

CONTACT PROFILE



Document's Author: Douglas Home/ARRB

Date Created: 02/24/97

Contact Description

Contact Name: Audrey Bell

Company:

Title:

Category: Witnesses/Consultants

Street Address:

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HSCA Letter Sent:

Additional Information

Nurse Audrey Bell was the Parkland Hospital Supervisor of Operating and Recovery Rooms in 1963; she viewed President Kennedy's wounds, and then participated in the surgery on Governor Connally.

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MEETING REPORT



Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB

Date Created: 04/14/97

Meeting Logistics

Date: 04/14/97
Agency Name: Witnesses/Consultants
Attendees: Jeremy Gunn, Douglas Horne and Audrey Bell
Topic: ARRB Interviewed Audrey Bell

Summary of the Meeting

On March 20, 1997 Jeremy Gunn and I interviewed Audrey Bell in her home in Vernon, Texas. We interviewed her because the Warren Commission never did, and the HSCA only asked her questions about Governor Connally's bullet fragments--business that was apparently not concluded--not about President Kennedy's wounds. The interview was audiotaped, and four drawings called Bell Exhibits 1 through 4 were completed by Audrey Bell.

Recollections of President Kennedy's Wounds:

- She did not see the throat wound herself;
- Although only in Trauma Room One for 3-5 minutes, she did see the head wound. After asking Dr. Perry "where is the wound," she said he turned the President's head slightly to the President's anatomical left, so that she could see a right rear posterior head wound, which she described as occipital in both her oral remarks, and in her drawings;
- She said she could see brain and spinal fluid coming out of the wound, but could not tell what type of brain tissue it was;
- She said it was her recollection that the right side of the President's head, and the top of his head, were intact, which is why she had to ask Dr. Perry where the wound was in the first place.

Governor Connally's Bullet Fragments:

