



INTRODUCTION

Last February, the following mimeographed form letter was sent to forty-odd West Coast Professional authors, editors and one-time "greats" of the Science Fiction scene. Knowing how busy most of them are, it was felt that a greater response might be assured by letting them know in plenty of time. It was felt that a symposium on their thoughts and beliefs regarding the future might be of interest to the readers of SHANGRI-LA.

The pages following contain the replies of those who found time to write something for us. To the others we can only say: We are sorry -- and we are not holding it against you. After all, we know only too well that you sell your thoughts to make your living, and from the attempts many of us are making to become authors, we know only too well how much time it takes. We still love you all, and still hope to see many, many more of your fine stories and articles to entertain us in the future.

Here, then, is the letter sent them:

Dear Fellow Science-Fictionist:

For a forth-coming issue of SHANGRI-LA, the official club organ of the L.A.S.F.S., it is desired to have as many West Coast pro writers as possible represented in a symposium concerning the world of 200 A. B. (after the Atomic Bomb).

What we want from you is approximately a thousand words, in article form (unless you prefer the fictional, which is optional), concerning YOUR idea of what changes will have occurred as the result of man's release of atomic energy. Do you think Earth will be a desolation as the result of unrestrained atomic bombings? Do you believe man will have harnessed this energy to peaceful uses by then, and be living more sanely in more-or-less peace? Will we have space-flight? Or what? What picture do YOU visualize for 2150?

We sincerely hope you will be able to do this for us. We realize how busy you are with the writing that pays your grocery and rent bills, but trust you are sufficiently interested in such a project to squeeze it in somewhere. We think this should make a very interesting symposium, don't you?

But, yes, or no, thanks anyway. And why don't you come and see us more often? We always so enjoy having our professional friends come to our Thursday meetings.

Sincerely,
L. A. S. F. S.

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Bell, Eric Temple

Bradbury, Ray

Evans, E Everett

Harris, Clare Winger

Hornig, Charles D

Hull, E Mayne

Loomis, C B

Neville, Kris

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Reynolds, L Major

Richardson, Robert S

Van Vogt, A E

Barnes, Arthur K

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This is SHANGRI LA Number 22, it being the official organ of the L. A. S. F. S., now known as the Los Angeles branch of the Outlander Society. The cost is 15¢ per issue, but regular and Associate members get it for free, so why don't you become one or the other? The club room is at 1305 W. Ingraham. The Business Manager is the w. k. Forrest J Ackerman, 236½ N New Hampshire. We invite comments and criticisms, and you are also cordially invited to attend our regular Thursday night meetings, or to become an Associate Member if you live outside the city. The cost of the latter is \$1.00 per year, and brings you all special notices and all issues of SHAGGY for the year.

You ask for 1000 words on my idea
of what the world will be like
200 years from now after the re-
lease of atomic energy. I can
tell you in five words -- there
won't be any world.

Sincerely,

Eric Temple Bell
"John Taine"

THE YEAR 2150 A. D.

A Short Story

by RAY BRADBURY

In the year 2150 A. D.,
instead of one sun,
there were two.

HISTORY 1950 - 2150

by E EVERETT EVANS

In the middle half of the Twentieth Century the various governments of Earth were all tending towards either a Totalitarian or a welfare-state form. More and more power became invested in the Executive branch; more and more citizens were either working directly for the government, or were supported by relief or dole funds from the government. Business was, to an increasingly greater extent, stifled by over-control. Public debts became a staggering load, and workers had less and less of their income available for living needs.

When atomic energy was first released, the military took complete control, and neither private nor industrial scientists or technicians were allowed to experiment with possibilities of getting power directly from atomic fission.

In 1952 a young man named Travis Burkett was elected to Congress from California. During his four terms as member of the lower house he became increasingly well-known as possessor of one of the finest minds in public life. In 1960 he was advanced to the Senate, and soon became its leader. In 1976 (prophetic date) he ran for President on the simple platform of "give the country back to the people". His ideas and views so fired the minds and hopes of the citizens, regimented and ground down by the cancerous growth of bureaucracy that even most of the bureaucrats and relievers joined to elect him by one of the greatest pluralities ever polled.

During his two terms of office he did exactly what he had promised. The tremendous power of the Executive was gradually returned to the Legislative, where it belonged. Unnecessary, over-lapping and duplicated agencies were reduced to the minimum. Only persons actually in need were supported from the public purse. Where almost 80% of the citizenry had been working for or supported by government when he took office, less than 15% were doing so when he retired.

Tax restrictions and governmental meddling in industry and business were reduced save for a few necessary safeguards of minimum-wage and maximum-safety laws. With these restrictions removed, and with control of many vital things taken away from the military, inventions took an accelerated upward swing.

One thing he had increased spending upon -- education. And under the wise guidance of real educators, the children were learning what every human being has a right to know and

should know -- the simple facts of government and the citizen's rights and responsibilities; the facts about himself and his mind as well as his body; how to know and understand his fellow men of whatever race, creed or nationality; how to live sanely and cooperatively with ALL other men everywhere. Man made tremendous strides towards knowing himself as well as he did the laws of Nature.

