

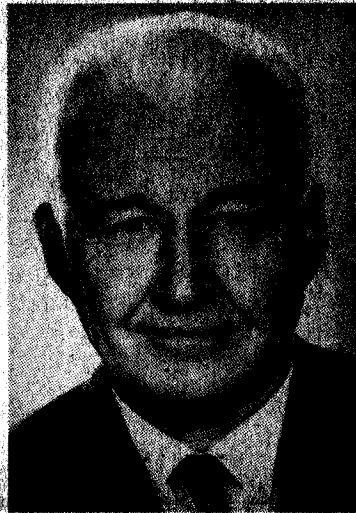
FATE - DEC - 87

HAROLD SHERMAN DIES

HAROLD SHERMAN, famous author and psychic, died of natural causes on August 19 in Mountain View, Ark. He was 89 years old.

Sherman was born on July 13, 1898, in Traverse City, Mich., and attended the University of Michigan. From there he moved to Marion, Ind., to begin a writing career as a reporter for the *Marion Chronicle*. Two years later he went to New York City, where he lived for 17 years and wrote numerous sports and adventure stories and novels. He had two plays, *Her Supporting Cast* (1933) and *The Little Black Book* (1935), produced on Broadway. He wrote the screenplay for the film *The Adventures of Mark Twain* which Warner Brothers produced in 1942.

For a time he hosted a CBS radio show, *Your Key to Happiness*, first from New



York and later from Chicago. But the work that was to bring Sherman international fame came in 1937, when he and arctic explorer Sir Hubert Wilkins conducted a much-publicized series of telepathy experiments over a 4½-month period, under the direction of Columbia University psychologist Gardner Murphy. (For a full account see Martin Ebon's "Telepathy Across the Frozen Wastes," June 1984 FATE.) Sherman and Wilkins subsequently collaborated on a book about the episode, the popular *Thoughts*

HOW TO KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE

Harold Sherman

A FAWCETT GOLD MEDAL BOOK
Fawcett Publications, Inc., Greenwich, Connecticut

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While every incident and experience in this chapter is true, as reported, we have decided to give fictitious names to the book and to those directly concerned and to let the story speak for itself, illustrating as it does the false lacy of accepting any so-called "revelation," however received or supported by sincere believers, as the "infallible word of God."

Today there are many "spiritual" leaders who have attracted large followings and who profess to be inspired by God or Jesus or other Celestial Beings, even representing themselves as new messiahs.

This chapter, describing our personal experiences, is characteristic of many, demonstrating as it does the opportunity that always exists for human editing, human error, and sometimes deliberate falsification.

—Martha and Harold Sherman

I have received scores of manuscripts (and continue to receive the same) from people who felt they had been chosen as special agents of God to be channels for the re-

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ception of spiritual knowledge. Many had aroused great anticipation in us but had only ended, upon examination, in disappointment.

Somehow Martha and I felt that this project in Chicago was different—that it was, at last, what had been claimed for it: a true revelation, presented by a Corps of Higher Intelligences, designed to "serve humanity's needs for the next thousand years." ~~Dr. William Crozier~~

Undoubtedly, it was Harry's feeling for it that had conditioned us. Our close association with him and our confidence in his own demonstrated higher powers of consciousness had caused us to accept the New Revelation manuscript, sight unseen, as something really super.

Through Harry's former connection as detective at Hull House, we had made arrangements with the attorneys in charge of the estate to permit me to dramatize the life of Jane Addams, world renowned Social Settlement woman, which gave us the excuse to come to Chicago in May of 1942 after having written the screenplay on the life of Mark Twain for Warner Brothers.

At a time in my writing career when practicality dictated that I should have taken advantage of the recognition and opportunity that had come to me on the coast, we might have stayed on in Hollywood and continued to write for pictures. Certainly it would have been much more lucrative than the gamble of this new creative assignment, but we were willing to put everything else aside.

Not only that, but to free our minds as much as possible for concentration on the massive New Revelation manuscript, we sent our younger daughter, Marcia, to stay with relatives in Traverse City, Michigan, for the summer, and our older daughter, Mary, to a position as receptionist at Hull House. We had been told it would require a number of months to thoughtfully go through the manuscript once, and as a consequence, we mapped out a schedule of four to five hours reading a day.

How much Harry knew about what we were to en-

counter, we perhaps will never know. He had been careful not to "color" in advance any impressions we might have of the Great Book and the people behind it by any comments he might make while in our presence.

In retrospect, he must have been aware of things that were happening to the manuscript in its preparation, which was not going "according to plan" or as originally intended. What he may have thought that we or anyone could do about certain practices, which, if discovered, would need correction for protection of the integrity of the material, is likewise an open question.

With this build-up we had received, we were totally unprepared for our entrance upon one of the most challenging periods of our lives—a period that would test our mental and physical endurance to the utmost, as well as our faith in human nature. **Dr. W. SADLER**

It should be stated here that Martha and I had stopped off in Chicago in July of 1941, en route to Hollywood, to meet Dr. Henry P. Norton, noted psychiatrist, at which time we were accepted as Forum members upon signing a pledge of secrecy. This permitted us to return to Chicago, when possible, to read the New Revelation papers on the premises, but we were not allowed to mention or discuss them with anyone outside the Forum members until *The New Revelation Book* itself was published.

