

## Fenn saved files from Edits Out

### Chapter 3

#### LORAN is Not a Conspiracy

As odd as it may seem to you, my first decision to look for an association between the word LORAN and the D.B. Cooper case came from my involvement in trying to figure out where and when Forrest Fenn's \$1M-plus treasure was supposedly found in 2020.

I had come to that treasure hunt in early 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic began limiting social interaction outside. I found a vibrant, and for the most part, welcoming community of "searchers". Literally, thousands had been attempting to solve Fenn's poem of clues to locate his treasure. Many like me had joined recently before Fenn sent out an e-mail on June 6th, 2020, stating that the hunt was over and that the chest had been retrieved.

That is an incredible story within itself. There are several books and videos on the Forrest Fenn treasure hunt. I am a huge fan of Forrest and his book / treasure hunt, *The Thrill Of The Chase*, as well as his service to our country. I also thank him for this adventure that brought my attention back to the D.B. Cooper case.

Fenn did so many things during his extraordinary life. Of note was his over 20-year career in the Air Force where he flew 328 missions as a fighter pilot during the Vietnam War. He survived being shot down twice. Yes, he did eject both times, and his canopies were successfully deployed in both incidents. Two searchers even authored a book asking if Major Fenn was D.B. Cooper. I joined a few friends in delving further into any connection between Fenn and Cooper.

Fenn passed away at the age of ninety, just three months after he sent the e-mail ending his treasure hunt. In the years since his passing, more has been learned about how he engaged with a videographer regarding D.B. Cooper. He even wrote questions to himself that were published on my friend, Jenny Kile's amazing treasure hunt and mystery game website, [MysteriousWritings.com](http://MysteriousWritings.com). One post where he submitted a question from himself to himself was disguised as a searcher who signed it "DBC".

I also have friends who met Fenn's grandson, Shiloh Old, and asked him about D.B. Cooper. The response they received from him led them to think that there may be more to the story than any of us may know.

The other development with Forrest Fenn that is emerging more concretely since his passing is that while it was known that he went on some art missions to Russia and was associated with high-ranking officials in our government, that he was allegedly engaged with the CIA and at a minimum was "CIA adjacent".

Bringing it full circle to the rest of Fenn's storied life, the Major ended up becoming a "major", wealthy art dealer out of his gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Among the many true stories about Forrest is an intriguing one in that he purchased one hundred paintings by the famous art forger, Elmer de Hory. The rub was that Fenn legally promoted and sold them as forgeries, and people lapped them up.

Amazingly, the person who partnered with him on this venture to sell "fakes as fakes" was the man sitting in front of President Kennedy who was also wounded on that fateful day, then Governor John

Connally of Texas. That's right, Forrest Fenn and John Connally were friends. They even went into business together for this deal where they doubled their money. There is a wonderful picture of the two together with the paintings in Fenn's follow-up book to *The Thrill Of The Chase* titled *Too Far To Walk*.

Also, in *Too Far To Walk*, Fenn dedicates a chapter to the time that the wife of JFK, Jacqueline Onassis, came and stayed at the cottages at his gallery.

So, among all the other amazing things about Forrest Fenn, he was close friends with the man who sat in front of JFK on the day they both were shot, and hosted JFK's widow as an overnight guest at his gallery. Interesting stuff, indeed.

Forrest Fenn was highly active in his treasure hunt. He e-mailed back and forth with searchers. He curated and welcomed free publicity and attended events held by members of the search community. He befriended several searchers and even allowed some to work for him and communicate on his behalf. There are many critics who feel like he became too close to some and may have wittingly or unwittingly given advantages in the hunt to some rather than to all. My take is that it was his treasure hunt, and he could do with it as he pleased as long as no searcher truly had an advantage over another. The fact that the Fenn family confirmed a finder who was not a "searcher associate" lends credence that close acquaintance to Fenn was not an advantage to locating the treasure and potentially hindered it — as far as I know.

Forrest Fenn loved aviation and owned planes after he retired from the military. One of his favorite lines of advice was to, "Keep your airspeed up."

He said that all you needed was a good map and his poem to find his treasure. With that, he received many questions about coordinates and using GPS. He also stated that he would know when the treasure was found, but when pressed, he never divulged how.

Some felt that he had employed some type of surveillance or technology that would alert him if the treasure chest was moved.

On more than one occasion, the navigational technology that was used prior to GPS was discussed. It was LORAN, which is an acronym for Long Range Navigation.

After Fenn's passing, conspiracy theories were floated on an almost daily basis. When was the treasure really found, if at all? Was it really found in 2020? Did he end the chase because of the pandemic and/or family pressure? Was the "finder" the real finder?

