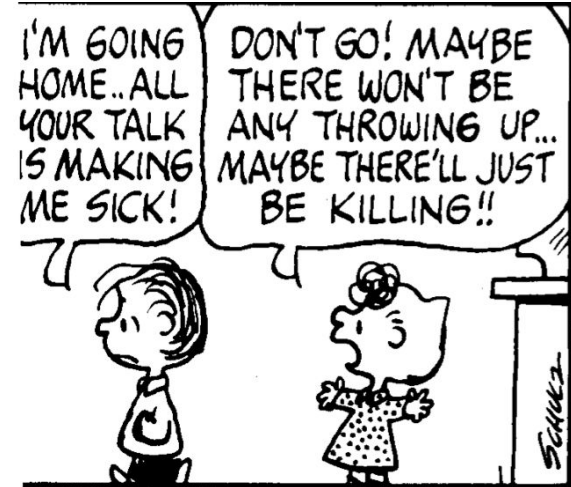
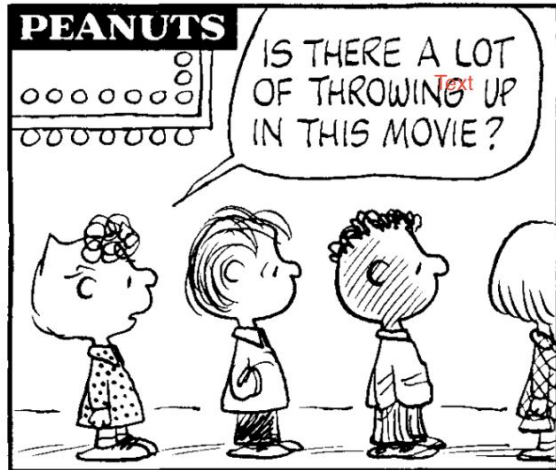


Two Cases That Inspired The Exorcist



Ritual of Exorcism Repeated

**Priest Frees Mt. Rainier Boy
Reported Held in Devil's Grip**

By Bill Brinkley
Post Reporter

In what is perhaps one of the most remarkable experiences of its kind in recent religious history, a 14-year-old Mount Rainier boy has been freed by a Catholic priest of possession by the devil. Catholic sources reported yesterday.

Only after performances of the ancient ritual of exorcism here and in St. Louis was the devil finally cast out of the boy, it was said.

In all the boy broke into a violent tantrum of screaming, cursing and voicing of Latin phrases—a language he had never studied—whenever the priest reached the climactic point of the ritual. "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, I cast thee (the devil) out."

In complete devotion to his task, the priest stayed with the boy over a period of two months, during which he said he personally witnessed such manifestations as the bed in which the boy was sleeping suddenly moving across the room.

A Washington Protestant minister had previously reported personally witnessing similar mani-

and fell over, throwing the boy on the floor.

The final rite of exorcism, in which the devil was cast from the boy took place in May. It was reported, and since then he has had no manifestations.

A priest here voiced the belief that it was probably the first casting out of the devil through the ritual in at least a century of Catholic activities here and perhaps in the entire history of the church in this area.

The ritual in its present form goes back 1500 years and from there to Jesus Christ.

But before it was undertaken, said a priest here, all medical and psychiatric means of curing the boy—in whose presence such manifestations as fruit jumping up from the refrigerator top in his home and hurling itself against the wall also were reported—were exhausted.

The boy was taken to Georgetown University Hospital here, where his affliction was exhaustively studied, and to St. Louis University. Both are Jesuit institutions.

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William Peter Blatty (1928-2017)

- Blatty is a senior at Georgetown University.
 - Father Eugene Gallagher discusses the case in his New Testament class.
 - May 10, 1950: Georgetown hosts a talk by Edward Hughes, a local priest who participated in one of the exorcisms.
 - Blatty graduates and becomes a comedy writer.
 - Spoke Arabic and worked in the Foreign Service.
-



