

# Letters From the Maury Island Principals in the Merseyside UFO Bulletin: Part 2

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by Charles Lear, author of "The Flying Saucer Investigators."



In last week's blog, we looked at some correspondence we came across in the January-February 1969 Merseyside UFO Bulletin between Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Research Association Director Gary Lesley and Maury Island principals, Fred Crisman and Harold Dahl. We started by looking at an exchange between Lesley and Dahl. In a letter dated July 23, 1967, Lesley asked Dahl for copies of photos that were allegedly taken of a flying saucer, a written statement from

Dahl, and for Dahl to contact Crisman and get a written statement from him as well. Dahl replied in a letter dated August 22, 1967, that he would "allow" Lesley to have copies of the photos, would provide a statement that would have to be approved by Crisman, and would contact Crisman but added that it would be unlikely that Crisman would reply to Lesley. Dahl went on to paint a picture of Crisman that didn't seem to fit the facts that researchers looking into Crisman's life uncovered. In contrast to what Dahl told Lesley to expect, Lesley got a letter from Crisman, and this is what we're looking at this week. [Read more →](#)

1  
00:00:02,760 --> 00:00:11,020  
foreign

2  
00:00:32,930 --> 00:00:16,310  
[Music]

3  
00:00:39,110 --> 00:00:35,209  
letters from the Mori Island principles

4  
00:00:41,930 --> 00:00:39,120  
in the merseyside UFO bulletin part 2 by

5  
00:00:43,670 --> 00:00:41,940  
Charles Lear in last week's blog we

6  
00:00:46,430 --> 00:00:43,680  
looked at some correspondence we came

7  
00:00:48,770 --> 00:00:46,440  
across in the January February 1969

8  
00:00:51,290 --> 00:00:48,780  
merseyside UFO bulletin between

9  
00:00:53,930 --> 00:00:51,300  
unidentified aerial phenomena research

10  
00:00:56,389 --> 00:00:53,940  
Association director Gary Leslie and

11  
00:00:59,090 --> 00:00:56,399  
Maury Allen principals Fred Chrisman and

12  
00:01:01,850 --> 00:00:59,100  
Harold Dahl we started by looking at an

13  
00:01:05,570 --> 00:01:01,860

exchange between Leslie and Dahl in a

14

00:01:08,210 --> 00:01:05,580

letter dated January 23 1967 Leslie

15

00:01:10,850 --> 00:01:08,220

asked all for copies of photos that were

16

00:01:13,010 --> 00:01:10,860

allegedly taken of a flying saucer a

17

00:01:15,410 --> 00:01:13,020

written statement from Dole and for doll

18

00:01:18,050 --> 00:01:15,420

to contact Chrisman and get a written

19

00:01:22,130 --> 00:01:18,060

statement from him as well doll replied

20

00:01:24,530 --> 00:01:22,140

in a letter dated August 22 1967 that he

21

00:01:26,630 --> 00:01:24,540

would allow Leslie to have copies of the

22

00:01:28,490 --> 00:01:26,640

photos would provide a statement that

23

00:01:30,890 --> 00:01:28,500

would have to be approved by Chrisman

24

00:01:32,870 --> 00:01:30,900

and would contact Chrisman but added

25

00:01:35,630 --> 00:01:32,880

that it would be unlikely that Chrisman

26

00:01:37,670 --> 00:01:35,640

would reply to Leslie Dahl went on to

27

00:01:39,950 --> 00:01:37,680

paint a picture of Chrisman that didn't

28

00:01:42,050 --> 00:01:39,960

seem to fit the facts that researchers

29

00:01:44,690 --> 00:01:42,060

looking into Chrisman's life uncovered

30

00:01:47,330 --> 00:01:44,700

in contrast to what Dahl told Leslie to

31

00:01:49,310 --> 00:01:47,340

expect Leslie got a letter from Chrisman

32

00:01:51,590 --> 00:01:49,320

and this is what we're looking at this

33

00:01:53,149 --> 00:01:51,600

week according to the anonymous writer

34

00:01:55,550 --> 00:01:53,159

