

# OPUNTIA 518





**Opuntia** is published by Dale Speirs, Calgary, Alberta. It is posted on [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) and [www.fanac.org](http://www.fanac.org). My e-mail address is: [opuntia57@hotmail.com](mailto:opuntia57@hotmail.com) When sending me an emailed letter of comment, please include your name and town in the message.

**CHINOOK BLAST 2022**

2022-02-04

photos by Dale Speirs

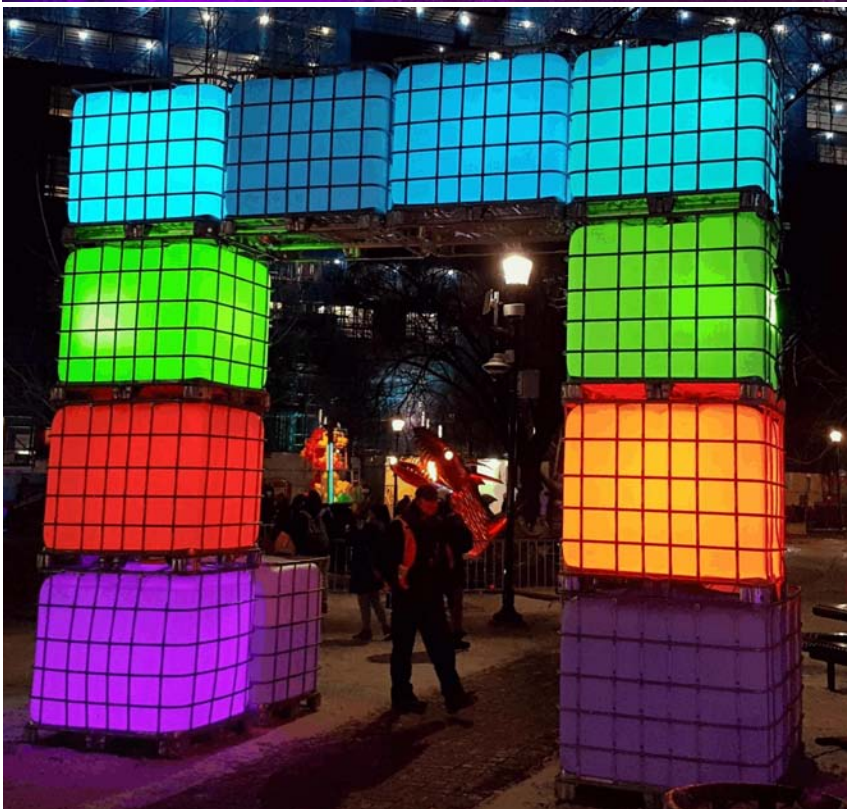
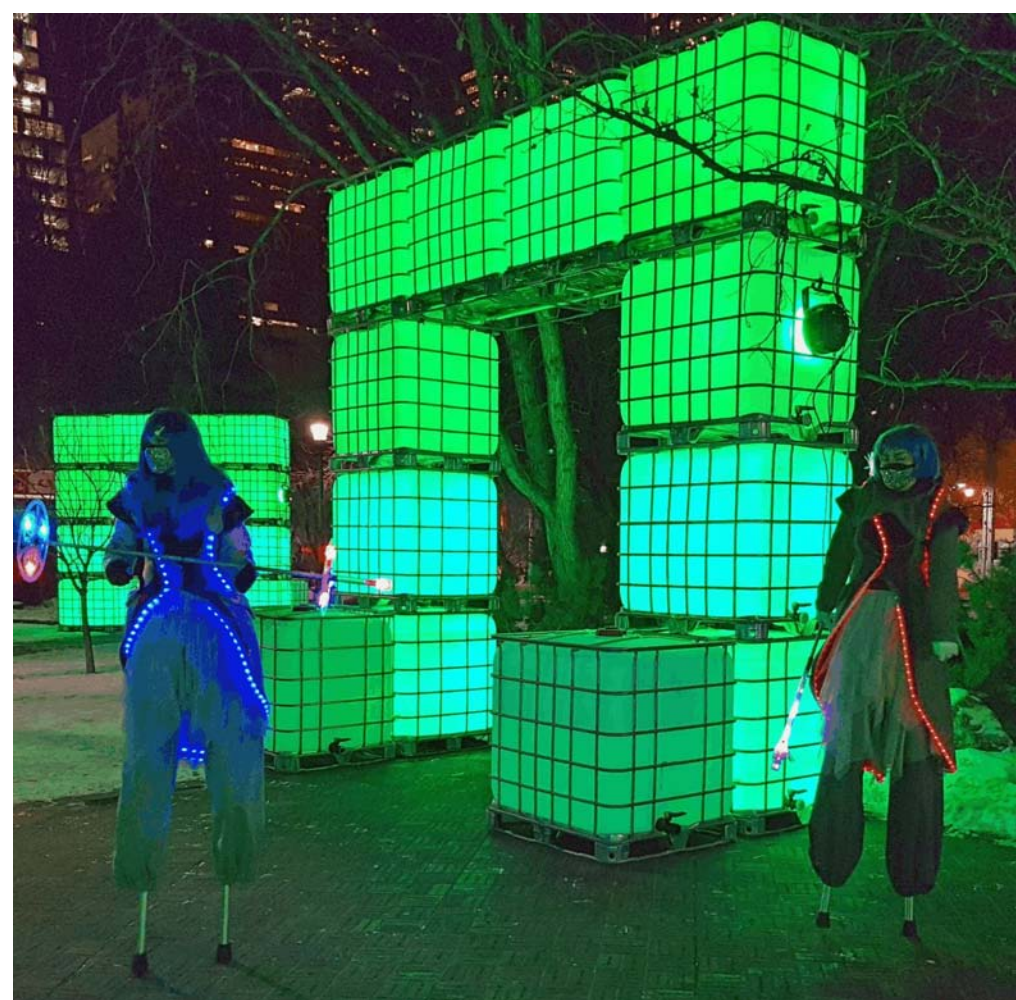
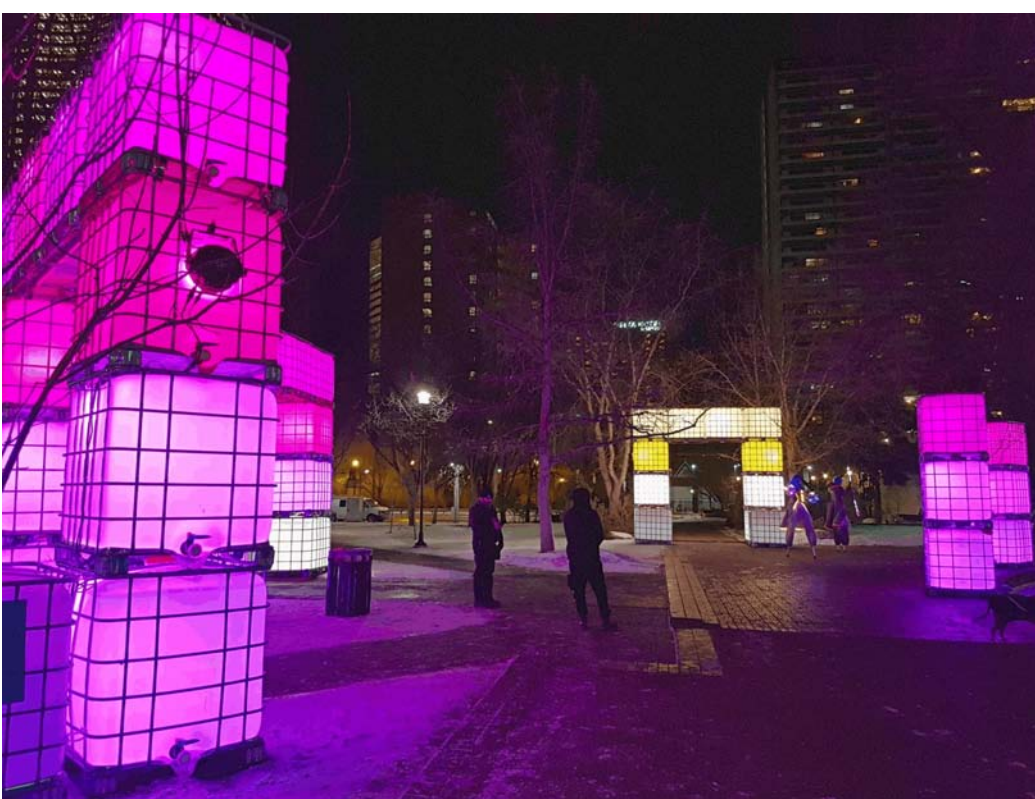
Calgary’s winter festival every February has changed its name over the years and is currently called Chinook Blast. No indoor events this year for the obvious reason. My previous reports on Glow Festival (the original name) and Chinook Blast are in OPUNTIAs #368, 436, 467, and 495.

