

Story, Ronald D., ed. *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company, 1980.

Story, Ronald D., with J. Richard Greenwell. *UFOs and the Limits of Science*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1981.

LEE, GLORIA (1925-1962)

In 1953 Gloria Lee, a former child actress, airline stewardess and model with an interest in psychic phenomena, "heard" a voice inside her head. The voice identified itself as that of "J.W.," a resident of Jupiter. Lee was intrigued but insisted on a physical visit. One day not long afterwards, as she was hanging the family wash in the backyard of her Westchester, California, home, she heard a voice say, "Well, you've been wanting to see one—look up!" As Lee told the story, "And when I did, there was a saucer, big as life, flying north towards Santa Monica!" (Lee, 1959).

Soon afterwards, through J.W.'s guidance, Lee joined a psychic-development group where, Lee later wrote: "I was utterly flabbergasted when someone described a person who claimed to be a 'space man' and identified himself as J.W.!" (*ibid.*) Lee was now fully persuaded of his existence, even though she was never to see him as anything other than a "manifested light form."

Lee founded the Cosmon Research Foundation, which published and distributed J.W.'s teachings, characterized by religious historian J. Gordon Melton as "Theosophical in nature ... reminiscent of both Madame Blavatsky and Alice Bailey" (Melton, 1978). Lee's 1959 book *Why We Are Here* was widely read in contactee circles.

In September 1962 Lee took channeled blueprints for a spaceship to Washington to show government officials. When officials refused to look at them, Lee and associate Hedy Hood retired to a Washington hotel. Lee said, "I've heard from J.W., and they're disturbed up there because of fighting in the world and the fact that nuclear bombs might upset their planets. The space people are going to invade the earth and establish a peace program. J. W. has ordered me to go on a fast for peace until he sends a 'light elevator' down to take me to Jupiter" (Barker, 1965).

The fast lasted from September 23 to November 28,

when Lee's husband, fearing for her health, summoned an ambulance. She died in a hospital on December 2. At the time of her death Cosmon Research had 2000 members. With its leader gone, the organization disbanded.

In 1952 Lee married William H. Byrd, an aircraft-design engineer. At the time of Lee's death, their children James and Janet were seven and five years old respectively.

Two months after her death, the Miami-based Mark-Age MetaCenter announced that one of its channels, a woman known as Nada-Yolanda (Pauline Sharpe), had managed to establish communication with Lee, who announced herself with these words: "Hello, everybody, this is Gloria. Yes, it's really me. I'm really finding out how this thing works." Among other messages she reported that spaceships would land on earth within six months if they were met with "peace, acceptance, and living exchange of information." She also said she had run into the recently deceased Marilyn Monroe (Mark-Age MetaCenter, 1963). Several years later Mark-Age published five volumes' worth of channeled communications from Lee.

Sources:

Barker, Gray. *Gray Barker's Book of Saucers*. Clarksburg, WV: Saucerian Books, 1965.

Lee, Gloria. *The Changing Conditions of Your World, by J.W. of Jupiter, Instrumented by Gloria Lee*. Los Angeles: DeVorss, 1962.

—. *Why We Are Here: by J.W., A Being from Jupiter Through the Instrumentation of Gloria Lee*. Los Angeles: DeVorss, 1959.

Mark-Age MetaCenter. *Cosmic Lessons: Gloria Lee Channels for Mark-Age*. Miami: Mark-Age MetaCenter [1969-1972].

—. *Gloria Lee Lives! My Experiences Since Leaving Earth*. Miami: Mark-Age MetaCenter, 1963.

Melton, J. Gordon. *The Encyclopedia of American Religions*. Volume 2. Wilmington, NC: McGrath Publishing Company, 1978.

Melton, J. Gordon, and George M. Eberhart, eds. *The Flying Saucer Contactee Movement: 1950-1990*. Santa Barbara, CA: Santa Barbara Centre for Humanistic Studies, 1990.

Moseley, James W. "Recent News Stories: Weird 'Space Messages' in New York City." *Saucer News* 8,4 (December 1961): 12.