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Nikola Tesla's "Black Magic" Touring Car

EV World (originally published July 11, 2006)

In the summer of 1931, Nikola Tesla -- the inventor of alternating current and the holder of some 1200 other U.S. patents -- along with his nephew Peter Savo installed a box on the front seat of a brand new Pierce-Arrow touring car at the company factory in Buffalo, New York.

The box is said to have been 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 6 inches high. Out of it protruded a 1.8 meter long antenna and two 1/4-inch metal rods. Inside the box was reputed to be some dozen vacuum tubes (70-L-7 type) and other electrical parts. 2 wire leads ran from the box to a newly-installed 40-inch long, 30-inch diameter AC motor that replaced the gasoline engine.



As the [story](#) goes, Tesla inserted the 2 metal rods and announced confidently "We now have power" and then proceeded to drive the car for a week, "often at speeds of up to 90 mph." One [account](#) says the motor developed 1,800 rpm and got fairly hot when operating, requiring a cooling fan. The "converter" box is said to have generated enough electrical energy to also power the lights in a home.

The car is said to have ended up on a farm 20 miles outside of Buffalo "not far from Niagra Falls."

So what was the power source? Some charged "black magic" while others remained naturally skeptical. Tesla is reputed to have removed the box and returned to his New York City laboratory

without revealing how he did it, though the suspicion lingers to this day (on the 150th anniversary of his birth in Smiljan, Croatia on July 9/10, 1856) that he had somehow tapped into the Earth's magnetic field or -- perhaps even more exotically -- Zero-Point Energy or gravitation waves.

We will, of course, probably never know how he powered the car or even if the event actually took place. Though we know that Tesla was an unparalleled genius when it came to understanding electromagnetism and how to apply it for benign and -- some allege -- deadly purposes.

Legend has it that he actually invented a "death ray" of some type. And this is why the Government on his death in 1943 is said to have confiscated all his personal papers. Presumably, they didn't want his research falling into the wrong hands. Or was it because they didn't want the World to figure out how to propel our vehicles on free energy?

Is the story of the free energy 1931 Pierce-Arrow just another "urban legend"? I have no way of knowing. But it seems a fitting memorial to a mysterious man who transformed the World as we know it, providing millions with electricity and billions in profits for some of World's largest and most powerful multinational corporations.

Happy birthday, Nikola!

Thanks to Dave Cutter at [Village Energy](#) for bringing this intriguing story to our attention.

Readers' Comments

3. John Boyd, July 12, 2006 [28072]

I doubt he tapped the Earth's magnetic field. The local Earth's magnetic field is generally uniform (not changing) and is, therefore, what we refer to as a "conservative force field". In other words, there can be no net work done on an object. I suspect that he created the car but the experiment failed. The 90 mph part is urban legend.

4. Jim Beyer, July 12, 2006 [28092]

It sounds more likely that -- IF this event really took place -- the vehicle was powered by a wireless energy source. The large antenna structure at Wardencllyffe (N.Y.) was built by Tesla for this purpose.

Perhaps he set up a smaller tower nearby and drove the car around in the vicinity of the tower. This seems more likely than tapping zero-energy sources, etc.

5. Mark Goldes, July 12, 2006 [28099]

If memory serves, the 70L7 vacuum tube did not exist until a decade-or-more after this experiment supposedly took place. Other stories about this subject mention a tube that did in fact exist at that time. Someone might contact the PBS Program "History Detective" and ask them to look into this tale and try to determine the truth of the matter.

6. Bill Moore, July 12, 2006 [28106]

Mark, that's an excellent suggestion about the History Detective program. I'd love to see what they came up with since just knowing the experiment actually took place would be proof to me that

Tesla thought he was on to something. Whether it actually worked or not is immaterial although if it did work, it would have certainly turned the World on its ear and World War II might never have happened.

FYI... I just submitted a suggestion to PBS's History Detectives to consider doing a program on this legend. Here's the URL for submitting story suggestions:

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/about/submit.html>

8. Dave Cutter, July 12, 2006 [28130]

Dr. Nikola Tesla was of unusual intellectual brilliance. He could reason, plan, and solve problems in his head. He could think abstractly and comprehend ideas without putting pen to paper. His patents and theoretical work still form the basis for modern alternating current electric power systems (including the polyphase power distribution system).

Tesla helped usher in the Second Industrial Revolution. Yet he hardly gets a footnote in our public school textbooks. He is affectionately referred to as the "Father of Free Energy". Tesla not only wanted to give the World free energy but also developed components of technology whereby it could be accomplished.

Tesla was a physicist, inventor, and electrical engineer of unusual intellectual brilliance and practical achievement. He was of Serb descent and most of his work was conducted in the United States.

[The Man Who Invented the Twentieth Century.](#)

9. Joseph Lado, July 13, 2006 [28133]

Tesla's struggle throughout his life was his socialist point of view against the back drop of a capitalist country. Tesla wound up penniless because he really wasn't interested in money. Money for him was the thing that allowed him to do more research and more experiments.

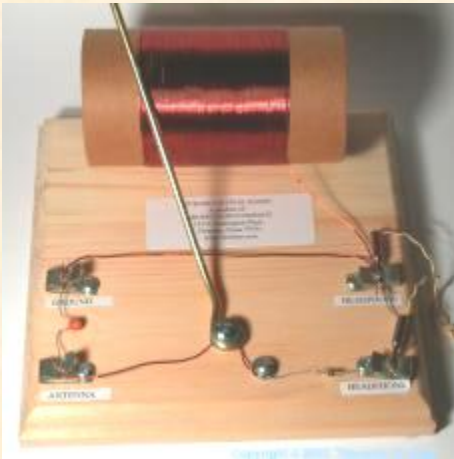
I remember reading articles dated at the time of Tesla talking about how crazy the man was. Writers (probably supported by Westinghouse) talked of Tesla as being insane for one claim in particular. He claimed that he could power the Paris World's Fair. What I later found out is that he was fully capable of doing it and had build a Tesla Coil energy broadcast tower in New Jersey to do so.

What this meant was that anyone with the ability to "download" the energy from the tower could get their energy for free. Westinghouse -- Tesla's benefactor who had financed his laboratory -- stopped its funding. Westinghouse was making millions upon millions with Tesla's alternating current out of large power plants.

Power coming down transmission lines was meterable and billable. But power from an energy broadcasting tower was not. So they crushed it. You can find pictures on the Internet of the [tower](#).

