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# Man Overboard: The Counterfeit Resurrection Of Phil Champagne



## Synopsis

True crime at its best. | Barer has undeniable talent, pizzaz and imagination! "Jack Olsen, bestselling author and award-winning journalist. 1982: Oregon businessman Phil Champagne, age 52, dies in a tragic boating accident off Lopez Island. He is survived by one ex-wife, four adult children, an octogenarian mother, and two despondent brothers. Phil didn't know he was dead until he read it in the paper. All things considered, he took it rather well. So did Phil's brother, Mitch, the beneficiary of a 1.5 million dollar policy on Phil's life. 1992: Wastingon restaurateur Harold Stegeman, famous for his thick, juicy steaks, is arrested by the Secret Service for printing counterfeit United States currency in an Idaho shed. In addition to the bogus bills, Stegeman also has a fraudulently obtained passport, a fabricated Cayman Island drivers license, and Phil Champagne's fingerprints. When the uproarious reality of Harold Stegeman's secret identity hit the headlines, the counterfeit resurrection of Phil Champagne became one of the most celebrated and hysterically funny true-crime stories of the twentieth century. And while every supermarket tabloid and television talk show hounded after the untold story, only Edgar Award winner Burl Barer captured Champagne's confidence and received permission to detail Phil's post-mortem career of fraud, deception, trickery, lies, and fine prime rib, bringing to life the exploits of a man his family thought dead over a decade ago. Crisp as a freshly printed C-note. Exceptionally clever and vastly entertaining! "Lee Goldberg, author, screenwriter and television producer. Barer does it again! A deft and dazzling display of solid research and rapier wit "a must for all true crime aficionados. "Gary C. King, author of To Die For.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A fascinating adventure of deceit and deception as depicted by the facetious and brilliant, Burl Barer. This was a riveting read from start to finish fraught with twists and turns that keeps the reader captivated and entertained. A true crime library is not complete without Man Overboard." -- RJ Parker, award-winning true crime author and publisher.

The story here is borderline unbelievable. It will completely maintain your attention and is worth reading. I think everyone who reads will yearn for a bit of adventure and almost wish they could have the opportunity that Phil Champagne had. All of this while thinking Phil Champagne was a complete moron for what he was doing. Tricky and interesting balance. The book is very well written and I enjoyed the style. It had an almost Eric Larsen type feel. The only disappointment here is that I felt like some things were unresolved by the book- but I think if you read you will understand that they had to be!

True Crime can be fun. When that wacky writer Burl barer is at the controls it's like riding a roller coaster with no seat belt. Dressed up in a few of the old one-liners from his old radio shows, the story of Phil Champagne is a real thigh slapper. Phil doesn't know who he wants to be, but he doesn't want to be Phil Champagne anymore. Haven't we all had that feeling from time to time? Phil changes identities faster than a transvestite at a two-for-one dress sale. Just to make it more exciting while reading, you can play the count-the-typos game. It actually is a clever editing device to get you more involved with the story.

With the author's interview skills he gets into the brain of Phil Champagne. Phil lives by a different moral code, where one reasons that money can be literally made without hurting anybody. Phil adores but at the same time mocks the wealthy lifestyle. He reasons that his family is better off without him, thinking no one values him anyway, and shows how easy it is to run away and feel the

temporal relief of personal freedom. With his charms, it is easy for him to find female companionship and support. To me, it's a middle-aged man gone wild, with other men and women helping him out, not asking enough questions. Women, to Phil, seem to be necessary but on a lower level, made to be used. One hopes for justice throughout. I give this a five-star rating, though I am more of a fan of the gentility of romance novels.

Liked the story and how it told a true crime tale that seems more strange than fiction. It is an entertaining book for sure. The only qualms I had were that I wished more corroboration could be cited by the author regarding what steps he took, if any, to check on the authenticity of the events that Phil says occurred in Florida and Mexico. Still the part of the story that is easily verified is amazing enough. I did like the way the story was told-- always with a wry sense of humor., and the way that all the parts came together at the end. I'm a bit surprised it hasn't yet been made into a movie.

I had to go cave and verify that this book is based on a true story. It reads like one of Hunter S. Thompson's fictional tales of crime and debauchery. Every page is full of amusing anecdotes and unexpected revelations.

I received this ebook to read and give a review. I picked it up to begin reading at about 7:00 on a Saturday evening. At first, I had a bit of a difficult time following the story-line. It does skip around between time sequences, BUT after a chapter or so, I could NOT put it down and was still reading at 11:00 pm! As soon as I could Sunday afternoon, I picked it up again and finished it in an hour or so. I am familiar with the Pacific NW and knew many of the places the author described. There are twists and turns and it is a hard-to-put-down book for sure. I had a bit of difficulty keeping up with all the names of all the people involved, but that did not take away from the intrigue of the story and kept me interested all the way to the last page. I highly recommend this book for those who enjoy reading crime stories or watching them on TV.

Burl Barer's *Man Overboard* is one of the best page-turners I've read in a long time. He blends in wit when appropriate throughout the narrative. I couldn't wait, as the story progressed, to find out what happens next. The author's narrative style is more than engaging; it's captivating.

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