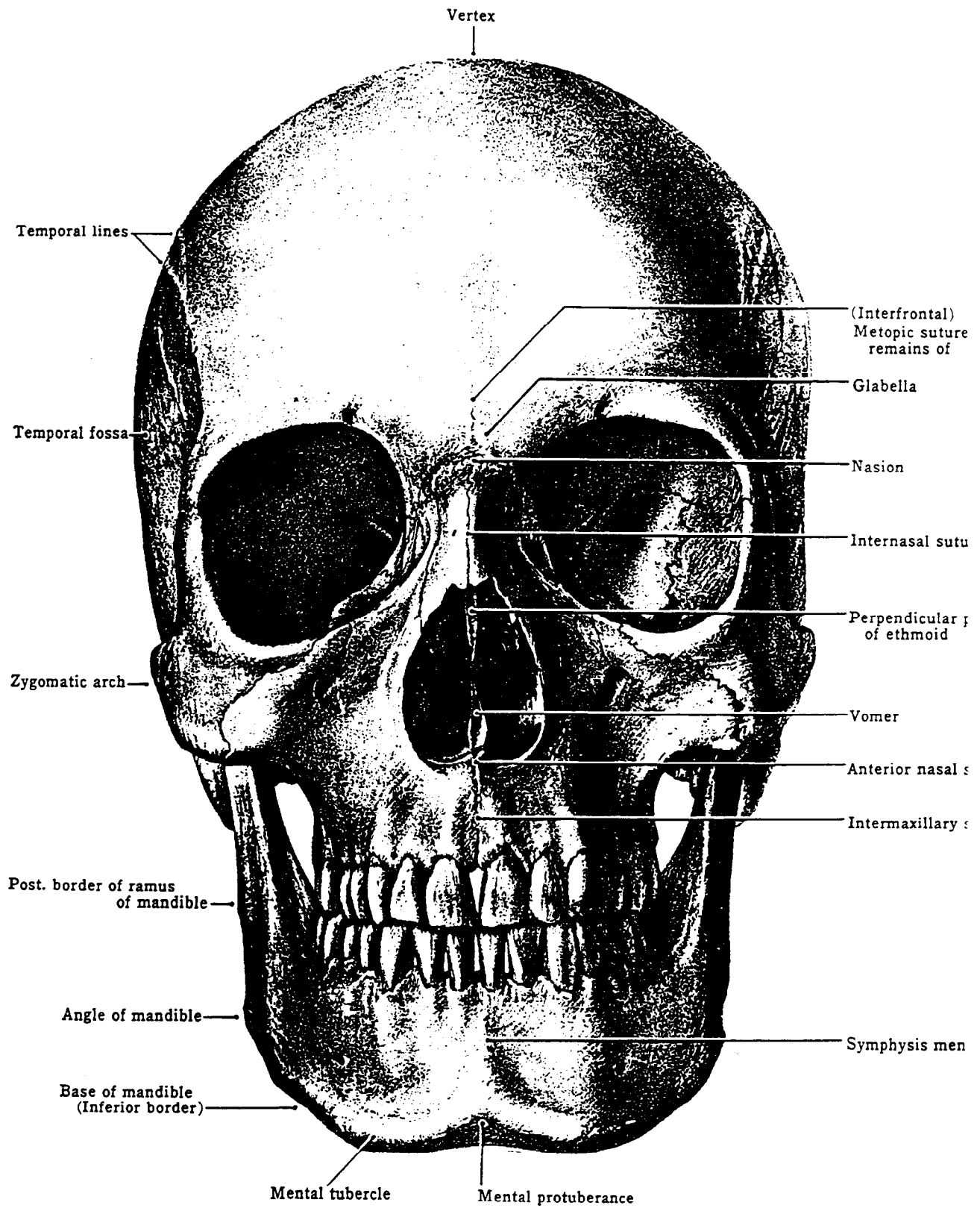
- She independently recalled speaking to HSCA staffers, and when shown the HSCA transcript of her March 12, 1977 interview with them (Agency File # 000920, Record # 180-10090-10271), she confirmed it as apparently accurate.
- She remembered receiving "3 to 5 fragments, perhaps 4" from the body of Governor Connally on 11/22/63 in his Operating Room.
- When shown an FBI FD-302 dated November 23, 1963 (Agency File Number 000919, Record # 180-10090-10270), she felt it was inaccurate in two respects: it quotes her as turning over "the metal fragment (singular)," whereas she is positive it was multiple fragments; it says she turned over the fragment to a Texas State Trooper, whereas she recalls turning it over to plainclothes Federal agents who were either FBI or Secret Service.
- When shown a photocopy of an HSCA letter addressed to her dated March 18, 1977 (Agency File # 000919, Record # 180-10090-10268), she said she had never received this letter. She said the photocopy of the evidence envelope attached to it WAS a copy of the envelope she filled out by her own hand on 11/22/63, and pointed out that the word "fragments (plural)" appears on the envelope.

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-When shown CE 842 (page 841 in Warren Commission Volume XVII), she said that the fragment(s) photographed in the container were too small, and were too few in number, to represent what she handled on 11/22/63.

-She independently recalled filling out a receipt on 11/22/63 for the fragments, on half-page sized paper with red lettering in the letterhead, which was signed for by one of two men in civilian clothes (whom she thought were Federal agents) who accepted the fragments. She said she personally delivered the original of this receipt to Parkland Hospital Administrator Jack Price. (ARRB staff promised to try to locate this document, and promised that if located, we would mail her a photocopy for verification purposes.)

