

PERVADED SPACE

Chicago Area

It's Snow Go For Winter Meetings

A vast, omnipotent Force sneaking in menacingly in the night and strangling an entire city. A Presence capable of bringing all motion to a halt and turning millions of hard-working citizens into either zombies or raving maniacs. A Power strong enough to shake the throne of a czar-mayor.

The monster that devoured Cleveland? Invaders from the planet Zoltar? No, the Blizzard of '79, a peculiarly Chicago phenomenon that is the unique result of incessant cold, seemingly ceaseless snowstorms (including one genuine blizzard) and a rather creative approach to inefficiently cleaning up by the City of Chicago.

The record snow of 1978-79 had its effect on the URANTIA Movement in the Chicago area. Chicago seemed to be at the vortex of the season's bad weather; even in relatively close-by Fort Wayne, Indiana, study group and society meetings continued "as usual," according to Dave Schlundt. "We haven't had a bad winter at all compared to Chicago," he said.

After a bad, but relatively innocuous (compared to January) December, a New Year's Eve storm dumped over nine inches of snow on the area. It was the first of three major January storms, climaxed by a mid-month blizzard of over 20 inches. Thirty inches of snow accumulated on the ground, and by mid-February most was still



there, due to temperatures far below the norm. The total snow soared to a record 85 inches and 100 inches seemed imminent.

The URANTIA Brotherhood office staff typified problems of the area. "Commuting time lengthened to two or three hours a day each way. Delightful," one office worker said. Even mailing out books was a problem. "After we shoveled snow off the roof into the alley, we had to pass books out of the window because of two to three feet of snow outside the back door. But they all got shipped," said John Hales, resident director. He added that one form of recreation was watching cars meet in streets that had been narrowed to one lane. "It was like a Mexican standoff."

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Why are these people clapping? Find out on page 3.
(Photo by Barbara Kulieke, Evanston, Illinois)

CONTACT

PERSONALITY

REVEALED!

SEE STORY ON PAGE 4.

from the editors

In the study of a natural community one discovers a myriad of dynamics seeming to operate with crossed purposes.

In the forest, plants and trees are constantly producing oxygen as a by-product of photosynthesis. Animal life, meanwhile, is using up the oxygen through respiration. Plant life incessantly works to grow and build new tissue while parasites, fungus, insects, and animals work to destroy and consume it. Rainfall wets the soil. The wind dries the soil. Rotting matter feeds the earth; searching roots deplete it.

The list goes on and on. Yet, for all its contradictions there is a pervasive unity in the profound environmental communities. While the individual plays its short role and then passes from the scene, the whole is magnificently carried on. The tremendous variety and divergence injects vitality and strength.

There is a community in which we all play a part. The community of URANTIA Book readers. There are times when we witness the variety and divergence within our community and are frightened. The seeming conflict and contradiction arouse doubts. The community seems to falter. Then we look again and the system resolves its cycles; again, we witness the pervasive unity.

Our fears and doubts are distortions of reality. Fear is, at most, the destroyer of personality and, at least, a poisoner of faith.

PERVADED SPACE

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Glen Thorsander

The central reality of man's being is the indwelling spirit. We must be vigilant in our affirmation of the spirit's ability to influence our fellows and in our fellow's desire to follow the spirit's leading.

Look at our community again. There is a tremendous variety of people and many divergent and conflicting ideas. But these qualities, far from being dangerous, are wellsprings of vitality and strength.

Without our differences we would become stale and our movement a wasted landscape. With our differences we are a microcosm of a splendid and multifaceted universe, unified by one great source.



PERVADED SPACE wishes to welcome three new additions to its staff. The three join Glen Thorsander, who was added to the staff last issue. They are Mary Burton, Lake Villa, Illinois, Cecilia Forrester, Chicago, Illinois, and Sally Schlundt, Urbana, Indiana.

letters

The November 1978 issue of PERVADED SPACE came today and I note that on the Midwest Page map Fort Wayne was completely left out of the study groups listed!...Outside of Chicago, I would say that Ft. Wayne with at least four study groups would be next largest, so I think it very unfair to have Ft. Wayne left out altogether! We would appreciate it if a correction would be made in the next issue of PERVADED SPACE. Thank you.

