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FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1935.

After Worlds Collide

By EDWIN BALMER and PHILIP WYLIE

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WNU Service.

THE STORY

CHAPTER I.—Under the leadership of Cole Hendron, noted American scientist, over 300 persons escape in two Space Ships just before a cosmic collision that wiped out the earth, and land on Bronson Beta. After a short period of rest, the party makes an investigation of their surroundings. A smooth, straight metal roadway is discovered, indicating that whoever once lived on Bronson Beta had swift moving vehicles. That night thousands of giant meteors hurtle through the sky, but none of Hendron's colonists are hurt. The meteors are fragments of the earth's moon, destroyed before the earth was wiped out.

CHAPTER II.—Hendron says the Space Ship is to be dismantled and all its metal used. Tony Drake, Hendron's lieutenant, and Professor Higgins, distinguished botanist, discover a river bottom green with vegetation. Higgins leads an exploring party which finds great forests of dead trees, preserved for a million years by the absolute cold of space after Bronson Beta broke away from its sun and before it invaded our solar system. The colonists are startled by the sudden appearance at night of what looks like an airplane. It disappears almost immediately, but the fact that the occupants made no attempt to communicate with them, appearing rather that they were spying on the camp, leaves a feeling of alarm. They realize that they are not alone on the new planet, and that their visitors may be enemies.

CHAPTER III.—Tony Drake and Ted James, English writer, and the artist of the expedition, begin an exploration airplane flight. They are astonished by a marvelous sight that greets them after clearing a high mountain range.

CHAPTER IV.—They have come upon a wonderful city, enclosed under what seems like half an immense glass bubble six miles wide and half a mile high, at its center. Among these fields, when they make an entry into the city, is an edible grain—millions of bushels. When they start back in the plane, after three days, they see the years of a searlight, and come down. They creep to the ship of a ridge.

CHAPTER V.—Delighted that they find their ship undisturbed upon the camp of more than 30 persons who left Meteor when they did, in a second Space Ship, Hendron, Drake, Higgins, Ted James, atomic energy propulsion tubes had fused and the ship could not be blasted and injured. Hendron goes to Hendron's camp with Tony, who cannot master. He tells Tony of his hope, when, or even he hopes to make his wife, Sonia, the mother of a child, who her and her father while Tony tells the camp of the Sealed City. In one of the two other buildings they find Ted James. James never seen the interior of a very bizarre building, and he is sent that Bronson Beta's scientists had far outstripped the Earth's.

CHAPTER VI.—Tony, Tony's former servant, Jerry Jones, and Ted James, feasor turned spy, then walk back American lines, are captured by Communists, have reached Bronson Beta and escape in a stolen airplane, plane to spy on their camp. Tony flies a needed radio outfit to Hendron's camp. Radio communication between Hendron's and Hendron's camp is broken after a single cry for help from Hendron's people is heard. Tony, Aurriea, back with Peter Vanderdyk and Ella Carter, discovers that the Reds seem motionless on the ground as if dead. Now Tony is sure that danger awaits. Tony insists upon leaving the plane first, slamming the door after him. He thinks he has been shot and every member made unconscious, but all recover.

CHAPTER VII.—The Reds, called "Militarists," as Hendron calls them, have telephoned the 30 survivors of a British ship which lands a late, but Lady Cynthia Cruikshank escapes. Why, Militarists make an attack with atomic blasts from the Space Ships' propulsion tubes. Hendron's bombs fails and before his death he orders Tony to arouse everybody to one of the Sealed Cities. This Tony succeeds in doing. The Americans discover that they derive their mysterious power of light and heat from a plant in another Sealed City. They capture the control and plan to freeze them into submission during the intensely cold winter. Yes, Bronson Beta's winter. The men are convinced he was seized by spies within the city.

CHAPTER VIII.—Drake and his companions leave Hendron's camp in Bronson Betans' swift motor-driven vehicles. Von Beitz, prominent member of the community, is still unconscious and a thorough search made is unavailing.

Eliot James swore. "That's a lousy libel. Why, Von Beitz is one of the wisest men I know. A great brain, and nerve! I fought side by side with that guy in Michigan, and—why—h—l! He's practically a brother of mine. Why do you think I've been in every corner of this burrow looking? Because Von Beitz wouldn't turn us in for his life—that's why."

The handsome Shirley Cotton sobbed "I agree. But everybody's nervous these days."

"Heaven knows there's enough to make them nervous—"

They were interrupted by a banging on the door.

