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MEDIUM TRIUMPHS AT PROXY SEANCE

'Dead' father returns with cast-iron evidence

RONALD HEARN scored a great success with a tape-recorded proxy seance last week, with no sitter present. He received strikingly evidential communications from a man who had died only seven weeks earlier.

The individual who returned is the father of Pam Riva, PN editorial secretary. The only "contact," if such it can be called, was a handwritten note from Pam which merely asked Hearn to see what he could get.

Now a delighted Pam is the possessor of a permanent record of Survival in the hour-long tape recording made by Hearn at his London home.

Her father was not a Spiritualist. He had never been to a sitting. His attitude to an after-life was one of uncertainty.

The first thing Hearn said was that Pam's father was present. The medium gave an excellent character study of him, mentioning that he had passed suddenly and unexpectedly.

This was accurate. Harry Riva, after a second stroke, never regained consciousness and passed eight days later.

Fed through tube

Hearn referred to the communicator having throat and chest trouble. Before Harry passed on he contracted pneumonia and had difficulty in breathing. Because he could not swallow he was fed through a nasal tube.

To show awareness of domestic conditions, he told the medium of his wife's love of flowers in pots in the home and out of doors.

"Our window-sill is full of pots," said Pam. "We have a row of flower pots in the garden also."

In this connection the medium said he could smell mimosa. A true Londoner, he hardly knew one flower from another. His wife remembered that mimosa, called wattle in Australia, is that country's emblem.

Harry had a great affection for Australia, where he had worked at the beginning of World War 1, and often spoke about it.

Recognition comes

Next came mention of the spirit presence of two brothers, or possibly a brother and brother-in-law. One, said the medium, had passed when fairly young and the other in older life.

Mrs Riva's brother passed two years ago, when middle-aged. The brother-in-law could not be placed for some time. Then they recalled who he was. This was Harry's brother-in-law who died relatively young through bomb blast in the last war.

Names given at this proxy seance all proved to be correct. Those of "Uncles William, Tom and George" were identified as having this relationship to Pam's grandmother.

"Elizabeth" was recognised as belonging to Harry's mother. "May, Sarah, Annie and Bill"

were also all relatives. Bill was the name of Mrs Riva's brother.

The medium told of the spirit presence of Mrs Riva's mother, saying she had been an excellent cook. He gave an accurate description of her character. She was a professional cook before marriage.

Hearn said she had a habit of screwing up her eyes, which suggested she had trouble with her sight. This was true, due to her being blind in one eye.

Song has meaning

Next Hearn gave Mrs Riva's name as Lillian or Lily. It is Lillian, but she is usually known as Lil.

The tape mentioned an old song, "Hand me down my walking cane," which is unknown to Pam and her mother. Harry was fond of old songs and used to play and sing many of them.

Pam said the cane is relevant. Her father used a stick after his first stroke two years ago. More domestic details followed in accurate references to a dripping tap and a broken path that needed fixing. Harry had intended to work on the path, but had to abandon the task after his first stroke. Another evidential detail was a



Ronald Hearn records spirit messages for absent sitters.

statement that the front door was difficult to open.

Advice came for Mrs Riva, "a born worrier," said Pam, that she should not fear the future. In this connection Hearn quoted, "I shall not want" from the 23rd Psalm.

More facts the medium could not have normally known followed as Mrs Riva's headaches were mentioned and trouble with her toes.

Pam was not left out of the

communication. Hearn said she was involved with the psychic scene, worked at a typewriter and had sat, or should do so, in a circle. She had regularly attended a circle for over three years.

The tape mentioned she had often changed her jobs and spoke French. Both statements are true.

There was something at the bottom of her wardrobe, said the medium, that did not really

belong there. This is a little oil painting at which she had tried her hand just before her father passed on, but he had seen it. Critics might dismiss some of these references as trivial but, as they were evidential and unknown to the medium, their spirit origin cannot be explained away.

Trouble with the working of a cash register at PN was mentioned, which Pam later confirmed.

An unidentified point given by Hearn was later clarified. The medium said Pam resembled her grandmother, mentioning her eyes and set of mouth, far more than her mother.

A search through old family photographs showed no resemblance. But an old picture of her father's mother, who passed

aged 31 at the turn of the century, was found. There, indeed, was the resemblance mentioned by the medium.

Pam's verdict was: "I think my father and the medium were brilliant. I did not expect such a lengthy, detailed communication, feeling Dad would probably have to rest much longer before he was able to contact us."

"Dad knew he did not have to prove his survival to Mum and me. But what is so lovely is that now we feel he is in contact with many of our family on the Other Side, and is not alone."

This week the medium left for another USA tour. He told PN he was "very heavily booked" for sittings, with several television and radio interviews arranged.