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Fred-Talks

Volume 2, Issue 1
January 2015

Introduction

Hello again! Welcome to my newsletter.

I hope you enjoy my newsletter, or at least find it amusing. Or, perhaps, even irritating? I think that I am funny, but no one laughs with me.

This is my thirteenth monthly Fred-Talk. It is Issue 1 Volume 2.

Last week was "Whale Watching Week" at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. The gray whales migrate twice each year from their feeding grounds in the north to their calving grounds in the south, and vice-versa. They swim by Newport during these migrations.

I gave talks on general whale biology at

the Center last Saturday and Sunday.

I am working on data from over 40 years of Pelican leg bands. I will tell you more about this next Fred-Talk.

If you do not wish to receive more issues, please let me know via email. You can just write STOP for the subject.

I occasionally bring up issues that I think should be discussed. Some are not pleasant to think about. If you have other views, I would be happy to consider including your comments in the next Fred-Talk, with or without your by-line, as you wish. Send me an email.

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Cynic's Corner

Electric Heat from Light Bulbs?

Electricity is expensive. Machines burning coal, oil, or natural gas generate most electricity used in the United States. Nuclear or hydroelectric plants generate most of the rest. A small amount of energy is generated by sunlight or wind. The use of electricity benefits mankind and may even be a requirement for our highly populated civilization.

Many electricity consumers decry the environmental effects generating plants have from exhausting waste gases of combustion into Earth's atmosphere. Other consumers are concerned about dangerous radioactive materials produced in nuclear plants. Still others complain about damage to the environment caused by the dams necessary to generate hydroelectric power, and by solar shading damage to plants, or damage done to birds by the windmills.

There are many rules and laws made by politicians and government bureaucrats to regulate production and distribution of electricity. Many, if not most of them, are

ignorant of the subjects they regulate. For example, they do not seem to realize that much of the unwanted air pollutants come from regions where people use little electricity, but burn immense areas of grasslands and woodlands for farming, cooking and warmth.

An electric furnace heats my home. I also use electric light to see after the sun has set. There are rules and suggestions made by bureaucrats on the size and type of electric light bulbs. Few of these bureaucrats realize that an electric light bulb generates heat either directly or indirectly when the light is absorbed. In other words, the use of electric lighting, and for that matter, refrigeration, kitchen range, and my coffee maker reduces the amount of electricity used by my electric furnace.

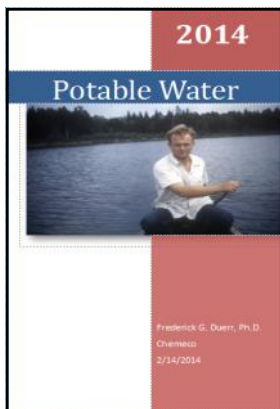
Why don't some politicians and bureaucrats understand any of this? Why do we re-elect these dumb-bells and keep them in office?

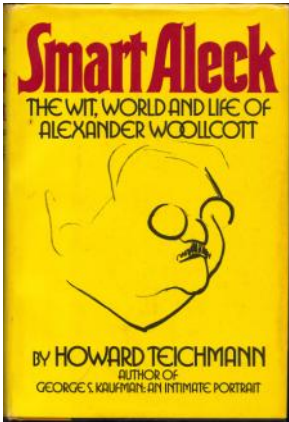
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 Books I have read: "Smart Aleck" by *Howard Teichmann*


This book is sub-titled "The Wit, World, and Life of Alexander Woolcott." Woolcott helped set the standards of literacy and theatrical art in New York and other populations wishing to emulate the sophistication of New York. During the 1920's to 1930's, as critic and newspaper columnist, he was the center of a group of young Broadway aficionados.

If he was not so witty and accomplished as a writer and critic, he could easily be considered by many to be a Smart-Ass rather than a Smart-Aleck. He did not suffer ignorance and stupidity without comment. At the same time he was often kind hearted.

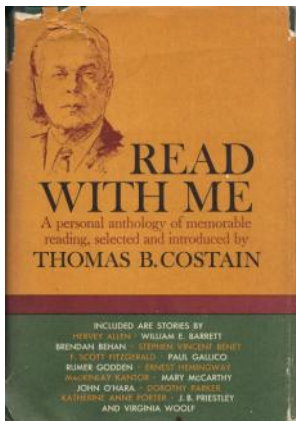
The book can get a bit tedious with all of its discussions of Woolcott's daily and personal activities. It is, however, an excellent historical biography of a man whose accomplishments are still studied by many today.

He influenced many people including Noel Coward, G. Bernard Shaw, Winston Churchill, Helen Hayes, Edward R. Murrow, Dorothy Parker, Zelda & Scott Fitzgerald, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

If you enjoy reading about early New York and its art and artists, the book is a good read.

