

# 'Psychic's Powers Astound Police

PAUL BANNISTER

Dutch psychic Warner Tholen has amazed and astounded police and civilians alike with his uncanny abilities to find missing bodies and lost articles — and even predict the future.

Among his successes, Tholen has: pinpointed for police the exact spots at which bodies of missing people would be found. He has also:

- Located urgently needed water at an African mission — from an aerial photo.
- Documented the precise injury of an astronaut at splashdown.

"Tholen has found many missing people and has helped the police in a great many cases," revealed Prof. W.H.C.

Vanhaeff, 84, a psychology professor at University of Utrecht, who has served Tholen's work.

One of Tholen's recent successes occurred when the Dutch State Police at Methoorn asked him to help find a missing man.

"Tholen told us to look in a particular spot at the Beukesgracht Canal," recalled Police Inspector Hendrick Schut.

"There were the tracks of a car leading into the water. We went for the river police and they



PSYCHIC Warner Tholen

found the vehicle (and the missing man's body) in the water.

"Tholen really has incredible power. He's been called in by police many times."

In another case, police found the body of a missing 20-year-old man in water near Lelystad in the Netherlands — where Tholen told them it would be.

At his home near Utrecht, the psychic produced a letter from the local police acknowledging, "Without Tholen's help we would never have solved this case. We would not have found the body."

One of the most astonishing successes of the 66-year-old psychic came when a missionary priest, Rev. Nicholas Borst, appealed to him for help in finding desperately needed water near his Catholic mission in Tanzania, Africa.

"He sent me an aerial photograph of the mission and the land around it," Tholen said. "I concentrated on the photograph and pinpointed the exact spot."

A letter of thanks that Father Borst wrote to Tholen tells how

water was found at 75 feet and at 112 feet — the exact depths the psychic had predicted.

In 1969, Prof. John Beloff of the department of psychology, at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, recorded Tholen's prediction that the youngest of the Apollo astronauts would be slightly wounded on the right side of his head when landing, and that they would not land in their target region.

On splashdown, Nov. 24, 1969, Al Bean, youngest of the astronauts, received a blow over his right eye when he bumped into a loose movie camera, and the capsule landed two miles off target — just as Tholen had predicted.

In Tholen's favorite case, he located plans for 800-year-old Coevorden Castle, after a futile four-nation search.

Tholen advised Dr. Corneille Janssen, architect and director

of the Provenca Museum on Drenthe in the Netherlands.

"Look for a fair-sized building to the southeast. There you will find a large carved, wooden chest painted red, green and white. In it you will find a drawing of the tower." When Dr. Janssen went to a farm just three miles southeast of his own home, the farmer handed him a drawing of the tower.

"The farmer told me that until two years before, they had been kept in a chest exactly like the one Tholen had described," said Dr. Janssen.



WHERE BODY WAS FOUND: Inspector Hendrick Schut shows where psychic directed police.

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# *L.A. Police Researching Psychics'*

By Mark Jones

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — How could it be, a police detective wondered, that a housewife apparently with psychic capabilities could help put together the drawing of a man who a week later would be the prime suspect in a triple murder?

How was it, thought a deputy district attorney recently, that a second local psychic could reenact a two-year-old murder after touching the killer's fingerprint card?

And how was it possible, the FBI wondered last month, that yet a third Los Angeles psychic knew so much about a \$500,000 kidnaping in Las Vegas when, in fact, the crime was still in progress?

Are any or all of these three cases examples of clairvoyance or coincidence? Did each of the psychics "see" through time and distance or were they just lucky? Answers are not easy to come by when the topic is as elusive as parapsychology.

But while psychics have been casually involved for years in criminal investigations — the most recent local

case resulted in the arrest of a murderer suspect earlier this month by police in South Gate near Los Angeles — there have been few experiments to determine their reliability in crime cases.

Until now.

Members of the Los Angeles Police Department admitted recently that for the past eight months they've been conducting serious research into psychic phenomena. The latest study, which began in October, involves nearly four dozen specially selected Los Angeles psychics, homicide investigators and "ordinary" citizens.

The man leading what may be the first announced police-psychic study in the country is Dr. Martin Reiser, director of the LAPD's behavioral sciences department.

"So far it hasn't been demonstrated to my satisfaction that so-called reputable psychics can solve crimes," he said, "and yet the homicide division and I do want to make a serious re-evaluation of paranormal phenomena.

"In other words," he said, "I want to find out once and for all whether the hundreds of tips volunteered by

psychics are all screwy or indeed whether some of them have merit."

Reiser said that late last month the police department, with the aid of clinical researchers at UCLA and Los Angeles City College, gathered four separate teams of psychics, homicide detectives and citizens.

He said that during the next few months each of them would be individually tested for their abilities to perceive—or to "see"—crimes described inside 12 sealed envelopes containing items of evidence pertaining to a different crime.

