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Cover by T. H. Robinson from **Story-Tellers Hall**, Dent, London, no date

P.7 illo by W. T. Drake from **Imaginotions** by Tudor Jenks,

The Century Co., New York, 1894 (in *Prehistoric Photography*)

P.7 photos by the editor

Back cover from **Tennyson** by G. K. Chesterton & Dr Richard Garnett,

Hodder & Stoughton, London, no date

OO - Jeff - Got the mailing on April 4.

Tyndallite - Metcalf - Thanks for the details as to why Fahrenheit chose 32 as the freezing point of water on his temperature scale.

I had quite forgotten about the trolleys, which are locomotives in the technical sense, and would work equally well on DC or AC. I am not surprised that there were battery powered locomotives demonstrated - but did any of them become a going concern?

I must admit that my collection is severely deficient in Verne. I read some of his books as a child and saw some of the movies, but all I actually have on hand are the Ace pb reprints of **The City in the Sahara** and **The Begum's Fortune**.

Confessions - Hlavaty - Ah well, at least neither of your middle names is "Wayne", so you aren't required to commit murder. I hadn't noticed the expensive Space Stamps - I don't collect stamps, but I like to use fancy stamps. I might rarely have occasion to want the \$3.20, I suppose.

I never understood how Chelsea Clinton became a political target. The Bush daughters seem to have gone looking for notoriety.

Patriotic - Guy and Rose-Marie - Good trip report. I enjoyed **Up in the Old Hotel**, which I had never heard of until my sister had me get her a copy because she wanted to read the chapter on Gypsies. Much better than Runyon to my mind, I find the dialect in Runyon annoying, and the characters worse.

Twygdrasil - Dengrove - The cover is grotesque, but it seems pointlessly grotesque to me. Mahlon Blaine's art is grotesque in a way, but it doesn't have this deliberate awkwardness.

If the Zionists had settled in Uganda, I suppose they would now be fighting with the displaced Ugandans.... We could have given them Wyoming, no one would fight to stay there....

Metcalf says that Fahrenheit thought he had reached absolute zero with his frozen saltwater at 0°F. But now that I think of it this makes no sense - in order to freeze the salt water, he had to have something colder than frozen salt water. The exact determination of the real absolute zero of temperature took a lot longer, and though the number for it on the Celsius scale is known to a good accuracy from theoretical considerations, no one has ever gotten anything quite that cold. They have gotten very close, and discovered things like superconductors.

I have done software installations to the computer where the instructions warned that the Anti-virus software should be turned off during the installation and turned back on after - this is easy enough, it turns off and on with a couple of mouse-clicks.

Funny *Lucky Mojo* ads! Did your wife paint the Xmas card illo?

Variations - Lynch - I think the hazard of aluminum house wiring can increase with age of the house - especially in the subtropics, where atmospheric moisture would increase the possibility of bimetallic corrosion at the contacts.

Interesting about the brittleness of "sanitized" envelopes - but the envelope is generally discarded anyway. How badly damaged are the contents? Are they still planning to extend this technology to all the POs, or will it be supplanted by the gas they now claim will destroy the anthrax spore?

The Sphere - Don - My guess is that the use of "universe" in the sense of the alternate universe of a fictional series had a number of independent inventors, but I can't think of any way to prove it one way or the other.

I have often devoted more than a third of a page to more trivial matters than whether the date for the WTC/Pentagon attack was random or not.... I suppose it could have been chosen on the basis of the use of the number 911 for emergency calls.

You could be right about *Carbonism* - a recent analysis on the Discovery Channel claimed that the ocean is continually absorbing our essential CO₂, and that the only thing that replaces it adequately is vulcanism. So as the planet cools, we will have to redouble our efforts - bigger SUVs, more coal-fired power plants, a resurgence of wood stoves.... Even smokers can claim they are Saving the Earth....

I'm not sure we should even consider whether governments are subject to moral standards - to say "the government" did this or that is really a cop-out. "The government" didn't do anything - whatever was done, was done by a specific person. Of course some large-scale effects require cooperation between individuals - but the mine that blew that Afghan kid's leg off was planted by a specific person, who could hardly have failed to know that eventually it would probably injure someone, as it was designed to do.