A man named John Snyder had, years before, secretly worked out a simple and inexpensive method of obtaining unlimited power directly from atomic fission. Now, with such experimentation allowable for any citizen, he brought this before the public, and soon homes, public transportation and industry were using his released giant of unlimited power.

Snyder and his group of scientists and technicians turned their attention to space flight, and Man, the Insatiable, began stretching out his hands to the stars.

They put a robot rocket on the Moon in less than two years. The second rocket carried two scientists who did not make the return trip -- they stayed there to study and learn. Ten years later the first ship landed on Mars, and within a decade that planet was colonized. So, four years later, was Venus. Another fifteen years saw the colonization of the moons of the outer planets.

Using new techniques and inventions learned from these various trips and their experiments on Earth and the Moon, they found how to equip the Moon and the colonized planets with sufficient air, water and warmth for man's convenience.

Earth itself was changed. Huge government atomic-piles at strategic places warmed rivers and ocean-currents so that almost the whole globe was given a temperate climate, and as the ice packs dissolved, new lands were opened up to colonization and settlement. Chlorophyll was harnessed, and food became cheap and abundant.

Yet some men were not content in this new paradise ... and policing was still necessary, and men had to be jailed and corrected.

But Man reached the stars ... and the planets of those distant suns. It was here that John Snyder proved himself one of the greatest men ever to have lived. He promulgated the law that is still in force:

"No planet inhabited by beings having a level of intelligence great enough to show cultural activity and growth shall ever be colonized by men or beings from any other planet."

Controlling all means of space-transportation between the planets as he did, Snyder was able to enforce this ruling. To do so, he organized the "Snyder Patrol", which was later taken over by the Federated Planets, and become today's Inter-stellar Police Corps.

Today, 2150, there are fifty-seven planets colonized by inhabitants or Tellus or their descendants. These each have their own sovereignty and chosen form of government, but are united in a loosely-knit Federation which is solely a Court of Arbitration for inter-planetary problems. The I-SPC is the Federation's Investigation and Enforcement arm, not a governing or military patrol in the usual sense of the word.

Health and education are at a high peak. Life-spans are approximately double what they were in the mid-Twentieth Century. Economics are so stabilied that everyone has every material personal need, and luxuries almost as desired.

And yet some men are not satisfied. Today's newscasts hint at war!

The Cover Picture was drawn by

HANK EICHNER

The Cover Stencils were cut by

WALT DAUGHERTY

THE WORLD OF 2150

by CLARE WINGER HARRIS

The last great war of the ages had lasted but six months, but in that time all semblance of civilization as expressed by the surface artifacts of man had vanished.

Democratic America, as had been predicted, had not struck the first blow, but contrary to expectations, the attack did not come over the polar cap; instead, it had come from guided atomic missiles fired from Russian submarines off our eastern coast. Next, from hidden airfields in the mountainous regions of Mexico, fleets of bombers fanned northward and struck at vital production centers throughout the coastal areas and the middle west. Our defense had promptly mounted "Project D", but in the meantime an overwhelming force of enemy planes came from the Northwest and sprayed us with botulism-carrying agents.

There had been time before the storm broke to institute many precautionary provisions, such as putting vital factories under-ground, equipping caves with facilities and provisions for maintaining many thousands of people, decentralizing as much as possible the congested areas of production and population.

Europe and Asia had been discreetly spared the terrible scorch of death as the Russians had no desire to foul the land that they had fondly hoped to possess. However, the Cominform had been broken and most of the head communists had been killed during our attacks upon their cities. The Russian populace that survived had degenerated to the condition prevailing hundreds of years before, and fought for subsistence like animals. At the beginning of the conflict there had been heavy migration from the Mediterranean areas into Africa and that continent now held the best promise for a resurgent civilization in all the world.

South America likewise had received a hurried influx of North Americans who had abandoned all property and position for life survival.

Conditions in the United States beggared description. Millions of our people had died from either the direct result of the bombs, or from diseases contracted from the germ warfare. Our waters and our lands were contaminated and most of the farm animals had died.

In the emergency our government had taken on many aspects of Technocracy -- a dictatorship of the scientists and engineers. Great laboratories were set up for the production of proteins by synthesis and photosynthesis for the vegetable demands

of diet. An electro-chemical process had been devised for decontaminating radioactive areas, but it had taken many years of tremendous effort to decontaminate sufficient ground to make agriculture feasible.

The deprivations following the holocaust had sifted out from the living those who were weak or aged or very young. Hospital facilities were at a minimum.

Now in the year 2151 we take an inventory of our world. It is not the "One World" envisioned by idealists of the 20th Century. In Canada and the United States, under the valiant leadership of men and women still dedicated to freedom, the processes of life and the development of the arts and sciences progressed. The great cities were not re-built as formerly, but consisted of widely-spread habitations connected by air-travel facilities to serve industry and trade. A giant fleet of atomic energy driven ships had been launched to exchange produce and manufactures with the South American and the European-African sections.

Africa was under European domination and became a separate bloc politically and culturally.

Japan had again gained a sort of suzerainty over China and Communism had been replaced by a semi-autocratic regime devoted to exploit the resources of that country to the fullest. Australia again felt itself threatened by Japan's expansive efforts, but had warded off force by making a treaty of cooperation with the Orient.

