



The Retro Express All Aboard!!!!

Painless history for Young Minds
and the “Young at Heart”
by Mr. Jack Joseph de Roco



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Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome aboard the Retro Express! My name is “Ramblin” I will be your guide on this trip, and if you have any questions along the way, feel free to ask. If I do not know the answer I will make something up. OK? (I hope everybody laughs) Also I want to introduce you to our Master computer, “Reggie” Say hello to the people “Reggie”!

Hello to all of you! and my name is “Reginald” not “Reggie” just for the record. I am prepared to answer all your questions correctly.

Now if all of you will fasten your seat belts, we will be on our way. This particular trip will take about 10 seconds. I know that seems like a long time in this day and age, but if you stop to think about it our destination is not just around the corner. (come on people, smile!!)

Mr. Ramblin!!
Yes!

Why is it your shoes do not touch the floor like everybody else’s ?

These are special shoes dear lady, they are magnetic. That is they have magnetic soles, and since the Retro Express is powered by positive magnetic power, and positive electric magnetic power is channeled all through the floor of the Retro Express, and my shoes are positively charged, they never touch the floor. Actually, it is very comfortable after you wear them for a while.

But Mr. Ramblin, that still does not explain why they.....?

I am sorry Ms. I failed to mention that positive and negative magnetic forces attract each other, and if two fields of magnetic force are both positive, or both negative, they will repel each other. Since my shoes are positive, like the floor, my shoes repel against the floor, and it looks like I am suspended in air. Which I am!

OK, Today all of you have requested that we go back only 100 years!! Since it is now the year 2008, 10 seconds from when we leave, all of you will be able to observe what it was like in 1908. I want to remind you not to get up from your seats until we arrive at our destination. Once we are there feel free to get up and look out the windows, and if you need to use the bathroom there is one on each end of the Retro Express cabin. Information about 1908 will automatically be piped into the listening device that you have in your ear, and as I said, any questions you have just ask. Each of you has an individual direct line into master computer, "Reginald". "Reggie" is programmed to answer what ever you ask. Your voice will activate "Reggie"....

Really Ramblin, please!!!!.....

Sorry "Reginald", ah!where was I? Oh yes, via the little lapel pin each of you were given when you entered the Retro Express. OK ! In a few moments the shields on the windows will close, and we will be in complete darkness for the 10 seconds it takes for us to arrive at our destination, the year 1908. You will feel a vibration beneath your seats, but do not be alarmed, it will only last for 10 seconds, and your seat belts will hold you in your seat until we get there.

Alright? OK "*Reginald*", close the shields!

While Reginald takes care of the shields which are closing slowly now, for many of you it will be the first time in your life you have a chance to experience what complete, total, darkness is like. When there is no light there are no shadows, and no points of reference.....

Ladies and gentleman this is how the world looks to a blind

person!..... For all of you it will only last for the 10 seconds it takes us to arrive at our destination..... 5 seconds more and we will be there.....

The shields are lifting now. Welcome to the year 1908!

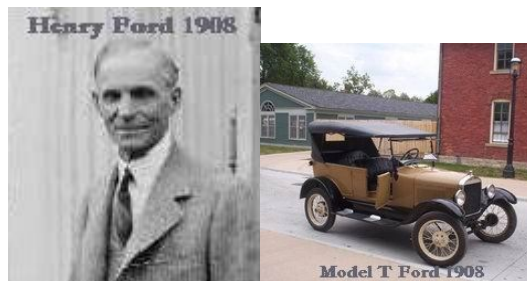
Reginald speaking “Good People”, here is where I take over for Ramblin. The American flag this year 1908, has only 45 stars. Okalahoma was made a State in November of last year, but there is no star yet on the flag, and New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii were not States yet.

The population in 1908 is estimated to be a little less than 89 million people. Where you come from in 2008 the population of the USA is a little less than 274 million. One thing to take note of is that people at this time in history are not taxed, whereas in the year 2008 there are 40 different taxes right now. If you remember, the reason people left England and came to America in the early days was to escape taxes.

It is estimated that in 2008 there are 250 million cars on the road in the USA . Here in 1908 the figure for the entire country is 8000. As we move around the country you will notice that almost all the roads are still dirt, and people driving the cars are wearing what were called “dusters”, a kind of light weight overcoat with hats and goggles. Most of the cars are open without windows, as you can see, although some have what they called “Isinglass curtains” that you can roll down in case of rain, attached to the cloth tops that people would wax to keep out rain.

