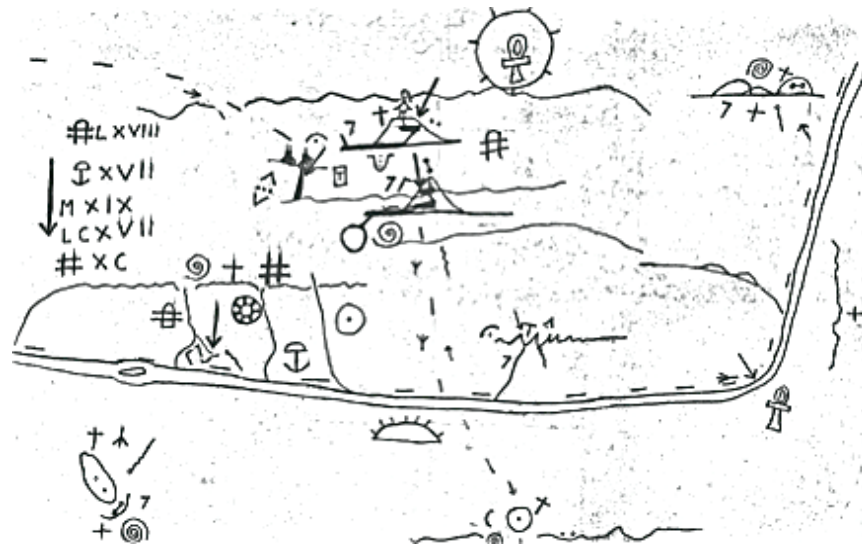


- Synopsis of *The Gold House* Trilogy -

The three books of *The Gold House* tell the story of a hidden treasure, one of important historical significance and tremendous value. Its existence was first uncovered on November 7, 1937 within a rugged desert hill called Victorio Peak located on what is known today as White Sands Missile Range. With the onset of World War II, the Tularosa Basin, which lay directly east of the site, became a weapons testing area, which the military named White Sands Proving Ground. By the mid-1950s the area was renamed White Sands Missile Range and was expanded further westward beyond the San Andres Mountain Range, which included Victorio Peak. That's when the trouble began.

The first book of the trilogy, The Gold House, The



| Discovery, reveals the well-documented true story of Doc and Ova Noss, the discoverers and legal owners of a treasure they found inside Victorio Peak. Doc and Ova were extraordinary individuals; after finding the treasure, they endured a hostile environment most others could not have tolerated. In spite of being maligned and ridiculed by individuals in the military and the Treasury Department, they held fast to their position that

they were the true owners of the treasure. Most of the ridicule was targeted at Doc, who had a propensity to drink, and did so heavily at times when he came under pressure with matters dealing with the treasure.

| The treasure was discovered soon after Doc and Ova began camping for extended periods in Hembrillo Basin in a stone structure, perhaps a century or more old, which they called the "rock house." There they slept, hunted for wild game, cooked their meals, drew water from a nearby spring, and explored for treasure. The ancient map shown here eventually led Doc to the treasure site.

| As primitive as the map is, the San Andres Mountains, the "Bloody Hands" site, Geronimo Peak, Victorio Peak, Hembrillo Basin, the western rim of the Basin, the Organ Mountain Range, the Caballo Mountain Range, and the Rio Grande are all clearly identifiable. The story of how Doc came upon the map is covered in book one of the trilogy. The landmarks described here all played their roles in the Victorio Peak saga, including accounts of a number of individuals who had also discovered Spanish treasure in the Caballo Mountains.