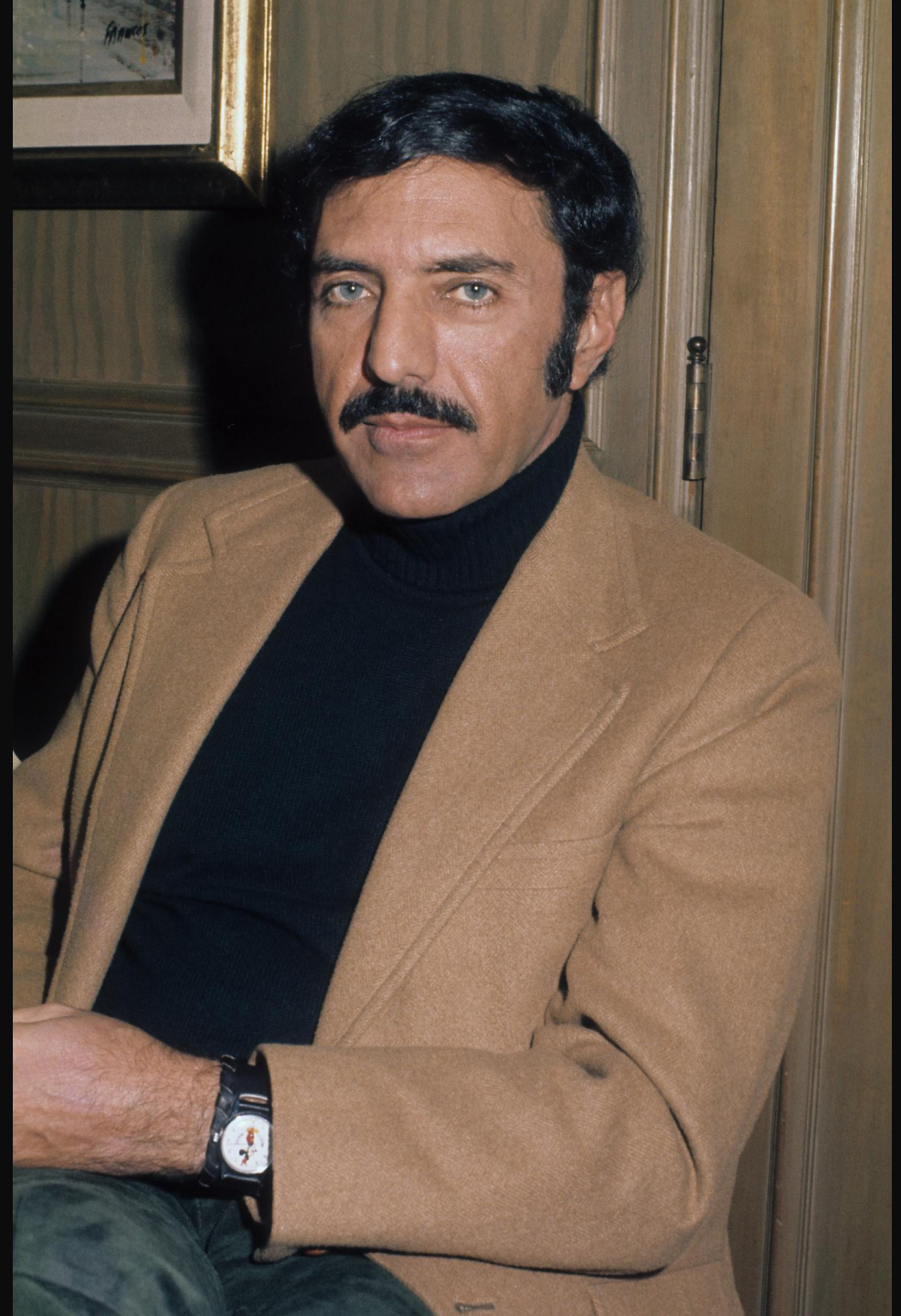
Rosemary's Baby (1968)

- Ruth Gordon wins an academy award.
 - Horror goes “mainstream.”
 - The Catholic Church condemns the film.
 - Book publishers begin scrambling to find “the next *Rosemary's Baby*.”
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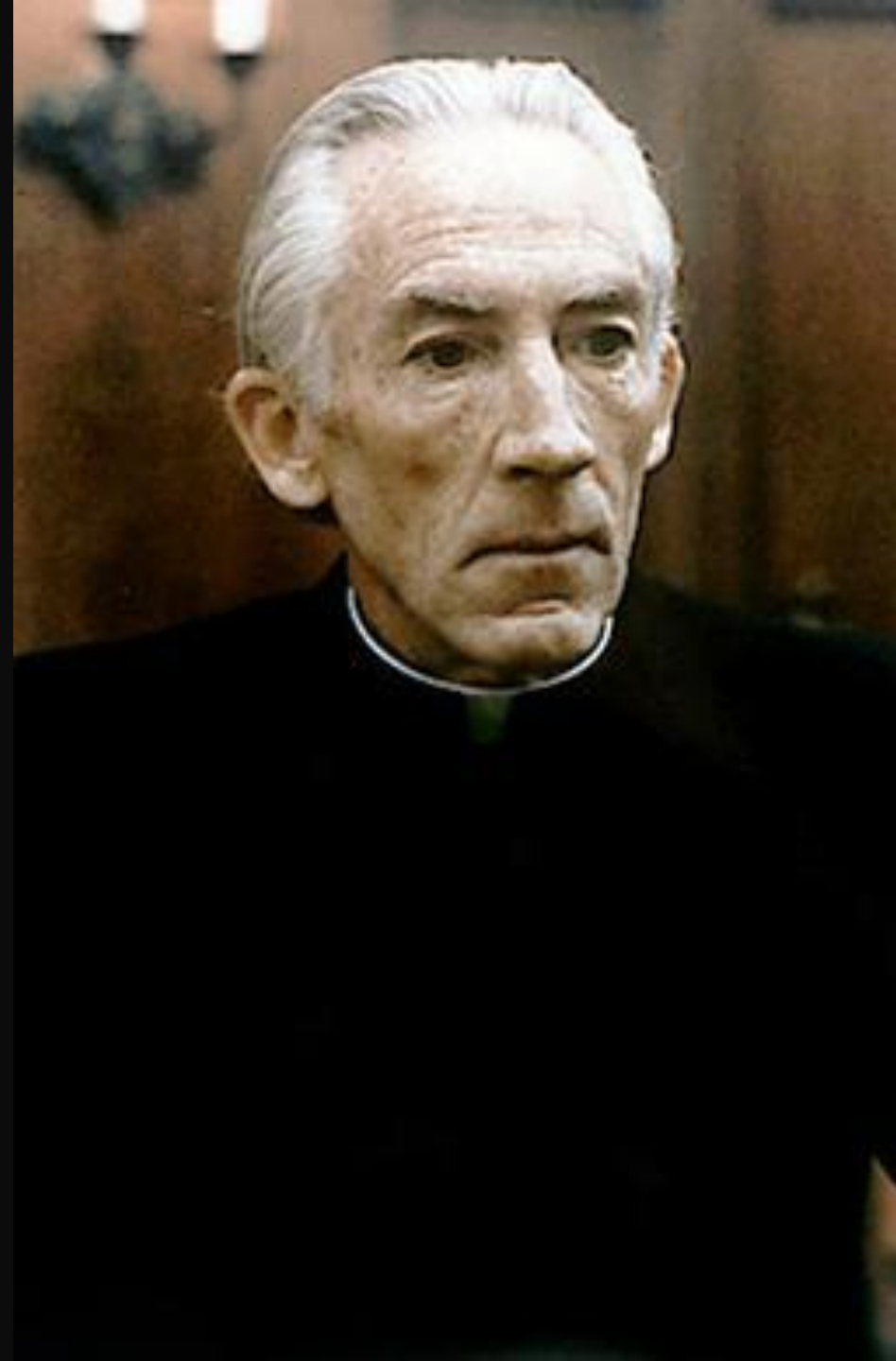
Book Contract