After a cold start to the year, we actually had a warm festival, with a chinook wind blowing in on February 4, the start of the event. The cover photo shows the Olympic Plaza, where the medals were awarded during the 1988 Calgary Winter Games. Since then, the Plaza has become the central gathering place of Calgarians, like Times Square in New York City.

It was difficult to photograph the DJ because the large screens washed out the camera light meter. The DJ worked the skaters and got them to chant along with him as they circled the ice rink.







In the northwest corner of the Plaza were light-box arches and stilt walkers.

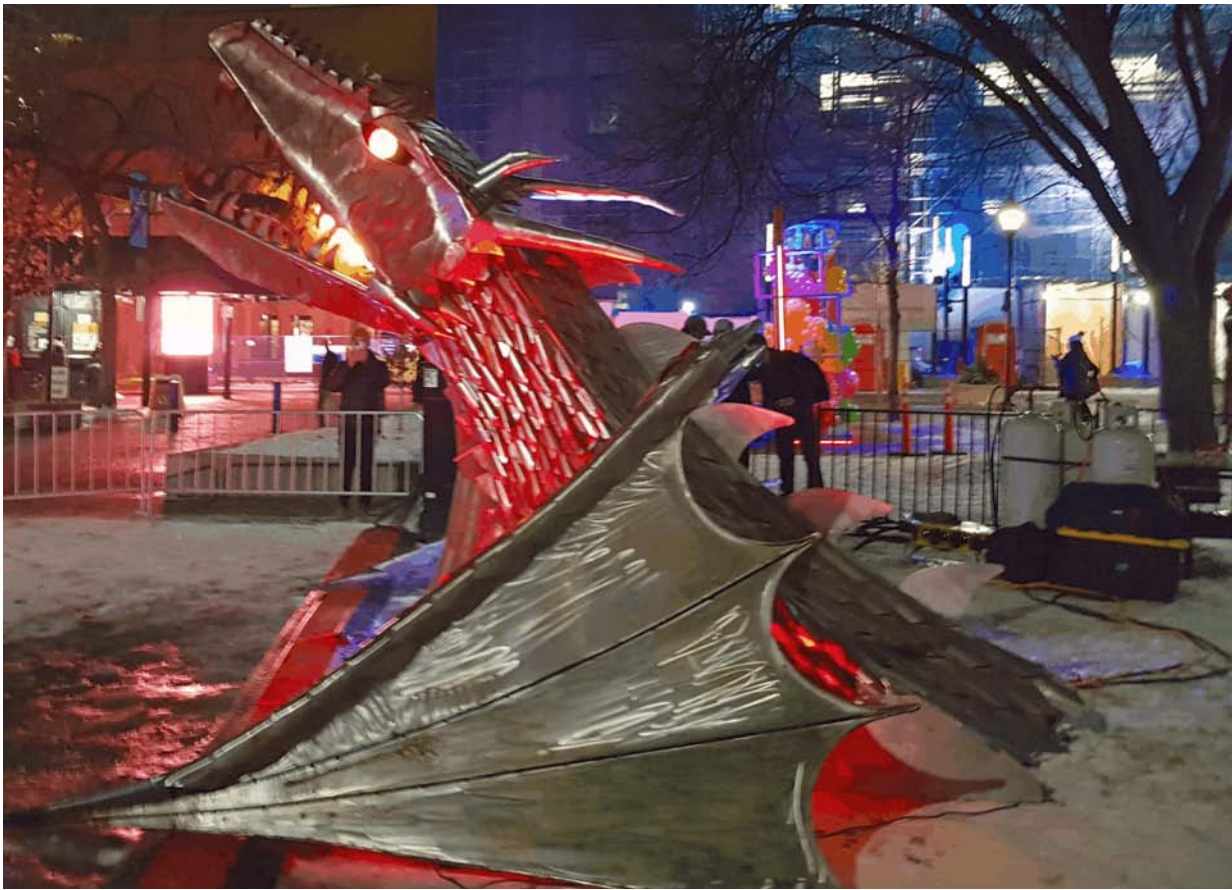












In the southwest corner of the Plaza, here be dragons. Well, one of them.



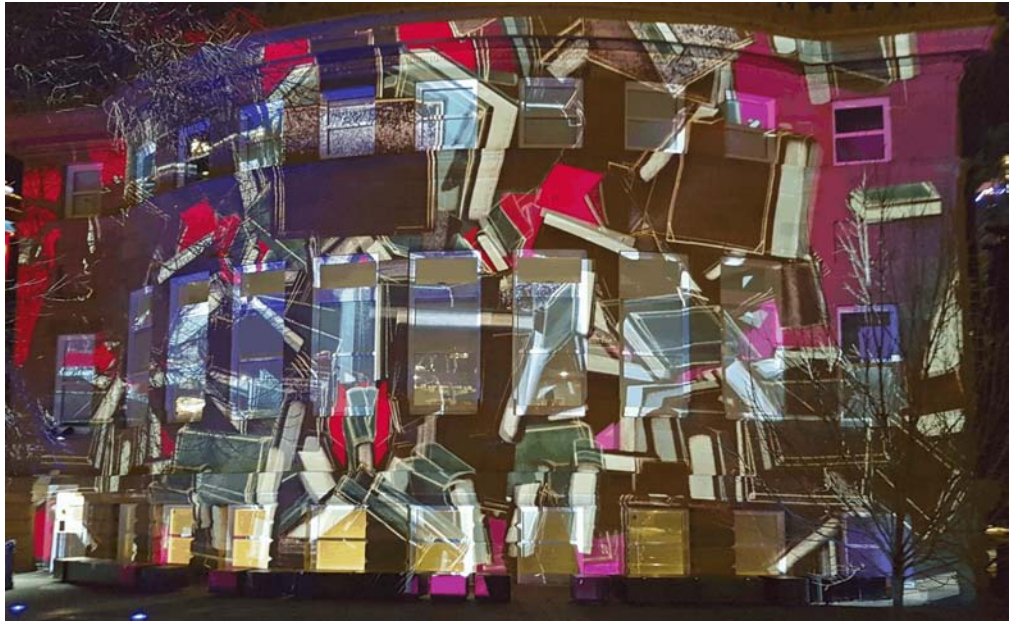
Directly across the street from Olympic Plaza is Old City Hall, a sandstone edifice built in 1909.



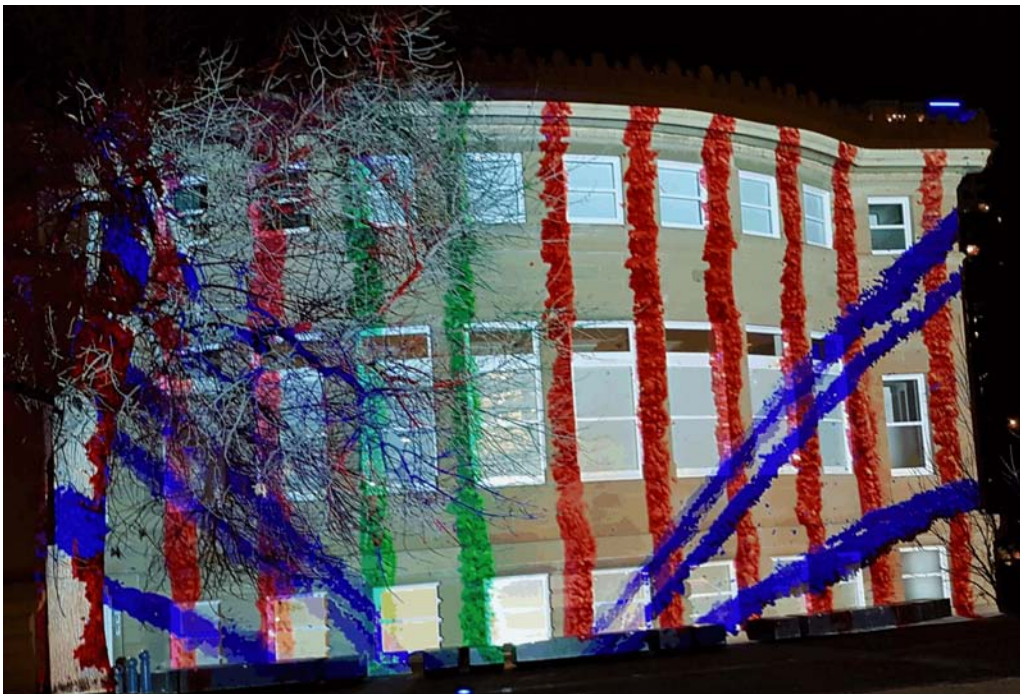
Part of the festival was held a ten-minute walk away in the Beltline district, where another sandstone edifice, the Central Memorial Library, was used as a screen for extensive laser light shows. I could have filled 30 pages of this zine with all the variations but will have to limit the photos.











I was impressed at how the artists made the laser light look textured like yarn or ivy.

Chinook Blast continued over three weekends in February. More photos in the next issue of OPUNTIA.