I have read the story of Tesla's Pierce-Arrow before and I included it in my thesis. Again, the story came with articles about how it wasn't true and that Tesla -- though a proven genius -- was crazy as a loon. (Funny aside, the president of the American Battery Consortium said the same thing about Stanford Ovshinsky when he announced that his NIMH batteries could last 75,000 miles in an automobile.) I would have put the story off if it was anyone else. But this story is about Nicola Tesla!

I started thinking if this were true, what do we know about the planets and broadcast energy that Tesla could have understood way before anyone else?



I was playing with a crystal radio one day and thought a crystal radio is powered by the energy that comes down the antenna. No batteries needed.

Then one day I was looking at pictures of the huge parabolic antennas that are used as radio telescopes. It turns out that every star and every planet has its own radio signal that is many times more powerful than their visual light. Planets and stars broadcast radio waves!

Then it hit me. Isn't the Earth a planet? Doesn't the Earth broadcast a radio signal? Could Tesla have found the frequency of the Earth and -- like powering a crystal radio -- channeled that energy to power an automobile?

I don't know, but someday I am going to get a big spool of copper wire and a discarded cardboard tube from a carpet store and try like heck to find that big radio signal from Mother Earth that she is broadcasting across the Galaxy. I think Tesla knew about it and found it!

10. Rick Jaworski, July 13,2006 [28160]

According to radiomuseum.org the 70L7 came out around 1946. So it probably wasn't the tubes used in the car. Cool story, though.

http://www.radiomuseum.org/r/emerson_dj311.html

I've pondered this story in the past and another possibility I came up with for the antenna was that he was receiving a reference sound. **John Keely** was reported to use specific sounds to create free energy in the late 1800s. Back then, there wasn't an electronic method for creating the sounds needed so Keely had to do it mechanically.

But in the timeframe of this story, there would have been an electronic method. With 1930s' electronics, it probably would have been difficult and take a lot of equipment to generate the sounds needed in the car. Tesla might have felt it was easier to generate the reference sound in a lab nearby and receive it in the car by radio. That would explain the antenna.

If this is true, making the needed sounds today would be easy (assuming you know what they are) using digital technology available on any PC.

Tons of information on John Keely is available here: <http://www.svpvril.com/>

11. Rob Neff, July 13, 2006 [28162]

From the description of Tesla, he doesn't sound like the kind of person to find a "free" source of energy that could change the World and keep it to himself. The broadcasting tower and receiver sounds much more likely. But that's a hard sell in a capitalistic environment.

Also -- with some people concerned about incidental emissions from high-voltage powerline -- this might have serious safety drawbacks (unknown at the time - my dad says on his Korean war duty -- people sometimes warmed themselves up in front of the radar antenna, basically getting microwaved).

12. Wayne Brown (<http://privatenrg.com>), July 13, 2006 [28181]

In order to properly approach and understand Tesla's inventions, one will need to understand very well the 'Ether' principles of pre-Einsteinian physics. If you study Tesla's patents and his Colorado Springs notes carefully, you find that he built his theories completely upon the foundation of "ether physics".

Ironically last December, Theodore A. Jacobson and Renaud Parentani published a paper that now appears in *Scientific American's* "Extreme Physics II" just released this month (July 2006) that gives very interesting argument toward the probability of something akin to a form 'Ether Physics' after all. Tesla may very well have been "ahead of his time" on many scientific issues.

Renaud Parentani just released an updated paper on this very study last May 19 which can be seen at <http://arxiv.org/abs/gr-qc/0204079> . It looks as if there may be another "quantum leap" in our understanding of physics pretty soon!

13. Narkowsky Teslaski, July 17, 2006 [28382]

The story is absolutely true. Nikola Tesla was a genius. We drove the car for miles and it ran on radiant energy. As for Bill Moore, he is ignorant. The Bos Tesla used is a top-secret building. One is a violation of national security as only Omega-5 clearance people can utilize this technology.

For more info, go to <http://www.apocalypsenowonline.com>

14. Dan Conine, July 18, 2006 [28508]

Wayne Brown has an inkling getting started in his comments above. The scenario of ether physics is more involved than established 'physics' (aka mathemagics) would like to admit.

Nick Cook's book The Hunt for Zero Point makes the point that the conquering Allied forces of "Operation Paperclip" weren't very surprised about some of Germany's secret research programs perhaps because they had already learned about them from the defection of the head of Special Projects. Another possibility is that they already had a new physics paradigm from Tesla's old paradigm and the continuation of Ether Secrecy was routine by 1945.

Regardless of Tesla's car success, many of his ideas and successes pointed to Ether physics as being much more practical than Relativity-style physics. More recently, the important issue about cold fusion wasn't that it didn't work reliably as much as it pointed to holes in the paradigm which has been taught as gospel in every school. "Here there be monsters" in the cesspool at the bottom of the slippery slope where Politics, Science, and Religion all share bank accounts.

15. John Boyd, July 19,2006 [28542]

The Michaelson-Morley experiments of the late 1800's proved conclusively that a so-called "ether" did not exist. I have a lot of respect for Tesla. But as far as I know, he only had 2 practical inventions -- the AC motor/generator and the Tesla coil.

16. Nick Rios, July 19, 2006 [28546]

Joseph Lado was correct! The Earth has magnetic energy properties that can and has been tapped to the tune of having patents issued to Frank Wyatt Prentice. Below is the patent: <http://www.keelynet.com/energy/prentice.htm>

Further research shows this energy tap was used to create the famous Coral Castle in South Florida by Edward Leedskalnin during the 1930's! Were Tesla and Leedskalnin talking to each other or communicating similar thoughts? One may never know. I believe such energy taps are possible and should be investigated by scientists without fear of ridicule by institutions or their peers!

17. Patrick Leonard, July 19, 2006 [28550]

Makes me think about the Jean-Louis Naudin site about free energy experiments. More particularly, one of the items about G-strain energy (<http://jnaudin.free.fr/html/gseamnu.htm>) The same site is also presenting very real lifter experiments that have still not been fully understood (<http://jnaudin.free.fr/>).

18. Joseph Lado, July 19, 2006 [28579]

Flicker-free light bulb. The induction motor. 1898, the first remote controlled model boat.

After his death, TESLA was recognized by the US Patent Office as the inventor of radio. He held patents for geothermal energy. Designed and held many of the patents for much of the simple electronics we use today.

Tesla was one of the World's most prolific inventors who received over 800 different patents in his life. Only Edison holds more.

