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From the time he was a schoolboy Fortean phenomena occupied Ivan Sanderson's questing mind.

In "spontaneous" fires that defy explanation, a slew of things — including human bodies — burst into flames and burn to a crisp.

## DEATH by HELL'S FIRE

By Ivan T. Sanderson

Abridged from *Investigating the Unexplained*  
by Ivan T. Sanderson, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1972

UNTIL RECENTLY nothing intelligent even was suggested by way of a possible explanation for spontaneous combustion and the consumption by fire of human beings.

I started my own investigation of this with the somewhat vague notion that it was (is) just another "unexplained" and supported by only a few famous cases. But just as in every other Fortean matter, an overall survey leads to all sorts of byways and parallel throughways. Human beings bursting into flames and being burned to a crisp — the kind of crisp it takes a cre-

matorium hours to achieve at about 3000° Fahrenheit — while their surroundings and even the chairs they are sitting in are either hardly or sometimes not at all affected, turns out to be only a starter. Naturally people are most interested when such "accidents" occur to one of their own species, and reports of similar occurrences involving other animals and plants tend to get lost.

There are, however, a whole slew of further occurrences of like ilk. These are the burnings of houses, ships, cars and what-have-you. To be sure

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it (can) no doubt (be) so highly developed in certain sedentary persons as to make their bodies actually combustible, subject to ignition, (and which will) burn like wet gunpowder in some circumstances."

We therefore wonder — though mildly — whether this phosphagen, and its related complex compounds of phosphorous and potassium, might not be the primary cause of these spontaneous combustions both in soils and composts, and in living plants and animals. And anent this, we should note some cases in which a certain human factor would seem to have acted as the trigger.

This is sweat, soaking into fabrics closely adpressed to the human skin. In fact, sweat would seem to be the "trigger" in the majority of cases, as we may possibly infer from the number of victims who were (invalids) either in bed or in wheelchairs and perhaps too warmly wrapped up, or people sitting for long periods in front of a fire, like the British author Temple Thurston who was recuperating from influenza at the time, and the heavy drinkers of old, who wore excessive amounts of clothing in order to keep warm in their frigid and un-insulated houses.

A most pertinent case in this respect is that of Paul V. Weekly of Sioux City, Iowa, who was awakened by an itching foot at 3:30-A. M., only to find, on throwing back the covers, that his bed was aflame. Having put out said flames this phlegmatic character solemnly went back to sleep, only to have the same thing happen again an hour later! Incidentally, he reported that the sheets, blankets and

bedspread were all new. If his feet were sweating and he had accumulated an excess of such compounds as phosphagen which were exuded in his sweat they might, on coming in contact with the cellulose (i.e., nitroglycerin) of the sheets at the temperature engendered by the blankets and quilt, have reached a dangerous flash point.

Another pertinent case is that of Professor H. This comes from a report by a medical man, Dr. John Overton of Nashville, Tenn., and was published in the *Transactions of the Medical Society of Tennessee* for 1835. It transpires that "H." was professor of mathematics of the University of Nashville. He seems to have been a man of mathematical precision in all things, since Dr. Overton reports that:

He was engaged as usual in his recitation room, in attendance upon the morning exercises of his class, till 11 o'clock in the forenoon. He then buttoned his surtout coat close around him and walked briskly thus clothed to his residence, a distance of about three-fourths of a mile, taking exercise enough to produce a glow of warmth on the surface of the body, without inducing fatigue, but feeling at the same time his usual acidity of the stomach for which he resolved to take some soda as a remedy within a short time (italics-ours). Having arrived at his lodging, he pulled off his overcoat and kindled a fire . . . retired to a remote part of the room and made his observations on the weight and temperature of the atmosphere as indicated by the barometer and thermometer, which were suspended in that situation. He then took the dewpoint by the thermometer. These operations . . . occupied about 30 minutes. This having been accomplished, he went immediately into the open air, made observations on the hydrometer and was beginning his observations upon the velocity and direction of the winds. He had been engaged in this latter process about 10 minutes, his body all the while sheltered from the direct

impression of the wind, when he felt a pain as if produced by the pulling of a hair, on the left leg. . . . Upon applying his hand to the spot pained, the sensation suddenly increased, till it amounted in intensity to a feeling resembling the continued sting of a wasp or hornet. He then began to slap the part . . . during which time the pain continued to increase . . . so that he was forced to cry out. . . . Directing his eyes at this moment to the suffering part, he distinctly saw a light flame of the extent at its base of a 10-cent piece of coin . . . he applied over it both his hands open, united at their edges, and closely impacted upon and around the burning surface. These means were employed by Mr. H. for the purpose of extinguishing the flame by the exclusion of the contact of the atmosphere (i.e. oxygen) . . . the flame immediately went out.

Then comes some information that is even more highly pertinent to our "theory," to wit:

Believing the combustion to have been extinguished . . . he untied and pulled up his pantaloons and drawers, for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of the part which had been the seat of his suffering. . . . The condition of the pantaloons and drawers was next carefully inspected. The left leg of the drawers at a point exactly corresponding with the part of the leg which had suffered injury and at a point accurately correspondent to the abraded surface were burnt entirely through their substance. They were not in the slightest degree scorched beyond this limit, the combustion appearing to have stopped abruptly without the least injury to any portion of the drawers which had not been totally consumed by its action. The pantaloons were not burnt at all. But their inner surface opposite to and in contact with the burnt portion of the drawers, was slightly tinged by a thin frostwork of a dark yellow hue. The material of this color, however, did not penetrate the texture of the pantaloons, which were made of broadcloth. . . . The drawers, which were composed of a mixture of silk and wool, were made tight and close at the ankle and tied with tape over a pair of thick woollen socks, in such a

manner as to prevent even the admission of air to the leg through their inferior opening.

This case with its pretty obvious evidence of over-clothing, overheating and more than probably excessive sweating, fits precisely into the pattern suggested by those who did the research on phosphagen.

Another still older case may legitimately be placed on record although it is not from the pen of a medical man but a politician. It reads in part as follows and was published in the *Philosophical Magazine* in 1803:

On the night of March 19, 1802, during the session of congress at Washington, Jonathan Dayton, one of the senators then attending from the state of New Jersey, sustained a loss of a pair of black silk stockings in an uncommon manner. On undressing himself at bedtime, his stockings were the last of his garments which he took off. The weather being cold, he wore two pair, the inner of wool and the outer of silk. When he stripped off the silk stockings he let them drop on a woollen carpet lying by the bedside; and one of his garters, which was of white woollen ferretin, fell down with the stockings. The understockings, on being pulled off, were thrown at some distance, near the foot of the bed. He observed static electricity on separating and removing the silk stockings from the woollen ones.

He fell asleep and remained undisturbed until morning when the servant entered to kindle the fire. The man observed that one of the leather slippers lying on the carpet and partly covered by one of the stockings, was very much burnt. Mr. Dayton then rose and found that the leather over which the stockings had lain was converted to a coal. The stockings were changed to a brown . . . butternut color. And although, to the eye, the stitches of the legs and even the threads of their clocks, appeared to be firm and entire, yet, as soon as an attempt was made to touch and handle them, they were found to be wholly destitute of cohe-

sion, their texture and structure being altogether destroyed. Nothing but a remnant of carbonic matter was left except that a part of the heel of one of the stockings was not decomposed (sic).

Though . . . nobody saw the manner and circumstances of the process, yet there was evidence enough of the evolution of much caloric while it was going on; for everything in contact with the stockings was turned to coal or cinder. Beside the slipper before mentioned, the garter was burned. It was fallen partly on the carpet and partly on and between the stockings. As far as it touched the stockings it was perfectly disorganized and carbonated and immediately beyond that limit was as sound as ever. The part of the carpet with its fringe which lay between the stockings and the floor, was in like manner totally destroyed, just as far as it was covered by the stockings and no further. The wooden plank which was of pitch pine, was also considerably scorched; and beneath the place where the thickest folds of the stockings had lain was converted to charcoal or lampblack to a considerable depth. In throwing down the stockings when they were pulled off, it happened that about a third part of the length of one of them fell not upon the carpet, but upon the bare floor. This part of the stocking was decomposed like the rest and the floor very much scorched where it had lain. (There was a very small fire in the hearth eight or nine feet away; and the candle had been "carefully extinguished.")

The substances chiefly consumed were leather, wool, silk and resinous wood. The linen lining of the slipper was indeed destroyed as far as the leather it touched was destroyed. But where it did not come in contact it escaped and the fire showed no disposition to burn even the linen beyond the boundaries prescribed to it on the leather.