Irene L. Sprunger, President
First URANTIA Society of
Fort Wayne, Indiana

In addition to the Ft. Wayne omissions, PERVADED SPACE staff member Glen Thorsander points out that there are two study groups in Minneapolis, not one. To all those groups whom we may have slighted, we are truly sorry. Further, this humbling experience, while caused undoubtedly by the fact that such information changes almost daily, left a scar of remorse on our collective psyches. On the other hand, we did get a nice letter out of it.--The Editors

MIDWEST PAGE

Select Conference Site

The 1979 Midwest Regional Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, at Marion College on June 8, 9, and 10, it was recently announced by Dave, Jean, Mike and Sandi Painter. The Painters are the Indianapolis representatives on the Midwest Conference Planning Committee and they are in charge of this year's Conference.

The Conference is planned to be a yearly event, rotating throughout the Midwest with local members of the Committee in charge of the event the year it occurs in their area. Indianapolis was the site chosen for 1979 at last year's meeting of the Planning Committee at the first Midwest Conference, which was held in Ft. Wayne. Chicago was chosen as the site for 1980.

The Conference will actually begin on Saturday morning the 9th, ending Sunday afternoon. Friday night is reserved for early arrivals. Lodging is available at the college for an extra fee. Registration costs will include two meals Saturday and Sunday plus Saturday night lodging. Registration packets will be sent out about the beginning of April.

According to the Painters, the topics of the presentations at the Conference will center on the theme of the relation of URANTIA Book teachings to Christian teachings and churches. "Speakers and discussion leaders will tackle such problems as the pros and cons of interfacing, the similarities and differences in teachings, the best techniques of interfacing, and the teaching methods Jesus used," according to the Painters.

Ten discussion leaders will be chosen for an hour-long discussion period following each speaker. Speakers will be limited to 20 minutes. The discussion leaders for each single session will be from the same area.

In addition to the presentations, entertainment is planned for Saturday night and a worship service is scheduled for Sunday morning.

FRONT PAGE PHOTO

The group in the picture on the front page is the Midwest Conference Planning Committee. They are applauding the decision to hold this year's conference in Indianapolis. The Painters, who were assigned to host and plan the event, show less enthusiasm.

The Pacific Northwest Gathering of Students of The URANTIA Book will be held July 27, 28, 29 and 30 at the University of British Columbia, at Vancouver, Canada. For further information contact: Nathen Zadden, 8686 Centaurus Circle #104, North Burnaby, B.C., Canada V3J 7K3

PERVADED SPACE welcomes news of the activities of any study group or society in the Midwest.



Lea and Jim Fishburn demonstrate what the well-dressed Chicago couple is wearing these days. Actually, their costumes represented Andon and Fonta at a Halloween party of the North Shore/North Side study group.

Contact Personality Revealed!

In an exclusive interview with [REDACTED], PERVADED SPACE has learned that the contact person of the URANTIA Papers was [REDACTED]. The interview took place at [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 16, 19[REDACTED].

[REDACTED], described as a [REDACTED], [REDACTED], with [REDACTED] hair, was not available for comment.

However, [REDACTED] stated, "I felt the public would be interested in knowing. That's why I [REDACTED] my [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] my [REDACTED], although my [REDACTED] was against it! After all, how would you feel?"

PERVADED SPACE only hopes that no action will be taken by the Universal Censor who is reading this over our shoulders.

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Chicago area URANTIA societies all lost meetings due to the weather. Marian Rowley, president of First URANTIA Society, which meets at the headquarters building at 533 Diversey Parkway, also commented on the bad streets. "We closed meetings three Sundays in a row and that never happened before." The society has met for 25 years. Lillian Nicholas, president of the Western Springs Society, said the group's two cancellations were also unprecedented. And Frank Sgaraglino, treasurer of Orvonton Society, said the group's mid-February meeting was its first since before the blizzard. "People just couldn't get out," he said. The Glenview Society also lost two meetings due to the snow and difficult travel conditions, according to Lisa Carr Renn, secretary.

Study groups in the area had varying success. The Lake Forest study group missed no meetings, but had to switch one from its usual place due to excess snow on the roof. Several roofs in the area collapsed because of the unaccustomed weight, and it was a real fear of home owners. The North Shore/ North Side study group was snowed out of a scheduled meeting, and it also sacrificed the sobriety of its next meeting due to cabin fever. Also, study groups in the western suburbs had weather related difficulties as well.

As the end of February approached, no relief was in sight and tempers were growing short. But as Frank Sgaraglino commented, "It's been harder on the back than on the mind."