The American continents had become firmly established in a Pan-American Union. The South Americans, by a recent census count, now total over two hundred million souls, and the southern continent has become our best customer. For nearly a hundred years after the world conflict, however, the southern continent's traffic and trade had been chiefly with the European-African bloc. In the last hundred years our own superior technology and production have enabled us to recapture our lost patronage and prestige.

In the field of Sciences, we have achieved independence from many of the ancient uncertainties of Nature. Much of our mining of minerals is now by sea water extraction, more safely and cheaply than by the 20th Century methods. We have discovered other fissionable materials that have provided us with ample and cheap power, freeing us from dependence upon coal, oil and gas. Much of our building material comes from silicate processed in a thousand ways. Our West Coast, which has gradually become more arid, is bountifully supplied with potable water from the Pacific, the saline and other mineral contents being extracted by super-sonic engines connected with the huge pumping systems.

During the past 200 years the average annual temperature as recorded at the 40th parallel of north latitude has risen 8.2 degrees. The polar caps have receded extensively and new areas of land have been uncovered. The South Polar continent has been colonized along its coastal fringes and for some distance inland, and the tremendous natural resources of that continent are being exploited.

Our monetary system, as well as our weights and measures, are universally decimal throughout the world. An international currency is in use for all foreign transactions. The world calendar has 13 months of 28 days each, with an extra day a global holiday, plus two days every fourth year. Our international language is called "Globl" and is used in all diplomatic exchanges, international courts and conventions. A specimen may be of interest:

" T subet f das anuncio es t enfo le publo respecto
la partici des Estad Unicos en le proximo Concierte
les Naciones. "

Our national average level of intelligence has been improved up to 120 I. Q.'s, and the life span of those over 5 years of age is a median of 85 years. Some claim that these accomplishments are due to "selective breeding" (artificial insemination) from choice mental and physical stock, that for several generations has been practiced by members of the Hygienic Societies. The present population of the United States is over 260 million and there are some 15 million persons above the age of 100. The official retirement age in government and most industries is 80.

This report is written in the jargon of the 20th century as a reminder of the progress we have made in 200 years. The following bit of humor is in the modern American dialect:

Patre to Matre sez: "Contacted Alex Tricty today an did I get a shock! He looked like he'd lost all his insula -- I mean insurance. But his grift was cause he lost his goil fren on account she couldn't give him no mother-in-law to joke wid, she bein one o them artificial babes wit jus a factory label."

THE END
(which one?)

"We regret

..... so sorry

..... much too busy."

Anthony Boucher

Stanton A Coblentz

Henry Kuttner

Ford McCormack

Catherine L Moore

Ed Earl Repp

Bryce Walton

TERRA 2150

by CHARLES D. HORNIG

March 17, 1950

Dear LASFS

Your mimeographed letter of February 26 reached me a few days ago, in which you ask for an article or story about the world in 200 A. B. I am not really qualified to write such an article for you because I am not (1) an author and (2) a West Coast author. However, I would like to give you my comments on the subject, which you may use in any form you like, or not at all. First, let me extend my personal regards to all the LASFSers, and any other west coast fans who remember me from "the old days".

In the first place, your request for an article is a leading one -- you ask for something about the world in 200 A. B., thereby assuming that the A-Bomb (or H-Bomb now) will make such a difference on earth (supposedly through mass-destruction) that we will need to reckon time from its inception -- or its universal release. I will accept the date, at least, on the former grounds -- that is, since its invention.

Like everyone else, I am hoping against hope that there will be no wholesale use of the A-Bomb, or H-Bomb -- I should say, no use at all under any circumstances -- this latter for my own part, as I cannot speak for fandom. This hope for its non-use, I am afraid, leads all of us into rationalizations in which we show that very likely it won't be used -- too horrible, etc., etc. However, history gives no indication that we will not foolhardedly go ahead and use it, in total fashion, for our "defense" as we have all previous weapons -- except that this time we have a very good opportunity to wipe out the entire human race. At the least, we can utterly destroy all civilization.

When I say "we", I mean the human race. I can also say "we" to specify the United States, but in that case I need to be corrected. "We" have already used the A-Bomb, and under circumstances that have left a big bloody blot on the American government. It is well known that the Japanese had offered to surrender many months before the coming of the A-Bomb, and on the same terms that were later accepted by us. Therefore, even from a military viewpoint, the use of the bomb was unnecessary. Further, even without the rejected offer of the surrender, the A-Bomb could have been used on a deserted island as a warning. There was no excuse for its use, from any point of view, except for the blood-lust and power-lust exhibited by Roosevelt and his generals, when they refused the Japanese surrender in the spring of 1945 on the grounds that Japan had not yet suffered enough. By this simple decision, many thousands of Americans were doomed on

Iwo Jima and the other last campaigns of the war -- as well as nearly 100,000 innocent Japanese women, children and civilian men.

Therefore, it is rather naive to believe that we, or any other country, would not use the A-Bomb on the slightest provocation. We used it when there was no need or excuse for it.