Note that in the entire country people boasted that there were now 144 miles of paved roads, paved with cobble stones, and they were worried because of the high speed limit, which was 10 miles per hour.

See that thin man over there on your right? Is he Henry Ford senior??



That is right Ramblin. This year he turned out his first assembly line car, the model T Ford. You could buy one for \$850.00. Finally the middle class people could afford a car. He also paid his workers \$5.00 a day for a 12 hour day, which was a good wage. Most jobs paid 22 cents an hour or \$2.64

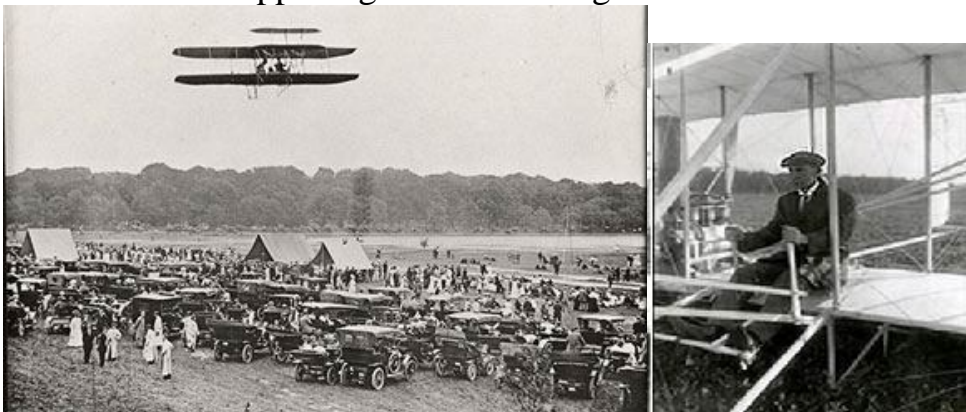
for 12 hours work.

What was the average life span in 1908 Reginald?

The average life span in this year is 47 years. Where all of you are from it is now 77.2 years.

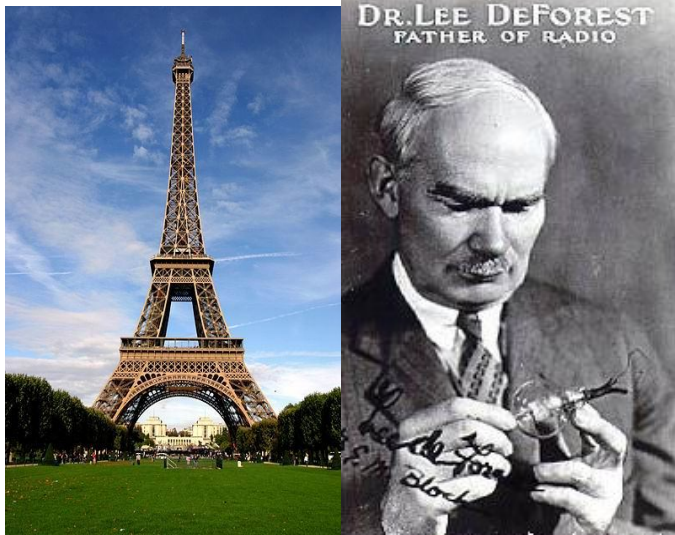
You might be interested to know that here in 1908, only 14% of the population have bathtubs! A new innovation is the telephone, and only 8% of the population have telephones. All you ladies might be interested to know that most women washed their hair once a month with rain water that they had accumulated in a barrel when it rained, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo, and they wore their hair long, and brushed it every night before going to bed. Sugar cost four cents a pound, eggs were 14 cents a dozen, coffee was 15 cents a pound. There was no Mother's day or Father's day, and ice tea, canned beer, along with cross word puzzles had not been invented.

What is happening on our left Reginald?



You mean that crowd of people on our left, and what appears to be a big kite flying above them? We are now in the State of Virginia and that "kite" is being flown by a man called Wilber Wright to demonstrate to the Army how an Airplane could be used. Yes, that is what was known as an Airplane in this year.

This is also the year that a man called DeForrest was able to transmit voice and music over 500 miles from the Eiffel Tower in Paris France for the first time. The result of which caused Amateur interest in radio, and many magazines were being published such as Modern Electronics, Electrician and Mechanic, explaining about radio waves. It was predicted that "RADIO" was the wave of the future.



