modern fascination with flying saucers.

"I was working for *Flying* magazine and I tried to check out Arnold's report with the Air Force," Fuller said. "All I got was a runaround. I came to understand that the Government was not telling the truth and I became generally skeptical of any so-called official explanation of unconventional events."

Fuller and a friend and original partner Raymond Palmer, an editor of science fiction pulp magazines, filled much of the first issue of *Fate* with

FIRST ISSUE OF Fate with stories on Arnold's flying saucer sightings.

UFO's still fill many of the pages of Fate.

Many things

Before Fate was launched, the Fullers say they had no particular interest in the occult. Today they have come to believe in many of the things that occupy its pages.

"Oh, yes, I believe in ghosts. Ghost stories are my favorite," Mrs Fuller said enthusiastically. "Of course I don't know what a ghost is — perhaps it's a mental projection."

"You know when I started all this, I never thought I could believe in something like a poltergeist," Fuller said. "But I've been

looking into such things for 30 years now, and there are too many reports from too many people. There has to be something behind all this stuff."

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A poltergeist is a force that believes a good ghost should be heard, not seen. So it makes a lot of racket and commotion.

Early in Fate's existence, one of these noisy spooks gave the Fullers a helping hand. Or so Mrs Fuller believes. The Fullers had gone to New York to appear on a radio talk show. The host and guests were skeptical about Fate and its contents.

"But they asked us to appear on the next night's show. And before we came back there was a tremendous poltergeist occurrence out in a house on Long Island. Glasses and dishes were flying around the house. It was amazing.

"And in a way I wonder whether our presence out here didn't cause it. You see we needed it to lend credibility to our radio appearance."

But as for personal psychic experience, Mrs Fuller sadly confesses she has had no unusual premonitions.

...no unusual premonitions, felt no icy presences pervade a room and has received no spirit messages from a departed relative or friend.

Fuller says he has had a couple of "minor experiences" but nothing beyond that.

One rather disquieting incident occurred while he

was a student at Wisconsin. Fuller said the young students were in the habit of leaving their dining hall by flinging open a back door then vaulting over a porch railing to the alley below.

"I have this deep fear of rats and suddenly just as I sat down I had a feeling that if I jumped out the back way, I would encounter a rat.

"I couldn't eat and then as I left I noticed the guy ahead of me had jumped in the usual way. He had landed on and crushed a huge rat," he finishes with a how-about-that look.

Such "true-life personal experiences" submitted by

experiences" submitted by the readers are among the most popular and enduring features of the magazine and appear in departments called "true mystic experiences," "my proof of survival" and "report from the readers."

Many such tales appear as major articles.

For instance, the "vengeful succubus," in which a 40-year-old man's sleep is interrupted by a visit from his dead wife:

"My mind told me she was dead and had been for 18 years. Nevertheless, it was Alice for I could see her plainly in every detail. Dressed in a flowing white robe with that dark hair tumbling over her shoulders, her face was alive with color and her eyes were bright and shining." the reader reported.

"Then with a twisting movement she began to turn and spin and her body rose into the air. Within a split second Alice was hovering above me and then she descended toward me. I lay there paralyzed with fear. Never she

Ivzed with fear. Nearer she came

A mask

"Then, as God is my witness, Alice's face changed before my eyes. Her features turned into a chalky mask, and from that mask two fiery red eyes blazed as though hellfire were behind them. I opened my mouth to scream, but at that moment her head darted forward and she fastened her mouth over mine in a grotesque kiss."

Although God may or may not have been the writer's witness, Margaret Fuller also requires a notarised affidavit in which the author affirms that events described are true.

Just to be on the safe side.