

SALLY — PORT 2

For the 31st OMPA Mailing,
June, 1962.

Could the thing that
got the Mammoths get us
too?.

I have no doubt that
the theme is familiar to
all of you, but I still
think that its worth
reviving.

The question- "who or
what killed the mammoths"
is not so simple as it
sounds, as we found out the
other night at one of our
informal meetings in Tonys'
house.

The main reason we forge
gather of course is to play
with one or more of the
various board games we have,
like TAXI, KIMBO, RISK, or
our "invented games" like
GALACTIC TRADER and THE WAR
GAMES.

But there is usually a
fair amount of conversation too.

This time it started off
with Tony asking what we'd do
if we accidentally discovered
some simple, cheap and highly
efficient means of making an
anti-gravity device.

The favourite ideas were
something like ; - collect all
the artificial satellites and
rearrange them to spell an
obscene word in the sky...
get some dye and in the dark
of the Moon write on one of
the big mares KILROY WAS HERE

from;-

K M P Cheslin,
18, New Farm Road,
Stourbridge,
Worcs,
England.

An Afterthought Publication.



RIP

- or something suitable - and then just sit back and wait until someone spotted it in the next full moon. The most popular idea of all fell into 2 or more phases, The anti-gray would be installed in a twig-broom, we would all disguise ourselves in the traditional witches costume and fly cackling round and round St Pauls some Walpuris night. (this was considered a bit risky in case some fool was to shhot at us useing silver bullets, after all, they'd kill you as dead as any others).

The other idea was to have a huge bonfire on one of the local commons, with all of us dancing around it yelling "Fire Burn and cauldron bubble" and like that.

The idea was to wait until we had an audience, probably firemen and the local constabulary, and as they advanced upon us we would sieze our brooms and flee off into the sky, with a nicely sinister cackle now and then. All good clean fun, see?.

After this we talked about the origions of witchcraft, then went on to talk about Time Travel. Each of us contributing something to the conversation it worked out that the time most of us favoured was just preElizabethen England.

We digressed again and formulated a plan to put the Queen Mary or something similar into orbit, via our antigravity device. Laughing insanely at the idea of a BBC announcer gravely saying. "Today the UK put the SS Queen Mary into orbit. It is believed to be the heaviest object yet put into orbit, weighing some 70,000 (or whatever) tons. No plans have yet been announced as to its furthur use".

Anyway, back to Time Travel. We thought it would be rather fun to meet Columbus as he arrived in the Americas ... with a gigantic Aircraft Carrier.

"Chirstopher Columbs, This Is Your Life!"

Or to sail into Cadiz in a battle waggon, or go a pirateing in a destroyer... or two take 500 Gurkabs and set up as a border baron in the Welsh Marches, complete with armoured cars and modern weapons.

Then the talk turned to other things. Like, how do you define a great man? Which brought us back to Alexander, and battles, and working a protection racket in Ancient Athens.

Like, "we deplore the recent outbreaks of violence against goldsmiths, we will protect you for Such&such amount of gold a month" "Outbreaks of violence, Where?" Thud.

And then we spoke of Elizabethen spy systems, and Greek ideas of spying. Then back to religion again.

How the Indoeuropean peoples all have this Horned God, and how his character changed to suit the Church. And of how Pope Innocent stamped down on herasyies. He went after the nobles too, who had been until then practically immune. How the declineing power of nobles, and the idea of a centralised government enabled him to get away with his persecutions. - 2 -

There was then some discussion of witches in general, and the Horned God, natterings about the old religions, the Earth Mother, the different, unconnected legends of China/Japan, and The Americas, which seems to point to the Horned God as an invention of the Mediteranean or Asia Minor peoples ((Comments?)) then talk went on to cave drawings and fossils, and finally to the Case of the Mamoths.

The first Mamoth, I believe, was discovered in Siberia towards the end of the last century. Peasants who brought in some unusual tusks to try to sell them were questioned and finally admitted that they had found an animal entombed in ice, a large hairy animal, from which they had cut the tusks.