**CURRENT EVENTS: PART 34**

by Dale Speirs

[Parts 1 to 33 appeared in OPUNTIA's #474, 475, 479, 480, 483, 484, 488 to 503, and 507 to 517.]

As of February 4, Canada had 3,106,709 reported cases of COVID-19. This number is low because most provinces no longer record non-hospitalization cases. 34,537 Canadians have died, out of a population of 38 million. 78.8% of Canadians are vaccinated.

**Seen In The COVID-19 Literature.**

Van Cutsem, J., et al (2022) **The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on human psychology and physical activity; a space analogue research perspective.** INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ASTROBIOLOGY 21:doi.org/10.1017/S1473550421000409

Authors' abstract: *Astronauts will encounter isolated, confined and extreme conditions during future missions, and will have to be able to adapt. Until recently, however, few places on Earth could serve as acceptable space analogues (i.e., submarine and polar regions).*

*The coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19)-related lockdowns around the globe provided a good opportunity to obtain more comprehensive datasets on the impact of prolonged isolation on human functioning in a very large sample.*

*748 individuals (Belgium 442, Spain 183, Germany 50, Italy 50, US 23; Mean age  $\pm$  SD: 41  $\pm$  14 years, with an age range of 18 to 83 years; 66% women) filled out an online survey assessing the impact of the COVID-lockdown on psychological, exercise and general health variables.*

*A first time near the beginning of the initial lockdown (hereafter 'T1'; 24  $\pm$  13 days after the start of the first lockdown; i.e., 3 weeks after the start of the first lockdown) and a second time a couple of weeks thereafter (hereafter 'T2'; 17  $\pm$  5 days after the first online survey; i.e., 6 weeks after the start of the first lockdown).*

*From T1 to T2 an improvement of subjective sleep quality was observed, that was related to an increase in subjective sleep efficiency and a decrease in sleep latency and disturbance.*

*Weekly sitting time decreased, and the weekly amount of moderate and vigorous physical activity increased from T1 to T2 (P = 0.049). No differences from T1 to T2 were observed in terms of mood, loneliness and state anxiety.*

*A lower amount of sitting time was significantly correlated with improved subjective sleep quality and with an increased amount of moderate and vigorous physical activity.*

*Compared to 3 weeks into the first COVID-imposed lockdown, 6-weeks after the start of the first COVID-imposed lockdown, physical activity and subjective sleep scores were positively impacted.*

*The present, large sample size study further confirms exercise as a worthwhile countermeasure to psychophysiological deconditioning during confinement.*

Bernstein, A.S., et al (2022) **The costs and benefits of primary prevention of zoonotic pandemics.** SCIENCE ADVANCES 8:doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abl4183 (available as a free pdf)

Authors' abstract: *The lives lost and economic costs of viral zoonotic pandemics have steadily increased over the past century. Prominent policymakers have promoted plans that argue the best ways to address future pandemic catastrophes should entail detecting and containing emerging zoonotic threats. In other words, we should take actions only after humans get sick.*

*We sharply disagree. Humans have extensive contact with wildlife known to harbor vast numbers of viruses, many of which have not yet spilled into humans. We compute the annualized damages from emerging viral zoonoses.*

*We explore three practical actions to minimize the impact of future pandemics: better surveillance of pathogen spillover and development of global databases of virus genomics and serology, better management of wildlife trade, and substantial reduction of deforestation. We find that these primary pandemic prevention actions cost less than 1/20th the value of lives lost each year to emerging viral zoonoses and have substantial co-benefits.*

Speirs: In Canada, the federal government shut down its pandemic warning system to save money about a year before COVID-19 began.



## **ACTION ADVENTURE ON THE AIR: PART 7**

by Dale Speirs

[Parts 1 to 6 appeared in OPUNTIA's #426, 447, 476, 487, 494, and 502.]

The old-time radio series mentioned below are available as free mp3s from the Old Time Radio Researchers at [www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary](http://www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary)

### **Frankie Does Radio.**

ROCKY FORTUNE aired for the 1953-54 season. Writers were seldom credited in the episodes although everyone else was, but references say they were George Lefferts and Ernest Kinoy. The scripts were untitled, as a result of which many episodes circulate under multiple titles.

Frank Sinatra played the hero Rocky Fortune, born Rocko Fortunato, as was specifically mentioned in the second episode. The character was an odd-job man, sent out by his employment agency to a different and strange job each week. Sinatra's career had declined because the bobby-soxers were gone but his movie and nightclub career was only just beginning. He hit it big shortly after this series was transcribed and moved on to better things.

"Double Indemnity" aired on 1953-10-13, and is also circulating as "Steven In A Rest Home". Rocky Fortune was sent by his employment agency to fill a chauffeur's position in a neighbourhood where the few people who owned a car drove themselves. He was mugged by gangsters who then flew him out to a Denver sanitarium.

They insisted he was Steven Crandall. The head mad scientist Dr Harris was unrelenting. They kept drugging and torturing him. He insisted he was Rocky Fortune. Harris and his goon Johan insisted otherwise, and brainwashed him. They wanted him to impersonate Crandall and infiltrate his family.

After various alarms, the plan was exposed. The real Steven, almost broke, wanted to collect life insurance on himself without the tedious necessity of dying. The idea was for an out-of-town ringer to depart this world as Steven. The widow would collect the payout, sharing some with Harris. There was a cliff-top drama where the first step was a doozie and it was the real Steven who took it.

"Hollywood Or Boom" aired on 1954-01-26. Rocky Fortune answered an ad for a truck driver to haul a load of nitroglycerine from New York City to Hollywood. The pay was \$75 per day plus a \$500 bonus if the load was delivered successfully. The buyer wanted to blow up an old movie lot.

Incredibly good pay for 1954 but for obvious reasons the dispatcher Docketi couldn't find anyone to take the job until Fortune walked in. Docketi would be the relief driver.

They had just crossed over to New Jersey when they picked up Linda Crandall, a redheaded woman hitchhiker. (The script writer seemed to like that name.) She was going to seek her fortune in Hollywood. A movie company had sent her a train ticket for a screen test but her purse had been stolen.

In Pennsylvania, a state trooper pulled the truck over for inspection, not so much because of the nitroglycerine but because he was searching for armed robbers who shot up a post office. Mike the Butcher got \$200,000 and was believed heading west. The trooper let them go.

Docketi had lain down for a nap in the sleeper compartment and didn't wake up. He had been strangled while Fortune and Linda had been at the back of the truck with the trooper. At a truck stop in Pennsylvania they met up again with the trooper.

Fortune realized the trooper was a phony. He was wearing a New Jersey uniform with a toy badge. They made a run for it, during which someone shot the fake trooper dead from the back of the truck. Stopping to investigate, Fortune found a rider in the back of truck.

Mike the Butcher had strangled his erstwhile partner Docketi and killed Blinky Harry, the fake trooper. The dead men were stashed in back and Mike rode up front.

At Pittsburgh they stopped for fast food. Linda tried to call for help but failed. There was a contretemps and Fortune managed to get the gun away. Mike got it back, tried to blow up the truck, and failed when the police arrived in the proverbial nick of time. Linda turned out to be a US Postal Inspector after the money. And so back to New York City. Nothing more was said about the nitroglycerine. One presumes, and indeed fervently hopes, that the nitroglycerine wasn't sent back by parcel post.



## **Carlton E. Morse.**

One of radio's most prolific writers was Carlton E. Morse, who wrote soap operas and action-adventure series. Insofar as the latter are concerned, he had several series that were basically continuous, changing their titles and character names if they changed networks but maintaining the same sort of plots.

His action-adventure stories were basically soap operas with gunfire. The series were 15-minutes daily episodes, but many have since been recast by OTR fans as half- or one-hour episodes with repetitious the-story-so-far openings stripped out.

I LOVE A MYSTERY aired from 1939 to 1944, then repeated in 1949-50 with the same scripts but new casts. ADVENTURES BY MORSE aired during the 1944-45 season. I LOVE ADVENTURE aired in 1948. Morse's main activity was the soap opera ONE MAN'S FAMILY, which aired from 1932 to 1959.

From ADVENTURES BY MORSE was "The Girl On Shipwreck Island", aired in late June 1944. Capt. Bart Friday and Skip Turner were in Saigon, the capital of French Indochina (Union Indochinoise). They were hired to ferry a French aircraft from Saigon to Australia.

What will be missed by present-day listeners, and probably confused those listening in 1944, was that Morse seemed to be putting Friday and Turner into a different world. In our timeline, the colonial French government in Indochina in 1944 was Vichy.

As American citizens, Friday and Turner should not have been collaborating with the Vichy. Furthermore, the Allies were actively bombing Indochinese areas being used by the Japanese occupiers. But Morse died in 1993, so it is too late to ask him.

In any event, Friday and Turner flew off to Australia in the French plane. Engine trouble developed over the ocean. The only place in sight to land was an uncharted island. The plane slid across the harbour and onto a sandy beach. Not too much damage but the engines wouldn't turn over.

