

# A FIELD GUIDE TO DOWSING

BY

GORDON MACLEAN



How To Practice The Ancient Art Today

Price \$2.50



### DOWSING 1556

Reproduced from *De Re Metalica* by G. Agricola, 1556

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"I consider DOWSING by Gordon MacLean the best practical book on dowsing ever published." Dwain Gordon

"This book has our warm support . . . basic introduction to a fascinating field."

Norman E. Leighton  
President, The American Society of Dowsters, Inc.

## Code Of Ethics Of The American Society Of Dowsters, Inc.

Founded in 1961, the American Society of Dowsters, Inc. has more than doubled its membership in recent years and continues to grow as knowledge of the art expands and is exchanged. The Society expects its members to comply with the following rules:

... They shall be guided in all their relations by the highest standards of personal integrity.

... They shall uphold before the public at all times the dignity and the reputation of the Society.

... They shall avoid and discourage sensationalism, exaggeration, undignified and unwarranted statements, or misleading advertisements.

... They shall refuse to undertake, if compensation for such work is involved, work which may be of questionable value or result without first advising as to the probability of success.

... They shall not use their membership in this Society as evidence of qualification as a dowster or as a measure of ability or proficiency.

... They shall not exhibit or use the name of this Society on any letterhead or stationery, nor on any personal or business cards, nor in any advertising of a personal, business, or professional nature.

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**Manufactured in** the United States of America by The Cowles Press, Inc., St. Johnsbury, Vt. 05819.

**Published by** The American Society of Dowsters, Inc., Danville, Vermont 05828.



## A Message From The President Of The American Society Of Dowsters, Inc.

The objectives of this primer are two, namely:

To promote the art of dowsing, particularly among the young.

To expand and encourage the interchange of knowledge among dowsters.

Veteran Gordon MacLean is eminently qualified to compile this collection of practices. He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and past president of the American Society of Dowsters (ASD), of which he continues as a trustee.

His original book on the subject was published in 1971, but so much has been learned and documented about dowsing in the last five years that an updating is vital to a modern understanding of the ancient art.

The book has our warm support, although the ASD, following its usual custom, neither approves nor disapproves methods, theories, and practices as these vary and are specific to the individual dowster. However, we hope this basic introduction to the fascinating field will encourage the reader to join the ASD because there is so much more to dowsing than can be enclosed in the covers of any book. Our members, many of them professional men—doctors, engineers, scientists, lawyers, men of the cloth—meet in local chapters and in national convention to exchange experiences and learn from one another. At the moment, there are twelve active chapters in the U. S., with more being formed. You may find one within your reach.\* Remember, dowsing is an ongoing art, and the interplay of ideas fosters development. I can promise help, guidance, and the camaraderie of common interest to anyone newly joined.

Norman E. Leighton  
President, American Society of Dowsters, Inc.

\*See inside of back cover for listing.

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# Chapter I

## YOU CAN DO IT

Webster's Dictionary defines dowsing as "to search for a source of water or minerals with a divining rod" and attributes the word to Cornwall, England, where they've been locating tin since the time of the Phoenicians. The definition needs to be brought up to date and expanded, for in recent years dowsing has come to be regarded as the one form of Extrasensory Perception (ESP) that has proven itself beyond doubt.

No one knows how dowsing works, only that it does and that **YOU CAN DO IT**. This primer is written for you who wish to start in the fascinating field as well as those who cannot attend local chapter meetings or the annual convention of the American Society of Dowsers (ASD) held in Danville, Vermont each fall. Although the book is elementary, there are few who will not be able to get something out of it to increase competence and broaden their scope.

The basis of dowsing lies in mentally **ASKING QUESTIONS OF YOURSELF**, sometimes called "asking the rods." However, this term is misleading and, if expressed to someone unfamiliar with dowsing, is liable to get you labeled "kook." Everyone has a hunch occasionally and cannot explain why; **asking questions of yourself** falls into the same category. There is a subconscious source of information available to all of us, a psychic phenomenon more clearly demonstrated by dowsing than by any other. The art has been neglected as a fertile field for ESP investigation, but times change, and recognition of dowsing as the easiest way for most people to discover and demonstrate ESP in themselves is gradually being accepted.

The "divining" rods are the physical tools which, by their movements, give answers to your mental questions. Their varied motions and how they should be held are detailed in the next chapter.

The rods offer admission to a wonderful field which may turn out to be a hobby or a serious subject for investigation. It could even become a livelihood if you take the trouble to get the necessary experience and are willing to learn from others. Practice and thorough checks of your dowsing indications are essential to development.

Test the different dowsing implements described herein to see which type suits you best. Learn all you can about interpreting its

action and how best to use it. When you feel that you have mastered your first choice, then branch out to the others, for each has specific values.

If you have not already done so, join the ASD to get the most out of this dynamic field. Members receive advice through the mail, by personal coaching, or from **The American Dowser**, the Society's quarterly digest, loaded with dowsing news from all over the world. The membership fee includes a subscription to this publication, which will put you in touch with many practitioners willing to help you gain skill. They gladly share their methods and experiences in print, at local chapter meetings, and at the national convention, where their cooperation has produced remarkable increases in the ability of all who attend. In 1975, participants at Danville numbered over 700.

Dowsing has been practiced since prehistoric times. A painting of a dowser in action, found on the wall of an African cave, was determined by the Carbon 14 method to be 8000 years old. Later, the Phoenicians almost certainly used rods to locate tin in Cornwall; in Germany, Italy, and England, the 16th century saw dowsing used to uncover ore deposits; dowsers were brought over from Saxony to locate pockets of tin in Wales.

The precise cause of the dowsing reaction is no better understood today than it was in ancient times, but one interesting fact has recently come to light. Apparently the younger the beginner, the greater the chance of getting the reaction and the easier it is to become expert. Children of five are almost 100 percent sensitive and so easy to train that we could bring up a generation of expert dowsers to meet, among other needs, the predicted shortage of good potable water, although water location is only one of the many potentialities of dowsing; those who take the trouble to develop their skill can use it in many aspects of modern life.

The day may even come when physicians will recognize the value of dowsing in the diagnosis of disease, thus allowing us to catch up with some parts of Europe in this respect.

As you progress, it would be of inestimable value if you would report your applications, methods, and results, successful or otherwise, to me.

Gordon MacLean  
30 Day Street  
South Portland, ME 04106

I will see that your findings are laid before the 1700 members of the Society.

## Chapter II

### THE INDICATORS OR PHYSICAL AIDS

Just as painters vary in the methods or mediums they use to put their creations on canvas or other surfaces, so the dowser has different tools from which to choose the one or ones best suited to him.