While this business is all rather horrible it should be made quite clear that there is no reason to think there is anything "out of this world" about it.

Even if an imbalance of phosphate-potassium compounds, such as this phosphagen, in the ~~bodies~~ of animals is not the cause — or not the only cause — it is still more than just probable that the cause(s) is/are chemical and that they are thus open to investigation and explanation without appeal to "witchcraft" or the supernatural.

At the same time, we are still confronted with a real enigma. This is: why do not such "fires," however induced, result in normal conflagrations? Why, above all, do these "internal fires" stop so abruptly in surrounding flammable materials and not set off general conflagrations? How do they create the intense heat needed to demolish what they do and yet not affect surrounding matter? Are these "blue flames" really flames, or gaseous matter in the form of what we now call plasmas? Or are they of still another nature, having properties that we have not yet spotted or investigated?

Personally, I plunk for this last suggestion; and when contemplating this I think back to a day when a man threw a hunk of pure potassium\* into the sea off a ship. Ask any chemist what happened then. In any case these burnings are not what we could call "ordinary" fires. They seem to display more the properties of what we call atomic "heat."

\* A silver-white soft light low-melting univalent metallic element of the alkali metal group that is more reactive than sodium, oxidizing rapidly in air and reacting violently with water with the evolution of hydrogen which takes fire . . . says Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

naughty little boys love to start fires; gasoline fumes accumulate in closed buildings and static electricity can set off an explosion; birds peck through high-tension cables; rats gnaw through power line insulation and so on and on. But still, well over half the so-called "spontaneous" conflagrations never are pinned down to any known specific cause.

"Country fires" also constitute an extraordinary business that appears to have been going on since ever. It is mentioned by good old Pliny; and small-town newspapers, the journals

#### ABOUT IVAN T. SANDERSON

THE LATE Ivan T. Sanderson was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and although he lived in the United States for many years, he remained a British subject. He made the first of many expeditions when he was only 17, between studies at Eton and Cambridge University, to collect small animals for the British Museum. He held bachelor degrees in zoology, geology and botany.

of historical societies, the records of monasteries, seminaries, churches and even of scout camps contain reports of these spontaneous outbreaks. Confronted by a completely incinerated cow barn, local fireman, police and insurance adjusters can but look for evidence of faulty wiring, smoldering hay, arson, or confirmation of an electrical storm. All they can do is assume that one or another of these was the cause.

A fine case of another kind, where the process was actually observed, was reported as follows:

Clifton, Tenn. (UPI) — Flames flick up out of the ground on Perry Davis' farm near here, drawing crowds from miles around to stare and wonder. "I've never seen anything like it," said Davis. "There are burned leaves all over the place. Blazes will jump out of the ground for four or five inches. It looks like the earth has been scorched from the ground up." Two persons have been injured by the mysterious fires. W. J. Baker, 40, of Clifton suffered burns when the earth collapsed from underneath him and another man, unidentified, was reported slightly burned. Davis said despite warning signs posted in the area, "Persons have come from miles around to see. Forestry officials tell me that it could be very dangerous. There may be gas trapped under here and it could cause

His first book, *Animal Treasure*, catapulted him to national attention in 1937. His later published books include *Caribbean Treasure*, *Living Treasure*, *Abominable Snowmen*, *The Continent We Live On*, *Dynasty of Abu*, *Investigating the Unexplained* and *Invisible Residents*.

Sanderson died of cancer on February 19, 1973, at the age of 62. His wife Marian Fawcett survives him.

an explosion," Davis said. "I know there is a danger of these 40-foot oak and hickory trees toppling with the wind since their roots have been burnt," he said. Davis said the fire is burning about three feet under the ground over a two-acre area. "There have been several explanations given over the cause of the fire," he said. "Some think lightning caused the fire but I've seen no trace of trees being struck by lightning. I don't know the cause but it may have been spontaneous combustion."

Now, this brings up a whole series of extremely nasty questions. First, just what is "fire?" Where does it start and end? Smoldering on the one hand and flames on the other are re-

al from the chair, and the ashes and mortal remains of Mrs. Reeser were sent to the FBI laboratory for microanalysis. The first report had clarified nothing but it contained a blockbuster: Mrs. Reeser had weighed 175 pounds, yet all that remained of her after the fire — including the shriveled head, the whole foot, the bits of spine and a minute section of tissue tentatively identified as liver — weighed less than 10 pounds!

Edward Davies, a top-notch arson specialist of the National Board of Underwriters, came in on the case. Hard to fool and quick to detect evidence of deliberate burning, he was stumped. "I can only say," he admitted glumly, "the victim died from fire, with no idea of what caused it."

(A well-known anthropologist) was unable to understand how the widow's body could have burned so completely without someone's detecting smoke or especially, "... the acrid, evil-smelling odor of burning human flesh." Another major point he was unable to comprehend was the shrinking of the head. "In my experience," Dr. Krogman asserted, "the head is not left complete in ordinary burning cases. Certainly it does not shrivel or symmetrically reduce to a much smaller size. In presence of heat sufficient to destroy soft tissues, the skull would literally explode in many pieces. I have experimented on this using cadaver heads and have never known an exception to this rule. Never," he concluded, "have I seen a skull so shrunken or a body so completely consumed by heat. This is contrary to normal experience and I regard it as the most amazing thing I've ever seen."

As many who have written on this distressing subject — the professional medical men included — have pointed out, the preponderance of cases seems to occur among older women of sedentary habits or among bedridden men or persons in wheelchairs. There are also cases of infants not old enough to get about on their own outside their cribs. While obesity figures rather prominently, especially among women victims, it does not seem to do

so among men or children. An astonishingly high percentage of the victims were known not to smoke or to carry matches or lighter fluids. In early times and in fact right up to the end of the last century, excessively heavy drinking was almost invariably given as the cause of such "spontaneous" combustion. Further analysis of the recorded facts available, even of some of the early cases, however, fails to support this view. Time after time the police blotter on the coroner's report states "did not drink or smoke" or "never known to have used alcohol in any form." In fact, it almost looks as if the absence of alcohol intake might be one predisposing factor in the incidence of these "fires."

Some most illuminating discoveries have been made with regard to the vitamin designated B-10 (known to pharmacists as inositol). It is one of a group of phosphates known as phosphagens. This has a molecular structure very close to that of the natural blood sugar, glucose, and is or should be formed naturally in mammalian bodies. In cases of inositol deficiency the liver converts sugar excessively into fat. In other words, phosphates, and particularly this one, are absolutely essential to our normal metabolism.

Ever since man started cooking his food he has tended to destroy certain essential ingredients his body requires and he may finally end up with not just a deficiency but a virtual absence of this substance. If, on the other hand, a contrary imbalance sets in, phosphagen may begin to accumulate progressively; and then, since this substance is "a compound like nitroglycerine, of endothermic formation,

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We are not talking about just one or two bizarre, unexplained incidents. Credibility depends basically on sheer volume.

The most interesting of these cases is that of Mrs. Mary Reeser\* of St. Petersburg, Fla., simply because it is the best documented. It contains almost all features reported in all other cases and it was most thoroughly investigated. The facts are so pertinent that they must be given precisely and I have obtained the very kind permission of *True* magazine to reproduce verbatim the essential passages of a very fine article published by them in May 1964, entitled "The Baffling Burning Death" by Allan W. Eckert:

On July 2, 1951, Mrs. P. M. Carpenter, owner of a four-apartment building at 1200 Cherry St. Northeast, St. Petersburg, Fla., had spent a pleasant hour or so the evening before in the one-room apartment of her favorite tenant, Mrs. Mary Hardy Reeser, a rather stout, kindly, 67-year-old widow. Mrs. Reeser had chatted amiably about her beloved Pennsylvania Dutch background with her physician son, his wife and Mrs. Carpenter. She told her son she had taken a couple of Seconal tablets at 8:00 P.M., as usual, and would probably take two more before going to bed. When the trio left at 9:00 P.M. she was seated in her armchair facing one of the two open windows, a small wooden end table beside her. She was wearing a rayon nightgown, a cotton housecoat and a pair of comfortable black satin slippers. She was smoking a cigarette.

The next morning shortly before 8:00 a Western Union boy knocked at Mrs. Carpenter's door. "Got a telegram here for Mrs. Mary Reeser," he told her. "I knocked on her door but don't get any answer. You take it?"

