

1995 04 18 Tuesday Michael "Mad Man" Marcum Time Travel

AB: *Kansas City Man Tries To Build Time Machine on Porch*
(AP [Associated Press]) news article:

"When a Missouri factory worker set out to make a time machine on his back porch, the contraption he came up with was not completely off the mark theoretically, according to scientists. The high voltage electrical transformer that Michael Marcum had hooked up to two vertical, metal rods would more likely have killed him or blown up his house than carried him into the past or future. Time travel, although enticingly possible in the mathematics of Einstein's theory of relativity is not likely in the physical universe, they say. ... 'It is a very interesting area though,' there are theoretical physicists working on those area, 'and I will not say it's total nonsense.' This was according to the chairman of the physics department at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, but he went on: "It's not something that you can demonstrate with batteries, and I guess that was Michael's problem.

So are the Stanberry (Mo.) police, who say the voltage that Marcum had diverted into the contraption caused power interruptions in and around the northwest Missouri town of about thirteen hundred (1300). Marcum had connected the metal rods to the terminals of a transformer, one (1) of six (6) stolen from a utility company in hopes of creating a large spark gap with ascending electrical arcs.

Marcum was arrested on January 29 on a felony charge of stealing the transformers from a St. Joseph Light and Power generating station in King City. He pleaded guilty last month [and] was placed on five (5) years' probation. Police said the transformers had a capacity of twelve thousand (12,000) to seventy-six thousand (76,000) volts each, enough to easily cause electrocution or an explosion.

Marcum, who told police that he has two years of college-level electrical engineering, said he was building a 'time machine,' but didn't have enough power for it – this according to Stanberry police chief Tom Hampton. Hampton said: 'He's not nuts. He appears to be an intelligent person with a lack of commonsense.' Hampton said Marcum told officers he had not tried to enter the spark gap and neither had anyone else. If anyone had, they probably would have been electrocuted – not transported in time. Presumably he decided that if he got enough electricity together, he could build a time machine, because there is the concept that if you're going to do it, it's going to require an enormous amount of energy."

AB: “So there it was, and you know me and these kinds of stories, and how I’m fascinated by Time. So ... I set out to find young Mr. Marcum, and I found him!”

MICHAEL “MAD MAN” MARCUM

AB: “Michael, are you there?”

MM: “Yes.”

AB: “Good! First of all, had you heard that story before?”

MM: “Ah, ... yeah. It’s like I’m collectin’ clippings on it now.”

AB: “Oh you are?”

MM: “Yeah.”

AB: “How old are you, Michael?”

MM: “Twenty-one (21).”

AB: “Twenty-one (21) – pretty young.”

MM: “Yes, very.”

AB: “Now let’s go back through the story like you and I did earlier today. ... Why did this begin in the first place? What were you trying to do in the first place?”

MM: “Originally I just set out to make a fancy ‘Jacob’s ladder,’ and this was like ... what it’s turned out to be ...”

AB: “A lot of people don’t know what a ‘Jacob’s ladder’ is. Tell them what it is.”

MM: “Simply, in a nutshell, it’s like two metal rods with a spark goin’ up between it. And once it reaches the top, it starts back at the bottom again.” ...

AB: “Like from a *Frankenstein* movie.”

MM: “Yeah, that’s likely where they got started at.”

AB: “Okay, well there are ways to do that – the Van de Graaf generator, for example. You familiar with that?”

- MM: "Yes."
- AB: "But you were going to do it with the ... Actually, how were you gonna do it? You told me something about winding your own transformer?"
- MM: "Yeah. That's what I originally did ... It was like real touchy, and what I did was used a laser – a modified CD laser for it."
- AB: "Well, let's stay with the transformer for a moment. How did you wind this transformer? How did you do that?"
- MM: "Oh well, pretty simple really. Just took these metal plates and glued 'em together ..."
- AB: "Glued 'em together, yeah ..."
- MM: "And in most, the simplest transformers, there's two coils – your primary and your secondary ..."
- AB: "Right. ... Is it like making a giant ball of string or something, in other words you just keep winding and winding and winding it around?"
- MM: "Yeah. Well, there's little technical things ... but simply put, your primary coil will have like four hundred (400) turns – depends on how many watts you want to make it to ... let's say there's four hundred (400) turns in your primary and there's four thousand (4000) turns in your secondary ... ten (10) times the turns, then you'll get ten (10) times the voltage."
- AB: "Right. Right. Okay, so is that about what you did – four hundred (400) and four thousand (4000)?"
- MM: "I never bothered to count, but about four hundred fifty (450) turns in the primary ..."
- AB: "So you just kept windin'?"
- MM: "Yeah, till I got roughly twenty thousand (20,000) volts."
- AB: "Twenty thousand (20,000) volts?"
- MM: "Yeah."
- AB: "So you went from one hundred ten (110) to twenty thousand (20,000)?"
- MM: "Yeah, roughly."