Two instructions, however, are common to them all.

Always decide precisely what you seek and ask for it in unmistakable terms.

Concentrate. If you allow your mind to wander, it will become clouded with the extraneous, the so-called "monkey thoughts" that will defeat your purpose.

Whatever you use is merely an indicator to convey the information you seek. The implement should be suited to your personality and, for this reason, you should test out the different ones to find which works best for you.

There are five indicators in general use today. Having found the one that suits you best and gives you the most consistent results, then study its action and how to interpret it. Specifically, learn how to hold the implement so that it is willing to respond to a dowsing zone or indicate the answers to questions. The angle rods and the pendulum are the easiest for beginners, but the Y rod is the most versatile. Plan to master this even though you start with another type.

Sensitivity varies widely from person to person, and those in whom it is high progress rapidly and find that most instruments work for them. These are the fortunate who graduate to the many finer points of dowsing and can soon be classed with the experts. But like them, they must constantly check their results for accuracy.

Even if, initially, you get only the slightest response from the rods, with practice you can develop to the point where you will get full reaction, and your interest in life will expand accordingly.



## THE Y ROD

The Y rod is the dowsing indicator of prehistoric times, the instrument found on the wall of that African cave, painted there 8000 years before archeological discovery. The illustration on the back cover, taken from a book printed in A. D. 1556, shows this rod at work in the location of ore; it is said to have been responsible for the location, on the Atlantic coast alone, of at least 200,000 wells, many dating from colonial times. The original Y rods were cut from nut or fruit trees chosen for their flexibility. They usually had a butt about 4 inches long and two easy-to-bend arms 18 to 24 inches in length. Many oldtime dowsers believed that they had to have a rod cut from a certain kind of tree and, convinced of this, couldn't dowse with anything else.

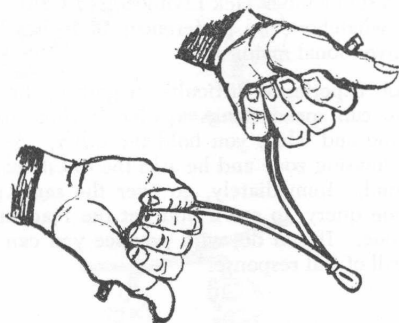
A disadvantage of the natural wood rods is that they can be rough on the hands, often resulting in blisters, and today we have found that one can dowse with anything that works—a hairpin, a grass stalk, whatever can be fashioned into the Y shape. The favored modern Y rod is made of two  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch nylon tubes 10 to 24 inches long, tightly joined at one end to form a V.

If you have difficulty getting the dowsing reaction with such a rod, one similarly made from two lengths of  $\frac{1}{8}$ x36 inch wood dowels may be more successful for you. Others have found 12-inch glass-reinforced plastic rods best for their initial efforts.

The way you hold the Y rod is particularly important since your grip must be such that the indicator can respond to your questions. In this country, the tip of the rod usually moves downward away from you for a "yes" answer, but in Britain many dowzers hold the rod so that it moves inward toward the holder to give the dowsing reaction. Absence of movement of course means "no."

The ends of the rod are held palms up, the backs of the hands to the ground. Almost invariably, when natural wood or the long  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch nylon rod is used, the ends are held between thumb and palm, the fingers wrapped tightly around with the point of the Y aimed either up or away from the dowser. (See illustration.)

This method has come down through the ages and can be called the conventional hold. From this grip a number of variations have developed, dictated by the stiffness of the particular instrument, the strength of the dowser, the shape of his hands, and the length of the rod. Many good practitioners put the balls of their thumbs against the ends and then grip the rods. The dowser who introduced the thin glass-reinforced rod uses the conventional hold, although his instrument is only 12 inches long. Others put the ends of this short version between the third and little fingers, thereby narrowing the hand, which they find gives them better control. Dry skin dictates this hold.



**The short Y rod in the narrow hold for better control.**

ASD member Henry Gross recommends starting with a long, very flexible Y rod held conventionally but with the hands close together at the hair level, the rod pointed straight up. He claims that this is the most sensitive stance; it has worked well for many who had trouble getting started with the conventional hold.

Some people parallel the ends along the thumbs. This gives a firm grip but, with its extreme curves, puts an extra strain on the rod, which may break prematurely.

It is most important to hold the Y rod so it can snap up or down with the slightest motion. It's like the toggle point of an electric light switch, which jumps away from the finger when the midpoint is passed. Position the hands barely above this snap-down toggle point, and you are set. Don't make the common mistake of holding the Y rod so tightly that a 5-pound weight hung on the tip couldn't bring it down. Practice your hold, trying for the proper response over water veins or pipes, and don't be discouraged if you don't get the dowsing reaction at the first trial. Your hold may be too tight; loosen it, for sometimes better results are obtained by a less firmly clenched grip. Try each method to find which works best for you.

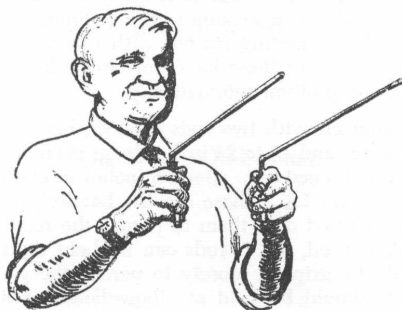
One of the most sensitive holds is with the balls of the thumbs placed on the rod ends in the otherwise conventional hold. This works best with glass-reinforced plastic or long rods. In the case of a few, the tip may swing in to the body; this is exceptional here although, as already mentioned, common in Britain.

Over there, they frequently fabricate Y rods from the whalebones of an old-fashioned corset, holding the ends between forefingers and thumbs, palms up as usual. We haven't seen these in the U. S., but ASD member Jack Livingston of California once used round  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch whalebone by preference; 18 inches long, this was held in the conventional manner.

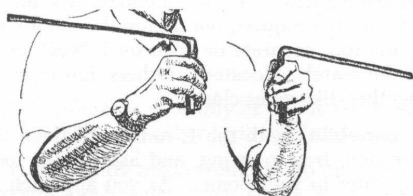
Should you experience difficulty in getting the reaction with the Y rod, you can speed things up by having an experienced dowser hold one end while you hold the other. As you walk together over a dowsing zone and he asks the questions, you will feel the rods respond. Immediately, go over the same ground alone, posing the same query, to see if you get the reaction by yourself, even a slight one. If you do, with practice you can develop until you get the thrill of full response.



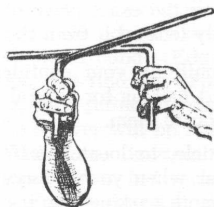
## THE L OR ANGLE RODS



L rods in approach, search position.



