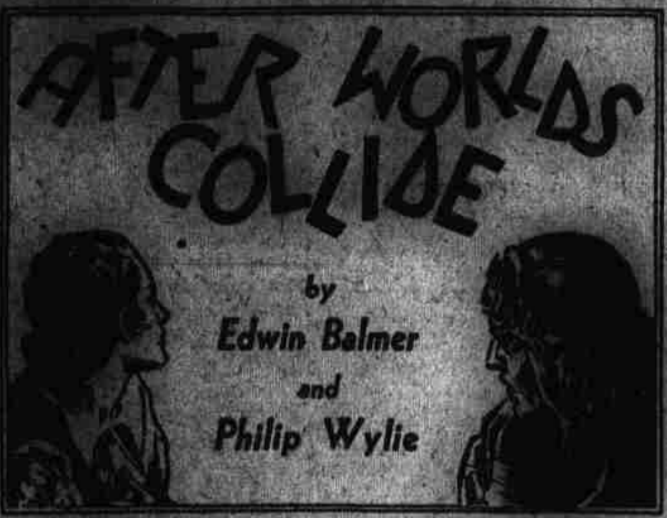


# WORLD HAD CRASHED...

Only a handful of men and women, the flower of earth's civilization, had escaped by fleeing in a great space ship to another planet. Here, in a world without law, confronted by new perils, they faced the necessity of building a new civilization.

Edwin Balmer and Philip Wylie tell a breath-taking story in "After World's Collide." Read this opening installment and you will not want to miss a word of this remarkable tale as it appears serially in these columns.



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Also in Creation, so far as they knew, stood forty-four men, fifty-seven women and two children—the survivors of the end of the Earth. Two planets had exploded, hurling out of space. Once they had circled some distant sun which we on our earth could have seen only as a star. But millions and millions of years ago occurred a colossal catastrophe; these two stranger planets were torn away from their sun.

They drifted out into the darkness. The light and heat from their sun must have diminished until that sun dwindled to the appearance of a star; but long before that time came there could have been no living being left upon either of those planets. The sea and at last the very atmosphere—the air—frozen solid. The planets were in the all but absolute cold of space between the stars. As they approached our sun, and they stumbled upon the path of another planet, our Earth.

One of these planets, hurtling out of space, was sweeping toward the earth (and the moon that accompanied the earth) on an orbit that would bring about a collision. It must destroy the moon and then the earth; destroy it utterly. This devastating planet was the larger of the two. Its companion resembled the world in size. Its path, while carrying it close to the world, would bear it by it would approach but not collide with the earth; and it would make its closest approach behind the earth, and it would destroy us.

These huge comets destroyed us. Men, women, children, driven by heat, prepared their escape from the earth and how they accomplished it is a story by itself. This is the chronicle of the first days on the New World—Bronson Beta, men of the Earth called it, as they named the awful destroyed planet Bronson Alpha. This is the record of the emigrants from Earth who reached the planet that replaced the World.

**CHAPTER I**

ELLIOT JAMES sat at a metal desk inside the Space Ship which had conveyed a few score human beings from the doomed earth to safety on the sun's new planet, Bronson Beta. In front of Elliot James was his already monumental diary, and over it he poised a fountain pen.

He had written several paragraphs:

"April—what shall I call it? Is it the second day of April, or is it the first? The earth is gone—smashed to fragments; and the composition of its destroying angel, upon which our band of one hundred and three Argonauts holds its brief and hazardous residence, is still without names, seasons and months. But April has vanished with the earth; and for all I know, spring, winter, summer and fall may also be absent in the new world.

"I have pledged myself to write in this diary every day, as Hendron assures me there will be no other record of our adventures here until we have become well enough established to permit the compilation of a formal history.