The two men climbed up a prominence to spy out the island. Lots of jungle vegetation and game animals, so they knew they wouldn't starve. Standing on the heights they saw the island was volcanic, split down the middle by a deep

ravine with a hump on each side. There was a creek running down the ravine, so fresh water wouldn't be a problem.

To their astonishment, they saw a white woman bathing in the creek. They clambered down. As they descended, they spotted the wreck of a small yacht on another beach, evidently where she had come from.

Someone behind them opened fire with a rifle. They crawled through the vegetation down the slope to the stream and thence to where they had seen the woman. Hugging the bank, they heard an Englishman's voice above them calling to the woman, evidently named Gracie, and asking if she was okay.

The twit was standing out in the open, an easy target for the sniper. His body splashed into the water. A moment later a Spanish-accented voice was heard, telling the dead man that he would get a grave once the afternoon heat was over.

After the killer wandered away, Friday and Turner moved on. They found a cave and heard a noisy parrot inside mangling the English language and chanting "*15 men on the dead man's chest*". They couldn't and never did see the bird though, for reasons explained later.

From a hiding place Gracie spoke to them in a Cockney accent. She told them they were trespassing on her side of the island. The wrecked yacht had ten people, of whom three men survived and herself. The ship had been blown ashore six months ago.

Gracie was a strong-minded and respectable woman, and told the yachtsmen to stay on the other side. Manuel had just thinned out his competition. She had her own gun and ammo, not wanting to become the grand prize for the winner of the last-man-standing competition. The parrot was her burglar alarm. Unusual for fiction in those days to show such a self-reliant woman.

With nothing more to be accomplished, Friday and Turner went back to their plane and tried to repair the craft. The problem appeared to be the fuel line. As they cleaned it, they discussed Manuel and how he would react to them trying to leave.

Manuel had killed the other two men in jealousy over Gracie. He knew Friday and Turner would take her away and/or report him for two murders when they got back to civilization.



Either way he would lose Gracie, notwithstanding her fear and hatred of him. Nor could Friday and Turner assume she would go with them voluntarily. She was a textbook study in paranoia, to be expected considering what had happened to her over the past six months.

As darkness fell, they locked the plane cabin and climbed back up the ridge. Turner fell into a pit trap but Friday managed to pull him out. That got the parrot yapping and woke up Gracie. They trapped her in return and bound her hands.

Trudging back down to the plane, with Turner as rear-guard, Manuel sapped him unconscious from behind. Joining the conversation, Manuel offered to trade Turner for Gracie. He declined an offer for all four of them to fly out, not wanting to hang for two murders in Australia.

The debate was rudely interrupted when the parrot began squawking. Much to everyone's surprise, there appeared to be someone else on the island. The stranger eliminated Manuel from the plot with a gunshot.

Gracie finally admitted she knew someone else was on the island. The three climbed back up to her cave. The newcomer was the yacht's cook Chen. He resented Turner calling him an Oriental and lectured him on the differences between the races of southeastern Asia.

That was very enlightening for the times. Generally Hollywood studios used white folk for Oriental (pardon the expression) characters, made up to look vaguely Chinese. In movies, the actors wore obsolete dress left over from the days of the Emperor. No one seemed to have told Hollywood producers that China had been a republic since 1912.

Meanwhile, back at the plot, Chen was in love with Gracie, whether she knew it or not. He had been guarding her against the other men in the hopes of keeping her on the island for himself. It was he who had been imitating the never-seen parrot.

There were treasure chests stored in the back of the cave, but before Friday could open one, more gunshots sounded. Chen had tried to kill Turner but the latter was faster on the draw. With only three characters left, there was nothing more to do except fly the plane off the beach and head for Australia. What happened to Gracie was never stated, although Friday and Turner went back to San Francisco for their next adventure.

## **Sailing, Sailing, Over The Bounding Main.**

“The Shark” by John Fleming Wilson (1913 December, THE BLACK CAT, available as a free pdf from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)) was a gory story about revenge gone wrong. Tom “Skin” Flint was the owner of a marine contracting outfit in Hawaii. He quarreled with one of his divers and decided to get even.

Flint smuggled a large open can full of beef blood onto the boat from whence the diver descended to the job. Once the diver was below him, and without anyone else on the crew seeing him, he dropped the can into the water where it fell on the diver's head, spilling the blood along the way.

The sharks were there in moments. As Flint celebrated the death of his adversary, he put his hands on the gunwales and leaned over to get a better look at the gore. A shark saw him, rocketed up, and snatched him into a watery grave.

THE STRANGE DR WEIRD was an anthology series that aired on radio during the 1944-45 season, written by Robert A. Arthur. It was produced by the same outfit that did THE MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER but was a 15-minute show instead of 30 minutes.

“The Ghost Ship” aired on 1945-04-24. Four men were drifting on a lifeboat in the ocean when they crossed paths with a derelict freighter. It was floating low in the water but was still a better haven than a lifeboat.

They boarded the ship. The vessel was deserted, with no indication of what happened to the crew. As they explored below decks, those that weren't flooded, one by one the sailors began disappearing. Twas a ghost ship, the penultimate survivor declared, snatching away souls into a watery grave.

The last two men found out there were no ghouls aboard. A giant octopus had taken up residence on board below decks and was snatching up the men. With a few final screams, the last of them were taken. No one survived, and the ghost ship drifted onward.

LIGHTS OUT aired from 1934 to 1947, and was an anthology radio series specializing in fantasy, weird fiction, and horror. “Bon Voyage” was written by Arch Oboler and aired on 1942-11-10. First a blurb from Ironized Yeast Tablets for tired, thin people who needed more Vitamin B to pep up their lives.



Two elderly sisters Julia and Emma were off on a cruise. Julia was a rude old biddy. Emma was a timid soul who did not want to be separated from Julia. The alert listener will catch Julia's remark that no one asked for their tickets when they boarded the liner. On arrival at the dock, they saw no one, then suddenly a crowd appeared.

As the trip began, they kept alluding to twenty years of something or other, living in a cheap boarding house where rent was paid by the week. Passing remarks were made about the blood everywhere, we shouldn't have killed him, buried him in the basement, etcetera.

The sisters went for a stroll on the promenade at 03h00. No one there but ghosts haunting them. Returning below deck they couldn't get back into their cabin. No one there or anyplace else on the ship. Emma became hysterical and Julia was frantic.

The deserted ship fed their terror. They broke down and confessed to the sky that they murdered a man twenty years ago for his money. Abruptly the captain of the ship appeared and took them to the deserted wheelhouse. He set a course and told them it would take them to their doom.

He told them he had been at the wheel years ago and fallen asleep. The ship sailed into an iceberg, taking him and 500 passengers and crew to the bottom. The Devil condemned him to sail once a year, taking with him fresh sinners such as Julia and Emma.

Dead ahead was an iceberg.

DARK FANTASY was an old-time radio anthology series with 31 episodes aired from 1941 to 1942. Unusual for the times, it was a national show on the NBC network aired out of Oklahoma City. All the episodes were written by Scott Bishop. They were a mixture of science fiction, fantasy, weird, and twist mysteries.

"Convoy For Atlantis" aired on 1942-03-27. The story was set in 1934 in the North Atlantic. When this episode was aired, the Allies were losing the Battle of the Atlantic, as convoy after convoy bound for Britain met disaster.

The narrator of this episode was part of a search for three ships that had gone missing in 1934. Arriving on scene, they discovered the crews of all three ships

floating about in lifeboats. None of the sailors had any idea of how they got there.

A strange man Siegfried suddenly materialized on the ship. He said he took the three ships and would take this one. He was taking them to the bottom of the ocean where he needed the ships. Everly and Adam woke up on the seabed. There was no water or sign of life. Siegfried told them they were on Atlantis.

The continent had sunk 9,000 years before the death of Plato. The chronology seemed rather strange, but Siegfried explained the ancient Greeks had helped save the continent from the crushing waters.

However they needed metal for the upkeep and repair, hence the theft of the ships. As per standard policy in utopias, Siegfried took them on a guided tour of the wonders of Atlantis. Gold and silver treasure was piled up in rooms.

The show being radio, one can only guess, but almost certainly Siegfried was wearing a shining white toga. The two men got greedy, and tried to steal the gold. Siegfried sent them back up to float in a lifeboat. And that was that.

### **Bogie And Baby.**

BOLD VENTURE was a syndicated old-time radio series that aired during the 1951-52 season and is available as free mp3s from [www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary](http://www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary). It was a star vehicle for Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall, with all episodes written by Morton Fine and David Friedkin. The series was transcribed onto disks and then marketed to independent radio stations.

The radio series was two steps removed from Ernest Hemingway's novel TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT via the 1944 movie version starring Bogart and Bacall. The radio series was vaguely similar to the book and somewhat similar to the movie, although it actually owed as much to CASABLANCA.

The setting was Havana, Cuba, long before the Communist takeover. Slate Shannon (played by Bogart) owned a boat called Bold Venture and did odd jobs with it to earn his living. His other business was a cheap hotel called Shannon's Place. His sort-of girlfriend was Sailor Duval (Bacall).