- 1967: Blatty meets Mark Jaffe of Bantam books at a New Year's Eve Party and pitches a court drama about a child murderer who pleads not-guilty by reason of demonic possession.
 - "I'll publish that."
 - Blatty is given an advance.
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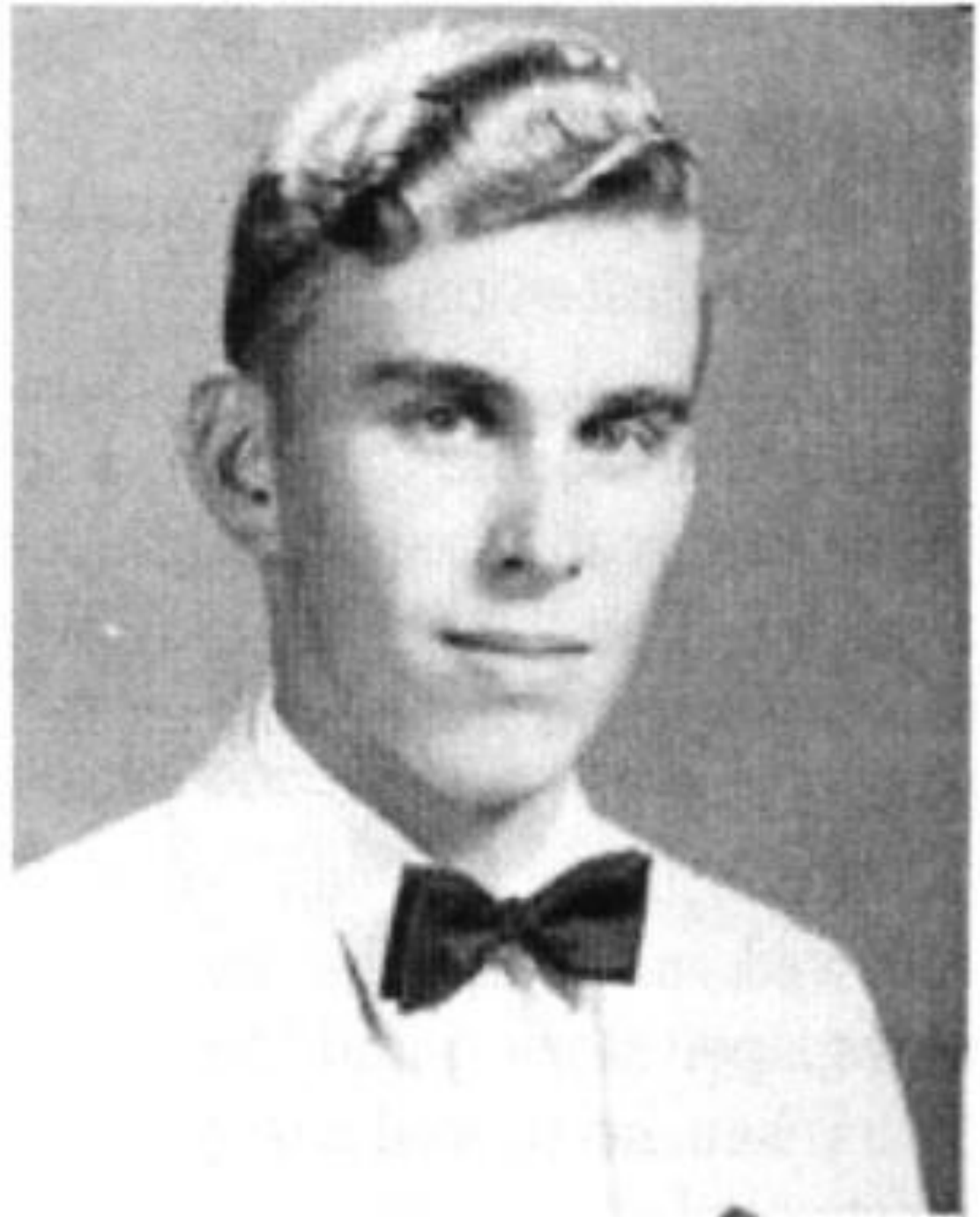
Research