Mrs. Carpenter said she'd deliver the message . . . went to the woman's door and tapped lightly, then harder when there

\* See "Another Mysterious Cremation," FATE, November-December 1951.

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was no answer. Alarmed, she reached to open the door but jerked her hand back in pain. The brass doorknob was so hot it burned her. She screamed and two painters working nearby rushed to her aid.

They forced the door and found a macabre scene. Although both windows were open, the room was intolerably hot. In front of one open window was a pile of ashes — the remains of the big armchair, the end table . . . and Mrs. Reeser.

Firemen arrived at 8:07 A. M., followed by the police. It was instantly apparent that this was no ordinary accident. Only the severely heat-eroded coil springs were left of the chair. There was no trace of the end table. Of Mrs. Reeser all that remained were a few small pieces of charred backbone, a skull which, strangely, had shrunk uniformly to the size of an orange, and her wholly untouched left foot still wearing its slipper.

The heat necessary for such damage had to be incredible, yet the room was little affected. The ceiling, draperies and walls from a point exactly four feet above the floor were coated with smelly, oily soot. Below this four-foot mark there was none. The wall paint adjacent to the chair was faintly browned but the carpet where the chair had rested was not even burned through. A wall mirror 10 feet away had cracked. On a dressing table 12 feet away two pink wax candles had puddled, but their wicks lay undamaged in the holders. Plastic wall outlets above the four-foot mark were melted but the fuses were not blown and the current was on. The baseboard electrical outlets were undamaged. An electric clock plugged into one of the fused fixtures had stopped at precisely 4:20 — less than three hours before — but the same clock ran perfectly when plugged into one of the baseboard outlets.

Newspapers nearby on a table and draperies and linens on the daybed close at hand — all flammable — were not damaged. And although the painters and Mrs. Carpenter had felt a wave of heat when they opened the door, no one had noted smoke or burning odor and there were no embers or flames in the ashes.

Faced with a complete mystery, Police Chief J. R. Reichert quickly asked for FBI assistance. Scrapings from the carpet, met-

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lated: I have obtained the kind permission of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* to quote on these two knotty points. Their definitions go as follows:

**COMBUSTION.** This term implies the process of burning and in the popular mind is generally associated with the production of flame. So far as terrestrial conditions are concerned, it is due to the combination of a combustible substance with oxygen and the consequent evolution of heat. The condition of flame is due to the oxidation of gases or vapours at very rapid rate so that high temperatures are attained, the molecules concerned thereby become highly radiant. **SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.** *In certain circumstances* (italics ours) ignition may occur without the application of any external source of heat. Thus, when heaps of finely divided coal or of cotton waste soaked in oil are kept in badly ventilated places, oxidation, proceeding slowly at first, may cause heat to accumulate until ultimately the temperature is raised to the "ignition point," when inflammation occurs. The spontaneous firing of hayricks is the result of similar causes.

Were it not for the highly necessary qualifying phrase that we have italicized, every bit of hay and straw and even dead grass would — presumably — burst into flames and we would be living, if at all, in a sort of perpetual *Götterdämmerung*. Another point to note is that the whole business of combustion is attributed solely to oxygenation and the (alleged) accompanying rise in temperature. This is, of course, the classical (and classic) explanation and interpretation. But, I would like to point out, these definitions lack the essential qualifying phrase (in "certain circumstances"). Stuff will burn in gases other than oxygen and wholly without its presence; and the basic questions as to just

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what both smoldering and flaming are and just why they take place under these "certain circumstances" and at just what temperatures, are neatly sidestepped.

Chemists, I find, tend either to shrug or to become a bit difficult if one presses these points and in case of spontaneous combustion sometimes even fall back on the layman's old standby, "electricity." Well, it is quite true that static electricity can produce a spark and it is obvious that dynamic (i.e., generated or flowing) electricity can do likewise. It would seem, moreover, that the latter just might be the triggering force that sets off the phenomena we are discussing.

Let us never forget that we and all animals are basically electrical machines, and this goes for the functioning of both our corporeal bodies and our noncorporeal nerve function and brain activity.

I have quite a roster of reports of animals (other than our species) being killed or afflicted by sudden inexplicable combustion; but personally, I have found only one wild animal that appeared to have been the victim of this plight. This was a large opossum that I stumbled across in the woods, far away from any human habitation or even trail, in West Virginia. The body was lying in a little clear patch among some weeds on the forest floor. Its front half, down to just in front of its hips, was perfectly normal and quite fresh; its back half was literally burned to a crisp, so that all that remained of the flesh was a black cinder through which the bones showed, for the most part white but with all their extremities singed and charred.

Es difícil creerlo, pero ha ocurrido... y sigue ocurriendo. No son muchos los casos, pero de tanto en tanto se registran, causan estupor y tratan de olvidarse. Nadie ha podido explicarlos con precisión. Las teorías cambian a medida que pasan las épocas. Se transforman las palabras que las interpretan, pero la terrible impresión que producen sigue siendo la misma. Las cremaciones espontáneas no son ficción ni fantasía, son realidad, tremenda realidad. Expondremos varios casos y los conceptos utilizados para dar consistencia lógica a las circunstancias en que se produjeron. En cierta forma es un viaje hacia una realidad terrorífica. No hacerlo es imposible pues los hechos están allí, desafiantes. Hacerlo es prácticamente un acto de imprudencia. Pero es así cómo se descubren los grandes misterios.

¿Cómo explicar que un cuerpo se incinere espontáneamente a más de 2.500° de temperatura sin que sufran daño los objetos cercanos? Si bien estas muertes debidas a calor interno de origen misterioso carecen de lógica, durante varios siglos los textos las registran sin poder dar razones coherentes, pero aceptando su consumación.

Por ejemplo, en 1908 las hermanas Margarita y Guillermina Dewar vivían en la localidad de Whitley Bay, Inglaterra. Ambas eran maestras jubiladas. Un atardecer, Margarita corrió aterrorizada hasta la casa de sus vecinos gritando que había llegado a casa y encontrado a su hermana incinerada. Se llamó a la policía y se vio que pese a estar los restos en la cama ni el lecho ni las adyacencias del cuarto tenían señas de haber sido pasto de las llamas. Durante la investigación judicial, y con evidente disgusto del forense, Margarita insistía que así había hallado a su hermana: *hecha cenizas en su cama, lo cual no era de ningún modo razonable.*

En la localidad comenzaron los rumores que sugerían una mentira en boca de la mujer. El diario local enumeraba sus sospechas y el forense atormentaba a Margarita con sus dudas en un ambiente donde las opiniones de vecinos y funcionarios eran de vital importancia. Al final, la desdichada mujer "confesó" que había encontrado a su hermana todavía viva en la parte baja de la casa y que la había llevado a la cama, donde murió. No se la acusó de perjurio ni se le pidió que explicara por qué "mintió" al comienzo. Ni se mencionó la carencia de fuego en la planta baja de su domicilio. El diario News comentó: "Ya decíamos que

fantaseaba". Y todo pasó al olvido.

Ante estos casos de muerte por combustión espontánea, los forenses norteamericanos explicaban que seguramente las víctimas se quemaban por dormirse con cigarrillos encendidos. Pero en Inglaterra, se los ha registrado con mayor precisión y amplitud. *Simplemente mediante una búsqueda en los diarios, el escritor inglés Eric Frank Russell localizó en 1938 diecinueve casos en su país, seis de ellos hombres. Algunos de ellos desorientaron enormemente a médicos, policías y forenses.*

#### DE TODOS LOS FUEGOS EL FUEGO

Uno de ellos se produjo a bordo de un barco en Norfolk Broads el 29 de julio. Allí, una dama se transformó súbitamente en un montón de restos calcinados. Según registra el diario *Liverpool Echo* del día si-

guiente, el oficial de investigaciones comentó: "Supongo que se incendiaron sus ropas, pero no logro imaginar de qué manera".

El *London Daily Telegraph* de septiembre 20 de ese año cita un caso ocurrido en Chelmsford. En medio de un salón de baile una mujer se convirtió de pronto en una pira de llamas azuladas y al rato era un mero montón de cenizas. El forense L. F. Caccles resumió: "*En toda mi larga vida es la primera vez que veo algo tan misterioso*".

