

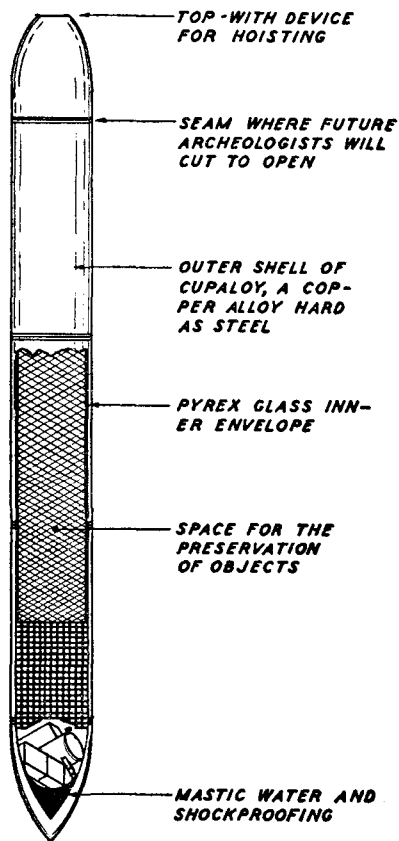
Our Legacy for 6939 A.D.

By
R. R. TAGGS

AT THE New York World's Fair, in 1939, humanity's first Time Capsule had begun its long journey into the future: a descent into the 50-foot "Immortal Well" beneath the walls of the Westinghouse Building — a journey which, it is hoped, will extend through 5000 years of time and give future archeologists a considerable insight into our present civilization.

The Time Capsule represented months of careful planning, and the combined production of hundreds of persons, some still living and others deceased. Archeologists, historians, scientists, engineers, librarians, scholars and many others were consulted at every step, so that the project might become as nearly successful as all our present-day arts and sciences could make it.

Leaving a message from our time



DRAWING OF THE
TIME CAPSULE

to so distant a future presented three distinct problems: How to build a vessel capable of preserving the record; the selection and preservation of the objects to be included; and how to leave word of its whereabouts for future inheritors.

The Capsule, as finally constructed, consists of an outer shell of Cupaloy

(chosen because of its electrical properties and resistance to corrosion), cast in sections, each section accurately machined and threaded, then screwed into the next and sealed with asphalt.

The contents of the torpedo-shaped capsule were packed securely in an inner envelope of Pyrex glass, which was then sealed, evacuated, filled with nitrogen and set into the shell in waterproof mastic. The inner crypt is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and 7 feet long.

More than 40 articles of common use are included. Among them are a fountain pen and mechanical pencil, a watch, incandescent electric lamp, zippered tobacco pouch, pipe, cigarettes, tobacco, cosmetics, a woman's hat, eyeglasses, toothbrush, toothpowder, a miniature camera and film, a razor, can-opener, specimens of our money, and so on. There are samples of the major metals and alloys; textiles, including wool, cotton, silk, linen, rayon, glass fabrics, rubber fabrics, asbestos cloth; materials such as Portland cement, asbestos, synthetic and natural rubber, synthetic plastics; also samples of coal (which may be rare in 5000 years), seeds of staple food crops, and many other items.

MOST important is a carefully prepared micro-film "essay on our times," taken from books, almanacs, pictures, arranged in logical order to cover all the major activities of human life. Multi-lingual

texts, a dictionary, and an idiomatic lexicon that will enable future examiners to readily translate the texts of the micro-film. All film in the Capsule is cellulose acetate for permanence. The micro-film contains a total of some 23,000 ordinary book pages, reproducing more than 10,000,000 words and many hundreds of pictures. A microscope is enclosed to enable "Futurians" to read the text. Complete directions in text and pictures are given for the construction of a larger reading machine and a motion picture projector.

For use with the latter, a newsreel is enclosed, specially prepared for the people of A.D. 6939. This contains nearly a score of historic, typical or significant scenes of that day of 1939, with sound.

Word was left for future archeologists in the form of a Book of Records, printed with specially compounded permanent inks, on 100 per cent rag bookpaper. Copies were sent to libraries, museums and other repositories throughout the world with the expectation that some will survive, either in the original form, or translated into new languages that arise.

In order that future historians may know when the year 6939 has come, the equivalent of this date is given in the book not only in our calendar, but also in the Chinese, Jewish, Mohammedan and Shinto. If none of these survives, Futurians may still calculate the years elapsed by reckoning from astronomical data

supplied by the United States Naval Observatory. These include the number and dates of eclipses of the sun and moon in the year 1939, the positions of the planets, and the angle of the earth's pole relative to the star Polaris.

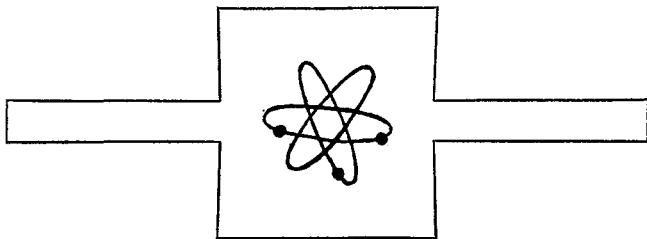
The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has provided a description of the Survey's network of stations across the country (U.S.), astronomical and geodetic locations of nearby permanent stations, and the exact latitude and longitude of the Time Capsule, determined by a special survey. Given to the third decimal point in seconds, these geodetic coordinates are sufficiently accurate to locate the spot with an error of less than an inch. They are: Latitude $40^{\circ} 44' 34.089''$ North of the Equator; Longitude $73^{\circ} 50' 43.842''$ West of Greenwich.

If other guides fail, the Futurians can still find the Capsule. Minute

directions have been prepared for constructing and using electro-magnetic instruments to locate it by the methods widely used today.

Finally, that our language may not be lost, the book contains a simple but ingenious key to the English language which will permit readers to translate our tongue and to pronounce it, 1939-1954 style, as well.

It is impossible, of course, to detail here all the studies and reasoning which led to the fabrication of the Time Capsule and selection of its contents. Whether, in the end, the project can achieve its purpose still depends on ourselves and our posterity — that the Book of Record may be preserved and the Time Capsule left undisturbed. The engineering difficulties of removing it from its resting place in 50 feet of muck and rock can probably be depended upon to protect the Capsule from vandalism.



Ancient Antigua

◆ BY MAY F. McELRAVY ◆

FOUNTAINS and flowers, ancient ruins, market-bound Indians in distinctive costumes, tranquility and crystal-clear air give Antigua, a gem-like city in the Guatemala highlands, its rich patina.

In addition, there are hand-hewn *rejas* (wooden cages on deep-set windows) to fascinate you. Half-closed brass hands or shaggy lion knockers cling to carved doors weathered by wind and rain since the days when the Knights of St. James ruled Antigua.

Crests, bearing seventeenth century dates, designate some of the peach and pale green stucco houses which loll against each other along cobblestone streets.

Even if you only have a few days in this historic city, take time to

linger before an open portal and listen to the fountain trilling songs in one of the few restored, flower-filled patios.

You'll feel the symbolism created by the constant flow of clear water from the shapely breasts of the maiden figures on the Breast Fountain in the Plaza. Viewed through its mist from the double pillared arcade of the Governor's Palace, it seems to denote the sustenance of life, come earthquakes, floods or conquests.

As you admire the plaster lace on the façade of Santa Cabrini Church across the way, you ponder its resplendent past. A barefoot Indian woman pauses at the door to cover her head with her cotton *rebosa* before she enters. Against the sun-