

Dowsing for minerals remains a mystery

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by Ellsworth Dickson
Staff Writer

Dowsing has been a controversial subject for people in the mining industry since the beginning. Let this be an open invitation for some hot shot scientist to figure out how dowsing actually works.

The problem in studying this phenomenon is that there is no reality cut-off. There is no doubt that dowzers have had continued and striking successes, but exactly what happens is still a mystery.

The problem with the reality cut-off comes in when one starts to read reports and interview people as to what can be accomplished by dowsing.

I found it fairly reasonable to accept the idea that a dowser is able to find water with a forked twig due to some kind of bio-electric effect. After all, we are bio-electric creatures and geophysical prospecting measures changes in various fields in the earth.

A plumber friend of mine demonstrated how he daily finds underground pipes by dowsing. I then tried it for myself, and yes, I watched the L-shaped rods that I held cross without my help. In fact, it was easy. I did not have to do anything except watch the rods cross as I walked over the water pipe.

Now try this on for size. Well-known writer Ivan T. Sanderson, reporting in *Pursuit* magazine tried a dowsing experiment (with both engineers and psychologists watching) in which an L-shaped

rod was suspended on a wire that crossed over a water pipe.

A small clock motor moved the L-shaped rod along the wire with no human help. Incredibly, Sanderson reports that the rod moved just the same as when a person held it.

If this is true, it of course means that the human mind or body has nothing to do with the dowsing phenomenon.

But if this is the case, how is it possible that many dowzers are able to find water and minerals with no dowsing rods at all, using only their hands?

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Unexplained and scorned by many, dowsing can't easily be dismissed

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Another area of dowsing which seems to belong in "The Twilight Zone" realm is the ability of some people to dowse from a map, thousands of miles from the target.

And yet, there are success stories in this area as well. Edward Bush of North Vancouver, British Columbia, a retired civil engineer, is presently quite active as a dowser. His clients include a number of mining companies who have hired him to dowse for minerals.

One such company who spoke to **NAGMIN** was Avino Mines & Resources Ltd., whose geologist, Brad Cooke, had some interesting comments.

To clarify matters, Avino uses conventional geophysical methods in its search for minerals, but is open-minded enough to at least look at the possibilities offered by dowsing.

Cooke elaborates: "I am not sold on the idea that dowsing is a panacea for all exploration needs. However, we did hire Mr. Bush and he did have some success. Although he was wrong a number of times and we did not find mineralization where he indicated, he did find two veins with gold showings.

"He seemed to have about the same success rate as conventional techniques. Mr. Bush found the veins on our property in the Gold Bridge area of British Columbia. One vein was on the Ranger property.

"Our approach is to use dowsing as just another exploration technique. I cannot give you any scientific back-up as to how dowsing works, but this is my personal

guess. I think dowsing in the field uses the same principle as dowsing on maps.

"If there is a level of energy or some kind of energy field that surrounds the earth or surrounds specific ore deposits, or gets warped by an ore deposit, and if that same level of energy exists in the human mind or body, or both, then it is believable that some people might be sensitive to that level of energy.

"If it is just a matter of being sensitive to what your divining rod or pendulum is saying, it does not matter if you are on the ground or a thousand miles away. I think a lot of refining has to be done with dowsing. I believe some people are more sensitive than others, but they have a long way to go to be right every time."

There have also been dowsing successes in the oil industry. A famous dowsing story is the huge central Oklahoma oil find in 1943 by a local farmer named J.W. Young who convinced wildcatter Ace Gutowski that oil lay beneath West Edmond. He was right.

Another oil dowsing story took place in Illinois, where Clayton McDowell found oil on the school grounds of Edwards County Senior High School to the tune of \$500 per day. He also sank 33 production wells in 1983. Now that is impressive.

Any library has books on dowsing, loaded with historical anecdotes on how dowsing has been used with success for literally thousands of years. It is obviously accepted by many people as a reality, but then so is astrology.

I do not want to link dowsing with astrology, my point being that lay people tend to accept things they "feel" are real, whereas scientists and technical people need physical proof because scientific investigation demands repeatable experiments backed up by a logical theory.

We cannot be so arrogant and conceited to believe we understand all the electrical, magnetic, and psychic processes operating invisibly around us. Scientists still have much to learn about gravity, for instance.

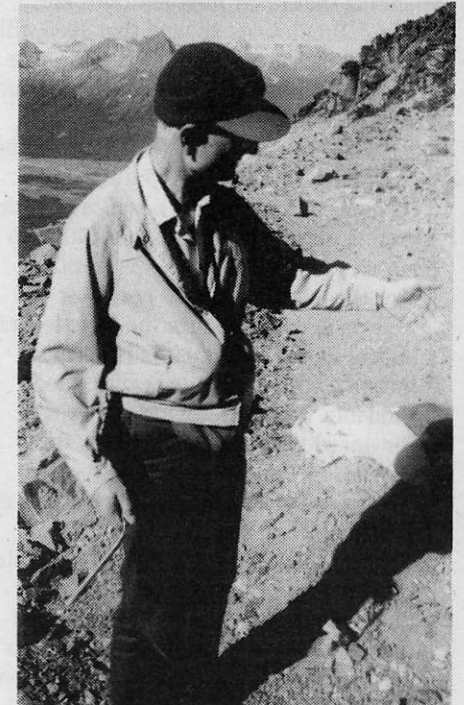
At the same time, who wants to be a fool and accept some of the more "far out" ideas in the realm of unexplained mysteries?

Does telepathy, clairvoyance, and telekinesis really work? Is an Ouija board a form of dowsing or an entertaining party game? What are UFOs?

If one bothers to research the above questions, he will find fairly compelling evidence to back up virtually anything. It all comes back to the question I brought up earlier. What is the reality cut-off?

For those readers interested, the most

comprehensive books on investigating dowsing and related phenomena are by Christopher Hills, University of the Trees Press, Boulder Creek, California. ✕



Edward Bush dowsing for gold on Avino Mines & Resources Ltd.'s property near Gold Bridge, British Columbia. He located two veins with gold mineralization here.