Folks! we are not going there this trip, but in Messina Italy you should know that there was a major earthquake in December of this year, killing from 70 to 100 people.



How about education Reginald?



Two out of every ten people could not read or write. It was estimated that only six percent of all Americans managed to graduate from High School, and ninety percent of all of the doctors had no College Education. The lack of education and general knowledge was a problem for sure. Can you imagine you could buy Marijuana, heroin, and Morphine over the counter at any drug store? In fact many pharmacists believed that Heroin would clear your complexion, help your mind, and regulate your stomach and bowels. Because doctors did not know how to treat many illnesses in 1908, many people died of Pneumonia, influenza, and diarrhea.

Ladies and Gentlemen as we travel around you will notice that for the most part you see many horses and buggies, and the clothing that people are wearing is a little different. Both men and women for the most part wear hats for one thing.





As we go through the rural areas you will notice that you do not see tractors to do the work in the fields. They will not appear for a couple of years from now. What you see is men plowing the fields with horses, and women for the most part, are taking care of the rustic houses and the children. Life was not so easy for many in 1908. However you could buy a home from Sears Homes for \$782 like this one.



President Theodore Roosevelt, is trying to get a bill through the congress and the senate to help the rural areas.

Well folks, it is time to think about what you have seen, and about time to fasten your seat belts once more for our return to the year 2008.

One more thing before we leave Ramblin, this is the year that a big meteorite, or what was thought to be a meteorite, landed in Russia in a remote part of Siberia, northwest of Lake Baikal on the 30th June 1908. The

event released as much energy as fifteen one-megaton atomic bombs,,as well as blasting an enormous amount of dust into the atmosphere, felling 60 million trees over an area of more than 2000 square kilometres.(120,000 square miles). Shaidurov, a Russian scientist, suggests that this explosion would have caused "considerable stirring of the high layers of atmosphere and change its structure." Such a meteoric disruption was the trigger for the subsequent rise in global temperatures, not what man is doing in 2008. I thought that might be interesting for all of you.



Thanks Reginald. OK folks, get into your seat, and fasten your seat belts please..... Everybody ready?..... The shields are closing, and in a few moments we will return to 2008. Total blackness once more, and here we go !.....

As the shields open, I hope all of you have found this short trip informative. Reginald and myself wish you good day, and would like to remind you how much we in 2008 have progressed. For example; We now have air pollution somewhat due to the many cars we now have, somewhere near 251 million. We have a problem with noise pollution in our cities. Many more people die in car accidents now than in the past. The cost of living is now many times greater than in 1908 in general, and we have problems with pesticides contaminating our food now, where with horses that was not a problem. We have telephones that many feel are contaminating our air and causing cancer, and very loud music to blast our ears. We no longer need to worry about our memory, because we have a thing called a “computer”, and we have a thing they did not have in 1908 called “Alzheimer’s”, which at that time was simply an older person losing their memory because of age, and something they did not worry about then, called “stress”.

For sure, we have improved a lot in 100 years. (smile)

Chapter 2

Good Morning Reginald!

Good Morning, Ramblin.

Are you all set for today? Are all your data banks loaded and ready for the Nineteen Twenties?

I am way ahead of you Ramblin. I noted also we only have nine passengers today instead of ten.

That's true, so we have one less than our normal group.

We have a few minutes Ramblin, and I would like to know if you like poetry?

Poetry??? Don't tell me you like poetry Reginald?

The fact is, I enjoy the cadence and rhythm of verse. If a verse flows well, my data banks seem to enjoy it. Why do you feel I could not enjoy verse? I have been programmed to evaluate??

Well, that is true! I just had not thought of you *enjoying* something.

Really Ramblin!!

We will have to talk more about poetry Reginald. But right now, the people are beginning to arrive.....

Good Morning everyone! Please find a seat, and buckle up you seat belts. I want to welcome you to the Retro Express! My name is “Ramblin”. I will be your guide on today’s trip to the 1920s. Do all of you have the little lapel pins? Please pin them on yourself. Fine!! Now, just sit back and relax and we will be under way in just a few moments.