"Come in!" James called.

The door swung inward automatically. On the threshold stood Duquesne. He was ordinarily of ruddy complexion, but now his face was white. "Have you seen Tony?" he asked.

"No. What's the trouble?"

The Frenchman stepped into the room, and the door closed behind him. "I have searched everywhere."

James leaped to his feet. "You don't mean that Tony—"

"Oh—no, not lost. Just busy somewhere." Duquesne regarded the man and woman for a moment. "I was in a hurry to find him, because I have some very interesting information. I shall tell you. It is for the moment confidential."

"Sit," said the writer, as he had to his previous guest. "What's it about?"

"The source of our power."

James leaned forward. "You found it?"

"Not specifically. I have clung to the theory that power was generated under the city. When we learned that the interior of the planet was still warm, it seemed plausible that the power was generated from that heat—deep in the earth. So I explored. It was difficult. All the electrical connections are built into the very foundation of the city. They cannot be traced. My assistants meanwhile studied the plans of the city—we found many. The clue in them pointed always toward a place in the earth. We finally—this morning—located that place. It is far underground. But it is not a generating plant. No."

"What is it, then?"

"A relay station. A mere series of transformers. Stupendous in size and capacity. From it lead the great conduits—out, underground, deep down—toward the north. The station for this city, is not here. It is, as we suspected, in some other city—or place. And all the cities near here derive their power from that place. This is the explanation of why, when the lights came, in one city, they came in all. It was a central plant which had been turned on—and which supplied every city."

James leaned back. "I see. You mean that now it is sure that they have control of our power."

"Exactly."

"And they can shut it off whenever they wish."

"Precisely."

"So that—when it gets colder—they can cut our power and not only put out our lights, but stop our heat."

"Right."

James tapped on his desk with the pencil he had been using.

"How much chance" he asked, "have we of setting up a power station of our own—a station big enough to heat a couple of buildings, and light them, all winter?"

Duquesne shrugged. "What do we use for fuel?"

"Not coal—we've seen none. Or oil. How about wood? These forests?"

"And how do we get wood here?"

"Trucks."

"And if our enemies are trying to freeze us into submission, would they let us save ourselves by running trucks day and night to distant forests for fuel? No. They would blow up the roads and bomb the trucks. It would be much wiser to keep us warm. We could not—without any sort of blockade—cut wood under fire from an enemy. No."

"The river, then?"

Duquesne spread his hands. "You have imagination, my boy. But already it is too cold. And to build a dam and hydro-electric plant takes months. I have thought of those things."

"In other words," Shirley said slowly, "if you are right about the Militarists being in possession of the power plant, we'll have to take it away from them—or beat them somehow. Or else—"

James grinned bitterly. "Why not just leave it at, 'or else'?"

CHAPTER XI

HIGGINS entered the dining hall at luncheon time in great excitement. Instead of taking his place he went to Tony and spoke for a moment. Tony stood, then, and struck a note on a gong. Immediate silence was the response.

"Doctor Higgins," said Tony, "has made a discovery."

Higgins stood. This ritual had been followed in the announcement of hundreds of discoveries relative to Bronson Beta, and the life, arts and sciences of its original inhabitants.

"It concerns the greenness of the sky," Higgins said. "We have all remarked upon it. We have agreed that normal light polarization would always produce blue. We have agreed that any gases which would cause a green tint in atmosphere—halogens, for example—would also be poisonous.

"This morning at seven-eighty, Bronson Beta time, we had a green rain of nine and a half Bronson Beta minutes' duration. I collected the precipitated substance. It proved to be the explanation of our atmospheric color. He took a vial from his pocket and held it up. Its contents were green. The color is caused by this. A new form of life—a type of plant unknown on earth. You are all familiar with the algae in the sea—minute plants which floated in the oceans of earth in such numbers as to change the color in many places. Very well. The higher atmosphere of Bronson Beta is crowded by plants in some ways similar. These plants are in effect tiny balloons. They germinate on the surface of the earth apparently, in the spring. As they grow (the ground everywhere must be covered by them) they manufacture within themselves hydrogen gas. They swell with it until, like small balloons, they rise. Their hydrogen holds them suspended high in the atmosphere during the summer and fall—fruitions upon countless trillions of them. They make a level of thin, greenish fog overhead. Examined microscopically, they reveal their secret at once.

"There is sufficient carbon dioxide and moisture to nourish them. They live by simple photosynthesis; and it is the chlorophyll they contain which makes them green—a characteristic of all terrestrial plants except the parasites. These plants reproduce from spores."

