

His Uncle Took A Picture

The Age Of Miracles? Rev. Weekley Believes

"God today sends messages to people in different ways. Sometimes you don't see it, but you feel it and know. I still believe that it's the age of miracles."—Rev. Jim Weekley, pastor at Park Street United Methodist Church, Belmont.

By DWIGHT FRADY

The only picture Hershel Weekley had in his possession when he died in 1980 was a picture he took when he was a Sergeant in the Air Force in 1944, the year before the end of World War II.

He had taken the picture from a B-52 Bomber while on maneuvers in Baton Rouge, La.

The picture, shown elsewhere on this page, was taken with one of those old box cameras they used back then. Hershel's avocation was photography. He printed up his own pictures.

This particular picture Hershel took shows, almost unbelievably, clouds and B-52 Bombers in the background—but, in the foreground, to Hershel's amazement when he printed up the picture, a front view of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Weekley came into possession of not only the original picture his uncle printed up, but the negative from the old box camera he took the picture with in 1944, when Hershel died in 1980.

Jim's father is Saunders Weekley, the brother of Hershel. Saunders served in the Navy during World War II.

All of the Weekleys, including Jim, are originally from Huntington, West Va., and Jim's father, now retired after serving as a salesman for a flour company for many years, still resides there.

"By natural means, it (the picture) had to be a message to Hershel from God," said Rev. Weekley.

"They used those old box cameras back then, and there is absolutely no way there could have been a double exposure or no way the picture could have been 'touched up.' They just didn't have that sort of equipment back then. That's my personal opinion.

"God today sends messages to people in different ways. That's my personal opinion too. Sometimes you don't see it, but you feel it. I still believe that it's the age of miracles.



THE PICTURE HERSHEL WEEKLEY TOOK IN 1944

"My uncle was not a Christian at the time he took the picture. I believe it made him look seriously in that direction after he made the picture.

"I'm sure that when he printed up the picture, he had to have a feeling of awe and disbelief. Chances of that occurring are perhaps 10 million to one, or perhaps—never again," said Rev. Weekley.

"Uncle Hershel also had a handkerchief (now in the possession of his aunt, Bonnie Hanson) which has a facial likeness of Christ imprinted on it.

"He had a clean handkerchief in his pocket, pulled that handkerchief out later, and a facial likeness of Christ was on it. He didn't know how it got there."

Rev. Weekley said that Hershel was a layman all of his life. He was the janitor in his church at Grace Gospel Church (independent) in Huntington. He worked in a bookstore in Huntington.

"Throughout history, you hear of and read about Christ having personally touched the lives of peo-

ple," said Rev. Weekley. "Take the time Peter Marshall was called to the ministry.

"Marshall was walking in the woods in the Highlands of Scotland. He heard a voice call out the name 'Peter.' He heard the voice say that word two or three times. The last time he heard it, he stopped, then stumbled and fell.

"His hand was hanging over a precipice, and if he hadn't stopped after hearing that voice, he would have fallen to a certain death on that foggy night when he was taking a short cut home. He couldn't see where he was going," said Rev. Weekley.

"There is the Shroud of Turin, a cloth that many scholars feel was placed on the front part of Christ after he was crucified.

"It has been proven by radio carbon dating that the cloth dates back to the time of Christ. As I said before, it is still the age of miracles.

"This is actually the second time I've seen a picture by a person with Christ in the picture. The one

my uncle took was a front view.

"When I was in elementary school, a similar picture was taken by a young girl at the beach. This girl looked up into the sky at the clouds. She saw an image of Christ there. She had a camera, took the picture, and in that picture, you can see Christ's face from a side view."

Rev. Weekley said that to his knowledge, his uncle never gave the picture you see on this page (which is dark but clear as the original) to any newspaper or magazine. He just kept it to himself.

At this particular time of the year, when we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ—this story and the two pictures are indeed food for thought.



REV. JIM WEEKLEY
...Photo (R) And Negative

Arrivals

IT'S A GIRL

Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Lynn of Kings Mountain announce the birth of their daughter, Jessica Erin, January 2 at Gaston Memorial Hospital. The baby weighed eight pounds and six ounces. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Percy Lynn and Mrs. Peggy Wells, all of Kings Mountain. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cline and Mrs. T.N. Lynn of Kings Mountain. The baby's mother is the former April Lynn Wells.

IT'S A BOY

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Watts announce the birth of their second son, Ira Jason, December 28 at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. He weighed seven pounds. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Doyt E. Falls and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Watts, all of Kings Mountain. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Peterson of Forest City and Gus Watts of Ellenboro, and Ira J. Falls of Kings Mountain, for whom he was named. He has a six-year-old brother, Christopher Allen.

IT'S A GIRL

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bunch announce the birth of a daughter, Mary Eoline, December 1 at Randolph Memorial Hospital in Asheboro. Grandparents are Mrs. D.F. Hord and the late Dr. D.F. Hord of Kings Mountain. Great-grandmother is Mrs. J. Byron Keeter. The baby's mother is the former Nancy Hord.

IT'S A BOY

Mr. and Mrs. David Hord announce the birth of a son, David Fletcher Hord IV, at Rowan County Hospital Sat., Dec. 7. The Hords live in China Grove and have a daughter, Alice. Grandparents are Mrs. D.F. Hord of Kings Mountain and the late Dr. Hord. Mrs. J. Byron Keeter is great-grandmother.

IT'S A BOY

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Johnson of Kings Mountain announce the birth of a son, Chad Ashley, December 16 at Cleveland Memorial Hospital. Chad has a three-year-old brother, Steven. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Patterson of Kings Mountain and B.R. Moore and the late Lula Mae Moore of Grover. The baby's mother is the former Debbie Patterson.

BOOKMOBILE

The Cleveland County Memorial Library bookmobile will be at the Ruth Vess residence in the Oak Grove Community at 12 noon Thurs., Jan. 7.

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