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Psalm 100:3

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Your Community. Your News.

75¢

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New Year*
2025



Morgan County Today
Your Community. Your News.

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WEEKLY WEATHER



Tue 31 **54°/37°**

Wed 01 **40°/25°**

Thu 02 **42°/31°**

Fri 03 **40°/23°**

Sat 04 **39°/28°**

Sun 05 **42°/28°**

Mon 06 **33°/21°**



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

El Cantaritos, Yum!

Mimi and Pap went to eat today. Mimi wanted the Nacho Cheese and Chips from El Cantaritos, in Harriman.

She says it is the best around. So, away they went. I just knew Pap would bring us back a doggie bag. I was wrong, darn it.

That place is so good, every time the kids come to visit, they beg to go there! The prices are reasonable, too. Pap says they spend more if they take them to McDonalds! Especially, since their portion sizes are so big. Rodney can't even eat all his food. So, they aren't hungry again in 30 minutes! You know how it is with growing boys. Mimi says they must have hollow legs or something, because all that food has to go somewhere.

Any-woof, next time you're in Harriman, stop by and eat where the Mexican food is hot, fresh, yummy, and the staff is friendly, service is fast, and the restaurant is clean! Mimi says, the clean thing is important.

Hope you guys stay safe, warm, and dry this New Years Eve.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COUNTRY FRIED STEAK DINNER

WHAT: Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Fresh Baked Roll, Dessert, and Coffee or Tea.

WHEN: Saturday January 4, from Noon to 3pm

WHERE: Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center

COST: Dine-in = \$9.00 Adult, \$5.00 Children,
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Come to the Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center for a delicious meal with music provided by the Rugby Coronet Band and a Door Prize.

*Delivery within a 5 mile radius of the Center. Please call 423-965-5000 before 10:30am for delivery.

Drinks are not provided with deliveries.

All proceeds go to pay utilities and upkeep at the Center.

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

Taking the Panama Canal?



Michael Nance
Columnist

President Trump has been in the press lately over several issues. Along with the border, Trump has also pointed towards the ridiculous fees being charged to U.S. mercantile shipping traveling through the Panama Canal. Most left leaning media is portraying that Trump is threatening to take back the Panama Canal, and in truth there is precedent for such an action if the U.S. is being treated unfairly.

Strategically this appears to be Sabre Rattling on the part of the trump administration to curtail Chinese influence in the region, which is growing. This point seems to be shared by the Washington Post, which recently stated:

President-elect Donald Trump's threat last weekend to reclaim the Panama Canal was designed to make clear that "decades of U.S. commerce financing China's growth and strategic footprint in the Americas is over," according to a senior Trump appointee.

Reviewing the available information on Panama, it appears that the picturesque tropical nation hides a few lumps of coal. There are many road signs that indicate that the Panamanian Government is either corrupt or turns a blind eye to criminal activity. According to Transparency International (A global coalition against corruption), Panama ranks in 108 out of 180 countries on the Corruption Perceptions Index, and is one of the top destinations for offshore corporations that specialize in shady operations.

A 2022 State Department report also indicates that Panama has internal problems that would be easily exploited by the savvy Chinese. The excerpt below is from that report:

Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: serious problems with the independence of the judiciary; serious restrictions on free expression and media, including threats to enforce criminal libel laws to limit expression; serious government corruption; and laws barring consensual same-sex sexual conduct between adults in some security forces that were unenforced.

Even CNN seems to agree that China is exerting influence in Panama that is directly opposed to the United States political position on Taiwan. A recent article by CNN stated the following:

Trump's other claim, that China is seeking to exert more control over Panama and the Canal Zone, is not without merit. In 2017, Panama signed a joint communique that stressed it would not maintain any official ties with Taiwan, the self-governing democracy that China's ruling Communist Party claims as its own territory. Since then, China's influ-



Photo courtesy of the White House

ence in the area around the canal has grown.

Rounding out the plethora of data on this subject, is the fact that the United States invested millions of dollars on the waterway. Adjusted for inflation it could be argued that the United States has a \$4 billion dollar investment in the canal. It is not difficult to understand that we should be treated fairly considering this donation to the country. It is encouraging that many of the left leaning news agencies are reviewing the canal through the lens of logic, which may help Trump achieve one of his stated goals. On that matter he stated the following: "We want to try to bring everybody together. We're going to try. We're going to really give it a shot." Lets all hope...and pray that we will start seeing not only a smart fiscal policy in January, but also some folks from both sides crossing the political aisle to place our country in a favorable position in the years to come!