White Rock Mountain, August 21

It is morning in these hills
The clouds are morning clouds
and the entire world is in the morning
of its illumination
Maybe it will always be morning
I am in love with these clouds

In this altitude
the trees are the playmates of the clouds
the partners of the cosmic dance
never ceasing motion
continual rhythm
Slowly changing
progressive
It is here that I learn to dance

The bees have learned the sound of motion
they trade refrains with crickets
and birds
and wind
and thunder
It is here that the truest symphonies are made
unrepeatable,
constant
The melodies of Michael
who sings His own birthday song

Among all this goodness
I find the sense of stillness
the beauty of learning
and the love of the Father
Herein is the promise of eternity
and the experience of the present

lee armstrong

people

Three hospitalizations made 1978 a tough year for Ruth Burton. The latest was for a fractured femur. But she uncomplainingly keeps an eye on the future, saying, "I look forward to a good morontia body that won't break so easily." She celebrated her 85th birthday this month while on crutches following an encounter with the icy streets of Chicago. But she is recovering nicely.

Born near the campus of the University of Chicago, Ruth has stayed in contact with academic pursuits all her life. Her father, Edward Frantz, was studying Hebrew under the renowned William Rainey Harper at the time of Ruth's birth and caught his enthusiasm for studying the Bible in its original Hebrew. Unfortunately, Ruth was such a colicky baby Mr. Frantz was forced to drop one of his courses in Divinity School to take his turn walking the floor all night with his new daughter. Soon after, the Frantz family moved to McPherson, Kansas where Mr. Frantz was the president of McPherson College. He was a Biblical scholar, an interest Ruth inherited. Luckily he tended toward a more liberal interpretation of Scripture, which perhaps contributed to Ruth's open-mindedness when introduced to The URANTIA Book.

Ruth was a member of the graduating class of 1916 at Pomona College in California. She earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison, a somewhat unusual accomplishment for a woman at that time. After completing her education, Ruth taught school, a career which lasted 30 years including jobs at Lane Technical High and Calumet High School in Chicago.

Travel has always played a major role in her life. She toured Europe in 1927, and traveled to China and Japan in 1931. After her marriage, she and her husband Robert traveled to Israel in 1967 shortly after the Six-Day War, and spent six winters in Mexico.

Acceptance of The URANTIA Book did not come easily. Ruth was involved in the Forum



Ruth Burton

from the beginning when the papers had just started coming in. She says a deep-seated "prejudice against spiritualism" precluded her immediate endorsement of the book. Another stumbling block was the number of different personalities, all with their jobs to do. She says until then she had always thought of heaven as a "cloudy, woozy, and indefinite place where there's not so much to do!" However, as she continued to read and study, she soon got over these early reactions and has been one of the Brotherhood's most active teachers and leaders.

Ruth was a teacher in the URANTIA Brotherhood School, mainly in Los Angeles, where she spent their winters starting in the late 1960s. Her last stint as an instructor was in 1971, a year she well remembers because, "the earthquake decreased the attendance for awhile."

She has served on many committees including a term as chairman of the Charter Committee during which many of the societies were first formed. As a long-time member of the First URANTIA Society of Chicago, presenting papers to the group has been one of Ruth's greatest joys. Her bookshelves are crowded with outlines of the various papers she has been assigned.

(Continued on page 7)

commentaries

The topic for these commentaries is
"Evangelizing The URANTIA Book"

The question of whether The URANTIA Book should be evangelized I admit, causes a tremor of trepidation. I wholeheartedly believe one should proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom, the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, and nothing says it better than The URANTIA Book. The uneasiness arises in the execution of the deed. How, indeed, shall we evangelize the book? I have visions of Oral Roberts revealing the nature and origin of the Solitary Messengers--his words beamed into millions of homes across the nation; of URANTIA followers at airports pressing the book into bewildered passengers hands. Unfortunately this has been my exposure to evangelical movements, a rather dogmatic packaged commodity that is forced upon the consumer. There is not one magical way to proclaim the good news, no bandwagon we can all jump on. We will all do it naturally, the best way we know how. Jesus told his followers that he lived his life in the flesh to show us how each of us can become God revealing to our fellow man by loving service. (see page 2053).

Laura Hauck
Villa Park, Illinois



Should we become evangelists in promoting The URANTIA Book? Well, yes and no. Yes, we must have the positive dedication and enthusiasm of today's evangelists. We are evangelists if we act on our faith and do our good intentions. Our evangelism, if we wish to use this term, must spiritually perceive needs and open up sincere seekers of truth. A personal ministry of one-to-one, dominated by love and tempered with patience, will do more for growth than any other type of persuasion. But no to the tactics of our more vocal and visible religionist neighbors. We cannot sell the book, but we can try to live it and that is what counts. For out of the commercial din will The URANTIA Book stand in sharp contrast at the appropriate time.

Glen Thorsander
Minneapolis, MN



Love wasn't put in your heart to stay,
Love isn't love til you give it away.