19. Chris Hyde, July 19, 2006 [28581]

Hello all. I just wanted to say that if it is all true (I mean everything I have read about Tesla), then I for one believe that our power-producing problems -- including most of our trouble related to pollution caused as a side-effect of today's power generation methods have essentially already been solved thanks to this man Tesla.

It seems utterly stupid to me that we should insist on the use of coal and uranium in our on-going ever growing international quest for more sustainable power generation when the clean alternative has already been demonstrated and offered to us by the very man who gave us AC power in the first place.

We will poison this Earth because we are ignoring the solution. As a people, we are all subjected to governments who have no choice but to make money as a means to their survival. Our culture is all about money. Our social status is all about money. And I just think it's a growing shame that money will always receive first preference over maintaining our one-and-only planet.

This World is not a game of "monopoly". But unfortunately, that's the way we run it. And it's men such as Tesla who should have been seen as setting a new example to us all. But instead, he gave an inch and the 'money monopoly' has been taking a mile ever since!

20. Chuck Jones, July 19, 2006 [28595]

Note to John Boyd ("*as far as* I know, he only had 2 practical inventions -- the AC motor/generator and the Tesla coil.):

Look into Tesla's turbine and amaze yourself.

21. John Hutchison, July 19, 2006 [28598]

Interesting article. I think the tubes were 201A's 4-prong type triodes. And most likely, it was powered much like the Moray system.

I have seen some interesting old self-powered radios using galena and odd type iron transformers plus IF transformers that would amplify the weak signals with self-reactive capacitors polarized wax -- the old Westinghouse process. Probably a broadcast tower to feed the vacuum tubes unless they were modified 201A like the Moray device.

Radio host Art Bell was able to get 400 volts dc just from ambient air. I talked to Art about it in depth. Dr. Franklin Mead's patent for a ZPE unit was accepted in 1996 USA patent office. I think that IBM has the rights to it. Also older technology was the military battery replacer unit using solid-state technology. But again, I feel it was broadcast power. The vales perhaps in part rectified the high AC and then amplified it. Threw the triodes for plate B+ and perhaps self-reactive materials. Just my opinion ...

23. Andre Lee, July 20, 2006 [28615]

I have a airline midget radio model 93BR-420B that has a 70L7GT. According to the service information, the radio was built in either 1938 or 1939. The 70L7 is octal (i.e., 8-pin) based. And that type was not developed until approx 1936/37.

25. Jerry Koniecki, July 21, 2006 [28741]

John Boyd wrote "*The Michaelson-Morley experiments of the late 1800s proved conclusively that a so-called 'ether' did not exist.*"

Sorry John -- wrong. Michaelson-Morley failed to prove the aether exists. Big difference. The lack of evidence is not evidence of lack.

26. Paul Peterson, July 25, 2006 [28934]

Tesla was a brilliant inventor. But his "Black Magic Touring Car" came near the end of his life when an always eccentric man seems to have become delusional.

We do not have whatever he had developed because he got angry at the "doubters" and destroyed it. Yes, you can speculate that he really had invented something. Seems unlikely, though. The only evidence we have of the 90 mph drive and other supposed accomplishments is hardly believable.

Contrary to what a lot of people think, there is no vast conspiracy to keep disruptive technology secret. Certainly industries do fight disruptive technology. Witness the death of the electric streetcar in American cities. (Many smaller Japanese cities, by the way, still have them.) But their efforts are hardly hidden.

Any new technological breakthrough that can be proven makes it to the public view. It may not survive there for reasons that often are not rational or fair. But new technology cannot be seized and hidden by the oil companies, the electric companies, or the car makers. That just does not work.

27. Bryan Southern, July 26, 2006 [29039]

I understand your point-of-view. But I have to say that it seems to me to be naive.

Noam Chomsky has proven to my mind -- in exquisite detail -- that people and institutions can and are manipulated. Given that the sale and distribution of energy is the nail by which all of our society is hung, it wouldn't surprise me a bit that institutions which would lose a controlling stock in power would fight "free" energy. If this has indeed happened I can't say because I simply don't know.

But for you to arrogantly state this isn't the case seems to suggest an omniscience on your part that I feel you should prove first and suspect you can't. For you to simply dismiss anyone with alternate views suggests to me a closed mind that will be its own reward. Basically, if something is hidden, how can you purport to know that it isn't? It seems to be a logical inconsistency.

28. Cranford Duncan, July 27, 2006 [29191]

I have enjoyed reading all the comments on this subject. Several years ago, I read an article from a man who witnessed Tesla's car being driven. He spoke about the appearance of what seemed to be a large rod centered beneath it. My question has always been could this have been a long coil of wire used to pick up current from the Earth's magnetic field?

In his notes, Tesla mentioned the existence of "rivers of current" which flowed around the Earth. I have read of other experimenters who have shown their existence by placing a loop of wire a mile long 6-inches above the ground and extracting current from it. If this be true, it would not be hard for someone such as Tesla to build enough power to do whatever they wanted.

29. Mark Kinsler, July 30, 2006 [29685]

Poor Tesla. He was a genius. And like so many of his kind, he lost the trail in middle age. He would not appreciate that his name is now a reliable identifier for bogus scientific theories.

In later life, he was surrounded by a contingent of opportunists who used his name to sell securities in fraudulent industrial schemes. It is terribly unfortunate for the man invented the hydroelectric power plant, much of AC power transmission, the first AC electric motors, and participated in the solution of thousands of smaller problems necessary to make the great system actually work.

The Tesla coil was essentially a "stunt" device, and Tesla freely admitted this. He invented it for exhibitions he would perform at county fairs and other gatherings. In the days before research grants, there were few "dignified ways" for an inventor to raise money.

We know little about his later research for he refused to publish his ideas and results. About all, we can surmise is that nothing much that he tried after his triumphs at Westinghouse ever worked.

There is no free energy. This is not a misfortune because while our resources may be limited, our cleverness in utilizing and maximizing them is not.

30. Dave Cutter, August 2, 2006 [29970]

While there is no corroborated evidence that Tesla ever built an electric automobile, he is known to have encouraged others to pursue the idea of electric propulsion. He defined this as the use of an engine to generate electricity which was transmitted to an electric motor used to turn a wheel or propeller, instead of turning them by direct mechanical means. If this sounds familiar, you're right as the idea has recently seen a revival by the automobile industry and others under the name "[hybrid electric drive](#)".