1 Karen Deyoung, Washington Post, Trump's Panama Canal threats designed to scuttle China influence, 12-24-2024,

2 Transparency International, <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>

3 Michael Williams, CNN, What's the history of the Panama Canal, and why is Trump threatening to retake control of it?, 12-23-2024.

4 The Press Democrat, Donald Trump threatens to try to take back the Panama Canal. The US relinquished control years ago, <https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/trump-threatens-to-try-to-take-back-the-panama-canal-the-us-relinquished-c/>

BOI requirement reinstated



David Zubler
Columnist

Certain businesses will once again be required to file a Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) report to avoid severe penalties.

A federal court of appeals lifted the preliminary injunction which had previously blocked the reporting deadline.

Businesses will have an additional 12 days to file the report. The deadline was extended to January 13, 2025.

The BOI filing requirement applies to most LLCs and corporations. However, certain types of businesses are exempt from filing.

The penalty for filing a late BOI is \$591 for each day late. Willfully failing to file a report or filing false information can result in a fine up to \$10,000 and/or two years imprisonment.

Penalties can apply to beneficial owners and/or to the officers of the company, depending on the type of violation.

For companies that are required to file, detailed information must be reported about beneficial owners.

Beneficial owners are individuals who own at least 25% of a business. The required information includes their name, Social Security Number and copies of governmental issued identification.

The BOIRegistration website provides businesses with valuable information. Its library includes detailed guides on BOIR requirements, deadlines, and compliance strategies.

"The government continues to believe — consistent with the conclusions of the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Virginia and the District of Oregon — that the CTA is constitutional," said FinCEN.

"For that reason, the Department of Justice, on behalf of the Department of the Treasury, filed a notice of appeal on Dec. 5, 2024, and separately sought a stay of the injunction pending that appeal with the district court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit."

The American Institute of CPAs advocated for extending the BOI deadline. A provision for delaying the deadline was included in one of the continuing resolutions to keep the government open, but the version that passed in Congress over the weekend omitted it.

Companies that are created or registered in the U.S. on or after Jan. 1, 2025, have 30 days to file their initial beneficial ownership information reports with FinCEN after receiving actual or public notice that their creation or registration is effective.

Reporting companies that qualify for disaster relief may have extended deadlines that fall beyond Jan. 13, 2025.

The BOI filing requirement may change next year when the new administration takes office.

More information about BOI filing is available at the official website, [BOIRegistration.com](https://www.boiregistration.com).

David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at [YourTaxCare.com](https://www.YourTaxCare.com). David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.

— In Loving Memory —

**William (Bill) Anderson, 79
United States Navy Veteran**



He is survived by brothers Wayne Anderson, Loil Anderson, David Anderson, sons Jason (Carolyn) Anderson, Andrew Anderson, daughter Rena Anderson, grandchildren Dustin, Shequoya Sierra, Aunastacia, Elektra, Stormy, great grandchildren Bentlee, Emery, Keyland, Kyland and Eliana.

William (Bill) Anderson, age 79 of Coalfield, Tennessee passed from this life on Saturday, December 21, 2024.

Bill was loved by so many other family members and friends. He will be greatly missed.

Bill was born on February 2, 1945 in Williamsburg, Kentucky to the late Howard Anderson and Amanda King Anderson. He served in the United States Navy.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 27, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 11:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Virgil Cross officiating. Interment will follow in the Montgomery Cemetery in Wartburg.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William "Bill" Anderson.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brothers Clemond Anderson, Bob Anderson, James Anderson, Ken Anderson, RJ Anderson, Art Anderson, sisters Betty Adkins, Shirley Anderson, daughters Dina Blevins, Tina Crabtree and grandson Zachary Anderson.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**



Joey M. Wright, 42



Corky, Sarah and Tyler Duncan, Olivia and Taylor, Kimmy and Bryan. Special Friends: Jeremy Doodlebug Southerland, Ronald Smith, Barb and Gary Melton, Danielle Melton, Jeff and Christy Melton, Big T (Tyler Daniels).

Joey M. Wright age 42 of Wartburg passed away suddenly in his home on Friday December 20, 2024.