- Blatty reaches out to Jesuit Thomas Bermingham and asks for help writing an “authentic” story about Catholic exorcism.
 - Bermingham: “I don’t want another *Rosemary’s Baby*.”
 - Bermingham connects Blatty with William S. Bowdern, a lead exorcist in the 1949 case.
-



Ronald Hunkeler (1936-2020)

- Lutheran household.
 - Parents Edwin and Odell.
 - Grandmother Anna Copping.
 - Lived at 3807 40th Avenue, Cottage City, Maryland.
 - Ronald spent a lot of time at his Aunt Tillie's house, playing the Ouija board.
-



Disturbances

- July 15, 1949: Aunt Tillie dies.
 - The family begins hearing noises in the walls of the house and under floorboards.
 - Pictures of Jesus and Mary fall down “as if bumped hard from the other side of the wall.”
 - An exterminator sprays chemicals into walls, but the noises and poltergeist activity get worse.
 - Odell stated, “If you are Aunt Tillie, knock three times.”
 - Ronald begins to curse and spit at his family and to sing songs he supposedly never learned.
 - Some sources report a Spiritualist “dispossession” was attempted.
-



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- Words begin to appear scratched onto Ronald's body.
 - Some appeared on his back. This convinced Blatty these events were "unquestionably paranormal."
 - "No school."
 - Jesuit William Van Roo saw Hunkeler write on himself and noted how long his fingernails were.
-



Reverend Schulze

- The family consulted pastor Luther Miles Schulze. of St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church (1611 Brentwood Road NE, Washington, D.C.)
 - On February 17, Schulze had Ronald spend the night at his house. Schulze reported poltergeist phenomena, including a heavy chair moving across the room and flipping over.
 - Schulze tells the family they need a Catholic priest.
 - In March 1949, he wrote to J.B. Rhine, then Director of the Parapsychology Laboratory at Duke University.
 - Rhine was probably responsible for an account that appeared in *The Parapsychology Bulletin* (August 1949).
-



Father Hughes

- Ronald underwent two medical consultations and was declared healthy.
 - E. Albert Hughes attempts a series of exorcisms, including one at Georgetown hospital.
 - Ronald slashed Hughes's arm with a bedspring, requiring stitches.
-



Scratch Marks

- A scratch mark appears that states “Louis.”
- The family presumed the entity was instructing them to visit their relatives, Leonard and Doris Hunkeler who lived at 8435 Roanoke Drive in Bel-Nor, Missouri – a suburb of St. Louis.



St. Louis

- Priests Raymond J. Bishop and William S. Bowdern of St. Louis University examine Ronald.
 - Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter grants permission to perform an exorcism.
 - Ronald broke the nose of 27-year-old Father Walter Halloran.
 - “The contortions revealed physical strength beyond the natural power of a boy.”
 - Exorcisms moved to Alexian Brothers Hospital in St. Louis.
 - Then to St. Francis Xavier College Church on the campus of St. Louis University.
-



Final Rite

- Ronald is moved back to the Alexian Brothers Hospital.
 - The final exorcism occurred on April 18, 1949: (the day after Easter).
 - At 10:45pm, Ronald declared, *“Satan! Satan! I am St. Michael, and I command you Satan, and the other evil spirits to leave the body in the name of God, immediately. Now! NOW! N-O-W!”*
-



Pipe-Lighting

(From p. 5)



His and used worked for pro-
blems. But even so he
has an added frustration in his
pipe "experts," who is willing to
try anything for this man.



Bringing his pipe down training
into down pipe results similar
to his and anti-smoking!



Who said all this has failed
another problem were in right
hand—how do you light a pipe
now?
(Cont'd on p. 7)

Baking Ceramic Potting Compound...

(Cont'd from p. 7)



MIXING ...



POURING ...

Then Comes Foaming and Baking!