It is my belief that we are now on a course, as a nation, to universal destruction. Our approach to international problems is fully as bad as that of Russia, and as completely lacking in Christian principle. Frankly, I can see no salvation. It seems but a matter of time -- I hardly think it will be more than a matter of months or, at the most, a year or two now, before the final, quick, complete totalitarian last war -- with both sides using all the A-Bombs and H-Bombs at their disposal within a few days. There will follow a complete collapse of everything we know -- possibly the extinction of all life on earth by radiation -- direct and through food and atmosphere poisoning. Some isolated tribes of primitives may continue to exist -- peoples too ignorant to know how to destroy themselves and each other en masse. The world of 200 A. B., in my opinion, will be parallel to the one of 50,000 B. C., or earlier, if life persists at all.

I hope I am wrong. There is much good in the human race, but it never seems to reach high places. I think I can sum it up in two words: "power corrupts". Perfectly good, honest people (take Hughie Long in his early days, for instance), become corrupt when they have been given enough power. It would take a rare person not to be so effected. I have a firm belief in this. The solution would seem to be keeping power from concentrating in great quantities -- business on the consumer co-operative level -- government on a local level with international control held by a council, not one man or a few men. My other firm belief is: "War is the enemy". Put the two together and you have pretty well summarized my philosophy.

Unfortunately we have some very mediocre men running the world today -- especially in our own national government -- men who are mad with power and have little use for Christian principles -- little, narrow men with bigoted minds and consciences of only local, personal scope.

Any fans who are interested in the A-Bomb and H-Bomb from the pacifist angle, write me at the Fellowship of Reconciliation, 21 Audubon Ave., NY 32, NY.

It will be a shame to see Man -- who has fought for so many thousands of years to reach a point in evolution so far surpassing any other creature -- suddenly wiped out by his own intelligence.

WOMEN IN 2150

by E MAYNE HULL

The development of bio-psychology in the two centuries preceding 2150 A. D. freed women from pain and painful emotion.

This gave their more intricate nervous systems a chance to integrate and attain maturity. Within a hundred years of the beginning of the process, women occupied all the more important administrative posts, and men did the active physical work, for which -- by reason of their more primitive musculature -- they were best fitted.

Men were spaceship pilots, hunters, farmers, mechanics, truck drivers, engineers, and so on.

Women were executives, doctors, nurses, economists, politicians and community planners.

Men and women were about equally divided in the creative arts.

Commercial advertising had virtually vanished from the face of the earth. Women, once they were freed from inner turmoil and conflict, would not allow their intelligence to be insulted and their wants stimulated beyond their power to satisfy.

Advertising stressed information about health, about the goodness of certain foods, methods of living, the psychology of happiness.

Man's lust for war was channeled into adventurous forays to the stars, into honest labor, and into building, building, building ever new machines, and into the physical expansion of a growing civilization.

Woman's desire for peace found its expression in the fields of social welfare and in the healing and care of sick people and of the sicknesses of society.

The world of 2150 A. D. is the most colorful and the most exciting, as well as the most prosperous and satisfying ever dreamed of.

Too bad it's only a dream.

The meeting of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society that would ordinarily be held on the evening of Thursday, August 31, 1950, will, instead, be hold on

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29th.

This is due to the fact that a number of the Mid-Western fans, enroute to the NORWESCON at Portland, Oregon, over the Labor Day week-end -- and are YOU planning to attend? -- will be in Los Angeles on that date, and we are holding our regular meeting that night so they can attend as our special guests.

All members, Associate members, and all those interested, are cordially invited to be present with us that evening.

EARTH IN 1970 A. D.

by C B LOOMIS

I can see no good reason why Truman and Stalin united in offering me the disposal of the A-bomb and the H-bomb, the two, together, making the AH-bomb, akin in its results to the doctor's spatula, for both make you say AH!

Now that the power to govern is at last in my hands, I am using it to reform the world to a pattern I know will make everybody happy, as everybody should be happy. The world of 200 A. B. is too distant for my farsight to discern, so I am lopping off $1\frac{1}{2}$ zeros from it, thinking it more likely that I shall see the world at 82 than at 232. So few of us can keep our birthcerts from wearing thin in the folds during so long a term. And, without the proof, how old is anyone?

My first ukase is that every city, factory or dwelling built on once arable land shall be demolished and the land restored to its former usefulness in growing crops and providing natural beauty for the seeing eye. All persons and industries thus dispossessed, shall move underground, into lodging provided by Lewis' miners, who know how to but don't do anything else in the mining line.

Second, all railroads and surfaced roads and every clumsy road bug shall be destroyed and mono-rail trolleyways substituted for all such traffic as cannot be conducted by helicopter. This includes all the hundreds of level acres put under concrete for landing sky monsters. The surface of all plains shall be restored to nature's bounty. Hill-side housing may remain.

Third Ukase or Edict. There shall be a world money established in the form of annual credits extended to working persons and let the non-workers die as they deserve. Travel shall be free to all. There shall be no taxes as, with everybody concerned with the work that must be done, no taxation is necessary. The work of the world will be done.