- AB: "Roughly? ... All right. ... Without I take it, very much current?"
- MM: "Well, actually quite a bit. About roughly, it was drawin' about three thousand (3000) watts so ..."
- AB: "Oh?"
- MM: "Yeah, so it was probably about [a] tenth [1/10] of an amp ..."
- AB: "Tenth [1/10] of an amp ... all right ..."
- MM: "That's a considerable amount when there's twenty thousand (20,000) volts behind it."
- AB: "Yeah, oh yeah ... That would knock you right on your butt."
- MM: "Oh yeah!"
- AB: "So then you did this, so you built this thing and you had the arc ... and you were able to achieve the arc, is that correct?"
- MM: "Yeah."
- AB: "All right, so here you had this beautiful arc ... or was it not quite going the way you wanted it to?"
- MM: "Well, it was like kinds touchy ..." If I moved the metal rods too close together, it kinda stuck. "If I moved [them] too far apart, it didn't do anything.
- What I set out to do was to use the heat of a laser to get it goin' ..."
- AB: "To get it started ..."
- MM: "To get it goin' by itself."
- AB: "I see. The heat of a laser ... that's interesting. So the heat from a laser would attract the spark sort of?"
- MM: "Well, in a way ... the heat from a laser lowers the resistance of the air is what it does."
- AB: "Right. ... So, how'd you get the laser?"
- MM: "Well, I practically made it from scratch. I took a CD laser and re-did all the electronics in it. ... Kinda like reinforcin' it, you'd say."

- AB: "A CD laser ... so you tore apart a CD player?"
- MM: "Yeah."
- AB: (smirks). "And so then you got the laser ... Did it do what you wanted it to do? You know, start the spark?"
- MM: "Yeah, ... it like had some other effects I didn't expect."
- AB: "Well, therein lies the story ... other effects you didn't expect, like what?"
- MM: "Well, that spark's pretty hot, so you're going to have a heat signature like right above it."
- AB: "You mean kind of like a hazy glow or something?"
- MM: "Like wavy. If you ever take a lighter, like look right above it, you'll see the heat from it."
- AB: "That's right."
- MM: "Yeah, ... but ... kind of like circular-shaped in the center."
- AB: "Sort of like a glow?"
- MM: "Not really a glow ... if you don't really look at it, you can't see it."
- AB: "Is it like shimmering coming off a desert road in the middle of summer – kind of like that?"
- MM: "Yeah, yeah, but ... normally those are just like wavy lines straight up and down."
- AB: "Right."
- MM: "This one had the straight up and down ... but kinda like circular shape in the center."
- AB: "Huh!"
- MM: "At first I didn't know what it was. I'm not one hundred percent (100%) certain now – that's what I'm workin' on now ..."
- AB: "Wait a minute now, wait a minute, you're back at this again?"

- MM: "Huh?"
- AB: "You're back at this again, are you?"
- MM: "Yeah, I'm just pickin' up where I left off, but this time not doing anything illegal!"
- AB: "We'll get to that ...
When I called you earlier today ... you said you just got out of jail?"
- MM: "Yeah."
- AB: "And you're able to do this program tonite, because you are – more or less – not employed?"
- MM: "Yeah, I got all kinds of free time right now."
- AB: (laughs). "Were you employed, Michael, back when you got in trouble?"
- MM: "When I was arrested, yeah I was. In fact, I was supposed to go to work the next day."
- AB: "So in other words, this cost you your job?"
- MM: "In a way ... 'cause ... my boss thought I contaminated the plant with PCBs, but that's another story ..."
- AB: "We're getting ahead of ourselves here, so let's go back ... Your first small contraption ... you told me something about throwing a bolt or a screw, or something ..."
- MM: "Yeah, sheet metal screw. See, I didn't know what this thing was, and I don't know, but I got the notion to throw a screw in it to see what it did. I never saw anything like that before. I felt like testing it."
- AB: "A screw might be as good as anything else. ... So you [tossed] a screw into the circular area ..."
- MM: "I talked to a coupla physicists – they call it a vortex ..."
- AB: "All right, you threw it into what we'll call a vortex."
- MM: "Yeah."
- AB: "What happened to the screw?"

MM: "Well, I had the thing sittin' on a table, right ..."

AB: "Yeah."

MM: "I threw it in there, and I didn't see it after that."

AB: "It disappeared?"

MM: "Yeah, roughly – I like did it three (3) times. ... It's like, ah, my laser burnt up, so ... I knew it'd do that, I just didn't think it would do it so quick."

AB: "So it probably provided such a high SWR (Standing Wave Ratio) to the laser, that it burned it up?"