Outside of his work as a HVAC Service Tech, Joey enjoyed riding dirt bikes with his 4 boys and niece and nephew. He also loved spending the summer camping and going to Nemo with his family and friends. His love for football carried over to coaching his boys and niece and nephew for many years in little league. He got most of his pleasure in providing for his wife and kids. Being a father was his greatest accomplishment in life. He wasn't just a father to his own children but to others as well. He was loved by many and never met a stranger. He was always there to help anyone and everyone regardless of who they were. Joey will truly missed.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents: James and Gladys Wright and Nick Trunzo and Linda Dixen and Special Friends The Gobey Boys Stevie and Jeremy Howard and aunt Gail Lawson.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 28, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 11:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Choate Cemetery in Jamestown.

He is survived by his wife Megan Crabtree Wright. Children: Stevie, Lucas, Tyson, Oliver, Bonnie Gail, and Emma extended children: Noah and Tori. Mother and Father: Joey and Gail Wright. Mother and Father-in-law: Jennifer Perry and the late Dwayne and Tim and Mary Crabtree. Brother: Jimmy Wright and wife Sarah. Sister in laws: Sydney and Abbie Crabtree. Special niece and nephew who were more like his own: London and James. Nieces and Nephews: Mason, Madi, Makinszi, Mephis, Maci, Emma and Sawyer. Aunts: Nikki and husband Kenn, and Nicole (aunt CoCo). Cousins: Brandi and husband Jason, Crystal and husband

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Joey M. Wright.

Rita Sue Bunch Ashley, 74



and Charity Bunch, Daughter Atonia Ashley, Grandchildren: Trevor and Kalli Bunch, Jordan, Emma, Kaden and Mason Totton, Candace Russell, Dezare Keith, and Jr Sizemore. Three great Grandchildren Brothers: Bobby & Cookie Bunch Billy Bunch and Sharon Johnny Bunch. Sister: Betty Bunch and Greg Patterson Also surviving are a host of other friends and family.

Mrs. Rita Sue Bunch Ashley age 74, of Oak Ridge formerly of Petros, passed away suddenly Friday December 20, 2024, at her home.

The family will receive friends Monday December 23, 2024, for 12-1 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 1pm with Bro. Keith Shown officiating. Interment will follow in the Petros Cemetery, Cemetery Road Petros, TN.

Sue loved her grandkids and enjoyed watching her grandkids' ball games.

She is preceded in death by her parents Willie & Mary Bunch; Sister Janie Bunch; Brothers Randal and William Bunch.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rita Sue Bunch Ashley.

Rita is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Willie

— In Loving Memory —

Eva June Redmon, 83



Eva June Redmon, age 83, passed away peacefully on December 23, 2024.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Don Redmon, her daughter-in-law, Judy Redmon, her parents, sister Janie Freels Thompkins, 2 brothers, Lee Roy and Ray Freels.

She is survived by her two sons, Lynn (Diana) Redmon, and Johnny Redmon. Grandchildren, Stephen (Brittany), Jozi, Jordan, Brittany, and Isaiah. Great grandchildren, Canaan, Mason, Elijah, Emma, Ella, Ethan, and Everly.

Mom was a hard-working woman who loved her family. She was a devoted wife and always loved her kids and grandkids.

The last few years sadly dementia took over, and we lost her a little each day. Thank you to all who cared and loved on her - Life Care of Morgan County, Morgan County EMS, Methodist Medical Center and their hospice staff. Our family has been so blessed by family and friends and church family, including Missy Grove Baptist, Coalhill Baptist, and Meadowview Baptist Church.

Thank you all for your prayers and kindness.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 27, 2024 from 11-1pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 1pm, with Bro. Jim Disney officiating. Interment will follow funeral services in the Wartburg City Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Eva June Redmon.

Eva (Barnett) Bilbrey, 90



Eva (Barnett) Bilbrey, age 90 passed away December 16, 2024. She was born September 27, 1934.

She is preceded in death by her husband Harold Bilbrey whom she married on June 6, 1953; children Jim and Cindy; parents Elmer and Ruby Barnett; brothers Gene, Leon, Harry, Lawrence, Wallace, Russell; sister Traci Addabbo; nephews Jerry, Archie, Ross, and Bobby; niece Gidget Hamby.

