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C HAPTER EIGHT

In December 1958 just over a year passed since he laid out the plan for his very own Titan nuclear missile base and forty-four year old Donner Bly had been busy. The construction progressed to include digging out the forty by one hundred fifty foot deep silo, as well as adjacent command facilities, all underground, all shielded from other government eyes as well as local residents.

Progress trips were made by Bly and the Horsemen to Catharpin and numerous cups of coffee were consumed by the Special Actions Group at Alvey's store. As construction continued into 1959, the effects of a nationwide steelworkers strike rippled to the site threaten-ing to affect construction progress due to shortages of raw materials. Bly would have none of that. He quickly made a *social* call on union management and persuaded them to keep the shipments for his project moving. Bly could be very persuasive. The strike continued, lasting one hundred and fourteen days, but there were no delays of shipments to Catharpin, Virginia.

Personnel file reviews were being conducted by Donner Bly to staff his missile site. Most would be Air Force, whisked away as assignees to CIA with their military chain of command having no knowledge they were manning a CIA base housing a nuclear tipped Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile. "Need To Know" was a convenient cover and the Air Force, or anyone else as far as Bly was concerned, had no need to know *anything*. The file of Kirk's father, Air Force Captain Arthur Cule, quickly rose to the top of consideration for senior military base officer. Bly noted his engineering degree, military service in Korea, assignments training missile personnel at Lowery Air Force Base and being personally engaged in Titan missile development and operations. By June 1959 Bly decided an interview was needed and in his personable way "summoned" Captain Cule to Washington D.C.

Bly's concurrent plans to "borrow" a Titan missile were proceeding. Actions included covert receipt of production and delivery schedules along with the U.S. Government classified Top Secret delivery route to one of many mid-west silos from the Glen L. Martin Aircraft Company outside of Denver, in Littleton, Colorado. The one remaining glitch, one Bly would not inform his fellow Horsemen of, was how and where he would obtain the nuclear warhead. *Without the nuke my missile base might as well be a summertime county fair carnival attraction.* For Bly it wasn't a question of *if*, it was just a question of *when*. Whatever he might lack, it was not confidence in his abilities.