Spiritus Mundi - Guy - Gaudy cover! I must admit I have forgotten who Endymion was. Oh, a Mardi Gras krewe - but they didn't invent the name, he was something in the ancient world even if he didn't really wear a smiley-face and a fleur-de-lis. He gets nearly half a column in **Lempriere's Classical Dictionary** - he was a shepherd who seems to have somehow gotten Zeus to grant him eternal youth and fooled around with Diana, but had four children by another woman, one of them named Eurydice. Doesn't say of this was *the* Eurydice.

Fluidics would be very slow compared to electronics - they were only considered because they would be totally impervious to disruption by the electromagnetic pulse generated in a nuclear explosion, or by a pulse generator.

The spherical typewriter you saw must have been the Malling Hansen Typing Ball, which predated the Sholes-Glidden by a few years. But while a few custom-made Typing Balls were sold, it was the 1875 Sholes-Glidden that very shortly became the mass-produced Remington and changed the world. The Malling Hansen is a very desirable collectible, of course, and I am not likely ever to have one. What you saw may have been a museum piece or even a reproduction.

Quoters seem to forget that what Justice Holmes used as an example of a restriction on free

speech was "*falsely* shouting fire in a crowded theater". This and the "kiddy porn" and libel all seem to me to fall into a category of criminal acts that need only be prosecuted without reference to "freedom of speech". Creating a panic in a theater is equally reckless endangerment whether you do it by shouting "Fire!" or setting off a smoke bomb or releasing a bag of scorpions. Kiddy porn involves aggravated child abuse quite independently of how it was recorded or distributed. Libel is properly a civil rather than a criminal matter, and it seems to me that free speech is adequately protected as long as the truth of what was published is an absolute defense.

I get several of the Nigerian things some days. Someone claiming to be Gen. Abacha's widow is very persistent.

The latest analysis I have read indicates that buildings like the WTC could easily be a lot more resistant to attacks like those of 9-11. The main two things seem to be improved insulation of the structural elements; and better design of the link between the walls and the floors. Another aspect of the problem of "where do we put the people", however, would seem to be in flux - with the cyber-revolution, how necessary is it for all these people to be jammed ass-to-elbow into city skyscrapers? The Net is an example of the beauty of a distributed system. The factories have been leaving the cities for some time, and I think the offices will follow - they have even less need for a bunch of people being physically in the same place. Eventually the city centers will be used for conventions, museums, libraries, theaters, and stadiums.

What is wrong with *Young Frankenstein*? It's one of the few movies I never tire of seeing again.

I had an e-mail from Celko - I had asked him for Glen Brock's address - and he seems to have fallen victim in Austin to the curse "May you live in interesting times" - pit bulls and all.

I tried to watch *Smallville*, but whatever hand Verheiden had in it was not evident. It seemed utterly lame and pointless to me, like almost all TV sitcoms.

Peter Pan & Merry - Schlosser - There is a difference between a battery and "electricity produced by chemical reactions", I think. It's a question of what is consumed as well as what is produced - in a battery, electrical power is *stored* by means of a reversible chemical reaction, but nothing is consumed; while we now have "fuel cells" where electricity is produced while hydrogen or some other substance is consumed. Verne could only have known from the technology of his own time of the chemical storage battery - if he imagined some process whereby electricity was produced by the consumption of something in sea water, we haven't caught up with him yet.

I don't want microscopic plants floating about in the atmosphere - I have to breathe, after all. The pollen we already have is bad enough.

There was a long analysis of the beef-cattle problems on NPR which pointed out all the problems created by feeding cattle anything but grass, which is what they are designed to eat. The animal-byproduct feed enrichment is based on the need created by the growth hormones and has led to the BSE type diseases; and grain causes an over-acidity which is what causes the damage to the cow's system that leads to the need for massive doses of antibiotics. The whole point is to get the beef to slaughtering size more quickly and so enhance the bottom line - but like many other profit-making schemes, there are adverse effects to the consumer, who finds himself consuming unwanted hormones, antibiotics, and prions in his hamburger. It was mentioned that Argentine beef is entirely grass-fed - I suppose the Law of Averages requires that they get *something* right there!

I didn't know cloth insulation was used at all in house wiring. I have seen it on old lampcord - in fact I have an ancient pedestal fan with it - but I thought it was just a decorative or protective

cover over the rubber. My mother's 1935 waffle-iron has the original cloth-covered cord, and still works. I think the oldest house wiring was bare copper on glass insulators, with the conductors about an inch apart.

Two page-6's and a taped in pagelet? Ghad....