It was Doc and Ova Noss who time and history have recognized as the first and true discoverers of the Victorio Peak treasure, but time and history have not served them well. In the end, Doc's business partner, Charley Ryan, murdered him over a gold transaction gone wrong. The most-remembered photo of Doc shows his limp body slumped against the bumper of Ryan's truck. In Ryan's murder trial the presiding judge, William Scoggin, was a business partner in Doc's Cheyenne Mining Company. Another partner of Doc's in the same agreement was Benjamin Newell, who became Ryan's defense attorney. Gold was placed on the table and Ryan was acquitted.

| Ova spent years trying to raise the treasure, but in 1955 she was forcibly removed from her claim by the military. Her story carries on into the beginning of the second book of the trilogy, The Gold House, The Lies, The Thefts. It was then that new names and new faces crept onto the scene; seven military people who maintained the gold belonged to them formed an

| association called the “Seven Heirs.” On September 5, 1961,
| Leonard Fiege and Tom Berlett, two members of the group,
were given polygraph examinations to determine if they had
| found the treasure. From the examiner’s reports, in part:

Did you find [gold] bricks in a cave in the San Andres Mountains in November? Yes. Is your statement concerning the finding of the bricks completely true? Yes. Did Berlett also see these bricks in the cave? Yes.

The polygraph examinations conducted on Fiege and Berlett proved they had seen part of the treasure Doc and Ova Noss had found decades earlier. Eventually, the commanding general at White Sands and one of his aides were caught lying to the Bureau of Land Management, denying the military was searching for the treasure. But they were, and they found it,
| and in 1961 individuals at White Sands Missile Range began to remove the gold.

The crimes committed by those involved during the 1960s were powder kegs waiting to explode. Fiege and Berlett set the stage when they rediscovered the Noss treasure. In spite of the public notoriety the treasure story was receiving, Leland Howard, Director of Silver & Gold Operations at the U.S. Mint, allowed Major General John Shinkle, commanding general
| at White Sands, to continue excavating the treasure site. Shinkle, drawn into the scandal because of his own devices, lied to New Mexico officials, denying the military had been excavating the site, claiming such rumors were a “myth.”

In 1963 that the military finally allowed an expedition to be conducted at the Noss treasure site. The expedition was permitted to forward the concept that the military had not excavated the site in the early 1960s, when a large amount of the Noss gold was removed. The 1963 excavation, a tightly controlled hard rock mining effort, was conducted under the sponsorship of the Museum of New Mexico with Gaddis Mining Company doing the excavation work. But there was more to the final outcome of the Gaddis expedition than was made public. Even before the operation began, the commanding general at White Sands, General Shinkle, had allegedly removed 700 gold bars from the site. According to a witness, William Gaddis had hired “a European investigative firm with access to numbered Swiss accounts.” Gaddis was reportedly “satisfied” with the information that Shinkle had removed the 700 gold bars, but chose not to pursue the matter.

Nineteen months after the Gaddis/Museum search had ended, proof of wrongdoing came in an official report on the results of the exploration by Chester R. Johnson Jr., a credentialed Museum of New Mexico archeologist and cartographer; his report had been significantly altered to exclude all information that underscored the Army’s past involvement in illegal operations at the Noss treasure site. This investigation shows that Colonel Richard E. Wade and others conspired to alter Johnson’s report so that it would not accurately portray Shinkle’s and the military’s past activities at the treasure site. A letter dated November 8, 1963, from Robert K. Alexander, Curator of Salvage Archaeology, to Colonel Wade spelled out the arrangement. In part:

Dear Colonel Wade: Enclosed please find a manuscript of Mr. Johnson’s report on the Gaddis Mining operation. We would appreciate your censoring this for any information that you would not like to have included. We would also appreciate the return of this manuscript, as soon as possible, since we are overdue in our obligations to the other agencies involved. -- Robert K. Alexander

The letter told the story; a museum official conspired with military officials to alter a public document, one that was not

| paid for by the Army, a report voluntarily surrendered to the
| military on a quid pro quo arrangement, a pre-designed plot
| set up to cloak all prior military activity at the treasure site.

