

# CHAOS

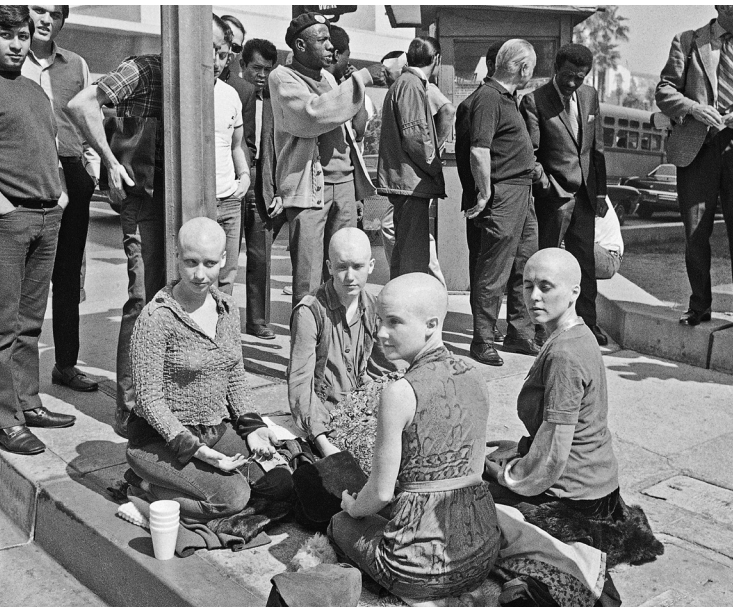
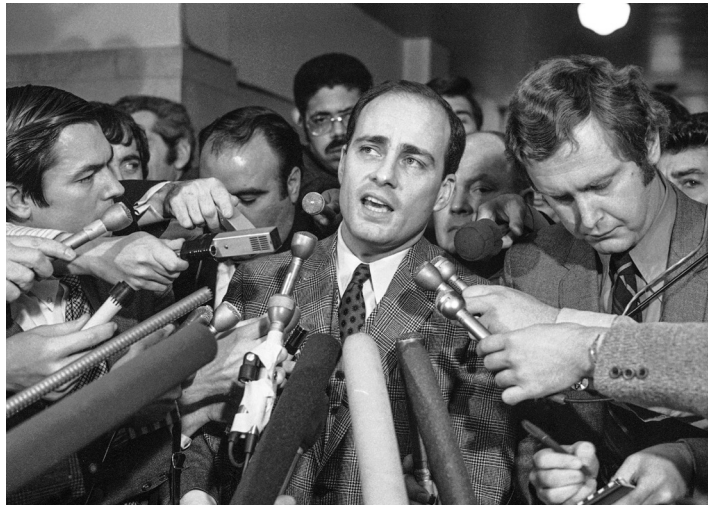
**Charles Manson,  
the CIA, and the  
Secret History of  
the Sixties**

**Tom O'Neill**  
with DAN PIEPENBRING



Charles Manson sitting opposite his lawyer, Irving Kanarek, at the 1970 trial for the Tate–LaBianca murders. (Bettmann Archive)

Vincent Bugliosi, chief prosecutor in the Tate–LaBianca trial, speaking with reporters outside the courtroom in 1971. (Associated Press)



Four of Manson's followers (from left: Cathy Gillies, Kitty Lutesinger, Sandy Good, and Brenda McCann) kneel on the sidewalk outside the Los Angeles Hall of Justice, March 1971. (Associated Press)





Roman Polanski, Sharon Tate's husband, at the house on Cielo Drive mere days after the murders in August 1969. (Courtesy Julian Wasser)



Jay Sebring (far left), Roman Polanski, and Sharon Tate at a party in London. (Bill Ray / *The Life* Picture Collection)



Terry Melcher with Candice Bergen at the Whisky a Go Go in the summer of 1967. During Manson's trial, Melcher would become one of the prosecution's most important—and most suspicious—witnesses. (Phil Roach/ipol/Globe Photos, Inc.)



