

Sierra Conspiracy

Every few weeks the daily newspaper reports that somebody is exposing yet another conspiracy. (The supermarket tabloids report at least one conspiracy a week.) Recently, some preacher in Mississippi has cried an alarm about a United Nations plan to occupy the United States. Already, says the reverend, there are hundreds, maybe thousands of U.N. troops hidden on U.S. military bases and in "underground cities."

Then there are the U.F.O. conspiracies, usually alleging some sort of nefarious plot between aliens and evil folks on earth to take over and plant thought-control devices in everybody's head. Film director Oliver Stone and the late district attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, achieved fame and fortune by beating new life into the dead horse of the JFK conspiracy. Radical feminists have argued that all history is a plot by men to keep women in submission. Conspiracies are all around us.

Many Delta Sierrans are probably unaware that there is much historical research on conspiracies being done in Louisiana's most prestigious "think tank": The Florida Parishes Institute of Phrenology and Cuisinart Maintenance. Located in majestic, elegant downtown Tickfaw in Tangipahoa Parish, the institute has been in the forefront of conspiracy scholarship. Funded by a grant from the Nuke the Gay Liberal Whales Foundation, the institute began in 1990 an investigation of the life and times of John Muir, as the Sierra Club was observing its centennial and honoring its founder. The institute's shocking findings have now been published and reveal that John Muir was the head of an elaborate plot to seize the western United States and return it to Spain.

John Muir was not even an American. A Scotsman, it is possible that he entered the U.S. illegally. (He may have inspired the first concerns in California for Proposition 187.) The institute's scholarly paper uses the scientific term "fishy" to describe the absence of Muir's immigration papers. Other incriminating evidence includes the fact that Muir attended the University of Wisconsin, which, as everyone knows, is a place seething with leftist liberalism, save-the-whales-but-hate-the-humans crazies, environmental wackos, and man-hating feminists. What he learned there he put to nefarious use as he went west to California and the Yosemite Valley.

Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1890, purportedly as an organization to conserve and protect the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada mountains, especially Yosemite valley and the giant sequoia trees. The Spanish name "Sierra" was, however, both a "front" and a give-away clue to Muir's real purpose.

As the nineteenth century waned, the 400-year-old Spanish empire was in ruins. Mexico, Central America, and South America had followed the lead of the Yanquis and tossed out the European rulers. Napoleon had garnered Louisiana from Spain, then sold it to the gringos. The U.S. had acquired Florida, California, and the Great American West during the nineteenth century. The Spanish were intent on making a last aggressive campaign to regain the glory of the Spanish Main. They were not above using agents provocateurs.

As the seemingly eccentric Scotsman Muir prowled through the mountains and valleys and began to convince people that the wilderness is something that should be "conserved" and "saved" (meaning that real Americans couldn't go there), no one realized that he was a secret agent of those who named the mountains "Sierra." Muir's real plan was, in the guise of preservation of the wilderness, to clear the west of as many people as he could and then, when the time was right, receive the invading, latter-day conquistadors on the shore of California. But it was too late for the re-conquistadors; they didn't have a chance in the Spanish-American war of 1898. Teddy Roosevelt made himself famous with the "Rough Riders" charging San Juan Hill in Cuba and then, as president, unknowingly embraced Muir-the-conservationist at face value and began the National Park system. Muir never admitted his involvement in the plot. He was bitter at the Spanish government for paying him in doubloons, worthless in North America except to be thrown from Mardi Gras parade floats.

The Muir Conspiracy: you read about it first here in The Delta Sierran. Δ

— Earl Higgins

Legacy

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