

The New Port News
201



The Wizard City.

January 2002

for

SFPA 225

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Art by Paul J Krafft from **Mr. World and Miss Church-Member**

by W. S. Harris, J. L. Nichols & Co., Atlanta 1901

OO - Jeff - Got the mailing on December 20. Fat one too! If as you note I already paid the dues, why wasn't the mailing number column entry updated?

Vampires - Allie - Somehow this does not inspire me to watch any more *Buffy*!

Tyndallite - Metcalf - I love that about Harry B/P Warner! First fan I have heard of with an indeterminate middle name - is this like Schrödinger's Cat? A fan goes to Hagerstown and looks him up in the microfilm copy of the 19th-century ledger and *Poof!* there is no middle name, the indeterminacy is resolved, and Harry Warner is just a retired reporter and fandom is changed forever. I trust you sent him a copy!

Which Tennyson did you mean, *Locksley Hall*?

I was not aware that locomotives were propelled by battery power at the time Verne wrote about the *Nautilus* - or ever, for that matter. I thought the electric locomotive only appeared somewhat after Tesla's invention of the 3-phase alternating current power generation and distribution system. I know that diesel subs could run on batteries for a short time.

Even digital computers don't have to be electronic - it is possible to construct and/or gates using fluidics. That is, some fluid (liquid or gas) would be pumped through a network of channels at a constant rate, and computation would take place in the variation of the path as controlled by the gates. Such devices were designed to create a computer that would be immune to the EMP effect of a nuclear explosion on electronics. I don't know how complex a working model was ever made!

I had forgotten (if I ever knew) that Wells's *Cavourite* repelled anything or was itself weightless - I thought it worked by shielding everything "above" (that is, away from the Earth) it from the effect of the Earth's gravity. I always imagined that this was inspired by the discovery (which Wells could have known about) that the electrostatic field cannot penetrate a conductor. Thus if the gravity field were generated by "gravitons" (as the electrostatic field is by electrons) and *Cavourite* conducted gravitons as metal conducts electrons - *voila*, we could shield against gravity.

Twygdrasil - Dengrove - I never thought of Mahlon Blaine's work (the sexy NPN 199 cover) as being *nouveau* or *deco*. I think he was probably influenced by Beardsley and Lynd Ward. To a large extent Blaine's career was controlled by his need for the financial support of porno publishers - he was never rich or famous!

I don't remember *Eretz-Uganda* from **Bring the Jubilee** - I'll take your word for it. Who was it suggested that we just give the Zionists New Mexico?

As to the DNA found on Jon Benet Ramsey's body, I don't remember if the account said

how much or where - but they were sure it was not hers nor from any member of the family. But the Net knows:

Unknown male DNA was found underneath JonBenet's fingernails and in her panties. The Ramseys are not the source. - from http://www.insidedenver.com/drmn/local/article/-0,1299,DRMN_15_803375,00.html

The temperature-conversion formula $C = F \times 9/5 + 32$ is exact by definition - the Centigrade scale is based on setting $C=0$ at freezing (of water) and $C=100$ at boiling, while the Fahrenheit scale is based on setting $F=32$ at freezing and $F=212$ at boiling. The Centigrade scale makes a lot more sense, though both are completely arbitrary - I have forgotten *why* Herr Doktor Fahrenheit chose 32 and 212.

I was taken to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia as a child - must have been in 1950. I remember the Tesla coil that threw a foot-long purple spark; and the demonstration of the elasticity of steel where steel balls bounced around a circle of precisely angled steel cylinder faces in a never-ending stream.

I don't think it was a joke exactly - several recorded performances of the *1812 Overture* have used real cannon. Whether the Rossini score actually calls for them I have no idea - it got a lot easier with electrically fired cannon I guess.

One of the biggest typewriter museum websites is www.typewritermuseum.org

I have no statistical data on German obesity - certainly I have seen picture of fat Germans. Goering was grossly obese. But disgusting as muesli sounds, I think it is a nutritious cereal/nut mix. I have always eaten a lot of deli meat and cheese and I weigh the same as when I graduated from college, about 150.

My Norton Anti-Virus has stopped several virus attacks, and told me what they were too - mostly the old *badtrans* nasty.

Challenger - Guy - Part of an excellent issue! I particularly liked Dengrove's account of Cyrano de Bergerac and John Berry's memoirs on fingerprinting. But I am puzzled by the incompleteness of the case of the teenager whose prints were found in a stolen car but denied he had stolen it - the prints were on the interior rear-view mirror and a drink can. While a left thumb-print on the mirror would almost inevitably be from someone in the driver's seat (this being a British car with the steering wheel on the right), it proves only that - kids often sit in cars and fiddle with the mirror without stealing the car. The evidence about probability of innocent access is missing.

Nice artwork!

