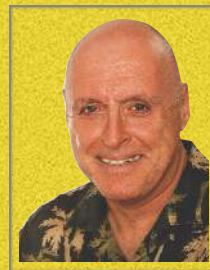


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 664 Tales of Power: Nikola Tesla Part 2

Nikola Tesla's brilliance as an inventor was unquestioned. It was also obvious that his career and lack of financial success was characterized by poor general business sense. Further, a lot of the Tesla story is shrouded in mystery. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, we'll dig a little deeper into that story, next, on The Extra Point.

When we left our discussion of Nikola Tesla, he had lived out his final years in a New York City hotel room, with stacks of inventions, projects, and notes surrounding him. He had made others fabulously wealthy with his work, but he ended up penniless.

Controversy and confusion followed Tesla throughout his career, and that didn't change with his death. In fact, his passing produced perhaps the greatest Tesla mystery of all.

World War Two was raging and Tesla had claimed to have invented a powerful particle-beam weapon that seemed to have come straight out of science fiction. He called it the "Death Ray."

Now, imagine, if true, Tesla's death ray could be built into a frightening weapon that could take out dozens, hundreds, perhaps thousands of enemy soldiers on a battlefield. No explosives needed. Just aim the ray and that's it.

Tesla had first mentioned this concept in the 1930s, suggesting that a nation could destroy anything approaching it within a distance of 200 miles. Further it could create a "wall of power" that no enemy could get through. That included armies, airplanes, or anything else.

Given his reputation, is it any wonder that the U.S. Government would take interest and swoop in to grab his files, upon his death?

The federal government immediately took possession of all of Tesla's property and

documents, some 80 full trunks worth. Can you imagine, 80 trunks? His room must have been wall-to-wall with his written work, stacked floor-to-ceiling.

What happened then is cloaked in mystery, and conspiracy theories are numerous. It took his family nine years to get Tesla's property back. However, when it all arrived in Serbia in 1952, 20 of the trunks were missing and never were accounted for. What might have been in those 20 trunks? What about the Tesla death ray? Could it have been real?

Or, maybe there's another explanation. Maybe, Tesla wanted to get back at a system that he felt had been used against him most of his life. Maybe it was a grand wild goose chase, designed to confound and infuriate those who would hope to once again capitalize on his technology. We'll never know.

After years of fielding questions about possible cover-ups, the FBI finally declassified some 250 pages of Tesla-related documents under the Freedom of Information Act in 2016. Two additional releases followed, the latest in March 2018. However, many questions remain unanswered and a large number of Tesla's files are still missing.

Would you believe there is a connection to Pres. Donald Trump? Three weeks after Tesla's death, his uncle, Dr. John G. Trump, an electrical engineer from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was asked to evaluate Tesla's papers to determine whether they contained ideas of significant value.

Trump, credited with helping to design X-ray machines that greatly helped cancer patients and worked on radar research for the U.S. and its allies during World War II, said no death ray existed.

(Con't.)

He reported that what he found was “primarily of a speculative, philosophical and promotional character,” and there was nothing workable.

However, others disagreed. Marc Seifer, author of the biography *Wizard: The Life & Times of Nikola Tesla*, says military personnel at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, including Brigadier General L.C. Craigee, had a very different opinion of Tesla’s ideas. Craigee believed the particle beam weapon was real and had merit. We don’t know where it went from there, and the mystery continues.

I’ll leave you with a few thoughts from Tesla himself. He said:

“If hate could be turned into electricity, it would light up the whole world.”

“I do not think there is any thrill that can go through the human heart like that felt by the inventor as he sees some creation of the brain unfolding to success. Such emotions make a man forget food, sleep, friends, love, everything.”

“Each day we go to our work in the hope of discovering...in the hope that someone, no matter who, may find a solution of one of the pending great problems...and each succeeding day we return to our task with renewed ardor; and even if we are unsuccessful, our work has not been in vain, for in these strivings, in these efforts, we have found hours of untold pleasure, and we have directed our energies to the benefit of mankind.” Words of Nikola Tesla.

That’s The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I’m Jerry Roberts.

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