A calypso singer King Moses interpolated songs every so often. The dialogue was spoken more harshly in early episodes than it would be later in the series



after the actors found their way. The plots were basic and often owed something to Hemingway.

“The Blue Moon” aired on 1951-06-04. A man named Cameron asked Slate Shannon and Sailor Duval to help him free his daughter Kathy from the clutches of a gangster named Norton. She spent most of her time on his casino ship The Blue Moon.

Kathy thought she had killed a man in a hit-and-run accident, hence Norton’s hold over her. He knew but she didn’t, that the man had survived okay and was now being kept out of sight by Norton so he could blackmail her. She was also a rebellious teenager who found she enjoyed the street life.

Norton beat up Shannon, sabotaged his boat, and threatened Cameron’s life. The usual sort of behaviour one expects from the lower classes. There were alarums and excursions interspersed with occasional calypso commentary from King Moses. Duval got herself kidnapped as she so often did. The whole matter was resolved with gunshots.

“A Voodoo Vendetta In Paradise” aired on 1951-07-30. Alice Ramsey hired the Bold Venture to take her dead husband’s coffin out to sea for burial. She was accompanied by her lover Dr Len Barton, struck off the list for malpractice.

En route she mentioned her husband was murdered. The late Ramsey’s native workers resented that and decided to take action with a poison dart. Unfortunately Sailor Duval took the dart by mistake. Slate Shannon tried to get the antidote but the natives wouldn’t help.

Many alarums followed, mostly of the voodoo persuasion. Jungle drums constantly sounded, nearly everyone got a voodoo doll, and Duval somehow survived. Barton became jealous of Shannon, thinking he was after Alice. The two men had a fight to the death. There are no prizes for guessing who won.

Alice eventually got what she deserved from the natives. Having run out of guest actors, the episode ended for lack of anything else to do.

“Cruise To Batabano” aired on 1951-12-03. Slate Shannon and Sailor Duval were hired by the Drews to ferry a cabin cruiser from Havana to Batabano, which is on the opposite side of the island.

They would have to go the long way around the island. Train tickets were supplied for the return trip, which was just a shortcut by land.. There was some bargaining over the fee but Duval finally got the Drews up to \$137.50.

The galley of the boat was locked tight so Duval couldn’t cook a meal. Just as well, for a potential hijacker opened it with a stolen key and was killed by a booby trap.

Tossing the body overboard, Slate and Duval proceeded to Batabano. The boat was delivered and they boarded the train home. At the Havana station, Drew was waiting for them. He never got to say hello because someone pushed him under the train as it pulled into the station. He departed the script the hard way.

Slate and Duval were told by police the Drews had heisted a fortune in silks. They went back to Batabano for a confrontation down at the docks. Shots were fired, the death toll climbed, the usual routine. Only two people walked off the boat, and you can guess who they were. Well, they were booked for the series.

### **Sharp Practice.**

THE THIRD MAN aired on old-time radio for a season in 1951-52, with Orson Welles as Harry Lime. No writers were credited. The mp3s are often labeled with varied series titles using the name Harry Lime. The character came from Graham Greene’s movie and later novel adaptation. Well worth downloading as free mp3s from [www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary](http://www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary).

Lime was a confidence man constantly traveling throughout Europe. He met a nasty end in the original movie. In the opening narration of the radio episodes, Welles told the audience that these stories were set before Lime was shot dead fleeing through the sewers of Vienna like a rat.

In the radio series, most of his schemes seemed to fall through, yet he always had money to live well and go gambling in casinos. Lime narrated all the episodes as if he were a god speaking from Olympus, complacent in his superiority over the lumpenproletariat while oblivious of the fact that he lost more often than he won.

The most distinctive part of the radio series, and what set it apart from other radio shows, was the theme and incidental music, played on a zither by Anton Karas. Even today it would stand out on a television series. As part of the radio



episodes, the music could be considered as important as Welles' rich voice. The existing mp3s are somewhat distorted from old tape recordings but allowing for that they cannot fail to impress.

"Horse Play" aired on 1951-11-23 began with Harry Lime setting up the lost billfold scam in Paris to relieve his mark of several thousand dollars. He posed as a member of a syndicate who were fixing horse races in France, was assisted by a local tout.

Arrangements were made to have the victim Jack Harris find a wallet with cash, Lime's identity card, and papers suggesting that Lime was on to a sure thing. Fake bets were set up to draw in Harris with winning stakes.

After reeling him in, they got him with a bad cheque. To make good on his promise he had to come up with \$28,000 in cash. Like anyone else caught by gambling fever, Harris doubled down on his bets, placed with Lime's friends.

Lime faked a shooting of the tout in such a way as to implicate Harris. The idea was to panic him into leaving town, forgetting about his \$28,000 bet. Harris fled on the next train to Italy. Trouble was, just as Lime was about to collect the cash, the Sûreté raided the betting parlour. It seemed to me that the whole scheme was more work than just holding an honest day job.

"The Dead Candidate" aired on 1952-02-15. Harry Lime was in the unusual position of being a legitimate businessman. In a crap game he had won a concession for Buzzo soft drinks for the Mediterranean island of Molinia.

On the steamer to the island, Lime met a woman Suzie who told him the island was run by a corrupt dictatorship. Unbeknownst to Lime, she passed the news ahead that Lime was secretly an agent of the American president.

El Admiral was hoping for foreign aid, so his wife arranged a welcoming crowd to cheer for Lime. It rather perturbed Lime, who like to stay out of the spotlight, to be greeted by a crowd shouting "*Viva Harry Lime!*" He had no idea that Buzzo was so popular.

The chief of secret police was anxious to control both the situation and the regime. He proposed a faux election between the dictator and a social democrat named Campo, murdered by the chief but widely believed by the public to be in hiding. The latter was to be labeled a Communist in the hopes of funding

from the American government, ostensibly to hold back the Red Tide and, more importantly, to keep the regime from bankruptcy.

The chief decided to collect the names of the dead from cemeteries to ensure reliable voters. He didn't know it was a fine old American tradition. After all, it wasn't necessary for him to make public appearances.

Lime was initially unaware of all that. He was trying to unload the Buzzo concession. Both sides were scheming grandiosely, unaware of the other's true intentions. Lime managed to court Suzie, but was rudely interrupted by measles. Suzie took over the Buzzo franchise to help him.

Contretemps followed when Lime finally convinced the chief that he wasn't a political aide. A foolish thing to do, as it got him arrested as an American spy. Lime appealed to the American consul Jones, but discovered that he had the concession for the Freezo soft drinks.

Worse yet, Campo was not dead as thought but turned up alive to contest the election. Still further, he was financed by the Freezo empire. Molinia was liberated, and made safe for democracy and Freezo. Lime managed to flee for safety. His final line was "*I'll never go straight again*".

### **Miscellaneous.**

STRANGE ADVENTURE probably aired in 1945 but little is known about this radio series. The episodes were about three minutes long, written by Charles Crowder and narrated by Pat McGeehan. Some episodes were based on factual history, but most were fiction. The series was syndicated as a space filler or for insertion inside a variety show.

"Battleship On A Mountain" was set in Haiti, where an old citadel squatted on a mountain top. Henri Christophe was a tyrant who built it from fear of his enemies. (He really existed.) The castle was a refuge for him and his family. It was connected by a long tunnel to his palace in the lowlands.

When the end came, and the howling mob forced its way into the palace, Christoff was too old and decrepit to run for it. He shot himself. His few remaining supporters carried his body up the tunnel to be buried in the castle courtyard. His ghost was said to roam about the castle ever since.



ESCAPE was an anthology series that aired on radio from 1947 to 1954. The episodes were a mix of genres from mystery, science fiction, and adventure. Available as free mp3s from [www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary](http://www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary)

“Plunder Of The Sun” aired on 1949-11-08, written by John Dunkel, based on the novel by David Dodge. This episode was a chase for Incan treasure in the mountains of Peru.

The narrator Colby took the job from Alfredo Barian, mainly because he was smitten with Barian’s nurse Annaluse. Barian wanted to smuggle a Peruvian artifact but was too well known to authorities, not to mention being in a wheelchair. Colby would carry the package.

On the trip up the river, Colby talked to an American traveler named Jefferson who mentioned some Incan ruins. Barian and Annaluse came along the deck and Jefferson greeted them by name. Barian reacted with fear on seeing him.

That night Colby found his cabin had been searched. Further alarums followed and Barian departed this world. The authorities said it was a heart attack. Since Colby hadn’t been paid but still had the package, he continued his mission.

After the ship docked, Colby opened the package in his hotel room. The contents were a bunch of knotted strings and a page of ancient manuscript. He took them to a museum curator in the town. The knotted strings were quipu, used to transmit messages between Incan towns. The curator couldn’t read them.

