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Many open questions

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Frank Olson's family is wondering why the Central Intelligence Agency has never contacted them about their father and husband's death for which the secretive government agency has now been made accountable.

Olson's widow Alice and his three children, Eric, Lisa and Nils, have many other questions, too, and are still

unwilling to fully accept the story of their father's death as they now have it.

"We feel that facts are still unknown which may alter, serve to undermine or radically change the story as we now know it," said oldest son Eric who does not rule out the possibility that the CIA may have murdered his father.

Several of Olson's co-workers also share the family's discontent with the version of Olson's death now admitted to by the Rockefeller commission report.

The Olson's only hope is that their court case will bring forth some knowledgeable person or the CIA with a congruent and more plausible account of Olson's death.

Frank R. Olson was a top secret scientist for the U.S. Army at Ft. Detrick working on chemical biological warfare research. The Special Operations division to which he belonged handled contracted research for the CIA, according to the Rockefeller CIA report.

rick Post

Good morning!

Diamonds are chunks of coal
that stuck to their jobs.

Forbes Epigrams

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48
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still haunt Olson family

At a retreat meeting, named as Berkley Springs, W. Va., by one of Olson's superiors in the division, five of the Special Operations division scientists, Olson among them, were treated to after-dinner drinks by two CIA employes, Sidney Gottlieb and Robert Lashbrook. In the drinks were unsuspected doses of the highly unpredictable drug LSD.

What the Olsons can't believe and the Rockefeller report does not disclose is

why the CIA would conduct such an experiment unknowingly on top scientists involved in highly classified work at the time.

And then when Olson was recommended for psychiatric treatment, and sent to New York where his psychiatrist there described him as "highly irrational and unstable", he was accommodated on the tenth floor of a public hotel and not in a hospital or under more guarded conditions.

Again Olson's family would like to know why.

The original reports of Olson's death in 1953 carried by the Associated Press said Olson "fell or jumped" from his hotel window, and listed his companion CIA employe Robert Lashbrook as a Defense Department chemist.

New York police records of the incident report that Lashbrook withheld

See OLSON, page A-10

Olson

(Continued From Page A-1)

information at first and spent several hours in jail before being released to CIA custody.

In the AP story, it is reported that Lashbrook awoke only to see Olson crashing through the glass of the window.

The account now in the hands of Olson's family reports that Lashbrook saw Olson run across the room before jumping through the window. Lashbrook as yet has not been found for comment.

The psychiatrist who treated Olson in New York, Dr. Harold A. Abramson, when contacted by the family, refused comment.

However, the family now confirms that the psychiatrist had special CIA clearances and was, contrary to Abramson's own statements, knowledgeable about LSD.

Abramson treated Olson in several long sessions but when contacted would only offer that Olson was "a very unstable man, that's all I remember" and said no more.

The family believes Abramson knows much more about the entire incident and was possibly more closely associated with the CIA than now disclosed.

A former colleague of Olson's, according to the family, went to CIA officials shortly after the death in 1953 to threaten to tell what he knew of the story if the family was not given compensation.

The family eventually received a standard two-thirds salary compensation for a "work related accident" and lived for the next 22 years without any more explanation than that.