"My companions stand there in the sunshine under the strange sky as our brown earth—forty-three men, fifty-seven women, two children. They have been singing—a medley of songs which under other circumstances might seem irrelevant. Many of them are foreigners and do not know the words, but they also sing—with tears streaming down their faces and a catch in their voices. They sing 'The Provisional' and they sing 'Hallelujah, My God in Heaven.' After that they sang 'Hall, Hall, the Gang's All Here.' Then they sang 'The Marseillaise' with Duquesne leading—leading and believing the words, and weeping.

"What a spectacle! Beside it, the picture of Laif Ericsson or Columbus reaching green shores at last is dimmed to insignificance. For those ancient explorers found the path to a more continent, while the band has traced a trail of fire through space to a new planet.

"And—the pen hovered—to

being torn away from their sun, did they do? . . . That moment beside the road that we found, Tony—what was it? What did it mean? . . . Then I think of myself. Am I, Tony, to have children—here?"

Tony tightened his clasp upon her arm. Through all the terrors and triumphs, through all their consternations and amusements, instincts, he found, survived. "We will not speak of such things now," he said. "We will satisfy the more immediate needs, such as food—dried eggs and sandwiches; and coffee! As if we were on earth, Eve. For once more, we are on earth—this strange, strange earth. But we have brought our identical bodies with us."

"Sardines!" Duquesne said. "Sardines!" He rolled his eyes at half a dozen women standing near him. He took another bite of the sandwich in his hand.

"A picnic in the summer time on Bronson Beta, children," Duquesne boomed. "And it's summer time, you know. Fortunately, but inevitably from the nature of events, still summer. My observations of the collision check quite accurately with my calculations of what would happen; and if the deductions I made from those calculations are correct, quite extraordinary things will happen. We will have a little class in astronomy." He put to use two resources—the smooth vertical surface of a large stone and a smaller stone which he had picked up to scratch upon the bowlder.

As Duquesne began to talk all the members of the group gathered



around the flat bowlder to watch and listen.

"First," he began, "I will draw the solar system as it was." He made a small circle and shaded it in. "Here, my friends, is the sun." He circumscribed it with another circle and said: "Mercury." Outside the orbit of Mercury he drew the orbits respectively of Venus, Earth and Mars. "So this is what we have had. This is where we have been. Now I draw the same thing without the Earth."

He repeated the diagram—this time with three concentric circles instead of four. A broad gap was left where the earth's orbit had been. He stepped away from the diagram and looked at it proudly.

"So—Mercury we have; Venus we have; and Mars we have. The Earth we do not have. I set down next the present position of this world on which we stand—Bronson Beta.

"Here is our path, closer to the sun than the Earth has been; and also farther away. The hottest portion of this new path of this new planet about the sun already had been passed when we fled here. This world had made its closest approach in rounding the sun, and it had reached the point in its orbit which our earth had reached in April. Now we are going away from the sun, but on such a path that—and under such conditions that—only slowly with the days growing colder."

"They will become, when we get out on that portion of our path near Mars," a man among his hearers questioned, "how cold?"

Duquesne called upon his comic knack to turn this question. He answered as prosaically that the au-

# When "Brain Truster" Meets "Brain Duster"

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

PROBABLY no two persons ever agreed upon just what the senator from North Carolina actually said to the senator from South Carolina. Perhaps none of the thousands of physics examination papers turned in by students has ever settled indisputably just what happens when the irresistible force meets the immovable body. But with two great meetings of scientists recently come to a close, we now have some light on what happens when a Brain Truster meets a Brain Duster—and a host of other information new about us and what goes on around us.

The two meetings were at Chicago and Pittsburgh. The Chicago meeting, a gathering of the members—scientists of twelve learned bodies, was a conclave of Brain Dusters of economics and sociology outside the pale of governmental affairs who met principally to discuss the antics and the eventual destinations of their brother professors at the nation's helm in Washington. The Pittsburgh affair, the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was more concerned with the lighter things which are not quite so noticeable in the American limelight as the moment, such as Einstein's equation for inter-conversion of mass and energy, the true secrets of cosmic rays, and whether or not fish have hip-bones. But even this meeting eventually got around to talking about the Brain Trust and the New Deal, so maybe everybody's doing it.

