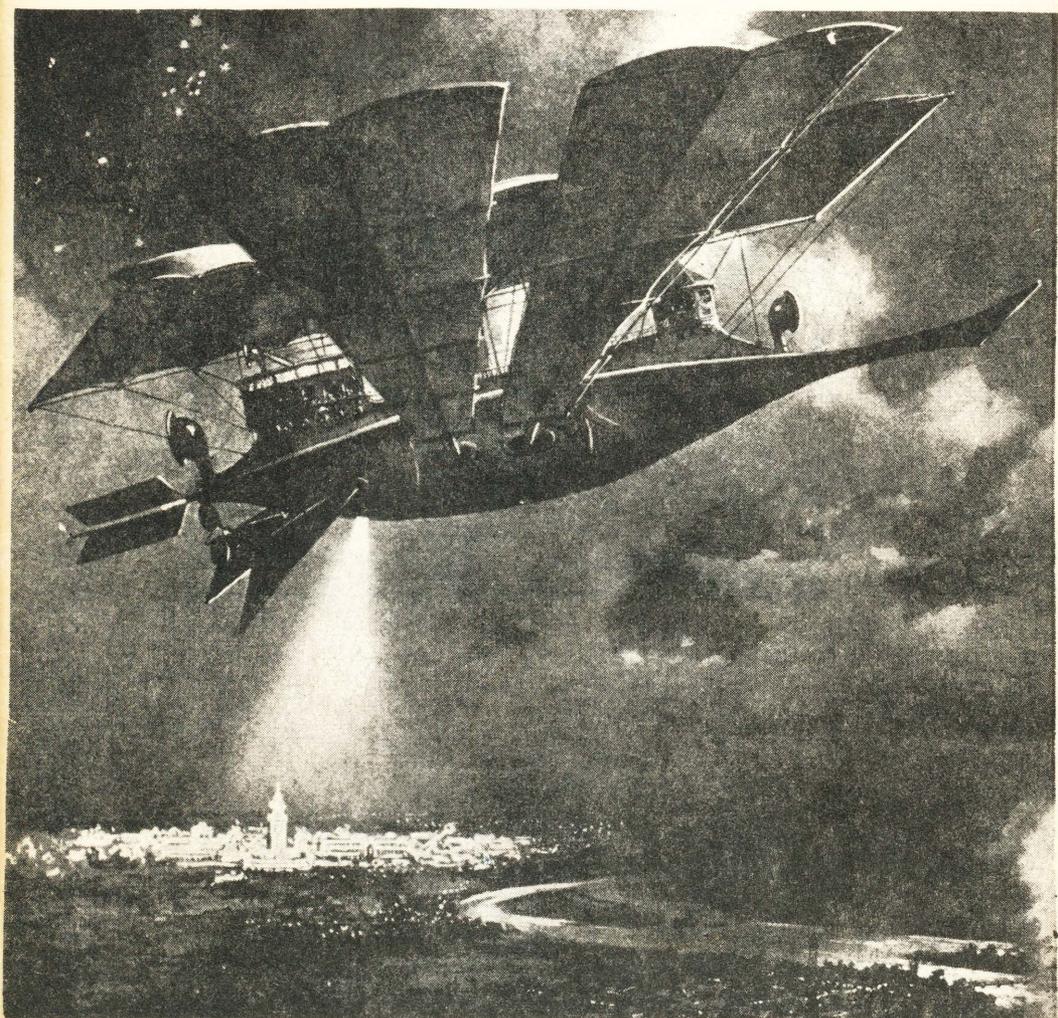


RETURN TO THE RAT PLANET



DAVID HILTON
WARREN WOESSNER

RETURN TO THE RAT PLANET

Poems discovered by

David Hilton and Warren Woessner



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CAPTAIN ROBINSON TO HIS SON

David Hilton

This isn't right for you, Will--
you should enjoy the life
of a normal youngster,
riding your bicycle,
playing baseball,
instead of wandering around out here,
lost in space.

