

The “Impossible” Bottle

by Marshall Payn

Marshall Payn, who holds both an engineering and an economics degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a documentary film producer (*New Evidence of Early Man: Suppressed, Christian Dilemmas, and Secrets of a Medicine Man*). He is a former president of the Epigraphic Society, an author, a pilot, and a champion sport fisherman who once owned more than a score of vocational schools. He has researched the paranormal for the past 20 years and is a longtime member of ASCS.

Having agreed to describe what Joey Nuzum did to a 7Up bottle, it would be beneficial to establish his credibility.

After five years of researching the paranormal, with an emphasis on psychokinesis, my good friend, Dr. Bert Schwarz, suggested I watch Joey do his stuff. It should be understood that my research revealed most convincing evidence for the reality of the paranormal but I just couldn't quite bring myself to believe in it because it violated what all those physics courses taught me.

I was sitting on his living room couch and Joey was standing about 15 feet from me with his back toward me. On the couch was a full pack of matches and an unopened calculator he'd bought at a Radio Shack.

He first instructed me to tear out some matches and to note without telling him how many were left in the pack (9): then to put them all in my pocket. Next he had me open the calculator, turn it on and fill the screen with numbers. The screen held ten digits and it was a science calculator having trig and logarithmic functions. I just ran my finger across the keyboard until ten digits were shown.

He then told me to punch one of the math functions (I chose multiply) and again to randomly fill the screen with another ten digits. This I did while scanning the room searching for hidden cameras.

I'll never forget the next step. He said “remember how many matches were left in the pack

and push the equal sign.” I did and the screen showed nine point zero. Ten numbers times ten numbers equals the number in my pocket.

I crossed the threshold. Now I'm a believer. Not a chance of trickery. I should get a refund from M.I.T. for all those physics courses. And that was done by a 40-year-old, impoverished, dyslexic, high-school dropout.

Years later I asked him to send me something to demonstrate psychokinesis whereby it wouldn't matter who did it, when or where or under what circumstances it was done. He sent me two unopened 7Up bottles from the store.

One, he hadn't done anything to, only to be used for comparison. The second, he did two things. {See photos on next page.} At its bottom was a 25-cent piece free to move about. It had about a 40 degree bend in it which he says he bent after inserting it into the bottle. Even after the bend, the width of the quarter substantially exceeds the bottle-neck's inner diameter, but note: the cap's seal was unbroken.

The other is the most remarkable. Psychically he removed the bottle's label from the outside and positioned it in the same location inside the bottle. One could notice a difference in label color between the two because the second bottle's label appeared a slightly darker green color since you'd be viewing the label through a green tinted plastic. Most people didn't pick this up and when they see and understand this then fol-

lows utter amazement. But it's Joey who's amazing. Consider also he had to remove the glue from the normal position of the backside of the label when outside to the front of the label glued to the inside. Your finger could detect a little residual glue on the outside.

All that's left to the skeptic is "somebody's lying." If so, I counter, then how did the liar do it?

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[Editor's Note: Six articles on Joey Nuzum have been published in the Academy's Journal:

Vol. 29, No. 1, January 2006, p. 52.

Vol. 29, No. 2, April 2006, p. 77.

Vol. 29, No. 4 October 2006, p. 202.

Vol. 32, No. 4, October 2009, p. 201.

Vol. 33, No. 1, January 2010, pp. 4 and 48.]



Taken 31 May 2008. According to Payn, he received this bottle from Nuzum a couple of years previously.

[All photos by Miles Edward Allen]



Taken 18 May 2013. Bottle has collapsed somewhat, as old bottles are prone to do, giving it a triangular cross-section.

Some Other "Impossible" Artifacts Credited by Payn to Nuzum