The earliest reference to electric propulsion is found in the "[Problem of Increasing Human Energy](#)" (see [online text](#)) in which Tesla advocated the use of an "electric transmission" to drive ships and locomotives. Late in 1904, he extended this "view of future motive power" to include "the application of electricity to the propulsion of automobiles." [[Tesla Said](#), pp. 77-78]

There can be little doubt his best explanation of the principles involved and the rationale behind their application appeared in the Feb. 25, 1917 edition of the *New York Herald* under the headline "Electric Drive for Battleships". The concept was adopted by the U.S. Navy, eventually including a variety of different size vessels from destroyer escort to battleship.

[The Man Who Invented the Twentieth Century.](#)

33. David Letsch (Davidletsch@gmail.com), August 11, 2006 [30567]

From my research, I would have to conclude that either all or most of this legend is true. The main principle in the electric car was actually based on his Colorado research. He was able to generate an electric pulse into a section of our atmosphere that would travel around the World and then back to his antenna just in time to generate another pulse as he slowly turned up the power.

He was able to notice that the Earth has an enormous amount of energy in the atmosphere and that he was able to tap receiving the energy wave easily with his pulse modulation antenna. He

burned up the generators at the nearby power plant because of a feedback power cycle from the atmosphere to the generators. He even had to fix the generators before the power company would sell him any more power. Imagine the look on Tesla's face when he found that out "*Sorry ... anyways.*"

The basic principles of the Car were not magic. Nor were they someone's imagination. Tesla discovered that this field he was tapping into had a broadcast frequency of 6-to-8 Hertz. His original plan was to use this antenna concept he devised to build an array of antennas so that everyone could have power and communications. Like someone noted before, he is the father of radio as well as the inventor of the concept of a device that people use every day (i.e., the cell phone).

Here is where the narrator would normally say "*Believe it or not ...ha-ha!*" But these things are very true. The reason that Tesla hid his ideas and inventions in the later part of his work is because like many people have noted, he was a protector of the human race. In other words, just because you figured out something revolutionary doesn't mean that the World -- or for that matter the governments of the World -- are ready for such revolutionary and dangerous technology.

To move the story along, he built the antenna in the New York vicinity after the successful tests in Colorado. This is where things really start going haywire. The military was quite enthralled with the idea that they could grab power anywhere they needed it. They of course had to first figure out how they could weaponize this technology. Even then, Nicola was way ahead of them with a device that could concentrate a large amount of the energy from the atmosphere and hit a designated target.

A test was successfully performed but due to the destructive nature of the weapon -- i.e., one strike was equivalent to 65 atomic bombs, now close your jaw and for the rest of you who haven't stopped trying to nitpick my story from the beginning, just keep reading.

And now for the rest of the story. After the successful test of the weapon, the military feared that the weapon could be used against us instead of protecting us. So after Westinghouse had dropped him and his own bank accounts went dry, the military had the tower in New York condemned. Using the most volatile explosives of the time, they actually had to try and blow it up twice because Tesla had designed it so well. He even oversaw the construction so that it met his expectations.

So to try to answer everybody's questions, Tesla now had a conundrum. He has just liberated almost limitless energy. But in the wrong hands, it was also was a terrible weapon. On top of those issues, his reputation was falling apart he was running out of money and his amazing New York antenna was now ruined.

Now for somebody like Tesla, this was just another hurdle. So now his problems are that his antenna system was not going to be built in his lifetime; the World was about to dive into total war; and he could not do anything to help the world.

So he began tinkering with the idea that he would try to extract energy from this same energy source but without the use of his giant antenna system. After many different dreams, visions, and experiments, he was able to build the famous magic box or -- as some people call it -- the "magic car".

He had finally perfected the technology to receive power from anywhere on Earth. He was able to tap this same 8 Hertz frequency from the atmosphere to power his electric car. I have currently witnessed several successful duplications of this type of technology concept. However out of respect for the inventor, I will keep him/her animus.

So the moral of this story is that Tesla was hundreds of years ahead of the human race. Not just in terms of intelligence but also in conscience.

Now to give you the really amazing spin of this tale, Tesla in his wisdom knew that any one government with this technology would surely use it to rule the rest of the World. So he decided to take all of the most recent inventions and technologies including the 8 Hertz energy zone and divided them randomly to several of the largest countries in the world including USA, Russia, and a few that I don't remember off the top of my head.

In other words, when the World gets along and all of these governments can fully cooperate with each other, then we would be able to assemble the jigsaw puzzle of his most amazing inventions and technologies. To this date, the only thing the governments have done is try to reverse-engineer any of the parts of his work that they could in order to have a technology advantage over the rest of the World.

In conclusion, there is nothing mythical about any of Tesla's inventions. We still just don't understand as a society in the 21st Century what Nicola Tesla Had figured out in early 1900s. That until the World knows peace, it can never be given the responsibility for such a massive understanding as limitless power and the ability to harness it.

Thanks for the time. If anyone is interested in trying to reproduce Tesla's experiments, email me.

34. Koen van Vlaenderen, August 14, 2006 [30725]

Tesla was right about his magnifying wireless energy transmitter/receiver. His wireless energy experiments have been confirmed by other independent research groups. "Magnifying" means that the receiver of wireless energy receives more energy than has been transmitted. This fact has been confirmed by Dr. Correa (see U.S. Patent #7,053,576).

Wireless energy in the form of **longitudinal electric waves** is excluded by the official physics theories. Therefore, I explored the theory of electrodynamics (known as Maxwell/Lorentz theory) and found it contains very unscientific assumptions about "gauge conditions". I was able to generalize this theory by adding an extra **scalar** field such that Tesla's longitudinal electric wave can be understood scientifically as a longitudinal electro-scalar wave.

Next, we can speculate about the exact form of the Zero-Point Energy (ZPE=vacuum energy). Is it a background spectrum of transversal electromagnetic waves? Or is it a particle zoo of "virtual" particles of mainly electron-positron pairs (among many other types of virtual particles) popping in-and-out of existence?

I believe there is a connection between Tesla's longitudinal electric wave and the ZPE. ZPE can be tapped by ordering the chaotic wave-phases resulting into a coherent and amplified electric field.

Conclusion: never in Tesla's life did he become insane or over-eccentric and bizarre. On the other hand, the official science of physics is heavily manipulated in order to conceal the reality of ZPE-tapping technology.