A positive answer.



Crossed rods, too, signify a positive answer for some.

## THE L OR ANGLE RODS

The preceding pages went thoroughly into the hold of the Y rod, the one most familiar-looking to the beginner. However, many have more difficulty getting started with this indicator than with the L or angle rods, for these have only to be held parallel to the ground to fall into position automatically.

Provide yourself with two rods of steel, brass, or copper 3/16 inches in diameter and 18 to 24 inches long; even coat hangers will work when straightened out. Bend 6 inches of one end of each at right angles to form Ls. These are the handles, and loose-fitting tubing can be slipped over them to permit the rods to swing freely. If tubing is used, the L rods can be held tightly; if not, the handles should be gripped loosely to permit the greatest sensitivity. The rods should be held at elbow height, pointing straight ahead, parallel to the ground and your body width apart. Do not press the elbows into the sides. Relax!

Angle rods are used all over the world to locate buried pipes, conduits, telephone lines, culverts, water veins, etc. As with all indicators, in using them you must mentally ask for exactly what you want and hold the request, not letting the mind wander. With most people, the rods separate or open for a "yes" answer or when the object of the search is located. Others, however, find that the rods come together, like gates closing.

To test your ability with the L rods, hold them before you in the search position, free to swing, and ask for the location of the pipe bringing water to your home. As you approach this position, the rods should start to respond but will not form a straight line until they are directly over the pipe. Check your findings on the inside of the house. Practice by locating the other pipes which enter the house, tracing each entry point inside, to verify your accuracy. As pipes frequently run along the retaining wall or foundation, be sure you have the exact place of entry so that you will know you have correctly located it from the outside.

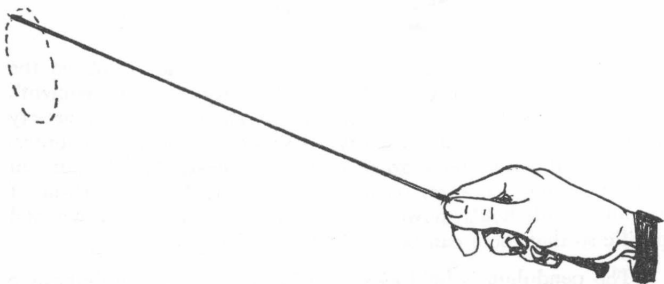
When you have built up your confidence by dowsing pipes accurately, you can start looking for natural veins of flowing water, sure of your ability to locate them.

To find a lost article, to locate north when roaming in the woods, to find your car when you've forgotten where you left it in one of today's mammoth parking lots, use a single L rod. Hold it straight in front of you and pivot slowly around as you ask your question. When the rod is on target, it will stay behind you as you turn and keep pointing in the correct direction. If it's a missing object you seek, repeat this from another location; the article

sought should be where the two directions of the L rods cross. The Y rod can, of course, be used for the same purposes.

As with all dowsing, practice is essential in such everyday applications.

### THE WAND OR BOBBER



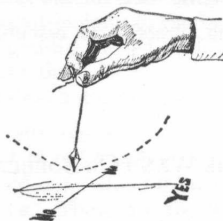
The wand or bobber is probably as old as the Y rod, since it is mentioned in the Bible and other writings from long ago.

Today it is frequently made from the tip of a glass fishing rod of the lightweight fresh-water type, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and extremely flexible. It can also be made from  $3/16$ -inch dowel weighted on one end so it can "bob" about 120 times a minute, a good speed for counting.

To locate a vein of water with the wand, hold the thin end between thumb and forefinger and point the bobber forward. On approaching a vein, the end will begin to droop and, when directly over the vein, will touch the ground. Edges of the vein can be found by asking for them. To find the depth, bob the wand and count by tens, then fives, then refine the count to ones to get the exact figure in feet. The answer will be indicated by a change in the bobbing motion. With some dowsers, the end of the wand starts to circle at the proper count, but each must experiment and arrive at his own signal. For the counting, the wand is held firmly in one hand.

Don't expect to be an expert on the wand at the first trial. It may take time to become familiar with your particular wand's actions so that you can become confident of your results.

## THE PENDULUM



The pendulum consists of a weight like a plumb bob on the end of a string or light chain, but the diversity of the instrument's uses contradicts its simplicity. Because it allows a greater variety of motions—fore and aft, sideways, diagonally, clockwise, counterclockwise—it can be made to answer many questions. With it you set up your own code for what each action signifies. The rule of precaution still holds, however; the questions must be exact and specific so that there can be no doubt of what you mean.

The pendulum is held as shown in the sketch. To determine its proper length for you, put an elbow on a table with the string held short, then start swaying the pendulum from side to side, gradually lengthening the twine until the ball circles actively. This is called "gyration" and, as a guide to future use, the string should be knotted at the point where active motion is achieved. Hold the string at the knot and ask the pendulum to swing back and forth. Call this a "yes" answer. Ask it to swing sideways, and it will; call this a "no." Ask it to gyrate counterclockwise and, when it does, set up your own code for the motion, such as "don't know" or "uncertain." Next, ask for a clockwise rotation and set a code for this action also, such as "probably" or "you're on the right track." As you gain experience, you can set up different meanings for diagonal motions, for the virtue of this instrument is its versatility.

French experts claim that the pendulum can be rendered sensitive to any substance you seek by adjusting the string length over a sample or "witness" of the missing object until you get a strong clockwise gyration. For example, determine the right length to identify a sample of real silver. As if magnetized, the pendulum will then select one silver coin from a handful of baser metals spread on a table and covered with newspaper, if you have practiced sufficiently.

You can test the wholesomeness of food with the pendulum. First, allow the ball to gyrate clockwise over the comestible, then, with it still rotating, put your other hand between ball and food.

If gyration continues, the food is suitable. If it changes motion or stops, the questioned item may be bad for you.

In Switzerland, the Abbé Mermet had a very special pendulum made and patented. Essentially a hollow plumb bob, it could be unscrewed and a sample or "witness" of the sought article inserted. A pill bottle with a string through the cap can serve as a Mermet pendulum to contain a witness. A simpler method, however, is to hold a sample of what you seek in the other hand.

Ask any questions requiring a "yes" or "no" answer, but don't risk too much on the response until many checks have been made.

These instructions should give you enough guidance to start with the pendulum. Your imagination will carry you forward as you gain skill and confidence. In this primer, only the barest outline of uses can be given; for development, you will find much has been written about the pendulum's applications. (See "Books and Supplies" in end papers.)