Forrest and the person whom Fenn's family confirmed found the chest, Jack Stuef, agreed not to release the location where it was retrieved. They simply shared that it was retrieved from the state of Wyoming. The exact location of where Forrest hid his treasure chest has still not been officially confirmed, but from some really bizarre court cases against the Fenn estate, it was confirmed that Fenn and Stuef had participated in a Zoom call in August of 2020 with leaders from Yellowstone National Park and the Department of the Interior.

This would suggest that Forrest Fenn hid the treasure in Yellowstone National Park and that he and Stuef agreed to terms set by DOI and the park to protect themselves from being charged with a crime that violated park rules regarding lost or abandoned property and potential damage to fish, wildlife, and nature.

I had the honor of interviewing an author about his book on Fenn and the treasure hunt. Dan Barbarisi authored a terrific book about it titled *Chasing the Thrill*. If you want to read more about Fenn and the treasure hunt after reading Fenn's own books, I highly recommend it.

But, while Fenn and his brother William Marvin "Skippy" Fenn, Jr. may have been part of the Cooper mystery since they also check many of the boxes, I am introducing a different man as a POI. Who knows, he may have interacted with the Major.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Loran Eugene Hall, Sr.**

In researching LORAN, it became quite clear that this was not the type of technology that one would use to know if someone located a bronze treasure chest that you had secreted in Yellowstone National Park.

So why bring it up? Was it simply a play on using a navigation tool to answer GPS questions from searchers? Was there some secret about how Forrest Fenn used LORAN and what he shared with his grandson, also a pilot?

No matter the case, in hindsight, looking into the matter took me on this journey. Loran Hall and how I came to identify him may be completely wrong and unrelated, yet here he was. Dwelling on what rod and fly I used to hook the fish no longer mattered. It was time to reel it in.

It goes a little something like this. As I was doing research, I would sometimes stream different words into the Google search bar. One such entry was:

Forrest Fenn....LORAN.....D.B. Cooper.....John Connally.....Jacqueline Kennedy.....JFK.

BAM! .....

## **Chapter 11**

### **He Spoke Intelligently With A Low Voice**

.....It is a strange connection to Forrest Fenn's Air Force service when Hall states he was talking to the pilots in southern Florida at this time.

Fenn was an F-100 Super Sabre fighter jet pilot who was serving as a flight instructor at Luke Air Force Base to teach Gunnery School for flying the F-100 C & F with the 4511th and 4515th squadrons. On assignment for the Cuban Crisis, he began serving with the 4517th squadron. He was interrupted twice while instructing a class to take a phone call. The first call was to tell him to be ready to deploy in one

hour. Shortly after the first call, a second call came in, and Fenn was told that he and the squad needed to be in the air within fifteen minutes. In a video that I believe was taped in the year before his passing, Fenn recounts how proud he was of his team that had been in classroom training to learn air refueling but had not actually done it yet. To fly to Homestead Air Force base in southern Florida from Arizona, his squadron would have to refuel in the air. Each completed the air refueling successfully with on-the-job training and joined the over five hundred aircraft in Florida that were on alert.

Those pilots in Florida took extreme readiness rotations at one point so that the number of planes in the plan of attack could be in the air within fifteen minutes if commanded. Had Khrushchev and the Soviets not agreed to disarmament with Kennedy, it is highly likely that Fenn and his team would have been part of the attack.

While I found no direct evidence that Fenn and Hall ever met at this time, it is interesting that in listening to the words of both men, they were in the same place at the same time during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Also, while both served in Germany in the 1950s, Hall ended his service there before 1954, and Fenn arrived at the Air Force Base in Bitburg in 1957. By that time, the Loran Hall family was in Nebraska.

In comparing Hall's actual words spoken in the recording to the notes and words that D.B. Cooper used via the testimony of the Flight 305 crew, there are no glaring similarities. This is somewhat obvious as the reports of Cooper's notes or speaking on Flight 305 were direct and to the point as well as brief. He was all business except for some levity that the flight attendants described Cooper displaying when he first examined the money bag.

While Hall spoke well, he did have one trait that would slip into his normal, "professional" speaking voice several times in the recording. Hall would say "seen" instead of properly saying "have seen" or "saw" when he was describing seeing something in past tense. Maybe this was common in the small town of Newton, Kansas, but it was definitely slang.

I tried to think if Cooper would have been talking in the past tense about anything with the flight attendants, but there is nothing in the reports. This makes sense because Cooper was making short, declarative statements talking about present or future actions. I can only surmise that if it was Hall, he didn't have the opportunity of being seen by dropping a "seen" on them that they would have reported.

In general, any POI who hijacked could have purposefully "lowered" their voice and modified their speech to hide an accent if they were able to, but in Loran Hall, we have a possible POI with direct evidence of his voice being low and his accent Midwestern.