Variations - Lynch - You are quite right about the idea of storing surplus carbon dioxide at the South Pole - I did not mean it seriously. I suspect the problem is beyond modern technology. Perhaps someone will devise a catalyst that will separate the compound into oxygen (but would we then suffer from an excess of oxygen in the atmosphere?) and carbon (perhaps in the form to be used by electrostatic copiers?).

The website suggested for *Challenger* was probably www.fanac.org - that's where my zine is.

I have read claims that the WTC collapse would not have happened if the structural beams had been insulated with asbestos as originally intended - I have no idea whether this is true, either as to the intent or the result. The world's terrorists may have learned too much from this event - bin Laden apparently did not realize that the building would fall. And if the plane had hit near the bottom rather than 2/3 of the way up, the footprint of the collapse might have been

much greater. The structural engineers will have to determine whether the beams in such structures can be protected against this sort of thermal assault.

Peter Pan - Schlosser - In a sense we have turned herbivores into carnivores by feeding them to each other as feed supplements, and the "mad cow" epidemic shows this may not have been a good idea - or must be implemented more carefully. Can the "prion" that transmits the disease be blocked while preserving the protein benefit? I have no idea. Unfortunately the practice is already so engrained in the industry and would cost so much to eliminate that we seem to be stuck with it.

Du Lac, or course, means "of the lake" - what lake the legendary Lancelot was connected with I have no idea. The name is not uncommon - there is a "Fond du Lac" in Wisconsin left by a wave of French settlers, and a famous fantasy illustrator, Edmund Dulac.

Well, the comparison of a rape victim's clothes (or lack thereof) to US foreign policy seems simplistic to me. Whatever a woman wears or doesn't wear is no more than a *passive* incitement, whereas US foreign policy is often a quite *active* attack on certain interests.

Seems to me it should be called the "Afghan non-war" - I read the other day that we have never formally declared war so as to avoid the Geneva Convention strictures on tactics and the treatment of prisoners - and according to today's (12/21) paper, our Afghan allies brag that they are killing Taliban prisoners.

Spiritus Mundi - Guy - Nice Collins cover - whatever happened to him? I have framed several color originals that he sent me.

I saw one of the Xena-File episodes - made no sense at all. I have about given up watching it - fantasy is one thing but this is just soap-operaish smoke and mirrors.

While some of my typewriters have odd symbols on the keyboard, few have unusual typefaces. The typewriter was a mass-produced item - custom typefaces are as rare as custom grills on a Model-T. There is an exotic Varityper font called Diacritical that was used in a fantasy booklet lost somewhere in my collection - but I don't have that element (Hammonds and Varitypers share an interchangeable element that looks rather like an old brake shoe).

Dissecting an earthworm wouldn't bother me much! I didn't know they were used for that, they seem rather small for an amateur to be able to find identifiable bits in.

The pentagonal stamps are ridiculously inefficient for printing purposes. The only true holograph stamps I have seen were made in Bhutan (of all places) many years ago. Our Space Fantasy stamp does have hidden images that can only be seen with a decoder, but this is interferometry, not holography.

I read long ago that armadillos are the only animal that can get leprosy. This makes them useful for research on the disease, but how likely it is that a wild armadillo carries the disease or could transmit it to you, I have no idea. I have never heard of anyone actually getting leprosy that way, which doesn't mean it hasn't happened. Leprosy is not that easily transmitted from one person to another. Still, in areas where armadillo remains have to be cleaned from auto bumpers and grills it might be well to take some care at the task. It would be interesting to know if the regions where armadillos range have any greater statistical frequency of leprosy in humans - especially the humans who clean autos.

Offline - Koch - Good luck with the job hunt! Bring the typewriter any time, I probably have one close to the same that can be used while I try to fix yours.

Revenant - Sheila - All I know about armadillos I read somewhere - it may or may not be right. I didn't know that they always bear a litter of four, and I'm not sure what you mean by "all identical" - you mean same sex, or genetically identical in that they all came from one egg/sperm combination? I have yet to see one here, but then I am north of I-20.

Comments - Hughes - I saw some of the Leonids - apparently they would have gotten thicker if I had stayed up later. Never saw the Northern Lights here - I had no idea they were that red!

I thought the Supreme Court had ruled long ago that nudity *per se* was not obscene - are they planning to take all the Old Masters with naked infants out of the art museums? Who are these idiots who want to limit TV and movies to what is appropriate for a child to see, and now want to ban pictures of naked infants because they think some pervert gets off on them. On that basis we would have to revert to the Taliban standard and ban all representational art!

Of course if it was up to me the 1st Amendment would be absolute - "no law" as to what could be published would mean just that. Any attempt to control content falls into an impossible morass of interpretation.

Has the performance of the PO been better since it was taken out of civil service? I didn't get that much mail then. I'm not sure it is really possible to separate the change in administration from the change in technology.

