

Saints and sinners: Listening for other worldly voices

Can the dead speak to us from beyond the grave?

Many psychics believe they can — and, furthermore, that they have done so. But scientists have always been skeptical.

If a reputable man of science could produce evidence of communication between this world and the other, we might become believers.

Thomas Edison possessed the requisite credentials. So, perhaps, did William James, the Harvard philosopher and medical doctor.

Shortly before he died in 1910, James asked his brother Henry, the novelist, to come and be with him in his final days. He also asked him to stay on for six weeks after his death, because he was going to try to send a message from the great beyond.

The story is told by Louis Menand in his new

book, “The Metaphysical Club” (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2001). Henry obediently remained; but if William sent a message to him, Henry never received it.

Edison told some of his close friends before he died in 1931 at the age of 84 that he was working on a machine that picked up the voices of the dead.

Edison was not a churchgoer. His excuse was that, because of his deafness, “it is hard and not pleasant to go any place and not hear what is being said.”

But according to an article in the current issue of Timeline magazine, Edison clearly believed in a creator, “though not one concerned with human affairs.”

Edison’s diary for 1885 contains this entry: “What a small idea mankind has of the al-



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• saints & sinners

mighty! My impression is that he has made unchangeable laws to govern this and billions of other worlds and that he has forgotten even the existence of this little mote of ours ages ago.”

Why then was Edison interested in the afterlife? His friend Allan Benson always believed it was the inventor’s admiration for the famed physicist Sir William Crookes that sparked his interest in communicating with the departed.

Crookes’ familiarity with physics had not de-

stroyed his faith in spiritualism and in the ability of the dead to communicate with the living.

Edison had no doubt read the astounding story Crookes told about the visit of the spirit of a dead woman to his house. Summoned by a medium, who lay on a couch in the room adjoining the library where Sir William and his friends were gathered, she appeared in what appeared to be flesh and bones, “clad as any woman might be for an afternoon call.”

But she did not walk in. She came in instantaneously — no one knew how. Someone even felt her pulse. It was beating 70 times per minute.

These meetings occurred all winter that year in the early 1900s. Sir William took 43 pictures of the spirit woman.

When Edison read accounts of these goings-

on, what must he have thought? The inventor of the electric light bulb and the phonograph could not doubt either Crookes’ veracity or his intelligence. It was unlikely that anyone could have duped the renowned British man of science.

Perhaps this was when Edison began to wonder whether it might be possible to make a machine that would enable departed spirits to communicate with the living without the aid of mediums.

To a scientist like Edison, wary of the spooky world of seances, this would end all doubting — or, on the other hand, confirm what he had believed all along about the impossibility of an afterlife.

We’ll never know the answer. But it would have made a great story.

Woman joins convent after 20-year career in U.S. Marine Corps

By Lori Burling

Associated Press Writer
LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Mary Perrot suffered through boot camp on South Carolina’s Parris Island. She learned to shoot straight enough to earn the rank of Marine gunnery sergeant. She served six months in Operation Desert Storm.

Now, after 20 years in the military she is signing up for a different tour of duty. The 47-year-old woman is studying to become a nun.

“There’s an element of commitment and dedication in both the sisterhood and the military,” said Perrot, who lives with three sisters of the Roman Catholic Ursuline order. “I’m still working with a group of people for a common purpose. There’s also a sense of discipline in both worlds.”

Perrot was stationed all over the United States, and in Japan and Saudi Arabia. She worked briefly as a substance abuse coun-

selor for military men and women, then served mainly in finance and accounting jobs. In her six months in Desert Storm, she worked as a payroll agent for civilians and the Navy.

She enjoyed her work and the financial security of being a Marine.

“I wanted to travel so I joined the military,” said Perrot, whose athletic build and firm handshake remain even though she has left the corps. “My spiritual journey didn’t begin until a few years ago.”

Raised Catholic, she had several times experienced what she called “mini callings” to religious work.

“Religion had always caught my attention,” she said. “But I always dismissed it, especially early in my military career. I kept saying, ‘No way is that a life for me.’”