Higgins sat down.

His brief description was greeted by applause in which the botanists and biologists were most vehement.

Carter stood up. "About their precipitation, Higgins?"

Again Higgins took the floor. "I have only a theory to offer. Temperature. I believe that, although they are resistant to cold, an adequate drop in temperature will cause them to crack and lose their hydrogen. Then, naturally, they fall to earth."

"So you anticipate more green rain?"

"I do—a tremendous volume of it. And I may add that these plants fix nitrogen, so that their dead bodies, so to speak, will constitute a fine fertilizer, laid annually upon the soil of the entire planet."

Carter nodded. "Excellent, Higgins! Have you made calculations relative to the possible and probable depth of 'green rain' we may expect?"

"Only the roughest sort. But to give the color intensity we observe in the sky I should imagine that the atmosphere contained enough of these vegetable balloons to cover the ground to a depth of two feet, at the least. Of course, decay would soon reduce the green blanket to a half inch or less; but in their expanded state two feet would be conservative as an estimate."

During that noonday meal the guards on the north gate saw one of the Militarists planes moving toward the city.

It was not uncommon for an enemy plane to pass across their range of vision. This plane, however, was evidently headed for the city of Hendron. A swift car from the north gate brought news of the danger.

Arms were taken from racks, and at vantage points near the gates, men and women—some still carrying hastily snatched bits of food—took their posts.

The plane, meanwhile, had reached the dome of the city. It did not fly over, however, it did not drop bombs, or a message. Instead, it circled twice to lose altitude, and from a hatch in its fuselage a white flag was run up on a miniature mast.

Then it landed. By the time it touched the ground more than two hundred persons were on hand to receive it. The transparent cover of their city gave them a feeling of security. However, the flag of truce upon the plane did not encourage them to any careless maneuver.

The ship was expertly brought down to the ground, but afterward it behaved badly. It lurched crazily, hit a rock, smashed a wheel, dragged a wing—and its motor was cut. Then, half wrecked, it stopped.

There it stood, like a bird shot down, for five full minutes. No one moved inside it. No one made an effort to descend.

Tony gathered his lieutenants and advisers together. "Rose to get the gate open," Williams said. "I think so," Tony agreed.

A thought moved through the mind of Eliot James. He went to Tony. "It might be Von Beitz. He might be hurt—"

Tony lifted a pair of powerful glasses to his eyes. He saw several areas of holes on the plane's side. Machine-gun bullet holes.

"Open the gate a crack—and lock it behind me," he commanded. He stalked to the portal. It yawned for an instant. He went out. Jack Taylor, winking at the men who manipulated the gate, followed close behind Tony.

Tony turned after the gate closed, and saw Jack Taylor. The people inside the city who watched, were deeply moved. Tony's decision to accept the danger—Jack's pursuit of his leader into peril—these were the things of which the saga of Hendron's hundreds were made.

(Continued next week)

Tuesday only at the Avalon. "The Marines Are Coming."

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday School 10:00 a. m. Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 a. m. Everybody is welcome at Christ Church. Come and worship with us.

C. G. MARMION, Rector.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Sunday School at 10:00 a. m. Morning worship at 11:00 a. m. Subject, "Stumbling of Christ." Evening worship at 8:00 p. m. Text, "All we like sheep have gone astray and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

E. W. THOMPSON, Minister

Mr. Louis Balas spent a couple of days visiting in Yoakum this week.

Before the School Bells Ring

(By Mrs. Wm. Andel)

"Few people realize how many children enter school each September under the handicap of physical ailments, which might easily have been corrected or attended during the vacation months. Many of them are retarded in their school work while many are actually suffering unseen afflictions. Many children's defects cannot be pointed out by an unskilled person but require the aid of a physician, which is the cheapest form of insurance.

"A child may not outwardly show signs of poor vision but when he enters school his marks are low. The teacher is consulted and the answer is that your son or daughter is careless. The child is unhappy and discouraged; the parents are disappointed, and often the teacher is blamed. The fact is the child is unable to see his work and is merely guessing, and when he fails in his guess, he is considered careless.

"A child may be called disobedient or inattentive if he does not understand instruction. Could his hearing be the cause?

"Adenoids cause mouth breathing, which permits the entrance of germs, causes sinus trouble and gives the face a stupid expression.