I wish to also wish you “Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen”, I am Reginald, the Main Frame computer on the Retro Express. My data banks are prepared to answer any questions you might have when we arrive in the era of the 1920s, individually, with the use of the listening devices and the lapel pins given you when you entered the Retro Express. I have been programmed to receive 10 different sources at the same time. So feel free to ask what ever you wish to know. I will respond individually. I will also be narrating about the 1920s over the loud speakers in the Retro Express.

Thank you Reggie! If all of you have your seatbelts fastened? Reginald and I want to assure you that no harm will come to you when you are in the 10 seconds of complete darkness necessary for our journey. For your information during the 10 seconds of complete darkness you will have an idea of how the world looks to a blind person.

Ok Reginald, lower the shields! While the shields are being lowered, note the music that has begun. It is called the “Charleston”. The dance that goes with this music is called the “Charleston” also. It is a happy music and expresses the need for something joyful after World War One. It first came out in 1924 and is associated with flying beads, knocking-knees, and crossing hands all in time to the music. It became the music of the twenties. It was first heard in an African-American Revue called “Runnin Wild”.

I would like to add Ramblin that the “Tango”, and dances called “The Camel Walk” and the “Fox Trot” were very popular also, along with the “Black Bottom” and the “Shimmy”.

Thanks Reginald, and now in just three seconds we will be in the 1920s.....OK! The shields are going up, the music is becoming softer..... and “Welcome to the Roaring Twenties”!!

Ladies and gentlemen I would like to give you a little basic background information about this ten year period, the 1920s. The term “the Roaring

Twenties” was first used in England, after World War One which ended in 1918. During this ten year period it seemed as if everybody suddenly decided to break the bonds of normality, after being bound so tightly during the war. Thus the term “Roaring”! and “ROAR” they did! The cosmetic industry boomed! The women suddenly discovered lipstick, powder, rouge, eyebrow pencil and shadow, and colored nails once again.



I do not want to interrupt Reginald, but I thought the people might like to see what the Charleston really looked like! See those two young girls on the left?, they are practicing the Charleston. Notice their hair is cut short in what was



Called a “Bob” and fur coats were all the rage.

Getting back to the basic information RAMBLIN, the population has increased since 1908 from 89 million to almost 107 million, and the life span has increased from the expectation of 47 years to 53.6 for men, and 54.6 for women. Also that from the 1908 period, roads that were paved across the country, 144 miles, increased to 387,000 miles during the 1920s.

Look at that man on the right side of the Retro Express! He is wearing what was called a Raccoon Coat!! These long coats were very popular. That lady across the street from him is Margaret Gorman, the very first Miss America, she was only 16 years old when she won the contest, and at the time, just for the records, her measurements were 30-25-32.



Very good Ramblin!! Our passengers should know also that automobiles during the 1920s were increasing in number everywhere. Henry Ford because of his assembly line, was now producing what the public called the “Tin Lizzie” for \$290.00. competition in the auto industry was very strong.



A man named Chrysler in 1924 came out with what was a luxury car. If you look out of the left windows you can see him with his new Chrysler car.



As we travel around the corner see that sporty looking car over there? That is a racing car built by Mercedes in Germany. In 1924 racing was a very popular sport. This supercharged Mercedes racer owed its success in Italy to its color! Red !! It seems that the Italian bystanders of this road race in 1924 had a tendency to drive their goats onto the road when they saw a car painted in the colors of a rival country approaching. By painting his number 10 car Italian red, German driver Christian Werner enjoyed open roads and won the race.



One of the things that happened in the 1920s that opened the doors to crime was Prohibition, which made even one half of an ounce of alcohol against the law to drink. It went into law in January or 1920.

That's right Reginald, and if you folks will look out of the right side of the Retro Express you will see what was called at that time a "Speakeasy" !



San Francisco was notorious for the number of Speakeasies. They were all behind closed Iron doors, and you needed a password to enter them. There was one at that time called “Coffee Dan’s” that is still functioning in San Francisco California. Although now Alcohol of course, is no longer illegal in 2008.



Chronicle / Brant Ward

Coffee Dan's

It was the era of Gangs and Gangsters also. See that man who looks like a very nice guy on your left? That is Al Capone! He and a man called Dutch Schultz controlled the liquor business. They were called “bootleggers”



**ARTHUR FLEGENHEIMER
AKA DUTCH SCHULTZ**

Moving along, on your right is the famous Regent Theatre. It was built in 1916 and is still operating in 2008.