Rudi Altobelli, standing and speaking to Candice Bergen during a gathering at the house on Cielo Drive. Altobelli, who owned the house, suggested that the true story behind the murders has never been told. (Courtesy Dominic Pescarino)

Altobelli in 1999, with one of his many adopted cats. (Courtesy Dominic Pescarino)





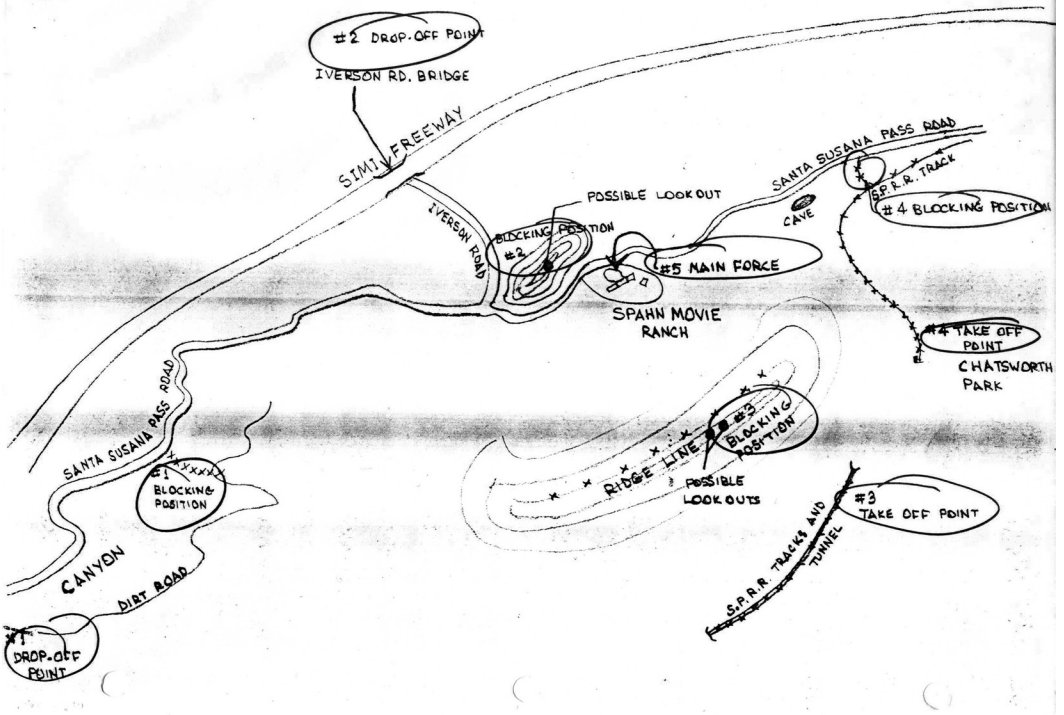
few days after we went back to Ranch.  
Week or week and a half later, went  
up to Carber with Tex + Brenda Davis in a  
flat bed truck. Manson + 4 or 5 girls left at  
same time in a car. Real of fancy stayed  
at Ranch. (172)

Between time that Danny returned to  
the ranch's time he left for Carber,  
definitely saw Melcher out at Ranch. Heard  
girls say "Terry's coming. Terry's coming." Melcher  
Driving in a Metro truck ~~with a trailer~~ to a  
beaver meat truck - probably light grey in  
color. Melcher was by himself. Melcher  
stayed for 3 or 4 hours.

