

A Conspiracy Theory ...

by John Linder

LIke many readers, I have been reading **USGlass** Magazine for many years. In fact, **USGlass** is one of the very few trade magazines that I religiously read from cover-to-cover each month. And, like many of you, I typically begin at the end of the issue to check in with this character named "Hill."

During the past two years I have written an article or two for **USGlass**. In one article I even went so far as to refer to this Hill character. I thought that this simple act of male bonding might even possibly solicit a telephone call, or some minor recognition from the great oracle himself. No such luck.

Then, about a year ago it occurred to me that perhaps something might be amiss. I noticed that the same two or three routine photographs of Hill were always inserted at the end of Hill's articles ... never anything new. It started me thinking. I also noticed that there seemed to be a preponderance of Hill's older articles being re-printed. I was a little worried. Maybe Hill had acquired some horrible, protracted illness and had become incapacitated. Not being one to beat around the bush, I called MTH Industries to check things out. I was told that everything was fine with Mr. Hill, and in fact he had been in the office earlier in the week, but that at the moment he was unavailable. Being the trusting soul that I am, I thanked the young lady and said goodbye. Even so, I had this uneasy feeling in the pit of my stomach.

Then, late last year one of our sales managers was in the Chicago area. I made it a point to have Ray Cooper stop by MTH Industries and congratulate Hill on his recent move and new building. When

Ray arrived at MTH and mentioned Hill's name he got many funny looks, and was told that Mr. Hill was a very busy man and unavailable. My father always taught me that where there is smoke, there is usually a fire.

Some years ago I saw this Mel Gibson movie called "Conspiracy Theory." This Hill situation reminded me of the movie and I suspected a conspiracy of sorts might be at play here. Maybe I should contact the Perilstein clan. Surely a member of the Perilstein clan would be willing to rat out on Hill. Guess what- no one in the clan was willing to discuss Hill...good, bad, or indifferent. Very suspicious indeed!

Now my worry became well grounded in suspicion. I have a good friend whose uncle suddenly died. The family hushed it all up and kept the old guy alive on paper so that the aunt could continue collecting his Social Security. Is it possible that Debra Levy and Ellen Chilcoat are now doing the same with Hill? This makes a lot of sense to me. After all, Hill does draw more than a few readers to their magazine.

All it would have taken was that one short, simple telephone call from Hill two years ago and all of this would have been unnecessary.

the author

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