

Trade Winds

Jerome Beatty, Jr.

When I was young, I read more than once a book by Richard Hughes called *The Innocent Voyage*, later *A High Wind in Jamaica*. It had been out only a few years and was already a classic and a best seller all at once. Recently



Harper & Row brought Hughes to this country for his first visit in forty years, prompting me to dig out his book and read it again. Horrors! The books my parents left around the house! The plot concerns seven young children whose experiences include a hurricane, capture by pirates, and a combination of humor and the macabre that is startling. One of the young girls goes to bed with the pirate captain. Another girl stabs a man to death while he is

tied up. Later she perjures herself on the witness stand and sends a sailor to the gallows for the crime. Calling it an innocent voyage was ironic, for the kids go through terrible experiences that have little effect on them, proving that a child's amorality protects him from the fears and frustrations of the adult world.

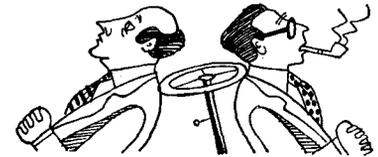
At a small party where Hughes was the guest of honor, I told him of my discovery and that I had never realized until now what the book meant. I was reminded that I had confused a book about children with a book for children. Hughes then recalled that when *A High Wind in Jamaica* first appeared, the English publisher received an angry letter from the mistress of the Royal School for Officers' Daughters in Bath, saying that the book gave a false picture of youth. None of her young ladies would have committed a murder, she declared, and if by chance one of them had killed someone, she would have owned up to it at once.

Out in Texas, where he now lives, H. Allen Smith made friends with an old-fashioned blacksmith who told him this story. The smith was plying his trade one day when a city slicker drove by. The slicker had never seen anything like it and stopped his car to watch the sparks fly. He finally got out and went inside the smithy. Curious, he reached out and picked up a horseshoe. It was hot, and he let go quickly.

"Burned you, didn't it?" grinned the blacksmith.

"Nope. It just don't take me long to look at a horseshoe."

The latest issue of the *Alumni Record* of Vermont's Norwich University features an article on the history of this military college, founded 150 years ago. Its current president is General Barksdale Hamlett, and his predecessor



was General Ernest Harmon. The article notes: "With two strong presidents as Generals Harmon and Hamlett back-to-back in the driver's seat, Norwich can face the years ahead with the greatest confidence." Yes, but will they get there?

One of the quickest post-Apollo 11 publications was Ballantine's *Appointment on the Moon* by Richard S. Lewis, which came out a few days after men walked up there. It tells the story of Americans in space from *Explorer I* to the lunar landing. In his conclusion the author seems upset that the federal budget won't permit unlimited space travel. We have begun to "retreat from the moon," he laments. Then, for us narrow-minded earthlubbers, he summarizes the spaceman's philosophy in one beautiful sentence: "Obsessed by social, racial, and economic stresses, the country had turned its attention inward, like the chronically ill person who becomes progressively indifferent to all but his own complaints."

Sharps and Flats: In the movie *Seven Days in May*, Burt Lancaster happily accepted what he called "fulsome praise, indeed." Blame that on Knebel and Bailey (novel) or Rod Serling (script).

► While in Seattle, Marjorie Anderson found a restaurant known as Ye Olde Chuckwagon Smorgasbord.

► Here's a small-world item from the past, proving the fitness of things.



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Bruce Carroll, doing some research in early science fiction films for ABC TV's L.A. bureau, discovered that there have been two motion pictures entitled *Law and Order*. The one in 1938 starred John Wayne; the one in 1953, Ronald Reagan.

► Herb Teison notes the opening of a new foreign airline office on a corner near his office in New York. "Someone can just walk down Fifth Avenue," he says, "and disappear into Finnair."

► That American flag we planted on the moon—we can never bring it back. It would have to be disinfected, and I think it's against regulations to so defile Old Glory.

► Ruth Seyler finds that twenty-five years ago characters in Georges Simenon books were identifying Paris gendarmes as pigs.

► A book reviewer who signs himself Marlow in the San Fernando Valley's *Encinian* wrote that *The Love Machine* is a much better book than *The Valley of the Dolls*. One reason, he said, is that "it is not thought-provoking, and that's a welcome relief in novels."



► A few people have reported a sign on Washington Island in Lake Michigan: CAUTION: TRESPASSERS WILL BE VIOLATED.

► A girl in Troy Gordon's Tulsa office announced that she was going to marry Arthur Johnson, a young man she had met only eight days earlier. She told Mr. Gordon. "I don't know anything about Art, but I know what I like."

SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S
KINGSLEY DOUBLE-CROSTIC (No. 1846)

HENRY PLEASANTS:
SERIOUS MUSIC (— AND ALL
THAT JAZZ)

The Serious-music community . . . thinks of jazz as *popular*, as essentially and generically inferior; and the mere suggestion that it should be taken seriously, . . . on an equal footing with . . . Stravinsky . . . or Berio, is to open a Pandora's box of outrage, indignation, and denunciation.

"I resented our bill for drugs until I considered the alternatives"

A mother of three thinks about her family drug bill and wonders if she got value received.

When I totaled up a year's drug bills I found a family of five can use a lot of medicine in a year's time.

Recently, I began checking back just to see where the money went. There were Barbara's immunizations . . . and I can't feel bad about that. I'm old enough to remember when polio, for instance, was a real killer.

Then there was the time Bob threw his back out. The drugs really gave him relief from the pain. The Hong Kong flu missed us . . . and I guess we should give the vaccine credit. And our doctor did come up with something that stopped those frequent headaches of mine. They were a nightmare while they lasted.

I had almost forgotten about the scare we had with Jimmy's ears. The doctor said it was a serious infection . . . something that could have deafened him for life. The drug he prescribed cleared it up in a few days.

I've read somewhere that the average American spends about eighteen dollars a year for prescriptions. Of course, our drug bill for last year was higher than that . . . but, when I consider the alternatives, I've got to feel it was worth the money. We spent a lot more just patching up the old car and never thought twice about it.

*Another point of view . . .
Pharmaceutical Manufacturers
Association, 1155 Fifteenth St.,
N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.*



The Myth of MIRV

by LEO SARTORI

The initials MIRV, virtually unheard of six months ago, now appear on the front pages every day. They stand for a new weapon with an impressive name: Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle. What is MIRV? Why is the military so anxious to have it, and why have forty-two Senators sponsored a resolution urging the President to seek an agreement with the Russians to ban further tests?

Briefly, MIRV is a "missile bus" whose "passengers" are nuclear bombs. It enables a single booster to deliver as many as fourteen bombs, each one accurately aimed at a different target. The targets can be 50 or 100 miles apart, perhaps even more. Both we and the Russians have the know-how to produce MIRVs; none have been deployed yet, but testing is proceeding on both sides.

It is generally agreed that from a military viewpoint, MIRV is an effective weapon. Unlike ABM, which critics contend may not work and will not add to our defense, MIRV almost surely will work and potentially represents a tremendous increase in striking force. The opposition to MIRV is based on the conviction that it will lessen our security by severely escalating the arms race, and will increase the danger of nuclear war.

Much of the administration's case for ABM is based on the assumption that the Russians, by installing MIRVs in their big SS9 missiles, could threaten the reliability of our "nuclear umbrella" by the middle 1970s. The principal purpose of our own MIRVs, according to the Pentagon, would be to ensure our ability to penetrate any expanded Soviet ABM. The Defense Department plans to install MIRVs in

about half our Minuteman ICBMs, and is refitting most of the Polaris submarine fleet with the new Poseidon missile, also to be equipped with MIRVs.

Critics point to the planned deployment of MIRV and ABM as a typical example of the futility of nuclear escalation—the dog chasing its own tail. We will install these weapons in response to the Russians' planned deployment, and they will install them in response to our own deployment. In the end both sides will be less secure, and the balance of terror will be more unstable than ever.

The best way to avoid this latest round of escalation is to agree with the Russians to stop testing MIRV. The opponents reason that neither side would stake its survival on an inadequately tested weapon. Therefore, if testing stops we can be confident there will be no deployment. But neither side would agree to a test ban if it felt the other side had already tested enough to go ahead with deployment. Since the United States is rapidly approaching this critical stage, a test ban must be agreed to quickly if it is to have any chance of success.

But even if we get an agreement not to test, how will we know the Russians aren't cheating? Fortunately, with spy satellites and other modern surveillance techniques, each side can detect with some confidence a test of a multiple warhead missile by the other. We have recently detected a Soviet test of this kind in the Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, a ban on deployment of MIRVs would be much more difficult to police. It is probably impossible to determine, without detailed on-site inspection, whether a missile in its silo contains one warhead or many. The issue of on-site inspection has been a major stumbling block in past negotiations. The Soviets have traditionally resisted it, and even we, who have always expressed our willingness

From a military point of view there is little doubt that the multiple-warhead missile could be effective. There is even less doubt that this weapon will touch off a needless, and perhaps disastrous, escalation of the nuclear arms race. The chance to halt its development is slipping through our fingers.

Leo Sartori is an associate professor of physics at MIT and a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.