Russell comprobó que el 27 de diciembre los diarios de Londres informaban sobre tres casos: dos mujeres, una en Downham y otra en Brixton, y un hombre en Ballina, Irlanda. Ninguna de las víctimas —decían las crónicas— estaban cerca del fuego o fumaban tabaco. *En los distintos sitios, los tres casos sucedieron simultáneamente.*

La misma simultaneidad había tenido lugar el 7 de abril, cuando tres hombres situados en puntos distantes unos de otros habían tenido una muerte similar por incineración. Un caso revelador se produjo a bordo del navío *Ulrich*, frente a la costa irlandesa. El contramaestre notó que el barco iba a la deriva y se dirigió a la cabina de comando. Allí se encontró con el timonel convertido en una pila de cenizas. *Sorprendido, constató que alrededor nada registraba incidencia del fuego. El piso, los compases, el timón e incluso las botas del difunto no registraban daño alguno.* Ninguno de los marineros cercanos oyó grito alguno. Una vez en el puerto los médicos se pusieron a meditar. La carne había sido consumida por un fuego de poder excepcional y el timonel había muerto seguramente de modo instantáneo. *¿Pero cómo se explicaba la inmunidad de los ob-*

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# LAS CREMACIONES ESPONTANEAS

¿SIN HIJOS  
JÓVENES?

jetos circundantes? Uno de los profesionales dijo que tal vez había sido impactado por un rayo. Pero la tarde había sido de pleno sol y nadie del barco oyó nada anormal. Y para refutar esa teorización quedaba otro detalle: el timonel estaba bajo techo.

Esa misma tarde, a varios centenares de kilómetros al Este, un camión había caído por una ladera. La policía abrió la cabina y descubrió que el conductor, George Turner, de Birkenhead, había corrido la misma suerte que el timonel John Greeley: era un montón de cenizas. Las ventanillas estaban intactas, lo mismo el asiento e incluso una mancha de grasa junto al sitio del conductor no había ardió. Igualmente sucedió con el tanque de nafta. El veredicto del jurado fue: "Muerte accidental por fuego de origen misterioso".

Y también esa misma tarde, más al Este todavía, sucedió otro "accidente". Cerca de Nijmegen (Holanda), el joven Will Ten Bruik fue hallado incinerado dentro de su auto. El daño del coche era leve y el tanque también estaba intacto. Si bien la víctima "estaba quemada al punto de resultar irreconocible", nada indicaba alrededor la existencia de algún fuego. Varios años después, refiriéndose a esos tres casos simultáneos, Michael Mac Dougall escribía en el *Sunday Star Ledger*, de Newark (marzo 13, 1966): "Fue como si algún ser galáctico de increíble tamaño hubiese pinchado la Tierra con un tenedor de tres agujas, tres dedos de fuego que sólo queman carne".

## LAS EXPLICACIONES INSOLITAS

Si nos remontamos al siglo pasado, veremos accidentes similares. En el diario norteamericano *Daily Republican Times*, de Illinois (1885), está documentado el caso de la señora de John Rooney. El informe del forense, doctor Floyd Clendens, fue tan espeluznante, que la comisión investigadora desistió de hallar una explicación. Se hallaron los restos de la infornada mujer junto a la mesa de su cocina: un cráneo calcinado, un trozo de vértebra, un pie y un

puñado de cenizas. La temperatura debió ser de unos 2.000°. Ni la silla ni la mesa habían sufrido daño. Apenas un leve chamuscamiento del mantel y el hueco del piso donde se hallaron los despojos. El misterio de las combustiones humanas espontáneas se planteaba allí en toda su medida.

Las explicaciones de la época eran por demás primitivas. En 1833, M. J. Fontanelle había leído un trabajo ante la Academia Francesa. El científico decía haber estudiado numerosos casos y enumeró sus conclusiones: 1) La combustión humana sucede generalmente a aquellos que beben licores excesivamente; 2) Las víctimas son mayormente mujeres ancianas; 3) A veces la combustión es parcial, pero a menudo es general, las partes que evitan la destrucción son los pies, manos y porción superior de la cabeza; 4) Estas combustiones no se extienden comúnmente a las sustancias inflamables cercanas o en contacto con el cuerpo; 5) En vez de atenuar las llamas, el agua incrementa su violencia.

La teoría de Fontanelle era que el alcohol producía gases inflamables o que impregnaba las membranas celulares del cuerpo. Combinado ello con el gas de hidrógeno sulfuroso formado frecuentemente en el canal intestinal y con otros componentes inflamables hidrogenados factibles en la cavidad

interna" se producía fuego en determinadas condiciones.

Cierto doctor Jacobs (como consta en el libro *Anomalías y curiosidades de la Medicina*) aventuraba razones más "estrictas":

1) Ocurre siempre en cuerpos humanos vivientes; 2) Los sujetos son generalmente personas ancianas; 3) Se observa con mayor frecuencia en mujeres que en hombres; 4) Los sujetos suelen estar a solas cuando se produce la combustión; 5) Todos suelen llevar una vida ociosa; 6) Son corpulentos o inmoderados; 7) Frecuentemente, al producirse el hecho hay una lámpara y sustancias ígneas en el cuarto; 8) La combustión es veloz y tiene lugar de una a siete horas; 9) En la habitación se acumula un vapor espeso y las paredes son cubiertas por una sustancia carbonosa; 10) La parte más destruida es el tronco, prevalecen parte de la cabeza y extremidades; 11) Salvo dos excepciones, las combustiones han ocurrido en invierno y en regiones nortefias.

Otro francés, el escritor H. de Duvergier, dio la siguiente descripción del fenómeno:

"La combustión espontánea comienza con una llama azulada que se ve extender poco a poco, pero con rapidez extrema, sobre todas las partes afectadas del cuerpo. Ello persiste hasta que esas partes se ennegrecen, y generalmente no cesan hasta que se han convertido en cenizas. Las veces que se ha intentado apagarla con agua no ha habido éxito. Si se toca las partes se adhiere al dedo una sustancia grasosa que no cesa de arder. Al mismo tiempo se llena el ambiente de un olor desagradable, parecido al cuerno quemado. Un humo espeso emana del cuerpo y se adosa al mobiliario, como una especie de sudor, untuoso al tacto. En muchos casos sólo se extingue el fuego cuando la carne se ha convertido en cenizas y los huesos en polvo. Comúnmente no se queman las extremidades y un trozo de la cabeza. Basta una hora y media para que todo ello se produzca. Es muy raro que se enciendan los muebles circundantes; a veces ni siquiera los ropajes se dañan."

El New York Herald del 27 de

- S: This is, as you might perceive it, a lifeline to your body which is very real in nature. In an energetic sense this is the cord which maintains a lifeline with your energies to your body. It is indeed a real device.
- D: *Then at the point of death this cord is severed?*
- S: That is accurate.
- D: *Some people are afraid to have out-of-the-body experiences for fear that they might become separated from their body prematurely.*
- S: It is possible to do this. However, it is almost certainly done intentionally and not through accident.
- D: *You mean when they go out of the body the silver cord connects them so they can't become lost, so to speak?*
- S: That is accurate. There should be no fear in experiencing astral travel, for were it not meant to happen it would never happen.
- D: *But in many cases, it is not planned; it is spontaneous.*
- S: That is accurate. It is "spontaneous."
- D: *Is there any danger of someone staying out of the body too long on one of these journeys?*
- S: We perceive there is no danger. For were the individual not to return it would be of his or her own choosing and not because some malevolent energy has come in behind and severed the cord.
- D: *They couldn't become lost, in other words, and not find their way back?*
- S: We do not perceive this as true.
- D: *Then they are definitely connected with the body until the point of death, and then the cord is severed? It is like an umbilical, so to speak.*
- S: That is entirely accurate.
- D: *If death would occur during an out-of-body experience, what would we say the body died of? Would it be a heart attack?*
- S: You are asking what the physical symptoms would be. Sudden infant syndrome is often ascribed to this. There are also those who because of age simply choose not to return, and so they are found in their sleep.
- D: *Is it a heart attack?*
- S: That is not the case, because a heart attack is death induced by a real physical ailment, and is not what we refer to here.