The only guy I knew who died of the lung cancer caused by asbestos had worked (20 years before, the typical time lag between exposure and detection) in a shop that machined rocket nozzles from castings with high asbestos content. They apparently knew nothing about the hazard and took no steps to control the dust.

I think it was mostly luck rather than design that the WTC fell mostly onto its own foundation. If the planes had hit closer to the bottom the fall might have reached further out.

I heard on the radio today that the new PO sanitizing machines turn the paper yellow, wreck film, and may degrade medicine. Of course they have already had one case where the conveyor belt stalled and 90 lbs (I think it was) of mail was incinerated. I don't really care if I get yellowed letters, but rare books could be ruined as well.

The radar transponders that identify a plane to air traffic control seem an obvious idea - these things are in public air-space and can have no expectation of privacy as to their position and velocity. But as to turning them off - why should they be under the control of the crew at all? Why would they ever be turned off? If I was going down I-85 at midnight and turned off my headlights I would be in violation of a reasonable law. I could do it in my '86 Corolla, but not in the 2000 model - the lights are interlocked with the ignition.

Trivial Pursuits - Janice - Great cover! I have tearing in both eyes but have never sought treatment for it because it is so intermittent.

I didn't know there were Scrabble tournaments! I think my sister has a set and we used to play when her kids were younger.

My comments about kosher meat were based on my ignorance about how far back before slaughter the treatment of an animal is traced. Of course the beast could have been monitored back to birth - but is it?

You went to a fancier highschool than I did - biology was not required (though it was offered) and I don't recall there being any art or drama courses at all, not that I would have wanted them.

I get a lot of the mortgage-rate spam too. And offers of HGH that will make me young again.

And various porn offers - there were a lot of bestiality spams for a while!

I remember the coin-fed Magic Fingers on motel beds, but not how much they cost. I expect they made a lot of money for the motel. If I saw one now I would try to get a look at the mechanism....

My sister has me trying to sell the William Steig 1st edition book **Shrek!** on eBay - much uglier than the movie version. I am not a Steig fan.

The knife worn with Scots formal kilts is in one of the high-top socks, not in the kilt itself. The leader of the pipe band at the Birmingham DSC had one in her sock, but I have no idea whether it was real or ornamental. If real it would be as much a lethal weapon as a pocket knife or a small kitchen knife, but it could hardly be called a concealed weapon.

Avatar - Randy - Enjoyed the Worldcon report!

Frequent Flyer - Feller - Interesting about the Tarot readings. Any real ability to predict the future (other than by extrapolation) involves the same logical paradox as travel to the past - if the future could be predicted, it would either mean that the future is fixed (predestination) and the prediction thus of no value; or that the prediction would have to include the effect of the future being predictable, which leads to an infinite recursion. Or something like Murray Leinster's **Sidewise in Time** theory of multiple probabilities - then every successful attempt to predict the future would create a new, unpredicted, future.

Armadillo - Liz - Striking cover! I have the same problem with e-mail - the lists generate too much. At 100-200 a day I have little time for anything else. I have dropped one list and may drop more.

No, there was no explanation of why the armadillos are moving north - global warming is all I can think of. This fall set a new record for warm. It's three days before Christmas and we still haven't had a freeze. The armadillos are apparently slowed down by major highways, and at the time of the article had not been seen north of I-20. If they would eat the damn fire ants they would be welcome, leprosy and all, but I'm told they won't.

Yes, the crepe myrtle was the most likely path for the squirrels to the roof. I cut it back severely again. I had piled up too much dead shrubbery in the old dog pen and with the drought burning was banned, so I got an electric shredder thing and have gotten rid of most of it.

Guy was probably referring to Amidou Diallo, who was shot 19 times (with 41 bullets - talk about incompetence) by four *undercover* NYPD officers while standing in the doorway of his own apartment building with his wallet in his hand. They were all acquitted of any wrongdoing - the police are, in fact, licensed to kill, and if they kill the wrong person are seldom punished for it.

Handcuffs & Peanut Butter - Jeff - I missed that issue of *The Globe* - not that I buy it, but I see it in the Krogers. I buy the *Weekly World News*. Sometimes.

I quite agree with you about the secret tribunals - don't Bush and Ashcroft both take an oath to "uphold and defend" the Constitution? Secret tribunals are in direct violation of Article VI to the Bill of Rights. The argument that Roosevelt did it in WWII cuts no ice with me - it was a mistake then, and one of the men convicted was in fact a hero who joined the saboteur group in order to stop it.

Movies Unlimited offers *Candy* on DVD at \$30. I finally got a player and watched it the other night. Worked fine, but hung on the additional material supposedly on the disk.

I read **Gone With the Wind** many years ago and have not read **The Wind Done Gone** at all, so I'm not sure what you mean by plagiarism - is text carried over or what?

