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Notes on TOWNSEND BROWN as revealed in correspondence with Carl E. Bets

T.B. several years ago found that plants grown inside of a Faraday cage could be given an added impetus to their growth if the cage were pulsed in certain ways. More information on this can be gotten from Capt. Henry K Puharich, c/o Mrs. Alice Bouverie, 219 East 61st Street, NYC. (He was head of Round Table Foundation in Maine)

Bob Bartlett of U of P, after getting original data on T.B. from me (Hermann), eventually tracked down T.B. and had a nice session recently (Feb-1955) in Washington. T.B. is not in Hawaii as some reports had it. The Townsend Brown Foundation no longer exists, since his partner (?) died. So now T.B. is in the laundry business establishing a chain of automatic laundries at colleges and other institutions across the country. He hopes to make enough \$ with his business to eventually reactivate his now-defunct Foundation.

Bob reports that T.B. says the Mason Rose paper is OK and that it is OK to spread that information about because in essence it is correct and there is nothing secret about it, nor does he care much who does the writing. Bob says that T.B. did some work at the University of Pennsylvania and that a Professor in ~~the~~ the Physics Dept. returned to T.B. most of the papers that were left from the experiments. Bob feels there is nothing secret about Townsend Brown and that he will talk freely. Bob visited Brown at his home which is:

Townsend Brown
2024 "P" Street, NW.
Washington, DC. Phone HU-3-3853

Contact Brown for permission to use Mason Rose paper. Send report of findings, please, to me? With thanks.

Edward W. Hermann
Coville Drive
South Norwalk, Conn.

copies of these notes sent to:

✓ Gray Barker- Box 2228, Clarksburg, West Virginia
Nedde Layne- BERA- 3524 Adams Ave., San Diego, Cal.

Date: February 16, 1955

E. Hermann

Copy of letter from Edward W. Hermann to Meade Layne

December 23, 1954

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Dear Meade:

Thanks for your postcard inquiry on Mason Rose and the University for Social Research.

First, a bit about Brown. When I first heard of him through Carl Betz, I tried to locate his present whereabouts. No success. When your card came in, I got in touch immediately with our Washington office and asked them to get in contact with certain Government sources to locate Brown. Here's ~~that~~ the essence of the report I got:

Townsend Brown, Sr., died in Zanesville, Ohio, left \$500,000 to found the Townsend Brown Foundation. Established in 1938 by his son, Townsend Brown, Jr.,. We think it is set up in California. Not listed in any of the directories on Foundations. Have had our library check all possible Foundation information sources -- no T.B. Foundation listed.

The son is a scientist working in the field of gravitation. Off the record, he has used up most of his funds trying to build flying saucers. He is developing a device that shoots rays against gravity and went to Hawaii to try out some experiments. There is considerable mystery about the Foundation. I could find no trace of it listed among the foundations at National Research Council. Nor at Nat'l Bureau of Standards. No listing in Washington telephone book but we are certain there is an office there for the Foundation. Later: found out that the office is "Office of Counsel Services" -- an outfit that goes in for fund raising for research purposes. Our Washington reporter talked with the advisor of this office, telling him that he was a science writer. He seemed suspicious and said Brown was away but that there was a big program in the offing, that he was working with the Department of Defense on it, and with the law firm of Jansky and Bailey. Brown has two applications for patents pending. They want no publicity.

Completely off the record: Brown applied to Basic Research Corporation for funds but after the Board looked into it, the application was turned down. No flying deals, it was agreed. This is the Corporation joined as chairman of its advisory board after he left the Atomic Energy Commission.

That's all on Brown. Have tried to get any scrap of data possible on Mason Rose and the University for Social Research. Found absolutely nothing. Suggest you try Carl Betz at 7501 Central Ave., Philadelphia. Do you know anything about Rose? I don't.

Happy Holidays - and best personal good wishes.

Edward W. Hermann

McGraw-Hill Publishing Company Inc

McGraw-Hill Building
330 West 42nd Street
New York 36, N.Y.

January 29, 1955

Gray Barker
Box 2228
Clarksburg, West Virginia

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Dear Gray:

How nice to have a brief note from you. I must admit that I have been quite remiss in not getting off a letter to you long before this. I can only plead lack of time. I can't even find time to finish a toy stove I made for my kids for Christmas...it still needs to be painted. But this is Saturday and I am down the cellar at my old desk and I have some spare time to catch up on quite a stack of correspondence.