SHC

DOLORES CANNON

The Death Experience

17

"BETWEEN DEATH AND LIFE"

- They would die in their sleep, and it would be called "from natural causes."
- D: *If an autopsy were performed, they wouldn't find any cause at all?*
- S: That is accurate.
- D: *What about people who seem to die of spontaneous combustion? That is an unexplained mystery.*
- S: This is due to an imbalance of what you would call "chemicals" within the system. It is because of the fact that human bodies do burn food, though through a very controlled and very slow process. Such a death is caused by the combustion of the body fluids. This is oftentimes due to hereditary factors which cause an imbalance in the chemical makeup of the body. For example, too much phosphorus in the body system.
- D: *Is this caused by diet?*
- S: Not so much caused from diet but from the signals given to the body to produce levels of these chemicals.
- D: *Is this an accidental happening or is it intentional?*
- S: That would be hard to describe, for all experiences are unique. It could be one of either or both.
- D: *What about people who seem to die in groups? There are many cases such as train accidents, massacres, earthquakes, where several people die at one time. Did they all choose to go at the same time or did they have anything to say about it?*
- S: You are aware of the concept of karma on an individual basis. There is indeed also what is called "group" karma. There have been, through many eons of time, instances where souls have tended to group together to perform certain tasks, or to establish changes, or to experience life in a group, much as you tend to experience on an individual basis. These "group deaths" are nothing more than individual souls who would come together at some certain points in their transition; that is, in their learning experience of dying. And in so doing find themselves at a juncture at which it would be most appropriate for them to depart simultaneously.
- D: *Did they agree to do this before their entry into the life?*
- S: That is accurate. For it is in this group transition that they find support. There is a sharing of the experience in that they are not alone in this transition. In many cases there have

# Prediction Before Prevention: The Geological Background

by Andrew Davie

*New survey techniques originally developed to investigate fires are revealing that earth-energy stresses can be defined so precisely that illnesses and deaths can be predicted. Andrew Davie, FGS, of Geo-Rheological Surveys, warns of the dangers involved in attempts to interfere in natural, cyclic phenomena.*

Down through the hoary mists of time, myths, legends, folklore, and old wives' tales there runs a golden thread of truth. Religious mumbo jumbo, cult and voodoo practices from all ages, cultures, and continents have glimmers of knowledge known in the past of why — for no apparent reason — men die.

Some of these stories tell of a person bursting into flames, consumed in a ball of fire. Other stories relate how great men of knowledge pass on to higher levels at an early age, their bodies racked with a terrible illness. The bones of some poor person wrapped in bandages found in the Egyptian tombs show signs of arthritis. Death and illness played just as important part of history as it concerns everyone who considers their own destiny. We die a quick death, or a slow death, at some period in time. Few people have tried to find out why.

Research into cases of human spontaneous combustion has shown some remarkable results to show that death is not what it seems. These horrific deaths of many men and women recorded since written history began, show that on occasions even their clothes are not even singed. Yet, all that is left of what was a living, loving human body is a small heap of carbon. What triggered off this research into the frightening deaths was that one case, in 1970, occurred at a predetermined time and location, set out numerically from other forms of geophysical phenomena. The death had been forecasted.

In the following months, a series of similar deaths were also found to occur at specific locations, at preset times of potential hazard. Setting the firegrounds out on OS maps, it became obvious that a geometric pattern was being followed. The distance between each site obeyed a Time = Distance syndrome, where several of these distances were identical, and precise to a few inches error over several miles distance.

A similar study of human spontaneous combustion using case histories in America illustrated that a death in the east coast could predetermine a death under these strange circumstances in San Francisco, Hollywood, or Canada. The distances between these firegrounds appeared to obey the same Time = Distance syndrome as elsewhere. Calculations to determine the common factor found these distances were multiples of 3.089764481 Feet Scotch.

The atomic weight of Phosphorus isotopes is approximately 3.09 A.W. The common factor in all these deaths had been established.

Efforts to find the statistically significant number of all spontaneous combustion fires, ranging from haystacks to multi-million pound/dollar holocausts, found that 93 per

cent of these fires could be forecasted. In haystacks where a fire occurred at the predetermined time, an animal was found to have died at the same moment. The number of these reports indicated the phenomena was no random, or isolated case, but occurred too often. These fires and deaths followed a geophysical pattern.

Fires in factories and houses were examined in detail. An accidental fire seldom reaches a full-scale alarm. Where a fire occurs at a predetermined location, the spread of flames is generally within the first few seconds.

The time of call-out is often precise, or within a few minutes of the forecasted time of hazard, in some cases submitted to the Senior Fire Officer at brigade headquarters. Setting these fires out on OS maps, the progression of geophysical phenomena allowed ample time to identify other areas suspected of becoming unstable.

One of the odd features recognized in these major fires was the color of friable material. It appeared that this color obeyed a spectra based on Time, and progression of the geophysical phenomena.

Collation of data on these colors eventually was to prove invaluable in the understanding of many other facets of the Catastrophe Theory. All the sites investigated where these fires had occurred had been forecasted as potentially dangerous.

Soon this color phenomena allowed a more precise timing of the event to be identified. A second survey was requested by the authorities. Setting out a series of map references, within hours of the list being submitted, fires were reported at the times of hazard lodged with these officials. However, one fire apparently was not reported for the last location on this list.

A site survey found that in place of fire, the house owner had died of cardiac infarction. The time of death was precise to the submitted time of danger for that site.

Further surveys found that other predetermined areas were the addresses of persons whose names appeared in the death columns of the daily papers. A full survey was undertaken to establish the statistically significant number of natural deaths capable of being forecast. The first of these six monthly surveys indicated that 98-100 per cent of all natural deaths were capable of being forecast.

Five subsequent surveys failed to alter these percentages. Since these initial surveys, no alteration has been noted; deaths from cancers, cardiac infarction, and other well-known causes have confirmed the earlier statistics.

The problems of forecasting were investigated to see if prevention of the causative energy could be identified. The more knowledge gained from this field of research, the more

\*Official Survey



it was realized that the subject was not a simple matter, but a highly complex system of Time = Distance = Elements and Color and Tonal Harmonies.

For instance, in criminology it was found that in a survey of all capital crime since 1950 the death of a person by the actions of a deranged person the suspect obeyed a numerically positive scale of physical features. This scale allowed the description of persons liable to commit a crime, from capital crime to petty theft, to be collated for periods six months before a crime was carried out. Using the calculations, it was also possible to determine the habitat of the criminal.

While many experts in the field of criminology may hold various opinions of their own, the statistics built up over the last ten years indicate that the criminal is not responsible for his actions.

Site conditions can, and no doubt do play an important role in causing the schizophrenic behavior in many cases, but the underlying energy force can be analyzed to show the problem is basically an allergic reaction.

Plato, 2500 years ago illustrated in his narratives that the criminal is not responsible for his actions. It is the parents. A child conceived when the parent is under the influence of alcohol, drugs or disease, is born with defects in its blood system. The child is subjected to cyclic periods of abnormal behavior patterns at predetermined periods throughout its life.

The life history of many well-known criminals, some who have murdered on several occasions, all show the cyclic behavior patterns associated with the date and time of birth and conception.

The present trend of irresponsible parents who procreate while under the influence of drugs, will result in a generation of men and women who will constantly break the common laws of rational behavior, unless medical action can be taken to remove the allergic symptoms.

Research into DNA and genetic engineering has shown some remarkable new insights into the mysteries of life. The recent published maps by the British Geological Survey have also shown the coincidence of many forms of illness can be identified from the lack of trace elements in the substrata, or drinking waters. The effect of the lack of these trace elements in matters of public health is not a simple problem to solve. Other causative effects play an equally important role. One person native to an area may show signs of health deterioration, while someone else in the same house can become ill from an entirely different symptom. The situation becomes even more complex when diets are examined.

Too often researchers examine only one part of the whole picture. The triple aspects of heredity, environment and diet must now be assessed against a geological background, on a Time = Distance basis. Only then can the analysis be seen in the context of Catastrophe Theory.

Cancer research over many years has been the sole domain of the medical specialists, who have channelled many millions of pounds, dollars and marks into the coffers of their establishments, without any equal sign of success in their efforts to combat the degeneration of the patients. Any amateur dowser could have told them where to begin their researches.

The more professional dowser knows that the problem of identifying illnesses with substrata aquifers is not as simple as it may appear.

A civil engineer or a geologist can explain that aquifers are not stable waterways below the earth. The path can vary ac-

ording to the type of materials through which the water flows. Water is not a stable combination of hydrogen and oxygen, as many people believe.

Few scientific establishments have researched into the behavior of H<sub>2</sub>O. What may seem to be a harmless liquid can suddenly become a highly destructive and lethal substance, and revert to the harmless liquid with equal speed.

In 1936, when it was discovered that fog could destroy concrete and roadstone, few scientists would believe it possible. Anomalous water, as it was later named, was shown to be part of the causative energy in machine failures in many types of factories.

In 1973, it became obvious that anomalous water was associated with spontaneous combustion. Prof. Symons and his colleagues discovered that anomalous water could be recognized as ionized H<sub>2</sub>O, and developed into many forms of unstable atomic structures.