The over-simplified Maxwell/Lorentz theory (just throw overboard Tesla's experiments and also the exact experiments by Ampere, Gauss, Weber, and Faraday that were in disagreement with this

official theory) is just one example. The theories by the notorious plagiarist known as Albert Einstein are another example where all light-speed measurements that proved a NON NULL result were thrown out of the window. Etc, etc...

38. Garret Von Kallberg, September 4, 2006 [32046]

"decimus nusiri diegg" (Beware the Dreaded Theet O Vac!)

www.freenewarticles.com

39. Aleksandar Milinkovic, September 6, 2006 [32194]

This is not the only story about Tesla's electric car. Doing my own research about the matter, I have found a different story told by Arthur Matheus who claims to be the last technician working with Tesla. It is rather long story and I won't repeat it here as it is easy to find it on Internet.

Also, one should be aware of the fact that in 1995, scientists in China announced that they managed to construct the car running on cosmic energy. I have published this story in one of my books about Tesla (unfortunately it is in Serbian language). The article was reprinted in German magazine 2000 plus, in 1995.

One another thought about Tesla. He has done a lot of experiments with vacuum tubes. At the time, it was rather heretical to claim that vacuum is anything else but the empty space. On the other hand, Tesla has announced that this space stores enormous quantities of energy.

And one correction: Tesla was born on 10th of July (there is no time in between 9th and 10th day of the month) in Smiljan -- at that time part of Austria, not Croatia. Today it does belong to Croatia.

40. Marco McClean, September 6, 2006 [32197]

It sounds like the box might have been a tube-type oscillator for DC-to-AC conversion to run and control an alternating-current motor. Probably at much higher than battery voltage and possibly at higher-than-mains frequency.

Tesla experimented with high-frequency motors. If the step-up transformer in the circuit were under the hood with the motor -- or if the frequency of operation were high enough to use a very small transformer -- the mysterious box would not have to be very big.

Also there would have been lead-acid batteries in the car to provide power, and they could have been recharged overnight with the car in the garage. After a week or two of that, conventional lead-acid batteries would be ruined. That would account for the timing of the end of the experiment.

Like so many other stories about Nikola Tesla, this one may be only partly true and then added onto by worshipful kooks. I mean, isn't Tesla's remarkable level of innovation enough in the real world without bringing up the idea of magical free energy? And think of the amount of power it would take for a car shaped like that to go ninety miles-per-hour. It's not likely even with an internal-combustion engine of the time.

41. Frank Bollinger, September 7, 2006 [32216]

I read all the things you fellas had to say. Shame! go back to school and research on your own.

Tesla had more inventions that were practical than stated and the car stuff is all speculation. He was probably seeing what the output of the engine was to transmit power not use it to drive the car. Look at it this way (even if you have it your way and there is aether): can you get enough power through a little box that size using those tubes and not cool it down?

Have you guys seen an electron beam welder power supply? There is an water-cooled ceramic tube. Do you think Tesla would use tubes that would fry to run a car that size? Think of the watts to get that big car going that fast. Geez, come on!

Tesla was smart. But he needed some technological understanding from the 1950s to transmit power though the Earth. And yes it is possible. To the magnetic field theory at 6-to-8 Hertz, this is a fantasy derived from the Shumann resonance which is actually 7. something to 9. something Hertz and are averaged at 8.3 something Hertz. You can look it up yourself.

I just happened to have some papers that I received from Dr. Bob Beck. This is old information from the 1950s and 1960s. It is hard to even get instruments to measure the magnetic fields of the Earth let alone use them to power things with (let alone a huge-assed car). Get a grip!

Well, the magnetic field of the Earth is about in the milli-Tesla range for the static field. For the Shumann resonance, it is in the micro-Tesla range. Do you think you can power a car with that? NO!

Okay, as for the power in the air ... yes if you put a wire from here-to-there on mountain tops, there is a potential. In any room, there is always static potential at thousands of volts and at least a few or several at all times (check it out yourself). But what is the power in very low currents? Drag your feet on the carpet and blow your CMOS chips out, why don't you. So what! Also, how do you get the fluctuating power off mountain tops and lightning in a usable form?

Next, the Tesla tower was blown up because the military thought that the Germans might use it as a way to more effectively send radio signals during the war (WWI) and they were to cheap to guard it. This is a national security interest that you can understand as the tower was designed to transmit radio waves for communication and power.

As for the Tesla experiments in Colorado, the power transmission is like a coaxial cable type arrangement. There is a field around the cable as the current moves through it and in analogy the earth was one of the leads in the Tesla transfer of energy arrangement through the Earth. If you guys are physics majors, you can probably calculate it out better than Tesla. He did not have as much information as you but he did know about the resonances, etc. Good Luck

43. Arthur Towns, September 7, 2006 [32276]

It makes perfect sense to me that the magnetic and radio currents being emitted by the Earth could be used as a power source for perpetual energy.

Think about it ... All electricity is trying to reach the ground (i.e., lightning bolts). The reason why cars are safe during thunderstorms and the purpose of the 3rd prong on your sensitive electrical equipment. So where do you think all the electrical energy goes after it gets there?

The fact that energy is never destroyed is a fundamental aspect of Science that cannot be refuted. I can't believe I've never thought about this before. Thank you for opening my eyes to this revolutionizing concept. I will do my part in explaining the facts of Tesla's genius to every regular person I meet because that is where the real power of any society lies -- in the regular person the "lamb of God."

The mega-corporations that have dumbed us down for so long don't stand a chance once this information really spreads. Communication is what makes our time both trying and great at the same time. No longer can politicians hand us silly explanations and expect to get away with it. Bush maybe is still the president. But everybody's starting to realize now that he is a puppet and a simpleton. Even his own party is distancing themselves from him because of public disapproval.

Knowledge is power and the Internet rules!! Humanity is evolving fast in the communication age and we will soon have to grapple with the reality of corporate and government manipulation of ideas for profit and control. That is when I believe the Third World War will begin -- that is, when the regular person finally rises up in masses to confront corporate greed.

Viva la revolution!

44. Gina Spadoni (<http://pettyvices.typepad.com/>), September 11, 2006 [32648]

One-man show Mike Daisey has a fabulous monologue titled "Monopoly!" that I had the pleasure of viewing recently in Seattle. It delves into the history of Tesla and the battle of AC (his) vs. DC (Edison's).

As Edison had already started an industry and had plans to continue building out infrastructure across the U.S. and Tesla in fact did intend on making electricity generated "free", Edison "won" even though his power was burning up the occasional house or electric trolley car. Fascinating stuff! And Mike weaves it into modern day politics and monopolies beautifully.