She is survived by her son-in-law Marty Mulligan; granddaughter Lindsay and Josh;

grandson Brendan and Steve Mulligan; great grandson Jimmie Hall, Josh, Kyla Mulligan; brothers Nolen (Marjorie) Barnett and Charles; sister Marilyn (Fred) Newport; sister-in-law Lena, Cherri, Garlan and a host of nephews, nieces and friends.

Special Thank You to Life Care Center of Morgan County and Adoration Hospice.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 20, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 with Bro. Doug Morgan officiating. Interment will follow in the High Point Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of *Eva (Barnett) Bilbrey*.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Donna Nealon, 53



Donna Nealon, age 53, of Lansing passed away Thursday, December 19, 2024.

She is preceded in death by her father Ray Lester Taylor, Jr.; grandparents Ray & Josephine Taylor and Glen & Ruby Bowman; uncles Willard, Randy, Emil Taylor and Don Wadell.

She is survived by her mother Glenda Taylor; brother Henry, Michael, and Joe Dan Taylor; 5 nieces and nephews; 6 great nieces and nephews and a host of aunts, uncles and friends.

The family will receive friends Monday, December 23, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Neal Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Donna Nealon.



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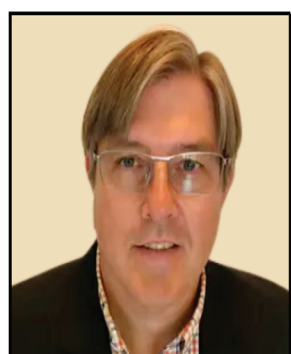
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Historically Speaking Did Germany Enrich Uranium during World War II? Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

This two-part series is the result of a long-standing friendship with the author of a book that challenges accepted history in a way I have never seen before. Carter Hydrick researched and wrote *Critical Mass*.

This book, now in its third edition, identifies the possibility that Germany enriched uranium during World War II that ultimately helped fuel Little Boy and furthermore the key to successful detonation of Fat Man were both provided to the United States by Germany. These two are but part of the cargo of the U-234 German submarine that surrendered to the U.S. in May 1945.

Carter Hydrick has found evidence which indicates Germany had separated uranium 235 during World War II. When the defeat of Germany happened on May 7, 1945, the German U-boat (submarine) U-234 was transporting advanced German technology to Japan. When advised by the German command to surrender to the nearest Allied forces, the U-234 Captain decided to surrender to the United States.

The two Japanese military personnel on board did not want to do that so they committed suicide and were buried at sea. A German Officer, Ulrich Kessler, was on board.

Carter's extensive research is documented in his book, *Critical Mass*. Available in its third edition on Amazon.com.

Carter has said, "This super-secret World War II event kept the Soviet Union from becoming the sole global superpower, established Germany as the economic leader of Europe, and potentially saved the world from nuclear war in 1946."

What happened? I was the Y-12 Historian for the last 10 years of my 47-year career at the Y-12 National Security Complex. During the Manhattan Project the Y-12 electromagnetic separation plant provided much of the enriched uranium for Little Boy, the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

For many years I believed – as most of the world still believes – that Y-12 provided 100% of that enriched uranium with feed from K-25 gaseous diffusion and S-50 thermal diffusion. Over twenty years ago, however, I learned this isn't true. The difference in the amount of uranium separated at the Y-12 and how much was needed to create the bomb might have been historically insignificant if not for two facts provided by Carter Hydrick:

Fact One: The balance of enriched uranium needed to complete the bomb dropped on Hiroshima was not produced by, or anywhere in, the U.S.A.; it was produced by Nazi Germany. That uranium was delivered secretly to the United States – as well as infrared fuses that allowed the plutonium bomb dropped on Nagasaki to become operational – through a top-secret agreement between Nazi Germany and the United States.

In other words, if these nuclear materials had not been brought to us from Nazi Germany, neither of the world's first nuclear weapons would have been possible at the time they were dropped

to end the war. This important update turns history on its head.

Dr. Delmar Bergen, retired director of the Nuclear Weapons Program at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the bombs were designed; Dr. Anthony Stranges, professor of modern military science and technology at Texas A&M University; Dr. Gary Sandquist, instructor of Nuclear Engineering at the United States Military Academy at West Point; Dr. Douglas Tobler, professor emeritus of modern German History; are in support of what Carter Hydrick has stated above, and what is written below.