Today, it is recognized that in the unstable state, radio frequencies are emitted by these droplets of water suspended in the atmosphere, or in substrata liquids. At specific times, these radio frequencies alter, and the harmonics in the gamma, ultraviolet, and infrared wavebands affect materials within the same harmonics.

When this natural phenomena occurs, serious, and often fatal conditions exist.

The change from stable to highly unstable elements obey the Time = Distance = Element syndrome which can be set into the forecasting program. For any amateur dowser, or even a professional surveyor to attempt to interfere with this natural process, is highly irresponsible and potentially dangerous, unless he can calculate the progression of geophysical phenomena within the Catastrophe Theory.

The difficulties faced by someone who wished to investigate or prevent the death of a friend who has been diagnosed as having cancer, or other illness, and who has identified an aquifer below the patients' bed, or house, soon become apparent. Elimination of the energy generated by the aquifer does not necessarily remove all energies.

The energy removed may be the one beneficial forcefield, while the remaining more powerful causative wavebands continue to degenerate the living tissues of the patient.

While no positive reports are available, it is possible that an amateur could remove energies which would allow an equally serious incident to occur. More so, now that seismicity is being considered within the scope of health degeneration within the Catastrophe Theory.

Dr. Marsha Adams, Stanford Research International, Menlo Park, California, found excessive bleeding in postnatal operations.

These seemingly unusual cyclic occurrences suggested that other factors were involved, and the bleeding was not through medical neglect.

Looking at other forms of cyclic deterioration, Dr. Adams began to look into the background stories of a host of reports on these cyclic events. The collation of data also pointed out that the times of these incidents were closely associated with the occurrences of earthquakes.

The information passed to the Scottish research team allowed the historic data from the archives to be examined in depth. It was realized that seismicity was also obeying the Time = Distance = Element syndrome. Soon every earthquake worldwide within specific range of 4.5 Richter could be forecast to precise limits.

The methods used to define an earthquake were applied to many incidents on a worldwide scale. The "Missing

Children" scandal in USA obeyed the strict criteria of the calculations, and unfortunately found that most cases could be considered to be homicide, or murder.

Data processing the calculations on seismicity, the updated program showed the recent earthquakes in China and Mexico City had been forecasted as early as 1980 and 1979. Both the time and distance in all these forecasted quakes were found to be correct to the forecasted program by fractions in both time, and space.

When it became obvious that the chemicals, or color, played an important role in all the cases examined within the Catastrophe Theory, the elements were considered to be capable of being analyzed to produce a forecasting program. We examine the theories of Walter Russell.

### Tracking the Causative Energy

Russell had suggested some years before his death that in the Atomic Periodic Table there were several weights which could contain as yet undiscovered elements.

Science has since confirmed Russell's theory. However, it appeared that he made several minor mistakes. Rectifying these mistakes indicated that the atomic periodic time scale was not only incomplete, but that it obeyed a Distance computation.

An earlier search of historic information had discovered that in antiquity various civilizations had worked on atomic theory. Applying both the ancient names and the modern elements to this new scale, it became clear that many old names could not be set against any modern counterpart. Many of the ancient names represented organic elements. The name of Poll was found to be of the same wavelength of pollen, taken from several flowers.

Checking out case histories of known geophysical phenomena, the date and time of incident could be analyzed against the chemical known to have caused the spontaneous combustion, or other incident. What had previously been unrecognized facets of the natural process and progression, now could be traced back to the initial causative energy by the use of the numerical formula.

Illnesses such as cancer, cardiac infarction, multiple sclerosis, arthritis and schizophrenia became a series of numbers which could be identified as a natural cyclic process, and located on large-or small-scale O.S. maps.

### Dangerous Interference

Efforts to prevent machine failures, and later major fires, allowed the recognition of the difficulties faced in the removal of the causative energies of these geophysical phenomena.

One slight mistake could result in the death of the person whom the survey was attempting to protect. While the habitat of the patient could well be protected, the amateur surveyor would not be aware of the problems created elsewhere.

The strange story of the occurrence in Buenos Aires on March 21, 1936, where an entire house exploded, killing the owner was, according to the witness, caused by the interference of electromagnetic energy. A house in Glasgow which blew apart, fortunately did not kill anybody.

An explosion which ripped a massive silo in two was caused by a faulty earthing wire, at a time when there was no lightning storm. A French priest was killed attempting to degauss natural energy.

In America, a resonance pyramid caused so much interference with radio broadcasts that the police had to blow the

place apart.

A laboratory near Edinburgh was radioactive for six weeks after an experiment with a spoonful of salt solution.

A recently built, specially designed aluminum structure has had to be "earthed," or serious damage could have resulted and could affect the owners health.

The dangers of any person attempting to interfere with nature are real. Anybody carrying out an experiment which goes wrong could be in a position where the police refer the case to the DPP/Fiscal, and charges of manslaughter or culpable homicide could be laid against the person carrying out the survey.

Whether the person carrying out preventative surveys is a professional, or an amateur, contravention of the rights granted under patent seal to Geo-Rheological Surveys Co., Ltd. will result in legal charges being brought against the surveyor, and substantial damages will be requested, if the courts favor the plaintiff.

The directors of Geo-Rheological Surveys Co., Ltd., regret that they cannot accept any cases, unless referred by the patients' own medical advisor, specialist, or other authority, except in special circumstances.

Any medically qualified person, including radionic practitioners, or those who practice alternative therapies, who has any difficulties in diagnostic investigations, can avail themselves of the information on geophysical phenomena within the Catastrophe Theory by writing to Geo-Rheological Surveys Co., Ltd., 23 Norwood Ave., Alloa, Clackmannanshire FK 10 2BY.

Licenses are available in various parts of the country to assist in surveys to determine whether an illness is caused by natural geophysical phenomena, or to investigate the causative energy of most degenerative illnesses of the human body.

Where the illness is causing problems to animals, our veterinary colleagues are available to advise the owner's own vet.

Several medical homoeopathic doctors are also available to give more specialist advice where normally the health problems are outside the scope of the company's range of operations.

### Case Histories

The daughter of a medical specialist had never been in good health since born. The date and time of conception allowed calculations to determine that seismic activity was responsible for the health problems.

A homoeopathic doctor was asked to prescribe one dose of the correct chemical, at the prescribed time. The girl is reported to be now 100 per cent healthy.

A girl who had two serious depressive illnesses was examined by study of her personal history. The cause of the illness was recognized as seismically induced.

The change from a listless, ill-looking person, to a light-hearted tennis-loving healthy person in a matter of ten minutes, astounded the mother and medical specialist who witnessed the complete change in this eleven-year-old girl.

### Calcium Deaths

A medical specialist from the World Health Organization requested an investigation to resolve the deaths across the world from prescribed calcium tablets. The pharmaceutical researchers apparently have tried to isolate the cause of these deaths, over a period of 100 years the problem has been known.

took two minutes to recognize that the change from stable to highly unstable conditions of the calcium was the result of seismicity.

A patient diagnosed as having terminal cancer is now, according to her own medical specialist, free from the illness. There is a scar on her lungs which requires to be examined regularly, but the patient reports she is feeling as fit as a person half her age. Treatment lasted 18 days.

A sufferer from Multiple Sclerosis reported he was like a zombie. Tests showed the prescribed dosage of drugs was twice the permitted amount. The patient could not cross the road without assistance. Nine days treatment, without drugs of any kind, and he reported feeling much better. Six months later, he was dancing with his wife at a party, something he had never been capable of doing previously.

The cause of his illness was traced to two seismic events during the foetal period in his life.

A second patient suffering from Multiple Sclerosis was found to be born at the precise moment of a minor earthquake in the area where her parents lived. Had it not been other incidents were on file within this area, at the precise moment of this birth, the connections between seismicity and Multiple Sclerosis would not have been so positively established.

Patients with allergies of many shades and symptoms have been investigated. Patients in America who report some form of illness which their own GP has failed to diagnose, have been found to conform to the seismicity in that country. A period ranging from a few days to nine days treatment appears to remove the cause.

One patient, who appeared to have a multitude of symptoms, was found to be allergic to the diesel oil from her car, which she drove six years previously.

A woman diagnosed as having cancer apparently died three days after being examined. This woman would not go to her own GP, and her life could possibly have been saved.

The cause of the illness was traced to the water supply, where the excessive calcium content not only affected her body by allergies, but could be traced to the heavy reaction in all aluminum-based utensils in her house.