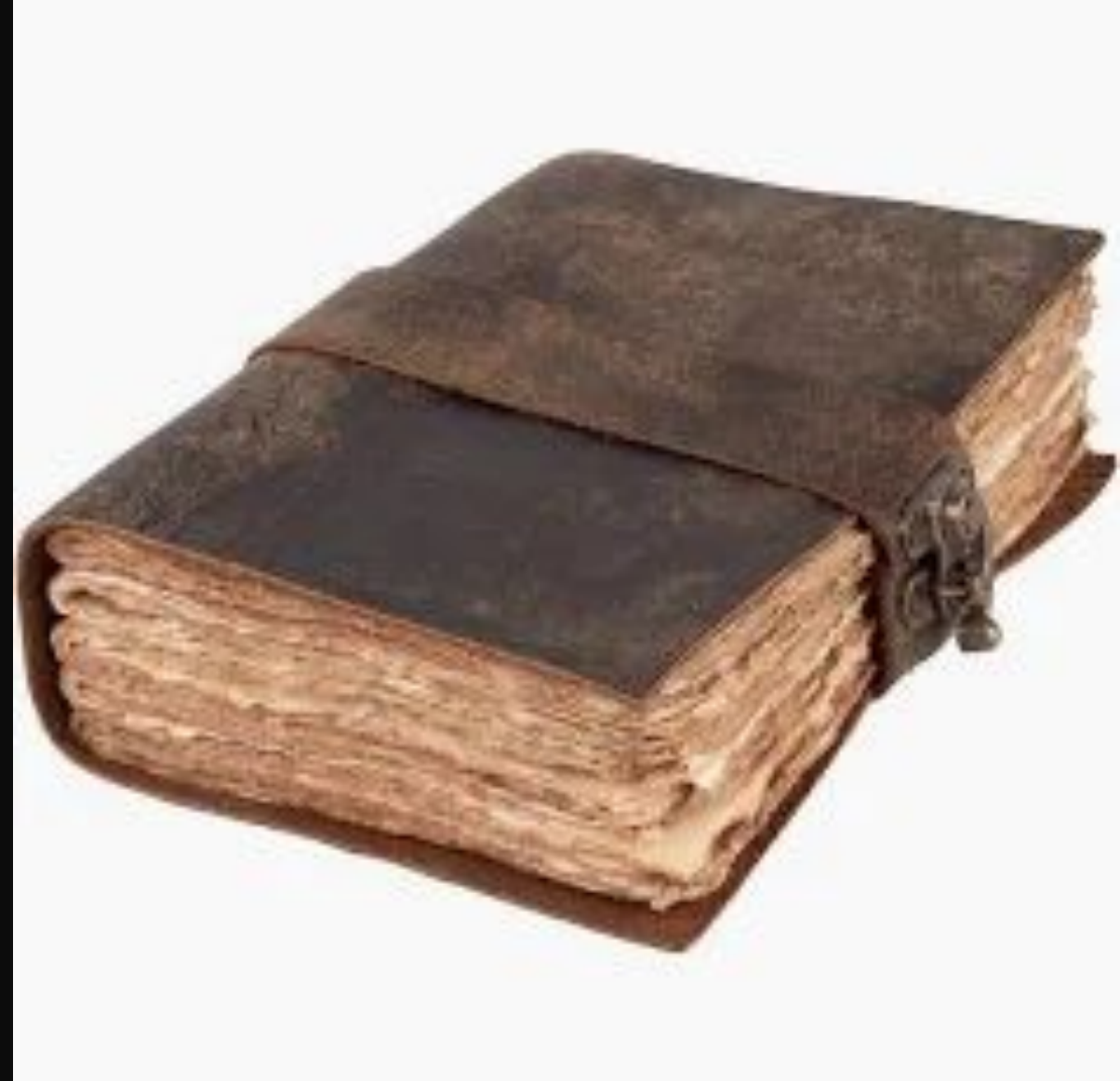
Ronald Hunkeler, shows mixing and pouring (above) holds the final product here, ready for
"baking."

Ronald Hunkeler

- Hunkeler went on to get degrees in chemical engineering and psychology.
- Married in 1970, had three children.
- Worked for NASA until 2000.

The Diary

- Father Bowdern kept a diary of these events from March 16 to April 18.
 - Blatty was given a copy of the diary *after* he wrote *The Exorcist*.
 - “I didn't read Blatty's book; I didn't want to. I personally felt that the movie was utterly disgusting, utterly false and quite dangerous because of the affect it might have on emotionally disturbed persons. The movie has been melodramatized, especially the ending, which was utterly absurd.” —Father William Van Roo, witness to the Hunkeler exorcism.
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Begone, Satan (1934)