~~Just days later, saw Melcher in his  
suburban~~

1 1/2 weeks later, saw Melcher with  
Gypsy + Brenda at bottom of Goler Wash  
near Ballard, sitting in a car with the  
girls. De Carlo was with Sadie, Tex, Manson,  
Omer + Dennis (W's child) ~~on foot.~~  
All of them got in ~~the same car~~  
car. (Brenda ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> the driver. Melcher only  
a passenger. Everyone called Melcher "Terry")  
The Charter took over the driver's seat +  
drove to Redwood + picked up a 1959 Buick

One of several memos in Bugliosi's handwriting suggesting that Melcher continued to see Manson after the Tate-LaBianca murders. (Public archive)



A police drawing of the Spahn Movie Ranch, the Family's hideout. Deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office raided the ranch on August 16, 1969, but they apparently failed to connect the Family to the rash of murders it had recently committed. (Courtesy John A. Kolman)



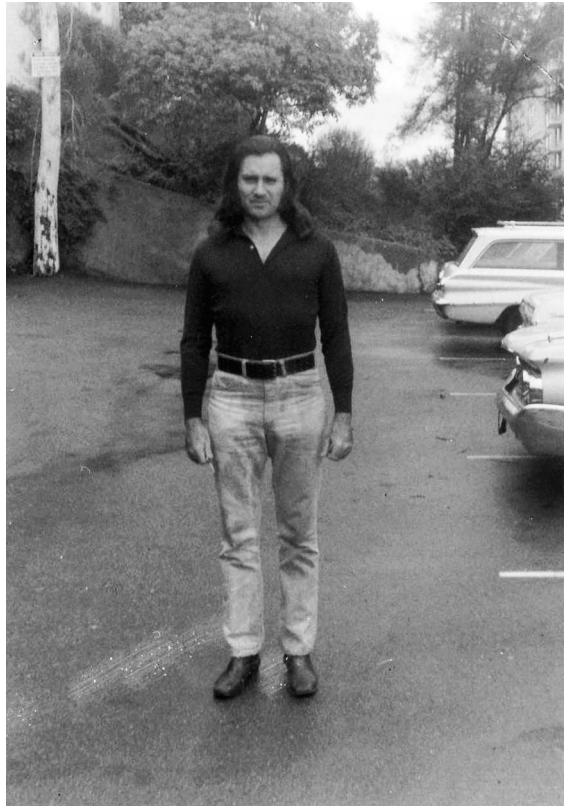
A mug shot of the Family's Bobby Beausoleil, who participated in the murder of Gary Hinman. (Courtesy Lee Koury)

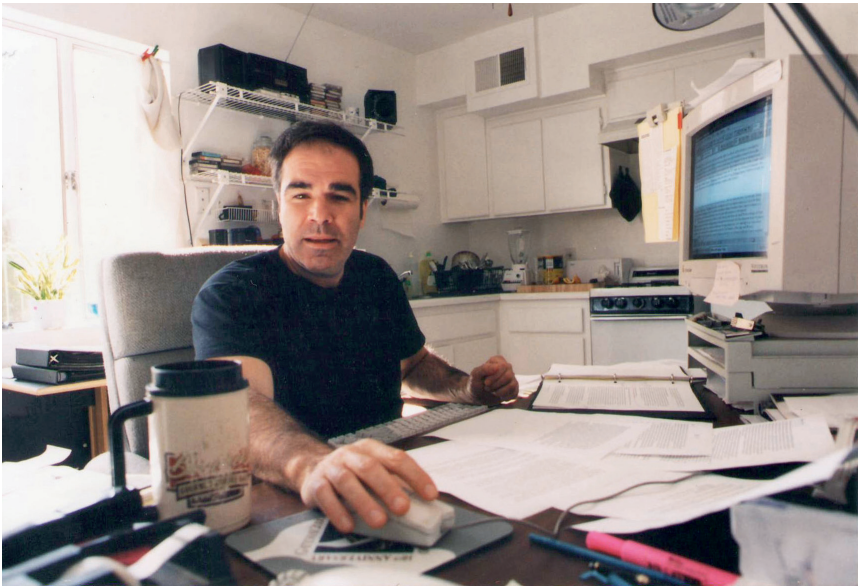




Reeve Whitson with his wife, Ellen, in the winter of 1961–62. Whitson claimed to have been at the house on Cielo Drive in the hours after the Tate murders. (Courtesy Liza Josefson)