"We're trying to be as unbiased as possible," Reiser said. "And if it looks as though investigative information supplied by psychics not only is feasible but has utility, then we'll use it. That's the nature of a police organization, isn't it?"

Despite the psychologist's guarded optimism, there was through it all a bedrock of pessimism laid down by the results of Reiser's first police-psychic study last May.

In that smaller experiment a dozen Los Angeles psychics were tested in

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## L.A. Police Researching 'Psychic' Crime Solving

### PSYCHIC, From G1

evidence—to “see” the killer together with his victims in a psychic vision one afternoon in October.

Sims said that the psychic and a police artist produced the drawing of a man who later was identified by the mother of one of the victims as having been with her boy shortly before his death.

Under questioning, Sims said, the man—a family acquaintance with a record of sex offenses—told police where they could find the body of one of three victims. And with that, and other evidence, the 33-year-old unemployed truck driver, Harold Ray Membro, was arrested and charged with murder.

In nearby Downey and Torrance a Dutch-born psychic named Jan Steers figured in some of the most curious police-psychic cases in Southern California in the early 1970s.

The small, quiet, middle-aged psy-

chic, who has since returned to Holland, is said by police officers to have disclosed secret information about at least two unsolved murders and—over the telephone—was able to pinpoint the location of a dying policeman within minutes of his near-fatal injury.

One of the officers who worked with the psychic in 1973 was Torrance police detective Ray Gross. One day recently Gross recalled the first time he met the psychic.

“It was the strangest thing,” he said. “I was staying late at the station one night when this man called me and began rattling off some stuff about the Rolling Hills Theater murder (in which four persons were slain in 1972).

“The guy insisted that if I would return to the scene of the crime, I would find a set of the killer’s finger-

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# *Ability to Solve Crimes*

## The Washington Post

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much the same fashion as those in the current study.

One psychic, he said, astonished everyone by managing to "see" a crime involving a church while holding one of the test envelopes (the contents of which described the murder of a church official).

In another example, five of the individually tested psychics "visualized" a crime in which a car was especially important (the case described in the test envelope concerned a murder associated with an auto theft).

In spite of the infrequent surprises, though, Reiser spelled out his disappointment in a 14-page research paper entitled "An Evaluation of the Use of Psychics in the Investigation of Major Crimes," to be published in

March by the Journal of Police Science and Administration.

In it Reiser concluded, "... Overall, little, if any, information was elicited from the 12 psychic participants that would provide material helpful in the investigation of the major crimes in question."

For years the stereotype of psychics, in the words of Los Angeles psychic Kebrina Kinkade, on the whole has been "a bunch of nuts and kooks who came out of the woodwork when a big case broke."

And it followed, she said, that if police had brought a psychic in on a particularly baffling case they cringed at the thought of admitting it in public for fear of censure.

That may be changing. Parapsy-

chology is the subject of clinical research at recognized universities, and there is a growing public belief that some individuals may be invested with the ability to "see" through time and distance.

South Gate police detective William Sims said his department had exhausted what was felt to be every lead in the sex murders of three young boys between 1976 and September 1978. Then, through an intermediary, Sims and a second officer solicited the aid of a local (and unidentified) woman psychic in her 40s.

The detective told the Los Angeles Times he is still "spooked" at the way the psychic had been able—without a single clue or revealing item of

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## Psychics' Crime Solving

PSYCHIC, From G3

prints on the right door jamb, exactly 4½ inches up from the floor.

"Well," said the detective, "my sergeant and I figured what the heck. The guy was pretty insistent and, anyway, by that time we hadn't any really solid leads in the case."

So the next day the detective returned to the theater, where he found a set of prints overlooked in the original investigation and where the psychic said they'd be.

Well, almost. They weren't 4½ inches up from the floor, Gross said. "They were 4¼ inches." The fingerprints later matched those of a suspect.

When the psychic volunteered to come to the station to share his information, Gross thought, "By this time I figured that when the guy arrived I was going to throw him in the clink because he knew as much about the murder as I did." As it happened, however, the psychic had an unshakable alibi. And more.

"When Steers began to tell the sergeant and myself about how the victims were laid out the night of the

murder—and believe me, he was correct all the way down the line—I got white as a sheet," the officer said. "I mean, there was just no way this man could have known what we found at the murder scene unless he was truly psychic."

The officer, who through his association with Steers came to be humorously known by his fellow investigators as "detective of the kook squad" (someone even put a miniature crystal ball on his desk one day), said also that the psychic's predictions about the killer all checked out down to the .32-cal pistol hidden in his blood-stained boots the day of his eventual arrest.

The case never went to trial, though because the suspect hanged himself in the Torrance jail.

"I don't think you can say that psychics are a panacea in solving crimes," the Torrance detective says. "But they can be an invaluable investigating tool. I mean, you get the right investigator working in tune with the right psychic and a department could settle a lot more of their unsolved cases."

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