Prof. Walter J. Shepard of Ohio State University, president of the American Political Science association, burned the brightest torch of the Chicago meeting. In typical professional rhetoric he declared: "The ideology of the New Deal is

illogical, inconsistent and turbid." For improvement he advocated a progressive centralization of government with the desirable elements of Fascism.

Of the New Deal he said: "Its program is a mass of undigested and contradictory experiments. It veers first to the right and then to the left. It embodies in its personnel men of the most divergent views. And yet at the polls it receives unprecedented majorities. But the support is not all enthusiastic. If there is any leadership in the New Deal, it is the leadership of mounting every one's horse and dashing off in every direction at once."

**Trend to Centralization.**

The definite and increasing trend of centralization of governmental authority and responsibility demonstrates the country's Fascistic tendencies, said Professor Shepard. He indicated that "the president must retain his authority and responsibility, but an advisory staff agency must become a central feature in governmental reorganization."

As an evil phase of Fascism, Professor Shepard cited Louisiana, referring unmistakably to Huey Long, although not speaking the senator's name, and declaring that "there the people have surrendered themselves completely to a political adventurer."

Going further, he said: "In Louisiana we see a frank denial of democratic ideology and democratic institutions. Dictatorship stalks across the state naked and unashamed."

He pooh-poohed the possibility of national dictatorship so long as the people kept their wits about them. "We need not fear dictatorship as long as we preserve the guarantees of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association, and as long as we make education, untrammelled by propaganda and unfettered by subservience to any end or purpose, the central goal, the supreme value of our civilization."

America's outstanding characteristics are individualism, democracy and humanitarianism, and there are for that reason no lessons for us to gain from the experiences of other countries, according to Prof. Ernest W. Burgess of the University of Chicago, president of the American Sociological society.

"Far more important than the rising tide of public criticism against alleged waste and mismanagement of relief administration is the fact the relief giving, as more than an emergency program, runs counter to the basic concepts of individualism and democracy. A solution is demanded that provides opportunity for work and for freedom from investigation and from regimentation," said Professor Burgess.

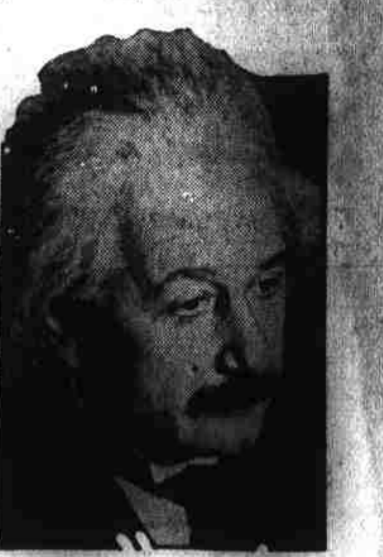
"The program of the Tennessee Valley authority may be taken as a crucial case in long time social planning. Its success or failure may exert a profound influence on the future course of social planning in the United States.

"It is only too apparent that if the customs, attitudes and reactions of the people of the valley are not as fully studied as the geographic and economic situation, the project is likely to be a partial, if not a complete, failure."

The United States must solve its problem alone, Professor Burgess said. It must forget about what has happened to other countries in the search for true recovery. He declared the current German, Italian and Soviet experiments are not and cannot be understood by Americans, adding that any proposals for collective or controlled society at any time in the near future are completely hopeless.

**New Deal Policies.**

Others of the scientists at Chicago were vexed at the New Deal policies. Frederick Cecil Mills of Columbia, president of the American Statistical association, called it "a form of social suicide." James Waterhouse Angell, another Columbia economist, said: "The rising public debt and governmental



Prof. Albert E. Einstein.

pendent, 700,000 of them on federal relief," he said. "By 1960 we will have twice that many over sixty-five, facing a burden that cannot be escaped, regardless of legislation. . . . Unemployment insurance is only a first line of defense. There is some danger that it will be launched with too high hopes. It will do nothing for those now unemployed."