of the article containing the

35

00:01:57,710 --> 00:01:55,560

correspondence Leslie was still waiting

36

00:01:59,749 --> 00:01:57,720

for Doll's statement and copies of the

37

00:02:01,990 --> 00:01:59,759

photos in August and sent him a letter

38

00:02:05,569 --> 00:02:02,000

dated August 26

39

00:02:07,310 --> 00:02:05,579

1967. he thanked all for his reply and

40

00:02:09,949 --> 00:02:07,320

told him that if he could get him the

41

00:02:11,390 --> 00:02:09,959

material by October 15th there was a

42

00:02:13,729 --> 00:02:11,400

good chance of getting something about

43

00:02:17,210 --> 00:02:13,739

the case published in the December issue

44

00:02:19,850 --> 00:02:17,220

of saga magazine instead of a reply from

45

00:02:22,150 --> 00:02:19,860

dog Leslie got a letter from Chrisman

46

00:02:25,250 --> 00:02:22,160

dated September 5th

47

00:02:27,470 --> 00:02:25,260

1967. the letter begins with Christman

48

00:02:29,869 --> 00:02:27,480

informing Leslie that he has seen as

49

00:02:33,010 --> 00:02:29,879

correspondence with doll and does not

50

00:02:35,809 --> 00:02:33,020

approve of it saying doll Has Broken

51  
00:02:38,210 --> 00:02:35,819  
long-standing agreement between us he

52  
00:02:40,250 --> 00:02:38,220  
tells Leslie that the photos are not

53  
00:02:43,009 --> 00:02:40,260  
available that he doesn't want his

54  
00:02:44,869 --> 00:02:43,019  
personal life discussed in letters or in

55  
00:02:47,930 --> 00:02:44,879  
print and that the little interest he

56  
00:02:50,930 --> 00:02:47,940  
has in UFOs is far removed from being of

57  
00:02:54,229 --> 00:02:50,940  
interest to any organized group or those

58  
00:02:56,509 --> 00:02:54,239  
people that read Saga magazine he says

59  
00:02:58,610 --> 00:02:56,519  
that doll has little information that

60  
00:03:01,070 --> 00:02:58,620  
would interest you and that Leslie wrote

61  
00:03:04,009 --> 00:03:01,080  
all that he'd researched the news files

62  
00:03:06,309 --> 00:03:04,019  
and ads I do not pretend to be able to

63  
00:03:09,470 --> 00:03:06,319

alter the newspapers of this nation

64  
00:03:11,809 --> 00:03:09,480  
Chrisman then breaks the UFO enthusiasts

65  
00:03:13,910 --> 00:03:11,819  
into three groups those seeking

66  
00:03:16,190 --> 00:03:13,920  
attention through Tales of Bizarre

67  
00:03:18,949 --> 00:03:16,200  
Adventures and messages from Spacemen

68  
00:03:20,930 --> 00:03:18,959  
those attempting to make money and a

69  
00:03:24,229 --> 00:03:20,940  
tiny third group with a serious

70  
00:03:26,690 --> 00:03:24,239  
scientific interest admirable but mostly

71  
00:03:29,210 --> 00:03:26,700  
fools Chrisman then proclaims that

72  
00:03:31,910 --> 00:03:29,220  
neither he nor doll have any interest in

73  
00:03:34,250 --> 00:03:31,920  
joining a UFO group as for Leslie's

74  
00:03:36,830 --> 00:03:34,260  
interest in matter that should be of

75  
00:03:38,809 --> 00:03:36,840  
public concern he says the public

76

00:03:42,050 --> 00:03:38,819

laughed away its right to be informed

77

00:03:44,390 --> 00:03:42,060

years ago Chrisman insists that the Mori

78

00:03:47,509 --> 00:03:44,400

island incident was not a hoax and that

79

00:03:49,729 --> 00:03:47,519

the Air Force and the FBI know this he

80

00:03:52,309 --> 00:03:49,739

asserts that he and dog don't want any

81

00:03:54,710 --> 00:03:52,319

publicity especially in the form of a

82

00:03:57,289 --> 00:03:54,720

magazine article and says the reason he

83

00:03:59,509 --> 00:03:57,299

seldom speaks on UFOs in front of groups

84

00:04:02,570 --> 00:03:59,519

is because of the time he has to spend

85

00:04:04,610 --> 00:04:02,580