Annaluse wanted them as treasure to sell, then free herself from her indentured status. She was pre-empted by Jefferson, who slugged Colby and took the package. “*You’re all finished with this party*” he told Colby. However there were still 17 minutes left in the episode, so the listener can confidently expect Colby to continue the narrative.

Colby had in fact put the manuscript into the hotel safe, then substituted newspaper clippings in the package. He then had a local photographer make three prints of the manuscript for practical use. Jefferson returned, annoyed at having been deceived. He told Colby the quipu and manuscript contained directions to hidden Incan gold.

Annaluse, in the meantime, got the items from the hotel safe by posing as a messenger. More alarums filled the time as Colby and Jefferson leapfrogged each other en route to the mountains. The death toll steadily increased.

The treasure hunt ended in gunfire, and Jefferson became the final corpse. Life returned to normal in the upper Amazon. Annaluse got her freedom. Colby got nothing.

THE DARKNESS was a series performed by the Roger Rittner Players, available as free mp3s from [www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary](http://www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary). I haven’t been able to find more than a few fragments of information about the series. The show apparently aired in late 1979 on the American network National Public Radio. Rittner has his own radio company but doesn’t mention the series on his website.

Each episode opened with a woman’s full-throated scream. As the decibel meter sank back to normal, there followed a smarmy “*Good evening, I’m your host Claude*”, an imitation of Raymond from the Inner Sanctum series.

“Toltecs’ Tomb” began with a Mexican government inspector Hernandez complaining to archaeologist Professor Maxwell that the excavation of some ruins was taking too long. Maxwell’s response was that Hernandez hadn’t done a lick of physical work but would no doubt take credit for discoveries.

Hernandez was indignant because he had been assigned to a job in the steaming jungle that he hated. The squabbling continued incessantly. Notwithstanding that, the archaeological team discovered some cylinders inscribed with Toltec words describing treasure inside a tomb. There was a curse, naturally, threatening death to all.

Hernandez wanted the treasure for himself. In attempting to do so, he failed to survive to the halfway commercial. The archaeologists followed hot on his heels. They found the treasure and an angry Toltec priest. They didn’t survive to the final commercial.

INTRIGUE aired in the summer of 1946 as a syndicated series. Not enough radio stations picked up the show, so only eight episodes were made. “Sinister Errand”, written by Robert Tallman, aired on 1946-08-14. Vincent Price played Michael Kell, a counterespionage agent freshly arrived in wartime London, circa 1943.



The episode opened with him learning from personal experience about the new V-1 buzz bombs that were pounding the city. The V-1s were called that because they made a very loud buzzing sound. Their guidance system cut off the fuel once the target area was reached.

The V-1 then silently dived into the ground and detonated on impact. The warhead was 850 kg of plastic explosive. The psychological impact of waiting for the silence to be broken by an explosion was almost as bad as the 6,000 fatalities and 18,000 wounded.

The Germans had no aerial reconnaissance over London due to the massive anti-aircraft defenses developed after the Blitz. They had to rely on spies to tell them how accurate the V-1s were. Kell's job was to find a new group of such spies.

He looked up a friend in British Intelligence named Sammy Carew, only to find him dead on the floor with a knife in his back. Carew's auntie arrived moments after Kell did.

Neither were broken up by the murder. They agreed there was nothing more that could be done for Carew, so they left him there. The next stop was a music hall where she was a performer. One of the other acts was an impersonator. Mark that well.

Kell commenced to travel about the city, making contacts and gathering clues. Characters multiplied, few if any of whom Kell trusted. Carew had a MacGuffin that everyone was now chasing, an envelope with microfilmed reports of the enemy V-1 spies.

The story veered into a great improbability when Kell got a telephone from Winston Churchill, who didn't like the way he was doing his job. Mark that well.

The envelope hadn't been in Carew's apartment. If he had mailed it, the spymaster would have received it by now. A possibility was that Carew had hidden it in Auntie's apartment. Kell searched the place and found the envelope.

Just as he did so, a German spy got the jump on him. The impersonator, of course, who had made the Churchill call to throw Kell off base. In anticipation

of that, Kell had arranged to be followed by a British agent as a backstop. Once the two had the spy under control, they arranged a special meeting of his cohort and rounded them up. Pause for a buzz bomb. This was a false ending because one spy got away but she was taken care of in the denouement.

## **ALIEN INVASIONS: PART 8**

by Dale Speirs

[Parts 1 to 7 appeared in OPUNTIA #407, 424, 460, 474, 479, 494, and 512.]

### **Russian Aliens.**

RIDERS FROM NOWHERE by Alexander and Sergei Abramov was originally published in the Russian language in 1974 and translated into English in 1991. My copy is a mass-market paperback produced by Raduga Publishers of Moscow.

The book was one of many translations I bought at the 1994 Worldcon in Winnipeg. A group of young Russian science fiction fans made the trip and had a dealer table. I basically bought one of everything they had, including some nifty lapel pins.

The novel began with a group of Soviet scientists (mostly Russians but at least one Georgian) driving across an Antarctica ice field. There had been reports of strange pink clouds drifting about in the area. They found a towering ice wall the height of a skyscraper. The wall was perfectly smooth and looked as if it had been cut with a gigantic saw.

While still on the ice plain, the snow tractor suddenly crashed to a halt, falling into a crevasse and wedging itself in solid. The narrator Yuri Petrovich Anokhin was thrown forward and knocked unconscious. When he regained his senses, he was alone inside the tractor and much of the loose equipment was gone.



Stepping outside onto the ice plain, he saw another snow tractor, an exact duplicate. The inside was the same, including the missing items, and another Anokhin slowly recovering consciousness. They talked a short while before a pink cloud came by and lowered down. It covered the duplicates. When it lifted up, they were gone.

Anokhin had no explanation for how the tractor had been lifted out of the crevasse. Neither did his companions, who arrived from a nearby site where they had been erecting an emergency shelter. An American pilot Donald Martin from McMurdo made a forced landing near the Soviets. He had spotted the pink clouds and was trying to get closer when they shut him down.

Everyone went back to the aircraft and found an identical duplicate sitting beside it, plus a doppelganger of Martin. Again a pink cloud arrived, sat down over the duplicates, and disappeared them.

The snow tractor was repaired. Setting off toward the ice wall, they saw giant thin pink disks cutting the ice into gigantic slabs, then lifting them up into the sky beyond sight. The pink clouds were obviously harvesting the ice for a water supply.

Anokhin had cameras, and got very good footage of the pink clouds, the duplicates, and the ice harvesting. When the expedition returned to Russia, the films were a sensation at a conference.

Even more sensational was a duplicate of the expedition leader. He spoke to the delegates before a pink cloud inserted itself inside the auditorium and vacuumed him up.

The pink clouds, by now accepted by all as sentient, spread over the planet. They duplicated this, that, and the other. Ice harvesting began in Kalaallit Nunaat. Why the pink clouds made duplicates and then destroyed them was unknown. Many people surmised it was their method of non-destructive testing to leave the originals unharmed.

In a short time the pink clouds were stripping ice from everywhere. Mariners reported the Arctic ice pack was rapidly dwindling. Mountain glaciers were cut up and sent into space.

The governments of the world tried to establish some sort of international policy. Soon enough they began squabbling and each went their own way. In the USA, the conspiracy theorists ran amok. I'm glad that sort of behaviour is fictional. We would never see such things in our utopian times fifty years later.

The middle of the novel was an assortment of re-creations by the pink clouds of past human history. World War Two in occupied France, medieval times, and other scenarios which were apparently attempts by the aliens to communicate.

Eventually the human race realized that the aliens weren't just copying physically but also memories and thoughts. They processed them to try and understand how Earthlings communicated. At that point, the novel closed. Anokhin was the Chosen One, and was given a direct line to alien thoughts.

## STARSHIPS

by Dale Speirs

Robert Heinlein set the standard for the concept of starships taking generations to reach a new planet. The basic problem is that those who were born, lived, and died en route are condemned to what is a prison in space. Hibernation was a popular workaround, but circa now there is no technology to sustain humans in sleep for decades or centuries, not even a glimmer.

“Resurrection Seven” by Stephen Marlowe (1952 May, *WORLDS OF IF*, available as a free pdf from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)) was about a starship with a mixed crew of humans living and dying as the starship journeyed to its destination.

There was also a small group of hibernated men who were to come out at intervals, serve 25 years as controllers, and then go back into hibernation when their relief took over. The hibernation pods were in a secured area that the living crews and their families couldn't reach.

The seventh man to be resurrected was Eric, who noted with disquiet that the first six pods were empty. Entering out into the crewed area, he found out why.



There had been a rebellion among one of the generations trapped midway on the voyage. They had viewed records of Earth life and knew the hardships that would be faced when colonizing the destination planet.

Therefore, the crew turned the starship around and headed back to Earth. As each of the hibernating men hatched out, he was killed. Eric managed to survive and turn the starship around again, which seemed to me a negative ending.

Generation starships are a good example of ethical dilemmas. Humans must expand into space because the Sun will not abide forever. The speed of light isn't just a good idea, it's the law. Therefore one has to decide which takes precedence, saving the human species or staying at home because it would be unfair to the generations born on the starship.