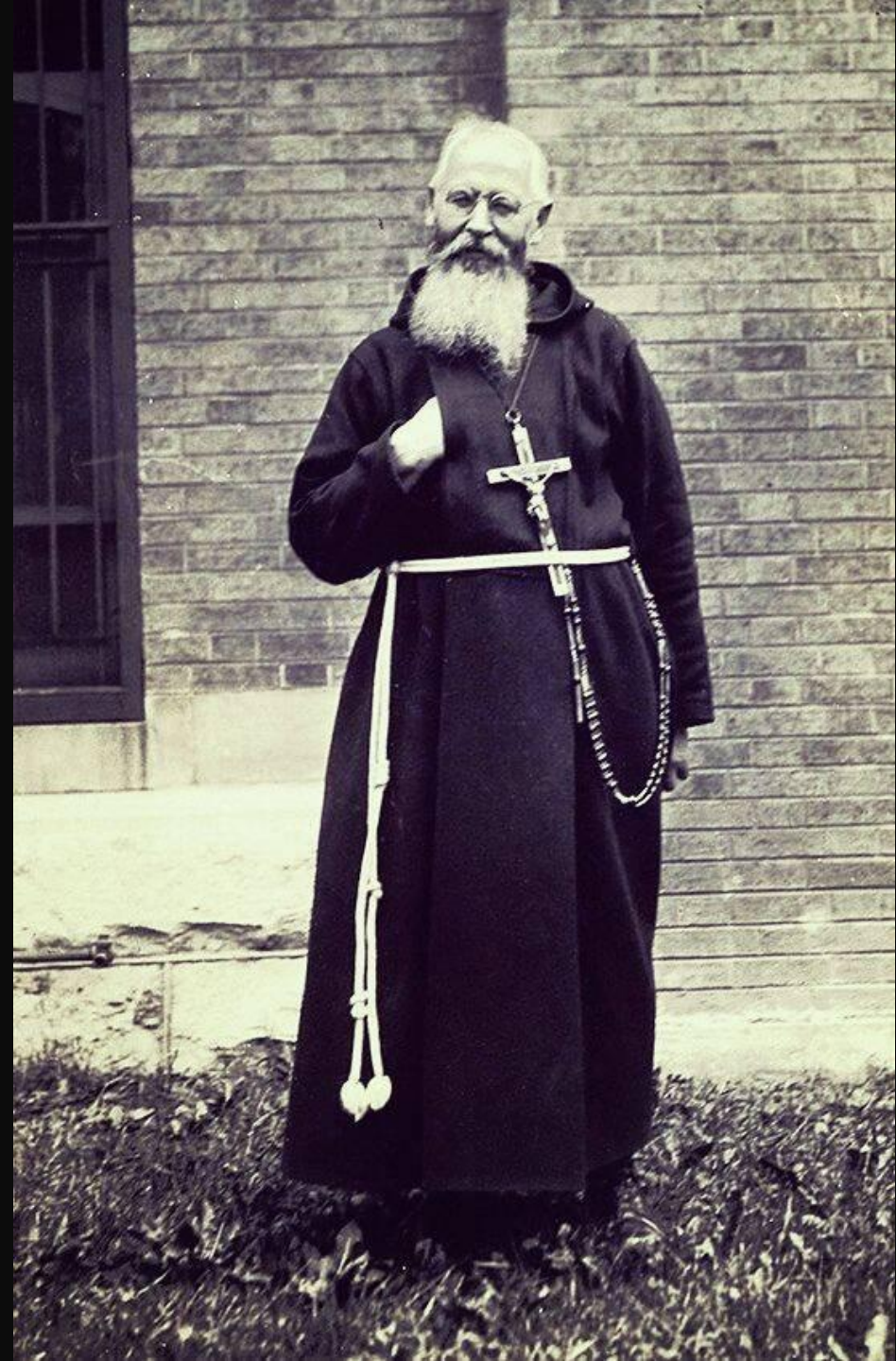
- Pamphlet describing a 23-day exorcism that occurred in Earling, Iowa, in 1928
 - “I instinctively felt it could not have been invented, but the tone of the pamphlet seemed so overly credulous, so replete with pietistic asides and exclamations, that it turned me off.”—William Peter Blatty
-

*Begone,
Satan*
(1934)

- “With lightning speed the possessed dislodged herself from her bed and from the hands of her guards; and her body, carried through the air, landed high above the door of the room and clung to the wall with a tenacious grip.” (63)
- “Outpourings that would fill a pitcher, yes, even a pail, full of the most obnoxious stench were most unnatural. These come in quantities that were humanly speaking impossible to lodge in a normal being.” (65)

Exorcist and Energumen

- Theophilus Riesinger (1868-1941), Capuchin monk from Bavaria
 - Met a German-speaking woman in New York, known as “Anna Ecklund,” “Emma Schmidt,” or just “the woman.”
 - We have records of an immigrant from Switzerland named Hulda Emma Schmidt (1882-1964).
-



Emma's Demons

- Emma described hosting various demons including:
- Lucifer
- Beelzebub
- Judas Iscariot
- Jacob (her deceased father, having escaped from hell).
- Mina (Jacob's mistress and/or Emma's aunt.)
- “[Jacob] now admitted that he had repeatedly tried to force his own daughter to commit incest with him. But she had firmly resisted him. Therefore, he had cursed her and wished inhumanly that the devils would enter into her and entice her to commit every possible sin against chastity, thereby ruining her, body and soul. . . . Even in hell he was still scheming how to torture and molest his child.”

