

Meditator finds another self on Civil War battlefield

By DIANE ABRAMS

Many believe history repeats itself. Michael Gramlich of Farmington says he has re-lived part of the Civil War.

It all began with a book so vivid to him that it prompted a journey to a nationally preserved battlefield. It was that which Fletcher Pratt's "A Short History of the Civil War" came to life for Gramlich through intense meditation.

"I read that book from cover to cover as if my life somehow depended on it," said Gramlich. "Certain events of the war seemed to draw me to read them over and over again."

The part of the book that he became most interested in was the battle of Chickamauga. The battlefield is a nationally preserved site on the border of Georgia and Tennessee. There were 43,000 casualties there during the civil war.

Obtaining permission from Chickamauga Park Authority to spend that night on the battlefield, Gramlich and his 14-year-old son Brian, also a mediator, set out last month to see what would be revealed.

Gramlich has been researching and practicing various meditational techniques since 1957 — even before it became popular. He lectures and teaches at the Alpha Omega Center, Oakland Community College and Macomb Community College.

"THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF meditation," he said. "One can feel a certain familiarity simply by reading certain parts of history. I attribute this to the fact that they were there before in another lifetime."

Convinced that Chickamauga was a part of a past life, Gramlich was obsessed with finding out as much as he could about the battle that took place 115 years ago.

With \$15 between them, he and his son made their first stop St. Mary's Living Love Center in Kentucky. From there they went to Knoxville and then to Chattanooga to visit a friend who is minister of the Unity Church there. Gramlich, ordained in the New Esoteric World Church, Universal Life Church and Mother Earth Church, is currently planning to start his own church.

"We did a healing workshop in Chattanooga to help others reduce tension and relieve ailments through a therapeutic touch. Anybody is capable of doing this," he said. "Once someone learns it, they usually feel very good, like they've discovered another area of competence."

FOLLOWING THEIR EXPERIENCES in Chattanooga, the two drove seven miles to the place that had captivated Gramlich for so long. The

rangers at Chickamauga had arranged to have the area blocked off.

With a scene already clear in his mind, Gramlich took his son to Reed's Bridge, a place he believes he was directly involved in during the Civil War. As it turned out, the place he picked out was directly under the highway bridge.

It would have been impossible for him to have been there, said Gramlich. "But a family in the area told us the bridge had originally been 100 feet up stream, so we could have been sharpshooting from where I thought it was."

Gramlich says the picture in his mind was matched by the reality before him. He meditated throughout the day and into the night and visited the different battlefields in the area.

"I was a Confederate soldier and a Confederate soldier was swimming across the stream to attack me," said Gramlich. "I shot first and killed the soldier, who turned out to be a 15-year-old kid."

Gramlich said he heard that a 9-year-old son, Scott, in this lifetime. This was the first of a number of meditational experiences Gramlich was to have on his visit in Chickamauga. Previously, he had arranged to have people meditate with him in Birmingham and Chattanooga meditate with him from where they were when he spent his first night on the battlefield.

"At 9 p.m. that night, all the people who were meditating sent energy to me," said Gramlich. "I felt as though I could see the different people in my mind. There was a sense of peace and timelessness, even spacelessness."

Gramlich said he heard that an old hymn that his minister friend had sung that morning in Chattanooga. The line, "I'll fly away," kept running through his head.

At this point, he said he had a sudden shift of perspective. When he looked down at the battlefield, it was filled with light.

"I THINK I WAS HEALED at this field of perspective. And all the people who were meditating with me in different states had a combination healing."

Feeling good about his meditational experience, he fell into a deep sleep. However, it didn't last long. At 1 a.m. he was awakened by intense pain in his right leg and thigh.

"I couldn't breathe and had an immense cold," he said. "I scarred the daylights out of my son and myself. I discovered that I'm a car and turned on the sleeping bag."

Once he was in better control, Gramlich and his son went for a ride to different battle sites. His leg still hurt badly.

"I think I was probably shot at Chickamauga in a previous life, at the

same place we were camping," said Gramlich. "What's more is I think it was my oldest son, Brian, who shot me."

Gramlich believes he has lived at least 1,000 lives before this one. This is a minimum, he said, adding that everyone has lived at least as many.

"The earth has been here at least one million years, so if you come back just once a year, that would average out to 1,000 lives," he said.

He attributes familiar feelings of places and people to experiences of other lifetimes.

"Our lives are tangled in this way," said Gramlich. "Friends, relatives and even enemies are all bound together as part of a learning group."

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE is the purpose of life, according to Gramlich.

"I believe in a cosmic God that includes you and me and everything that exists — past, present and future," he continued. "There is nothing that is not God."

After driving around for a while, Gramlich and his son returned to Reed's Bridge. He stood in meditation

at the stream of the River of Death on the Confederate side.

Chickamauga means, "river of death" in Cherokee. It got its name because many of the original settlers who bathed in the river had small pox. The Cherokee Indians, too, used the river for bathing and would often pick up small pox from the settlers.

Standing at the River of Death, Gramlich had the impression of tremendous turmoil, fear and anger. He was deep in meditation.

"I saw a horse with his front hoofs darting into the air. He was going up because the rider had been shot in the heart," he said. "It was my bullet that killed him."

IT ISN'T DIFFICULT to meditate," he said. "Simply take three slow, deep breaths and concentrate on breathing. If you have any problem with concentration, focus on the hands. Just sit quietly, and when the mind starts to chatter, you start breathing again."

