

Telescopic Revelations of 1969

I looked up from my work. The reflected beams lighted up the landscape with the most beautiful colors I can imagine. Almost immediately I thought of the sun sinking from view behind Walden's Ridge and the Tennessee Gorge. This was in my college days on the planet Earth. I glanced at the calendar on my desk, June 3, 1969. How peculiar fifty years ago this very evening I had received my college diploma. Then I thought of the other girls and boys who had graduated at the same time, I thought of the war, the horrible war which has so upset our college days. Aeroplanes and submarines had been a very wonderful invention in those days. Then we had thought that aeroplanes could never be constructed to ascent to great heights because of the rarity of the atmosphere. Peculiarly, I have now been living on Mars five years and I made the journey from the earth in an aeroplane in as short a time as it took one to go to visiting relatives in the country when I was a small child. Earth and Mars are not the only two planets which communicate with each other, but also Mercury, Neptune, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter and Uranus.

Fifty years ago the World Citizenship movement and League of Nations had united all Earth under common bonds of religion and politics. Now the World Citizenship Movement and the League of Planets united the universe under similar bonds. My native land the Earth had been the promoter of this union. The men on earth had made an aeroplane with devices of storing enough air for breathing purposes of the occupants, and other devices to reduce the pressure within the body to equal that in the space immediately surrounding the earth so that people find it as comfortable to travel in interstellar space as to live on the earth. In fact, Venus is now the most popular summer resort because it is just as beautiful as it appeared to us fifty years ago through a then powerful telescope.

After musing over these marvels as considered from my view point fifty years ago, I remember a dinner engagement which I have with a friend who is professor of astronomy at Mars Planet University the largest one in Mars and one of the largest in the universe.

At dinner my friend who also came from the earth begins to discuss life fifty years ago. I tell him that this is the anniversary of my graduation and that I wonder what my classmates are doing tonight. He tells me that he has just completed a wonderful telescope and that with its aid we could locate my friends. We understand that we will not be able to see them as they are tonight, but in their occupations of the last two years because we had learned in Physics years ago that light only travels 186,000 miles per second. Our aeroplanes now travel faster than that. Of course I was thrilled with the idea and as soon as we had finished dinner we hastened to the astronomical laboratory.



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We first focus the telescope on the Earth. The rays of light which reach us are of a brilliantly lighted, beautifully decorated ball room. A large orchestra of at least 100 pieces played by khaki-clad men is seated on a platform. The dancers are many and brilliantly dressed, ladies in evening dress and men in uniforms. The whole appearance is that of a gala affair. Suddenly the dancers stop, the men come to a salute, the girls are quite attentive. Some one is entering, it is Helen and Jininy. Do I dare call him Jininy; he is wearing the stars of a general, s'il vous plait.

I have never visited Neptune so I am very anxious to behold its wonders. I find it very much like the other planets and I remember a time when we had thought all the planets to be so different. The thing that was most striking to me was the prosperous successful look of all those whom I beheld. My friend told me that the chemistry professor in his university had told him of a wonderful new chemical which had been discovered on the planet by Sylvester Harris. This chemical whose technical name I can not remember, possessed marvelous medicinal properties which were a sure cure of colds, pneumonia and influenza. Sylvester had become immensely wealthy and he was using his riches to grow vegetation on and to beautify the soil left desolate after the chemical had been mined.

We change the focus to the Earth again and the rays which reach us are quite evidently from little old New York, which isn't little at all, but very old. There seems to be a struggle between two men; it is dark; one gets loose and runs, the other follows him and finally overtakes him, they come to blows, the former gets the better of the latter, clamps handcuffs on him and leads him away to police court. He shows his badge which is that of the head of the detective band; this is Fletcher who used to argue so in the Ethics class. From his bearing, also the attitude of the judge toward him, I realize that he has been very successful and that this is not the first thief whom he has landed in Sing Sing.

Beautiful Venus always charmed me so that I am very happy when my friend changes our view from Earth to Venus. We see a summer resort which is more beautiful than Palm Beach was in the old days when I lived on Earth. The guests are having dinner. Among the guests, I recognize Hermione; she has changed a bit; but what can you expect in fifty years? But her gray hair is quite becoming, especially since her gown is of the color which tones in with gray hair. Across the table is a very distinguished looking gentleman whom I recognized from his uniform to be the president of Venus. Between courses the guests become very quiet and attentive. I glance at the other end of the dining room. Florence is singing; of course I cannot hear her, but I count ten encores. Nice sweet Florence acknowledges them with another selection, not with a smile and bow.