MM: "Yeah, cause it kinda like ... pushin' it further than what it's designed for is what it was."

AB: "But you're telling me this thing disappeared?"

MM: "Yeah, that's what I'm tryin' ta figure out right now ... It did one of two (2) things: It went half a second into the future and then it caught up with it, or I made like a real intense magnetic field – that's what I'm tryin' to figure out right now."

AB: "All right, this is fascinating, Michael, it really is. Because there are aspects of what you have done that are very much like ... The Philadelphia Experiment, Michael ..."

MM: "Yeah, that's what the Montawk Project is."

AB: "Yeah, and you're messin' with the same sorta stuff. You're messin' with the same sorta stuff. ..."

So then you're thinkin': "Wow! I did something different here!"

MM: "Yeah, it sorta freaked me out. At first I thought I was seein' things ..."

AB: "Okay, ... so when did you finally get this brilliant light bulb of an idea to build a larger unit?"

MM: Well, if I could build a larger one, I could figure out if I was sending it through time or just through an intense magnetic field.

AB: How long did it take to occur to you to build a bigger one?

MM: "After the thing burned out and literally after all the smoke cleared ..."

AB: "Smoke?"

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "In other words, there was sort of a reaction to the screw?"

MM: The laser literally caught fire to the electronics.

AB: "Caught fire?"

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "That's bad. ... Well all right, so your equipment was smoldering?"

MM: "Yeah ... And I was thinkin' about just like rebuildin' the laser, 'cause the basic part of the laser's fine, but part of the electronics were like totally ruined. And I was thinkin' ..."

AB: "Just rebuild the electronics and try it again."

MM: "Yeah." But since basically I'd have to start from scratch, why not make a bigger version of what I did?

AB: "So wanting a big transformer, you needed a lot of voltage to do this, right?"

MM: "Yeah. Two thousand (2000) volts 'll make it arc. ..."

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AB: "So then it dawns on you, let's build a big un' (one) ..."

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "So ... in order to get enough voltage current, you'd need a big transformer. ... Now, it's true the power company has big transformers?"

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "Really nice ones?"

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "How did it dawn on you to ... 'borrow' several of these power company's transformers?"

MM: "How did I get the idea for it?"

AB: "Yeah? You knew you needed a transformer, how did it occur to you ...?"

MM: "Well, ... I was originally gonna buy 'em ... but those are expensive."

AB: "How much is a transformer just out of curiosity?"

MM: "Thirteen thousand, six hundred (\$13,600) dollars for six (6)."

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AB: "We're talking to Michael Marcum ... maybe some might be tempted to call him 'Mad Man' Marcum." ...

"They don't call ya, 'Mad Man' Marcum, do they?"

MM: "Haven't been called that yet ..."

AB: (laughs). "I just made that up, Michael. Don't let it bother you."

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AB: "So according to the story, you had two big poles on your porch, is that correct?"

MM: "Yeah, three-eighths (3/8) inch metal rods."

AB: "Really? How big?"

MM: "You mean how long?"

AB: "Yeah, umm-hmm."

MM: "Roughly four (4) feet."

AB: "Oh! That woulda made a big spark – Big Spark!"

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "And so you had the rods and you needed the transformers desperately ..."

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "You could've saved up for it, but you didn't – you made a mistake."

MM: "Yeah, I was in a hurry."

AB: "So what did you do? Did you sneak into their yard?"

MM: "You mean ah ...?"

AB: "In other words, how'd you get the transformers? You didn't hoist them off a pole, of course?"

MM: "Oh, heck no! They'd have noticed immediately they were gone then. These were just sittin' by a substation in King City."

AB: "Just sittin' there?" ...

MM: "They been sittin' there ever sincst I moved to Missouri."

AB: "You hated to see them languishing without use ...?"

MM: "Well, they were just sitting there, rusting ..."

AB: "Uh-huh."

MM: "And heck, they don't even use them. In fact, right now they just got 'em put away for safekeeping, they say."

AB: "Probably historical record."

MM: "Yeah, now."

AB: "What'd you do, take a pick-up truck – those things are heavy, aren't they?"

MM: "Yeah ... the biggest one I had weighed three hundred fifty (350) pounds."

AB: "Well, then, you must've had an accomplice?"

MM: "Yeah, a couple of 'em."

AB: "A couple of 'em?"

MM: "Yeah, I haven't talked to them ... Their court date was the same as mine, and they didn't look too happy with me."

AB: "I'm sure they weren't. ... Somehow you talked them into helping you out with this venture ..."

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "Snuck down there, no doubt late at night ..."

MM: "It was right in broad daylight."

AB: "Broad daylight!"

MM: "Yeah, at eleven (11) o'clock in the morning."

AB: "Really?"

