

## **America's 1<sup>st</sup> Secret Agent Base Remains, Lie 90' Under West Columbus Hill**

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, Upper Columbus, LLC, a new Hilltop publishing company, will release *The Southern Cross*, the first of five action hero spy novels based in late nineteenth century Columbus.

These wild vehicle and gadget-packed books by Westgate resident and inventor Craig Wise grew from a Hilltop legend that in 1881, the Secret Service (suddenly equipped with electric ventilation and light bulbs) opened their first (actually) secret branch codenamed "Orphan," beneath this hill.

The legend claims this base spread out 90 feet below the crest of Sullivant's Hill (today's Hilltop), inside a limestone mine, that the state closed and sealed in 1839. By 1878, this mine sat dead-center of America's new 150,000-mile web of railroads. Because President Hayes could dispatch secret agents around the nation most rapidly from here, he chose this mine for Orphan's underground headquarters.

When Wise first outlined these five Orphan novels in 2016, he determined that this underground base was sealed up in 1944, then buried beneath an enormous new GM factory in 1945. Today its remains lie closer to 100 feet beneath the Hollywood Casino, the Camp Chase Railroad, several new car dealerships, a car wash, and some of the Westland Mall ruins.

You can find a detailed history of Orphan's underground base at UpperColumbus.com, along with a (pdf.doc) link that opens *The Southern Cross's* first 130 pages. This 370-page novel is the second book in the Orphan series that Wise has completed (to clean draft form), but the first to be released. He intends to publish all five on six-month intervals, through July of 2022.

He also plans on converting each book's 20 or so chapters into a monthly series of comic-book-like publications, typically ending in cliffhangers, starting "hopefully" next fall.

The ruthless villain of *The Southern Cross* is the devilishly handsome Southerner Tiberius Maximus Cross, who inherited the world's largest shipping company from his daddy in 1853. In 1882 his secret force of former Confederate spies (his White Knights) stole 17 notebooks from Nicola Tesla's New York home.

By early 1885, Cross's engineers (and slaves) at his hidden Cuban and Caribbean industrial bases, had turned Tesla's notes into an enormous arsenal of remotely controllable weapons of mass destruction. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Cross intends to use them to destroy America's government, replacing it with his updated version of the Confederacy, restoring slavery nationwide.

*The Southern Cross* takes place over seven days in March of 1885. Orphan Agents Colin McLaughlin and Lemont Freeman go after Cross with a wild array of gadgets, secret ultra-high-speed boats plus their rocket-fast, hidden weapon-packed locomotives called "Orphs" (short for "Orphan Ambulance").

Rescuing seriously injured orphan children was the government's cover for operating these rail rockets.

Hayes also hires Tesla to create Orphan's secret spy gadgets and speed machines, turning the young genius into Orphan's action-packed equivalent of James Bond's 'Q.'

Wise's motivation for opening Upper Columbus (and exposing the legends of Sullivant's Hill) is to provide a continuous flow of positive wide-reaching attention to this highly ignored highland. Most of the funds raised from Orphan book sales and fundraisers are dedicated to local promotions, to make the Hilltop a fascinating place to see and be, instead of the place to avoid.

[UpperColumbus.com](http://UpperColumbus.com) officially opens January 1<sup>st</sup>, when *the Southern Cross* is released. However, Orphan's background story and this novel's first 130 pages are already posted. ©Upper Columbus, LLC