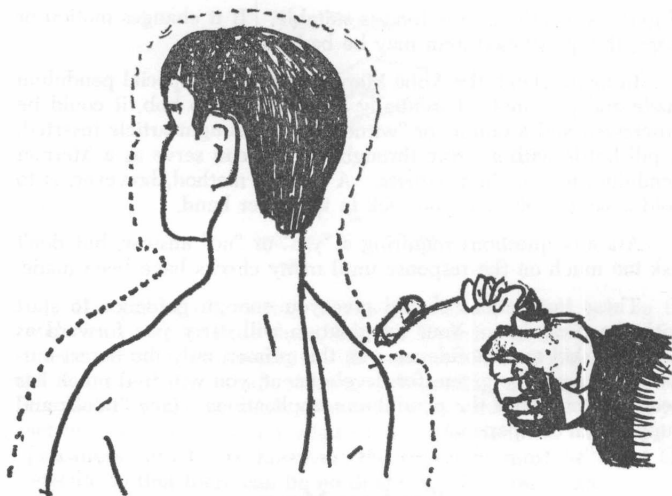
## THE AURA-METER

The Aura-Meter is an ultrasophisticated indicator developed by the late Reverend Verne L. Cameron of California. It is all metal and consists of a handle with a coil of piano wire extending forward to end in a hinged, weighted pointer. Inside the handle is a clever spring arrangement that allows the extension to swing sideways to answer questions.

The handle is grasped with the palm down and the pointer emerging between the ball of the thumb and the second joint of the forefinger. This grip prevents the wire from swinging further than is necessary, for only the slightest motion is needed.

In dowsing for water, the instrument is held across the body at elbow level as you walk forward, mentally asking for a vein of flowing water. As you approach one, the pointer will swing forward, down when you are over it, and backward after you have crossed the vein.

Cameron found countless uses for his invention, arrived at after experimenting with many designs. As its name suggests, with it he could delineate the human aura, said to be the origin of the glowing halo pictured around the heads of saints. As he became expert, Cameron even demonstrated that he could find and outline other people's thought forms. This does not mean that anyone can duplicate such a performance as soon as he holds the Aura-Meter, but it does show the possibilities, and practice may bring some astonishing results.



The Aura-Meter can delineate the human aura. Where it penetrates, as above, may indicate an old injury, organic trouble, or potential trouble.

If you wish to try your hand at tracing the aura, proceed as follows. Face the subject and stand about 2 feet from him. Ask for the limit of the inner aura and bring the Aura-Meter toward the subject, pointer forward. As the pointer nears the body, it should reach an area where it is repelled and will not come any closer, having reached the inner aura. To determine the other side, have the subject about-face, you wielding the Aura-Meter with the same hand as before.

A single angle rod can be used for the same purpose.

Injuries can be detected by what may be called "holes" in the aura, areas where the pointer of the Aura-Meter is not repelled but touches the body. Areas of old injuries, areas of organic trouble, even spots of potential trouble can be found.

Not much dowsing sensitivity is necessary to get these reactions, but the interpretation requires a higher degree of skill or practice. The ASD's former president, the late John G. Shelley, Jr., was particularly gifted in the use of the Aura-Meter. At one meeting, a doctor asked to be scanned. Shelley told him he had a leaky valve in his left ventricle, whereupon the doctor turned to the assembly and said, "This man is one hundred percent right. Where can I get one of those silly things?"

## Chapter III

### MANY WAYS OF DOWSING

To the beginner, the location of water sources is probably the easiest practice to understand. As a result, it is the example used most in this "how to" primer, although the basic rules apply to all dowsing endeavors.

To uncover a water vein, you must

**Decide exactly what you're looking for and ask for it in unmistakable terms.**

If you seek water for a home, you need to find out how far underground it is; the quantity flowing, even in a drought; the quality; and whether it is most suitable for your purpose. This is called "selectivity" and is important because without it you cannot interpret the value of the reactions. Merely ask for water, and you're likely to get a "yes" response from the rods if you're standing above a water pipe or a puddle.

You must ask for a vein of flowing water and, when you locate it, pose other definitive questions which will determine whether you have found a suitable source. Standing over the vein, first ascertain the depth. Ask, "Is this vein more than 50 feet down?" If the rods respond, meaning "yes," ask, "More than 60 feet?" If there is no response, i. e. that it is more than 50 feet but less than 60 feet, proceed to questions of precise footage. "Is it more than 59 feet down? 58 feet? 57 feet?" "Yes." You now have the indication that it is between 57 and 58 feet, which is close enough and you can move on to quality. "Is the vein flowing good drinking water?" An affirmative response leads you to quantity. "Is this vein flowing at least 15 gallons a minute?" As you gain experience, you will be able to announce firm findings, such as "There is a vein of good drinking water of minimal hardness 57 feet below this spot. The flow will be 15 gallons per minute."

There are certain factors which can interfere with true depth readings, a strata of clay being the most common. Overcoming this handicap calls for advanced dowsing, which should be learned

early to prevent wrong figures on your first trials. Instructions are given under the heading **Checking Depth Readings** in Chapter V, **Aids To Being Specific**.

Dowsing deserves to be called an art because, except for a highly sensitive few, ability improves with training. The more you practice, the more reliable your results and the more useful dowsing will become to you, for the art can touch every aspect of life.

The younger generation, from age five up, starts with everything in its favor; children are almost 100 percent sensitive and require a minimum of training to become expert. However, to get and hold a child's attention requires a project touching him—or her—more closely than water veins; his first use of the rods or pendulum should be on some facet of daily life, such as the checking of homework.

When a youngster has developed skill, he will be able to get out his indicators and ask, "Is my answer to Number 1 problem correct?" and so on through the evening's work. Anything in error can be corrected immediately and the correct answer fixed in the mind, a legitimate aid in learning more and faster.

Before getting into the many uses of dowsing, **A WORD OF CAUTION**. If you become proficient at one or two, you will be doing well; it takes time and practice to check yourself out to the point where you are confident of your results. Choose an application which appeals to you and become expert in this field. Then, if you desire, branch out.

You have a multitude of choices.

**Archeological dowsing** is in active use in England and Scotland, primarily to locate Roman ruins. On our shores, Indian relics have been located much more easily with the rods than by indiscriminate digging; using a shard of pottery as a sample or witness, the remainder of the article has been located. Old foundations have been found. For each deserted or burned-down farmhouse, there is a midden which may yield up valuable old bottles.

**Blockages in pipes** have been located by dowsing, saving a lot of unnecessary digging. Leaks, shorts, and breaks in electrical cables have been pinpointed to the inch.

**Tracking of incoming or outgoing vessels**, if you live near a port, is excellent practice because it is subject to visual check.