Fourth. Life-long education; but with the people divided into three age groups. First group: from birth to age 25, public school students. There shall be no private schools for snobs. These students shall learn languages and customs where they are spoken or observed, in addition to exposure to all the elements of knowledge, with elective courses well under control because it is rounded personalities that our world needs, and these cannot be had without wide exposure to the facts of life. Second group, the main working force of the earth, aged 25 to 50. They shall be put through grades of effort just as they were while in school, with the results that the specialists

naturally arising among us will have a broad foundation of learning and practical skills and not appear as screwy freaks, ignorant as morons in all departments but that of their specialty. Third group: It will include the free of the earth, but not all at the age 50 are worthy to be free. Only those devoted to the world's work and play are fit to be free. From this group will come the world's leaders, its artists, poets and useful professional men (which does not include legislators nor lawyers, no real need for them continuing after men get put on the right adequately cooperative road).

Lastly, as I cannot cooperate with anyone, I shall kill myself as soon as my brief tyranny has had its needed effect. I leave it to men to decide whether polygamy is not an honest and hence a happier mode of dealing with the problem of virility.

In this program of less than 700 words, I have eclipsed all previous declarants of constitutions, and only when it is lived up to, will the world be able to be happy and usefully productive.

PEOPLE, 2150
by
KRIS NEVILLE

I came home this morning from the $\frac{1}{2}$ world and one of the finest week-ends I ever lost; and there was a LASFS letter in my mail box asking me if I thought there'd still be people in 2150.

Now, I have a theory

Somewhere, out in the hinterland -- perhaps at this very moment -- a New Prophet is (or shortly will be) gestating anaesthetically. Upon birth, he will arise, take seven steps and deliver himself somewhat thusly: "Of all the Gods, I am the greatest God."

Within thirty years (say) he will be hanging by his thumbs from a crab apple tree, the buzzards and flies feasting on his carcass. And his disciples will set forth upon the land, preaching his Law to the peoples.

And since we seem to be getting increasingly more violent as we mature and civilize, it seems not unreasonable to expect that the new religion will be somewhat different from its predecessors.

For the Prophet, being a contemporary of our children, will have no difficulty seeing the eventual -- I may say, self obvious -- goal of the race, and where other religions set about to postpone the inevitable, he will observe, from their failures, that the problem is how to assist the teleological impulse rather than how to subvert it.

A great number of possibilities are ripe and a-blooming, nowadays; it remains for him but to choose. I suspect -- though -- his choice will not be the obvious one, for, professional jealousy, if nothing else, would prohibit him from rearing a structure upon someone else's spade work. In addition to the fact that such a mind as his would prefer to discover a more satisfyingly subtle approach, one pregnant with aesthetic overtones, neither too direct nor too oblique, but equally as certain as sunrise.

And so the religion will rush into the waiting vacuum of two billion souls, bringing with it a new-found sense of direction and the morbid dignity that comes always from the contemplation of things cosmic.

People will grow quieter: as if to listen for the fleeting echoes from the past, wind-swept seas of lost grandeur. A

sweet sadness will brood, and long winter nights will be exquisitely noble.

There will be sacrifices, as there always are, and each human will feel the infinite satisfaction of small martyrdom.

A face in the streets, fleeing, frightened, never quite forgotten, will make a man, somewhere, conscious of the panorama of history; and he will cry in the night because he is sad and happy.

All the little accidents that combine in aeons into the chance creature, Man, will be shaped, a short tomorrow, by some New Prophet, into completeness.

And those who see the far stars hard and cold -- they walk hand in hand with the unreachable, feeling proud and bitter.

So -- like a whisper, a tired love's sigh, so --

The Prophet leads them onward.

Until all the women die virgins.

JELLY DOUGHNUTS IN 2150

by BOB OLSEN

It will not be necessary for me to warn anyone who knows me and/or my attempts at writing prophetic literature, that I am an inveterate optimist. Perhaps that is why I never amounted to much as a writer of science-fiction. The really successful authors, such as H G Wells, Aldous Huxley and Charles (1984) Orwell, have unanimously pictured future civilization as going to pot -- physically, morally and psychically. When I gaze into my rose-colored crystal ball, I can't see it that way at all. You have heard of the "Optimistic Doughnut" -- the one with the pin-prick hole. Well, folks, my favorite doughnuts are the pillow-shaped kind that have invisible holes stuffed full of raspberry jelly.

Just how optimistic Author Bob Olsen used to be is illustrated by the yarn which I wrote for "AIR WONDER STORIES" in response to Hugo Gernsback's request for a story giving my ideas concerning the future of aviation. In it I had everybody flying by means of "winging jackets" for short distances, and traveling at super-sonic speeds in propellorless, rocket-powered aircraft for longer journeys. Significantly, the manuscript of this story, written in 1929, was entitled "Flight in 1949." Hugo, being less optimistic, changed the title to "Flight in 1999". When I wrote this "fantastic" yarn I had no idea that, less than 20 years later, I would be helping to make my own prophecies come true. Yes, believe it or not, when I was 58 years old I worked my way through college for the second time and completed courses which qualified me for a job as tool designer for the Douglas Aircraft Company.

After the war I designed and made tools and dies which were used in building experimental airplanes for the U S Navy, including the Douglas "SKYSTREAK", which broke the world's record previously monopolized by British jetplanes, and the Douglas "SKYROCKET", one of the first airplanes to penetrate the supersonic barrier, which has unofficially been credited with speeds in excess of 1,000 miles per hour. Thus Bob Olsen enacted his own Air Wonder Story when he actually helped to build the airplanes which fulfilled about 60% of his predictions. I don't expect to be here in 1999, but I wish some of you young squirts would check up on me 49 years from now. As soon as gravinuls and winging jackets are invented, let me know by mental telepathy, which I am sure will be perfected by then.

