

OBITUARY

ICLC Member Charles Hughes, Astronomer, Telescope-Builder

by Dennis H. Speed

June 27—"It is believed that ocean levels were about 400 feet lower during the Ice Age, which lasted for about 100,000 years and began its long melt back about 18,000 years ago. And so, if a city were built on the then-dry continental shelf, which is now under water, that construction or ruin is much older than established science dares admit, in order to hold onto its mistaken axioms concerning human civilization."

So wrote astronomer and telescope-builder Charles Hughes in an article that appeared in *21st Century Science & Technology* magazine in the Summer of 2009. Charles, a life-long member of Lyndon LaRouche's International Caucus of Labor Committees (ICLC), and a 45-year political associate of Lyndon LaRouche, died on Sunday, June 21, after a long bout with diabetes, at the age of 77.

In the afore-cited article, Charles had also pointed out that the discovered "cities in the sea" off the coasts of Africa, Asia, the Indian subcontinent and the continental shelves of the Americas were proof that an unknown civilization of sea people was located in the Caribbean, before a time that mainstream establishment science acknowledges that such a civilization existed anywhere in the world. So the science establishment refuses to examine such sites, or reports that they are unusual natural rock formations!

My particular interest has been

the constructions consisting of large walls and docks, made of gigantic stone blocks, and found in the Bahamas on the islands of Andros and Bimini, which were first reported in 1968. It is almost certain that a construction as large as a football field in 20 feet of water on the bottom of



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Charles Hughes, with lens for a telescope he built.

Nicholstown harbor, was a quay for loading cargo ships when the area was above sea, in about 8000 B.C.

Hughes, in numerous discussions with both colleagues and newly-interested parties, posed this provocative question: If such cities and areas were “above sea, in around 8000 B.C.”, how did they submerge? Such archaeological evidence would seem to demand an “unorthodox,” yet rigorous investigation to determine whether the planet has been, in fact, thawing (“warming”) over the past nearly 18,000 years, albeit with fluctuation for “little ice ages” prior to the re-commencement of a new 100,000 year “mega” Ice Age, and all without the agency of “anthropocentric, industrial carbon-emissions driven climate change.”

Further, if that were the case, might it not be urgent that *vigorous human intervention*, using advanced technologies potentially essential to altering the otherwise inevitable “cyclical trend” of a new Ice Age, destined to appear at the conclusion of the present, waning interglacial period, be rapidly pursued, invented, and deployed? Should we, perhaps, not be engaged in a crash program for thermonuclear fusion, and be prepared to massively warm up areas of the planet, such as the Arctic? That was the happy, polemical, “unorthodox” intellectual life of Charles Hughes.

One of Hughes’ collaborators in telescope building, Jeremy Batterson, remembered that “he very thoroughly investigated all the details of telescope making, including grinding his own optics. In one case, being low on income, he had bought a glass square, and had the glass company cut off the four corners, leaving him with an octagonal slab of glass. He then created a crude hand machine to grind that octagon down into a circular glass blank, something which alone took months to do. So he *really* started from scratch! His very thorough study on fabrication methods, polishing methods, mounting of blanks during grinding to avoid astigmatism, Foucault tests, and so on, were all carefully taken into account by me.”

A ‘Renaissance Man’

Hughes, however, was far more. “Charles’ active life was a true expression of ‘Renaissance man,’ as soldier, chemist, metallurgist, geologist, telescope builder, historian, a musical mind. He took such delight in historical Irish-Scottish songs, as well as their companion

lieder composed by Beethoven and Haydn,” said his friend Claret Carl Ferguson.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Hughes made his decidedly anti-British, anti-population reduction views very clear in a series of creative, ribald protests against the likes of the notorious New York lawyer Roy Cohn, as well as Henry Kissinger. Kissinger’s 1974 National Security Study Memorandum 200, co-produced with then-CIA Director George Bush, was the precursor for the same Malthusian population reduction policies even more rampant today.

Another colleague added that Charles was “a proud pro-Irish, pro-Robbie Burns anti-British oligarchy American patriot. That meant in science as well. He intended that the fraudulent ‘anthropocentric global warming’ hoax be discredited by precisely the research on ancient civilizations that he both reported and encouraged. Charles believed deeply that ‘the world needs more people.’ He saw ‘climate change’ as a sneaky and downright racist attack on Africa, Asia, and South and Central America and the Caribbean. After all, if global warming had commenced 18,000 years ago with the end of the last Ice Age, wouldn’t that prove that the industrialization of the past 200 years, and its correlate ‘population explosion,’ had nothing to do with it?”

Charles’ home-made telescope was one of the largest in New Jersey. He sometimes slept on the roof of the office building in Ridgefield Park where he both worked, and had mounted it, “in order to be a little closer to my work.” And star-gazer Hughes would have been delighted by the just-released anomaly-filled pictures from the Dawn spacecraft now orbiting the asteroid belt’s massive “dwarf planet”, Ceres. The new field of asteroseismology, which uses sound waves generated by plasmas that expand and contract high above the surfaces of stars to measure, through “standing waves,” changes in their internal composition, providing clues to their evolution, was his idea of “gainful employment” for the human mind.

The last person known to have spoken to him, Margaret Greenspan, said: “He was very special, and I miss him. I spoke to him for the last time on Sunday, and I was told that he called the hospital with chest pains that day, when we were at the big concert at Carnegie Hall. It was Summer Solstice, and also a big solar flare happened that day. There is poetic beauty in that, I think. Charles went out with a flare!”

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