

AUTHOR MOVES TO WACO CITY

"Your work {SDA and DSDA}, my work {E.G. White}, will not cease with this life. For a little while we may {die and} rest in the grave, but, when the call comes {special resurrection}, we shall, in the {latter-day} **kingdom** of God, take up our work {of saving souls} once more {when we go 'with' the 144,000}."—7 *Test.*, pg. 17:4--by EGW (bolds, braces added).

Those of the **wicked dead** who arise in that special resurrection in "**shame**" (^{Dan 12 2}), are some SDA people and Davidians, and certain wicked Jews and Romans who crucified Jesus—the ones "which pierced Him," and whose "eye shall see Him" and "wail" (^{Rev 1 7}) at His second advent! What a "great day" (^{43 0}) for the saints (wheat) sealed as one "**of**" or one "**with**" the 144,000 (^{182 2}). And what a "dreadful day" (^{43 1}) for the wicked among Seventh-day Adventists who did not receive the seal.

FLORENCE HOUTEFF USURPED OFFICE OF E.T. WILSON

And now back to Sis. Houteff at old Mt. Carmel Center. Soon after her announcement to the Davidians about her husband's death in *The Symbolic Code* (^{179 3}), she issued another announcement of the changes made in the ruling body (Executive Council of the Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association). These changes came by usurpation, and finally led to the dissolving of God's Headquarters in Waco, Texas.

And there were other things I learned while I was living in Waco and visiting the Davidians at old Mt. Carmel in **1955**; one of which concerned Bro. E.T. Wilson (^{101 1}), whom I knew was Bro. Houteff's **Vice-President**, as noted below:

"V. T. Houteff (President)
E.T. Wilson (Vice President)
Mrs. F.M. Houteff (Secretary)
Mrs. S. Hermanson (Treasurer)
M.J. Bingham (Council Member)
Mrs. G.R. Bingham (Council Member)
H.G. Warden (Council Member)"—*Fundamental Beliefs*, pg. 16.

Since Bro. Houteff appointed Bro. Wilson as Vice-President, it proves he intended for him to take charge of old Mt. Carmel after his death, because of what is said in the By-Laws of *The Leviticus Of The Davidian Seventh-day Adventist Association*:

"Section 1....(a) The Executive Council...shall be vested with authority to grant credentials and licenses, and to **fill vacancies** that may occur in any of the Association's offices, **save the office of President**."—*The Leviticus*, pg. 9:3 (bolds added).

AUTHOR MOVES TO WACO CITY

"The DSDA Leviticus" (a tract of Davidian laws) says the office of the "President," which Bro. Houteff held, cannot be filled by the Executive Council if there is a vacancy when he dies, because he was **Elijah**, the **last prophet** ⁽¹⁷²²⁾! This irrefutable fact proves that the only council member who could be the chairman of the Executive Council after Bro. Houteff's death would be Bro. **Wilson**—the **Vice-President**. It is obvious, then, that some or all of the remaining council members did not recognize him as such, because they tried to **cover up** this fact in *The Symbolic Code* by not mentioning his name. And rather than have Bro. Wilson continue as Vice-President and Chairman of the Executive Council, they appointed Sis. Florence **Hermanson** (her maiden name) **Houteff** (her married name), in Bro. Wilson's place, and added her brother (Oliver **Hermanson**), which included Sis. Sophia **Hermanson** (Florence's mother) who was already the Treasurer of the Council. Note how they manipulated their **cover up** in the *Symbolic Code*:

"In harmony with **recommendations** {which never existed} made by Bro. Houteff before his death the Executive Council, in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Association of Davidian Seventh-day Adventists, met and unanimously passed and adopted the following resolutions:

"That Mrs. **Florence Houteff** be appointed and elected to the office of **Vice President** of the General Association of Davidian Seventh-day Adventists; and that **T.O. Hermanson** {her brother} be appointed and elected a member of the **Executive Council**."—10 *Symbolic Code*, No. 3, pg. 21:2, 3, Jan.-Feb. 1955--by Florence Houteff (boldings, braces added by author).