Whitson disguised as a hippie. His friends and family believed he was an intelligence agent with ties to the Manson case. (Courtesy Liza Josefson)





At work in my home office in Venice Beach, around 1999 (top) and 2014 (center, below). (Top: author collection; center and bottom: courtesy Errol Morris)



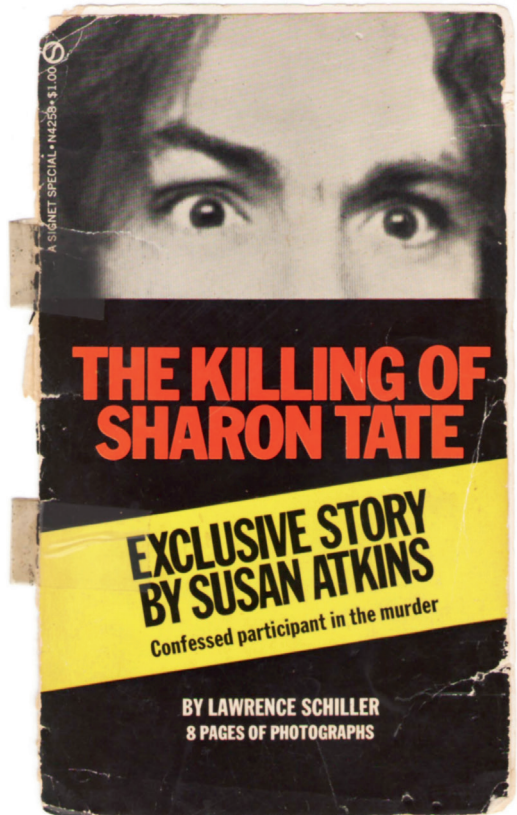






Susan Atkins, right, leaving the grand jury proceedings for the Tate–LaBianca murders with her defense attorney, Richard Caballero. Atkins’s testimony was critical to securing indictments against Manson and others in the Family, including herself. But Caballero came to represent her only through an arrangement by prosecutors. (Ralph Crane / *The Life* Picture Collection)

Caballero also sold his client’s story to the press and arranged to have it published as a quickie paperback, released the same month as her grand jury appearance—a move that only bolstered the state’s case against Atkins and her coconspirators. (Author collection)







Mary Brunner, one of Manson's earliest followers, with their child, Michael "Pooh Bear" Valentine. (*Life* magazine)



Roger Smith, Manson's parole officer, with his assistant, Gail Sadalla. Manson formed the Family during his time under Smith's supervision in San Francisco. (Elaine Mayes)

ALBERT WAHL  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER  
ROBERT E. SCOTT  
DEPUTY CHIEF  
PROBATION OFFICER

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BOX NUMBER 36007  
SAN FRANCISCO 94102  
CODE 418  
TEL. 556-0201

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE PROBATION OFFICER

June 3, 1968

REPLY TO: CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER  
REFER TO: d

Mr. Charles M. Manson  
255 Staples Street  
San Francisco, California  
and  
14400 Sunset Boulevard  
Pacific Palisades, California

Dear Mr. Manson:

Immediately after receipt of this letter, you will report either to the U. S. Probation Office, U. S. Courthouse, Los Angeles, California, in person or to the undersigned in San Francisco. Failure to follow this direction on or before Monday, June 10, will result in my recommending that a warrant for mandatory release violation be issued.

From this point on, you are not to leave your current residence without written permission from a United States Probation Officer. Any permission given you by Mr. Smith who is no longer connected with this Service is hereby cancelled.

Give this matter your immediate attention. You have nothing more important to do.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT WAHL  
Chief U. S. Probation Officer

cc: ✓ Mr. Joseph N. Shore  
Parole Executive, Washington, D. C.