Gramlich will return to Chattanooga later this month for the Festival of Consciousness.

"There is an encampment in which people will come from all over the

United States to put on Confederate and Yankee uniforms at the battle ground," he said.

One man comes all the way from Germany every year for the festival.

"These people are drawn there. It wouldn't surprise me if they were involved in the original battle 116 years ago," he said. "I would like to do a guided group meditation this year with the encampmenters to see what happens."

Although Gramlich doesn't have a telephone in his house, he loves to talk to people. He strikes up conversations wherever he goes. He doesn't have a phone because he doesn't want to be disturbed when meditating.

Gramlich is aware that there are many people who have difficulty swallowing his beliefs. This fact doesn't bother him, though.

"Most people are really interested in what I'm doing, even if they think I'm crazy," he smiled.

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ROBERT K. ANDERSON, Attorney, 2895 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334

STATE OF MICHIGAN, THE PROBATE COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ORLANDU 15-241

Estate of LEAH PAULINE MCINTYRE, Deceased

NOTICE OF HEARING: The Matter of Leah Pauline McIntyre, Deceased, on the 15th day of June, 1979, at 9:30 A.M., in the Probate Courtroom, Orlandu County, Courtroom 1, Pontiac, Michigan, before the Honorable BARRY K. GRANT, Judge of Probate, a hearing will be held on the petition of Ralph Hasty for probate of a purported Will of the deceased dated September 9, 1974 and for the granting of administration to RALPH HASTY the executor named in the Will, or some other suitable person and for the determination of heirs. Creditors of the deceased are notified that all claims against the estate must be presented to RALPH HASTY at 7163 Hills City, Michigan, and proof thereof with copies of the claims filed with the Court on or before August 14, 1979. Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned to the person appearing of record on the above.

Dated May 8, 1979

Attorney for Petitioner: Robert K. Anderson, 2895 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334

Witness: Robert K. Anderson, 2895 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334

Published May 17, 1979

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HOWELL MON.-FRI. 8-5, SAT. 8-2.

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS (Summary)

A Regular Meeting of the Farmington City Council was held Monday, May 7, 1979, in the Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 p.m. by Mayor Richard L. Tupper.

PRESENT: Mayor Tupper, Councilmen Bennett, Buckler, Yoder and Hartsock.

ABSENT: None

City officials Present: City Mgr. Deadman, Director Byrnes, Director Billing, Att. Kelly, City Clerk Viane.

The minutes of the previous meetings were approved.

The minutes of other boards were received and/or filed.

City Manager Deadman introduced Farmington High School students who will participate in Student Government Day on May 15, 1979.

The Farmington Founders Festival was granted permission to use Shawanawee Park for the Kick-Off event on July 22, 1979 and permission was also granted to hold the annual parade on Saturday, July 29, 1979, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Permission was granted to close off Raphael Street, between Shawanawee and the Farmington Public School Bus Transportation Yard, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the third Extravaganza on Wednesday, July 25, 1979, sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Public Safety Departments of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Council received resolutions from the City of Ferndale regarding Senate Bill 148 and Detroit Edison's proposal to pass along costs of the ice storm to its customers. No action was taken.

Council supported efforts the Michigan Municipal League to establish a Liability Insurance Fund.

Resolution from the City of Rockwood regarding proposed Regional State Prison in Rockwood was received.

The following proclamations were issued:

SENIOR ADULT WEEK May 20-27, 1979

NATIONAL INSURANCE WOMEN'S WEEK May 20-26, 1979

VIETNAM VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK May 28-June 3, 1979

POLICE WEEK May 13-19, 1979

Council tabled approval of a new Fee Schedule for Building Code Permits and Licenses until the next regular meeting.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Authorizing the split of two parcels of property on the west side of Drake Road between Grand River Avenue and Freedom Road into seven parcels, subject to the installation of all utilities and roadways by the Developer.

Accepting the bid of Jennings Corporation of Park Equipment in the amount of \$871.10.

Authorizing the City Clerk to publish a Notice of Intent to issue bonds for the purpose of defraying costs of certain public improvements in the City.

Authorizing the issuance of \$102,000 Special Assessment Bonds for Special Assessment Districts 78-69, 78-70, and 78-71.

City Mgr. Deadman advised that Student Government Day would be held at City Hall on May 15, 1979, and that Mayor Exchange Day will be held on May 24, 1979, exchanging with the City of St. Joseph, Michigan.

Council was advised that the City of Farmington Hills had proposed a road oiling program for Nine Mile Road between Freedom Road and Grand River. Council requested City Mgr. Deadman to submit a recommendation regarding payment by City of Farmington residents for this service.

A Public Hearing to review the proposed 1979-80 FY Budget was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17, 1979 in the Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan.

Mrs. Margaret Loris was appointed to a three year term expiring May 17, 1982 on the Farmington Area Commission on Aging.

The following reports were received:

Public Safety 1st Quarterly Operations Quarterly Report Jan. 1-March 31, 1979

Financial District Court 10 mos. ended 4-30-79

Council scheduled a Special Study Session Meeting to review the City's policy regarding Local Road Improvements for June 4, 1979 at 7:00 p.m. prior to the regular Council meeting.

Councilman Buckler expressed a desire to amend the city's position as stated in a letter to MSHDA regarding the City of Farmington Hills proposed senior housing project at Drake Road and Freedom Road. A motion to this effect by Councilman Buckler failed for lack of support.

Monthly bills were approved for payment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

RICHARD L. TUPPER, Mayor
NEORA VIANE, City Clerk

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