Here another very famous man called Harry Houdini performed. His escapes and became world famous.

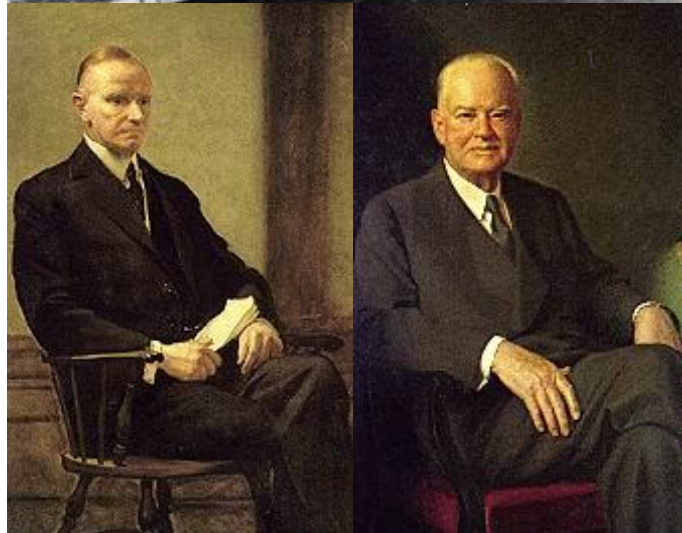


Then there was the 1929 Stock Crash, when the stock market became



Unglued.

Many people lost fortunes, and “bread lines” formed around the USA. Businesses closed, and people struggled to have food on the table. Let us hope that the year all of you are from, 2008, never gets as bad as it was in 1929. Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover were the two presidents during the 1920s.



Calvin Coolidge

Herbert Hoover

Well Ladies and Gentlemen it is time to return to 2008. If you will take your seats and fasten your seatbelts once more, we will be on our way. Thank You!!!.....

As the shields start to close we sincerely hope you have enjoyed your glimpse of the 1920s. As you have seen up until 1929 it really was a “Roaring Time” in the USA.

In just three seconds.....in fact right now the shields are lifting indicating we are back to 2008. Please watch your step as you leave the Retro Express, and we hope we have the pleasure of having all of you with us again soon.

Good Day everyone!!.....

Well Reginald that is it for today.

Good Night Ramblin.

Good night Reginald. Tomorrow and Tuesday we will have a little rest Reginald. My supervisor informed me that they are going to make a complete check of the Retro Express systems. So I will see you on Wednesday. See you then!!

Enjoy your rest Ramblin. I will be ready to continue on Wednesday.

Sleep tight! Don't let the fleas bite! (HA!HA!HA!)

Really Ramblin!! There are no fleas on the Retro Express!!

(HA!HA!HA!) Never mind Reggie. HA!HA!HA!

Chapter 3

“Monday Morning”

Good Morning Reginald !

Good Morning. But I do not recognize your voice?

My name is Jack. I am one of the design engineers that put you and the Retro Express together.

Will you kindly continue speaking please. I want to register your voice on my voice identification unit Mr. Jack.

Sure Reginald. What would you like me to say? Anything in particular? Today we are going to check out the physical aspects of the Express to begin with. Then after that is done we will check to see if you need any cleaning or replacement of electrical components. I know you have the ability to detect any problem, and we are here to fix what ever your needs are. So while we check the physical aspects of the Retro Express, would you mind running a check for us?

I would be glad to Mr. Jack. I want you to know that I now have you recorded for voice identification.

OK Reginald. It is time to get to work. We are planning on adding six more seats to the Express for future expansion. So it will have sixteen seats instead of ten.

But Mr. Jack. I would like to remind you that I only have the capacity to answer questions individually for ten people.

Don't worry Reginald, for now the Express will only have ten passengers. But the investors are thinking of the future, and want to be able to gain more profit. In fact the board of directors wants to add a dining car as well. That is still in the discussion stage yet however.

Logic tells me that to have a dining car may not be a good idea. But I also know that humans are not always logical. For one thing where would the food be prepared? Would that mean having a kitchen? Also the cooking may clog my filters? How would people seated on the right side of the Retro Express see what is happening on the left side, and visa versa?