All the things I really like to do are either illegal, immoral, or fattening.

Alexander Woolcott

 "Read With Me" an anthology by *Thomas B. Costain*


I have always liked to read. I think I got the habit observing my father read for about a half hour every night before he went to bed. I remember the first book he suggested I read was "She" by H. Rider Haggard.

My father was born in Bavaria. English was his second language. He spoke it better than I do. I suspect that his command of English was due in part to his love of reading.

He never taught me to speak German. Speaking German was probably not too wise during World War II. He said that if I wished to learn German, I should learn it in school.

A reading ability in two foreign languages was a requirement for doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota. Thus I chose to acquire a reading knowledge of Scientific German and Russian.

I liked to read in short bursts between doing chores and writing. Short stories fit well into my daily schedule. The anthology of short stories in "Read with Me" is a delight. I became acquainted with authors I knew little about, and read short stories by authors who's larger works are familiar to me.

I am sorry to have finished this book, and am looking for more like it.

Don't argue with idiots. They will beat you down to their level, and then beat you with experience.

Potable Water (One Method on How To Make It)

Historically man has used sand filtered water for drinking purposes. An old legend states, "Water is pure after it has traveled one mile down a stream bed." This is not true. Since the advent of fabricated laundry bleaches, such as sodium hypochlorite (Purex, etc.) and available chlorine gas, most municipalities now chlorinate their drinking water. They use an amount of chlorine bleach equivalent to one fluid ounce of household bleach to two gallons of water. This, indeed, kills most of the bacteria that may be in the water. Governmental health officials routinely consider water with less than one *Escherichia coli* bacterium per 100 milliliters of water safe to drink.

However, not all bacteria are killed by chlorine bleach, and some disease causing protozoa (*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*) are not killed by the chlorination process. Recently, over 400,000 people in Milwaukee, Wisconsin became ill from *Cryptosporidium* in their treated drinking water. More recently a watch-tower at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla, Washington, which obtains its water from a separate source than the city system, had an outbreak of

Cryptosporidium. Occasionally one reads of *Giardia* (Beaver Fever) outbreaks in various wilderness streams.

The above-mentioned protozoa are large enough to be removed by properly designed filters, but bacteria are very small and usually pass through filters. Check out the discussion of filter pore size in the last Fred-Talk. Boiling water may kill most of the bacteria and protozoa that can cause illness. The use of tea, coffee, mate', and cocoa are all substances used to make the boiled water more palatable.



In the next Fred-Talk, I will discuss other methods of obtaining potable water.

Wars (based on religious beliefs)

Mankind has probably warred with itself since its very beginning. We know with some certainty that this has been true since mankind began to leave a written record of its history. It has been said that man wars with his fellow man because man wants what the other man has. Or, that man wars with his fellow man because his God says that he can have what the other man has.

At the present time one and a half million people on Earth think that it is acceptable to kill persons who don't think as they do about the correct type of religion. More than that, murder of unbelievers is laudable.

People who think they have the right of free speech and/or religion are at a tipping point in history. They can either passively watch the battle between religious zealots and people with different views on the subject, or exterminate the religious zealots. You cannot make friends with a carnivore determined to eat you. Either you become food for the carnivore or you kill it. There are no good carnivores or bad ones. At the very least the carnivores should be placed in cages or reservations.

PROCRASTINATION IS THE ART OF KEEPING UP WITH YESTERDAY.

Don Marquis

Some Days You are the Dog — Some Days You are the Hydrant

A close friend recently told me a story about an American Geophysical Union meeting she just attended. She was dismayed when she found that her movements were tracked by the conference badge that she wore. No one had asked her for permission to be tracked. I asked her to tell me more about this and below is part of her response.

“The conference, one of the largest of its kind, was holding sessions on ethics in science. During one of the sessions the attendees were split into small groups to discuss specific ethical questions... At the end of the session a representative from each group was to stand up, describe the issue, and propose a correct course of action.

During the report it became apparent that something other than a discussion of the assigned question had occurred in one of the groups. Apparently, one of its members had discovered that the conference badges of each attendee contain an RFID chip and that entrances to all venues had RFID readers. That member hadn't know about the chips in advance and wanted to know what the rest of the group thought about being tracked without consent. None of the rest of the group knew about the chips either and were very surprised when they were shown how to find and remove them. Moreover, several members of the group came from countries like Canada and Germany where tracking a person without their informed consent or at least court approval would quite literally be an illegal act.

After discussion, the group concluded that the conference organizers had erred; that they 1) should have quite publicly stated what information would be collected, how it would be protected and what it would be used for, and 2) made it an optional opt in (not opt out) situation so that a person would have to explicitly allow them to collect any data. When this matter was brought up at the general session, it became obvious that practically no one in the audience had known about the tracking.”