Uranus is far away, but not beyond the focus of our telescope. On Uranus, we behold a hill covered with grass and trees on which is a beautiful rambling building. About two hundred girls in bloomers and middies are having a good time. I do not recognize the game, so I decide that it is a



new game. The healthiest looking, most skilful specimen is Hattie who is directing their sport. I know Hattie is happy because she always spent her spare time at college in the gym.

On another part of the campus the more sedate teachers are taking their daily exercise promenading on the walks through the garden. One of these teachers I see immediately is Laura. She seems quite active to have been teaching fifty years. She has been very successful because I happen to know that this is a model government school which has proved to be the most nearly perfect school which modern pedagogy has been able to organize.

Next we scan Jupiter. In 1919 Jupiter had been supposed to be in the slowly cooling stage, now it is populated. Only a few people live there, but those who do are perfectly happy and contented. It abounds in fruits, vegetables, fowls, and fishes of the best quality. They have devices which when a button is pressed will gather the fruit from the trees, prepare it for eating and place it on the table. A similar device catches the fish or fowl, prepare them for eating and also places them on the table. My friend tells me that a few weeks past he had an occasion to visit Jupiter and that he had been told by the inhabitants that C. O. Brown was the inventor of these wonderful time and labor saving devices. C. O. certainly deserves the wonderful rest because he rushed around college at the rate of sixty miles an hour.

The inhabitants of this very unusual planet, being released from all domestic cares, are able to spend their time in intellectual pursuits. All the book stores and news stands are filled with set after set of books exactly alike. They are selling as fast as extras did when I was a girl and United States was about to declare war on Germany. The title of these books is Functional Psychology of Children and Adults, in ten volumes, by Viola Burdick Randolph. Viola has accomplished a Mary Roberts Rhinehart feat, that of having a happy home and family and at the same time winning intellectual fame.

We next view mercury, the fickle little planet. We see the White House and its beautiful grounds, close by the Congressional buildings and the Capitol. Since all planets have assumed the democratic form of government of the people, for the people and by the people, they also assumed the same distinctive architecture for their leading buildings. At the main desk in the President's office is seated Blanche, the President of Mercury, you see; well, she made a wonderful bookstore manager. She has five private secretaries, so she must be a very busy lady.

A servant enters and announces guests. At Blanche's command he shows in Mr. and Mrs. Earl Carter. They tell Blanche that after Earl returned from France he went to South America in the interest of a United States exporting concern. The war had opened up so much commerce between the two continents that he had been most successful. As a rest from



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their labors they were touring the universe in their private aeroplane. They had heard that she was president of the planet and had come for a short visit.

We are becoming weary, but I must see again the college. It is now a real University covering ten instead of two of Chattanooga blocks. There are one hundred faculty members at the meeting which is in progress. One of these is Mrs. Longley. And I instinctively feel that the growth of the college is due in part to her efforts as well as those of Drs. Race, Hixson, Hooper, Billings and Conant.

It is very late and both my friend and I feel weary from all the thrills which we have received. I bid my host goodnight and thanking him for the happiest evening I ever spent, I return home. On my way home I think of Lois. I remember quite distinctly her wedding two weeks after our graduation. She had been the first girl to be married in the new college chapel. Her wedding had been a brilliant affair with fifteen bridesmaids and groomsmen also maids and matrons of honor. I felt quite sure that she was living as happy as is possible in a small town in South Carolina.

It has been a strenuous day, but I retire very happy indeed. In the morning I am awakened by the paper boy ringing my door bell. I get it immediately. The thing that attracts my attention is the huge headlines announcing to the world that at last the most wonderful invention of all generations had been completed by Ralph Harris. This invention was a device which enable people to talk to and see at the same time others on every planet in the universe.

This is the roll and roles of the class of '19 of University of Chattanooga. They will have all achieved more or less success. The kaleidoscope of character is a peculiar phenomenon. I once learned that as a twig is bent, the tree is inclined. None of us who knew each other so well in work or play, pleasure and distress, had ever deemed the other worthy of fame. But we had judged from appearances which are incomplete and misleading at best.

I was very happy and began my days work on the World Citizenship organization of Mars with a zeal for fear I should not measure up to the success of the least famous of my classmates.

M. S. C.