Our mission as religionists living within the kingdom has not really changed with the publication of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. The best we can do for our brothers and sisters who live in darkness still is to tell them of their Father and his love for them as his children. This simple truth-fact has amazing implications and when a person accepts this filial relationship, he is already on the ascending path of spiritual discovery.

The sublime beauty and living truth of Michael's Gospel of the kingdom still shines down through the centuries, lightening the spiritual path for every truth-seeking pilgrim of time. This gospel is the "bread of life" and, when nourished by faith, the children of God can be truth-led and spirit-taught. We cannot lead men, for the SPIRIT leads; we can only introduce them to God as sons. Neither must we be overly concerned about people coming to the Master. In the Epochal Sermon at Capernaum, Jesus declared that whomever is taught by the Father's Paradise spirit will eventually come to him.

Our privilege and sacred trust as early recipients of the Papers is to persistently and skillfully introduce the leaven of new truth into the midst of the old beliefs of evolutionary religion while we remain ever vigilant that this living truth is not dragged down to the dead level of mere wisdom or exalted knowledge. This revelation of the kingdom is ALIVE. It is the Master's desire that it manifest appropriate spirit fruits in each individual and in each generation, and that it exhibit increasing vitality and a greater depth of spiritual power in time.

The persistent preaching of the gospel of the kingdom is destined to bring a new order of brotherly love that will utterly eclipse all static forms of fossilized truths and dissolve interreligious barriers.

One thing is certain, once you are within the kingdom you cannot stand still. The lesson of the parable of the shrewd steward applies to each student of the Book, for surely one day we shall all be required to account the spiritual fruits returned from our earthly

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endowments. In that day, will you say, "Here, Lord, are the truths you gave me. I hid them safely away, awaiting your return."

Bill Martin
Mt. Prospect, IL

books

Matter, Mind and Man by Edmund W. Sinnott

This very readable paperback is written by one of America's leading geneticists, a scientist who regards the exploration of the spirit as a legitimate and necessary aspect of the study of life and man's relation to the Universe.

By using a scientific viewpoint, and dealing with the various aspects of man, himself-- physical body, mind, and man's image of himself, Dr. Sinnott delves into such familiar topics (to URANTIA Book readers) as personality, beauty, freedom, sin, pain and evil, and life and death. (From the book: "It is only as persons that we can communicate with one another, and this may be the only way in which we can finally make contact with the universe itself." "Life is ultimately understandable only in terms of personality.")

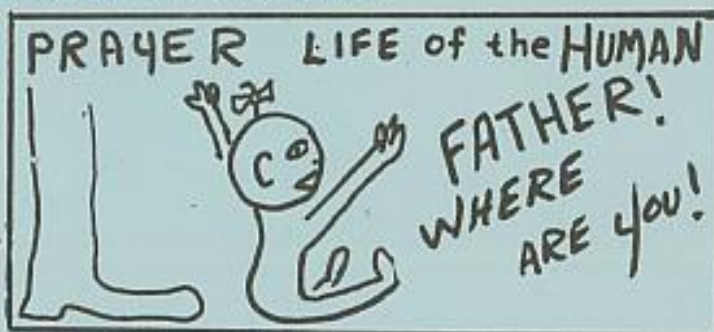
His search for a link between the physical aspects of man and the spiritual reality of man within the universe is intellectually appealing and uplifting.

Becky Marshall
Chicago, IL

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Three Rivers, Michigan, was the Burton's home for 10 years until Bob died in May of 1977, 13 days short of their 44th anniversary. Ruth maintained her close ties with the Brotherhood during these years and sponsored a small study group with members from nearby communities. She remembers Three Rivers fondly for its "nice, small-town friendliness. The neighbors were very kind and supportive during Bob's illness." Ruth kept busy teaching adult Sunday School at the Methodist Church and was very active in the local Farm Bureau. She has always stayed involved with the Church and likes the thought of "all those people gathered just to worship the heavenly Father."

When asked what she feels is her greatest accomplishment, Ruth replied that it was arriving at a satisfactory philosophy of living. From her early teens she has always had a definite feeling of her place as a part of the universe, and that "Whoever made it was responsible for me." She feels that this feeling has made happiness possible no matter what comes and given her a feeling of security in belonging to the universe "confident in the goodness of God and knowing He is my Father."

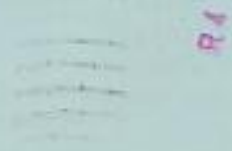


The editors wish to express their grateful appreciation to all those who took the time and effort to create items used herein.

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