Vade Satana - Weihe Satan!

Eine auffehenerregende Teufelsausreibung in Nordamerika

Die Kirche Gottes überträgt ihren Priesteramtskandidaten schon in den Vorstufen der Priesterweihe, in den sogen. niederen Weihen auch das sogen. Exorzistenamt. Wenn der Kandidat diese Weihe empfängt, spricht der Bischof zu ihm: Du empfängst also die Gewalt, den Besessenen die Hände aufzulegen und durch Auflegen deiner Hände werden mit der Gnade des heiligen Geistes und den Worten der Beschöpfung die unreinen Geister aus den

Das alles vollzieht die Kirche in Nachahmung des Beispielen Christi, der selber so oftmals böse Geister ausgetrieben und auch seinen Jüngern diese Gewalt und Vollmacht übertragen hat. Aber unsere modernistisch angekränkelte Zeit hält solche Weihe für recht überflüssig. Man will ja Hölle und Teufel und Besessenheit nicht mehr gelten lassen. Mögen auch Christus und seine Apostel noch so klar von den Umtrieben des Satans sprechen, man lehnt dergleichen mit überlegener Miene und

bung von Wemding (bayer 1890 erinnerlich, der seiner beralen Blättern ausführlich geben wurde.

Der Priester übt übrigens zistengeivalt bei vielen Gel Die Weihe des Weiswasser brauch desselben durch die sich, ihre Wohnungen und vielen Segnungen und Be Kirche hängen damit zusammen. Zeit hat namentlich Rabit

We Were Never
Supposed to
Know This Story!

- Riesinger's friend, Father Joseph Steiger, visited Germany and told a priest named Carl Vogel about the exorcism.
- Vogel wrote it up for the Catholic magazine *Liebfrauenbote*.
- The magazine article was taken back to America, translated, and published as *Begone Satan!*

We Were Never Supposed to Know This Story!

- Some Catholic authorities said the story is heretical and should never have received *nihil obstat*.
- “American Catholics have been accused of many things but of nothing so disgusting as the hill-billy theology of ‘Begone Satan.’”

The Secret History of the Earling Exorcism

- Text written by Joseph Bunse, a German Jesuit who lived with Riesinger for three weeks in New York.
- Bunse died in 1935. This text appears to have been typed up in 1936.

N. B. The following facts concerning the famous "Earling Case" are called from the German manuscript of the case written by Rev. Father Theophilus Riesinger, O. M. Cap.

THESE ARE NOT TO BE PUBLISHED THROUGH THE PRESS OR FROM THE PULPIT

At the command of Our Lord the case has been sent to the Holy Office. The translation and discussion of the facts are hereby submitted by Rev. F. J. Bunse, S. J., Buffalo, New York, February-March, 1934. Rev. F. J. Bunse, S. J. died last year.

THE SO-CALLED EARLING CASE

Remark: This case concerns a person who is possessed by the devil and favored by God with many translations. Her real name and the place of her home may not be mentioned at the present time. Our Lord forbade it. "If people know your name and place, they would come to see you as they visit Teresa of Konnersreuth; but that is against My Will." Let us call her Mary.