Faster than light drives are a necessity for any space opera or stories involving galactic empires. "Time Fuze" by Randall Garrett (1954 March, WORLDS OF IF) considered an aspect of FTL drive, specifically its shock wave. The story began with the very first FTL starship leaving Earth and traveling at ten times the speed of light. It outran the Sun's light and reached Alpha Centauri in a few months.

Two seconds after arriving and dropping down to normal space, the star went nova. Too coincidental to believe it was bad luck. The starship had to turn tail and outrun the blast wave.

Returning to Earth, the ship's officers realized it was the shock wave from their sudden de-acceleration that triggered the nova. Therefore they would have to slow down long before reaching Earth in order to avoid triggering a nova in the Sun.

As they approached in low gear, they realized something else. It wasn't just braking the FTL drive that caused the problem. They flew into the Sun's nova they had outrun when they left. For when they made the jump to Alpha Centauri, they had triggered the nova, burning all the inner planets into crisps.

TAU ZERO (1970) by Poul Anderson certainly deserves to be in the Top Ten of starship stories. The starship was the Leonora Christine, powered by a Bussard ramscoop.

The novel began slowly, introducing the main characters and the technology. Plenty of infodumps for both, including the starbow effect. Fifty crew members heading 32 light years to Beta Virginis. At relativistic speeds, the journey would last five years for the crew.

Tau is the relativistic ratio of velocity and the speed of light. The closer a starship approaches the speed of light, the smaller tau is. This is an asymptotic curve, meaning tau gets ever closer to zero but never actually reaches it.

Disaster struck. The pathfinder space probe that decades before scouted the path for the starship had reported the way was clear. Since then, a small nebula had crossed the path. To outside observers, a superfast object zipped through the cloud and kept going. To the starship, the cloud was a brick wall. There was no way to slow the ship in time or veer it away.

The situation was like a semi-trailer tractor with a brush guard driving through an actual masonry wall. Probably a few dents, maybe a cracked windshield from a flying piece of debris, but basically capable of continuing onward.

For the starship, matters were worse. The mechanisms to de-accelerate were smashed. The ramscoop engines were still going strong. They could not be shut off because if they were, then there would not be any protective magnetic field from the ramscoop against the radiation of space. Since the starship was still moving at relativistic speeds, the crew would be obliterated by hard radiation.

The ship continued to accelerate, steadily decreasing the tau toward zero. Time passed faster for the crew, as a day on board became a million years outside. The mass of the starship steadily increased due to relativistic contraction, so that future nebulas were as tissue paper.

The plan was to loop around the galaxy building up speed, then head out into the empty void between galaxies. Out there it was safe to shut off the magnetic field and repair the de-accelerator. The ship would still be traveling close to light speed relative to the universe.

After repairs, the ship continued onward to the next galaxy and scouted for a habitable planet. By then, hundreds of millions of years passed in the universe but only months for the crew. The human race would have long since disappeared from Earth, but the starship crew could begin anew.

That is, if the crew could survive the stress of captivity. In a village, people can always leave and travel over the hill to the next village. On the starship, there was no place to hide from failed relationships or conflicts with neighbours or bosses.

Another problem arose. The ship was traveling so fast that it couldn't scoop up enough hydrogen to slow down. It punched through distant galaxies so fast that the ship spent most of its time in the void separating them.

Further, because the universe was expanding, that velocity was added. The starship kept accelerating. The crew could only hope they would survive long enough. Recycling couldn't last forever, and eventually the machinery of the starship would wear out beyond repair.

The answer was to outlive the universe. As the starship's tau continued to shrink, time went by faster and faster outside the ship. An hour on board was a billion years outside. After the entropic death of the universe, it began to contract, the Big Crunch. The starship circled outside the final contraction. When the next Big Bang occurred, it used its speed to find galaxies the right age to have habitable planets. Then it was able to slow down because of plentiful hydrogen and dust between the stars. They made it to a new world being born.

## SEEN IN THE LITERATURE

### Planets.

McDannell, K.T., et al (2022) **Thermochronologic constraints on the origin of the Great Unconformity.** PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USA 119:doi.org/10.1073/pnas.211868211 (available as a free pdf)

Authors' abstract: *The Great Unconformity involves a common gap of hundreds of millions to billions of years in the geologic record. The cause of this missing time has long eluded explanation, but recently two opposing hypotheses claim either a glacial or a plate tectonic origin in the Neoproterozoic.*

*We provide thermochronologic evidence of rock cooling and multiple kilometers of exhumation in the Cryogenian Period in support of a glacial origin for erosion contributing to the composite basement nonconformity found across the North American interior. The broad synchronicity of this cooling signal at the continental scale can only be readily explained by glacial denudation.*

*Recent hypotheses advocate either global continental exhumation averaging 3 to 5 km during Cryogenian (717 to 635 Ma) snowball Earth glaciations or, alternatively, diachronous episodic exhumation throughout the Neoproterozoic (1,000 to 540 Ma) due to plate tectonic reorganization from supercontinent assembly and breakup.*

*To test these hypotheses, the temporal patterns of Neoproterozoic thermal histories were evaluated for four North American locations using previously published medium- to low-temperature thermochronology and geologic information.*

*We present inverse time-temperature simulations within a Bayesian modeling framework that record a consistent signal of relatively rapid, high-magnitude cooling of ~120 to 200 °C interpreted as erosional exhumation of upper crustal basement during the Cryogenian.*

*These models imply widespread, synchronous cooling consistent with at least ~3 to 5 km of unroofing during snowball Earth glaciations, but also demonstrate that plate tectonic drivers, with the potential to cause both*



exhumation and burial, may have significantly influenced the thermal history in regions that were undergoing deformation concomitant with glaciation.

In the cratonic interior, however, glaciation remains the only plausible mechanism that satisfies the required timing, magnitude, and broad spatial pattern of continental erosion revealed by our thermochronological inversions.

**Palaeobiology.**

Yu, Z., et al (2022) **The exceptionally preserved Early Cretaceous “Moqi Fauna” from eastern Inner Mongolia, China, and its age relationship with the Jehol Biota.** PALAEOGEOGRAPHY, PALAEOCLIMATOLOGY, PALAEOECOLOGY 509:doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2021.110824 (available as a free pdf)

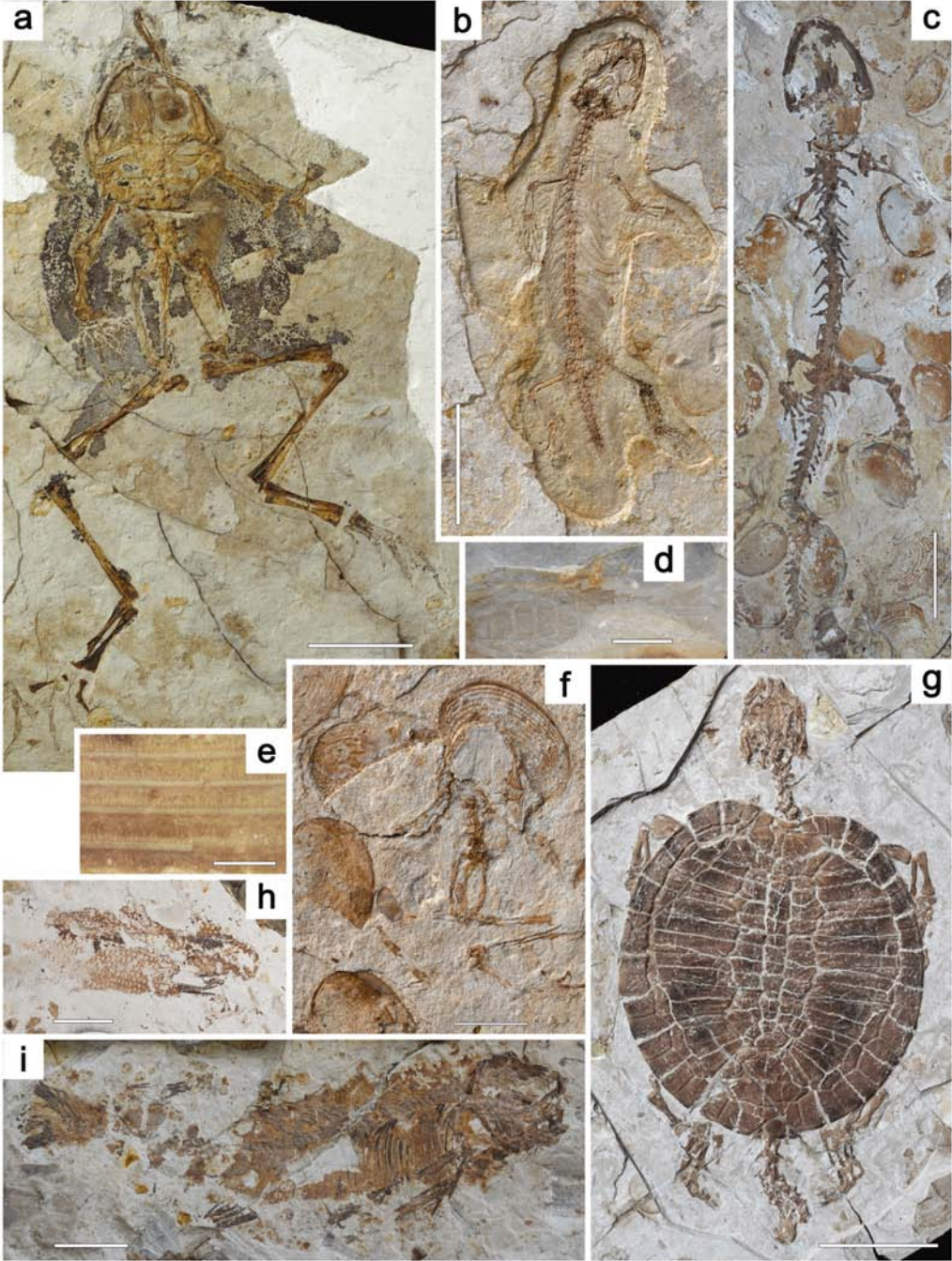
Authors’ abstract: *New fossil-bearing horizons at the Gezidong and Jiaxikou localities, eastern Inner Mongolia, referred to as the Moqi fossil bed, yield a diverse fossil assemblage coined herein as “Moqi Fauna”. The Moqi Fauna provides important insights into the evolution of some vertebrate clades, such as frogs and salamanders, and their Early Cretaceous diversification.*