### Descriptions Calculated

A very beautiful woman was found to have cancer by her own family doctor. Treatment in the infirmary appeared to only reduce the progression of the disease by a few weeks. An examination of her case by numerical data processing indicated that the cause of the illness was a reaction between the substrata chemicals inherent in the rocks, and nitrophosphorus fertilizers in the food which she enjoyed.

Excessive allergies to wheat products could well have been diagnosed at a much earlier stage in the progression of carcinoma.

Two incorrect dates were given by parents of a seven-year-old boy who had treatment in a hospital for rheumatoid arthritis. Calculations rectified the mistakes, and allowed the home of the family to be identified on an OS map covering 6,000 square miles.

The date, time and location of a triple fatal car accident illustrated that the driver of one vehicle had had a heart attack driving at 70 mph, and as the car swerved across the carriageway collided with the oncoming car.

Calculations allowed the description of the deceased to be given to the witness, who confirmed the physical features.

The calculated descriptions of two youths wanted by the police were found to be the descriptions of the men who caused the deaths of 66 men in a football crush, by their abnormal behavior. A pyromaniac was identified through the calculations to determine the physical description of the suspect, from the date and time of the fires.

The young married girl who cut off the genital organs of her son with a razor, was found to live in a house marked as potentially dangerous.

The suicide of a respectable businessman could possibly have been avoided. His house was used as a marker in the computer program for forecasting areas of hazard. The calculated description was found to be correct when the body was identified.

After a series of incidents, the house of a healthy woman appeared on the OS maps as potentially dangerous. Information was given to this woman's doctor regarding the possibility of the development of carcinoma. In due course, the woman appeared in the surgery, eventually to die a year later.

This case was one of the first to be predetermined, and no blame can be levelled at anyone for this death. The conditions of progression were not understood at this time.

Some years ago, the world famous athlete Lilian Board was reported suffering from terminal cancer. From a published picture of Miss Board, the description allowed calculations to be carried out to determine the date and time of death.

This unfortunately was confirmed by the untimely death of this brave woman. In the future, the knowledge gained in this case could well be used to prevent many thousands of similar illnesses.

*Andrew Davie sounds a strong warning in the wake of Anthony Scott-Morely's article on geopathic stress (JAM, May 1985).*

*"Our company has over the past 20 years examined over a quarter of a million cases of health deterioration, and deaths, and can with some authority confirm what is written in this article is correct, factual and capable of being proved conclusively. However, this description by Scott-Morely can be likened to a description of a bush at the edge of the Amazon jungle. To even attempt to carry out a survey as suggested in this article is liable to contravene the old Dampnife Acts, and even possibly the Criminal Acts concerning manslaughter and culpable homicide."*

*(reprinted with permission from Journal of Alternative Medicine, April 1986)*

Editor's Note: After his article, "The Planetary Grid Revisited," appeared in *PURSUIT*, 19, #2, John Sinkiewicz was kind enough to contact Andrew Davie who, in turn (via John), sent and gave us permission to use this article, that originally appeared in the British journal, *Journal of Alternate Medicine*.

Needless to say, not only the prospect of understanding the elusive phenomenon of SHC but correctly predicting when it will occur deserves our attention and other scientific investigation, as well.



### Notice

If you are planning to move, please notify SITU as soon as you know your new location (preferably 6 weeks in advance). Fill out change-of-address cards obtainable at your post office, or write a note giving your name the way it appears on your *PURSUIT* envelope and include both old and new address; mail to SITU, P.O. Box 265, Little Silver, NJ 07739 USA. Regrettably we must charge a fee for every returned *PURSUIT* journal due to change of address.

# A Case of Spontaneous Human Combustion?

In 1980, John Heymer attended the scene of a "rather unusual death fire". Here he describes what he saw.

In 1768, some peasants, near Luce in France, heard a thunderclap and saw a large stone fall from the sky. Reports of this strange phenomenon reached the French Academy of Sciences. The Academy asked Lavoisier, the premier chemist, to investigate. Lavoisier knew that stones do not fall out of the sky; so, in his knowledgeable arrogance, he reported that the witnesses were either lying or mistaken. The academy did not accept the fact of meteorites until the following century.

I read recently that scientists deny the possibility of spontaneous human combustion. The article did not explain how human beings are, on occasion, reduced to ashes in the absence of the sustained, extremely high temperatures normally required to effect such a metamorphosis. Having seen the results of spontaneous human combustion, and having observed the reaction of forensic scientists called to the scene, I know that the "Lavoisier Syndrome" is alive and kicking in its blinkers.

I am a retired Scenes of Crime Officer who served 25 years in the Gwent Police. My job involved attending the scenes of serious crimes and sudden deaths to gather evidence for forensic examination. As a result, I am both familiar with death and a trained witness.

On 6 January 1980, I was called to a council house in Gwent, to the scene of what I was told was a rather unusual death by fire.

The house was located on top of a hill and the weather was bitterly cold. On entering the house I was struck by the pleasant warmth. There was no sign of central heating or any other form of heating. The uniformed officers who had requested my presence told me that the fire had occurred in the living room.

I opened the door and stepped into a cooling oven. There was a steamy, sauna-like heat, and the room was bathed in a garish, orange radiance. The orange light emanated from a bare light bulb which was coated on a sticky, orange substance, as was the window. The temperature of the room had recently been extremely high. The walls were radiating heat. Condensation was running down the window. Heat had cracked one of the window panes.

The light bulb was bare because the plastic lampshade had melted, oozed down over the bulb and fallen to the floor. The walls, ceiling and all surfaces were coated with a greasy-black soot.

In one wall was an open grate, which contained the dead ashes of a coal fire. The hearth was tidy; there were no signs of any coals having fallen from the fire.

On the floor, about one metre from the hearth, was a pile of ashes. On the perimeter of the ashes, furthest from the hearth, was a partially burnt armchair. Emerging from the ashes were a pair of human feet clothed in socks. The feet were attached to short lengths of lower leg, encased in trouser leg bottoms. The feet and socks

were undamaged. Protruding from what was left of the trousers were calcined leg bones which merged into the ashes. The ashes were the incinerated remains of a man.

Of the torso and arms nothing remained but ash. Opposite the feet was a blackened skull. Though the rug and carpet below the ashes were charred, the damage did not extend more than a few centimetres beyond the perimeter of the ashes. Less than a metre away, a settee, fitted with loose covers, was not even scorched. Plastic tiles which covered the floor beneath the carpet were undamaged.

Although extremely high temperatures had developed in the room, nothing had burnt that had not been in contact with the body while it was being consumed. Reason told me that the scene I was viewing was impossible. Everyone at the scene experienced the same sensation of incredulity: a strong urge to deny the evidence of their senses.

I decided to call forensic scientists to the scene so they could examine the evidence *in situ*. I soon discovered that scientists, like policemen, are human; and consequently fallible.

When I suggested spontaneous combustion as the cause of the incineration, the scientists dismissed my proposal with knowing smiles and stated that the fire was entirely explicable. Their "reasoning" was as follows: the deceased had burnt to ashes in a room in which there was a coal fire: human bodies do not burn without the application of an external source of fire, *ergo*, the coal fire was the cause. In support of their supposition, they fixed on some burnt fibrous tissue adhering to the top bar of the grate. They deduced that the deceased had somehow fallen headfirst into the grate thereby setting himself on fire. They were certain that analysis would show the fibrous tissue to be burnt human skin.

Amazingly, the scientists saw nothing wrong in a man falling headfirst into a fire grate, igniting like a wax candle, then somehow picking himself out of the grate and sitting in his armchair to burn himself and most of his armchair to ash. As I said, the grate was tidy. It certainly did not indicate that anyone had fallen into the fire. However, they had their sample of "skin" and went away satisfied.

A week or so later, my superintendent called me to his office and showed me the report on the forensic analysis of the fibrous substance. It was revealed to be "of bovine origin." Despite this difficulty, there was no further investigation into the cause of the fire.

The human body consists of 70 to 80 per cent water, so it is not a readily flammable object. Modern gas-fired crematoria, starting from cold, use up to 30 cubic metres of gas, burnt with 600 cubic metres of air per hour, to incinerate one corpse. A crematorium, using forced draught, oxidises a corpse at 900° C. To achieve the same effect without the forced draught requires a temperature of 1600° C for many hours.

How can such heat be achieved in a council-house living room without scorching loose cushion covers within a metre of the incinerated body? Both doors to the room were fitted with draught excluders, so the room was virtually hermetically sealed.