MARY'S PERSONALITY

The Bunse Text

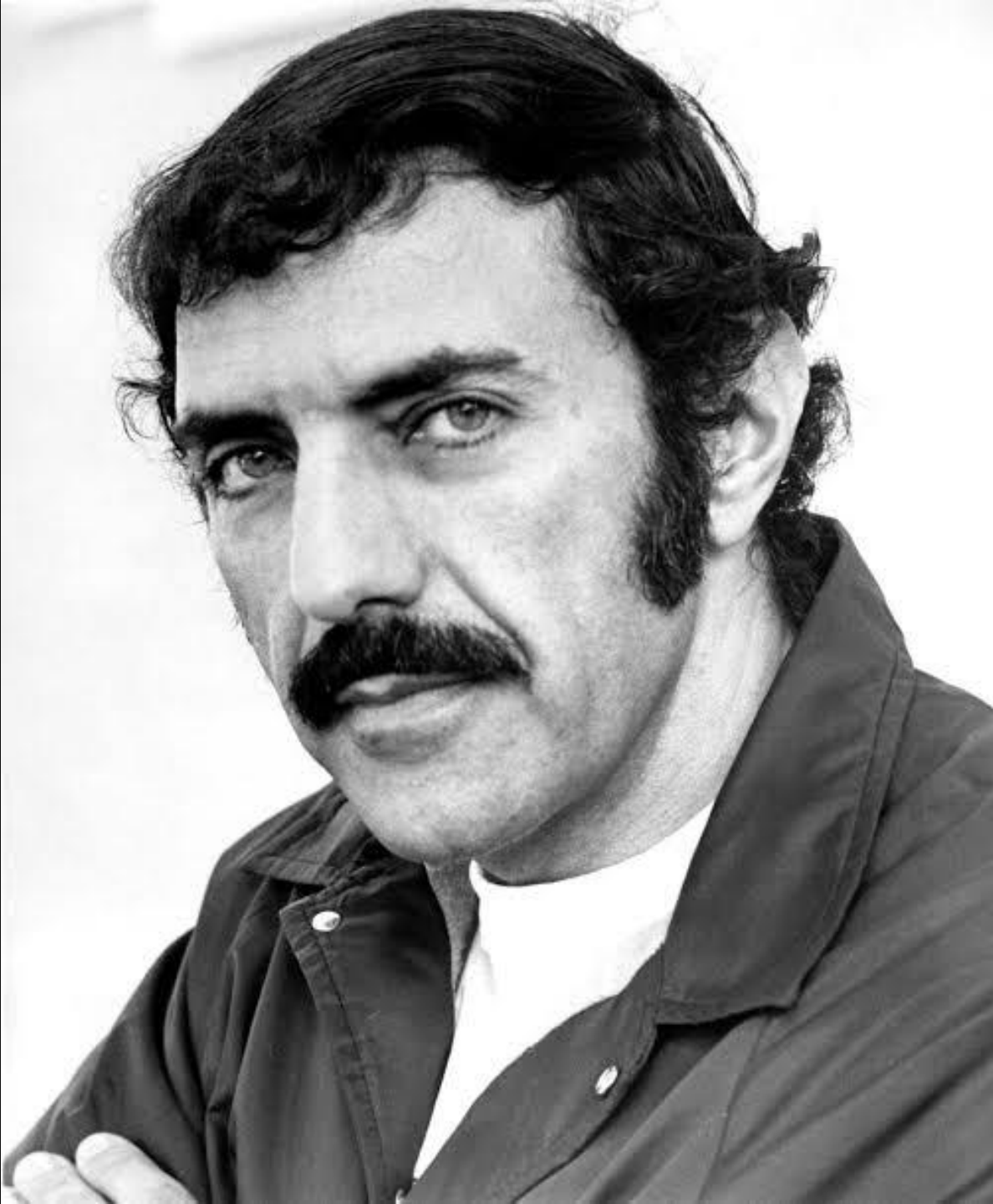
- Emma was born in 1882. She would have been around 46 in 1928.
- She met Riesinger in New York when she was 16.
- Riesinger was her confessor.
- The Pitt Street parish where Riesinger was stationed was known as *Kleindeutschland* .
- Riesinger knew “Jacob” before he died.
- “It was these wicked spirits who blinded her and drove her about the city so that, when she intended to go to church she at last found herself in a clairvoyant’s room.”
- Riesinger first exorcised her in 1908. This was apparently his first exorcism.
- In 1912, Riesinger was disciplined for his exorcisms and transferred to Marathon, Wisconsin.
- Emma wrote him in 1928 and said that “The devils called you a d.s. of a.b. [dumb son of a bitch] And said ‘Does he not know that hell is stronger than heaven, that there are more in hell than heaven?’”
- He seems to have found a bishop in Iowa who would approve an exorcism and then sent for Emma in New York.

When she was about 26 years old, she, suddenly gave up her pious Christian life completely. She became melancholy, avoided company, and finally went to places and persons that cast a shadow on her good character.

She threw blessed articles away, smashed crucifixes, and had thoughts of despair. People were amazed and scandalized. Some described this sudden change to an operation she had undergone. Others thought it was "Hysteria"; after examination they found her healthy. In fact, Mary had become possessed by evil spirits and was not responsible for her actions.

A Troubling Passage





“I, in fact, did not base my book on either of the publicized North American cases.”

—William Peter Blatty, 1988

Blatty and the Ouija board

Well, I don't want to sound like a nut but as I was writing the last chapter and the epilogue I did have a series of bizarre experiences. For the first time in my life I got hung up on a Ouija board for 10 days.

I'd never done it before but I found I couldn't leave it alone. And I had the most definite feeling that I was communicating with the dead. Yes, I agree an awful lot of it could be auto-suggestion, and I knew all about how Ouija boards worked because I'd researched it so much for the book, but there were certain things which are not susceptible to explanation by the subconscious mind.

I thought it was my father communicating with me, and I got someone in to help validate the experience. She was a girl who could put herself into a self-imposed hypnotic trance and who would operate the planchette on the Ouija board. I didn't touch it at all, and asked the questions in Arabic, which she didn't understand a word of, and I got precisely the right answers.

But then I thought well maybe subconsciously I was formulating the answers in English and she was picking them up from me telepathically.

Finding Peter (2015)

2006: Blatty's son Peter dies at the age of 19 of a rare heart disorder.

"To those who have lost a loved one to that liar and fraud named death."

"I have moved away from the belief in fallen angels to the belief that demons are, in fact, spirits of the dead who are behaving very, very badly. In fact, in all of the possession literature since the beginning of the 20th century, most cases involve the spirit of someone who has died."