**Building construction** can be aided by prior knowledge of the shallow veins to be encountered on excavating. Those needing permanent drains can be located and their flows indicated. The



many homes in which the cellar is occasionally flooded by underground veins would have profited from such information, for the water can be deflected or blocked off.

**Caves and tunnels** can be delineated from the surface with accuracy. This helped our Marines in Vietnam to locate buried ammunition dumps, tunnels, and booby traps.

**Downed airplanes.** Dowsing is being actively used with outstanding results; 95 percent accuracy has been reported.

**Game.** Many hunters use the rods to track their quarry successfully.

**Graves.** Early, unmarked graves, often lost, can be found.

**Hidden coins or valuables.** People frequently hide objects for safety, then forget where they put them. Finding such requires real psychic ability, for you may be a good dowser of pipes and water veins and still be weak at this. Hold a single L rod directly in front of you, pointing ahead, and turn around in a circle. The rod should lag behind when it points to the target and not turn as you turn. Repeat from another location; where the lines cross can be the spot.

**Hot and mineral water veins** can be asked for and found in unexpected places.

**Lost articles.** If you are skilled, almost anything lost can be searched out with the dowsing rods or pendulum. If it's a golf ball or baseball, you may find more than one, so you come out ahead!

**Lost person(s).** Their paths can be traced and their present location spotted. Not always advisable; the person(s) might want to be lost.

**Mineral deposits.** The type of ore, possible yield, extent of deposit, depth, strata, etc. can be determined.

**Murder weapons** have been traced and located for the police of many countries.

**Oil and gas.** Find the extent of deposit, quality, and possible yield.

**Paintings, letters, wills, and signatures.** Genuine or forged?

**Personal interrogation** has been practiced for many years, but unless you are especially gifted, too much reliance should not be placed on the answers; unconsciously you may influence them. The pendulum is most commonly used for this purpose.

**Photographs or portraits.** Have someone supply a batch of pictures of people both living and dead. Go over them with your instrument, asking if each person is alive. The indicator will respond only to those now living.

**Predicting the weather.** Some of our dowzers can do this for as far as two weeks in advance. Although not everyone can forecast reliably, you can easily find the nearest rain or snow.

**Property lines.** The L rods are especially good for this search.

**Submarines.** That they are under water seems to have no adverse effect on results.

**Tracking storms** may save you from a drenching or from being caught in a blizzard.

**Treasure hunting.** ASD trustee, Jim Weir, located pirate loot on islands of Maine's Casco Bay.

**Wrecked ships** can be located and their contents determined.

## PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

This use of the rods is so important that it deserves a section to itself. Although in China for centuries and in Europe for decades it has been realized that health troubles could develop by sleeping over viens of flowing water or noxious rays from radioactive emissions, in this country we are only now appreciating that dowsing can help alleviate these problems.

Dowsing can determine the most healthful plot for a building site; the proper position for the new house on the site; the best old house to buy; the best house to rent; the most healthful rooms in which to sleep if you are already settled in your home. Anyone who can use the L rods can survey a dwelling for trouble spots and advise about the proper placing of beds as an aid to health.

Where water veins or radioactive fissures cross can be disturbing to the person who sleeps above them. The pain of rheumatism or arthritis has been controlled and improvements noted merely by changing the location of the bed to an area where no dowsing reactions of any kind could be detected.

It is also possible to deflect and dilute the rays by spreading them over a wide area. First, of course, the dowser must be able to locate the exact center of the culprit. With some dowzers, this is found under the L rods where they open or close; with others, the center of the vein may be under part of one foot. To deter-

mine which, approach the vein from one side and make a mark directly under the responding rods. Approach from the other side and again mark the spot directly under the rods. The precise center of the vein will be halfway between the two locations. Mark this and again approach the vein until the dowsing reaction shows up. Hold that position and note where the center of the vein is in relation to you; it may be under the rods or it may be under the foot. Having determined which, you can now spot the vein's exact center with a single pass.

Once this is ascertained, ask for harmful rays; they will be spotted over the center of the vein or very slightly off it, should there be an interfering earth factor. Now place a table knife lengthwise along the exact center of the vein. Just as the bow of a speeding boat separates the water and throws it to either side, so the knife will split the noxious rays rising from the earth and disperse them to left and right.

To prove this, with deflecting knife in position, walk slowly away from the vein and at right angles to it, rods in the search grip; ask for the new **outer** limit of the emissions. In about 10 feet you should get the reaction. Retrace your steps, asking for the **inner** limit of the rays, and you may get the reaction about 3 feet from the vein.

Repeat this performance on the other side; you will find an outer and inner limit there also. With the knife, you have deflected the rays over perhaps a 7-foot area on either side of the vein. You have attenuated—lessened—their concentrated potency thousands of times by diffusing their virulence over much greater space. As a check, remove the knife and ask, "Will I experience any harmful effects if I sleep directly over this vein eight hours a night for a week? A month? A year?" If there is an appreciable amount of water flowing or strong emission of noxious rays, you'll get a positive answer of harm to come, perhaps in days. Replace the deflecting knife; stand above it and ask the same questions. You'll now find that bad effects won't result for years, thanks to spreading the rays.

As a further check, place yourself between the outer and inner limits of the rays and ask the same questions from the standpoint of an invalid occupying a bed in that location, day in, day out. You're liable to discover that it may take years for harm to result, due to the extreme weakening of the rays over the large area.

Now remove the knife and walk along the vein, asking for any vein or fissure crossing the first vein. If you find one, it will be a spot over which trouble, such as arthritis, could develop. Each vein

found should be treated close to the junction point. Substitute a 16-inch length of coat hanger wire for the table knife. Secure each piece with staples or tape so it cannot move, working the wire under any floor covering. The deflectors need not be directly under the bed but can be placed beyond its edge, for their influence will reach for many feet. However, each vein or fissure passing under the bed itself must be treated in order to assure maximum benefit.

If you find that you have been sleeping over bad spots, your first reward after deflection and the resulting attenuation will be completely undisturbed slumber. Children who have awakened as often as six times a night sleep soundly after their bed sites have been cleared of the harmful rays. Recently the double bed of a Maine lady was dowsed and found to have harmful rays on the side on which she habitually slept. She was advised to have the bed moved or at least to sleep on the other side. This latter she did right away and awoke the next morning, sheets and blankets undisturbed as if she hadn't stirred all night. Moreover, she reported that she awakened "at peace" where for years she had come to in a disgruntled frame of mind which made her "get out of the wrong side of the bed" each and every morning. This "peace" after restful nights has continued for months now and, needless to say, the lady is a devout believer in the efficacy of dowsing for physical well-being.

