

# The Adventures of Evelyn Penrose

## Part 2 – The prospector and her pendulum

by Nick Haywood

**In Part 1, we met Evelyn Penrose, for who had been marked out by the fairies for “great fairy things”. She began her professional dowsing career as official water diviner in British Columbia, but we saw how she got more than she expected. In this article I shall concentrate on her pioneering work in dowsing – how she was one of the early pioneers of map dowsing in the cause of mineral divining.**

Her map dowsing began after reading a book on the subject sent to her by the BSD founder, Colonel Bell. Initially sceptical, she followed the procedure using a sample and a pendulum, and discovered that she could dowse for both water and minerals with 100% accuracy. In her autobiography, she describes in some detail, a map dowsing procedure of her own devising. “I do all my preliminary work with my eyes shut, which necessitates having an assistant to listen to what I say [out loud] ... and notice where I receive the strongest reactions. I start by rubbing my hands over the map, until it seems to turn into something alive. “Sometimes the map becomes alive instantaneously, ... at others I seem I seem to meet a curious barrier or antagonism and the map remains dead.” I get the same sensations, and shocks from the map that I do from the actual ground”. For example, she could get a sense of how badly faulted the substrata were.

As on the ground, her reactions over a map could also be dramatic, “...Where the oil is very rich, my arms and hands are thrown back with such force ...”. “All this is done with my eyes shut. Working on an



oil map is an extremely exhausting performance...”. Working with water maps (always survey maps and not topographical ones) was less tiring for her and required a different technique. After making the map come “alive”, she asked “It” questions about the location of water. “If there are any hills ... a strong draught [sic] comes up off the map and lifts my hand to the high land. After which my hands float gently over the map, showing me the direction of the streams ...”. She would then depth the streams and test the water potability. In this she discovered that her “... lips and tongue taste salt if the water is brackish and I get a horrible smell in my nose if it is sulphurous or impure”. She recounts an amusing incident about the intensity of the sensations when map dowsing, in this case, for silver. She had been asked to investigate on a map whether a potential gold mine was worth investing it. The intended mine was poor, but instead she discovered a silver deposit. She said, “Silver on the ground gives the diviner a strong and often painful reaction: it is like being stabbed through the feet and body with a red-hot knife.” She had spread the map out on a table, and whilst talking had inadvertently sat on that very portion of the map relating to the silver. The result, “... suddenly, I nearly shot up to the ceiling with a vicious stab of pain ...”. Upon recounting this tale to an English friend, the latter replied, “But, my dear, how very convenient to be able to work at both ends!”.

Dowsing for her was always providing new surprises. Such was the case of the “phantom map”. When map dowsing, she had always insisted on an accurate plan, drawn to scale, with a number of distinguishing features eg towns, hills creeks, etc. This way, she conjectured, the map was sufficiently individualised and “... to enable me to make mental contact with the particular are of land which it represented.” On one occasion, when dowsing for water on an extensive property, the owner had supplied a what she thought



was a representative plan, showing lines which, she took to be fences and a couple of roads. She completed her map dowsing and duly marked on it the locations for wells. It was only later when actually visiting the property that she realised that there were no fences or roads there as she had assumed. “Apparently the map was made by the Government surveyor when dividing up that area into farming lots, merely to show what the area would be like in the future when all sections were taken up and cultivated. ... nothing existed except four survey pegs...”, the only link between the plan and the ground, her surveyor had used to transcribe her map indications to potential drilling sites on the ground. Though shocked by this discovery, “...it meant I might have come into mental contact with any 500 acres in the 976,000 square miles ... which make up ... Western Australia”, actual dowsing on the ground revealed that “...every spot marked by the surveyor was accurate to within a few inches to a foot of the underground water.”