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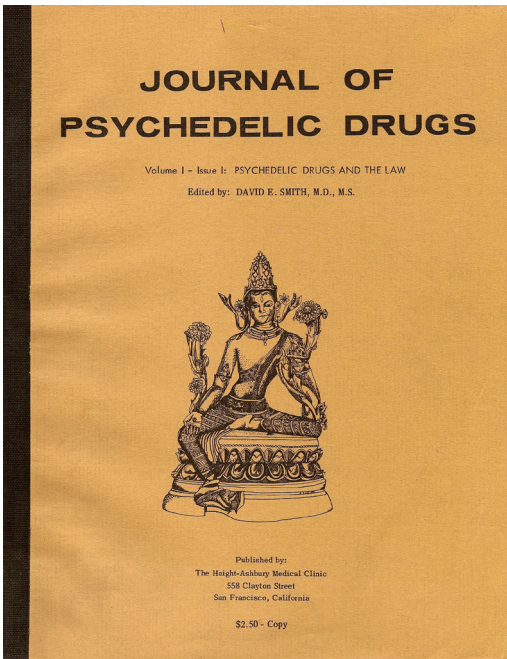
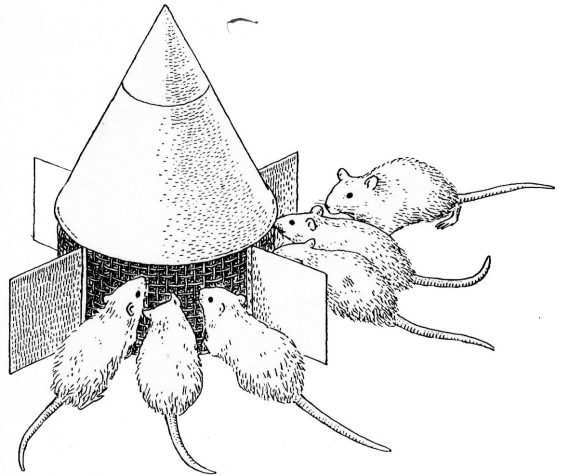
A stern letter to Manson from the Federal Probation Office. Manson often ignored his responsibilities as a federal parolee, but he never faced any consequences. (Public archive)





Dr. David E. Smith (facing the camera), the cofounder of the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, during the summer of love in 1967. Manson and the Family frequented the clinic. (Wayne F. Miller / Magnum Photos)

In clinical experiments, David Smith injected drugs into groups of rodents in confinement. His research echoed the work of John B. Calhoun, a scientist who used rats to study the effects of overpopulation. Illustrations in his landmark 1962 paper, “Population Density and Social Pathology,” showed the rodents growing violent in increasingly crowded environments. (Scientific American)



Through his clinic, Smith launched the *Journal of Psychedelic Drugs*, a research periodical that later included a study of the Manson Family’s “group-marriage commune.” (Haight-Ashbury Medical Clinic)

Dr. Louis Jolyon West, circa 1955. The Central Intelligence Agency subcontracted West for its top-secret MKULTRA program, although he denied it for the rest of his life. (Louis Jolyon West files, UCLA)



### Shot of Drug Kills Tusko

**By Claire Conroy**  
 A 7000-pound researcher gave up his life for science Friday.  
 Tusko, the 30-year-old male elephant being boarded at the Oklahoma City Zoo, died shortly after its tusks were cut off. The animal was administered a hormone to induce mental illness for study purposes.  
 The drug is LSD, lysergic acid diethylamide. Tusko's reaction was a complete shock to scientists who attempted to save his life.  
 Dr. L. J. West, professor of psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma medical school, who has been directing a series of experiments for which the animal was brought here from Phoenix, said the dosage was 2 grams.  
 This is much larger than the proportionate human dose, but 50 percent smaller than the dosage used by members of the CIA family, whose reaction to LSD has been extensively studied, he said.  
 Dr. West said he and Dr. Chester Florence, chief of



Dr. L. J. West bends over Tusko as Dr. Warren Thomas looks on.