| In 1973 operations were under way at the Pentagon and
White Sands Missile Range to conduct yet another controlled
search. The glowing embers of past-related issues and the
throng of individuals and groups who still claimed ownership
to the gold inside Victorio Peak were intensifying, so much so
that they, with the assistance of their attorneys, including F.
Lee Bailey, mounted a formidable task force to pressure White
Sands to allow another search. This time it was called
Operation Goldfinder. It was targeted for 1977.

| Before Operation Goldfinder began, however, another
string of events unfolded at White Sands Missile Range that
trumped any prior theft from the treasure, a theft that
dispelled any past claim by the commanding generals at White
Sands that there had never been any gold inside Victorio Peak,
or niches of gold nearby, placed there by Doc Noss in the
1940s.

The events began during the first week of November
1973 when three Secret Service agents traveled to Arrey, New
Mexico, and met with a man named Fred Drolte at a private
residence to arrange a meeting with Richard Nixon. If the
meeting between Drolte and Nixon took place, it apparently
occurred on Sunday, November 18, 1973, at Biggs Army
Airfield on Fort Bliss, Texas. Although his claim remains
unverified, Drolte allegedly met with Nixon in a small jet and
was given a key that opened a gate west of the treasure site.

Three days later, on Wednesday, November 21, 1973, the
day before Thanksgiving, Drolte drove his military surplus 6x6
truck to Victorio Peak. When he left the site five days later on
Sunday, November 25, 1973, 36.5 tons of gold had been
removed. What followed was page after page of contracts,
letters, warehouse receipts, bank letters, assay reports and a
myriad of FBI reports and government documents—a trail of
| evidence detailing a theft of nearly \$1.8 billion (at today's
prices) in gold. The trail of evidence began to unravel the day
after the theft operation ended. Letters and FBI documents

show that on Monday morning, November 26, 1973, an attorney named David T. Austern, a “tipster,” had called George Brazier at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army to inform him that 37 tons of gold was taken from White Sands Missile Range over the holiday weekend. The names of the individuals involved were given to the FBI, but because they were “mere allegations” they were never interviewed. Austern today is president and general counsel of the Manville Trust, formed to settle personal injury claims stemming from exposure to asbestos products. When questioned about details of the November 1973 telephone call, Austern said he did not remember the call.

The trail of the gold theft began on December 3, 1973, when Lawrence Systems Inc., a warehousing company, issued five lots of warehouse receipts to Mark IV and Associates and International Smelting & Refining Company, both companies owned by Kenneth Meadows, a key figure in the Thanksgiving weekend gold theft and other dealings.

These five warehouse receipts, numbered 16077, 16078, 16080, 16081 and 16082, were the documented record of a number of steel drums that contained gold dory bars and artifacts removed to and stored at Lawrence’s 421½ Hickox Street location in Santa Fe. The business office of Lawrence Systems was located in the same office building owned by the First National Bank of Albuquerque, the bank that FBI reports indicate was involved in handling and moving the gold.

That same day, International Smelting & Refining Company turned around and issued warehouse receipt numbers 16080 and 16082 to Mark IV Associates. Mark IV Associates, also holding warehouse receipts numbers 16077, 16078 and 16081, issued by Lawrence Systems, turned all receipts over to the bank, which took physical possession of them.

By now, an FBI investigation was under way and three days later, on December 6, 1973, FBI Director Clarence Kelley was informed in an Albuquerque Airtel report that Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Armstrong had suspected that F. Lee Bailey had hired someone to “embarrass” the military at White Sands.

The same day an Albuquerque FBI letterhead memorandum gave vague details of the holiday weekend theft in a report of little substance.

A week went by and on December 13, 1973, Director Kelley received a summary of activities in another FBI Albuquerque Airtel report that included a request for Brazier to identify the "tipster." Two weeks passed and on December 28, 1973, Kelley was given information that General Sweeny had learned David Austern had tipped off Brazier about the break-in.