Fact Two: If these nuclear materials had not been brought from Nazi Germany when they were, the United States would not have had enough enriched uranium to complete the Hiroshima bomb, or fuses to trigger the Nagasaki bomb, until no sooner than the beginning of 1946. By then Stalin, who had declared war against Japan on August 8th, 1945, two days after Hiroshima



Carter Hydrick toured Building 9204-3 to see the original Calutrons there
(Courtesy of Y-12 video screenshot by Ray Smith)

was bombed, would have moved his army across Siberia and jumped the Sea of Japan to conquer the Japanese before the U.S. could island hop to Honshu and overrun it in a massive, costly extended battle using conventional weapons.

Without the German nuclear materials, the U.S. would not have had the atomic bombs needed to end the war when it was. Instead, by conquering Japan, Stalin would have added all of Japan's holdings at the end of the war to his winnings in Eastern Europe: the entire Asia-Pacific Rim, minus Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Most of the landmasses on Earth would have come under Soviet control: The greatest population in the world; expansive natural resources; the economic treasures of Singapore, Hong Kong, and Southeast Asia; strategic cities and globally important geographic locales.

The U.S. would have had no nuclear deterrent from the Manhattan Project before 1946, while the U.S.S.R. would have captured the German technology from the Nazis that were, instead, brought to the U.S. The Soviets then would have been able to make their own atomic bombs.

Imagine a world that experienced no Cold War but was governed as the Eastern European bloc and the – now nuclear-armed – Soviet Union were governed from the last half of the 1940s into the late 1980s! The world, today, would be a very different place!

Or worse, once the Manhattan Project had completed its own nuclear weapons in 1946, would the U.S. sit still and watch most of the Earth's population suffer under Stalin's communism? Or would nuclear war have occurred to overthrow the totalitarian regime?

How did this super-secret negotiation happen? At the end of World War Two, The United States' emissary in Switzerland, Allen Dulles, covertly negotiated with the Nazis' Italian overlord General Karl Wolf – under the auspices of negotiating the well-known unconditional (supposedly) surrender of Germany's southern front.

There is significant and substantial compelling evidence, however, that behind the scenes, the two traded the German nuclear weapons material in exchange for the United States assisting in the escape from Europe of Nazi Party Chief Martin Bormann, and then protected him after the war. Bormann was then allowed to revive a massive economic fortune he had hidden in a 'ghost' economy through several conglomerates spread across countries allied with or neutral to Germany.

Before 1950, camouflaged by the United States' Marshall plan, the hidden economy was revived, equipping Germany to lead the Europe-

an economic community we now know.

What proof is there that Germany had a successful nuclear program when it is universally understood to have failed? Recognized as genuine even in the traditional history, among many U.S. Navy documents in U.S. National Archives describing uranium having been received from Germany on a U-boat. These documents include its having been logged in the boat's manifest (and besides an eye-witness account of it having been labeled "U-235", the correct isotope of enriched uranium). Among the documents is a document describing the uranium as having been stored in "gold-lined cylinders" that should be handled "like TNT," and that would become "sensitive and dangerous" when opened.

Drs. Bergen and Sandquist, listed above, as well as Dr. Bernhard Wehring, director of the nuclear engineering research center at The University of Texas, Austin; and Dr. John Poston, chair of the Nuclear Engineering Department at Texas A&M University, all agree that uranium stowed and handled as described would be nothing other than enriched uranium.

How did the Germans enrich the uranium? In interrogations preparing for the Nuremberg Trials, directors of Germany's IG Farben conglomerate described a synthetic rubber plant the company constructed during the war. This plant was built at a cost of 250 million reichsmarks (25 times the sum each of its previous four plants had cost), took four years to build (four times longer than any of the previous plants), consumed more electricity than the city of Berlin (the eighth largest in the world at the time), but never produced a pound of synthetic rubber.

- Continued on Page 9

**Historically Speaking
Did Germany Enrich Uranium
during World War II? Part 1**

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Based on consumption of electricity alone, Dr. Bergen insists this plant was a uranium enrichment plant. Synthetic rubber expert George M. Ladzun, retired director of process development for Zeon Chemicals, insists on the other hand that he, "cannot comprehend, nor do I believe, a buna (synthetic rubber) plant of that time period consumed as much power as the eighth largest city in the world."

The construction of that synthetic rubber plant was overseen for the Nazis by SS General Karl Wolff – the same general who negotiated with Dulles the nuclear materials to the United States.