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "Wow! And so in broad daylight you took the transformers, loaded 'em up in a pick-up truck I guess, and hauled 'em to your house?"

MM: "Yep."

AB: "I see. And you had how many of them?"

MM: "Six (6)."

AB: "Why six (6), Michael? ... I mean. Why did you feel you needed six (6)?"

MM: "Well, originally I just wanted to take a couple of 'em, but it's like a ..."

AB: "You got carried away?"

MM: "Yeah, pretty much."

AB: "I see. All right, so you got the transformers to your house and then you ... I guess hooked up the secondary ... ah, no, it would have been the primary of the transformer to the poles, correct?"

MM: "Yeah basically – I just hooked it backwards." ...

AB: "So the primary you hooked to the poles, the secondary to the power coming into your home."

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "What happened when you did that, by the way?"

MM: "Well, I didn't get to the big version of it – I didn't get to the laser part of it yet. I was gonna order that from New Jersey."

- AB: "Had you produced a large spark with it?"
- MM: "Yeah ... that's another thing too ... I was going to pick up sixty (60) feet worth of cable, so I could reinforce the cable to my house."
- AB: "You mean, actually coming in from the pole?"
- MM: "Yeah."
- AB: "What were you gonna do? Climb the pole?"
- MM: "Pretty much." (laughs).
- AB: (laughs). "Oh, Michael ..."
- MM: "'Cause I figured if I called the power company and have them reinforce the cable in the house that would like draw suspicions."
- AB: "Uh-huh. Yes it would – they would wanta know why?"
- MM: "Why I'd need a cable that carries two thousand (2000) amps instead of the usual two hundred (200)."
- AB: So nevertheless, "you hooked it up and you turned it on, didn't you?"
- MM: "Uh-huh. I hooked up the smallest one I could without like overloadin' the cable and causin' a fire."
- AB: "Yeah. What happened?"
- MM: Well, that itself "was just like a giant Jacob's ladder."
- AB: "How far apart were you able to get these poles and still produce the spark?"
- MM: "About eighteen (18) inches."
- AB: "Eighteen inches!"
- MM: "Yes. It was the smallest one I had." ...
- AB: "So when you did this, according to the newspaper, you blacked out or browned out portions of your whole town, is that correct?"

- MM: "Ah yeah, it was like overloadin' the power grid. 'Cause I was drawin' more power than I thought I was."
- AB: "Well, what got you caught? Is that what got you caught?"
- MM: "No."
- AB: "Somebody squealed on you?"
- MM: "I don't know what happened exactly, and I'll probably never know – that's in the past, and I ain't really worried about that now. But what happened was a friend of mine from my house shot a BB-gun, shot out my neighbor's sliding glass door window ... and that got the cops snoopin' around ..."
- AB: "And they just happened to see this incredible rig on your porch?"
- MM: "No, that happened ... around noon (12 pm) or one o'clock (1 pm), and they came back with a search warrant at eleven (11 pm) o'clock that night."
- AB: "So obviously, they had seen it then ... ?"
- MM: "But they'd never been in the house ..."
- AB: "Right, but they didn't have to be to see the porch, did they?"
- MM: "Well, it's like the porch was closed in and all the windows were boarded up."
- AB: "Ohh, ohh ... I see." ...
- * * *
- MM: Moved from Stanberry (Mo.) because he's heard he ruined a lot of people's television sets, and "half the town wants my head on a pole ..."
- AB: "You mean, they don't like you now?"
- MM: "This is just what I've heard. ... They have estimated I was bringing the power down to eighty (80), ninety (90) volts."
- AB: "That is damaging to electronic gear. ... So a lot of people in town with appliances that now are doorstops are probably not happy with you."
- MM: "Yeah, pretty much." Most of the time the lights would just flicker, stuff like that. "Evidently people were watching TV when I operated it – see I

operated that thing at night too.” ... When I first started operating it, it was a five thousand (5000) watt spark – it was drawing a lot more current than I thought.”

AB: “You weren’t gonna walk into the middle of that spark gap, were you?”

MM: “No.” I was gonna throw something else into it ...

AB: “Something a little bigger than a screw to disappear, maybe?”

MM: “Like maybe an orange or something like that.

And if it came out in one piece without getting’ fried or crisp ...”

AB: “Then you would have walked in ...?”

MM: “Well, there’s other things too – it’s like the Philadelphia Experiment – from what I’ve heard people were like ...”

AB: “Buried in the deck?”

MM: “Embedded in walls and stuff like that ...”

AB: “Yeah, because you can’t tell where you’re comin’ back out ...”

MM: “Yeah, because you lose your time lock (log?) ...”

AB: “Would you have eventually done it, if the orange came out okay and then maybe you tossed in a cat or something?”

