



Cthulhu Now and Delta Green

The Germine Institute

By Christopher Smith Adair

FIGURE 11. MAP SHOWING THE TWO LOT SITES AND ALL EXCAVATED UNITS



Mankind is fighting a war, and it is losing. The victims and the casualties are everywhere. The most tragic victims are the youngest, most helpless members of a society on the brink. These innocents are being sacrificed, while the average person and the authorities turn their backs. They won't hear the screams until it is too late.

One small, dedicated group stands against the growing darkness, placing themselves between Hell and the children it hungers for. It is a lonely mission, and the enemy is everywhere. The serpent is coiled in the hearts of men, and only the white-hot light of truth will burn them out.

Dr. Maria Alvarez

Dr. Alvarez worked primarily with troubled youth in her psychotherapy practice. In 1976, she attended a symposium at the University of Notre Dame held by the Christian Medical Association, entitled "A Theological, Psychological, Medical Symposium on the Phenomena Labeled as Demonic". She came to the symposium to network and quench her curiosity. A variety of topics related to the subject were covered during its course, one of which was "demonic possession", and ways in which the medical and psychological community could deal with it. Dr. Alvarez left the conference intrigued, but soon shelved the information in a corner of her mind. It wasn't until 1982 and Susan Short that Dr. Alvarez had cause to recall what she had learned.

SUSAN

Susan Short was serving her probation in a halfway house in East LA. The 15-year-old girl had a history of drug abuse and prostitution, and was beginning a career in pornography when the police picked her up. Dr. Alvarez met the troubled girl while volunteering at the halfway house. Susan Short was sullen and withdrawn, though prone to fits of rage when she felt slighted. Dr. Alvarez began one-on-one sessions with her in the hopes of getting to the root of her problems. After several intense sessions, Alvarez and Short established a rapport, with the young girl slowly feeling more comfortable and trusting. But her problems persisted, and Dr. Alvarez was no closer to finding out the reasons why.

Susan Short came from a broken home, with her father, Jeremy Short, leaving for St. Louis, Missouri when she was five. Her mother, Delia Holmes, was hardworking, doing what she could to take care of Susan and her younger brother, Todd. Susan never actually ran away from home, but spent most of her time on the streets, sometimes staying out for days. She was distant from her mother and estranged from her father.

At this point, Dr. Alvarez suspected that Susan might be suffering from a form of dissociation. She broached the subject of hypnosis with Susan. After some gentle prodding, Susan assented. Under hypnosis, Susan reverted to childhood, and revealed the harrowing abuse she suffered at the hands of her father. Susan's child self told

how her father not only molested her, but forced her to take part in rituals in the basement and subjected her to systematic torture, obviously designed to crush her spirit. The climax of Susan's recollection came with a description of her father's sweating and heaving bulk pressed against her naked body, and the gaping red mouths that opened in the palms of his hands that nibbled and chewed her flesh. With that, Susan Short woke from her trance, shaking and shuddering.

Dr. Alvarez instinctively moved to comfort the girl, but Susan shrieked when Maria touched her, and drew blood with a swipe of her nails across the psychologist's face. Dr. Alvarez jumped back, putting a hand to her wet cheek. Susan curled into a tight ball, sobbing and whispering to herself. Dr. Alvarez came forward again, putting her arms around the young girl and softly rocking her until the crying stopped.

Susan Short now clearly remembered the abuse she suffered as a child. She showed Dr. Alvarez the marks on her stomach, breasts and thighs. Several spots on her skin were marred with red, almond shaped discolorations. Susan had always thought the mouth-sized spots were birthmarks, but now she knew otherwise. After the revelation of her childhood trauma, Susan felt despair and relief at the same time. Her recovered memories placed the events of her life into a new context, and helped explain the formless fears and nightmares that had always plagued her.

Maria Alvarez was left to ponder the ramifications of what she had learned. As horrible and impossible as the girl's story was, Maria believed it. She was convinced that the hypnotic trance had been genuine, and that Susan Short had told the truth, dredging up suppressed memories. The child's psychological defenses had blocked out her father's abuse, allowing Susan to continue to function, rather than collapse entirely. Of course, the effects of the abuse still lingered, and without years of therapy, Susan Short would always be emotionally and psychologically crippled. For the first time, Maria Alvarez had seen direct evidence of spiritual evil.

Dr. Alvarez continued to work with Susan, occasionally using hypnotherapy, which revealed more details of her abuse. Her mother was absent from the horrible scenes, but Susan was convinced of the woman's complicity, blaming her mother for not doing anything to stop the terror. Dr. Alvarez recommended bringing her mother into a session to explore these feelings, but Susan adamantly refused. In the meantime, Dr. Alvarez began researching the occult and networking with other doctors, law enforcement, and religious experts. At this time in the mid-1980s, cult activity and what was becoming known as SRA (Satanic Ritual Abuse), was just beginning to become a concern. Law enforcement was still at a loss over what to do about it, with most agencies treating evidence of cult abuse the same as other charges of child abuse. A few officers in police departments across the country had begun to do their own research on the phenomena, but generally did so without official sanction. Some were becoming known as experts on cult crimes and wrote papers, gave seminars, and spoke with journalists and made television appearances. There was little communication between federal, state, and county agencies regarding the topic, and therefore no database or statistics to rely on or even let departments realize that a national phenomena was developing. But more and more cases were coming forward, in both the legal and the medical arena.