AaaaYiii - Guy - I don't think your title is spelled right.... I haven't seen LotR yet but I hear that the film version makes Arwen a warrior maiden. Bah....

Yngvi - Toni - You were at Hartsfield for the Gainesville Goober stunt! Bad luck.... Hope the new house is working out OK!

Enjoyed Charlotte's movie reviews - probably more than I would the movies. I will see LotR eventually, but the rest of the current crop don't interest me much.

Mysterious - weber - Wow - this zine has layout to spare.... I took my last roll of film (which had been in the camera since spring) to WalMart and they did a good job on it in an hour.

I had not heard that the pilot who flew the B-29 into the Empire State Building might have done it intentionally. I don't know that I've ever read a full account of that catastrophe - someone told me the other day that a passenger on the plane survived the crash.

I love the "slightly edited" President Luthor speech! When did that comic appear?

Ernest Jones wrote his poem about "steely fingers on twin dials" in the 1840s, so he could have known about the Morse success of 1844 - but this was just simple code transmission wasn't it? Are you saying others had devised analog magnetic systems before that? Verne's **Mysterious Island** is somewhat later, 1875.

I have forgotten what Norton Anti-virus said the file was - but it has a log: it has caught .exe files, .doc files, .xls.pif files, and, most recently, .data files. All the recent ones seem to have contained the W32badtrans virus.

Yes, I have heard of concentrating alcohol by freezing out the water. It has been done in New England, and may well have been done prehistorically in northern Europe. But I doubt it was ever done in the Mediterranean climate of the Biblical lands - it doesn't get cold enough. If it could be done in a mere winter freeze, you could do it in the freezer section of your refrigerator. The account I read said it had to be considerably colder than that. I tried it once in Newport News when it got down to 20 deg.F but got nothing.

I don't doubt an astronaut could have died on the Moon - but I think the chance of a broken leg or a heart attack was far below the well-estimated risks of equipment breakdown or micro-meteor strike. A certain irreducible level of risk was inevitable, just as it is if I drive across town - driving across Atlanta might be riskier than going to the moon.... I think the "American public" is underestimated in such matters - most people probably understood that it was a hazardous undertaking.

Tennessee Trash - Robe - Odd that Harry Potter and Frodo appear on their respective promo posters in the same position, looking up out of the picture with their heads tilted down. That you saw the Potter movie three times and the theater buggered it up twice is not encouraging! Something to do with there no longer being such a thing as a real projectionist no doubt.

I love that about Isaac repeating appropriate lines from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* ! Probably their best movie, and one of the funniest movies I have ever seen. Not quite as transcendent as *Candy*, which I saw on DVD the other night.

The Sphere - Don - I quite agree with your various "Points of Perspective" - it's always a matter of whose ox is gored. But we are supposed to have Cosmic Minds. Bombing Saudi Arabia wouldn't

just affect billionaires - it would put the price of oil over the moon and wreck our economy even worse than it is already.

I'm not sure the date assigned to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire is a useful factoid beyond the year it happened. You are right that every day is an anniversary - I have a book somewhere that lists what you can drink to every day of the year. Here it is:

Let's Drink to That, assembled by Joyce Post and illustrated by Roy G Krenkel, The Terminus, Owlswick & Ft Mudge Electrck Street Railway Gazette, Philadelphia 1970.

But they don't list the fall of the Ottoman Empire for September 11 - instead they have:

1841 - First collapsible tube patented (?)

1862 - O. Henry born

1877 - James Jeans born

1883 - Mail chute for buildings patented

1928 - First coast to coast through bus line service begins

What is a "collapsible tube"?

Congratulations and best wishes for the grandson!

Oblio - Brown - Interesting account of the AMI anthrax site. Have they ever revealed whether what was found there was the same as went to the real media in NY and the politicians in DC?

Bartland's Unfamiliar Quotations - Jeff - They certainly are, for the most part. I did see the movie where Groucho sings "I'm Against It" this week.

Challenger 15 - Guy - A massive tome! I like the tribute to Meade. Great picture of Justin and Annie dancing at your wedding!

Interesting account of his Soggies by Terry Jeeves - 1953 was almost ten years before I was a neo! The Soggy looks like a Shmoo to me, but I am no comics fan and couldn't say when Al Capp invented the Shmoo. Don Markstein and Gary Brown probably know! Aha - I see that while Don only dates the Shmoo to "the 50s and 60s", there is a *L'il Abner* site that says the character first appeared in 1948.

I enjoyed Ben Indick's biography of Edd Cartier - I hadn't realized he and Bok and Finlay were all born in 1914. I would find it very hard to say which of them was "best" - each had his own unique style. Hard to imagine what we would have looked at next to the words without them.

Nice MilPhil photos - almost makes me wish I had gone!

