



THE CRAZY YEARS

I ran into Dr. Camshaft the other day and it seems he's made quite a startling discovery. He calmly announced to me that he had finally perfected a time machine. What's more, last weekend he turned the dial to the 2568 A. D. and came back with a tape recording of a conversation between the members of a small committee of what will become the Global Artifacts Foundation. It seems, judging from the recorded conversation, that a Professor Findit will make an important discovery and won't quite know what to make of it.

"Ah yes, Professor Findit. Let's see, you're the one who's having trouble classifying an ancient ruin."

"Well you see Dr. Pickanshovel, (Prof. Findit's boss) so far, we've found two buildings, a garbage dump and the usual highways. One of the buildings appears to be a type of incinerator that was built around the 1920's and converted to a shop or factory. The other building is 'E' shaped and seems also to be a"

"A what, professor?"

"Well, let's put it this way. It's a shop or factory, but over two thirds of the space is taken up with offices or conference rooms."

"You sure those conference rooms couldn't be class rooms, which would make it a school?"

"Well sir, they could be classrooms, and

they look like classrooms, but there're too many cigarette butt cans and parking places to be a school. What's more, how do you explain all the shops?"

"Well, it could be a place where some industry taught their employees how to operate machinery."

"Yes, but what industry would have to teach such a wide variety of things, such as machine shop, printing, welding, auto mechanics, agriculture, and woodworking? Besides, there's no sign of any lunch room. We all know that those of the King Lyndon era spent most of their time eating."

"I don't know. The more I think about it, the more I think it was a mad house."

"A mad house? Gee, I never thought of that."

"Yeah! Everything fits together perfectly. You know, of course, that the directors of such places are influenced by the occupants. That would explain locating a public building right beside a garbage dump with a four-lane highway going through the front yard. And didn't you say there were some apartment houses less than a quarter mile away? I gotta hunch they're actually living quarters for the inmates. An don't forget, there's a police station less than a quarter mile away. They probably put that there to keep order."

"Ya'know, Dr., I think you're right! I don't know why I didn't think of that in the first place."

By: Jim Reynolds