Oh, the Mammoth was not unknown, fossils had been found, but this was the first time a complete animal was found. And I mean complete right down to hide and hair, and undigested greenery in their stomachs.

"Undigested greenery in their stomachs" thats the important bit.

There have been other animals, Mammoths I'll say, so as not to confuse the issue, found since then, quite a few infact. They have all been found, 1, in loose grazeing bands, 2, with undigested food in their bellies, 3, unmarked by violence, 4, still edible.

Now, what manner of death would account for all 4 of those conditions?

OK, so they did freeze to death. But, it must have been very quick indeed, to fullfill all of those conditions.

Say, they were driven south slowly by the encroaching ice cap, and finally overwhelmed. In that case why are they still in such a good condition, you'd expect them to be emancipated. Certainly not in a grazing attitude, and with undigested food in their bellies, besides, the greenery still present inside them shows no sign of damage due to frost, which it would just have to if it was eaten in the cold of an advanceing icefield. and the type of plant is not usually found in any climate resembling the country before such an icesheet, it is temerate or subtropical vegetation.

"Unmarked by violence" rules out the possibility of an ice fall, - although one of two carcasses were crushed by ice this was ruled out as the cause of death. - if they had been crushed by falling ice they would obviously not all be standing around grazing. Again, if they had been trapped say, by the advanceing ice forming a barrier around them, isolating them in a fertile vally first, then later engulfing them, there would have to be signs of hardship, certainly no full bellies.

Then again, suppose the valley idea was right, but that they died because the valley was suddenly flooded by icy water. How come they are all standing, again, grazing, and uninjured, and fat?

No, whatever it was that killed them it was quick. And they had no forewarning.

Very quick indeed. For if you shove an ordinary Elephant outside in the Artic it will survive for days, inspite of the cold, and finally die when it has used up all its body fat. Emancipated and frostbitten. But not quickly enough to account for the deaths of its ancestors, the Mammoths.



The fact that an Elephant will starve to death before it freezes puts a kibosh on another angle too, a sudden shift in the Earths axis ((Velivoski Jim?)) which changed the Mammoths feeding grounds into Artic in a few hours. It would still not be quick enough, or cold enough, to kill the Mammoths in the way that they were killed.

I suggested an idea myself, that the Earth staggered in its orbit or that a large body almost collided with it, in the process Earths atmosphere was momentarily removed from certain areas of the globe, or that the land masses underwent a sudden shift, moving on the Earths molten core. But the second one would still not account for such a sudden end.

As for 1, well if something came close enough to rip of the atmosphere for a while then why didn't everything die, if the Mammoths were exposed to the cold of space...why weren't their cells ruptured, besides such an object

passing close to us would cause tidal waves and storms, which though a possible explanation for Flood legends hardly accounts for the death of the Mammoths.

No, the only cold which could account for a Mammoth would not merely be the absence of warmth, like the Elephant their mass would enable them to survive - long enough for them to digest their breakfasts at the very least - the answer possibly is something did more than project cold, it DRAINED HEAT.

Does anyone know of any natural phenomena which would drain a Mammoth of heat in a few seconds?. Or can anyone imagine any natural phenomena... (a Galactic Cold Storm....?) which could account for it?

Anyone at all?

Can anyone imagine a device constructed by An Intelligence which would fit the bill?

Sure, thats what I said. Suppose something, Somebeing, came a visiting, (think of certain items of news, re;- Russian sources claiming signs in the Siam of atomic radiation, blast area for Some Thing), suppose Some Being knocked off the Mammoths.

Just a thought, but what if It comes back and uses Its device on us?. Take a look at the sky some night. Its awful big out there. Theres room for an awful lot to be happening in, it would be egotistical to say for sure that we are alone. We, nipping around a second rate star 1/3 of the way out of Galactic centre. Hicks.

Anybody got any ideas?.