

## The Ghosts In The Machines

The Survival Files — Case 17 — ESS = 269

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The interaction of departed spirits with electronic equipment was first suspected almost immediately after the invention of electronic equipment. Thomas Edison revealed in 1920 that he was developing equipment to communicate with the spirit world. If Edison ever accomplished that trick, he chose not to share his contraption with the world at large. Nevertheless, there have been a few successful attempts to augment man's natural ability with electronic devices. Most of the attempts have involved trying to capture voices of the deceased on magnetic audio tape. More recently, some experimenters have tried for voices and/or pictures using videotape and TVs — as sensationalized in the 2005 movie *White Noise*.

Most of the communications recorded on tape are notable for their brevity, as if each word spoken required a great expenditure of energy. Aside from their presumed origin, they tend to be rather trivial. In the opinion of several critics who have looked into the matter, most of the messages are more the product of a mind that strongly desires to hear voices amongst a background of static than they are of discarnate personalities. This is probably an accurate appraisal. But then there are those pesky exceptions.

The most impressive contemporary example of communications with the other side that are enabled/facilitated by electronic instrumentation is the Spiricom, developed by George Meek, William O'Neill, George Mueller, and "Doc Nick." Meek was an engineer whose many patents, mostly in the field of air treatment, generated sufficient income for him to retire at the age of 60 and devote his life and fortune to psychical research. O'Neill was an electronic technician who seemed able to see and hear dead people. Mueller held a Ph.D. in experimental physics from Cornell University. Doc Nick was a medical doctor and ham-radio operator. At the time they participated in the development of the Spiricom, both Mueller and Nick had been dead for several years.

Rather than rely on deciphering static or "white noise," the Spiricom generates 13 tones that the spirits can manipulate to create the sounds of human language. After much tinkering and many false starts, the team achieved the first real-time, recordable dialog between living and deceased on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 1977. In this breakthrough exchange, the spirit calling himself Doc Nick makes about 15 statements, a couple of which are unintelligible and all of which sound as if he is talking from the bottom of a copper cavern. By the time Meek made his public announcement in 1982, the quality of the voices had been improved significantly; they still sounded metallic and the hum of the overtones was still bothersome, but most everyone could understand the voices upon hearing the tapes but once.

As for verifiable material, the spirit of Mueller provided specifics about his background and education, even his social security number! Furthermore, he gave Meek two unlisted telephone numbers that proved to be for the persons he identified — persons who were exceedingly interested to know how Meek had obtained their "classified" numbers. Here's an excerpt from a tape of a Spiricom-enabled conversation in which the spirit of Mueller asks about a book that he had written in 1947 entitled *Introduction to Electronics*. Earlier, Mueller had suggested that the team refer to a copy of this book.

Mueller: Did you obtain that book of mine yet?

O'Neil: Oh, that book of yours. No sir. By the way, our friend Mr. Meek is really going all out to find that because I want to read those two pages you mentioned.

Mueller: Very well. And I want you to read that, William. There must be copies available somewhere.

O'Neil: Well, I think George, that's Mr. Meek, our friend.

Mueller: Your friend.

O'Neil: Yes. Even if he has to go to the Library of Congress. He'll probably do that.

Mueller: Oh, I see. Oh, all right.

Meek later reported: "No, even the Library of Congress does not have a copy. However, I eventually located the book in the archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Dr. Mueller's native state."

Several voice analyses were done on the tapes. They all showed that the voices of O'Neil and Mueller were of quite different origin. As of this writing, some of these recordings may be heard at [www.ghostpix.com](http://www.ghostpix.com).

Doc Nick stopped speaking to O'Neil soon after his voice was caught on tape. After participating in over 30 hours of taped conversations George Mueller ceased to come through. (He had warned the researchers a couple of times that he would not be able to stay with them forever.) O'Neil passed on in 1995, Meek in the winter of '99.

Although Meek had made his fortune with patents, he refused to apply for one on the Spiricom, choosing instead to offer the plans to anyone who wished to replicate his work. It became clear, however, that the Spiricom was an instrument attuned to the unique energies of O'Neil, Nick, and Mueller; it never worked for anyone else on either side of the great divide. Nevertheless, others have had moderate success with different instrumentation and many continue to labor in the field.

### Discussion

An analysis of this case, and more details, may be found on pages 114-121 of *The Survival Files*.

### For Further Information

See the article "Spiricom: Electronic Communications with the 'Dearly Departed'!" by George W. Meek, in *New Realities* magazine, Vol IV, No. 6, July 1982. Additional material may be found in Fuller's *The Ghost of 29 Megacycles*.

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