See what they did? They made it appear, based on what Sis. Houteff said above, that Bro. Houteff had recommended **before** his death that the Executive Council should elect Sis. Houteff as the Vice-President **after** his death. The fact, however, that he never published their so-called "recommendations," but left the office of Vice-President the same in *Fundamental Beliefs*, pg. 16 ⁽¹⁸⁵⁻⁵⁾, proves irrefutably that he had intended for Bro. Wilson to hold that position after his death! And he should have been recognized as the legally authorized Vice-President; but they did not allow him to be present at their council meeting, much less preside as the chairman in their council meetings.

Bro. Saether, one of the members of Sis. Houteff's Council, who lived at old Mt. Carmel at that time, said in his oral interview with Professor Mc Gee from the Baylor University in Waco, Texas, that Sis. Houteff told them that Bro. Wilson was sick,

AUTHOR MOVES TO WACO CITY

and that was why the meeting was called without him. He also said in that interview that Bro. Wilson was upset (because he was not sick as she said), when he learned that the council meeting was called without him; and that Sis. Houteff had not only influenced the Council to vote that she should usurp his position, but also to put him off the Council and fill his vacancy with her own blood brother, Oliver Hermanson (186.1).

Had Sis. Houteff been honest in what she did, she would have at least allowed Bro. Wilson the respect to write something to the Davidians in *The Symbolic Code*, and say that he approved of her "recommendations" (if they did exist) from Bro. Houteff, and give his public resignation. Or she could have given him a lesser position on the Council instead of her brother (186.3). But she knew that Bro. Wilson would not resign, so she called a Executive Council meeting without him being present, usurped his position by a false claim that Bro. Houteff had recommended that she be the Vice-President, and then shipped him off to a Davidian rest home in Wyoming to keep him quiet, so everyone would forget him. And though some may say that because he was retired and lived in the old Mt. Carmel Rest Home, he was not able to hold the office of Vice-President. Yet Bro. Houteff was near seventy when he died, and no Davidian questioned his ability to hold the office of President, now did they? Besides, most Davidians never thought he would die anyway (172.4), in spite of his age!

If Bro. Wilson, however, had continued as Vice-President, he would not have done what Sis. Houteff did, because it was known by those Davidians who did know the Rest Home where he had been sent, that he had challenged her actions and teachings. All these unChristian actions against Bro. Wilson proved that Sis. Houteff had usurped his office, and that she and her Council could only bring disaster to the work of old Mt. Carmel and scatter (179.3) the Davidian "sheep"! Note how the enemies of the Shepherd's Rod message in the SDA church used Sis. Houteff's usurption to try and discredit Bro. Houteff and his message by two errors, as noted in the SDA quotation below:

BRO. HOUTEFF FALSELY ACCUSED OF APPOINTING HIS WIFE AS VICE-PRESIDENT

"Prior to His death on Feb. 5, 1955, Houteff had appointed his wife {error No. 1} to lead his flock until the Lord should choose another prophet {error No. 2} to take charge of it {the work of Davidians}."—*SDA Bible Encyclopedia*, pg. 329, left col. par. 2 (boldings and braces added by the author).

SISTER HOUTEFF AND HER COUNCIL BROUGHT THE "KNOCKOUT BLOW"

CHAPTER 19

DAVIDIANS WARNED ABOUT "KNOCKOUT BLOW" COMING FROM PROFESSED FRIENDS

"Unparalleled, therefore, is the urgency that every eleventh-hour church member {87:4} now quickly and solidly brace himself against the Enemy's effort to deliver a **knock-out blow**. We must be alert, too, to realize that the blow is to come from surprisingly **unsuspected foes** {not SDA enemies but}—from **professed friends** of the gospel {Sis. Houteff's Council}, who are no less pious than were priests in Christ's day."—*White-House Recruiter*, pg. 33:2--by VTH (boldings, braces added).

And who was considered a more "pious" and faithful 11th-hour (2TG43:12) Davidian than Sis. Houteff? After all, her conduct as the wife of a Christian Davidian minister was outstanding in every way **before** and **after** Bro. Houteff's death. For this reason he spoke well of her in one of his tracts:

"When I go out with my wife people that have never seen me before, that have no idea who I may be, with but very little hesitancy call me 'Reverend' because they take her to be a preacher's wife. That shows what the people of the world think when they see properly well-dressed women. Better to have them think that you are a preacher's wife or daughter, than to have them guessing what you could possibly be."—1*Timely Greetings*, No. 6, pg. 32:4--by VTH.