afterwards turning down requests for him

86

00:04:07,729 --> 00:04:04,620

and Dahl to help people looking into

87

00:04:10,369 --> 00:04:07,739

Maury Island Chrisman apologizes for his

88

00:04:12,890 --> 00:04:10,379

abrupt answer to Leslie's letters to

89

00:04:15,949 --> 00:04:12,900

doll and hopes this will end the matter

90

00:04:19,849 --> 00:04:15,959

he closes saying we have no information

91

00:04:21,890 --> 00:04:19,859

for you yours truly Fred Chrisman Leslie

92

00:04:24,590 --> 00:04:21,900

is described in the article as having

93

00:04:27,070 --> 00:04:24,600

written an indignant letter to doll

94

00:04:30,469 --> 00:04:27,080

dated September 16

95

00:04:32,689 --> 00:04:30,479

1967. according to the article Leslie

96

00:04:35,689 --> 00:04:32,699

objected to Chrisman answering letter

97

00:04:37,790 --> 00:04:35,699

years addressed to doll he wondered why

98

00:04:40,189 --> 00:04:37,800

Chrisman gave him doll's address and

99

00:04:43,249 --> 00:04:40,199

noted chrisman's habit of addressing

100

00:04:45,530 --> 00:04:43,259

some of the more deep end groups thusly

101  
00:04:48,650 --> 00:04:45,540  
then received another letter from Dahl

102  
00:04:51,590 --> 00:04:48,660  
dated September 16th doll tells Leslie

103  
00:04:53,749 --> 00:04:51,600  
that at times he had been contacted by

104  
00:04:56,629 --> 00:04:53,759  
some very prominent speakers and

105  
00:04:58,909 --> 00:04:56,639  
investigators in the UFO picture he says

106  
00:05:01,969 --> 00:04:58,919  
he doesn't pay attention to most but

107  
00:05:04,610 --> 00:05:01,979  
respects the work of Dr Frank Strange's

108  
00:05:06,890 --> 00:05:04,620  
and that strangers had contacted him

109  
00:05:10,010 --> 00:05:06,900  
about organizing a three to four day

110  
00:05:12,950 --> 00:05:10,020  
conference in Washington or Oregon in

111  
00:05:15,650 --> 00:05:12,960  
December according to him strangers had

112  
00:05:18,469 --> 00:05:15,660  
an 80-minute movie that is well worth

113  
00:05:21,230 --> 00:05:18,479

the time and the money to see he asks

114

00:05:23,570 --> 00:05:21,240

Leslie if you Opera would be interested

115

00:05:25,730 --> 00:05:23,580

in sponsoring the conference as he does

116

00:05:28,550 --> 00:05:25,740

not feel he has the ability to make it

117

00:05:30,770 --> 00:05:28,560

into what it should be Leslie then got

118

00:05:34,550 --> 00:05:30,780

another letter from Chrisman dated

119

00:05:37,010 --> 00:05:34,560

September 28 1962 7 which begins with

120

00:05:39,110 --> 00:05:37,020

Christman apologizing for having to

121

00:05:41,810 --> 00:05:39,120

again step into the correspondence

122

00:05:44,090 --> 00:05:41,820

between you and Dawn he says he is

123

00:05:45,950 --> 00:05:44,100

puzzled because he fills his command of

124

00:05:48,170 --> 00:05:45,960

English is good enough that he could

125

00:05:50,749 --> 00:05:48,180

present his and Dahl's position without

126

00:05:52,969 --> 00:05:50,759

hurting Leslie's feelings he explains

127

00:05:56,090 --> 00:05:52,979

that he is an industrial psychologist

128

00:05:58,249 --> 00:05:56,100

who deals with hard-headed businessmen

129

00:06:01,010 --> 00:05:58,259

and doesn't like to be always explaining

130

00:06:03,050 --> 00:06:01,020

why his name keeps popping up in UFO

131

00:06:06,230 --> 00:06:03,060

books that deal with the Maury island

132

00:06:08,570 --> 00:06:06,240

case he insists she is never been any

133

00:06:10,550 --> 00:06:08,580

man of mystery and is just trying to

134

00:06:13,430 --> 00:06:10,560

make a living but the people he has

135

00:06:16,730 --> 00:06:13,440

business relationships with reacted in a

