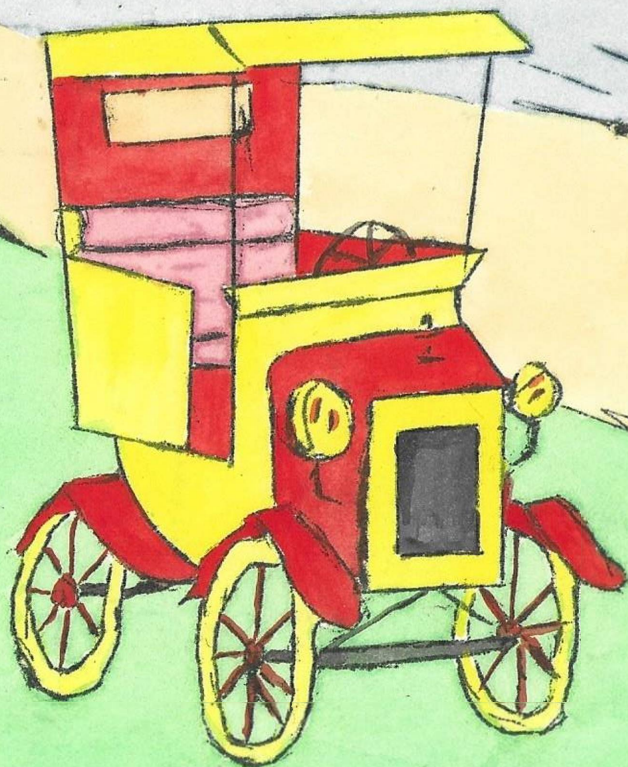


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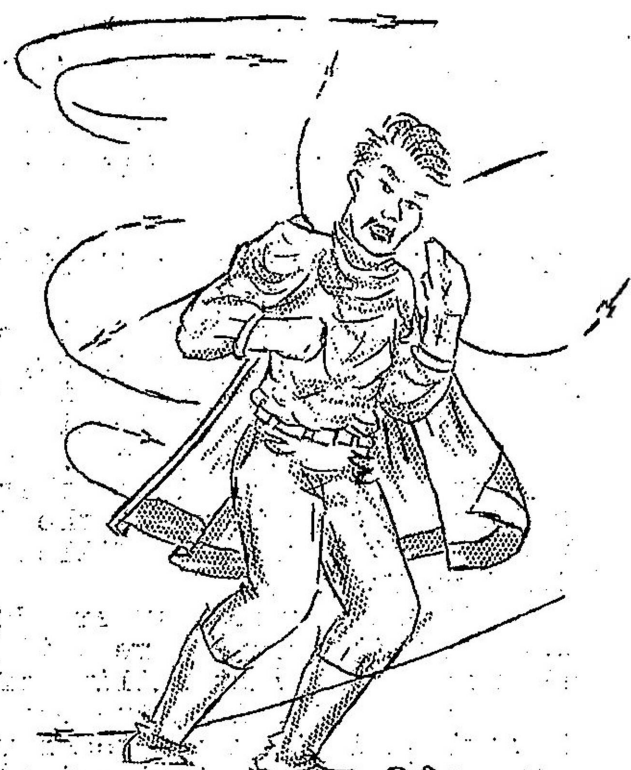
WHATSIT 2, fot the
34th OMPA mailing,
December 1962

"I don't care where you got
it, Olaf, it's not coming
aboard MY ship"



KENS

COL



"It all began, really, in the vast nothingness that was before time began. It began, one might say, the instant that some unimaginable event caused the first speck of matter to pop into being - or perhaps it didn't really start until there was enough matter around to cause gravitational fields, which enabled the grouping, then the solidifying of matter into stars and planets and such. Then again maybe the true beginning was when.....