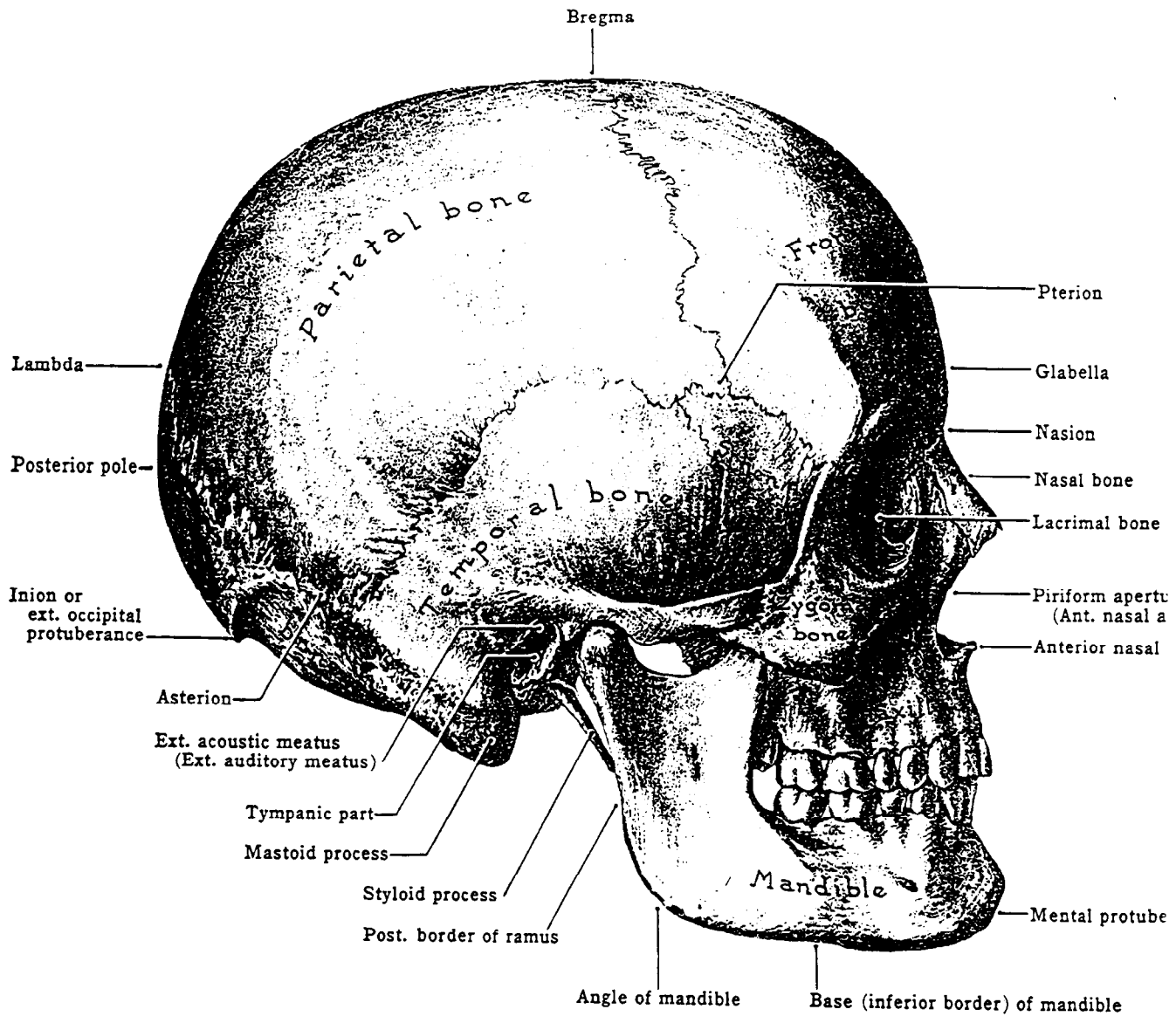
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7-4 SKULL, FRONT VIEW (NORMA FRONTALIS)