Benefit can also result from the treatment of spots where much time is spent, such as desks, favorite chairs in the living room, the area in front of the stove or sink.

Harmful rays can be completely deflected from the outside of the house as well as from the inside. Dowse all around the dwelling, asking for every vein or source of radioactivity entering the building. Mark each one you find at its exact center, using powdered chalk or stakes, then drive  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch reinforcing bars cut 16 inches long down into the ground over each exact vein center. This, too, will deflect the rays from much-used spots inside the house.

## Chapter IV

### ADVANCED METHODS

Old methods have been improved and new methods developed since earlier literature on dowsing. The proved innovations are many and fascinating, and it pays to learn all of them, for each has merit for certain applications.

#### Scanning or Casting

Scanning is the latest way to locate the target of a search whether it be water or other objective. The scanner still asks questions, but from an **edge** of the area to be dowsed. "Where is the closest water vein to me, flowing enough good water for this house?" The rod(s) will indicate a direction, and continued questions will bring the necessary information about flow, potability, depth, hardness, and reliability during a drought. Although this may raise the eyebrows of anyone unfamiliar with modern dowsing, it's as easy and sure a method as walking every foot of the ground—and a lot less tiring.

After you've scanned the plot and know where to go for the best water source, then of course the indicated vein should be checked on the actual site and its path traced with the rods.

Scanning can be used to locate the water on a mountain while you stand in the valley. The indicator is held in the search position as you survey the location, the target being denoted by the motion of the indicator when your eye rests on the desired spot. Actually, some ASD members do not even need the rods; without them they can sense the vein location on the surface.

Locating water veins is only one of the many applications of scanning. Storms, airplanes, ships, submarines, even schools of fish have been traced in the same way and their courses plotted on map or chart.

To track a storm, stand with the Y rod in search position and, as you turn, ask for the nearest disturbance. When located, ascertain its distance from you and whether it is approaching. Don't stop scanning with a single storm, for often there is more than one. Continue to rotate and, if you should find another, query if it is approaching faster than the first detected. Later checks on movement of the disturbance(s) will tell you whether and when you should take cover.

Scanning is obviously of particular value when on the water—and not only for squalls. Should a heavy fog close in, with your Y rod you can con your craft back to dock or mooring with precision, if you are a good dowser and have practiced this use.

The applications of scanning are limitless. It can be used to find missing articles before the actual search is started; to locate lost graves; to show you the way out of the woods. Here again, constant practice is necessary, with frequent checks on accuracy to build self-confidence.

### Dowsing On A Map

In searching for water, most of our good practitioners now dowse a map before going near the actual location; then, without referring to the map, they dowse on the site. When the field results prove satisfactory, they are checked against map results to see how the two correlate. The match of the two methods is unbelievable to one who has not seen it done before.

There are four preferred ways of map dowsing now in general use. The first requires an assistant, who traverses the map with a ruler while the dowser holds his rod(s) in position but does not look at the map. When the ruler comes to a vein of water answering the dowser's specific question, the rods respond and the vein is penciled in. This is continued until the entire map has been covered. The assistant then runs the ruler across the map at right angles to the first penciled path and marks each response of the rods, the intersection of lines denoting the path of the vein(s). For crystal clarity, it also may be necessary to work diagonals, whose intersections when joined show the vein path. All the while, of course, the dowser has kept his mind on the exact type of water vein he seeks.

In the second method, the dowser goes over the map with a pendulum, marking the spots where it responds. Any pendulum can be used for the broad strokes, but for pinpointing the locations it is advisable to use a needle on a thread.

The third method is the most spectacular, almost incredible unless you have seen it done and proved. Involved are a stiff wire and the Y rod. The dowser wraps the wire around his left hand, leaving 4 inches protruding from the back to act as a pointer. The rod is held as usual and the pointer is drawn across the map while the dowser asks the specific questions. When the pointer crosses a vein, the rod reacts and the spot is marked. In this way, the entire map is covered and the points joined to show the veins. Questions can be asked as to quality, flow, depth, etc. Existing wells

and anything else of interest can also be located. If there is more than one vein, they should be labeled A, B, etc. for identification when asking questions.

Eye dowsing is the fourth method. Rods in position, you run your eye along the map's borders, asking for any vein entering or leaving the plot. The rod should respond when the eye looks at a spot under which there is a flowing water vein. Questions can be asked as usual to get the specifications.

While not in general use, bilocation is available to some top notch practitioners for distant dowsing. With the aid of a map or a chart, they mentally project themselves to the plot and "see" what is there. A really good man can even do this over the telephone! If you can acquire this rare psychic skill, you will be able, mentally, to place yourself at any desired location and describe the property, compass directions, house if any, and the contour of the land.

In any map work, don't use a small one. It is simple to have one "blown up," even enlarging a section further to pinpoint a specific location more closely. If others are going to work with the map, cover it with transparent paper, do your marking on that, and remove the transparency before the next man tries.

Whatever method you use, you will gain much by working with an experienced man.

Commercial jobs of water location usually start with map dowsing followed by scanning at the site. The results of both are then checked by field dowsing, i. e. walking over the plot to indicate the exact locations for digging or drilling. Not only should stakes be used to mark the site for the well, but a tape measure should also be employed to pin down the exact spot within inches as a matter of record. Often a driller prefers to bore where he chooses and finds no water; the dowser is then blamed unless he can prove that the well was not dug exactly where indicated.

### Hand Dowsing

Strictly speaking, this is not an advanced method. If you look in the lower left corner of the back cover, you will see two gentlemen practicing the 16th century version. However, so much has been learned since those times that the method can be called improved—and vastly. The ability to dowse with the hands alone is more common than anyone suspected before proper training methods were developed. Even some for whom the rods won't respond at first can quickly be taught how to locate water veins with the bare hands. We've had pupils who could not use the implements at all but could hand dowse without trouble.

To test yourself, have someone locate a water vein for you. Approach the vein with your arms stretched in front, hands palm down and relaxed. Move slowly, attention focused on your hands, ready to notice any change of feeling you experience. When you get close, you may have the sensation of a stream of air warming your palms. As you cross the vein, the warmth may be replaced by cold air and, as you continue to the other side, the feeling of heat may return.

If you experience these warm-cold-warm feelings, seek another vein, one which has not been pointed out to you. If you get the same sensations, you are on your way.