MM: “Well, I wasn’t going to say that, but I figured ...”

AB: “You were going to toss a cat in?”

MM: “Well, if everything else came out all right, like totally unscathed! ...”

AB: “Then the cat would have gone in?”

MM: “Well, I’d probably try something that was alive and small, like a grasshopper or something like that ...”

AB: “That would be good.”

MM: “Yeah.”

AB: “Before the cat.”

MM: "Yeah."

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AB: "Michael, now you're a free man – out of the pokey – and ready to begin experiments I've just learned all over again. You gonna do this again, huh?"

MM: "Yep, pretty much."

AB: "Well. You don't give up easily – I'll say that for ya."

MM: "Nope, nope."

AB: "By the way, what did everybody think of you in jail? I assume you told them the story ..."

MM: "Until the media started takin' it seriously, everybody thought I was a nutcase."

AB: "You sound sane to me ..."

MM: "Yeah, pretty much."

AB: "A little on the wild side, but sane. Anyway, so what are you gonna do now?"

MM: "Ahh ..."

AB: "How are you gonna rebuild it, in other words?"

MM: "Right now, I'm basically saving my money to do what I originally set out to do – buy 'em."

AB: "You gonna buy the transformers?"

MM: "Yep."

AB: "What would be the legality of your using them if you bought them? Would that be perfectly legal?"

MM: "Should be. I mean, if I were to take 'em apart, there might be EPA violations, but as long as I don't do anything like that ..."

AB: "You mentioned you lost your job. How did your employer think you polluted his workplace with PCBs? You had not taken these apart, right?"

MM: "Well, one of 'em I couldn't use, and I figured I didn't want to take it back or like get caught takin' it back, so I figured I might as well strip the copper out of it, and sell the copper."

AB: "So you took it apart?"

MM: "Ah, yeah. ... I was like takin' the oil and puttin' it in a plastic wastebasket ... it weighs like on hundred fifty (150) pounds and I was like the only one doin' it, and my fingers slipped. ... I ended up dumping ten gallons of oil all over the back porch."

AB: "Oops."

MM: "Yeah. Anyway, I ended up getting' it all over me too ... Anyway the shoes I was wearin' at the time are also the shoes I wear to work, and he thought I tracked [PCBs] into his plant."

AB: "I see. So that was the end of your job?"

MM: "Well, he didn't really say that, but I have that feeling."

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AB: "Has the EPA knocked on your door yet, Michael?"

MM: No. It turned out that the transformer I took apart was too old for PCBs. "It turned out to be plain old crude oil."

AB: "Ohh, I'm sure you were personally relieved a little about that."

MM: "Last time that transformer was even checked was 1924, so ..."

AB: "I see! ..." When you try it again, "are you going to do it on the big scale, the way you did it last time?"

MM: "Yeah, pretty much."

AB: "Gonna be on your back porch?"

MM: "I'm livin' in a third floor apartment right now."

AB: "Ohhh ..."

MM: I'll probably move before I do that.

AB: "That might be good ..."

MM: "Yeah."

AB: "That might be good. That might not go well in an apartment."

MM: "Plus the power going to my apartment is only ten thousand (10,000) watts, so if I draw more than that, I'll overload the transformer and blow it."

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AB: "A theoretical question for you: Let's say you produced a time machine and you managed to go either forward or reverse in time, what would you use it for?"

MM: "The time machine?"

AB: "Uh-huh."

MM: "Heck, the possibilities are endless."

AB: (laughs). "Yeah, I guess they are ... I guess I'm asking Michael, would you use it to make money?"

MM: "That'd be one of the things I'd do. That wouldn't be the only thing I'd do."

I don't know when they're going to have a vaccine for AIDS ...

AB: "But you might try to bring one back?"

MM: "Right."

AB: "Good answer."

MM: "Yeah."

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Aud: "This has got to be the lamest thing I've ever heard in my life!"

AB: "You don't believe it?"

Aud: "It's basically let's teach someone to make an atomic bomb, what have you ..."

AB: "What do you think about that, Michael? ... Would you build an atomic bomb, if you could?"

MM: "No, I doubt it."

AB: “See, he wouldn’t go for an atomic bomb. He’s talking about time travel. Now what’s so bad about that? ... I mean, do you think it’s dangerous or what?”

Aud: “I think it’s very dangerous as far as ...”

AB: “Are you worried that someone’s going to try this at home?”

Aud: “Of course, of course, there’s idiots out there ... !”

AB: “But I could interview somebody who walked off a cliff. Do you think that my listeners would walk off a cliff?”

Aud: “I really doubt that you would have a guest on there who would try to walk off a cliff. ... I am totally blown away that you would have a guest on like you’ve got on tonight.”

AB: “The question is ‘why’?”