"Headaches, loss of pep and heart diseases are often traced to enlarged tonsils or infected teeth. The first teeth require as much care as permanent ones. The life of the second teeth depend upon the care given the first.

"Underweight may be caused by various disorders which lead to nervousness, a common handicap to the school child. It is truly the ounce of prevention that makes the worth living in many cases," stated Mrs. L. C. Koehne and Mrs. G. A. Brandt as they discussed child welfare at the regular meeting of the Bonus-Nedra Home Demonstration Club, which met with Mrs. Earl Carter.

A demonstration on pruning and care of shrubs will be given by Miss Louise Bryant June 11 at the home of Mrs. L. C. Koehne.

PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR WILL MAKE HOME HERE

Rev. W. M. Logan, the pastor of the Presbyterian church, announces that there will be no service at that church next Sunday, Rev. Mr. Logan will go to Kerrville where he is counsellor for the Young Peoples Alliance. Mr. Logan is a most pleasant young man, and has recently come to Eagle Lake to make his home here, having a room at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beckmann. He preaches two Sundays a month here and two at Sugar Land. He will hold services huge on the 4th, and 5th Sundays in this month.

CLEMENTS PURCHASE HOME IN HOUSTON

Mr. and Mrs. Spence Clements have recently bought a lovely eight room, brick home in Houston, located at 2811 Blodgett in Riverside Terrace.

Mr. Clements has been in the rice business in Bay City for a number of years, having been part owner of the Bay City Rice Mill which was sold last fall. He is now building a rice warehouse at Sandy Point which he will operate this fall.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Clements and little Marion will regret to learn that they are moving to Houston the first part of June after living in Bay City twelve years, but wish them every success in their new home.—Bay City Tribune.

OLD TIME CITIZEN OF COUNTY VISITS HERE

Judge W. F. Neal of Wharton spent Sunday here, a guest at the home of his sister, Mrs. Nina York. Old friends were glad indeed to see this fine old gentleman again. Though 86 years of age, his mind is active and his mind as upright as a new silver dollar. He is a wonderful memory and his reminiscences of the olden days in this section of the state are very interesting.

A. W. Braun has had a force of about a dozen Eagle Lake boys, of the younger set, on duty at his place at Bonus for the past two weeks. The boys, with hand axes, are chopping off the dark crust of corrode on the bottom and walls of the beautiful Braun swimming pool. Mr. Braun will cover the bottom and side walls of the pool with a coating of white cement—that, he says, he will if these kids ever complete their job.

CLOUDBURST WRECKS HAVOC IN WEST TEXAS

Towns, farms and ranches in a wide area west of San Antonio, extending from Hondo to Cline, Saturday, were counting up their losses in a terrific cloudburst which sent rivers and creeks raging out of their banks, taking a toll of at least four lives, hundreds homeless, heavy property destruction and inestimable damage to crops and livestock.

Rainfall in the west Texas section ranging from two to five hours was measured at 9 inches in Hondo, 10 inches at D'Hannis and 8 inches at Sabinal.

The principal storm area extended from Hondo 42 miles west of San Antonio, to Cline, 60 or 70 miles farther west. The full fury of the cloudburst fell at Hondo, D'Hannis and Sabinal, with D'Hannis bearing the brunt of the flood.

Mr. John R. Nye, father of local Southern Pacific Agent N. C. Nye, who visited the family of his son here only the week previous, lost heavily in the high waters. Mr. Nye's entire place was under water, with water five to six feet deep in his home. The Headlight regrets to learn of this good man's misfortune, in which he lost all of his farm stock and household furniture.

LOOK AT THESE PRICES!

Every one reconditioned and ready to go, at prices you can well afford to pay.

1930 FORD AA TRUCK, rice bed, dual wheels, 4 forward speeds, motor and tires very good
$165.00

1933 CHEVROLET PICKUP, Original blue finish good, practically new tires, motor perfect, commercial license.
$365.00

1931 CHEVROLET COUPE, New paint, tires and upholstery very good. This is a give away price.
$235.00

1929 FORD A ROADSTER with rumble seat, practically new seat covers, a dandy
$195.00

1932 FORD B SPORT COUPE, with rumble seat, tires and upholstery very good. We are pricing this to sell
$125.00

1931 INTERNATIONAL TRUCK, dual wheels, new platform bed, new paint, closed cab. A dandy truck, 131 inch WB.
$245.00

1929 FORD COUPE, with commercial body, farm license, new paint, 5:50x17 tires, new top seat covers
$135.00

1932 CHEVROLET MASTER DE LUXE TUDOR. New paint, very good tires, new seat covers, a dandy
$295.00

1929 FORD COUPE. We have two of these. Both are good buys; lots of transportation left
$125.00 Each

1932 FORD B TUDOR SEDAN. We have gone to quite an expense to put this car in condition. See it!
$295.00

Universal Motor Co.