Thus, she was well respected at old Mt. Carmel and everybody liked her. For this reason, the great majority of Davidians had no objection to her being the Vice-President, even though they might have known that Bro. Wilson held that position by Bro. Houteff's appointment (185:5). Indeed, she and her Council were "**professed friends**" of the Davidians inside and outside of old Mt. Carmel Center! So how could they heed the warning of Bro. Houteff (201:1), if they thought Sis. Houteff and her Council were their professed friends, not their foes? So rather than "**brace**" themselves against these "unsuspected foes,"

KNOCKOUT BLOW

the Davidians braced themselves against their avowed enemies in the SDA church (1TG28:14:3) and Ben L. Roden. As a result, most of the Davidians were looking the other way, and had their jaws sticking right out in open view and unprotected from Sis. Houteff's right hand swing! And what a "**knockout blow**" it was! Here is how she did it, explained very briefly:

ELIJAH'S LAST STUDY ABOUT THE FORTY-TWO MONTHS

As already mentioned, it was during the last few months of **1954**, while I was working at old Mt. Carmel Center (178:1), that Bro. Houteff was re-studying the Bible about a prophetic period of forty-two months or 1260 days (years). He knew that there are seven Bible texts, two in Daniel (^{Dan. 7:25} Dan. 12:7) and five in the Revelation (^{Rev. 11:2,3,12,6} Rev. 12:14, 13:5). He also knew that each of the seven periods of time have all been applied to the period of the Dark Ages—twelve-hundred and sixty years (**538 to 1798**). But while he was studying this subject he told his wife (who told other Davidians) that some of these texts must have a "latter day fulfillment" of exactly three and one half years. Since, however, Bro. Houteff was sick (178:2) during this time and was taken to the hospital in Waco, he had not yet told his wife or anyone else any details of what he had learned.

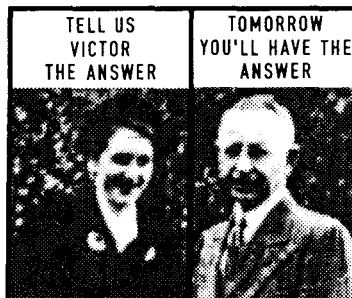
During this time I was living in Utah and Sis. Bonnie Smith called (179:1) and told me Bro. Victor Tasho Houteff had died on Feb. 5, **1955**. Then shortly afterwards, I moved back to Waco, Texas. To learn more about the outcome of Bro. Houteff's study of the forty-two months and what his wife did about it, we must continue with my biographical narration. I am now living and working in the town of Waco, Texas and visiting old Mt. Carmel Center on Sabbaths. It is about the middle of **1955**, I am **twenty three** years old, and I am telling you what I already knew and learned from the Davidians there and what others had told me.

NURSE AT OLD MT. CARMEL TOLD ABOUT THE NIGHT OF BRO. HOUTEFF'S DEATH

The nurse at the old Mt. Carmel Rest Home was Sis. Peterman, whom I knew when I was living and working there as a ministerial student (19:1). She told me sometime later what happened back when Bro. Houteff became sick, and that she went to the hospital in Waco to take care of him. Sis. Houteff, of course, was apprehensive about his sickness, and wanted him to get well; but she also wanted to know his new interpretation of the forty-two month study. So what could she do but anxiously anticipate his quick recovery, after which he could tell her the interpretation. The nurse told me and others that because

KNOCKOUT BLOW

Bro. Houteff was feeling much better, his doctor told him and the nurse that he could go home the next day, Feb. 5, 1955. But the night before, Feb. 4, 1955, he had visitors—Sis. Houteff, along with her mother (Sis. Hermanson), as well as her brother (Bro. Oliver Hermanson). And Sis. Peterman said that sometime during the course of their conversations, they talked about the forty-two months;



and she heard Sis. Houteff say to him, "Tell us, Victor, the answer." And she heard him say to Sis. Houteff and the others: "Tomorrow you will have the answer." The nurse said that sometime past midnight, Feb. 5, 1955, Bro. Houteff died, and someone at the hospital called Sis. Houteff and told her!