Well Reginald, that part would not be too hard. All they would have to do is get up out of their chairs if they were interested, *stand up and look!!* As for food preparation, they are talking about serving food much like they do on airplanes. Everything would be pre-prepared, and all that would be needed is a microwave oven, and they would serve cold drinks. However, if they do decide to have a dining car, it would be like they have on First Class in airplanes, only with tables. Also they would have to hire a person to serve things. OH YES, and one other thing they are planning to have Ramblin use an “old time uniform” like the conductors on trains used in the past. In the meantime Reginald, I will make sure there are no lapel pins on the Express, so you will not be bothered with the noise of installing the six chairs.

Thank you Mr. Jack.

I will see you tomorrow Reginald. We can talk some more then. Until then, “May the digital Gods continue to smile, so the Express can travel an addional mile.”

Very poetic Mr. Jack.

Here come the men with the six new chairs. I will be back tomorrow to make sure everything is in tip top shape. Also by then you will have made a complete check of your system, and I can fix what ever is needed. Until tomorrow then, Sleep tight and.....

Yes I know! Don't let the fleas bite! What is it with all of you and fleas?? There are no fleas on the Retro Express!!

HA!HA!HA! Until tomorrow Reginald.

“Tuesday Morning”

Good Morning Reginald!

Good Morning Mr. Jack.

I see that your voice Identification unit is functioning as it should Reginald. Did you find anything else that needs to be attended to?

Not really Mr. Jack. But I would suggest replacing my dust filters after all the work yesterday installing the chairs. I want to thank you for removing all the lapel pins, except for the one you are wearing. I was not disturbed at all with the noise. I hope you are satisfied with the work they did.

It turned out very well Reginald, they did a good job, and we now have 16 comfortable chairs, and the décor of the past.



Did the “powers that be” decide on a uniform for Ramblin?

Yes they did, and because of the décor of the Express, I am sure that Ramblin will be satisfied also. He is a good natured man, and likes his job. So the new uniform will suit him well.

What about the dining car Mr. Jack?

It seems that they are going to use the idea. They think that a First Class Section with six tables is a good idea. I still have my doubts, but the board of directors feels they can make more money by charging double for fares in First Class. As always, “Money is the name of the game”. That means twelve more people also for you Reginald. We are preparing the circuit board to plug into your mainframe for the eighteen people added to your passenger list in

the future, along with making eighteen more lapel pins for communication with you. In fact the board has decided they want the dining car ready by the end of next week. All of us are going “full blast” to satisfy the board of directors. An outside firm is constructing the dining car as we speak. They had this outside firm design it without even consulting us. All next week Reginald you will have only one destination, “The very first Thanksgiving in 1621”. All the data will be fed into your memory banks tonight. Ramblin will have his new uniform for tomorrow, and the dining car, if all goes well, will be connected to the Express by the end of the week.

Are you going to replace my dust filters Mr. Jack?

That is the next thing on my list Reginald. The new seats seem to be firm and well made, so I will replace your dust filters right now.

Thank you Mr. Jack. With good clean air all of my circuits will continue to function without any problems, and not over heat. Everything else checks out as functioning well.

Ok Reginald everything is all set. Tomorrow you and Ramblin will be “Out and About” as they say in Australia ! (HA!HA!HA!)

You have some of the strangest expressions Mr. Jack.

(HA!HA!HA!) See you the end of next week Reginald!
Ciao for Now!!

Chapter 4

Good morning Reginald!

Ramblin! Good Morning! Do you like your new uniform?

How in the world did you know I was dressed differently?

I learned a lot over the past two days Ramblin. Thanks to Mr. Jack.

Who is Mr. Jack?

He is one of the design engineers who put the Retro Express together. He supervised the installation of the six new chairs, and replaced all of my dust filters. Also he likes different expressions and verse.

I will have to get to know him.

As a matter of fact Regge, I like my new clothes. I feel like something out of the 1800s though.

I look like a ticket taker on an old time train.

But I am very comfortable, and the clothes fit well.



I understand that for the next seven days we will be going back to the first Thanksgiving in 1621. Have they entered all the data for the trip into your memory banks yet??

Yes Ramblin. I have received all the data. Did they tell you about the dining car?

What about a dining car? Are they going to have me serve snacks now on the Express?

No, they are going to hire another person to join us on our trips. Mr. Jack informed me that they will be adding the dining car sometime next week to the Retro Express. It will be for people who have more money and want to be in something called “First Class”. An outside firm is putting it together. Mr. Jack says the board of directors want to make more money. So soon we will have twelve more passengers. As Mr. Jack says, “Money is the name of the game.” What ever that means?

