

The car that ran on water

Nine years after his death, inventor's dreams -- and suspicions -- linger

By Dean Narciso

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After more than 20 years of research and tinkering, it was time to celebrate.



Stanley Allen Meyer, his brother and two Belgian investors raised glasses in the Grove City Cracker Barrel on March 20, 1998.

Stanley Meyer during a test of his dune buggy, about 1980. This screen shot was taken from a DVD sent to The Dispatch by his twin brother, Stephen Meyer.

Meyer said his invention could do what physicists say is impossible -- turn water into hydrogen fuel efficiently enough to drive his dune buggy cross-country on 20 gallons straight from the tap.

He took a sip of cranberry juice. Then he grabbed his neck, bolted out the door, dropped to his knees and vomited violently.

"I ran outside and asked him, 'What's wrong?' " his brother, Stephen Meyer, recalled. "He said, 'They poisoned me.' That was his dying declaration."

'Cloak and dagger'

Stanley Meyer's bizarre death at age 57 ended work that, if proved valid, could have ended reliance on fossil fuels.

People who knew him say his work drew worldwide attention: mysterious visitors from overseas, government spying and lucrative buyout offers.

His death sparked a three-month investigation that consumed and fascinated Grove City police.

"Meyer's death was laced with all sorts of stories of conspiracy, cloak-and-dagger stories," said Grove City Police Lt. Steve Robinette, lead detective on the case.

If Stephen Meyer was shocked at his twin brother's collapse and death, he was equally amazed at the Belgians' response the next day.

"I told them that Stan had died and they never said a word," he recalled, "absolutely nothing, no condolences, no questions.

"I never, ever had a trust of those two men ever again."

Today, Stanley Meyer is featured on numerous Internet sites. A significant portion of the 1995 documentary *It Runs on Water*, narrated by science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke and aired on the BBC, focuses on his "water fuel cell" invention.

James Robey wants a permanent place for Meyer in his Kentucky Water Fuel Museum.

"He was ignored, called a fraud and died without his small hometown even remembering him with so much as a plaque," Robey wrote in his self-published book *Water Car*