Aud: “Basically there are adults out there who have a childlike mind who will be ignorant enough to try this kind of at home.”

AB: “All right, thank you. ... Tell them, Michael – say ‘Don’t try this at home.’”

MM: “Don’t try this at home.”

AB: “Thank you, Michael.”

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AB: “Good morning! I have a guest, and his name is Michael Marcum. Affectionately we’ll call him ‘Mad Man’ Marcum. He’s in Missouri.” ... Newspaper story: “*Kansas City Man Tries To Build Time Machine On Porch*. ... He built a small – it wasn’t supposed to be a time machine to begin with, it was just supposed to produce an arc and be cool (!) ... His small model which he used a laser from a CD to cause the spark to begin to move up from a Jacob’s Ladder ... When he got it all going, he noticed a very strange sort of shimmering effect above the arc, and he threw a screw into it – common screw – and the screw disappeared! Now we’re into something else (!) So our hero, Michael went over to the power company and appropriated – stole – six (6) transformers, which he then hooked up to his line at home and made the giant model on his back porch, using gigantic poles – about four (4) feet high. He got himself a big Jacob’s ladder. He also ruined a number of appliances, browned out most of the town that he live[d] in, and that, of course, is where the police

entered the picture and appropriated Michael's transformers. He lost his job, went to jail ... he's recently out. I somehow found him yesterday ...

Aud: "All my life I've been reading books and collections of unsolved mysteries and events, including a story I've come across several times about "archaeologists discovering a perfectly machined, completely modern sheet metal screw. This screw was embedded in a piece of quartz that is at least ten million (10,000,000) years old. This has always been a totally unexplainable unsolved mystery until tonite (!)"

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Aud: If time travel is possible, because the earth, solar system, and universe are traveling thousands of miles per hour ... If Michael's screws traveled through time, they'd be far from here in space.

AB: "Michael, did anybody analyze the bolt [screw]?"

MM: "No. Just by lookin' at it – it weighed the same, it looked the same, it looks exactly the way it did before I threw it in."

AB: "So the [screw] literally disappeared from view? When you threw it in and it went into the field, Michael, it disappeared – in other words, when it came back, it was still suspended in air and did it drop down or what?"

MM: "Well, ... this thing was like sittin' on a table ... Normally when you like throw something, it'll like fall like a parabola and land ..."

AB: "That's right."

MM: "I didn't see it like go through the air – I just saw it appear on the table."

AB: "Wow! So in other words, you threw it and in mid-air it literally disappeared, and when you next saw it, it was layin' on the table?"

MM: "Yeah, I did that three (3) times, 'cause I figured, well maybe I mighta missed seein' it go through the air ..."

AB: "And the third time you did it, I take it that's when your laser blew up."

MM: "Yeah." ...

Marcum's arresting officer call the program:

Aud: "Hi, this is Stanberry, Missouri – the arresting officer."

MM: "Tom Hanson!"

Aud: "Hi Mike, how you doin', boy?"

MM: "Hey, you still got my diary, don't ya?"

Aud: "You bet, it's there on my desk."

AB: "You are the arresting officer?"

Aud: "Yes, sir!"

AB: "Well, I'll be darned!"

MM: "Wow!"

AB: "It's great to meet you. I don't know if it's great for Michael ... are you guys friends?"

Aud: "Well, are we friends, Mike?"

MM: "Ehh ..."

Aud: "Yeah, sorta."

AB: (laughs). "Maybe officer you can give us all this from your perspective ... What did you find when you arrived at Michael's house?"

Aud: "Well, we knocked on the door – there was eight (8) of us ..."

AB: "Eight (8) of you?"

Aud: "Yes."

AB: "You got a search warrant?"

Aud: "Yes, sir."

AB: "Obviously because you suspected something was going on. What was the basis of the warrant?"

Aud: "We had received information that Michael had these transformers in his residence, and they had been stolen." ...

AB: "What did you find?"

Aud: "We found Michael asleep. Sorry we had to wake him ... that we found the transformer he'd made into a piggyback in the ... dining room. On the back porch was the transformer he'd used to make into his 'Jacob's ladder.' And then there were four (4) more transformers in a secondary bedroom."

AB: "Uh-huh! Well then, Michael went to the pokey, I presume."

Aud: "Yes." ...

AB: "Well, this is quite an incredible story. Did you think you were dealing with a madman or what?"

Aud: "I had met Mike [before] on the second day he came into the state on another search warrant deal."

AB: "I see ..."

Aud: "We talked to him just a little bit that day. He appeared to be an intelligent person. What I considered to be above-average intelligence on some things."

AB: "He says he's not particularly welcome in that town now. That a number of people feel their appliances may have gone belly up because of his experiments."