## Chapter 12

### Dan Cooper

.....On a side note, if Dan Cooper was the Canadian version of an American pilot, he sure seems a lot like Forrest Fenn. There is a cover of one of the comic books that looks almost identical to a photo of Fenn climbing the stairs of his jet.

Fenn was a member of the elite group of pilots that flew the F-100. The Super Sabre Society.

Below is a photo of a page from the Dan Cooper comics via the Wikipedia page. It shows Dan Cooper and his squad flying in maneuvers and in alignment. The red jets they are flying are none other than the F-100 Super Sabre.



## Chapter 21

### Breaking Badly

....The meth ring was rounded up. Hall's namesake, the late Loren Eugene Hall, Jr. (he used the junior suffix, but spelled his first name with an "e" rather than an "a" like his father), came clean in his testimony to the FBI and in court about his guilt. He also detailed his belief that his father was involved with the CIA for decades. This included stating that military helicopters would land at his father's site and several visitors from those helicopters were greeted as "Colonel" and "Major."

Any time I hear the military title of Major, I now think of Forrest Fenn, but I digress.

### Postscript

#### Tena Bar and the Fenn Brothers

As I mentioned in this book, several members of the Forrest Fenn / The Thrill Of The Chase community have investigated if Forrest Fenn or his brother, William 'Skippy' Fenn, Jr., could have been involved in the D.B. Cooper case.

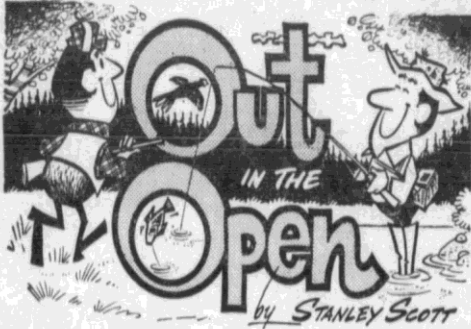
I also detailed how Forrest Fenn himself added to this speculation.

Many in the D.B. Cooper sleuthing community have dismissed any possibility out of hand and see this as a waste of time.

Forrest Fenn's emerging connection to the CIA, the fact that his brother worked for Boeing in Seattle, Fenn having written about holding charred titanium in his hands, signing a question to himself as DBC, writing a treasure hunting book that is very similar to the book *HA HA HA by D.B. Cooper*, that the brothers were both pilots, one had parachuted from a plane at least twice in battle, the Dan Cooper Connection to the Air Force and the F-100 Super Sabre, and many more make not considering them as POIs a failure to overcome confirmation bias.

I will leave you to consider this regarding the money find at Tena Bar.

What if I told you that Skippy and Forrest Fenn were prolific fishermen as were the family generations before and after them. And that there was an article about a man named Fenn fishing at Tena Bar in 1964? Thanks to Nicky Broughton for finding the following article.



You hunters, some of you that is, are going to have a chance to cooperate with the Washington State Game Department.

Game officials announced this week that game kill questionnaires are again being mailed throughout the state. Actually, the questionnaires will go to five per cent of the state's hunting license holders.

The returns collected from this five per cent are projected against the total number of hunters to give the final kill on deer, elk, bear, grouse, pigeon, etc.

It is extremely important both to yourself as a hunter and to the Washington State Game Department that this questionnaire be filled out accurately and promptly returned. It is a basic source of information for the Game Department in planning for the future.

If you are one of the hunters who gets a card, see that you do your part to cooperate.

\* \* \*

Anyone want to take a shot at predicting what the weekend steelhead fishing will bring?

One thing sure, the weather is still the biggest single factor. Rivers throughout the district went out of whack generally last week as the downpour of rain brought them 'way up. However, at mid-week both the Washougal and the east fork of the Lewis were dropping and clearing.

No matter how bad the weather is some of the persistent fishermen are going to get fish. John Willis, local game protector, actually checked a couple of fish Sunday on the east fork of the Lewis and you know what the weather was like then.

Fishing also continues to be fair on the Columbia River bars in this locality. A 19½ pound steelhead was taken by a fisherman named Fenn at Tena Bar on the Columbia last Saturday.

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*A January 1964 article in The Columbian newspaper reports a "man named Fenn" fishing at Tena Bar (The Columbian)*

What if I told you that the same Skippy Fenn who worked for Boeing in Seattle also owned a sand and gravel mining company. Tri-State Sand and Gravel, before moving to Washinton and that the Tena Bar money was found on the property of a sand mining company, Fazio Brothers?

## WEST YELLOWSTONE CASE IN COURT

Boise - Cascade Corp. of Delaware filed a federal court suit Monday against William and Donna Fenn, doing business as Fenn Construction Co., and Tri-State Sand and Gravel Co., both of Montana. Judgment for \$14,159.02 is asked on the basis of an allegedly unpaid promissory note for \$11,283.63 dated May 11, 1966, at West Yellowstone.