HA!HA!HA! Well, I hope it all works. But for today and the next seven days we are on our way to the year 1621.....

It looks like they “opened the gate” and here come our passengers for today.....Welcome to the Retro Express ladies and gentlemen! As all of you know we are on our way today to the year 1621. So if you will find a seat, put on your seat belts and lapel pins, we will be on our way in a few minutes.....I would like to explain a little about the Retro Express..... so in three minutes the shields will be lowering and we will be on our way.....do not be frightened with the complete darkness, it will only be for.....The shields are closed, so in ten seconds.....no three seconds.....in fact we are here! Welcome to the year 1621 and the first thanksgiving!!

This is where I take over for information about this time in the past.

Before you get started Reginald, If all of you will look out the windows on the left side of the Retro Express you will see how the First Thanksgiving looked.



The lady in the center is serving chief Massasoit of the Wpanoagam tribe, after signing a peace treaty with the man in the black coat and hat, Edward Winslow.

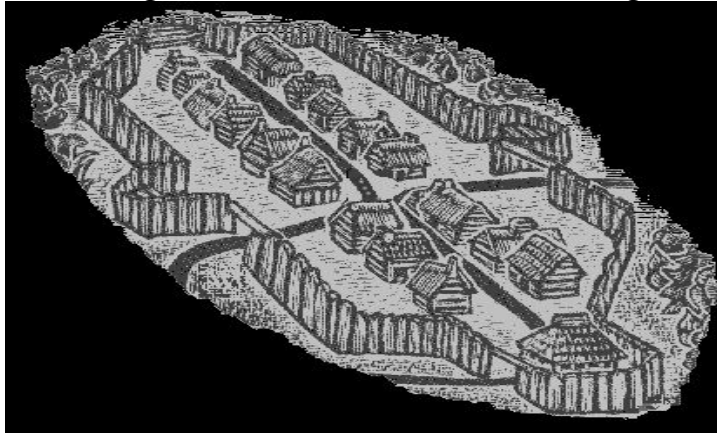
It had been a successful harvest after being in the country for only one year. Edward Winslow wrote about the feast. However this feast was not repeated every year like you do in your time, because for the Pilgrims a day for giving thanks meant a day of prayer and fasting. The following is what Edward Winslow wrote in the language that was used at that time in your history;

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, Many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

It is interesting also that when Edward Winslow referred to fowl, he was not just referring to wild turkeys. Fowl included ducks, geese, and swans. They also did not stuff the birds, but records show that they did roast them, and the venison also. On this first big feast with the amount of venison and fowl they had, the village, and the Indians actually ate for a week.

Ramblin is passing out a copy of a hand drawn map of the village. It is yours to keep.

Yes ladies and gentleman if you will note there were 19 houses, one for each family and the few single men who landed with the Pilgrims.



That is correct Ramblin. The Pilgrims kept good records of the way the houses you see were made and the material they used. We have moved around the village a little, and you can see out of the windows on the right side exactly how the houses looked, and there is one of the ladies working in the garden also.

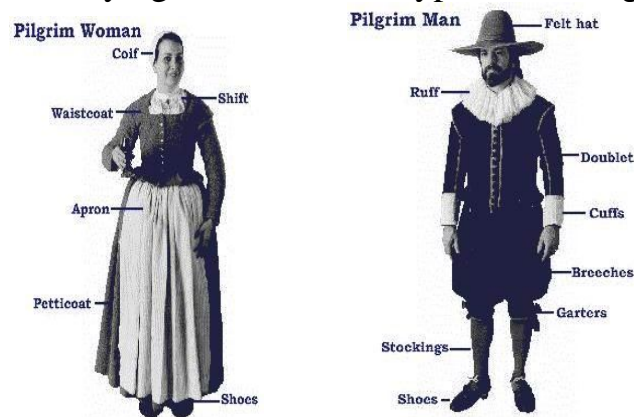


Wood was plentiful, and all the houses were made exactly the same. They were very serviceable with hard packed dirt floors, and small windows, and a thatched roof. For the Pilgrims to accomplish what they did in one year is really remarkable. However it took six years before the compound was complete.