Her map dowsing prowess led her to become an oil diviner, thousands of miles away from the actual oil! She asserts that finding a particular mineral is in itself a skill and must be learned separately. Just because you can dowse for water does not mean you can do the same for oil, which is itself the hardest branch of study, for one reason how to prove your skill? She got

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her first break as an oil diviner, from an oil magnate in the USA, who had read about her exploits in one of Kenneth Roberts' books about the American dowser Henry Gross, in which she was mentioned map dowsing in Bermuda. Bearing on mind that she was in Australia, he sent her a plan of his existing oil field, comprising a "...paper marked in squares drawn to scale, showing the exact position of each well in relation to the others. There was absolutely nothing else..". After recovering her composure, she discovered that she could indeed dowse this plan, discovering the main oil-bearing fault line, outline the extent of the oil field, and found another ten wells which had been missed. It was not until some years later that she received any feedback, nine wells were oil bearing and when the remaining one was found to lie just outside of the reservoir. More oil divining followed and she concludes, "... twenty-one good wells in the United States were all discovered by me, through reading maps in Australia...". She adds a note of caution however to those that follow. She notes that the difficulty is "faults", which on the map give "so little radiation that they are extremely difficult to find.. but on the ground itself they are easy to detect... the diviner is thrown off his feet." She says it is necessary to develop your own individual system, it cannot be taught. But she warns that map dowsing requires "many years of hard work and bitter disappointments to become efficient."

Following her time in Canada, we find her dowsing South Africa (which included another spooky tale), then back in the UK. In Bath she dowsed for the body corresponding to the bronze head of Minerva, then displayed in the Pump room. She succeeded in finding a spear and shield under the main street, but permission to excavate was withheld, and presumably they are still there. Following that, she very nearly ended up back in Africa. Around

1935, an attempt was made by the Italian Ambassador to engage her services in Eritrea, to find water for the Italian soldiers. However, when it was revealed that she would be sent up to 30 miles in front of the Italian troops to find water, in preparation for their advance, she instantly fled England for Jamaica and then Chile, before she could meet Il Duce.

During World war II, she found herself stranded in Australia, but soon found her services as a water diviner were required as there was a long drought in progress, 20 million sheep died in just two years. One day while being driven over the property of a particular sheep farmer, "... I suddenly got a violent stab of pain through my feet, which I always get, even in a car, when passing over gold or other minerals". This led to a suggestion by her host that she might try her hand at gold prospecting. What followed is a story of the privations, hardships and the hazards of living in that vast country. She started with map dowsing, an ideal technique when one considers the sheer scale of the country, identifying the locations of likely gold deposits. The initial site and several others proved disappointing, but soon they homed in on a more distant site, involving an arduous journey. There were no hotels, just a wooden shack shared with her two male companions. There was the heat, mosquitoes and just hard tack rations. First the locations dowsed on the map were staked out on the ground, but these could be up to two feet out from the true positions. So, the site had to be dowsed on the ground. Although she could dowse with her bare hands, she found this more tiring than using her chief tool comprising a "zigzag piece of steel wire". At the start she held a small bottle containing "...smelted pieces of the mineral for which I am divining. 'This tunes me in' to it and cuts out the reactions from any other mineral. Once I am tuned-in, and this doesn't take long, I can dispense with the sample." Once she had located the deposits more accurately, she stood over each one in turn and deduced whether the reactions were strong or weak; "I hold my zigzag tool firmly in my hands and let it revolve, which it apparently does without any help from me. For example, it may revolve 48 times then stop." After several days of "tedious and exhausting" work, ("the greater the amount of mineral,

the greater the reaction and, consequently, the greater the fatigue entailed"), she ended up with many locations, each labelled with a reaction strength (on this occasion, "the indications of rich gold were as good on the ground as on the map"). While working on the ground, she noted, "One of the most trying things about prospecting for gold by divining is that one has to start work at sunrise." (In fact, half an hour later due to "...so much disturbance in the atmosphere immediately after the appearance of the sun"). "Unless one does, instead of getting the reaction for gold over the actual vein or alluvial deposit the rays seem to become deflected, and one can get as many as twelve phantom places or mirages, not one of which is over the actual gold deposit, although it may give the diviner all the required reactions. This fact was discovered many years ago and is a difficulty which is experienced by practically all diviners. Why it is so is unknown."

"The indications of rich gold were as good on the ground as they had previously been on the map", but their high hopes were quickly dashed. They could not achieve a mining lease from the Government, because the region had just been made into a National Park! She ends the episode this, "Nevertheless, once anyone has tasted the intoxication of prospecting for gold, no mountain huts and chilly expeditions a dawn, and no caustic [Government] department squashings can drive the madness from the blood, or keep the gold prospector down for long."

During her career, Evelyn dowsed for many types of mineral and consequently had some interesting things to say about this. About mineral divining. She states that





## Letters to the Editor

Please send your answers and new questions to [editor@britishdowsers.org](mailto:editor@britishdowsers.org) (note all correspondence should be sent through this email address please and not to individuals).