*In this paper, we report an improved chronology of the Moqi fossil bed based on SIMS and high-precision CA-ID-IRMS U-Pb zircon analyses of three tuff samples from horizons that are interstratified with the fossil-bearing layer at two localities. ... These findings indicate the age of the Moqi Fauna is ca. 119.20 megayears to 118.67 megayears.*

[Images are from this paper.

- (a) An adult *Genibatrachus baoshanensis* skeleton with exceptionally preserved skin and eyes;
- (b) A complete skeleton of a small lizard (*Squamata* gen. et sp. nov.);
- (c) An adult *Nuominerpeton aquilonaris* skeleton;
- (d) Posterior part of the mayfly (*Ephemeropsis*);
- (e) ornamentation of the a conchostracon in detail;
- (f) A very young *Genibatrachus* skeleton with several conchostracons
- (g) A complete macrobaenid skeleton in dorsal view;
- (h) Exquisitely preserved scales of a teleost;
- i) a *Jinanichthys* or *Lycopera* skeleton with some scales preserved.

The scale is 20 mm in (a), (b), (c) and (i), 10 mm in (d), (f) and (h), 0.5 mm in (e), and 50 mm in (g).]



**Botany.**

Liu, J., et al (2022) **Not that young: combining plastid phylogenomic, plate tectonic and fossil evidence indicates a Palaeogene diversification of Cycadaceae.** ANNALS OF BOTANY 129:doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcab118 (available as a free pdf)

[Cycads look like ferns but they have seeds and are progenitors to gymnosperms such as conifers. They still exist today and have a fossil record extending back 200 megayears.]

Authors’ abstract: *Previous molecular dating studies revealed historical mass extinctions and recent radiations of extant cycads, but debates still exist between palaeobotanists and evolutionary biologists regarding the origin and evolution of Cycadaceae.*

*Using whole plastomic data, we revisited the phylogeny of this family and found the Palawan endemic Cycas clade was strongly related to all lineages from Southeast Eurasia, coinciding with a plate drift event occurring in the Early Oligocene.*

*By integrating fossil and biogeographical calibrations as well as molecular data from protein-coding genes, we established different calibration schemes and tested competing evolutionary timelines of Cycadaceae.*

*We found recent dispersal cannot explain the distribution of Palawan Cycas, yet the scenario including the tectonic calibration yielded a mean crown age of extant Cycadaceae of ~69 to 43 million years ago by different tree priors, consistent with multiple Palaeogene fossils assigned to this family.*

*Biogeographical analyses incorporating fossil distributions revealed East Asia as the ancestral area of Cycadaceae. Our findings challenge the previously proposed Middle or Late Miocene diversification of cycads and an Indochina origin for Cycadaceae and highlight the importance of combining phylogenetic clades, tectonic events and fossils for rebuilding the evolutionary history of lineages that have undergone massive extinctions.*

**Ecology.**

Dzul-Cauich, H.F., and M.A. Munguía-Rosas (2022) **Negative effects of light pollution on pollinator visits are outweighed by positive effects on the reproductive success of a bat-pollinated tree.** THE SCIENCE OF NATURE 109:doi.org/10.1007/s00114-021-01783-5

Authors’ abstract: *Cities are home to several species of pollinators that play an important role in the reproductive success of wild and cultivated plants that grow in these ecosystems and their surroundings. Pollution is a main driver of pollinator decline. Light and noise pollution are more intense in cities than in any other ecosystem.*

*Although nocturnal pollinators are heavily exposed to these pollutants, their effect on bat pollination is still unknown. Our goal was to assess the effect of light and noise pollution on the main pollination components (pollinator visits, pollen transfer, pollen germination, fruit, and seed set) of the tropical tree, Ceiba pentandra, in a heavily urbanized ecosystem.*

*We measured these components in sites with contrasting intensities of artificial light and anthropogenic noise and statistically assessed the direct and indirect effect of pollutants on pollination components using structural equation modeling.*

*We found that noise and light pollution negatively affected the visits by the bats that pollinate C. pentandra. However, these negative effects did not affect posterior pollination components. In fact, the direct effect of light pollution on reproductive success was positive and greater than the indirect effects via pollinator visits.*

*We suggest that illuminated trees may be able to sustain a large quantity of fruits and seeds because they produce more photosynthates due to greater light radiation and delayed leaf abscission. We conclude that, despite the negative effect of light and noise on pollinator visits, these pollutants did not significantly impact the reproductive success of C. pentandra.*



Crawford, D.A., et al (2022) **Prey tells, large herbivores fear the human ‘super predator’**. *OECOLOGIA* 198:91-98

[A trophic cascade is a chain reaction down (or up) the food chain when something happens at one link that disrupts the ecosystem.]

Authors’ abstract: *Fear of the human ‘super predator’ has been demonstrated to so alter the feeding behavior of large carnivores as to cause trophic cascades. It has yet to be experimentally tested if fear of humans has comparably large effects on the feeding behavior of large herbivores.*

*We conducted a predator playback experiment exposing white-tailed deer to the vocalizations of humans, extant or locally extirpated non-human predators (coyotes, cougars, dogs, wolves), or non-predator controls (birds), at supplemental food patches to measure the relative impacts on deer feeding behavior.*

*Deer were more than twice as likely to flee upon hearing humans than other predators, and hearing humans was matched only by hearing wolves in reducing overall feeding time gaged by visits to the food patch in the following hour.*

*Combined with previous, site-specific research linking deer fecundity to predator abundance, this study reveals that fear of humans has the potential to induce a larger effect on ungulate reproduction than has ever been reported.*

*By demonstrating that deer most fear the human ‘super predator’, our results point to the fear humans induce in large ungulates having population- and community-level impacts comparable to those caused by the fear humans induce in large carnivores.*

**FREE STUFF ONLINE**

You will have noticed that I provide sources for the pdfs and mp3s reviewed in this zine. Here is a summary of some good resources, all of which are free.

In particular, the Seen In The Literature column cites only peer-reviewed papers. For topics such as COVID-19 or social media effects, more people should be reading these papers instead of blogs where commentators confuse their opinions as being facts.

For scientific papers for which free pdfs are available, the easiest method is to Google either the title of the paper or its digital object identifier, the phrase beginning with doi.org. Most papers are behind a paywall, so unless you have access to a university library computer, you can only get the abstract. However, the abstract is often enough to understand the gist of the article.

For zines, [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) provides current pdf zines as well as some older ones. A club called Fanac at [www.fanac.org](http://www.fanac.org) does the reverse; they provide thousands of old zines from the 1930s to date, with a few current zines. Both sites have a free email notification service you can subscribe to.

The Old Time Radio Researchers have thousands of old-time radio shows (1930s to 1950s) covering all the genres, such as comedy, science fiction, fantasy, and mystery. Visit [www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary](http://www.otrr.org/OTRRLibrary).

They also publish a bulletin OLD RADIO TIMES, available at [www.otrr.org/?c=times](http://www.otrr.org/?c=times), with a free email notification service. Don’t pay money for audio books and listen to a droning voice when you can listen for free to full-cast shows such as Jack Benny or Inner Sanctum from the OTRR.

For pulp fiction magazines from all genres, visit [www.archive.org/details/pulpmagazinearchive?&sort=-downloads&page=2](http://www.archive.org/details/pulpmagazinearchive?&sort=-downloads&page=2). Books in the public domain are free from [www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)