You can learn more about his show at his site at <http://www.mikedaisey.com/>. Not only is it interesting, but it's also absolutely laugh-out-loud hysterical.

I can't comment on if Tesla did or didn't power that automobile. But I wouldn't be surprised if he had and if the idea was squashed because it: (1) conflicted with existing business models/infrastructure and (2) didn't generate cash for anyone, thus not making it a business proposition businesses or government had any self-interest in bringing to light.

This all said, a modern-day aerospace engineer is working on an engine powered entirely via electromagnetic radiation and in so doing is generating much interest and debate.

Of course, he has many of the same hurdles to face as did Tesla in terms of politics. But as long as someone can make or save their own money with it, he stands a chance of success (and if, of course, it proves to work in a sustainable fashion). To learn more, see the recent *New Scientist* article about it at <http://www.newscientist.com/channel/fundamentals/mg19125681.400>. Another article you can read f/t is at

<http://www.e4engineering.com/Articles/295931/Microwave%20engine%20gets%20a%20boost.htm>.

45. Puneet HS, September 21, 2006 [33446]

Hats off to Tesla! This page sheds some light =>

<http://www.frank.germano.com/radiantenergy.htm>

Read this too => <http://www.svpvril.com/Morav.html>

47. Terry Krohm, October 3, 2006 [34157]

Those who think there is no such thing as free energy should work for the Patent Office. (-)

Make a simple electromagnetic and suspend a metal object from it. Just heavy enough so that anything heavier will fall. Measure the current and voltage to compute the power used in the electromagnet.

Now replace the electromagnet with a permanent magnet. Then come back a week, month, or year later. Is the object still suspended? Where did the power come from?

So the problem is not whether free energy exists but rather how to access it.

Actually, "free" energy is semantically incorrect in this context. The energy is coming from an as yet unexplained source.

Check out a series of books that begin with a monetary slant and are working towards the scientific discrepancies in our society. Best wishes to all.

www.axiomhouse.com/EyeofthePyramid/main.htm

48. David Letsch (davidletsch@gmail.com), October 6, 2006 [34328]

There are extremists on both sides of this subject. Physics as we know is incomplete. How can anyone make a statement that says a particular theory is permanent (i.e., law) when you don't know all of the information. Just because we don't understand something, that doesn't mean that it is impossible is "magic" or is otherwise *supernatural*.

In a thousand years, our society will look back and see us as uninformed and arrogant. So for all of the people that think they know it all and can say that something is impossible, I would like to remind them that when the original "Star Trek" came out, all of those technologies were non-existent and because of imagination people have figured out how to make them possible. So if you are not here to help figure things out, then go step on someone else's dream because anything is possible. Just look to Quantum Mechanics.

Oh yeah, Tesla was a real genius. Most of the scientist that have created laws saying that his inventions aren't possible were just trying to make their reputation in an ever political world. It does not mean they were right. There are many theories that are out there that if proven true, you would

have to rewrite the laws of Physics. So for all of the scientist/hobbist that are living in the 1850s, we have learned a few things since then. Wake up and open your minds!

I am creating a group on the new world secondlife (www.secondlife.com) if your interested in breaking the rules and want to truly help in discovering what Tesla knew. We will prove the naysayers wrong. And conspiracy is only as true as you can prove.

49. mrd mrd, November 6, 2006 [36396]

Guys -- if you want to know someone that has done it, look up Steven Marks energy coil. You will find his videos on Google video. He taps the Earth's magnetic field and produces useable power from it.

Also go to www.overunity.com and look for his topic. There's quite an active forum going. Steven Marks unit is toroidal and is tuned to the Earth's magnetic field. The power obtained is very dangerous and powerful. This is what you were not meant to see.

50. Pixel J., December 18, 2006 [40994]

5 minutes of Googling produces this => <http://www.tfcbooks.com/teslafaq/questions.htm#A-016>

The nephew who supposedly took the ride and relayed the story later doesn't exist. Tesla never had a nephew named Peter Savo. The story is a fabrication.

Also as stated elsewhere, the tubes listed (70-L-7) were not produced until around 1939 despite this supposedly happening in 1931.

51. Kyle Davis, January 6, 2007 [43927]

John Boyd: "The Michaelson-Morley experiments of the late 1800s proved conclusively that a so-called "ether" did not exist."

Uh... no... Actually they were trying not to find a so-called "ether" but instead "luminiferous ether" -- the stuff of the Universe. Tesla said that the ether he used may or may not be luminiferous ether. Plus as others have pointed out, they could not prove whether or not it existed. They conclusively proved that they couldn't prove anything.

Nice job both being a downer and having a misquote, though. I'm telling you that it really makes you seem like a genius.

56. Rob Matthies, February 27, 2007 [50170]

I made the front-page news today, too. But unlike Tesla, the newspaper guys say the battery pack. Link => <http://electric-vehicle-article.blogspot.com/>

57. Paul Lazorko, March 10, 2007 [51301]

While Tesla was a genius, you should be careful about where you get information. In the article cited, A.C. Green suggests that the cause of the electric car would have been greatly enhanced had a generator been installed to "put a small charge back into the batteries as the car moved... thereby increase[ing] its operating range".

Yes, that is suggesting that perpetual motion is possible. The author shows a complete lack of understanding of thermodynamics. And with that wild assertion, I have little faith in the quality of the rest of the article.

58. Ibrahim Ajdinovic, April 4, 2007 [54539]

Dear friends --if you want to see an electro motor which is using Earth magnetic field energy to move itself, you are pleased to come and see it in Slovenia. My cell phone +386 41 688 817 or email no1ibrahim@yahoo.com. Regards from slovenija

59. D.W. Grinnell, April 39, 2007 [56018]

Over the years, I have studied the possible truth of the stories. As far as I know, the 70L7 GT tube does not appear in the RCA tube manuals until after WWII. However, I have a dozen of these tubes in my possession and they have markings that appear to be a production date. The markings read as 6-30 with the 30 underlined. They look like production dates to me.

It's odd that RCA would produce a product that would have a typo of this nature. I suspect the markings are in fact correct. The only logical answer to why these tubes were not listed in their manuals prior to WWII was that they were being used in military equipment. I know if I were the military, I would not give the rest of the World an indication of what component I could be using. If the components do not exist as far as the rest of the World is concerned, I would have an advantage in the field of communications.