My friend asked me what I thought about this, and how I might suggest conferences and scientific societies should handle this. Personally, I am not sure. What do you readers think?

Another example of invasion of privacy is implementation of a new type of automobile mileage tax in Oregon and other states. Oregon's plan is expected to launch this spring with test of 5000 drivers.. The tax will be based on how much you drive your car and automobiles will require a GPS be installed to track where, when and how many miles you drive. Test motorists will still be charged the Federal Gasoline Tax, but will receive a rebate of the State Tax paid at the pump..

And then there is usage taxes on telephones. etc/etc.

At the next federal election maybe Big Sister will be watching over us.

A Story About “Pink”, a Brown Pelican

My daughter Rebecca (Becky) is an excellent veterinary surgeon, particularly on birds. She is currently writing a textbook on animal surgery for a major publisher.

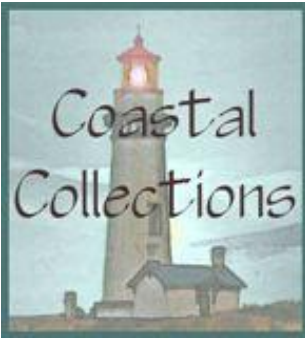
Recently she was featured on a NPR Weekend Edition about her work to repair extensive damage to the pouch of a brown pelican. Check out the story at <http://www.npr.org/2014/06/07/319718427/pink-the-pelican-released-after-pouch-surgery>.

She was also featured on Sea Rescues Weekend Adventure. <http://www.littonweekendadventure.com/sea-rescue/2014/12/29/remarkable-recoveries-this-weekend/>

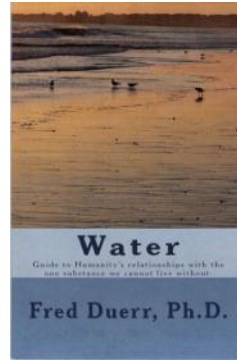
Becky has also written a book “Hand-Rearing Birds” with Laurie Gage. ISBN 9780813806662.



BOOKS-BOOKS-BOOKS



Diana and I have somehow acquired several thousand books on a multitude of subjects. Click on the image at left to take you to our website, where you can search our inventory of books for sale at Biblio.com



I have written a small, 54 page primer on water. It is designed to give basic information to the general public. It is available at Amazon.com as a paperback book (**Water**, by Fred Duerr), **ISBN: 1482773872** and as a Kindle, **ASIN: BOOCM13KSA**

Click on the book image to the left to take you to my page on Amazon.com.

Life On The Edge *America's Atlantic Coast*

A friend, Tom Ramsay, and I studied Zoology at the University of Minnesota at the same time. He has asked me to assist himself and Nancy Goetzinger produce a video on intertidal animals of the pacific coast of America.

This new video would be similar in style and structure to their video "Life On The Edge".

Contact Tom and Nancy at www.theimagecenter.com if you would like more information on "Life On The Edge".

The Image Center



Purchase online

Life on the Edge:
America's Atlantic Coast

A DVD from award-winning producers and photographers
Tom Ramsay and Nancy Goetzinger

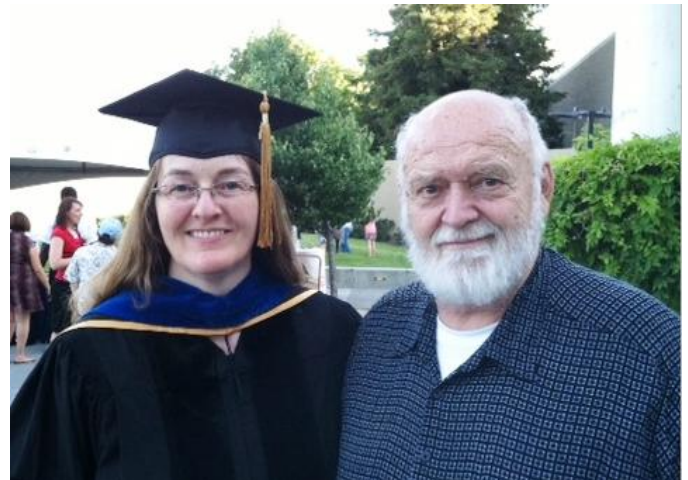
Experience the beauty of coastal habitats and the diversity
of life forms there, all within the context of the
geologic and hydrologic formation of
North America's Atlantic Coast
from Georgia to Newfoundland



"Congratulations on such
a work of art." Hans G.

Free Potable Water Manual

I have written a very brief pamphlet on how to find potable water. You may obtain your free copy by clicking [here](#).



The Doctors Duerr

Most "scientists" are bottle washers and button sorters

Lazarus Long