**Einstein Expounds.**

However, as far as the meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science was concerned, of far more importance than the discussion of New Deal policies was the visit of the distinguished Prof. Albert E. Einstein to furnish elementary mathematical proof that matter is just a form of energy, then pass the whole thing off as too impractical to be of any use to man in his search for power, anyway. Herr Professor said that energy, although it is the basis of everything, even life, is locked away in the infinitesimal nucleus of the atom, and trying to get it out is an almost hopeless task.

"It is like hunting birds in a country where there are very few birds, and in pitch darkness," he said. Demonstrated at the Pittsburgh conference was a model of the 10,000,000-volt Van de Graaff generator, with which scientific marksmen hope to bombard the atom. The generator releases bullets of electricity at a speed 100,000 times as fast as a rifle bullet.

Some 1,200 papers, totaling more than 1,500,000 words, were read and discussed at the meeting, their revelations including sundry startling, informative tit-bits ranging from the fact that snowshoes and skis originated in prehistoric Asia to the undeniable actuality that fish bluish—and that doesn't mean the "poor fish" who is made the goat of the party, either—but there, the animal life is getting all mixed up.

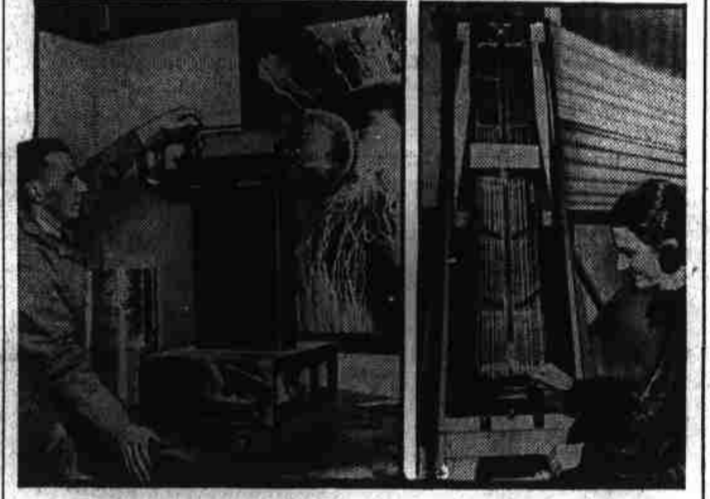
Of more than passing interest to all economical housewives and husbands who pay the bills was the "sun cooker" demonstrated to the 3,000 scientists by Charles Greeley Abbott of the Smithsonian Institute, a great authority on the rays of the sun. The present Abbott cooker will absorb enough solar rays to reach a temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit. A former one, upon which Dr. and Mrs. Abbott cooked all their meals for three months, heated up to 395 degrees.

One of Mae West's ancestors in the days of the dim, shady, prehistoric past may have been a mermaid, for all Mae or science knows, according to information presented by Prof. William King Gregory of Columbia university; he showed that even fish have hips.

It was discovered when he traced the evolution of the pelvis from fish to man. The hip-bones are little rods attached to the backbone, but helping to support the rear fins. It was the development of the pelvis through the ages which made amphibians capable of crawling, animals to walk on all fours, and finally man to crawl.

Many of the findings of the Pittsburgh meeting were of the most human nature, close to our daily lives. For instance, Prof. A. I. Winsor and E. L. Strongin of Cornell university came forth with the scientific proof that the best time to enjoy a smoke of tobacco is the most popular time of all—just after a couple of cups of black coffee. They have opposite effects on the human body, if you inhale, the coffee soothing the effect of the cigarette. The two together do much to avoid the increased shakiness of the hands and quivering of the pulse which follow ordinary smoking.

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Left: The Van de Graaf Generator. Right: Manipulating the Solar Heat Collector.

Dr. E. W. Burgess.

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