Revenant - Sheila - I would guess that the third LotR movie will end with Frodo sailing from the Grey Havens with the last of the Elves, while Sam and Rose wave goodbye.

The armadillo always bears identical quadruplets? Wow - if they are genetically identical in the same sense as human identical twins, are they all of the same sex?

Offline - Irv - I didn't know that the tall towers in Malaysia had unusable floors - seems like at worst they would be usable for storage.

Ever so often I pick up a more-or-less "modern" electric portable typewriter in a thrift store. Generally they need only a little cleaning. The Smith-Coronas seem to be better built than the last one I got, a "Royal" made in Japan. For reliability though, I prefer a manual - it will work on just finger power, and there is no irreplaceable drive belt to worry about.

Oblio - Brown - I enjoyed the interview with Bradbury. You will have to let us know if anything of interest comes of everyone reading **Fahrenheit 451** at the same time. The idea of a fake fire in the library sounds like something that would be funny on *The Simpsons*.

Funny list of newspaper boo-boos. I had never heard of the Dominican Republic's *ciguapas*, who sound like some sort of river nymph, but the word *guapa* is a common adjective in Spanish, used to describe a pretty girl.

There have been a couple of big space chunks that have passed by the Earth in the last year or so at about the same distance as the moon. Now we hear about one 0.7 miles across that might hit us - in 880 years. I would like to see the error analysis on that calculation - is it considered accurate within ± 1 year? ± 10 ? ± 100 ?

Trivial Pursuits - Janice - Sounds like a great summer! The NZ fan I have corresponded with since the 60s lives not far from Wellington, in Lower Hutt. When I was in NZ in 1975 we went to Rotorua and saw some Maori dancing and a sheep-shearing and had a plane ride over the thermal region. We were supposed to visit the glow-worm cave, but it was flooded.

Hard to see how the leprosy problem in armadillos would be confined to Texas and Louisiana as they spread to Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. I had not heard of armadillo racing, I wonder how that was managed.

It should have occurred to me that a "collapsible tube" was a toothpaste or mimeo-ink tube! I think they were made of lead or a lead alloy for a long time - I remember reading an article claiming that toothpaste was contaminated by lead from the tube.

Of course the concerns about aspartame have been debunked - it's a \$3 Billion/year industry. You can hire debunkers by the carload with that sort of backing.

I got a giggle out of Anna Quindlen's column, especially her notion that airport security was checking her lipstick for *Plasticine* - I suppose she meant *plastique*, French slang for plastic explosive. Plasticine is, by design, as harmless a substance as can be made - non-toxic, non-flammable, and soft.

Travelers Tales - Hughes - Nice trip report!

Avatar - Cleary - Nice photos of the wedding! My sister showed me the ones she took, they were mostly overexposed. The ones I took are still in the camera, alas - I am not much of a photographer. Perhaps I should get that roll developed and put something in this zine.

Tennessee Trash - Robe - Interesting trip reports! I hope Isaac is getting better. I'm glad I didn't waste any time on the new *Time Machine*, it sounds atrocious.

A Monument... - *weber* - I can't imagine what "the word" could be that wouldn't have a Latin euphemism!

Interesting about Campbell's *The Brain Stealers of Mars* being the same story as *Who Goes There* but written in the older pulp style. The Miller/Contento CD index lists this story under Campbell's name as appearing in the Dec'36 *Thrilling Wonder Stories* and being part of the "Penton & Blake" series. *Who Goes There* originally appeared a couple of years later in the Aug'38 *Astounding* as *The Thing from Another World*, as by "Don A. Stuart".

I agree with you about Verne's cannon - I estimated roughly that to keep the G-forces bearable the barrel would have to be a mile long.

I saw a meteor with a bright green trail above Stone Mountain last year or the year before.

Playing Pepe le Pew - Jeff - I had the *Candy* DVD before I had a player.... I now have *Gormenghast*, *The Wicker Man*, and *Donnie Darko* as well. I have one British DVD as well - it is set to Region 0 and plays, but is unwatchable because of the PAL sync problem.

I never understood why Lynch cared whether Markstein was the night manager of a porno theater, or why Markstein cared that it was mentioned.

What Metcalf was talking about - the 2000-year-old computer - is well covered on the Net. It's called the "Antikythera device" for the location where it was found and has been studied extensively. The ancient bronze is badly corroded, but it is thought to be a navigational device of some sort.