B. H. McElhinney, Manager
Phone 6 Eagle Lake, Texas

RAILROAD WEEK WILL BE OBSERVED JUNE 10-15

Eagle Lake has been added to the growing list of Texas communities which will celebrate the week of June 10 to 15 as Railroad Week.

During this period as "Railroad Week," tribute will be paid to the Western railroads for their progressive action in air-conditioning their principal trains and other outstanding achievements.

Eagle Lake has long been served by the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific, which latter system includes the lines formerly known as the San Antonio & Aransas Pass. These railroads have long played a vital part in the lives of our people. They have paid, and continue to pay, large amounts in taxes and have furnished employment for hundreds of our people. In keeping with other Western railroads in reducing basic fares and sleeping car charges and in air-conditioning their principal passenger trains, which means lower cost and improved travel service to the general public.

Agent H. W. Graves of the Santa Fe and Agent N. C. Ney of the Southern Pacific are arranging for a local program, to be given here some time during the period of railroad observation week.

SHERIDAN IS DEFEATED BY NADA INDEPENDENTS

Louis Labay, Nada right-hander, pitched and batted his way to an 8-6 victory over Sheridan at Prikaylo Sunday. The pitcher scattered five Sheridan hits and connected with one of Reese's slants for a triple with two men on base, to bring in the winning runs.

Reese, after yielding but seven hits in four innings, went out for a pinch hitter in the fourth frame and the Independents made their final runs off Buchnek.

The game was brilliantly played with the infield of both clubs giving their pitcher perfect support.

Depression, gloom, pessimism, despair, discouragement — these slay ten human beings to every one murdered by typhoid, influenza, diabetes or pneumonia. If tuberculosis is the great white plague, fear is the great black plague. Be cheerful.—Dr. Frank Crane.

Three out of every 10 babies born in Kentucky during 1934 were born to parents on relief rolls.

Mrs. S. A. Jones, a teacher in one of the Houston city schools, is here with her husband, during the vacation period.

ROLLINS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS IN DALLAS

Mr. A. P. Rollins of Dallas, who is a former citizen of Eagle Lake, has recently received a considerable promotion in his work in Dallas County.

In an article under the heading "Mr. Rollins Steps Up," the Dallas Times-Herald says:

"A. P. Rollins has made a good man in the employ of Dallas County. That seems to have been the prevailing reason why City Manager Mosely asks him to succeed O. H. Koch as Director of Public Works. He has shown himself a competent engineer and his experience has been such to enable him to co-ordinate the plans of the city with those of the State and County. For that reason it is difficult to see how a better man could have been obtained for the place, when everything is taken into consideration. Mr. Koch leaves some ambitious and meritorious plans behind him which are expected to receive the analysis and appraisement of Mr. Rollins as one of his first major items of business after settling the routing of his office. Dallas will not be uneasy about the department of public works in its new hands."

Many of the citizens here will remember Mr. Rollins most favorably. His wife, too, is a former Eagle Lake girl, and was Miss Mary Williamson. It may also be of interest to the friends here of this fine couple to learn that their son, Andy, Jr., last week graduated with high honors at the Park Public School, Dallas, out of a class of 148. Andy is 16 years of age, and the Headlight extends him congratulations.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Wahrmund of Austin spent the week-end in Eagle Lake with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Wahrmund.

It takes two people to make a conversation, one to tell it and the other to interrupt.

Strickland Insurance Agency
FIRE, TORNADO, AUTOMOBILE, AND CASUALTY INSURANCE.
W. S. Strickland, Mgr. Eagle Lake, Texas

THEATRE BASKET PICNIC POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

The basket picnic for members of the Little Theatre organization, their families and their invited guests, was rained out.

The picnic was to have been held at the Duncan Ranch Monday night, but rain during the afternoon prevented. The date for the picnic, which is an annual custom, and always greatly enjoyed, has been postponed indefinitely. Announcement will be made through the columns of the Headlight when another date is set.

Times ought to be flourishing by now or didn't those chain letters pan out?

Misses Ethel and Ella Seaholm of Austin and Miss Nancy Seaholm of Santa Barbra, California, were week-end guests of Mrs. A. Seaholm and Miss Alle.

Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Foster and three children of Beaumont visited her mother and sister, Mrs. A. Seaholm and Miss Alle, Saturday and Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Foster returned Sunday night to their home in Beaumont, but Maurelle, M. G. and Herbert remained for a longer visit.

Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Davis and son of Yoakum visited Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Buffington Sunday.

Elton Kyeton and Cameron Westmoreland, with one of the Gulf Company oil crews stationed near Houston, spent the week-end visiting home folks in the city.

$25.00 REWARD

Will be paid by the manufacturer for any Corn GREAT CHRISTOPHER Corn Cure cannot remove. Also removes Warts and Callouses. 35c at Beckman Drug Store.

Special Value Days!
Fri.-Sat.-Mon., June 7th-8th-10th

MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE, lb. can	28c
Octagon Soap or Powder, 5 reg. size	11c
Tex-Delta Stringless Cut Beans, 2 No. 2 cans	15c
Table Quality Peaches, halves, No. 2½ cans	14c

O-P STORES
WE SELL FOR LESS

Imperial Cane Sugar, 10 lbs 49c

OLD MAMMY KRAUT, 2 No. 2 cans	15c
SALTY CRACKERS, 2 lb. box	17c
Q. P. Salad Dressing, pint jar	17c
Irradiated Pet Milk, 3 tall or 6 small	19c

Crustene, 4-lb Carton . 54c

VISKING BOLOGNA, lb.	15c
ALL-MEAT WIENERS, 2 lbs.	35c
CRISCO, 3 lb. can	58c

Pork & Beans, In Tomato Sauce 6 Cans 25c

O. K. SOAP, 4 giant bars	17c
GRAPENUTS, package	16c
CALIFORNIA ORANGES, doz.	19c

Fresh Meat, 20 lb sack . 49c

Van Camp's Tuna Fish, 2 large cans	25c
BARBECUE CATSUP, large bottle	10c
SUNKIST LEMONS, doz.	10c

SOMETHING NEW! SOMETHING GOOD!
A Whole Wheat vitamin-rich cereal with lots of Yeast—and you can't taste the Yeast!
TRY Yeasties TODAY LARGE 10 OZ. PACKAGE 14c

Strato-Flyers, This Month of June, Will Go Higher Than 'Sky-High.'

Flying actually higher than "sky-high," literally penetrating through and beyond most of the blue sky that we see from earth, will be the experience of the crew on the National Geographic-Army Air Corps stratosphere flight scheduled for early June. The balloon will ascend from the "stratobowl" in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

If the balloon reaches its expected altitude of 14 miles or more, most of the blue sky will be left behind. Above, the balloonists will see a sky that is almost black.

Black is Sky's Natural Color

The sky appears blue from the earth because sunlight, pouring down through the air, is scattered by the many air atoms in its path. This scattering is strongest within a few miles of the earth, where the air is thickest, compressed by its own weight.

Therefore a balloon rising through this thick air blanket, actually can go through and beyond the "blue sky" region. As it rises higher the air becomes thinner, there are fewer atoms to scatter the sun's rays, and so the sky looks less and less blue. It becomes more and more black, its natural color.

This does not mean that there is no daylight in the stratosphere. The sun simply shines in a black sky instead of a blue one, and the sunlight is actually far brighter than it appears on earth, for it does not have to penetrate so much air, water vapor, and haze.

If the National Geographic-Army balloon should rise as high as 15 miles, twenty-four twenty-fifths or 96 per cent of the atmosphere will lie below it. The remaining one twenty-fifth, thinly scattered through space, is believed to extend outward for perhaps several hundred miles around the earth. So thin is this last frontier of air, however, that if the stratosphere balloon reaches a height of 14 or 15 miles, it will be almost at the threshold of "empty space."

At this height the pull of gravity upon balloon, instruments and men will be somewhat less than at the earth's surface. In other words, they will weigh less than when they started, for your weight is simply the amount of pull that the earth's gravity exerts upon you. Of course the flyers will get back their lost weight when they return to earth.

Exploring Stratosphere Will Pay Big Dividends in Human Welfare and Progress, Says Scientist.

(Note: The following article, answering in popular style the question, "Why explore the stratosphere?" has been prepared by Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the stratosphere flight in June sponsored by the National Geographic Society and Army Air Corps).

By Dr. Lyman J. Briggs

A new frontier of the upper air, destined to play an increasingly important part in the world of tomorrow, is being opened up by the daring balloonists of to-day who are exploring the stratosphere.