I have seen some posts on vintage military sites about radio equipment repairs. Primarily salvaging parts and components that little or no information is available -- only through obscure military manuals. Many of these components were never known to exist until after WWII.

Just A Thought. Thanks

60. Chris Ol, May 30, 2007 [56404]

I came across this article while searching Google on 8-Hertz and the SETI projects. I know the Schuman wave is like 6-9 hertz or so. But interestingly enough, SETI scans for planets at the frequency of 1420 MHz. It noticed a living planet that oscillated between 8 and 37 Hertz.

Ironically this frequency is related to hydrogen production. Maybe it's random chance that I arrived here. But has anyone wondered if the frequencies for Schuman and Tesla's discoveries are related to our Planet's hydrogen production?

61. Victor Pieiw, July 27, 2007 [57325]

After having read all this, I have come to the conclusion that Nikola Tesla was a genius. He took the frequency of the Cosmos ... amplified it through a vacuum tube amplifier ... turned the RF into current with a collector or AC Capacitor and then ran a car off of it. The amplifier was powered with batteries.

What a concept!

65. Drew Markulin, March 17, 2008 [60821]

Why are Tesla's inventions in question? Well although technology has come a long way since his day, our government continues to discard any invention that could hurt the economic well-being for companies that provide contemporary energy (like oil companies and auto makers, for example).

There are people with inventions based on Tesla's research that work but our government will not patent. The other side is the big companies buying the inventions to keep them off the market. I don't buy off on the conspiracy theories. But ask your self why one of Edison's lightbulbs is still burning in Menlo park NJ and we have to buy them every few years.

As far as Einstein's work goes, he was wrong about a number of things and spent the last part of his life discarding quantum physics that would have provided him with the answers he was looking for. But he couldn't get past the 4th dimension and became stuck in his closed-minded paradigm.

Edison did the same thing with AC that Tesla was working on. Looks like Tesla was open to any possibility. Since the Government broke into his safe to get his inventions, something must have been of interest. Personally, I would like to hear about how Tesla's technology ties into the Philadelphia Experiment.

Tesla ... Way ahead of his time!

66. Roger Vail, March 18, 2008 [60853]

Tesla's tubes were built by DeForest. The energy came from the ball lightning problem that Tesla encountered when a stronger, lower Fo was impressed upon a higher, weaker Fo. Using the tubes as dual oscillating Fos inside vacuum, the ball lightning would appear available as AC current when the correct Fos were tuned.

He tuned the circuits with the 1/4" rods which were inserted. The tubes were built like double-walled cups. The rods would be able to tune the internal oscillation without entering the vacuum area and upsetting the Q.

The energy from this vacuum would be cold until it was reacted upon by the magnets in the motor. The antenna was used to draw the energy from the full spectrum of cosmic sources like a crystal radio. There was no hidden tower or other source for me to draw upon.

The purchase of tubes from a supply house was only to keep others wondering. It's too bad they took away all the notes. Morgan had too tight of a grip. Go out and make them work. It's really simple.

67. Mike Johnson, March 27, 2008 [60948]

After reading the article and the comments, I would like to add some speculation. If Tesla was an efficiency expert, it goes to figure that since he didn't hold the patents on the tubes desired and that separately they wasted energy. If they were similar in construction logical to combine them by design and special order them from the manufacturer. Giving the manufacturer a new patent design to field test to later patent.

This making Tesla also the father of integrated design (ic). I mean we already know that parts off the shelves rarely served his designs. And it would have been easier to have them made for a few dollars more rather than fighting the patents issues making them himself while giving the maker a new design to research and patent later

68. John Beaman, March 29, 2008 [60987]

Paul Lazorko (March 10, 2008): " While Tesla was a genius, you should be careful about where you get information. In the article cited, A.C. Green suggests that the cause of the electric car would have been greatly enhanced had a generator been installed to 'put a small charge back into the batteries as the car moved... thereby increase[ing] its operating range' Yes, that is suggesting that perpetual motion is possible. The author shows a complete lack of understanding of thermodynamics. And with that wild assertion, I have little faith in the quality of the rest of the article."

It is called 'regenerative braking' and is used by all modern computer-controlled electric cars. It was not described as "perpetual motion" as you read into it.

72. Peg Lyons, April 29, 2008 [61405]

Thank you for the article on Tesla. His name should be in our consciousness. I agree specifically with Arthur Towns about magnetic and radio currents surrounding the Earth.

Can we take this a step further? Forgive my simplicity, but look to the crystal part of the equation (as in early radio crystal sets). Are the crystals picking up the signal from the waves (magnetic and radio waves)? Zero-Point gravity has been described as a wave particle. I'm no physicist-- just a person interested in the cubic quality of the crystal formed billions of years in the past by the Earth.

This is knowledge of the ancient world that has been forgotten. Tesla, Leedskalnin (Coral Castle), and others are the avatars who periodically show up to remind us. Thank you for this blog ...

73. StealthSkater, April 29, 2008 [61410]

The most notable modern-day exponent of Tesla is Tom Bearden ([doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL](#)). And Dr. Matti Pitkanen's TGD theory investigates Tesla's possible discovery of the "Arrow of Time" ([doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL](#)). Matti's 8-D theory unites Relativity, Quantum Mechanics, and Consciousness while differentiating between "Geometric-Time" (Relativity) and "Experienced-Time" (Consciousness).

Rumored use of Tesla-based scalar technology in the legendary Philadelphia Experiment and Montauk Project has been archived at [doc](#) [pdf](#) [URL](#) .

74. Brian Miller, April 29, 2008 [61412]

While the information on the tube is erroneous (70L7 not manufactured in 1931), I think that the tubes were not the main source of power. I think that they were used for precisely controlling the polyphase AC motor. A "universal" electric motor is 30% efficient. And a 3-phase motor is up to 95% efficient. The motor was probably an experimental polyphase motor with an efficiency of better than 95% when it was used with Tesla's control set.

Think about it. Could a dozen tubes even handle the power for the electric motor that powered the car?

75. M.G., April 29, 2008 [61413]

Let's see ... did this happen?

I believe so because when I was a young man, I saw an electric motor run away. It could not be shut down it finally flew apart and was replaced. I then saw another 3-phase motor do the same some years later. Then I heard the story and it would only seem appropriate that this anomaly would have come to Tesla's attention and would have sparked his interest.

I have since seen a single-phase motor do the same. I was quite fascinated to find out it is a common problem. I have some thoughts on how this occurs but have not been able to solve it yet. I believe Tesla did. He had the knowledge and backing to resolve the problem.