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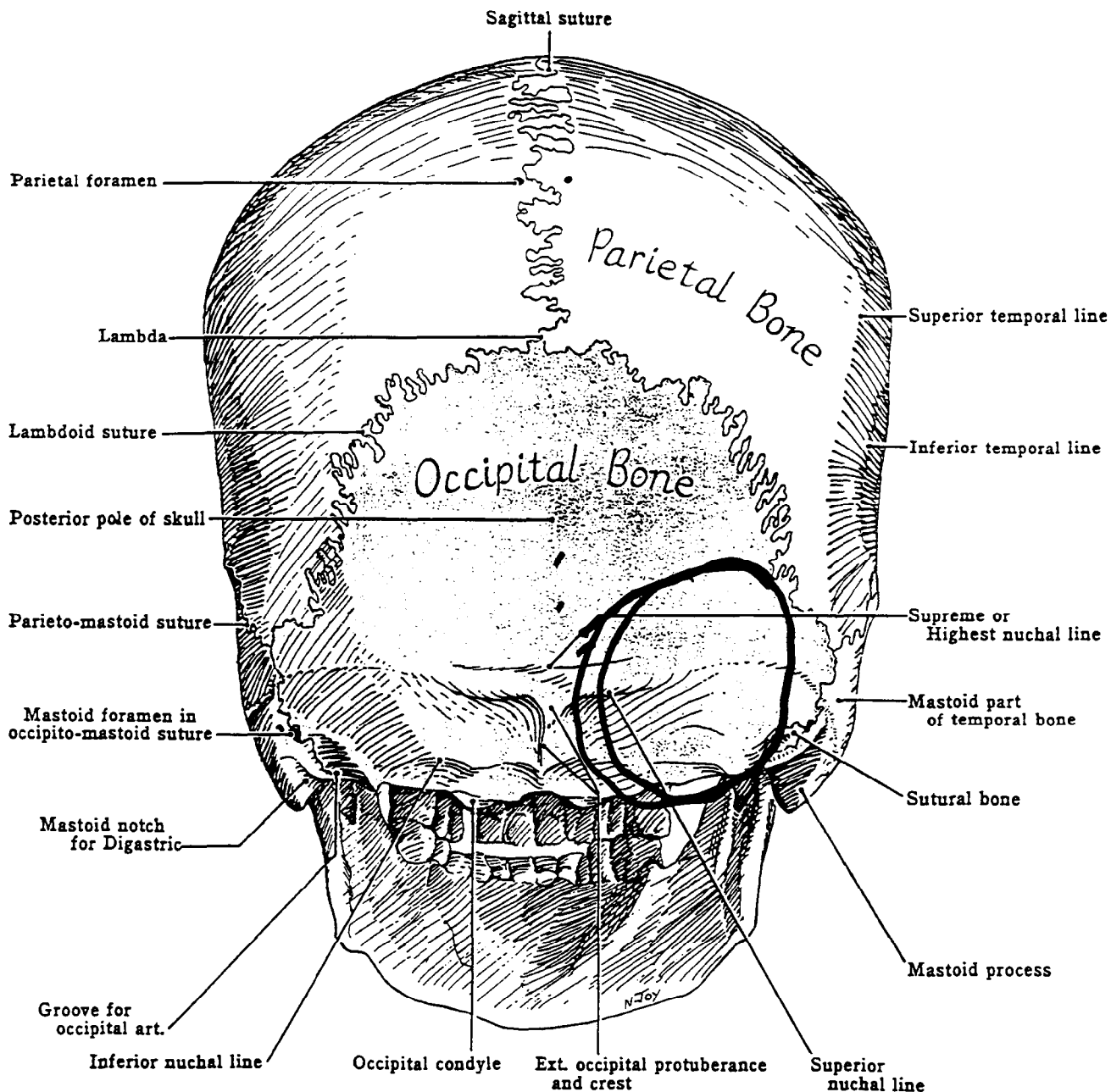
BELL 1



7-6 SKULL, FROM THE SIDE (NORMA LATERALIS)

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BELL 2



7-9 SKULL FROM BEHIND (NORMA OCCIPITALIS)