There is significant and compelling smoking-gun and circumstantial evidence for all of this.

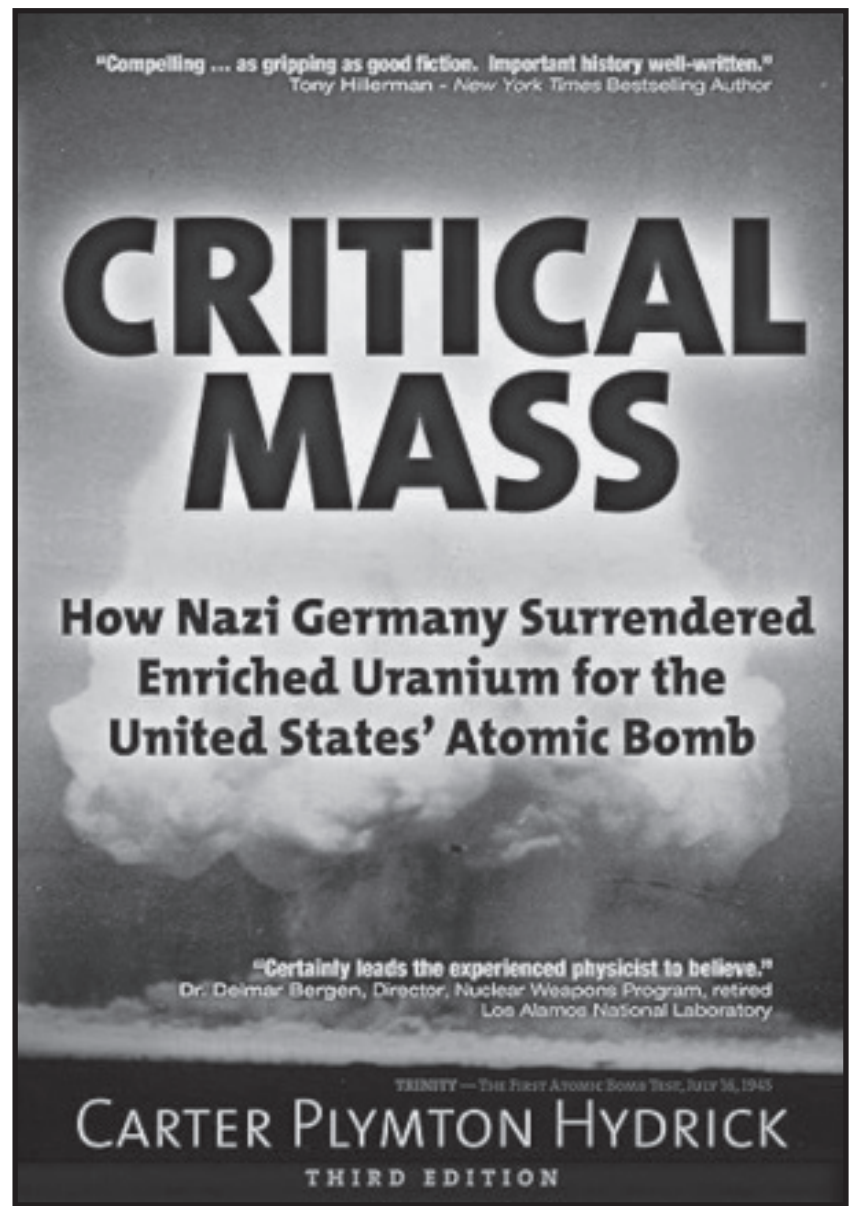
Why have these revelations not become more widely known? From the first time in 2004 that I viewed this research presented by Carter Hydrick at the American Museum of Science and Energy and at Y-12, I have expected to see this historically important series of events become an important, fully embraced addition to the existing history of the Manhattan Project and World War II. It deserves to be. And ought to be. It changed the world.

Recognizing this, the very day that I first saw and heard it, I importuned the researcher, Carter Hydrick, to present his findings again that

evening to our local historical society, the Oak Ridge Heritage & Preservation Association. Nine months later, I invited Mr. Hydrick back to Oak Ridge, and secured a visitor pass for him to present his case again, this time Y-12 to scientists and technical personnel of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12. This presentation was videotaped and posted on Youtube by Y-12 and can be viewed at:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=H1kWVnPNOac>

Part 2 will bring us up to date on Carter Hydrick and will include the difficulties he has faced attempting to gain recognition of the details in Critical Mass in light of the resistance exerted by accepted history and the secret nature of the handling of the cargo aboard U-234.