By January 9, 1974, Las Cruces Resident FBI Agent Herb Greathouse wrote a letter that described trucks hauling 37 tons of gold "ingots" and "artifacts." The letter named: International Smelting & Refining Company, the First National Bank of Albuquerque and its bank officers "Mr. Morgan" and "Joseph Casey," Handy & Harmon, Paul Henson [alias alleged CIA asset Lloyd Tucker], David Austern and his clients Ed Atkins and William Shriver, and Gordon Hobbs at the Pentagon. That same day, the first of nine agreements involving Mark IV Associates, Pyramid Enterprises and the First National Bank of Albuquerque made reference to certain Lawrence System warehouse receipts: 16077, 16078, 16080, 16081 and 16082 which, according to the first agreement, were valued at \$1,328,043. The agreement provided for a \$300,000 loan to Kenneth Meadows from First National Bank of Albuquerque and a \$1,000,000 letter of credit to collateralize the loan. It also stipulated that Meadows was to instruct Handy & Harmon to deliver the gold "bar stock" to Standard Safe Deposit Company in New York. Individuals party to the first agreement were: Kenneth D. Meadows as President of Mark IV Associates, Simon Ashley Smith as Authorized Representative of Pyramid Enterprises Inc., c/o Mellon Bank International, (Attention Barry Wohl, Executive Vice President), Joseph P. Casey as Vice President of First National Bank in Albuquerque, and J. J. Thompson as "Secretary" and Toni Thomas as Notary Public as attested to on February 13, 1974.

On January 10, 1974, certificates of insurance were issued to Pyramid Enterprises c/o Mellon Bank International by

American National General Agencies. International Smelting & Refining Company was the "Assured" on the policies. The insurance companies were Lloyd's and Company, Yosemite Insurance, and Reserve Insurance Company.

Five days later, on January 15, 1974, the Washington Field Office provided FBI Director Kelley with more evidence that connected 37 tons of gold ingots, International Smelting & Refining Company, First National Bank of Albuquerque, certain bank officials, and Handy & Harmon, a California refinery. Then, one week later, on January 21, 1974, the second agreement was executed that amended the January 9, 1974 agreement, allowing Credit Suisse Bank, Champlé Branch in Geneva, Switzerland, to become party to the first agreement. There were many other recitals in the agreement. Kenneth D. Meadows as President of Mark IV Associates, Simon Ashley Smith as Authorized Representative of Pyramid Enterprises Inc., Joseph P. Casey as Vice President for First National Bank in Albuquerque and J. J. Thompson as "Secretary," signed the second amendment. Notary Public Toni Thomas attested to the signatures on February 13, 1974.

The third agreement, executed on January 21, 1974, between Pyramid Enterprises, as Assignor, and Credit Suisse, a Swiss banking organization as Assignee, collateralized the \$1,000,000.00 letter of credit called for in the first agreement. Credit Suisse held and acknowledged receipt of Lawrence Systems' warehouse receipts 16077, 16078, 16080, 16081 and 16082 in accordance with the terms and provisions of the January 9, 1974 amended agreement. These warehouse receipts were provided to Lawrence Systems by Mark IV Associates the same day, but prior to signing the agreement. Simon Ashley Smith signed for Pyramid Enterprises. A signature line was provided for Credit Suisse. Also on that day, and as a condition of the third agreement, First National Bank of Albuquerque provided Lawrence Systems with the original warehouse receipts dated December 3, 1973, which were stored at 421½ Hickox Street, Santa Fe. The bank, being the "receipt holder," directed Lawrence Systems to reissue certificates in the name of Pyramid Enterprises as "holder" and

mail originals to Credit Suisse, Chample Branch, Geneva, Switzerland. That very day, January 21, 1974, FBI Director Kelley was told that the alleged gold theft was “nothing more than a play on a Spanish treasure story with little or no merit.”

The following day, January 22, an Albuquerque FBI letterhead memorandum told of David Austern’s role in telling the FBI Washington Field Office details of the story, information that had the effect of steering the investigation away from the Handy & Harmon refinery.