Keep your mind open for any reaction because response to hand dowsing is highly individual. Some people don't sense temperature differences, but get a tingling in their fingers; others feel their hands being drawn toward the ground. Good dowser Rick Hayden works with a closed fist and feels it pulled down when over a vein. Peter Harmon gets the warm-cold-warm sensation. Ray Willey holds his hands in front of him, thumbs up and pressed together; when he reaches a vein, the thumbs snap forward. Elwood Perrin clasps his hands, fingers loosely entwined, and his reaction is a violent tightening of the grip. Ben Cole waves a hand over his head and points to the discovered vein. Evelyn Penrose, famous Australian dowser, would get the "shakes" when she stood over a water vein and could take only a moment or two of the sensation before she would be on her knees, still shaking.

If you can hand dowse, the next step is to see the projection of the veins on the surface of the ground. One four year-old dowser said she could see them with the back of her head!

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## Chapter V

### AIDS TO BEING SPECIFIC

Too much emphasis cannot be put on the absolute necessity of being specific in asking the questions.

**You must mentally define exactly what you want to find.**

If you ask, "Is there water under me?" you may dowse only a water pipe or a shallow vein. But ask for the deep veins, and nothing else will affect the rods. Once located, your next question should be "Is this vein the most suitable one for a water supply for this house?" A negative answer will send you off to seek a better source.



To be exact and specific, you must not let your mind wander. If you do, you may get answers to the fleeting thoughts that pass through your brain.

### The Wandering Mind

The dowser must overcome one disturbing influence, the so-called "monkey thoughts." These are the drifting ideas that pile in on us and destroy concentration. The rods follow our thoughts, and if they are off the subject, they interfere with good dowsing.

To illustrate, start looking for the water pipe supplying your house, but just before you get the start of the reaction, think of a gas pipe and you will pass right over the water pipe without getting any reaction at all. Another test is to locate a water vein, then back up and think, "Now I don't want a water vein," and you will pass over it without a flicker of the rod(s). Next, locate a water pipe or vein. Standing right where you had the reaction, put the rods out in front again and say, "Now give me a water vein (or pipe)" and the rods will respond immediately.

Some of our best practitioners go into a state of high concentration when they dowse, thinking only of the object of the search. Others state the object, then blank out their minds and let the rods take over. This is not easy; monkey thoughts tend to crowd in on blankness, and the dowsing suffers.

In the practice of yoga, one exercise is to see how long the mind can be kept blank. Thirty seconds is good for a start, five minutes a real accomplishment, yet a necessity if you do not use the concentration method.

The easiest way for most dowsers is to define the search objective, then keep repeating the key word. As an example, when looking for a good water vein, outline the requirements for it, then occupy your mind with the key word, "water," to keep the monkey thoughts out.

The Abbé Mermet used a sample or "witness" in his hollow pendulum bob as an aid in searching. Liquid samples can be enclosed in pill bottles. A solid sample can be held in the hand—say a ring or watch similar to the one lost; a handkerchief, a pen, some personal article of a lost person.

The Abbé was a convinced user of the sample, for with it he proved there was a dowsing zone that ran between like objects. To demonstrate his theory, have a friend hide a quarter for you to locate. Place a second quarter at another spot in the room, and you will find a dowsing line between the two. Move your quarter and dowse again. This will give you crossed lines and an excellent chance that the hidden coin will be found at the intersection.

Many good dowsers consider the sample a crutch and prefer to rely on their mental picture. One angle rod or the Y rod can be used as a pointer while you rotate, scanning the area and asking for the hidden object. Doing this from two or more positions will give you the crossed lines, and their intersection should be where the object is. However, as in all other forms of dowsing, this may take practice before you are proficient.

### Remanence

In electronics, remanence is the residual magnetism left in a core after the exciting current ceases to flow; in dowsing, it is the "memory" of a previous occupancy, and its effect may remain for as long a time as the object had previously been at that location. Treasure hunting often ends in the discovery of a hole in the ground where gold or silver had lain long ago; you are apt to get a dowsing reaction from an anchorage, even though the vessel is no longer there.

To combat this possibility, after the target has been located, ask, "Am I interpreting this signal correctly to mean there is a ship at this anchorage **now**?" A negative response will indicate that you have fallen for remanence.

### Checking Depth Readings

Lately, an experimental method has been tried to get around clay or other earth layers which can interfere with depth readings. This is a vexatious problem and one not solved by a British dowser who recently said he always doubled his depth readings when he was in a clay district. Since this is too hit-or-miss, good dowsers have been experimenting with the following.

You have dowsed 20 gallons per minute (gpm) of good water at 51 feet. This depth may or may not be correct. To check, you bilocate—mentally place yourself 49 feet below the surface—and ask for the depth from there to the vein. From this bilocation you get 30 feet, which, added to the 49 feet you are mentally down, gives a total of 79 feet from the surface. Now project yourself 77 feet down and ask again. An answer of 4 feet gives a total of 81 feet. A further reading from the 79-foot level gives 2 feet, again a total of 81 feet. This is probably the correct depth to the top of the vein.

To see if this method works for you, check yourself on a number of wells where you can ascertain the actual depth from the owners. If you know of any dowsed wells that proved deeper than the original readings, check yourself out on them, too, by bilocation.

## Chapter VI

### NEVER MIND THE SKEPTICS

Dowsing has been termed "an evolutionary human ability to answer the need for survival," epitomized best by the finding of life-supporting water. It is obvious that the conscious mind doesn't know the location of the water veins found so easily. Even if some electrical emanation gives aid in the field, the source of answers as to depth, volume, and quality still remains inexplicable.

Dowsers soon come to realize that their success rests on the development, through practice, of "something" in the brain, i. e. an extrasensory perception. In recent years, the evolving phenomenon of ESP has come under study by universities and research foundations. Their interest in psychic matters should lead to a thorough investigation of dowsing by scientists who accept ESP as fact. When that happens, the American Society of Dowsers should be retained as consultants to ensure validity of results.

Apart from the ASD, work on dowsing in this country has mostly been done by those interested in proving it can't work. Infantile tests are suggested, such as "Tell me when the water in this hose is running and when I turn it off," which obviously bears no relation to your ability to fill the urgent need for a water source by a family with a dry well. No reputable dowser should dignify such "tests" by participating in them.

Although the ASD can produce a myriad of case histories to prove that dowsing works, you, as a beginner, will undoubtedly encounter skeptics. Don't let them sidetrack you. The scoffer's creed is "If I can't do it, it can't be done." But you can do it.

This primer tries to show you how to get started without a teacher. However, the value of an experienced dowser to counsel and guide you may save time in acquiring skill.

Remember, after experiencing the dowsing reaction, you are still not qualified until you can tell **exactly** what the reaction means. Only selectivity, practice, and correlation with the known will give you the confidence you need. When you have achieved this and the rods are working for you, you'll have embarked on an enthralling new adventure, perhaps the most fascinating of your life and one which will be with you to the end of your days. Good hunting!