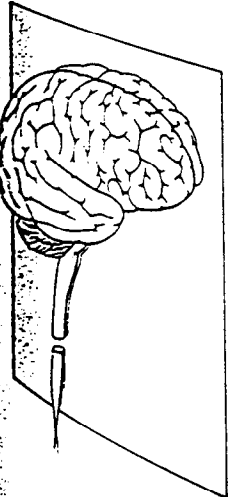
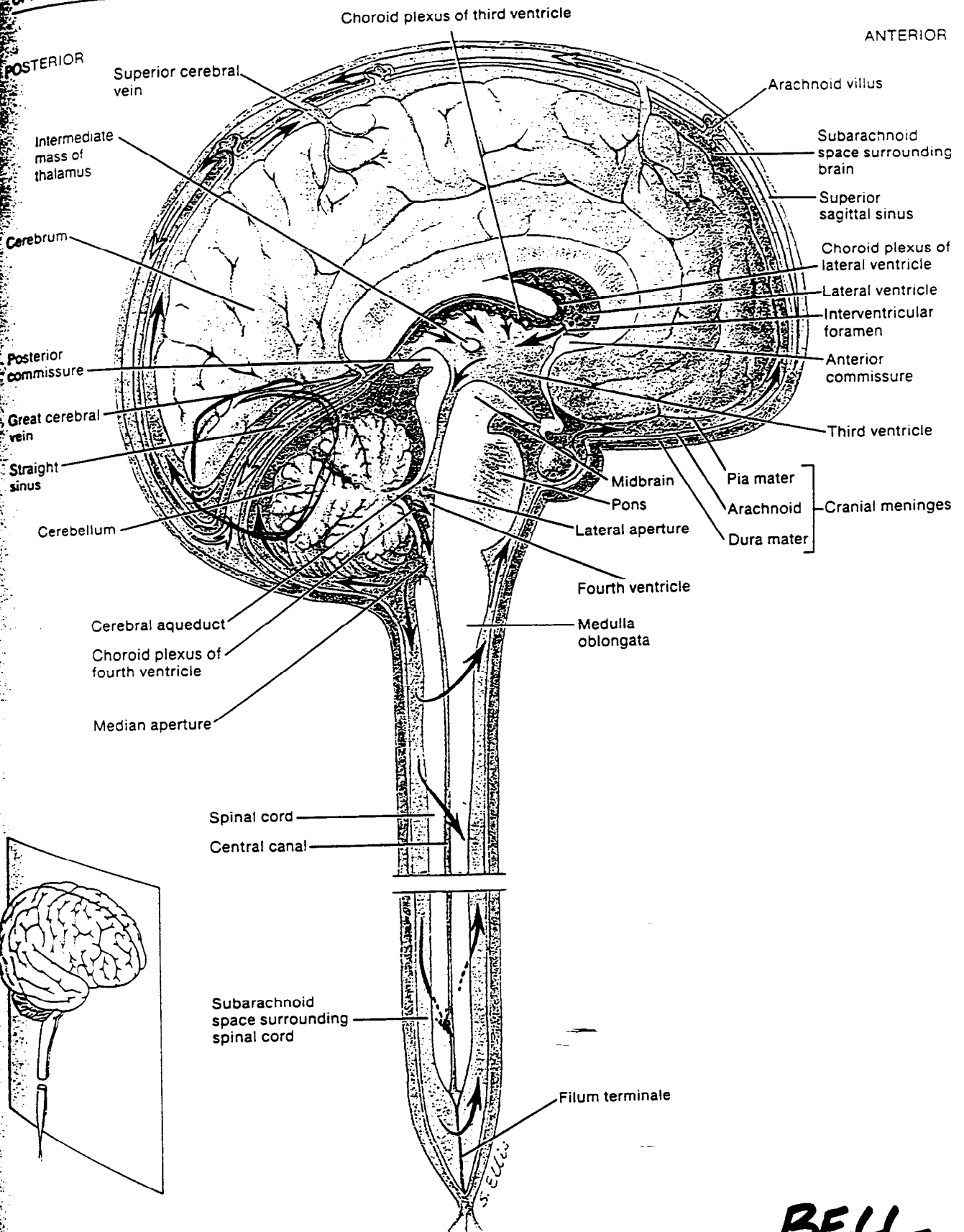
Observe:

1. The outline is horseshoe-shaped from the tip of one mastoid process over the vertex to the tip of the other.
2. At the base of the skull, the outline is nearly straight from one mastoid process to the other, except where the occipital condyles project downward. On each side, it crosses two grooves (for the origin of the posterior belly of Digastric laterally, and for the occipital artery medially). Between the condyles is the foramen magnum.
3. The surface is convex. Near the center is the lambda. From it a triradiate suture runs: the sagittal (interparietal) upward in the median plane, and the lambdoid (parietooccipital) inferolaterally to the blunt postero-inferior angles of the parietal bones where it bifurcates.
4. On each side are two inconstant foramina for emissary veins and meningeal arteries: parietal and mastoid foramina.
5. Midway between lambda and foramen magnum is the external occipital protuberance or inion. From it the superior nuchal line curves laterally and crosses the lateral aspect of the mastoid, dividing it into a smooth upper and a rough lower part.
6. The surface below the superior nuchal line is the nuchal area for the muscles of the neck or nucha.

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BELL 3

FIGURE 14.4 Meninges and ventricles of the brain. Arrows indicate the direction of flow of cerebrospinal fluid.



(a) Brain, ventricles, spinal cord, and meninges in sagittal section

BELL 9

Figure continues

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