*The Montana Standard from November 26, 1968 (The Montana Standard)*

What if I told you that you that Forrest Fenn's treasure hunting book contained United States Post Office postmark stamps throughout the chapters and that one of the chapters was titled, "Looking for Lewis and Clark"?

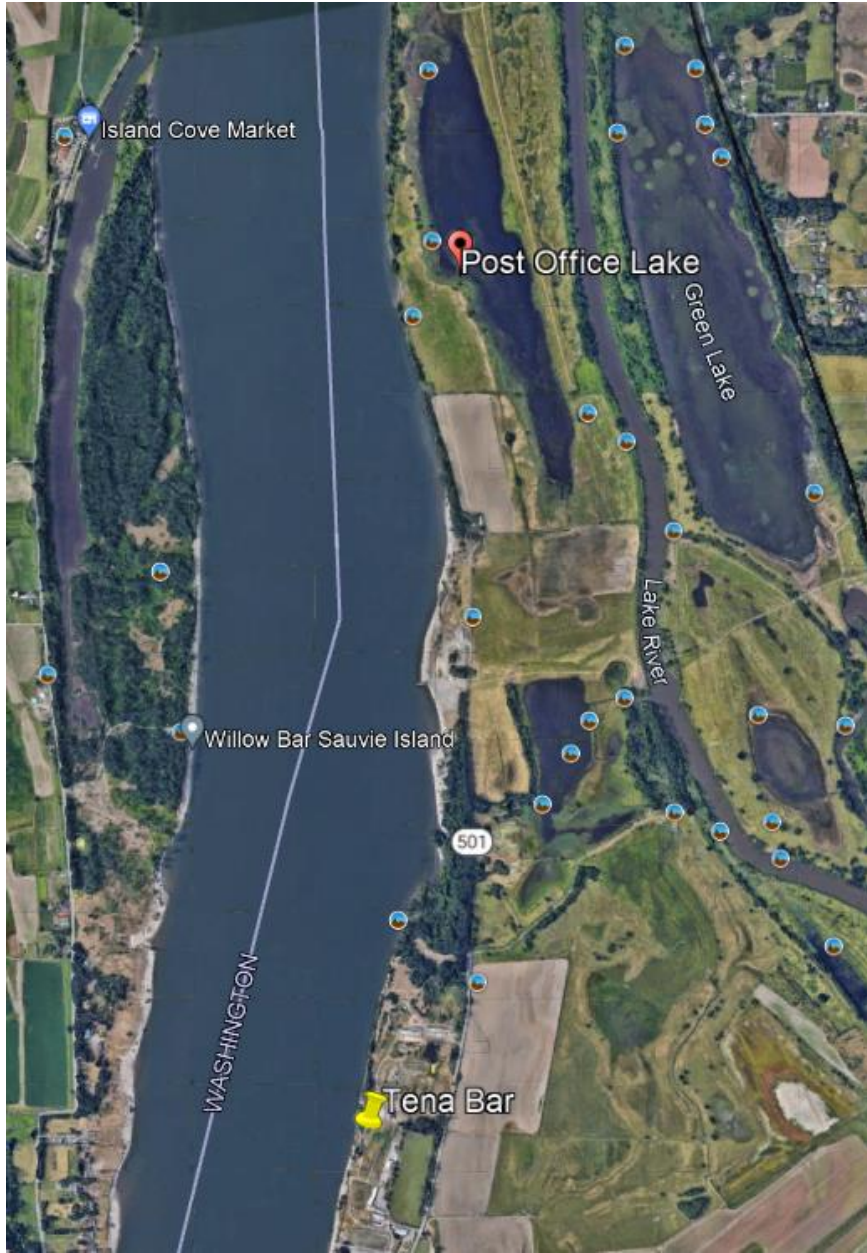
Lewis and Clark made a campsite on the Columbia River at Post Office Lake. This lake is just downstream from Tena Bar.

The information on Lewis and Clark is part of the historical record and the website, [ColumbiaRiverImages.com](http://ColumbiaRiverImages.com), states the following: "Tena Bar (often seen as "Tina Bar") is the local name for a stretch of beach located along the Washington side of the Columbia River at River Mile (RM) 97. Upstream is Caterpillar Island and two miles downstream is Post Office Lake, the location of Lewis and Clark's campsite of November 4, 1805. Tena Bar borders on the property of the Fazio Brothers Sand Company."

The southern tip of Post Office Lake is approximately 1.4 miles from Tena Bar.

The Cooper Vortex is real.





*Post Office Lake located 1.4 miles north of Tena Bar. (Google Earth)*