In figuring that it should not have taken more than 20 years for human bipeds to solve such problems as bird-flight and nullifying gravitation, I was taking into consideration the marvelous advances in science and invention which took place during the first 20 years of this century. When I first

entered high school there were no automobiles, no airplanes, no motion pictures and no radio sets. By the time I got married, approximately 20 years later, all four of these remarkable devices had not only been invented but each of them had burgeoned into a vast new industry which subsequently employed millions of people and brought incomparable happiness to all of us.

By Hiroshima! Here I have used up about half of the word-age allotted to me and I haven't said a word about the effects which the A-Bomb, the H-Bomb, and the X, Y, and Z-Bombs will have on the future of the human race. If I had sense enough to be a really popular author of science-fiction, I would select April 1, 2150, as the date when Kernel Ima Knut, the last survivor of the American Army, would bash in the head of General Ivan Awfulitch, the last survivor of the Russian Army, with the only weapon then available, namely, a chunk of rubble from Grant's Tomb. Or I would have a jerk named Hugo Buttinsky blow the entire solar system to smithereens by exploding a Bubblegum Bomb at a Soviet clam-bake.

Seriously, honestly and truly, I do not believe that Russia will ever use atomic weapons against the United States or any other nation, for the same reason that no sane person would kick a guy in the pants if he knew that the target for the day had a flaskful of nitroglycerine in his hip pocket. It is a significant fact that, even during the most desperate periods of World War II, the Germans did not use their abundant supplies of poison gas or their facilities for waging germ warfare. Why? Because they knew that if they did, both the British and Americans were prepared to pay them back with usurious interest. Incidentally, the A-Bomb would not have been used in World War II if the Japanese had been in a position to retaliate.

As I take a squint at my crystal ball once more, I see an era in which atomic energy will be harnessed and put to work, just as that terrible force called "lightning" was harnessed and put to work not long ago. And, just as electrical research made possible the invention of the automobile, the tractor, the electric light, the vacuum cleaner, the washing machine and countless other labor-saving devices, so, I feel certain, the development of atomic energy will make available tremendous quantities of cheap power which will help enormously to make life on this planet easier and happier.

It is my belief that most of the evils which harass the human race, such as bigotry, intolerance and racial hatreds, which in turn lead to wars and other causes of human misery, can be attributed to lack of understanding between people of different races, nationalities and religions. Consequently, our greatest need is for a new, really universal language -- and I don't mean Esperanto. No means of communication that depends on the cave-man alphabets and crazy-quilt vocabularies of existing languages

would serve the purpose. My idea is for a group of scholars to build a brand new language from scratch, just as the French scientists did when they originated the Metric System. This language would have a new alphabet, using symbols like shorthand characters, with each letter representing only one sound. All sounds that are hard to pronounce, such as the English "th", French "n", German "ich" and Swedish "sj" would be eliminated. Words would be constructed, without reference to any other language, by combining sounds. Pronouns would be spelled with one letter only, other words with combinations of two, three, four or five letters, according to the frequency of their use in conversation or writing. Each word would have only one meaning and no meaning would have more than one word to express it. Consequently, there would be no need for a science of semantics, with its hundreds of ponderous volumes trying ludicrously and futilely to explain "the meaning of meaning". Eventually this world language will be taught and used exclusively in every school on earth. It will also be used for all official documents and for printing books, magazines and newspapers throughout the world.

With a universal language and with cheap, speedy transportation available everywhere, people throughout the world will be able to get really acquainted with each other, and they will soon discover that Negroes, Japanese, Jews, Catholics, Communists, Norwegians who spell their names "Olsen" and even Swedes who spell their names "Olson" are all mighty fine folks when you really get to know them. Long before 2150, I feel certain, human scientists will have solved the mystery of chlorophyll and will have found out how to do what any plant can do, namely, convert water, carbon dioxide and sunshine into carbohydrates such as starch, sugar, cellulose and alcohol. With abundant and inexhaustible supplies of food, textiles, building materials, drugs and fuel being produced synthetically and cheaply everywhere, there should be no more excuses for famines, plagues or depressions, or for wars of aggression waged by "have-not" nations against "have" nations.

If you ask me if I think there will be a World War III, I shall answer in the words of the world's wisest savant, Nunuv-ya Bizznis "Mebbe there will be and mebbe there won't."

However, I sincerely believe that there will always be enough of us sensible people in the world to maintain peace -- even if we have to fight for it!

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FINIS -- 2150

by L MAJOR REYNOLDS

What was left of humanity in this year of 2150 huddled in the depths of the Carlsbad Caverns. Mostly, life was a dreary round of trying to get enough to eat, and fire enough to warm the damp chill from weary bones.

In one place, water dripped in fat drops from the roof, and this was the only moisture that existed in the vast cave. Most of the precious stuff was used for the irrigation of the few plants hardy enough to try the precarious existence so far below the surface of the Earth.

