

PROLOGUE II

NewsFlash: DateLine November 29, 2003

“This is an exclusive DateLine follow-up story. The renowned Pediatrician turned scientist, Doctor Samantha Goldinger, is in the news again. The Evening news reported a few hours ago that she has been suspended from her position at the highly secretive research facility, Guardian First Foundation. The doctor first came to the attention of parents with children afflicted with Childhood Learning Disability Syndrome, CLDS. Doctor Goldinger pioneered the program that has turned the corner on fostering a normal life for scores of kids worldwide. Shortly after her own son died of cancer, Doctor Goldinger left her practice and became a research scientist. In a champion move that challenged the best minds in the world and the entire medical community to find the cure, Doctor Goldinger publicly decreed that in her lifetime the disease would be eradicated.

The news of her suspension from Guardian spread throughout the industry like a frenzy. It was a shock and disappointment to the medical research world. The reason for the suspension has not yet been publicly released but speculation is high that negligence and breach of ethics are suspected, according to Guardian Chief of staff, Harvey Neills.

The doctor could not be reached for comment and her whereabouts have not been released. At this time no charges have been filed against Doctor Goldinger, nor is it known if any will be. Reporting from Los Angeles, this is DateLine, where you get the news first. Remember this date with DateLine.”

NewsFlash: DateLine February 20, 2000

“What you are about to see may sicken you. We warn you that the following photographs are graphic. The commentary you re about to read is the actual transcript from DateLine’s correspondent, Joseph P. Moran, as it was first presented on television just last night.”

“I’m standing at the sight of a devastating occurrence at a grassy knoll in remote Ventura County, California. The breeze is spreading a rancid odor, an emanation so repulsive that it’s difficult to breathe. It is the musk of blood and death, a stench that has the surrounding area thick with insects. As you can see, the ground is soaked brown.

“I am here at the scene of a grizzly mass . . . what can only be described as the worst mass murder or suicide that this normally quiet seaside area has ever experienced. Authorities have not released their determination in that regard but it is presumed at this time to be suicide. Behind me, in this quiet area of cattle ranches and rugged coastline,

between the cities of Santa Barbara and Lompoc, where the most one sees are clouds and rolling hills dotted with herds of cattle, are the bodies of twenty-two individuals.

“All were senior citizens; all face down in the dry mustard colored hillside, lined next to each other, one after another. From where I stand fifty yards away, which is as close as authorities would let the news media get, they all appear to have been in their nineties. Some may be older. Those investigating this horrific scene are throwing around the possibility that several of the victims, and they are all considered to be victims at this time, may have actually been over one hundred years old. It is not known at this time how many centenarians resided in this remote area of California, nor why this spot was chosen as their final one. None have been identified. Each had their wrists and necks slashed in a vampiric scene right out of a horror movie. I cannot be more graphic or specific, as the conduct of this company doesn't promote that level of gore. Trust me when I say that this is something that even Dracula would scorn. One of them apparently died of a gunshot wound to the head. It is not known if that person was a murderer or leader of a mass suicide. From Santa Barbara County, this is Joseph P. Moran, reporting for The Evening News.”

“And that's how we got it, direct to you from DateLine, where you get the news first. Remember this date with DateLine.”

NewsFlash: DateLine June 26, 1974:

This just in to DateLine. This is how it looked and sounded to our sources and we offer it, as always, to you straight from DateLine. Following is the transcript of last night's shocking news:

“And in Beverly Hills, according to a spokesperson for Better Face Cosmetics, a renegade employee claims that he has available what amounts to, what he calls the fountain of youth. Doctor Richard Ontono claims that his serum, called Lixirol will begin to work within twelve hours of the first application and will turn back the clock of aging. Although exorbitant in price, Doctor Ontono claims that business is brisk as people with more money than smooth faces line up around the block for advanced sales of his serum.

Better Face Cosmetics claimed that Doctor Ontono is suspicious at best and a criminal most likely even though they have not filed charges as of the time of this report. To tell us more about this fascinating medical breakthrough, correspondent Kelly Montalban takes us to the offices of the next Hollywood Guru. Kelly, what can you tell us about Lixirol and Doctor Richard Ontono?”

“Well, to look at him you'd never believe that he is telling the truth when he claims to be one hundred and six years old”

NewsFlash: DateLine December 8, 1968

DateLine counts this as one of the top stories of the year. Our sources at DateLine found this to be a case of truth being stranger than fiction. We offer to you now this transcript, just received at DateLine as it was broadcast just a few hours ago:

“With me now is Detective Milo Warmmaster of the Phoenix Crime Unit Elite. Detective, what can you tell us about this incident? Please speak right into the microphone.”

“Whoa, that microphone is close. Okay, there we go. Not much. All we have so far is a bunch of dead animals. They are piled in what looks like a pyre that was interrupted before the bodies could be disposed of.”

“Is there anything unusual about the carcasses that you can tell us?”