Anyway, through predetermined though inconceivable orderings of events and accidents the first living creatures were formed. The possibility didn't become so much of a probability until the first creatures squirmed their ways out of the sea. The mammals, ah, then Man, that was when the whole thing really became inevitable, then the time was almost ripe, and, just now, you saw/heard the culmination of all creation."

"Ah," says Dave, "am I to understand that the whole of creation came about just so that you could stuff yourself with sausage and beans, and give vent to what you just did?"

I nodded pontifically.

"Hah," says Dave, "and again, Hah!"

As the universe shivered and quietly faded away into nothingness, I permitted myself a gentle smile of satisfaction.

I HAPPENED

to be thinking, the other day, of the questions that arise out of the Post mailing situation.

Or perhaps that is badly phrased. Never mind, what I was going to say is this. The main factor seems to be time. The overseas members cannot always 1, receive the mailing, 2, put out a zine, 3 get it to the AE in time. (Though most of the PMs I've seen either 1, are afterthoughts, 2, lets-just-put-out-a-pm.

Anyway, deliberately ignoring everything else, what about this lack of time excuse? (this is what I asked myself, y'see).

Assume that they do need longer to meet the mailings. Ah, then there ~~is~~ a solution of sorts.

Gentlemen, (and ladies of course,) I give you, the Thrice Yearly Publishing Organisation, T.Y.P.O.!!!!

See? the whole thing is solved, instead of mailings in March, June, Sept and December, you have them in, February, June, and October. Thus giving upwards of 6 weeks for the members to produce their zines in.

And other changes too. For instance, instead of everyone joining with the mailing there number comes up, the whole wl would have to wait until the first mailing of the year, then all the vacancies would be filled and No New Members Admitted Until The Next Year.

Further, every member MUST have completed his activity by the 2nd mailing, and have paid his dues at least one month in advance of the last mailing of the year. If not, he's out.

Membership wl advance, as in OMPA, to the top of the list. Is invited in in the October mailing, and must 1, answer within 6 weeks, (to an A/M invitation) or drop off the wl, and someone else is invited. He, if he gets in, has to produce 1/3 of his requirements AT LEAST in his first mailing, and (if he only does 1/3) the remaining 2/3 in the second mailing. Requirements being about 12 or 15 pages per year.

Dues could probably be less than OMPA, seeing as how there would be fewer mailings....

It wouldn't matter if the apa was UK or US based, because of the time between mailings...and perhaps we could get some German, Japanese, etc., members to.

On the other hand of course, do we need a new APA?, I mean, if there are other apas fulfilling the same functions as this one, why bother?. And too, maybe 4 months between mailings might be too long.

Anyone interested in speculating about various apas, their needs, functions, membership, evolution and so on? If you are then here (if you need it!) is the excuse to trot out all your ~~weird~~ original, sparkling, etc., ideas, and to Change The Face Of Fandom.

Gentlemen, the floor is yours.

I was talking

to Dave some weeks ago, before he went off to University, and

Dave is a CND supporter, as some of you may have gathered, and during the course of the conversation I remarked - words to the effect that - "banning nuclear weapons is a good idea, but the trouble is that only a minority support this idea, some are in favour of retaining A-weapons because they believe in a Nuclear Deterrent, others because of a desire to use the weapons in an aggression, if they find a good opportunity... but most people just haven't got the foggiest idea about what is going on.... and it's these people who are manipulated in various ways by the various governments in the various countries that keep the Governments in power.

Obviously, if you could only get it across to this great mass of (semi-) humanity just what is entailed in an A-War, they would not like it very much... but even if you got it across to them, it would do little good because they are sheeplike, and with no-one to tell them what to do they would just sit around and mumble. So, taking everything into account, the logical and ONLY EFFECTIVE steps that can be taken towards nuclear disarmament are political. That means mass-manipulation, the same thing that all the political lads do now. For "the People" (despite nice ideas like yours, Pat) have never accomplished anything on their own.... They had to be led. (Quote American, French and Russian revolutions at me and then try to find a leader who would in all justification was not merely "of the people" but one of them, this is impossible in my view by the very definition of Leader).