SIS. HOUTEFF ANNOUNCES BRO. HOUTEFF'S DEATH IN THE SYMBOLIC CODE

Sis. Houteff, of course, immediately notified all the Davidians in the next *Symbolic Code* that Bro. Houteff had died, and published his funeral services (179:3). And she also told them about his studies of the forty-two months, but she couldn't say what his interpretation was, since he died before he could tell her what he knew. Note below what she said about Bro. Houteff's studies on the forty-two month period:

"During the last months of his life, Bro. Houteff was engaged in studying *Timely Greetings*, Vol. 2, No. 15, preparatory to enlarging upon the subject matter therein for its reprint. At this time he expressed the definite conviction that the time prophecy of Revelation 11:2-12 and Daniel 12:6, 7 could have met their fulfillment only in type from 538 A.D. to 1798 A.D. and that they have a **latter-day fulfillment**."—11 *Sym. Code*, No. 1, pg. 3--by Florence Houteff (boldings, braces added).

During this time the job I had in Waco was finished, so we moved to Houston, Texas, where I got a job as a plasterer apprentice on some tall office buildings (skyscrapers). One day while I was plastering about twenty-five stories up, we all went to the windows and looked down into the street below and saw Roy Rogers riding his palomino horse in a parade. When that building was done I was out of work, and found a job as an electrician helper on a new government plant being built in Mc Gregor, Texas, a small town not far from Waco. On Sabbaths we attended the services at old Mt. Carmel Center,

KNOCKOUT BLOW

and it is **1956**, and I am **twenty four** years old. During all this time Sis. Houteff was still having trouble from Ben L. Roden, and she published some articles in *The Symbolic Code* from Bro. Houteff's card file of his unpublished sermons to counter the teachings of Roden's "Branch" message. It was then that the Davidians began to learn more about her own interpretations of the forty-two months, which she also published in these *Symbolic Codes*, and which finally led to the "knockout blow" predicted by Bro. Houteff ^(201.1)! One time I began to learn more about what her Council was believing from her brother, Oliver.

A COUNCIL MEMBER EXPLAINS WHAT THE "TOMORROW ANSWER" MEANT TO THEM

One day I was standing with several other Davidians outside the old Mt. Carmel chapel after the Sabbath meeting, listening to Sis. Houteff's brother, Oliver Hermanson ^(186.3), tell us about the night that Bro. Houteff died. He said there must be another antitypical fulfillment, which must be connected with Bro. Houteff's promise to explain it to his wife the next day after he got home from the hospital when he said, "**To-morrow** you will have the **answer**" ^(203.0). But a Davidian asked him how this could be so, since he died before he could give the "answer"? And he said Bro. Houteff's death did not mean his promise to his wife was not kept, because the next day (**tomorrow**) after he died was his **answer**—another period (3 1/2 years) was to begin. Later, I realized that what he told us that day was the false premise that motivated Sis. Houteff and her Council to begin their forty-two-month period, which they said was to end in **1959**. They had counted three years from the time that he died in **1955** to **1958**, and then added one half year, which would end in **1959**. And this brought about the "knockout blow" predicted by Bro. Houteff ^(201.1)!

Afterwards I thought it was illogical for him to expect us to believe that Bro. Houteff's words to his wife, "**Tomorrow** you will have the answer," meant that he knew he was going to **die** that night; so he expected her to believe that his **silence** the next day (as a dead man who could not speak), would be his "**answer**" to her by unspoken words which she could not hear! It seemed more logical to believe that even though he might have expected to be alive the next day to tell her the "answer" with words she could hear; he still left his life in the hands of God to decide if he was to live to give the "answer" tomorrow or not; as the apostle James had said: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the **morrow**....for that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." (Ja. 4:15).

KNOCKOUT BLOW

In **1957** when I was **twenty-five**, my job at Mc Gregor, Texas (203.3) was finished; so we moved back to Logan, Utah to visit my wife's parents, and I worked in her father's electric motor shop. But we didn't stay long; because we moved to California and lived in Compton, while I worked in Long Beach at Frank's Electric Motor Shop repairing electric power tools. Sometimes we would drive up to Bakersfield to see my brother Dale (16.2), where he worked as a welder; and up northward to see my mother and sister Janie (10.1) who lived in Grover City.