I have never seen a body, even in the fiercest of fires, where the torso burnt away. Even in the hottest of fires, the extremities may burn away but the torso remains. In this case, as in other reported cases of spontaneous human combustion, the opposite had happened. The torso had burnt and the extremities remained.

Scientists have tried to explain human combustion in terms of the "candle effect." This explanation derives its name from tests made about 20 years ago. A few ounces of human fat were wrapped around a test tube and covered with several layers of thin cloth. The test tube was used to provide a bone-like rigidity. The roll of fat was ignited by a bunsen burner after about a minute. The test piece was burnt in the draught of an extractor fan and took about an hour to burn completely.

Any substance requiring the application of a bunsen burner for more than a minute hardly constitutes a fire hazard. If the incineration of a large human body in an airless room can be explained by reference to the burning of a "human fat candle" in a forced draught then you can expect to incinerate a bull by putting a match to its tail.

Human combustion of the kind I have witnessed demands an explanation beyond known laws. Suppose, by some as yet unknown biochemical action, water in the body were to break down into its constituent gases, hydrogen and oxygen. If conversion of the gases occurred at a suitable rate, then the resulting flames would be confined to the body. As it consumed the body, the burning hydrogen would use up all the oxygen, leaving none to support the combustion of other materials. Water can be broken down to its constituent gases with the application of electric current. The living human body can develop a considerable charge of static electricity.

As a layman propounding such a theory, I realise I shall bring down on my head, together with the wrath of "experts," the comment "A little learning is a dangerous thing..." I have not submitted my "theory" for expert consideration. I am of the same mind as Henry Ford "...an expert is a guy who will give me six reasons why it won't work." If scientists are certain that human combustion is explicable by the "candle effect" then let them incinerate to ashes a clothed corpse in an airless room without damaging the furnishings.

**SOURCE:** *New Scientist*, England

5/15/86

**CREDIT:** David Rossiter via COUD-I

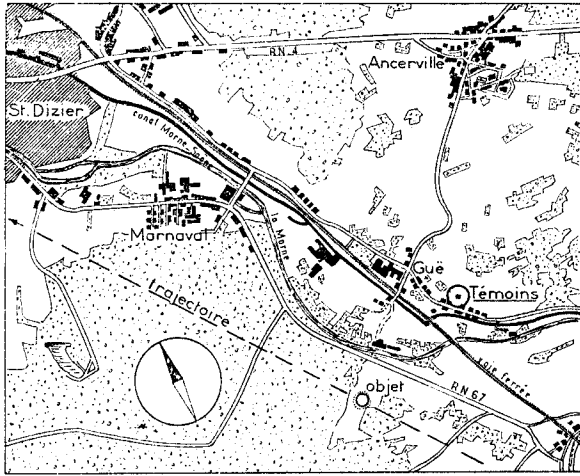


feu ou clignotant sur son pourtour, et aucun bruit n'a été perçu pendant son déplacement.

Habitué aux avions et hélicoptères, la base de St-Dizier n'étant qu'à 15 km, l'objet n'était pas assimilable à un engin connu. Il a été caché à notre vue par la cime de grands saules situés à proximité (d'après le plan fourni la direction était Saint-Dizier).

Je jure sur l'honneur des faits relatés.

(Observation de M. Thomé).



## Chronique de l'insolite

### Des doigts de feu

Le 7 avril 1938 fut un jour étrange et inquiétant. Trois personnes sont mortes, au même moment, de la même étrange façon, dans trois endroits différents, à plusieurs miles de distance. A ce jour personne n'a proposé d'explication plausible pour l'un ou l'autre de ces trois coups du sort.

Le caboteur S.S. Ubrich était dans l'océan Atlantique, au large de la côte irlandaise, se dirigeant vers les Indes de l'ouest. A 16 h 14 l'officier en second, P.F. Phillips, remarqua que le bateau dérivait fortement ; il couru à la passerelle, et il fut accueilli par un spectacle horrible : John Greeley, l'homme de la barre, ou du moins ce qu'il en restait, était transformé en cendre humaine. Il n'y avait aucune trace de feu. Le pont, la barre elle-même, de même les chaussures du mort, étaient intactes. Quelle que fut la flamme qui avait cramé John Greeley elle ne provenait de nulle part et s'était évanouie dans le néant. Plus tard, quand le corps carbonisé fut examiné par des experts médicaux, ils conclurent que Greeley était mort instantanément, sa chair consumée par une chaleur intense. D'où était venu cet éclair foudroyant qui n'avait fait aucun bruit ? Personne ne savait, personne même ne s'aventurait à une supposition.

A quelques centaines de miles à l'est, la police de Upton-by-Chester (Angleterre) fut appelée pour enquêter sur un accident de la voie publique : Un tracteur semi-remorque était allé au fossé. Lorsqu'on eut ouvert la cabine du camion, les autorités trouvèrent le corps brûlé du conducteur, George Turner. Pour qu'un homme puisse être réduit en cendres de la sorte la chaleur à l'intérieur de la cabine avait dû être épouvantable ; il n'y avait pourtant pas trace de feu. Les glaces n'avaient pas éclaté comme cela eut été le cas s'il s'était agi d'un feu ordinaire ; les coussins des sièges n'étaient pas marqués, une énorme tache de

graisse sur le côté du passager ne s'était pas enflammée. Une montre de bord brisée indiquait que l'accident avait eu lieu à 14 h 14, ce qui, du fait du changement de fuseau horaire, correspondait à la minute précise à l'heure à laquelle le barreur du S.S. Ubrich avait été frappé.

Coïncidence ? Peut-être, mais alors ce long bras doit encore s'allonger plus loin car à 15 h 14 (encore une heure de différence du fait du changement de fuseau horaire) à Nijmegen (Nimègue) Hollande, un jeune homme, William Ten Bruik, était brûlé à mort dans sa petite Volkswagen. Cette fois encore la voiture n'avait aucun dommage ; pas de trace de feu ; bien qu'exposé, le réservoir d'essence ne s'était pas volatilisé en flammes. Cependant l'intérieur de la voiture avait dû être un aperçu de l'enfer, car le corps du jeune homme était brûlé au-delà de toute reconnaissance possible.

C'était comme si un être galactique, d'une taille inimaginable, avait sondé la terre avec une fourchette à trois dents, trois doigts de feu qui ne brûlaient que la chair. Fantastique ? Oui. Incroyable ? Bien sûr. Mais pas plus fantastique et incroyable que les triples crématations elles-mêmes. (Voir rubrique « Droit dedans » dans l'édition du 13 mars 1966 du Sunday Star-Ledger.)

Communication de M. I. Darnaude au service France-Espagne (M. Caussimont)

Traduction anglaise de M. Cerrada

N.D.L.R.

Les faits signalés, parvenus sans les chercher sur notre table de rédaction, ne semblent pas aussi isolés que l'on pourrait le croire ; sous la plume de M. G. Langelaan, nous en trouvons une série exactement semblable dans Planète n° 34 de mai-juin 1967 :

Le 1-8-1869, signalé par le docteur Bertholle, de Paris.

Le 12-5-1890, signalé par le docteur B.H. Hartwell, des U.S.A.

Le 28-2-1905, à Blyth, dans le nord de l'Angleterre.

Le 28-1-1907, à Pittsburg, en Pennsylvanie.

Le 12-5-1907, au village de Mamer, près de Madras, Inde.

Le 22-3-1908, à Whitley Bay, à quelques kilomètres de Blyth déjà cité.

Le 24-1-1930, à Kingston, Etat de New York, U.S.A.

Le 2-7-1951, à Saint-Petersburg, en Floride.

En avril 1951, un autre cas est signalé par le docteur B. Finch, dans un article paru dans L.D.L.N. n° 88 de juin 1967.

Nous n'avons pas, bien entendu, vérifié la véracité des faits qui sont ainsi inventoriés, il semblerait cependant que l'on puisse leur accorder un certain crédit, par les détails qui les accompagnent. La pensée qui s'en dégage est que ces morts insolites sont sans doute plus nombreuses que l'inventaire qui en est fait, et de nombreuses questions viennent alors nous assaillir.

Le corps médical s'en est-il occupé ? Comment la mort a-t-elle frappé ? Les victimes ont-elles souffert ? Pourquoi ont-elles eu une telle mort ? Ont-elles reçu une piqûre ayant déterminé le processus de carbonisation ? Ont-elles fait office de condensateur d'ondes électromagnétiques : fortuitement ou bien provoqué de l'extérieur ?

Le mystère paraît complet, et on aimerait en savoir plus.

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