This frontier of the air already is known to affect our lives in more ways than one, and it will become much more important to us in the future. Perhaps that is why we are now in a position to ask, "Why explore the stratosphere," which doubtless many people are asking as they read of preparations for the stratosphere flight in early June sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the U. S. Army Air Corps.

The stratosphere is only one part of the new frontier that lies above our heads, but one of the least explored. It can be thought of as a shell of very thin, cold air completely surrounding the earth. Over the United States it begins about seven miles above earth, but over the Equator it begins at about nine miles up. The sun shines more brightly in the stratosphere than it ever does on earth, and there are practically no clouds or storms there.

The blanket of air that surrounds our earth is like a roof that shelters a man in a storm. It enables him to live in comfort, but makes it difficult to know what is happening outside. The stratosphere balloon Explorer II will seek to rise 14 miles or more, not so much to set an altitude record as to penetrate as far as possible through the earth's "roof" of air, and get a good idea of what lies beyond. If the balloon reaches a height of 14 miles, more than 95 per cent of the earth's air will be below it. More than a score of instruments will be carried aloft on the scientific studies.

The light of the sun, which makes our own life possible on earth, can be studied much more accurately from the stratosphere, because much of its ultra-violet light cannot penetrate to the earth through the roof of air. Scientists also are anxious to learn more about the ozone gas that exists somewhere in the upper air, and which is believed to protect us from invisible rays of the sun that might be extremely harmful could they reach us.

The mysterious cosmic rays, which are constantly shooting through our bodies like invisible arrows from somewhere out in space, also can be better studied in the stratosphere. They are the most powerful rays known, and if their nature and origin can be fully explained, the past history of the universe and perhaps its future may be better understood.

Whether the cosmic rays can cause changes in the cells of living things, perhaps affecting their offspring, is a possibility that interests scientists. Small fruit flies, in which hereditary changes can be traced easily, therefore will be taken aloft, to see if the increased bombardment of rays in the stratosphere will cause changes that will appear in later generations.

The weather, important to all of us, provides another reason for exploring the upper air. Winds and air currents all the way from the earth up to great heights will be studied on the balloon flight. Better knowledge of their behavior is important for weather forecasting. Aviation, too, wants to know more about winds of the upper air. Airplanes are flying higher and faster, seeking to take advantage of the prevailing winds at high levels and to get above dangerous clouds and storms.

Winds of the upper air also are carriers of tiny spores of various fungi, some of which cause serious diseases of crops and plants while others are beneficial or harmless to man. As an aid in fighting the diseases that these spores spread, scientists want to know whether or not spores can rise to the great heights where there are prevailing winds, and if so whether or not they live at such heights. Spores will be hunted in the stratosphere during the flight, and others will be taken aloft from the ground to see if they can live in the cold and rarified air.

Radio, almost a necessity in our modern world, has secrets hidden in the upper air. During the flight, behavior of ultra-short radio waves will be tested, to learn whether or not they can travel beyond the line of sight. These very short waves are coming into increasing use, especially in the field of television. High above the stratosphere are regions of ionized or electrically-conducting air which are essential to long-distance radio transmission. The Explorer II will measure changes in the conductivity of the air at different heights.

All of us sometimes have wondered what the earth looks like from a great height in the air—and whether or not we could actually see the curving edge of the great ball. During the stratosphere flight, the crew will photograph the earth directly below from various heights, and also will try to get pictures that will show the earth's curvature on the horizon, photographic proof that the world is round.

Samples of air will be brought back from the stratosphere to see if the upper air is composed of the same gases as at the surface of the earth.

These are not all of the scientific projects that will be carried out on the flight, but they perhaps serve to show why science considers that exploring the stratosphere is well worth-while, and will pay large dividends in the advance of human knowledge and welfare.

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Garwood Gatherings.

Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Crim of Eagle Lake and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Chapman were visitors in Victoria Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Drapela and two children, Dorris Ann and Charles, of Houston, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Drapela, Tuesday.

Mrs. S. Drapela of Houston is here for a few days' visit to home folks.

Mrs. S. J. Williams, Mrs. George Olsovsky, Mrs. Lionel Bouska and Mrs. W. K. Prnka and Billie Hope spent Friday in Wiemar and Columbus.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Treybig and Miss Anna Bell Treybig and Walter Wied left Sunday for a few days visit with relatives and friends at Rosenburg and Bishop.