(Somewhere here I have lost my point--). Well what it all came down to was that (if I remember correctly) was of the opinion that I exaggerated the dumbness of the average citizen.

So, I conducted, if I may be permitted a phrase, a Survey of a couple of average type Britons. Tho' this is by no means conclusive, it needs a couple of thousand people or more really, it does show, well, see for yourself.

Q. How many hours a week do you watch TV?

- A. 1. All the time except when we go out.
2. When I'm not out or at work.
3. A couple of hours, if there is a murder on.

Q. What sort of programmes do you like?

- A. 1. Coronation St, Harpers and like that, love stories.
2. Z Cars, London Palladium, anything like that.
3. I like a good murder.

Q. Where is; - Leningrad, St Petersburg, Stalingrad, Moscow?

- A. 1. Germany?
2. Don't know.
3. Wouldn't answer. (I was laughing).

Q. Who was Stalin?

- A. 1. A German with the Kiaser.
2. Don't know.
3. A Russian in the war with Churchill.

Q. What and Where is the Kremlin?

- A. 1. Never heard of it.
2. A jail in Dublin, You've heard of it?; Oh, no... Belfast, there is the Kremlin Jail in Belfast where Hinds was last time.
3. In Scotland?

Q. Who is Krushchev?

- A. 1. A Russian.
2. The Russian Prime Minister, well, more than a PM, they've got no Queens in Russia.
3. An actor?

Q. Who is Kennedy?

- A. 1. US President.
2. President of America.
3. Something to do with banks?

Q. Where does Kennedy live?

- A. 1. Don't know.
2. The White House.
3. In America.

Q. Where is the White House?

- A. 1. Don't Know.
2. In New York.
3. Don't know.

Q. Where is Cuba?

- A. 1. Don't Know.
2. Don't Know.
3. There the Russians were sending rockets to.

Q. What is the Pentagon?

- A. 1. A Cathedral.
2. Never heard of it.
3. A lucky sign.

Q. What does the DC in Washington DC stand for?

- A. 1. Don't know. 2. Don't Know. 3. Don't know.

Q. What does Segregation mean?

- A. 1. Don't know.
2. Don't know.
3. Like the Suffragettes?

Q. How did Abe Lincoln die?

- A. 1. He was shot.
2. He was murdered.
3. He was killed by somebody.

Q. Where did he die?

- A. 1. In his office.
2. In the war.
3. At home.

Q. What was he famous for?

- A. 1. Fighting.
2. Writing.
3. Writing "John Brown's Body".

Q. Whose side was in on in the American Civil War?

- A. 1. North.
2. South.
3. Don't know.

Q. Which side won the American Civil War?

- A. 1. North.
2. South.
3. It was a draw?. (I'm sorry, I gisled here) (Myserically).

Q. When did the AC War start?

- A. 1. About 1912?
2. No, it was before that, about 1909?
3. Don't know, but it was before the Boer War.

Q. In the beginning how many Colonies revolted against George III?

- A. 1. 13.
2. 26.
3. Only one or two, then all of them. Oh, about twenty.

Q. Do you know anything at all about the War of American Independence?

- A. 1. No. 2. No. 3. No.

Q. Who was George Washington?

- A
1. Prime Minister.
 2. President of US.
 3. He built Washington.

Q. Who was Benedict Arnold?

- A
1. who?
 2. never heard of him.
 3. don't know.

Q. Who was Lord North?

- A.
1. an MP.
 2. A Lord.
 3. He owns Lancashire.

Q. When, approximately, was the US War of Ind fought?

- A.
1. About 1800
 2. Don't know.
 3. Don't know.

Q. What was the Boston Tea Party?

- A.
1. Wasn't it where they all got shot?, all the crooks shot each other? or was it a conference?
 2. Don't know.
 3. Somethin' like Guy Fawkes night only for Americans.