136

00:06:20,029 --> 00:06:16,740

most Avid manner to UFO reports he says

137

00:06:22,550 --> 00:06:20,039

he is at a loss as to why people insist

138

00:06:24,350 --> 00:06:22,560

on making him the focal point of

139

00:06:26,870 --> 00:06:24,360

interest in a matter that happened over

140

00:06:29,629 --> 00:06:26,880

20 years ago that this sort of attention

141

00:06:32,029 --> 00:06:29,639

is bad for business that he only speaks

142

00:06:35,029 --> 00:06:32,039

to select groups and has a reputation

143

00:06:37,850 --> 00:06:35,039

for doing so Chrisman tells Leslie that

144

00:06:39,950 --> 00:06:37,860

he spoke with dog and that doll feels it

145

00:06:43,070 --> 00:06:39,960

is time to let up and cooperate with

146

00:06:44,930 --> 00:06:43,080

certain people why you I don't know he

147

00:06:47,689 --> 00:06:44,940

leaves it up to doll saying it's his

148

00:06:50,029 --> 00:06:47,699

doll's baby and that he won't interfere

149

00:06:52,790 --> 00:06:50,039

as long as Leslie handles it as he said

150

00:06:55,550 --> 00:06:52,800

he would and not with tongue-in-cheek

151  
00:06:57,770 --> 00:06:55,560  
making them look like fools according to

152  
00:07:00,409 --> 00:06:57,780  
Chrisman others had promised to handle

153  
00:07:02,749 --> 00:07:00,419  
the matter seriously and made them look

154  
00:07:05,270 --> 00:07:02,759  
not only as fools but as careless

155  
00:07:08,029 --> 00:07:05,280  
pranksters they cared not a wit that men

156  
00:07:10,129 --> 00:07:08,039  
died in the prank Chrisman closes the

157  
00:07:12,890 --> 00:07:10,139  
letter saying they'd return to Maury

158  
00:07:15,590 --> 00:07:12,900  
Island and found some startling things

159  
00:07:17,390 --> 00:07:15,600  
going on including there being no plants

160  
00:07:19,909 --> 00:07:17,400  
growing where the material had fallen

161  
00:07:22,330 --> 00:07:19,919  
and there being a federal project going

162  
00:07:25,189 --> 00:07:22,340  
on to remove and level the whole area

163  
00:07:28,189 --> 00:07:25,199

according to him the place was posted

164

00:07:31,189 --> 00:07:28,199

and they explored until a Watchman came

165

00:07:33,830 --> 00:07:31,199

and removed us he says that on inquiry

166

00:07:37,070 --> 00:07:33,840

they found that government men of some

167

00:07:39,469 --> 00:07:37,080

agency took soil samples and photos many

168

00:07:42,050 --> 00:07:39,479

times over the years and that he and

169

00:07:44,629 --> 00:07:42,060

Dahl took photos and that Leslie may

170

00:07:46,610 --> 00:07:44,639

have some interest there the article

171

00:07:48,409 --> 00:07:46,620

ends with the writer giving details

172

00:07:50,689 --> 00:07:48,419

about what Leslie and his colleagues

173

00:07:53,270 --> 00:07:50,699

thought about the letters according to

174

00:07:55,010 --> 00:07:53,280

the writer they had suspicions that the

175

00:07:57,529 --> 00:07:55,020

letters were written by the same person

176

00:07:59,809 --> 00:07:57,539

based mainly on a comparison of the

177

00:08:02,210 --> 00:07:59,819

signatures Leslie was getting phone

178

00:08:04,249 --> 00:08:02,220

calls as well as letters from doll and

179

00:08:06,230 --> 00:08:04,259

mentioned a doll that his male was being

180

00:08:09,170 --> 00:08:06,240

opened and that he believed his phone

181

00:08:12,469 --> 00:08:09,180

was being tapped and heard no more from

182

00:08:14,390 --> 00:08:12,479

Mr Dahl after that Charles Lear is the

183

00:08:29,390 --> 00:08:14,400

author of The Flying Saucer

184

00:08:29,400 --> 00:08:34,209

[Music]

185

00:08:34,219 --> 00:08:46,080

thank you

186

00:08:50,460 --> 00:08:48,410

[Music]