SISTER HOUTEFF SELLS OLD MT. CARMEL AND BUILDS NEW MT. CARMEL

During this time Sis. Houteff sold off the "excess property" (177.2) of old Mt. Carmel, and bought property near Elk, Texas. She called it new Mt. Carmel Center, and built several homes on it, with a very large building for her solemn assembly, which she called "The Tabernacle." Later, the last of the "whole" (177.2) property (office building, cafeteria, rest home, and garage) was sold to the "VANGUARD SCHOOL." And she continued to teach her 42-month prophecy in *The Symbolic Code*, and finally concluded that this period of time (Rev. 11.3) was to end in April of **1959**. She said that "heaven" being shut up so "that it rain not in the days of their prophecy" (Rev. 11.6), meant that no more "rain"—truth (Rev. 11.6) could be given to us, because Elijah (Bro. Houteff) died in **1955**. So I wrote her a letter and asked this question: "How can you give us more 'rain'—doctrine (Deu. 32.2), by interpreting the 42-month prophecy, and say that it will end in April **1959** (204.1) if Elijah the last prophet is dead?" and anxiously waited for an answer. But it was not at all what I expected, and I was very surprised—she disfellowshipped me as a Davidian member of new Mt. Carmel Center!

ONE COUNCIL MEMBER SAID SIS. HOUTEFF'S 42 MONTH PROPHECY FOR 1959 WAS A MISTAKE

But I was not the only one to doubt her interpretation. George Saether, one of her council members, didn't think her prediction for the 42-month prophecy to end April 22, **1959** was correct. In his testimony, when he was interviewed by Prof. Mc Gee from Baylor University (Reproduced by permission of Baylor University Institute for Oral History), he was convicted that "we" (Sis. Houteff and her Council) "were **mistaken**"! And this is what he said:



KNOCKOUT BLOW

"In **1959** I was over here trying to sell this place and it came to me forcibly that I should drive out and tell the people. In the spring now, April 22, the time {that the 42-month prophecy} was supposed to end. It'd be better to tell 'em now than to wait. While I was thinking that, word came that I should go out, that we'd have a council meeting.

"When I got there they'd already had the council meeting and they were discussing the question—about those plagues {in the 42 months--Rev. 11:5, 6}. I could see that it might happen. I told them when I came in, I said, 'I just was impressed that we ought to write and tell the people that we're mistaken. That we made a blunder here and we want to rectify it before that time comes {April 22, **1959**}. There's still time.'

"Anyway, they didn't see it that way and they had something else showing that these plagues would—we were causing these plagues to the {SDA} church, you see, by all this."—*Oral Memoirs of George W. Saether*; interviews by Daniel B. McGee (Waco, Texas, 1977) in Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas (boldings, braces added by author).

Bro. Saether was right about Sis. Houteff and the rest of her council members—"they didn't see it" his way. They were not about to admit that they "were mistaken" about their predictions concerning the forty-two month prophecy; and they continued to teach it to the Davidians in *The Symbolic Code*.

SIS. HOUTEFF CALLED HER SOLEMN ASSEMBLY NEAR THE END OF 3-1/2 YEARS

As the time was approaching for the expected events to take place at the fulfillment of the three-and-one-half-year period, Sis. Houteff and her Council warned the Davidians in their April, **1959** issue of *The Symbolic Code*, Volume 14, No. 8 to "**Get Ready!**" On the front cover it stated these forewarning words:

"BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION,
SANCTIFY A FAST,
CALL A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY. Joel 2 :15.
GET READY!"

It was not too long there after that the Council sent to the Davidians another but very brief issue of *The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 14, No. 9 of only four pages. On the front cover they announced "**THE CALL TO THE SOLEMN ASSEMBLY**," and stated the time when the assembly was to begin on page two:

"The **call** to come to the **solemn assembly** is now being made to all who have decided to take their stand fully on the Lord's side. Those who are coming should be located at {new}

KNOCKOUT BLOW

Mt. Carmel or Waco by the **sixteenth of April** for a few days' necessary preliminary sessions preceeding the solemn assembly."—*The Symbolic Code*, Vol. 14, No. 9, pg. 2—by Florence Houteff (boldings, braces added by author).