THE SEARCH

Warren Woessner

If there is life in space
Linda will find out.
But for years, nothing.

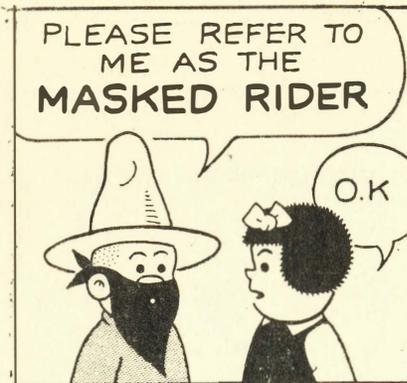


*

David Hilton

You can command
all birds,
Hawkman,
but this one
pays
no attention.

from The 11 East Gorham Poems



BECOMING

Warren Woessner

Your arms will become powerful, protective shields,
your legs will have the piston-like kick
of a kangaroo,
your fingers will jab
like knives,
and your shoulders, elbows, knees, and feet
will be sledge-hammer battering rams
of crushing force.

THE PATH

David Hilton and Warren Woessner

The land stretches out from us as far as we can see.
The water extends away until it seems to meet the sky.
A flat and sandy beach, a high and rocky shore.
The hills are so high that they are called mountains.
The sea is full of floating fields of ice.
We cannot pass through until we have cut a path.

THE COMMANDS

Warren Woessner

Get out of debt.
Lose weight you hate.
Deal with a woman's body.
End the problem.
Make extra money.
Don't shampoo out
what you justshampooed in. .
Try being more of a woman.
Help baby keep his cool.
Make the rounds.
Enjoy a delux station wagon.
Try our thirsty hair test.
See it like it is.
Don't let sand trap you.



*

David Hilton

and it's you crippled housewife
from Buena Park, California

as our applause meter climbs
to never-before-dreamed-of
miseries

and we launch
our 67th anniversary
program of

POET FOR A DAY!

from The 11 East Gorham Poems

Today's Chuckle



The second thing I'd wanted was Chet Parker. But that was only a foolish dream. Chet wouldn't look at me, not in that way. Oh, he was kind. All the kids were kind. People say that kids can be cruel, but I know they can be very considerate and sympathetic, too. No one ever teased me about my face or my arms, where the scars puckered up in ugly pink ridges. They never laughed at the great, purple blotch that was the left side of my face, and they tried to cover it up when their eyes slid across the right side of my face, where the corner of my eye was distorted by scar tissue.

*If the railroads should cease to exist,
the United States of America as
you know it would grind to a
paralyzing halt.*

*You would soon have very little
to eat.*

*And no electricity to light your
house. Or heat it. Or pump water
into it.*

Your job would wither away.

*You'd have no television, no radio,
no telephone, no newspaper to tell
you what was going on.*

*And try as they might, the trucks,
the pipelines, the airplanes, the
barges would not be able to fill the
gaping demand.*

*Chaos, even rule by panic, might
erupt.*



THE SAD LITTLE GIRL

David Hilton

The glue
that holds
together the

cells in
her body does
not work right

THE EXPERIENCE

David Hilton

it was a small whale
a porpoise about eight feet long
with lovely subtle curves
glistening in the cold rain

it had been mutilated
someone had hacked off its flukes
for a souvenir
two other people had carved
their initials
deeply into its side
and someone else had stuck
a cigar butt in its blowhole

I removed the cigar
and stood there for a long time
everybody has some experience
that affects him for life
that night
was one of mine

JUDGE PARKER AND KATHERINE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

David Hilton

1)

"I wish that on this day
all families could be together,
Katherine!"

"And they can be,
Alan!"

2)

"That's right!"
No matter how separated we are
by distance,
we can be bound together
by prayer!"

"Through love of our fellow man,
may we achieve peace
on earth...
forever!"



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