Aud: "Well I haven't personally had any comments of that nature." He did not brown-out a majority of the town – (he was not accurate in your earlier conversation) – it was only approximately two (2) blocks that were 'browned out.'

AB: "Had this been occurring frequently?"

Aud: "No, it actually hadn't ... He moved his experiment to later at night when people wouldn't notice it."

AB: "Ah-hah. A wise decision. ... Well, this is quite a story, officer. Are you suggesting that Michael should not proceed to try this again?"

Aud: "I personally wouldn't, because of all the hazards involved. Electricity is a very dangerous toy."

AB: "Indeed."

Aud: "And just one slip, and it's your last slip. I wouldn't do it ... But I did like his electric cigarette lighter he had – you might have him explain that to you ..."

AB: "His electrical cigarette lighter?"

Aud: "Yes ..."

MM: "The one I made out of the microwave?"

Aud: "Yeah."

AB: "Officer, thank you."

Aud: "Thank you."

AB: "We appreciate you calling ... the arresting officer in the case, wow!"

* * *

AB: "What about your electrical cigarette lighter, what's this?"

MM: "Heck, I still got it now ... Basically I turned my microwave – it's still a microwave – but I made a cigarette lighter out of it too!"

AB: "Out of what?"

MM: "My microwave."

AB: "Your microwave oven?"

MM: "Yeah. There's a transformer inside there ..."

AB: "You like transformers don't you, Michael?"

MM: "Yeah, it's kinda like ... I guess you'd call it a hobby. ... Heck, I've been interested in those things since I was twelve (12) or thirteen (13)."

* * *

AB: "You know there were physicists in this article who commented that you were actually more or less on the right track. ... Even though they didn't think you should be doing it, they more or less endorsed the direction you were going in with regard to time travel."

MM: "Yeah ..."

AB: I know they're trying to tell you not to do it, but ...

- MM: "They're afraid I'm going to turn myself into fried bacon ..."
- AB: "Well, of course – and you may ... !"
- MM: "Yeah."
- AB: "I mean, there is that risk, isn't there?"
- MM: "Yeah. 'Cause with the high voltage – you don't have to touch it – you just get too close to it and you're a goner."
- AB: "You get in the corona and that's all she wrote!"
- MM: "Yep!"
- AB: "And that's what you were talking about doing, ultimately: Getting in that corona!"
- MM: "Yeah."
- * * *
- Aud: "He's asking two of my favorite questions of all time: 'What if we try this?' and also 'Why not?'" ...
- AB: "I really do understand his investigative, curious mind. I'm much the same way."
- Aud: "Anything's possible unless it's been physically proven not to be possible." ... I hope you take down and leave (preserve) very good notes, so someone can pick up where you left off in case you send yourself into the wild, blue yonder. And don't let a big company or anyone move in and take control of your project." ...
- MM: "That's what I'm worried about right now." ...
- Aud: "What about a digital stopwatch – measuring at least to the hundredths (.01) of a second ... How about chuckin' that through?"
- AB: "Oh, there's an interesting idea! ... A stop watch ... through [time]."
- MM: "Without the electronics gettin' destroyed ..."
- AB: "But even if it's mechanical ... if you could get one through, it might provide you with an idea of whether it actually went through a time distortion."

MM: "Yeah, get two of 'em ... Throw one of 'em in, and set them for the exact time."

AB: "That's good, Michael. Very good."

* * *

AB: "Michael, were you surprised to hear from your arresting officer?"

MM: "Yeah. Very."

AB: "Me too."

* * *

Aud: "I would like to say that your guest is probably just a little bit nuts. He's probably as nutty as I am. ... Where did he come up with this idea that he would use 'high voltage'?" ...

MM: "You mean for the time deal?"

AB: "Yeah, um-hmph."

MM: "Well, like I said before, I didn't set out to build a time machine." ...

AB: "You were simply trying to build a 'Jacob's ladder' ..."

MM: "Yeah ... somethin' fancy to watch ..."

AB: "Just to see the spark go up ... and an unexpected effect occurred. Things happen! ... In the case of Michael's equipment, the screw disappeared and then reappeared."

* * *

AB: "How do you feel about the possibility, Michael, of somebody coming along, and being your mentor – even more than this – and contributing money to build a great big gigantic version?" ...

MM: "That'd be great! That'd be like a dream come true!"

AB: "Set up a lab somewhere and go for the really high voltage and really big current ..."

* * *

Aud: "What makes you think it's a time machine and not sort of like *Star Trek* beaming from one point to another?" ...

MM: “Pretty much ... I had to go by what I saw ... could be several things – coulda went through time, could a been like The Philadelphia Experiment, made it invisible or something like that. I’m not certain what it is ...”

AB: “I’ll say this ... Who cares what people say? Is that your attitude?”