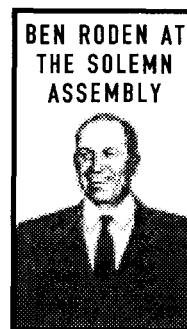
And Sis. Houteff and her Council were not disappointed, because many Davidians from all over the United States of America came to attend the **solemn assembly** to prepare for the major events which they had expected to take place:

- (1) The coming of the Lord for the slaughter of Ezekiel 9 (165:1).
- (2) And the setting up of the Kingdom (5:2).

Their solemn assembly was held in the new tabernacle which they had built especially for this event (205:2); and several of the Davidian ministers met there together every day to "**cry day and night**" (Lk. 18:7) in prayer. Their purpose was to ask God to work in their behalf and fulfill their expectations.

The newspaper reporters did not, of course, understand about the coming of the Lord for the slaughter of Ezekiel 9; and that must have been the reason why some of the newspapers stated that the Davidians had gathered at the new Mt. Carmel Center for the second coming of Christ.

When I received my *Symbolic Code* announcement of the solemn assembly in April, **1959** I wondered if I should go there, because I remembered that Sis. Houteff had disfellowshipped me as a member of new Mt. Carmel for asking her a question she couldn't answer (205:2). But since she sent me her announcement of invitation, I figured she wanted me to come; and I decided to go to Waco and see for myself what was going on. I quit my job at FRANK'S ELECTRIC in **1959** when I was **twenty-seven** years old; but my wife Juanita (177:1) refused to go with me to Texas to attend the solemn assembly at the new Mt. Carmel Center. After my arrival, I saw that the Executive Council had provided some of the Davidians with tents to live in; and I was asked to wire them to supply electricity for their lights, which I did. And whom do you suppose I saw there, besides all of my other Davidian friends? It was Ben L. Roden (191:1), with Perry Dale Jones (192:2) and several of his Branch Davidian followers; they came there, of course, to gain converts. I also made friends with the Davidians of the Smith family from So. Carolina—one of the states of the Carolina Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church that Bro. E.T. Wilson (101:1) was president of. I heard



KNOCKOUT BLOW

about them, the work that Bro. E.T. Wilson did there, and the Rest Home which these members of the Smith family and others had helped build. It was the only place in America that Bro. Houteff had set up as an **extension** of old Mt. Carmel Center (more about this later in another chapter).

Then my wife, Juanita (^{177.1}), who was still living in California (^{205.1}) wrote me a letter, and demanded that I give her an immediate divorce; obviously because she wanted to marry someone else; and because a Texas divorce required sixty days, whereas in California it required one year. Since I knew that she had been unfaithful to me, I divorced her on the grounds that she was at fault—breaking her marriage vow (adultery), which she accepted, and signed the divorce papers. This, of course, left me **free to marry again**, for this reason:

"I saw that Sister-----, as yet, had no right to marry another man; but if she, or another woman {or man}, should obtain a divorce legally on the ground that her husband {or wife} was guilty of **adultery**, then she {or he} is **free** to be **married** {again} to whom she chooses."—*Adventist Home*, pg. 344:3--by EGW (boldings, braces added by author.

In the mean time, while the Davidians were waiting and praying for certain expected events to occur as Sis. Houteff Houteff had predicted (^{207.2.3}), I found a job painting houses to pay for my divorce. Finally, on the day of July 13, **1959** my five-year marriage with Juanita was ended.

By now time had continued from April to about August and not one of the events had taken place as Sis. Houteff and her Council had expected! Finally, many Davidians became weary with their tearful day-and-night prayers in the Tabernacle building (^{205.2}), and they began to go back home and continue life as before. As for myself, while I was wiring the tents I met some Davidians from Portland, Oregon, one of which was a Davidian sister named **Wanda** and her seven year old son Jerry (her husband had divorced her to marry another woman, which gave her the right to remarry). They knew that I had divorced my wife at her request, and had no place to go. One of them, Bro. Nordstrom, asked me to go with him back to Oregon and start life anew there, which I did. By then it was late **1959** and I was **twenty seven** years old.