Now, about Mason Rose. Carl Betz spent a day here with me several weeks ago. We talked about the Townsend Brown business and Mason Rose. We don't know Rose's address but you can get it in the following way. Carl met a chap out on the West Coast this past fall who is: George Perkins, Director, Modern Science Laboratories, 8049 St. Clair Avenue, North Hollywood. Perkins, during the day, is purchasing agent for electrical equipment for Warner Brothers Pictures., West Coast Studios, Burbank, California. Perkins, as I understand it, was formerly director of research for the Townsend Brown Foundation, but left them. It seems that this guy Rose, latched on to a report put out the Perkins or Brown, rewrote it to suit himself, cooked up a fake "University of Social Research" merely for a letterhead, and issued it in the form you saw it. I had out library at McGraw-Hill spend an hour trying to locate the "University" in standard reference volumes. It just doesn't exist. Thus our postcard to you, which I assume you got a week or so ago, re: Rose not having authority to publish the report. Incidentally, you might contact Carl for the detailed report on Rose. Carl H. Betz, 7501 Central Avenue, Philadelphia 11, Pa. A nice guy to get to know.

I am told by Bob Bartlett (Philadelphia) that a Dr. Witmer of the Physics Dept. at Univerisyt of Pennsylvania, knows Townsend Brown. You might check with him. I am also attaching to this letter some correspondence with Meade Layne of BSRA regarding Mason Rose and Townsend Brown. Please return it to me as soon as you are finished with it. And, speaking of returning things, I still have your file of papers re: the Greater Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce, et al. Will get along to you as soon as I have chance to did into the story of the guy who was getting energy from space. I can't think of his name right now and the file is in the office.

Thanks very much, Gray, for the copies of the Saucerian. The current issue is excellent! And, as the issues come to my desk, I will send you copies of Electronics and Aviation Week. They may come in batches but I will do my best to see that you get all issues. A bundle will be on its way to you next week. Write me when you can. And my very best personal good wishes to you. More later.

Edward W. Hermann
Covlee & Minard Drives
South Norwalk, Conn.

Ed

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BROWN, THOMAS TOWNSEND — Physicist, biophysicist; born Zanesville, Ohio, on March 18, 1905. The Hill School, Pottstown, Pennsylvania; Doane Academy, Granville, Ohio; California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California; Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio; Denison University, Granville, Ohio; special courses (Navy), Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. (1920 to 1925 consecutively)

1922-23, private research laboratory, Pasadena, California; 1924-25, special electronics research, Denison University, Department of Physics; 1926-30, private research laboratory (astrophysics), Zanesville, Ohio, in collaboration with Dr. Paul Biefeld, Swazey Observatory, Granville, Ohio; 1930-33, Naval Research Laboratory (radiation and spectroscopy), Washington, D.C.; 1932, Staff physicist, International Gravity Expedition to the West Indies aboard U.S. Submarine S-48, Representative of Navy Department; 1933, Physicist, Johnson-Smithsonian Deep Sea Expedition, Smithsonian Institution; 1934, State Erosion Engineer (Ohio-FERA), in charge of harbors, piers and breakwater construction; 1934-35, Assistant Administrator of Relief (Ohio), Director of Federal Student Aid and Director Civilian Conservation Corps Selection; 1936-37, Cosmic Radiation Observations, Townsend Brown Foundation, Zanesville, Ohio; 1938, Assistant Engineering Officer (Lt. jg USNR) shakedown cruise USS NASHVILLE to Europe; 1939-40, Materials and Processes Engineer (aircraft), Glenn L. Martin Company, Baltimore; 1940-41, Officer-in-charge (Lt. USNR), Magnetic and Acoustic Minesweeping, Research and Development, Bureau of Ships, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.; 1942-43, Officer-in-charge (Lt. Comdr. USNR), Atlantic Fleet Radar Materiel School and Gyro-compass School, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia; 1944-45, Radar Consultant, Advance Design Section, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, California; 1946-48, Cosmic Radiation Observations, Townsend Brown Foundation, Laguna Beach, California and Los Angeles, California; 1948-52, private research (biophysics) in radiation and plant growth, Island of Kauai, Hawaii. A program of The Townsend Brown Foundation Pacific Expedition, 1950, Consulting Physicist, Pearl Harbor Navy Yard; 1952-55, Basic research (radiation and field physics), The Townsend Brown Foundation, Los Angeles, California and Washington, D. C.; 1954, Consulting Physicist, Clevite-Brush Electronics Co., Cleveland, Ohio; 1955-56, Consulting Physicist, Societe Nationale de Constructions Aeronautiques du Sud-Ouest, Paris, France; 1957-58, Chief Consultant, Research and Development, Whitehall-Rand project of the Bahnsen Company, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Currently President of Whitehall-Rand, Inc., 1019 Dupont Circle Building, Washington 6, D. C.

Member of: American Physical Society (since 1926), American Institute of Physics, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow), American Geophysical Union of the National Academy of Science, American Society of Naval Engineers, American Rocket Society, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and others.