Critical Mass Third Edition is available on Amazon.com (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



Carter Hydrick making his presentation at Y-12 (Courtesy of Y-12 video screenshot by Ray Smith)





FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS
Many wishes for
a wonderful holiday season
and Happy New Year!

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Holiday Hours

Wednesday, November 27th-Closing at 2pm
 Thursday, November 28th-Thanksgiving Day CLOSED
 Friday, November 29th-CLOSED
 Tuesday, December 24th-Christmas Eve CLOSED
 Wednesday, December 25th-Christmas Day CLOSED
 Thursday, December 26th-CLOSED
 Tuesday, December 31st-Closing at 1pm
 Wednesday, January 1st-New Year's Day CLOSED



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Luke Chapter 16 Part A



Melvin Howard

(Luke 16:1-13) The parable of the unjust steward: The segment begins with a conjunction and, therefore, would appear to have a connection with the previous three parables. While addressed primarily to the disciples, it clearly was within the hearing of the Pharisees, who predictably were incensed (v.14). A certain rich man had a “steward” in his employ. The term refers to one who manages a household; thus, it implies one who presumably has both wisdom and integrity.

This steward was lax in his duty---hence, was “unjust.” He had an integrity problem (v.8). His flawed management was observed and reported to his employer, who called him in for an accounting, confronting him and giving him notice of termination. In panic, he reviewed his options. Manual labor was out of the question (for health reasons) and so was charity---he had too much pride for that, though not too much for unethical conduct. A bright idea occurred to him. He would approach some of his lord’s creditors, cutting them a sweet deal, thus obligating them to him in view of his impending severance. He approached the first creditor and reduced his indebtedness by half; the second he cut by twenty percent.

Somehow, the report of this unauthorized chicanery reached his lord. Though the man had acted unethically, in one respect he had exhibited a sort of practical wisdom in that he at least possessed the foresight to prepare for his future---though morally it was an “unrighteous” maneuver (v.8). The Lord, therefore, made a limited, though valuable, application of the situation. While Christ is frequently criticized as condoning the steward’s lack of ethics, such a charge is misguided. The focus of the story is that the steward used what was at his disposal to prepare for his future welfare---expressing it another way, to use the temporal to prepare for the eternal. Those who press the illustration beyond this point engage in a dishonest procedure.

While this is the primary thrust of the narrative, there are a number of collateral truths worth considering. For example: (a) Disciples of the Lord own nothing in the ultimate sense; they are to view themselves as managers of God’s property (Psa. 24:1; Heb. 2:7). (b) One is obligated to act ethically in life’s affairs; there is a difference between right and wrong. (c) One must use the circumstances of time to prepare for eternity. (d) It is unfortunately the case that on occasion the people of the world exercise more wisdom than the children of God (v.8). (e) To commend one quality in a person in time has eternal consequences. (g) Those whom we assist now will express loving appreciation in eternity (v.9). This implies personal recognition in heaven. (h) There will be heavenly riches far surpassing anything in this material domain (v.11). (i) There will be personal responsibility in heaven proportional to the manner in which one has acted upon this earth (v.12). (j) It is impossible to focus one’s attention in opposite directions; service to our Lord must take second place to nothing else. (k) Materialism is a form of idolatry (Col. 3:5).

(Luke 16:14-18 A rebuke of the Pharisees: The reaction of the Pharisees to Jesus’ teaching was negative indeed. They “scoffed” at him. The verb is an intense form that carries the idea of “turning up the nose,” and the tense reflects a repeated harangue. What was the source of their irritation? His comments regarding responsible stewardship struck a raw nerve because they were “lovers of money” (2 Tim. 3:2; 1 Tim. 6:10). Jesus retorted with a stinging rebuke. He declared that while they evaluated themselves one way (self-justification), God knew their hearts. The implication was that he viewed them quite differently. Incidentally, the fact that Jesus could discern their hearts (Mt. 12:25) demonstrates his deity. Men may applaud them for their wealth, but God holds them to be abominable (20:47).