MM: “Yeah, pretty much. Everybody’s got their opinion.”

AB: “Yeah, they sure do.”

* * *

Aud: “Which direction in time [might he] be going, [and] how could he be sure that he could get back?”

AB: “That’s an interesting question, although the screw came back ...

I’m curious, Michael: Would you have stepped in yourself if it got to that point, or would you look for a volunteer?”

MM: “Well, if I looked for a volunteer and he didn’t make it back that’d make me guilty of murder. I’ve already had like sixty (60) days in jail and that was plenty enough for me.”

AB: “So you wouldn’t want to be on trial like OJ?”

MM: “No!”

AB: “Course they wouldn’t have a body ...”

MM: “Yeah, that’s true, but ...”

AB: “So you would’ve done it yourself then?”

MM: “Yeah. ... even if I wudn’t [sic] legally found guilty of anything, I still wouldn’t like anybody to do that ...”

AB: “That’s a good point.”

Aud: “Did he have any Tesla research information before he started all this?”

AB: “Had you looked into Tesla at all, Michael?”

MM: “Yeah, yeah, science in general ... I guess like you’d call that my hobby. ... I read all sorts of books ... let’s see, I’ve read Tesla ... right now I’m reading ... about the string theory of the universe.”

Aud: "How about the Philadelphia Experiment – you checked that one out too?"

MM: "It's like real hard to find information about that in the library ..." I went to a conference just a few days ago "and found information on that and the Montawk Project, [which] is a spin-off of the Philadelphia Experiment."

* * *

AB: "Did you have an original design of some kind, Michael?"

MM: "For a Jacob's ladder?"

AB: "Yes. Uh-huh, yes ..."

MM: "... Just to make a Jacob's ladder's pretty simple ..."

AB: "So it was the scale of the thing?"

MM: "Yeah."

* * *

Aud: "Hey, he's really on the ball there!" ...

AB: "Well, he's either that or, according to a young lady who called, he's like a terrorist, and we're like helping him out, spreading the information."

Aud: "I admire him! ..."

MM: "That one was like, I guess, I wrote the 'Anarchist's Cookbook' or something."

AB: (laughing) "Yeah, that's exactly right – the 'Anarchist's Cookbook'!"

* * *

Aud: "What was your education?"

MM: About two (2) years ago ... I was like majoring in electrical engineering ... I like graduated [from high school] when I was seventeen (17)."

* * *

Aud: "Mike, are you going to be publishing?" ...

MM: "Writin' a book?"

Aud: "Or some sort of technical manual or something like that – well, theory manual?" ...

MM: “Heck I mean, there’s all sorts of books out there ... I don’t know, that like remains to be seen.”

AB: “Maybe – if on a larger scale – you get to try the experiment ...”

MM: “If I get this thing, and like it actually works – I can write a book, make a movie, and do all kinds of stuff then.”

AB: You can tell us of it was a ‘lone gunman’ or not [at JFK’s assassination].

MM: “I’d like to go back and see who really killed Nicole Simpson ...”

AB: “Well, I guess that would be a laudable use of it, and maybe we could cut this whole damn trial thing short, Michael.”

MM: “Yeah, that’s what I’m sayin’ ...”

* * *

Aud: It’s just so refreshing to hear about “someone who is either truly on the cutting edge or yet again, another deranged madman. I frankly don’t care if he is. It’s just so nice to hear the tale of somebody’s courage, following their intuition, and going for their dream! ...”

AB: “You’re not a ‘deranged madman’ are ya, Michael?”

MM: “Naw ...”

AB: “How would you describe yourself?”

MM: “Other than my strange experiment, basically just like anybody else ...”

AB: “Well, I don’t know about ‘just like anybody else’ ...”

MM: “Well, that’s the way I see myself ...”

AB: “To you, you’re normal?”

MM: “Yeah, yeah.”

AB: “Michael, are you taking notes? I mean, are there any notes, so that if you stepped into the gap and are turned into a French fry, that people could read and see where you went wrong, maybe?”

MM: “Not writin’ down every little thing, but keepin’ a general idea down.”

AB: "Is there a way you can protect the local area of the power grid next time you do this, Michael?"

MM: "Well, have the power company put a bigger transformer on the pole – that way I won't overload it."

AB: "That's an idea."

Aud: Do you have "great knowledge of time travel?"

MM: "General idea ... but right now it's the same thing as UFOs and stuff like that."

Aud: "I just want to let you know that there's nothing but a bunch of wackos out here that listen to Art Bell all the time, and we really appreciate a guy like you!"

AB: (laughs). "Do me some more favors, sir!"

* * *

AB: "Michael, on the serious side, I admire you on a lot of levels, I really do. Not the stealing of the transformers, but what you're doing and trying to do. I really appreciate your coming on the program."

* * *