The contact with Dr. Norton and the New Revelation papers had been arranged by phone by his cousin, Mrs. Susan Saunders of Marion, Indiana—who, with her doctor husband, Herbert, had engaged in psychic research with us during the time we had lived in Marion in the early 1920s.

Later, when we arrived on the coast and told Harry we had joined up in Chicago with those in charge of the Great Book manuscript, which he had written us about, Harry was delighted.

It was perhaps because of my profession as a writer, the recent Mark Twain work, and the reputation that had

come to me through the experiment in long distance telepathy with the Arctic Explorer, Sir Hubert Wilkins, that the presence of Martha and myself in Chicago to study the New Revelation papers caused quite a stir among Forum members. **"CHRISTY"**

This gave us an immediate personal contact with the doctor and his secretary, Miss Cynthia Frederick (Cindy), and members of the doctor's family: his son, Henry Junior, and his son's wife, Loretta; a brother-in-law and wife, Alfred and Lucy Buxton. There was also the financier Raymond Stafford, with his wife, his son, Ray Junior, and wife, Marjory.

It was somewhat embarrassing for us to be placed in such a favored position at the outset against so many old-time members, especially at social occasions when we were invited to sit at the great man's table. However, all members seemed to accept any mandate of the doctor without question or complaint.

As new members, Martha and I had to do a vast amount of "catch-up" reading, which necessitated our spending some hours in the library of the three-story brick building each day. The papers were brought to us from the vault in typewritten form by Cindy, in chronological order—ninety-two in all—and it required almost three months for the entire New Revelation manuscript to be completed, with Martha and I reading it together. We were told that the original script had been burned after typed copies had been made to preserve the anonymity as well as the identity of the human instrument through whom the "revelations" had come.

On August 20, our friends H. C. and Mary Mattem (real names) came through Chicago on their annual tour of big city firms for which they did the cleaning and preserving of leather-upholstered office furniture. We had planned to introduce them to Dr. Norton on their arrival and to arrange for their membership in the New Revelation Forum.

awakened, he was, as before, unconscious of anything having transpired.

"This sort of experience was repeated at different times of night until the fall of the year, when we were able to move to the residence of our choice. This man's lease expired that same fall, and he moved into an apartment house in the same block so he could be near us.

"One night, when we were called to his new address, as we sat by the bedside, Dr. Ruth noticed that he was moistening his lips as though he were preparing to speak. She said, 'Perhaps he wants to talk to us. Maybe if we ask him a question, we'll get an answer.'

"She did so, and to our great astonishment he did reply; but it was not his voice. It was that of what we afterward learned to be a student visitor on an observation trip here from a far distant planet! This being apparently conversed with us through this sleeping subject and expressed ideas and philosophies which struck us as entirely new, DURING ~ 15 YEARS (~1906-1923).

"I had been led to believe, through previous study and research, that all such manifestations, however phenomenal, were the work of the subconscious. I therefore got this man in my office several days later, since other entities were apparently coming through him, and secured his permission to submit to hypnosis that I might explore his subconscious. It was difficult to get him under, but when I finally did so, I was amazed to find no consciousness whatsoever of the subjects discussed by these purported beings, which we had all, by this time, started to record in long hand and later combined.

"I now felt that I needed help in solving the causes behind this mysterious phenomenon, and I called in other doctors and scientists, friends of mine, as well as Houdini and Thurston. They were equally unable to furnish any explanation. Finding by now that we could communicate by direct voice with different student visitors and other beings, we began to look forward to each 'contact' as we

came to call them, and enjoy the opportunity of asking questions, which always brought the most stimulating and unexpected answers.

"We took to writing out questions in advance about the universe and asking them verbally whenever given the chance. Finally, as a test, I worked out fifty-two questions privately and memorized them in my own mind [the doctor was noted for a photographic memory], deciding to wait and see whether these so-called student visitors might be able to divine what was in my own consciousness.

"One night, a particularly electrifying personality seemed to be present from a distant planet and had greatly excited us by his comments. As he was about to go, I addressed him, saying, 'How can you prove that you are who you say you are?' He replied, 'I cannot prove—but you cannot prove that I am not.' He then stunned me by continuing, 'However, I have just received permission to answer forty-six of the fifty-two questions you have been holding in your mind.'

"Dr. Ruth spoke up and said, 'Why, Henry, you haven't any such questions, have you?' And I had to admit, 'Yes, Ruth, the exact number!'

"This personality then proceeded to give me the answer to the forty-six as promised. When he had finished, he said, 'If you people really knew what you had here, you wouldn't take up our time asking silly, trivial questions like this. You would ask us something really significant and important.'

"We got home around one-thirty that night, but there was no sleep in the Norton household. We stayed up the rest of the night discussing and formulating questions so that we might be prepared for the next contact.

"At this point I must go back and tell you that a few months previously I had made a lecture trip to the University of Kansas; and while there, I wrote a letter to my

1906 OR 1911?