My main problem with Brin as a storyteller is that, like Stephen King, he doesn't know when to stop. **The Postman** would have been excellent at 1/3 the wordcount.

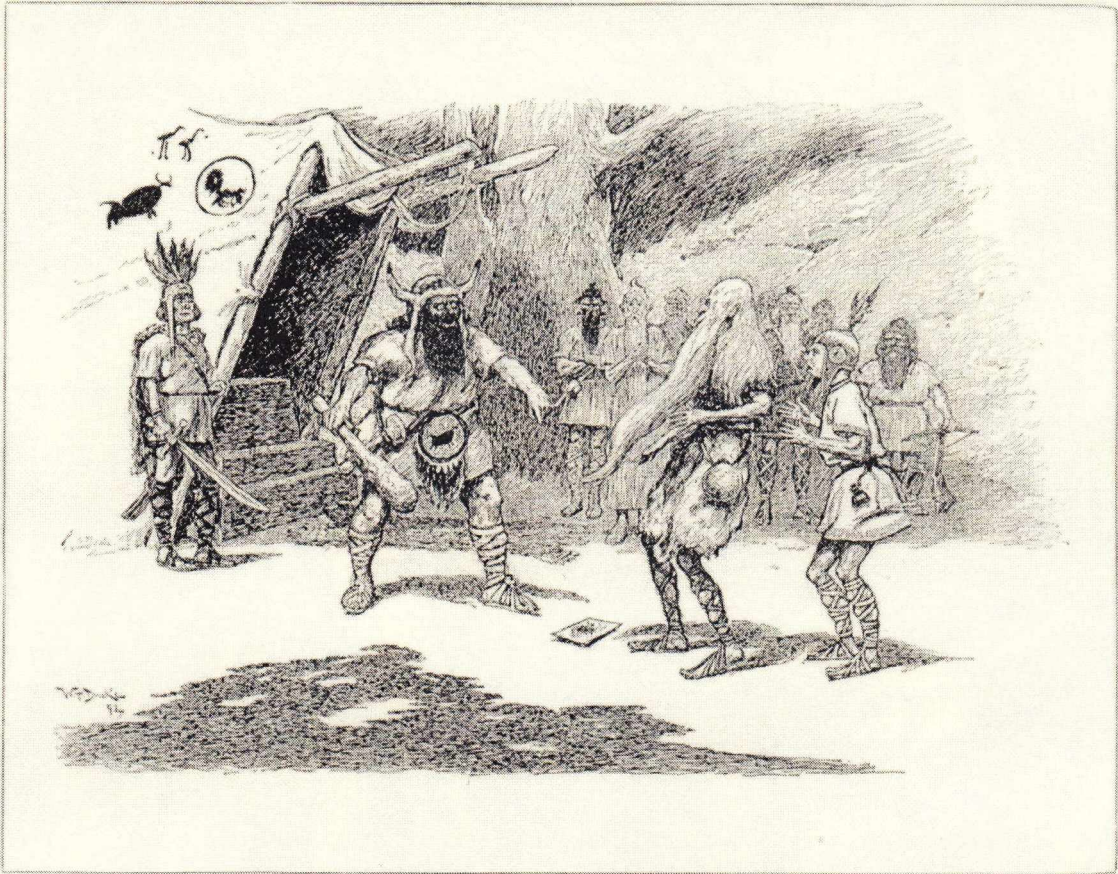
I always liked Celko, and wish he had stayed in the apa.

Somewhere I have a dittoed oneshot from the 60s with a cover consisting of drawings of what churches would look like if there had been some other means of execution in use in Judea c.33 AD - little peak-roofed buildings with a gibbet, an electric chair, a guillotine, a rifle, an axe, etc. on the peak. I don't think the artist's talent extended to drawing a gas chamber.

Passages - Janet - The Palestinian/Israeli thing goes back a long way and is not likely to be resolved soon, if ever. My sister was just here and picked up a duplicate copy of a 1968 issue of *Evergreen Review* that includes an interview with "Abu Amar" of Al Fatah, "the Muslim Che Guevara".

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The facing page has the result of my photographic efforts at the wedding of Horrible Hank and ex-OE Toni; and a preemptive strike at the victims' probable reaction - the other photos I took were even worse! Congratulations and Best Wishes to the bride and groom!



"DO I LOOK LIKE THAT?" CRIED HE TO THE WIZARD.





From a drawing by George H. Rhead

MERLIN AND VIVIEN

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