77. Larry Panchuk, April 29, 2008 [61417]

Yes, this story about the car is much deeper than the basic article shows. The technical parts are more amazing than anyone would suspect.

I have been going over some old documents with a retired NASA scientist who came from the same area as Tesla. A lab worker reported the A/C motor was specially wound to Tesla's specs. An antenna was mounted on the car and the motor was a 3-wire industrial-type design (or "3-phase" as we call it in the industry). The motor was a reported 60hp rated. But there's much more involved.

The heat problem indicates a voltage/current problem that existed within the setup. I worked as an electrical engineer and helped retro fit the industry into robotics in the early-1980s. I have been reading old Tesla documents to better understand this car. I believe the clue is WHERE he drove the car. The over-heating problems and his "black box" form an electrical theory about high frequency and transformers.

(Author: The Devil's Magnet by L.A. Panchuk)

79. Ralph Sunchild, April 29, 2008 [61419]

Ok ...but he never sold his patents to Westinghouse for any amount of money. The truth is that he felt sorry for Westinghouse and GAVE him the patents for FREE. Read all about it in EE when I attended Columbia University School of Engineering.

Sincerely Yours --Ralph Sunchild

PS: Just thought that you would like to know the facts. But I enjoyed the story.

81. Donald Worthington, April 29, 2008 [61424]

Just came across this article. "Slow" is better than "never", I guess.

Anyway, a '70L7' is listed as a 'half-wave rectifier.' That means that for half of an oscillating input (AC power source, radio frequency, whatever) the tetrode is conducting (passing current). And for the other half, it is not. Correctly wiring together two of these things would result in a 'full wave rectifier', which would conduct during all phases of the oscillating input.

This is a classic way of constructing a DC power supply from an AC input source. Typically, the input source would be (in the USA) 120VAC 60 cycles per second (Hertz). This kind of setup was used for powering electronic devices like radios.

Now, there is nothing saying the input source would HAVE to be nominal line current. Any oscillating source would work including received radio waves, so long as a current could be induced from the oscillations. Light, for example, could not be used without a transducer not available to Tesla. And sound -- while it could theoretically be used -- would require some kind of mechanical diaphragm (like a microphone) to generate an electrical signal.

But this runs into limitations in 2 major areas for practical application. One is the power source itself. Like any transforming technology, you can't get more power out than you can put in. And tube technology is not particularly efficient, as compared to modern semiconductor devices or even things like step-up or step-down transformers. And even though tube technology (as compared to modern electronics) is considered "high power", tetrodes of this type cannot possibly deliver the kind of DC current required to move a 4,000 pound automobile.

The second problem area for this tube is in frequency response. While it might function adequately for 60 Hertz line oscillations and even possibly in the lower radio frequencies, it is also true that to couple the power from a half-wave rectifier to a DC sink, the device must track the frequency of the signal. Since the amount of energy delivered per unit of time is dependent on both signal strength and frequency, it correlates that the higher the frequency, the more energy available to be delivered over any given distance from the source and amount of time allowed. The tube is simply not "fast enough" to track a high-powered radio frequency, let alone a signal that could possibly deliver some relative degree of power -- microwaves and beyond.

And all this without even considering several other factors. For example, the tube's heaters -- the warming current required to heat up and maintain the tube at its operating temperature in the first place, which alone would require more energy than could be derived from a low frequency wave.

So sorry, ladies and gentlemen. A recifier like this could power something like an old-time radio or something similar in today's world (a printer perhaps or a portable TV). To get more power, one

COULD possibly gang together a very large number of these devices. But the resulting size would be enormous. And the heat it would produce be a very difficult problem. You all remember the stories about the first computers filling an entire room (and have less processing power than a modern calculator)? This class of technology is the major reason why.

83. April 29, 2008 [61428]

Thomas Moray Radiant Energy Receiver used an antenna, homemade collector circuit, and tubes. He said it collected and amplified the IONs -- not the electrons =>

<http://www.rexresearch.com/moray2/morayrer.htm> .

Based on harmonic doubling of ion frequency oscillations -- it had no moving parts and generated no heat -- The Moray Radiant Energy Receiver pulled exactly the power it needed using an antenna, vacuum tubes, circuits, and a ground wire. Moray would hold one end of the antenna during a demonstration.

There is a 1927 drawing of the device which is similar in description to the Tesla box. Using NO FUEL or electrical supply other than the energy drawn from the antenna and circuits, it could electrically power home appliances, electric ovens, lights, heat, AC, hot water heater, well pumps, electric vehicle motors; cars/boats/motorcycles, electric lawn mowers, etc...

Basically, the theory of operation is as follows. Oscillations are started in the first stage or circuit of the device by exciting it with an external energy source. The circuit is "tuned" until the oscillations are sustained by harmonic coupling to the cosmic wave frequencies. The reinforcing action of the harmonic coupling increases the amplitude of the oscillations until the peak pulses "spill" over into the next stage through a special detector or valve which prevents the return or feedback of energy from succeeding circuits.

These "pulses" drive this stage which oscillates at a lower frequency and is again reinforced by harmonic coupling with the ever present cosmic waves. The second stage drives a third stage. Additional stages are coupled until a suitable power level at a useable frequency and voltage is obtained by means of special transformers.

Over 600 successful demonstrations were given. From IONs -- not electrons. The legendary Moray Valve (similar in construction to a light bulb) that was able to build up and double/ triple the ions drawn from the 'antenna' in one direction creating the 'flow' => <http://www.rexresearch.com/moray2/morayrer.htm>. Thomas Henry MORAY Radiant Energy Receiver The Sea of Energy [Excerpts]

The device was housed in a wooden box something like 12"x18" with an antenna and a ground going into it. Wires leading out of the box led to a bank of some 40 100-watt light globes and to an electric iron. My uncle touched a switch at the top of the box with a hand electrostatic plate and the globes all lighted brilliantly. We all noted that the bulbs burned cold except each had a hot spot about the size of a dime on the top slightly off center.

I also recall that I could turn the lights on and off by approaching and retreating to and from the device, either with my whole body or my hand. If my memory is clear, the machine had to be tuned with a dial to be placed in this condition.

Put that in your pipes!

**if on the Internet, Press <BACK> on your browser to return to
the previous page (or go to www.stealthskater.com)**

**else if accessing these files from the CD in a MS-Word session, simply <CLOSE> this
file's window-session; the previous window-session should still remain 'active'**