

509012 The Search for the Manchurian Candidate / STAT

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# When the CIA flew high on LSD

By HARRIET VAN HORNE

**THE SEARCH FOR THE 'MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE': The CIA and Mind Control. By John Marks. Times Books, 242 pages, \$9.95.**

HERE is a horror story to unfix your hair. It's the documented history of the dangerous — even murderous — experiments in mind control carried out by the CIA during the 20-year period when it was accountable only to itself.

In those years of shame the CIA employed drugs, hypnosis, psycho-surgery and sadism — politely called behavior modification — in a fruitless search for a device that would turn a man into a puppet. A Manchurian candidate, if you will, programmed to do patriotic "dirty work," including assassination.

How did the author, a former State Dept. official, learn so much about this most sinister activity in all U.S. history?

"This book has grown out of the 16,000 pages of documents that the CIA released to me under the Freedom of Information Act," John Marks writes.

The agency's favorite drug was the hallucinogen, LSD. It arrived on these shores in 1947 and for years

the CIA controlled the supply. When CIA employes balked at being guinea pigs, the agency recruited college students, prisoners and drug addicts.

With a rationale evoking Nazi experiments on helpless humans, the CIA tried out psychic drugs on inmates of the famed drug treatment center (and prison) at Lexington, Ky. There a doctor once kept seven men on LSD for 77 days straight! Reward to prisoners who cooperated was the drug of their choice. Pure heroin in the vein if they so indicated. All this, mind you, at a government facility set up to rehabilitate addicts.

LSD became an agency obsession. An unscrupulous researcher could run dangerous experiments uncensored by colleagues who would not know what he was up to — "and he could take pride in helping his country," Marks wryly notes.

Prostitutes were also recruited by the CIA in the hope that techniques of sexual entrapment might become part of every agent's manual. A magician named John Mulholland was hired to teach agents how to slip drugs

into an enemy's food and drink. None of these devices proved practical, as Fidel Castro lived to tell us all.

Innocent men and women died in consequence of some experiments. Others went mad. But the CIA

never found the drug that would turn a man into a puppet. The legacy of the agency obsession with LSD must not be overlooked, however. Marks says it led directly to the drug culture of the 1960s, a national malaise that lingers on.