West found notoriety in 1962 when one of his experiments led him to inject an elephant with enough LSD to kill it in an accidental overdose. While the fact never came out, funding for this debacle came from the CIA. (*The Oklahoman* digital archive)

**SAN ANTONIO NEWS** **HOME EDITION**

★ *The Dependable Home Newspaper* ★

36—NO. 258 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, MONDAY, JULY 5, 1954 64 Pages

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## AIRMAN CHARGED IN BRUTAL SEX SLAYING OF S.A. CHILD

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### Thrice-Wed Man Held in Death of Tiny Girl Sunday

A 31-year-old Lackland A.F.B. drill instructor was in Bexar County jail Monday charged with murder in what veteran peace officers described as Bexar County's most shocking crime of recent years.

Airman J.C. Jimmy N. Shaver, thrice married and the father of two sons, was charged in the raping-slaying of 3-year-old Chere Jo Horton whose battered body was found in a gravel pit off Frio City Road early Sunday. Her disappearance had set in motion a 200-man midnight search.

Constable Ed Schaeffer, who filed the charge, said the airman had signed a statement assuming "full responsibility" for the crime and clearing a 20-year-old Lackland basic trainee who had been with him prior to the attack.

Police Investigator Dean Jones said Shaver "blamed it on drinking."

Chere Jo, who apparently had struggled heavily against the man who abducted and ravished her, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Horton of Franklin Road. The child's father was taken to Robert B. Green Hospital about 10:30 p.m. Sunday suffering from shock. After being given a sedative, he was returned to his home.

In the 1950s, around the time he researched mind-control techniques for the CIA, West inserted himself into the case of Jimmy Shaver, a Texas airman convicted of raping and murdering a three-year-old girl. Shaver claimed to have no memory of the crime. (*San Antonio News*)



*Chemrophyl Associates*

P.O. Box 8176  
Southwest Station  
Washington 24, D.C.

*Sherman C. Grifford*

2 July 1953

Major Louis J. West  
210 Fairchild Lackland Village  
San Antonio, Texas

My Good Friend:

I returned from a brief vacation in Maine to find your letter of 11 June on my desk. I had been awaiting your next communication with considerable anticipation and curiosity. Frankly, I had been wondering whether your apparent rapid and comprehensive grasp of our problems could possibly be real. A considerable portion of your letter indicated that you have indeed developed an admirably accurate picture of exactly what we are after. For this I am deeply grateful.

I am proceeding to take action on developing a practical modus operandi in the following way:

(1) I am today dispatching a letter to Dr. Hastings enclosing a copy of your communication and suggesting to him an early conference here in order to make our initial assault on the top brass in your outfit.

(2) In regard to the remarks you make about the advisability of your having some leeway in this purchase let me advise that it will be possible to setup a separate sum of money to be given to you personally for such matters.

(3) It seems to me that it would be useful for me to obtain Top Secret clearance from our organization for Steele, Brua and Cowles. We may not favor to bring them in on the whole story but it would be wise to be in a position to do so when and if this becomes necessary. For this purpose I would appreciate receiving by return mail the following information on each of these personalities.

- (a) Their full name and title
- (b) Their date of birth
- (c) Their title of their present job
- (d) Their serial number

I gather from your letter that you do not look with favor on attempts to have you maneuvered out of the Air Force very soon. This would be difficult to do in any case but I want to know from you whether or not Hastings and I should ~~possess~~ <sup>view</sup> this as an alternative to the top brass here in the eventuality that they think it impossible to develop this project within the Air Force structure.

Sidney Gottlieb, West's handler at the CIA, wrote to him under the pseudonym Sherman Grifford, using letterhead from "Chemrophyl Associates," a front company. Their correspondence, which confirms West's participation in MKULTRA, has never before been published. (Author collection)







The Family in Death Valley, November 1968, in a never-before-published photograph. Manson appears in the back row, fourth from the left. (Special Collections department, University of Nevada)