“Yes. The animals were old, too old, just too old. ”

“How can you know that? Are you a veterinarian or a scientist?”

“No. But common sense tells a person that a dog shouldn't be bald and wrinkled like an old sheet. Cows don't get to looking like that and I grew up on a farm in Iowa. Also, the bodies have been mutilated in such a way that I cannot describe in public.”

“What does this lead you to believe?”

“This leads me to believe that someone was up to no good.”

“Is there anything else that is known at this time, Sir?”

“No Mam.”

“Thank you. Reporting from fifty miles west of Phoenix, this is
Candy Napperson for The Evening News.”

Below, DateLine provides photographs of the site and of the cows so you
can judge for yourself. Whether it’s strange, curious, fascinating or poignant, you
can trust DateLine to bring you the news first. Remember this date with DateLine.

NewsFlash: DateLine November 21, 1963

This just in to DateLine: your source for the most up-to-the-minute
reports. Below are the transcript and photos from tonight’s current events:

“The cold war is in full swing. I’m here with Mister Michael
Candles, a research assistant for the Department of Agriculture near Taos,
New Mexico. Mister Candles has agreed to speak with us because he
wants to set the minds of the American public at ease. This is an exclusive
interview granted to The Evening News. Tell me, Mister Candles, why
have you breached your oath of silence and why does the Department of
Agriculture require secrecy anyway?”

“Uh-hum. Well, the DOA, that’s the Department of Agriculture, likes security so that it can conduct itself without interference until such time as they can present facts and not speculation. That way they can go about and do their jobs as best they can. There is nothing subversive about it. We only investigate what is already public information: reports of animal disease on farms or of unusual occurrences throughout the country; fraud, things of that nature. I broke my oath of silence because too many people made too many accusations that were preposterous.”

“Such as?”

“Such as that the DOA is conducting experiments to kill off livestock in Russia by administering viruses in the feed and spreading it through what is presumed to be vitamin or hormone treated contaminants.”

“And how was this contaminant presumably propagated?”

“By airborne particles.”

“Is it true?”

“No, Miss, it is not. There is no such experiment; there is no such contaminant, no such program. Not in the DOA and not in any federal agency in this land.”

“And how can you be so sure? After all, the New York Times and the Washington Post are reputable agencies with irrefutable sources.”

“Not this time. This time, all there is is smoke and no fire. The American public can rest assured that no contamination spread over Russia will ever blanket the United States of America by so much as a tail wind so long as John Fitzgerald Kennedy is our President. On that, I would stake my oath of ethics.”

“Thank you and God bless you. On this twenty-first day of November, nineteen sixty-three, the American people can certainly rest easier, amid speculation and innuendo about viruses, deadly poisons, the cold war and President Kennedy. Reporting from New Mexico, this is Tammy Westmer for the Evening News.”

DateLine looks forward to hearing what President Kennedy has to say about the activities of the DOA tomorrow when he visits Dallas, Texas. Don't forget to check DateLine for the latest, where you get your news first. Remember this date with DateLine.

NewsFlash: DateLine September 1, 1949

The following report was aired last evening. We bring it to you, as always, right from the actual radio broadcast, without leaving out a word:

“Picture this. A Dutchman, a former Nazi collaborator, a scientist assigned to the experimentation of innocent victims in the horrid and

greatly feared concentration camps of Germany, Holland, Poland. This scientist escapes to freedom in America under an assumed name.

How he got here is a mystery. Rumor has it that people were smuggled out of Nazi occupied Europe by big names right here in the United States. There have actually been claims that the clout carried by Hollywood filmmakers and movie stars has produced some interesting business alliances.

Once here, the Dutchman makes up for the evil he inflicted by using his knowledge in research. Doctor Yoseph Von Deurenschtahl did just that, escaped Nazi Germany, arrived in Arizona and worked for years to develop the answers to medical mysteries. Where his cures come from none ask. How he finds the means or methods can only be speculated.

At the behest of the United States government Doctor Von Deurenschtahl changed his name and appearance and shared his knowledge, knowledge that was gained from the pain of so many victims. Given funding for research, Doctor Von Deurenschtahl, known here as Doctor Joseph Duran, died tonight. His dreams have not been completely fulfilled. Leaving only the blueprints for future use, Doctor Duran dedicated his research to his assistants. In an interview last month, Evening News has been told by his assistants that he hoped that they might expand on his theories so that millions can live longer, possibly well into their hundreds, maybe even longer.”

“Now all that will be impossible. Doctor Duran’s notes have vanished.

“To make matters worse, Doctor Duran’s assistants have all but disappeared. The worst is feared. Foul play has not been ruled out. Even more curious is the fate of the laboratory. It burned to the ground last night just hours after the preceding report was aired on the Evening News. DateLine, where you get your news first, will continue its investigation of these incidents. You can count on DateLine to keep you informed. Check back often. Remember this date with DateLine.