## Glossary

**Angle Rods:** Indicators in the shape of Ls. See **L Rods**.

**Artesian Well:** A drilled or dug well in which the water rises above the ground level; a self-flowing well. Sometimes denotes a deep drilled well in which the water rises close to the surface.

**Attenuation:** The dilution of noxious rays by **deflection**, which see.

**Aura-Meter:** A sophisticated indicator developed by the late Reverend Verne L. Cameron. So-called because with it he could delineate the human aura.

**Bilocation:** To project oneself mentally to a distant site or area.

**Bobber:** An age-old indicator shaped like a wand.

**Casting:** Scanning or surveying for all desired information about a plot from a single point without moving over the ground.

**Clay Vein:** A vein in sand or gravel completely surrounded by hard clay. Can often be enlarged by continued pumping, but the water will be cloudy until enough gravel is washed out of the clay.

**Deflection:** The distribution of noxious rays by the placement of a metal obstruction over the center of the offending vein.

**Dome:** The point where a vertical riser meets porous material, allowing water to flow horizontally; the top of a riser from which a number of veins originate.

**Dowser:** One who gets the dowsing reaction and whose ability to interpret the indications has been proved.

**Dowsing:** Searching and questioning with or without indicators to obtain specific answers.

**Dowsing Zone:** The spot over which the rods have reacted. A dowsable line or area existing between like objects. Proved by the Abbé Mermet, using a **sample**, which see.

**Extrasensory Perception (ESP):** To perceive outside the realm of the five senses.

**Eye Dowsing:** To scan a map or plot optically while asking questions with or without rod(s). Can be done from a distance by the skilled, not only for water but for lost articles, persons, etc.

**Fault:** A major vertical or inclined crack in the rock structure of the earth.

**Gyration:** One of the numerous answering movements of the indicator known as the **pendulum**, which see.

**Hand Dowsing:** The use of the hands, without indicators, to get the dowsing reactions.

**L Rods:** Indicators in the shape of Ls, usually of metal 3/16 inches in diameter. The shorter leg is held in the hand, the longer leg paralleling the ground. Used most often in pairs, or singly for certain purposes. Also called **angle rods**.

**Location:** The target disclosed by asking questions, viz. the situation of a water vein.

**Map:** The exact area to be dowsed, enlarged if necessary from any map or aerial photo. It should show compass directions, town, owner, and buildings properly placed so that they orient the exact site of the location.

**Monkey Thoughts:** Aberrant wanderings of the mind to the confusion of the dowsing questions being asked.

**Noxious Rays:** Harmful emanations from water veins or radioactive fissures.

**Pendulum:** An indicator consisting essentially of a plumb bob attached to a piece of string. Because of its free-swinging ability, it is extremely versatile and can be made to answer many questions.

**Plot:** The area to be dowsed.

**Projection:** See **Bilocation**.

**Radiesthesia:** Dowsing, usually with the versatile pendulum, often for medical diagnosis, although illegal in the U. S. unless done by an MD.

**Reaction:** The motion of an indicator as it answers the questions asked. If **hand dowsing**, the sensation in the hands.

**Remanence:** The "memory" of an object giving a positive answer after the object has been removed or gone away; e. g. dowsing for buried treasure may lead to a hole from which the trove has long since been extracted.

**Riser:** A vertical vein up which water rises. The top of a riser may be a **dome** where the water is released to flow in horizontal veins.

**Sample:** A comparable or related item to that which you seek, e. g. a precious stone if dowsing lost jewelry, a handkerchief from a lost person. The sample may be held in the hand, inserted in a hollow pendulum tube, or touched by the end of the dowsing rod. Also called **witness**.

**Scanning:** See Casting.

**Target:** The object of the search.

**Wandering Mind:** Lack of concentration, which permits entrance of monkey thoughts, which see.

**Well, drilled:** Drilling is necessary where the vein is under rock; unnecessary when vein is above rock and within 30 feet of the surface.

**Well, dug:** Veins not over 30 feet down in sand, gravel, or clay can be back-hoed. Shallower veins may be hand dug. In soft soil, heavy equipment must not run over the vein, or the flow may be blocked and seek another path.

**Witness:** See Sample.

**Y Rod(s):** The oldest indicator, dating back before recorded history. Originally an easily bent forked stick whose tines were held in each hand. Today, the Y rod is usually fabricated from plastic tubing, two ends fastened so that, when held, the rod becomes a V.

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## Books and Supplies

A gift from trustee Bruce Sullivan, the Dowsing Supply Company of North America is now a wholly owned and controlled entity of the ASD. As a result, tested and legitimate dowsing equipment at reasonable prices can be purchased from ASD headquarters in Danville, VT 05828.

In addition to this primer, books, too, will be for sale direct.

**Selected Works** of the late Evelyn Penrose, the eminent Australian dowser.

**On the Threshold of the Subconscious**, an English translation of *Au Sueil du Subconscient* by Bishop Edouard Jetté of Quebec.

You will also find excellent history and instruction in **The Divining Rod** by Sir William Barrett and Theodore Besterman.

**Elementary Radiesthesia** by Colonel F. A. Archdale; for elementary pendulum instruction.

**Principles and Practice of Radiesthesia** by the Abbé Mermet; for advanced pendulum practice.

## Local Chapters

**California:** Southern California Chapter, Mr. L. H. O'Loughlin, President, 1520 Idlewood Road, Glendale, CA 91202

**Connecticut:** Gordon MacLean Chapter, Richard Passkowski, President, 118 Abbe Street, New Britain, CT 06051

**Florida:** Southwest Florida Chapter (Ft. Myers area), Steve J. Bar-chak, Secretary, Rte 3, Box 32, Ft. Myers, FL 33901

**Florida:** Sun Coast Chapter (St. Petersburg area), Mrs. Laurine J. C. Stroud, Secretary, 901 17th Avenue, NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

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**Maine:** Southern Maine Chapter, Dwin Gordon, President, 140 Summit Street, Portland, ME 04103

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**New York:** Mohawk Hudson Chapter (Albany area), Jeri McMul-len, Chairman, 102 Heritage Road, #10, Guilderland, NY 12084

**Tennessee:** Abbe Mermet (Tennessee) Chapter, Carl Garland, Sec-retary, P. O. Box 176, Tracy City, TN 37387

**Vermont:** Southern Vermont Chapter, Herbert Douglas, Chair-man, Shaftsbury, VT 05262

**Washington, D. C.:** Mid-Atlantic Chapter (Washington D. C. area), Harry Barnes, Secretary, 3145 Aberfoyle Place, N. W., Wash-ington, D. C. 20015