But today was different. This was the time of the fifty-year emergence. One more check to see if the water-laden and radio-active air was able once more to support life. That air which held the colloidal contents of oceans, and caused weird drownings in those foolish enough to breath it.

Bulky lead-sheathed clothing covered the intrepid party, and each one wore a filter mask that made them look like some inhabitant of the lower regions.

It was a long, hard climb to the entrance, and several times before they reached it there was a muffled shriek as one of the unfortunates lost his weak grip, or a section of rock gave way, plunging the victim to a sure death on the glass-hard spikes of the stalagmites far below.

The heavy, sealed door, when it was reached, gave puny hands much unaccustomed work. The last of the fastenings finally fell away, and the leader called for an all-out effort to move the massive portal.

Just before the door could be opened, one of the explorers gave a shriek of warning. They had forgotten the inner door which served as an air lock. This was quickly fastened shut, and for the first time in fifty years, man set foot on the surface of the Earth.

The leaden glass of their goggles clouded over instantly as they left the warm air of the cavern and emerged onto a chill surface that had not felt the touch of the sun for over one hundred and fifty years.

When vision finally came again the people looked eagerly for some change in the ever-present fog of destruction, but there was no change. Everywhere they gazed it was the same. Water-drenched rocks which glowed with an inner rainbow of radio-activity.

Frantically their eyes searched for some sign of life that might exist in the welter of destruction, but every grain of soil had been burnt away, and even the basic stone itself was eroded.

The leader made a sign and they turned back. Defeat was eloquent in the bearing of each one as they walked. One could almost sense the thoughts that ran through each of the minds.

"Maybe the next time it will be gone, and then our children's children will be able to live once more in the sun."

Two more plunged to eternal peace on the long downward trip, but finally the bottom was reached and the men began to divest themselves of the heavy clothing. Each one breathed a sign of relief at the thought that never again would he have to take the perilous trip.

The peace was broken by a gasp from one of the party. He was wide-eyed with terror, and his pointing finger shook with emotion.

Each of the fat drops of water falling from the domed roof of the cavern now carried its own rainbow.

Nature had finally cashed in humanity's chips.

THE WORLD OF 2150 A.B.

by ROBERT S. RICHARDSON.

The LASFS made a shrewd choice when it asked for predictions 200 years hence. Predictions fifty years ahead would have been fairly easy. Five hundred years would have been hopeless. But two hundred years Well, I would say it is barely within reach. Just within the bounds of rational speculation.

The great danger in attempting such an extrapolation lies in our inability to sense trends insignificant today but which are destined to become the dominating factors in the world of tomorrow. These trends are like the higher terms in a power series. Over moderate periods of time they may be safely neglected but they build up with alarming rapidity when the period is prolonged unduly. Thus the theory of the secular perturbations of the planets tells us that the solar system is stable for a hundred thousand years. But is it stable for a billion years? Nobody really knows. It cannot be proved to be stable over so long a time.

Well, without further preamble, here goes:

I am sure that there will be more wars in which destructive forces of transcendental violence will be callously unleashed upon helpless people. But I doubt if these forces will destroy mankind or throw us back to the caveman stage again. Now the particular year 2150 may not be an especially bright one in history, but let us say that somewhere between 2140 and 2160 many people someplace upon the globe will enjoy material comforts of life and a general standard of living far higher than those in the United States today. For some perverse reason I feel quite confident on this score. If it is true that man's untiring efforts to destroy himself have been crowned with brilliant success, on the other hand, it is true that the human race seems endowed with an astonishing degree of resilience, an amazing capacity for absorbing punishment and coming back for more. Time and again we seem slated for total annihilation yet always we manage to survive and eventually arise stronger than before. As Thornton Wilder says, we seem to escape just by the skin of our teeth.

I feel that we have scarcely begun to take the drudgery out of what might be termed the necessary mechanics of existence. Regularly about once a year there appears an article deploring the fact that modern inventions have left the housewife with nothing to do but develop a neurosis. I suspect that such articles emanate from women who board at a residential hotel and make their living pounding a typewriter. In my opinion, altogether too much time is devoted to the uninspiring task of bringing food home from the market, preparing it to eat, then

clearing off the table, and washing the dishes. This stupefying drudgery must be eliminated in the future. Here I speak from the depths of a profound conviction, as I believe I have washed more dishes than any other astronomer in the entire history of the world, except possibly one.

Will atomic energy have taken us to the planets by 2150?

I'm not so sure about this. The application of atomic energy to rocket propulsion sounds easy until you start trying to figure out a practical method of doing it. Right now the problem is in a decidedly dim and speculative state. Nevertheless, the problem will probably have been licked. Thus in another fifty years I think that robot rockets will have attained the moon (although not necessarily by means of atomic energy); and in roughly a hundred years the first manned interplanetary rocket will have become a reality.

I am not nearly as enthusiastic about the possibilities of interplanetary travel as most science fiction fans. As I see it, there are only two objectives open to us and no more: the Moon and Mars. After we reach them, what then?

We don't need to wonder about surface conditions on these bodies for we already know. Certainly neither were meant for beings like ourselves. Most of us have a tough time trying to get along here on the earth where conditions are halfway favorable for existence. How much harder is it going to be to wrest a living from nature on worlds where everything (except gravity) is against us?