Christ calls attention to the ministry of John the Baptist. It was a transitional period designed to facilitate a smooth movement from the Mosaic regime to the reign of Christ in the Christian dispensation. Since the days of John, who was now dead---having been killed by Herod Antipas---the coming kingdom of God (and of Christ) had been proclaimed (Mk. 9:1; 2:4). In some sense, “every man enters violently into it” (v.16). This final phrase is obscure and subject to various views. A parallel in Matthew has it: the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and men of violence take it by force” (11-12). Two popular views are: (a) It refers to the violent opposition of the movement’s persecutors and, thus, the “striving” (agony; 13:24) that converts had to endure as they sought to “enter the kingdom.” (b) The language alludes to those who anticipated and longed for a political regime; hence, by violence, they sought to overthrow the Roman oppressors (the Zealots) and so bring about a new administration by force (Jn. 6:15).

Continuing the theme of John’s fading ministry, the Lord emphasized that the passing of the law of Moses was not due to an intrinsic flaw in its divine design. It was perfectly capable of achieving what it was intended to accomplish, but its passing was foretold centuries earlier (Jer. 31:31-34). In the meantime, it would not fail until the appointed time. In fact, it would be easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the minutest elements of the law to expire before its abrogation at the cross (Eph. 2:14). Those who attempt to use this text to argue for the perpetuity of the Mosaic law today have seriously misunderstood it.

Finally, Christ addresses a moral issue, that of divorce and remarriage---a matter of sensitivity with the Pharisees (Mt. 19:3). The institution of a new regime, the kingdom of Christ, would not suspend moral laws regulating marriage. In fact, the marriage covenant would be rescued from the laxness of the former regime and elevated back to the status initially intended (Mt. 19:8). “Every one who divorces his wife [or husband], and marries another [unless for the cause of fornication (Mt. 5:32; 19:9)] is committing adultery.” And anyone who “marries” [goes through a civil procedure and becomes intimate with] the divorced person “is also committing adultery,” has entered an adulterous relationship. Luke’s account does not conflict with Matthew’s; Matthew’s record supplements Luke’s.

The way of man had again become so corrupt by the time of Moses on Sinai that God implements another law, (Law of Moses). Man and woman guilty of adultery must be stoned to death, until the seed (the Son of God is come [Gal. 3:19]). In Matt. 19:8-9; Lk. 16:18, Jesus takes us back to God’s command in Genesis, by-passing that which Moses had added.

(Eph. 5:22-33) Husbands and Wives: Paul now discusses the duties of husbands and wives. Wives must be “in subjection” to their own husband, just as they are to the Lord ---a teaching most unpopular in these times of modern feminism, and sometimes discouraged by the brutish husband. Nor does subjection imply that a husband is to micromanage every phase of a woman’s life. She needs to be free to exert her domestic skills for the betterment of her home (1 Tim. 5:14). The husband is the head (signifying authority) of the wife, just as Christ is the head of his church and the savior of it. (Christ is never said to be the savior of any “body” but his own church. This casts those who disdain or minimize the church in a most unfavorable light.) Moreover, if Christ is the savior of “the body,” and there is “but one body” (1 Cor. 12:20), what conclusion must follow? The love of Christ for his church is a model for the husband toward his wife, namely, sacrificial love. Jesus gave his life for his “bride” (Rev. 21:2; 22:17). Most women would happily submit to a husband who loved with that depth of devotion. And a husband who loves like that will treat his wife with extraordinary affection and dedication.

The Lord’s plan for the church was that it might be sanctified, set apart for a holy use---his use (v.26). Prior to sanctification, however, there must be cleansing. “Cleansing” quite obviously refers to the pardon from sin. It is the equivalent of “saved” (Mk. 16:16), “forgiven” (Acts 2:38), and “washed” (Acts 22:16). Paul declares that the cleansing is outwardly accomplished by “the washing of water with the word.” Ultimately, it is the Lord’s blood that cleanses (Heb. 9:14). The gospel, inspired by the Holy Spirit, which generates belief in the sinner’s heart (Acts 15:7). The phrase, “washing of water,” is a reference to the immersion in water that is a component of the “born again” process (Jn. 3:3-5; Acts 22:16). The scholars who concede this are legion, though many attempt to explain away the obvious implication of the text due to an obsession with preconceived sectarian dogma. See our comments at John 3:3-5. At the time of his second coming, Jesus will present the church to himself as a glorious institution, without defilement, as a holy body (v. 27).

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