Just eight days later, on January 30, 1974, Austern provided Shriver with a list of companies holding export licenses to “sell gold abroad.” Handy & Harmon was listed. Two weeks later, on February 14, 1974, Valley Agri-Services sent an assay to Credit Suisse Bank referencing Berkley/Pyramid Enterprises, Mark IV Associates, International Smelting & Refining Company, and “Code:” Lloyd Henson [an alias for Lloyd Tucker].

On March 5, 1974, a fraudulent Department of the Army inquiry was held at White Sands Missile Range by invitation only. On March 11, 1974, Bland West and Gordon Hobbs produced a misleading report on the March 5, 1974 inquiry. That same day the fourth agreement described the stolen gold as “sponge” gold, a gold-bearing emulsion formed by refining gold electronically, which was false. The next day, March 12, 1974, a fifth agreement, an amendment, was signed that furthered the money laundering process. Two days later, on March 14, 1974, FBI Director Kelley was given blatantly false information on an Albuquerque Letterhead Memorandum concerning the March 5, 1974, inquiry. On April 1, 1974, the sixth, seventh, and eighth agreements were signed; the eighth agreement “escrowed” the laundered money and “certain documents” at the Riggs National Bank in Washington, across the street from the Nixon White House.

Two days later, on April 3, 1974, William Shriver, the true owner of Pyramid Enterprises, signed the ninth agreement. London-based gold dealer Simon John Ashley Smith, the “Authorized Signatory” for Berkley Enterprises, signed the agreement. Ed Atkins witnessed the signatures, as did David

Austern.

Interviewed in 2012, David Austern said, “Ashley Smith, who was not a client of mine, had some kind of connection with Credit Suisse.” He cited one deal where Ashley Smith was arranging for \$1 million in 1978 or 1979 dollars which, Austern said, “I guess would be worth about \$10 million today.”

“Ashley Smith had access through Credit Suisse to some really heavy investors,” Austern said. “He apparently had unfettered access to the Swiss.” Austern recalled that Atkins and Shriver had a business relationship with Kenneth Meadows, but expressed surprise that his own name appeared on the series of agreements that dealt with the 37 tons of gold.

Betty Tucker claimed that Smith and her husband Lloyd were lifelong friends and owned a joint interest in Berkley Enterprises. Tucker was also alleged to be a CIA operative or asset. As book two shows, Shriver was murdered in 1982. Before Shriver’s killing, Ed Atkins died. According to two sources, Lloyd Tucker and an Atkins relative, Ed Atkins was also the victim of foul play. Kenneth Meadows was shot and killed by his wife, and William Gaddis accidentally shot himself while cleaning a handgun, so it was said.

Ironically, Austern said that when he was in New York in the late 1970s with Ashley Smith, Shriver and Atkins, the latter two men asked him to walk with them, a block or so behind Ashley Smith as they all headed to a restaurant for lunch. Austern, who thought his clients wanted some private time with him, was puzzled because as they walked along, with Ashley Smith well ahead of them but still in sight, neither Shriver nor Atkins said anything. Austern asked them, “What is it that you wanted to discuss?”

They said, “We just wanted him to walk a block or two ahead.”

I said, “Why is that?”

They said, “Well, his life has been threatened several times. If anything were to happen, we don’t want to be anywhere near him.”

Book three, The Gold House--Executive Order, describes a modern replay of what the government did to Ova Noss during her years at Victorio Peak after Doc was murdered. The book begins in the 1990s when a more sophisticated sequence of tricks and deceitful behavior was played out against Terry Delonas, son of Dorothy Delonas, Ova's daughter. Lies and deceit, false and deliberate overbillings, and illegal changes to an agreed-upon license contract are cited. Coercion, intimidation and extortion were also some of the devices the United States Government used against ONFP (Ova Noss Family Partnership), during its search efforts at Victorio Peak.