The Moon would make a valuable base for experimental research on cosmic rays, the stars, etc., but that about lets it out. Valuable lunar mineral deposits may exist but the cost of getting them to earth would be as prohibitive as extracting gold from sea water.

Should Mars turn out to have an advanced type of civilization we could probably benefit from their experience, providing the Martians prove cooperative. My guess is that if animal life does exist on Mars it is of a low form. High forms of life do not flourish in cold dry barren surroundings. I have the most depressing conviction that the conquest of Mars is going to be about as thrilling as a boy scout expedition through Tibet.

Below in easy condensed form are five predictions for 2150. They are rated on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 signifies practically no chance at all, 5 about an even money bet, and 10 absolute certainty. These predictions are intended to apply to the average middle class family.

A. People will enjoy general comforts of life far in advance of those today. The "necessary mechanics of existence" will be much easier. People will have a great deal of leisure time which

will be frittered away in trivial ways from which they derive little real enduring satisfaction.

Rating 8

B. Superficially people will seem much more polite, more considerate of the feelings of others, and generally more fine grained than most of us today. The cities will be cleaner, the people more fastidious in their daily habits, and more discriminating in their taste. Many of our present customs will be regarded as barbarous.

Rating 8

C. Tremendous advances will have been made in preventative medicine and psychiatry, especially the latter. The most exciting field awaiting exploration today is not the planets but the human mind.

Rating 9

D. A robot rocket will have reached the moon and we will have confirmation of its arrival.

Rating 6

E. A manned rocket will have reached Mars and the explorers will have returned safely to earth. Mars on the whole will prove a great disappointment. Only low forms of vegetable and animal life will be found there.

Rating 3

F. All of the above predictions will turn out to be wrong.

Rating 10

ANNOUNCEMENT

The next issue of SHAGGY will be edited by HELENE MEARS. She plans to use only material from our Associate Members. Sooooo, you Associate guys and gals get busy. Articles, stories, poems or art work -- whatever you can do best, get it done pronto and send it in immediately. The address is:

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ONE WORLD, 2150

by A E VAN VOGT

The history of the world from 1950 to 2150 is evidence of the danger of men not knowing, or caring, why they think what they think.

It is accordingly merely a further extension of the history of man.

War looms ever larger on this canvas of two centuries. The three billion people who were murdered were perhaps the lucky ones. Those who lived watched civilization collapse into a new barbarism.

The slogans were -- with slight variations -- as old as national ambition. But there were more people. And so there was more blood. More people ... It was harder to organize a common sense attitude. Innumerable people ... Everyone had to be dragged into the lowest common denominator of thought and action.

The villain in the piece has a generalized name: two-valued logic. A statement is either true or it is false, either right or wrong, black or white. ... There is no such thing as Capitalism and Communism existing side by side. It must be one or the other.

The man who thinks with either-or logic has a compulsion to act. He is the Messiah, the fanatic, the one who tolerates no opposition. Murder is a means to an end that he thinks right, cunning a device for gaining an advantage, betrayal as natural as the infliction of suffering. He will stand by and witness fantastic brutality -- provided the right labels have been attached to it.

1950 - 2150: World War II had ended with a gigantic betrayal. Suddenly, in every country, men who had been trained in Moscow were discovered to be in key positions in the underground or various resistance movements. Faces previously seen only at meetings of the Communist International appeared above pictures which stated: "The new premier ... " of this, that or the other country.

Now, the odd thing about this was that only a tiny number of people worried about it. It was far away. It was happening to foreigners.

But the Earth is only so big. If ever Asia falls under the control of one power, the end is in sight for all the other continents.

After World War II, the short-sightedness of the western powers lost them first the vital parts of Asia, then -- when it was already too late -- the remaining parts fell despite an attempt at resistance.

Those battles were fought on tiny fingers of the Asian land mass, from which armies from other continents could be forced by relentless pressure from inside. When Asia is under one power, then control of the seas no longer matters.

The actual invasion of the North American continent did not occur until the industrialization of Asia was considerably advanced. The landing was effected by a vast Mongolian-Chinese army on the west coast, and a European army in the east.

About four hundred atomic bombs were dropped before the actual invasion for the purpose of softening the defenses. The defenses were softened.

What was amusing about this was that -- because of a great wave of moral feeling -- the Americans had, after World War II, refrained from taking advantage of their discovery of the secret of atomic energy. Step by step they were stripped of the details of the invention.

Once again, it was proved that a decisive weapon is always used. There has been no instance in history of this not being so.

The barbarism followed inevitably. It had to. The mind that thinks in black and white follows rules laid down by Authority. "Lenin said ... a hundred years ago ... " "Marx laid down this principle for all time ... " "Stalin murdered a million people in a situation similar to this ... "

Since none of these rules had more than a casual relation to the changing reality of a changing world, they could finally be enforced only by brutality, by institutions with rigid patterns of conduct for the population. A new priesthood, a religion backed by atomic bombs and by tanks and planes -- forever set in its ways.

By 2150 A. D., Mankind -- as the propagandists never tired of shouting -- had achieved one world.

It never seemed to occur to anyone that it should have been many worlds, and that the stars were lost.