Mrs. Ed. R. Prnka and Miss Charlene returned from a visit with relatives in Houston during the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Stallman and sons, Lawrence and Roy, were visitors in Columbus Tuesday.

Misses Elvera Wendel and Dorothy Cornelius and E. A. Truxton spent Sunday in Rosenberg guests of friends.

Mrs. H. F. Priesmeyer and sons, Frederick and William, are spending the week in Yoakum with her brother, Frank Beck and other relatives.

W. D. Williams, who underwent an operation at the Sloth and White Hospital in Temple several weeks ago was able to return home Saturday. Friends will be glad to know that he is improving and is able to be up for short periods.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Drapela, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Drapela and Madeleine went to Houston Sunday, where on Monday morning at eight o'clock they witnessed the marriage of their daughter and sister, Miss Frances Drapela and Thomas Siniski in Annunciation Church with the Rev. Antoh Frank performing the marriage ceremony. The bride wore a lovely white suit with accessories to match. The bridesmaid wore pink with white accessories. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Drapela were witnesses. After the ceremony, the bridal couple and immediate family were to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Drapela where a lovely breakfast was served. After breakfast, the young couple left for a several days' visit in San Antonio, returning by way of Garwood for a short visit to her parents, after which they will be at home in Rosenberg where the groom is a barber. The bride is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Drapela and possesses a most pleasant disposition and is very popular. She graduated from the local high school and for several years has held a position with the Schulhofer Store in Houston. Many friends here offer congratulations to this fine young couple and wish them a long and happy married life.

The Pioneer League met Monday morning at the home of Mrs George Stallman. Refreshments of cookies and punch were served. All of the boys reported spending an enjoyable and profitable morning.

Mrs. Earl Rodgers of Eldridge was hostess this week to the Tuesday afternoon bridge club. Her home was beautifully decorated with seasonal cut flowers. A model delicious lunch of ham salad served on lettuce leaf, snacks, olives and angel food cake with Russian sauce and iced tea was served. Mrs. W. R. Prnke held high score and was awarded a pretty black cookie jar. Mrs. W. K. Lehrer was copper of second high and received a pretty piece of lingerie.

Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Marshall returned Saturday from a visit to Austin and San Antonio.

Rock Island Items

Mr. and Mrs. C. Shelburne and Miss Juanita Iley of Houston and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tinkler and family of Columbus were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Tinkler here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff McDowell, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Williams and A. G. Dorner left the first of the week for Nevahada, Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. McDowell will remain and make their home there, while the others will remain for only a short visit.

Richard Kaze returned from Austin last week where he has been a student at Texas University the past term.

W. T. Humphreys left Tuesday for Huntsville where he will enter school for the summer. He was accompanied by Mrs. Humphreys and the children, who returned after a short visit.

In the item last week containing the names of students who had a perfect attendance record at school, one of her little friends at a delightful birthday party, at the home of her father, P. J. Forbes, Wednesday afternoon, from 3 to 5 o'clock, in celebration of her eleventh birthday. Various games were played, following which refreshments of cake and lemon punch were served by Misses Edith Forbes and Freda Boon, the latter of Houston. Those playing the party were Paul Bates, Dick Obenhaus, Calvin Pennington, Delno Forbes and Thelma Branch, Ruby Lynn, Leola Kretschmar, Doris Gene Barnett, Mildred Larson and the hostess, Clara Mae Forbes.

Lester Williams and sister, Miss Inez Williams, of Caldwell, are expected here Saturday for a visit to their mother, Mrs. R. R. Sewell. Lester has been home from a hospital only a few weeks following a recent operation for appendicitis.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Sewell spent last Saturday afternoon and night in Bellville, where they were guests of the family of their daughter, Mrs. Barray. With a party of Bellville friends, they spent Sunday visiting in Galveston.

BUSINESS LOCALS

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Have you tried Pepsi-Cola? If not, you've missed something. A Bracing and Healthful drink. Ten-cent size, 12-oz. bottle for 5c. Two drinks for the price of one! Ask for it at all Cold Drink Dealers (7-June-tf)

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MEN WANTED—For Rawleigh Routes in Eagle Lake. Write today. —Rawleigh Co., Dept. TXF-218-SB., Memphis, Tenn. 2tp.

MODERN DANCE—Austin Hall Friday night, June 7. Music by Blume's orchestra. Admission, couples 55c, stags 75c. (31-may-1t)

NOTICE

We will not be responsible for any indebtedness incurred by anyone on our account un