It wasn’t until 1996 that she began to seriously consider becoming a nun.

She was stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., where she expected to

stay until she retired, but was then transferred to Okinawa. She was pained by the idea of being so far away from her 10 brothers and three sisters, and interpreted the feeling as a signal from God that she should return to Louisville to be near her siblings and serve her community.

“I was ready to be with my family,” she said.

She began reading about spirituality and attending religious retreats. When she returned to Jacksonville for her final stint as a Marine, Perrot began speaking with a sister from the Ursuline order. By Perrot’s retirement in 1999, she was ready to enter religious life.

“Mary was an unusual case when she came to us because of her military career and because of her age,” said Sister Margaret Ann Hagan, who joined the order when she was 17. “I think a lot of people struggle with the question of, ‘Is this what I’m supposed to do?’”

Jo Warwick, also of Jacksonville, was a close friend to Perrot while she was contemplating joining the order.

Warwick said in the Marines, Perrot was known as a prankster with a dry sense of humor. Perrot also loves to shoot pool, a pastime she learned at her brother’s pool hall while she was growing up. Warwick expects Perrot to bring that sense of fun to her new vocation.

“She hasn’t lost her sense of humor,” Warwick said.

Perrot began her two-year novice period in January 2000. She said she was not troubled by the vow of celibacy, since she had no serious romantic relationship when she left the military.

Perrot will begin her study program on July 15 at St. Ann’s Convent near Cincinnati. The training will allow her to deepen her relationship with Jesus Christ and to study the Ursuline congregation, Sister Hagan said.

The Ursuline Sisters teach, work in diocesan offices, serve as hospital chaplains and minister to the poor in rural areas in the United States and other countries.

“I was at her house and she was relaxing on the couch,” Sister Hagan recalled, “and I said ‘You certainly look at home,’ and she said, ‘I am.’”

Court rules college eligible for grants

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A federal appeals court has ruled a Seventh-day Adventist college can participate in a state program that pays for courses and programs at public and private colleges.

The state failed to prove Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., was “pervasively sectarian” and therefore ineligible for state money, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled.

The appeals court upheld a lower court ruling rejecting the state’s claim funding the Christian school would violate the separation of church and state.

“We recognize the sensitivity of this issue and respect the constitutional im-

perative for government not to impermissibly advance religious interests,” Chief Judge Harvie Wilkinson III wrote.

“The First Amendment requires government neutrality, not hostility, to religious belief.”

The Supreme Court ruled in 1976 it unconstitutional to provide public subsidies to institutions that are pervasively sectarian.

Several Roman Catholic institutions have participated in Maryland’s Program, but state officials argued that Columbia Union’s programs were so entangled with religion that the school did not qualify.

Bible Baptist Church

Pastor: Don Crutcher
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church

Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
Fourth & College • 899-3605

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm
Adult Bible Study and Youth Group
Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ

401 Caldwell
899-6185

Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene

Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Pastor:

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Tuesday: Mens’ Prayer Group: 5:30 am
Thursday: Ladies’ Bible Study: 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

Pastor: Bobby Potter • 332-3956
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am



Emmanuel Lutheran Church

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups,
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men’s and Women’s Groups,
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship

Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler
Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman
899-3631

Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey
Sunday: Sunday School: 10:15 am
Worship Service: 9 am

Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

Minister: Tony Kafka

Youth Minister: Doug Bean

Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am

Wednesday:

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children’s Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

Pastor: Scott Grimshaw

Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado

United Methodist Church

Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468

Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

Pastor:

Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

Priest: Father Charles Schneider

Deacon: Gretchen Talitha

Saturday: Church School: 4 pm

Holy Communion: 5 pm

Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th
899-5250

Pastor: John Coumerilh

Sunday: Worship Celebration &
Kids’ Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church

Brewster:

Pastor:

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

Winona:

Minister: Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

Daily Prayer: Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 6 pm

Sunday: 8 am and 9:30 am

Spanish Mass:

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church

Serving the rural community for over 100 years

Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70

Pastor: Jim Cress

899-5784

Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

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