Q. Have you read a book during the past year?

- A.
1. No.
 2. No.
 3. No.

Q. When did you last read a book, all the way through?

- A.
1. don't know.
 2. don't know.
 3. can't remember.

Q. What do you read?

- A.
1. comics and love stories in pictufes.
 2. paper.
 3. Newspapers.

Q. Who was William The Conquerer?

- A.
1. He gonquered someone, didn't he go to Holland and capture everybody. Oh, from England. He was English.
 2. Don't Know.
 3. Don't know.

Thats about it. What it really needs if for everyone in OMPA to get 2/3 questionnaires filled in, by Average Types, and send them to the AE to collate and work out the results. Any of you interested kn the idea at all?.

I've just finished

reading a book called Yukatan Adventure, by Leonard Clark. He and his friend, Hal Hennessey spent a month or so trekking about Yukatan looking for lost Mayan cities. They made the trip in 1950, so perhaps there have been proper expeditions by now, visiting the places they casually (almost) discovered on their walk-about.

This completely non-technical book gives you, as the author intended in his opening, an appetite for the more detailed and scientific works on the same subject.

What interested me was the myths concerning Atlantis (only touched on briefly) Mu and the origin of various civilisations. And the curious point of religion/superstition that the Mayans shared with the early western and eastern civilisations. And too, the legends, religious myths really, about Mu being ruled by white men with Yellow, Black and Red races under them. Now, if this information is really as old as it is supposed to be....

Why did the myth makers pick those particular colours? I mean, why not blue, green, or silver men?

Then again, the legends of a vast freshwater sea under Yukatan. The peninsular is mostly limestone with only one river of any size, most of the water going straight down thru' the porous surface. And again, reports of places around the coasts of Yukatan where fresh water, drinkable, bubbles up from the sea bed. Underground river exits?

As if it were a mere hike in holiday these two trotted off into the jungle, with \$500 between them, looking, well, just looking. Apparently there is a legend of the Mayan Motherland which places it out in the Pacific - Mu - the middle one of three islands, and for reasons too long to go into here, the two Americans thought that maybe the real location of the Mayan Motherland was somewhere in the middle of the peninsular. The difficulties were many, travelwise, and for the theory of a large population existing in the interior, way back before the Spanish.

Travelwise it was insects, jungle, unwilling guides, and of course "guides" who knew as little as they did. The main obstacle was the lack of water. Now with a rainfall of 50 inches in the South to 150 inches in the north this may seem a little strange, but, due to the limestone character of the peninsular there is very, very, little surface water. It was this lack of surface water that disputed the theory of a large population in the interior. And, although the later Mayans built wells etc., it was, for the sake of this theory, necessary that the first of the Mayan civilisations to have had water easily available. For a civilisation does not spring up, full blown, possessing the knowledge of how to dig wells etc., there had to be some primitive stage.

The Old Empire of the south seems to have sprung up already formed, and the New Empire in the north from that one. But, the Old Empire must have been preceded by an earlier culture, requiring ages, to develop all the arts they had.

So. One theory is that the Mayans developed their culture in the north, towards the Mexican Highlands and were then driven, somehow, south, taking their civilisation with them. From wood into a stone building culture.

The other one was that the cradle of the race was in the interior, where it had grown over the years, near a good water supply.

Almost casually the two Americans set out to find this heartland. Following a rumour of an Indian who had claimed to have found the legendary underground sea they, after many hardships did find a sandstone plateau, stretching for miles and miles, wherein they found sizeable lakes, and ruins of building that seemed to predate any other Mayan buildings by many thousands of years. (terrific sense-of-wonder here).