### Being an avid reader of the late T C Lethbridge,

I was wondering if anyone knew how he obtained the rate for truth and in which context it may be applied? Cheers Wes from Tasmania.

### Jim Andrews asks, has anyone been pushed around by a stone?

My wife Judy and I (receivers of the Pogson Cup back in 2011), were intrigued by a sentence in 'The Adventures of Evelyn Penrose' [Dowsing Today, April 2020] describing how, while dowsing one day, she was 'suddenly nearly thrown' off her feet. This actually happened to me when dowsing the 'aura' of a very large stone near the centre of the Avebury Stone Circle, knocking me some five feet away from the stone onto the ground, my wife witnessed it. I wonder if anyone else has experienced this most unexpected kind of kinetic violence?

### Subject: Crazy pendulum... ?

Hi, I am not a member but have attended one of your courses.

My partner had a back pain and asked me to massage it. I did so and picked up my pendulum at the same time. My 'yes' is a clockwise spin and, boy, did it spin! It went around like a propeller and I had dents in my finger and thumb tips from holding the end ball. I didn't dare let go. What was happening? Was I passing on healing energy? I usually get a good spin but never this strong.

**Andy Reeves**

### Glenda Hemken

I was in a workshop with Alanna Moore [founder of the Australian Dowsers Society Of New South Wales -Ed.] at a conference, I remember her as she grew a toddler sized cabbage, but when we were looking for bad things in our environment, my pendulum was still swinging and I was up to 100, so starting to feel foolish. Someone in the group asked me what my question was, so I said I asked about her environment. Are you going to cover Australia? It would be better to limit yourself to her bedroom. That was when I learned about the importance of asking the right question when dowsing.



she and other diviners "... have discovered that every mineral gives off a number of pulses – or 'bursts of energy' ...". Here she is referring to the practice at that time of reading a

code, from the dowsing instrument, this serial number related only to the particular thing sought and was often very idiosyncratic. She gives a table of her own reactions, for example: Diamonds gave 1 revolution of her tool; water gave 2 revolutions; Silver gave 7 revolutions then pause, then repeated indefinitely; Alluvial gold gave 11 revolutions, whereas load Gold gave 12 revolutions; Coal gave 16 revolutions and Oil 24 revolutions. To check their own reactions, the diviner only has to hold a glass tube containing a small quantity of whatever they are looking for.

Interestingly, she remarks that metals "... almost seem to have personalities. Some are easy to work on and seem friendly." Silver and copper are actually acutely painful to me to work on. "When she walked over the surface of a silver mine, ... she thought [she] had trodden on a rattlesnake." With diamonds, "one has a sense of extreme purity and cleanliness and a feeling of exhilaration". "But with oil I meet a wall of antagonism, ... I feel as if I were enveloped in a heavy fog, which grows thicker and thicker the nearer I approach the oil." "For sheer happiness and well-being give me tin". Wolfram (iron manganese tungstate, which is extremely magnetic) "...treats me like a terrier treats a rat". Any radioactive substance gave her serious problems both dowsing on a map, or on the ground. "I was attacked by stabs of terrible scorching red-hot pain... the effect was quite terrifying". She claims that "...Gold and diamonds are the practical jokers of the diviner's world ". With Gold "...it throws out eleven images which all give the correct reactions, though ten of them are mere phantoms.

Reading Evelyn's accounts of her dowsing abilities, I think what potential there in all of us and what meaning it can give to our lives. She was able to dowse from a young age and had clear psychic abilities such as clairvoyance, and clairsentience. Some of her abilities were latent and had to be discovered, while her sensitivity increased with the long practice of dowsing. Most abilities follow the familiar bell curve, and I expect hers lay far to the right-hand tail, where most of us can only stare in wonder. She began dowsing in a time when the applications and practice of dowsing were still very traditional. But with her remarkable gifts, she led the way with new practices such as device-less and map dowsing, and even remote viewing. Surely then, not a witch, but a true master dowser. She used her powers for good and in return lived a fulfilling life. Looking back on her life, she says, "... I still look on divining as the best gift the pixies gave me." The opportunity for travel and adventure around the World, creating a "trail of friends". "[I] say from the bottom of my heart 'Thank God' I haven't just existed – I've really lived! Could anyone ask the fates for more?"

To read Evelyn's autobiography, look for it on <http://dowsing-research.net/>