The surprising thing is that this plateau is only 50 miles from the nearest village, surprising that it had not been found by the Indians. But on the other hand the Indian did not like to go towards the interior, and besides it was considered folly to go in that direction because no-one knew if there was any water out there. At 10 to 15 miles a day, carrying your own water, that is, about $3/4$ days supply for men and beasts, with no hope of finding water out there, well, your trips were limited to the water supply, that is 4 or 5 days, say 40 miles, there and back. Animals usually, the Indians said, died on the third day after the water ran out, men...? well, they died too unless they were almost home by then.

Planes had/have flown over the area many times but the jungle is in full possession of the old cities, making spotting literally impossible. The only way anyone could make a good search of the area, seems to me, is by helicopter. The locals haven't any helicopters.

Money for this sort of thing, archeology, doesn't seem very easy to come by.... maybe the Carnegie Foundation could do it. Say, $2/3$ helicopters, supplying bases in the interior, where the footwork is done.... finding a place to land in the jungle, well the helicopters could go out a week or so beforehand and drop malpalm bombs on likely sites, that would make a clearing.

The Mayans apparently had a better grasp of astronomy and mathematics, geometry and a knowledge of perspective, better than the Ancient Greeks, and a long time before them. And the dyes and paints they used were pretty wonderful, and not even now can they be duplicated exactly.

And acoustics. From the top of a cunningly wrought pyramid a whisper can still be heard for a mile or more.... and in the special arena like structures the entire audience must have been able to hear clearly every word, spoken at a normal tone, as if they were listening to their neighbour.

It's rather wonderful to think of this amazing civilisation growing up here, and declining, until, when the Spaniards came, most of the old cities were lost even to the Mayans still living. A pity too that those Spaniards destroyed so much, the temple records that would have been so valuable today, to the understanding of the old Mayas. And so much, that the Spaniards didn't get their hands on, has been destroyed by the jungle, in a milder climate they would have been preserved.

Interesting, to say the least.

And then

there are the books of Charles Fort. Which, be they accurate, are even more s-o-wonder inspiring. They also inspire a certain amount of unease.

One does not have to look at the records (claimed) of red rains, black rains, snow also coloured, frogs fallong from the sky and so on. Consider only the Marie Celest~~+~~ The report of the CHALLENGER expedition of a huge whirlpool shaper, lumesent Thing, They passed in the Indian Ocean.

Thing like this make old Culuth whatsit sound like a (cleaned up) childrens fairy tale.

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamed of in your philosophy. Eh?.

Some of Forts speculations are rather interesting. For instance he says words to the effect of "what if there are beings who live upon the surface of our air envelope in the same way as we, to the deep-sea fishes, live upon the surface of their ocean of water?". (see H G Wells thing.).

The things that fall upon the earth he says, might be the result of shipwrecks....as in our ocean a ship goes down and the gargo gets loose and becomes unrecognisable as it sinks and sinks....perhaps the things that have fallen on the earth are the pressure distorted/disrupted ships and cargoes of the upper air beings. And bodies of the crews.

Australites are those meteorites which, for some strange reason fall only on Austrailia. They have not been explained yet. Why should they fall there, and only there? Fort speculates that above Austrailia there is, fixed in position as firmly, comparitively speaking, as London or New York, there is a city or a factory, or something. And maybe the people toss out their garbage every so often. Or something like that.

The longer radio waves bounce off the ionosphere as if it were a solid.....

I wonder what those coloured lights were that the last US astronaut saw?. And have any of the Russians seen them?

Suppose there were some sort of intelligent beings on our ocean floors, and suppose they touched of an A-bomb or two, testing them maybe, do you think anyone would notice them?, if so, would they be worried, or not?.

*Maybe fire is impossible on the ocean floor, but it seems to me that I read somewhere that steel runs like butter if you subject it to enough pressure. Suppose there were things on the sea floor, d'ye think they could know anything about pressure?.

Oh well, museing like this I figure that there is quite a lot of material for SF writers. No need to be at a loss for a plot until the ocean and the sky - and space - are known a lot better than they are now.