They did not land at Plymouth first. They landed at what you know as Cape Cod in Massachusetts. They decided to explore a little and decided to settle at Plymouth because there was fresh water streams, and they would be able to grow food there. Also there was a safe harbor for small boats.

I want to give each of you also a picture of the clothing that the Pilgrims wore so you will have a little additional souvenir of your trip to the first Thanksgiving.

Imagine for a minute trying to work in this type of clothing on a warm day??



Ramblin, I think that it would be interesting for our passengers to know a little about the treaty that the Pilgrims and the Indians made. It was very simple, and there was peace between them for thirty three years. There were only four laws.

First, they agreed not to injure each other.

Second, if there was a conflict of some kind the leader of the offending group would surrender the person or persons to the other side for punishment.

Third, the Pilgrims and the Indians agreed not to steal from each other.

Fourth, if one or the other got into an unjust war, they would give help to the party who was warring, Indian or Pilgrim.

You can see how sometimes a simple agreement can maintain peace between two different ways of thinking.

One further note, the Pilgrims survived thanks to two Indians, Samoset and Squanto. They taught the Pilgrims which plants were safe to eat, how to fish in the waters there, and how to have good crops, because the summers were very short in the New England area. This created lasting friendships and trust between two very different peoples.

As we move around, there on the left side of the Retro Express is The Mayflower. Can you imagine 19 families crowded on a boat this size, along with the crew and a few single men?



Ladies and Gentlemen it is time to return to the year 2008. So if you would kindly sit back down in your seats and buckle your seat belts Reginald will prepare the Retro Express for our return trip.

All prepared Ramblin, when ever you are ready.

It looks like everybody is secure Reginald. So you can close the shields and in ten seconds we will be back to the year 2008.....

We have arrived Ramblin, and I hope our passengers enjoyed the trip. I wish all of you a good day, and a Happy Thanksgiving in 2008.

That goes for me as well ladies and gentlemen, I too hope you enjoyed the trip and also wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving. Have a nice evening.

Well Regge, that does it for today. We have six more days going back to 1621, after that the “powers that be” will have decided how to connect a dining car to the Retro Express, and we will have a new hostess aboard the Express to take care of what people in First Class want. Have they said anything about any changes for our normal groups of passengers that you have overheard Regge?

No Ramblin, I have overheard nothing different. However that does not mean they have not decided to make any changes. One thing I overheard Mr. Jack saying as he was leaving, was that the new hostess has been hired and her name is Michelle. But that is all.

Well, I look forward to meeting Michelle, and seeing how this new innovation is going to work. I cannot quite imagine a dining car connected to the Express, but I am sure the engineers must have figured out what is necessary to attach the car. I wonder what they plan on serving? Maybe I can get a free meal now and then. HA!HA!HA! I'll be back tomorrow Regge for our next visit to 1621.

Really Ramblin, I wish you would call me by my name.

Sorry Reginald, I will try to remember. HA!HA!HA!

I wonder why it is so hard for Ramblin to remember my name??

Chapter 5

Good Morning! You must be Michelle. Welcome aboard! It is a pleasure to meet you!



That goes for me as well! You must be Ramblin? I feel kind of strange. I have never gone back in time, but I have worked as a Air Hostess so I know what my duties in the dining car are. It is a very nice section of the Retro Express. Will you be in the car with me?



No, I will not. I will be in the front part of the Express. Reginald and I will be telling people what to expect on the Express from there, but our voices will be heard in the dining car where you are as well. Have you introduced yourself to Reginald my computer friend?

Good Morning Ms. Michelle, I am Reginald. I have been recording your voice so that from now on you will be recognized when you come aboard the Retro Express. You have a very pleasant voice Michelle.

Thank you Reginald, I look forward to working with you and Ramblin. It is kind of exciting to think that a person can go back in time to different places and see with your own eyes exactly how it was in different places in the past. Do you also store information about what is happening now in order to use it in the future??

I have the ability to store information if someone enters it via voice or from a digital source. My memory banks can be activated in many different ways. Do you have some information you think would be interesting to people in the future Michelle??

Well, This year.....

One second please. OK I am recording now in the space in my data banks for the future. Proceed please.

Well, as I was saying, in this year 2008, people have decided that an African American will be the President of the United States. Barak Obama was elected in November by a big margin of votes. For the *first time ever* the White House will have an African American there for the next four years who is not a doorman, or a cook, or a waiter, but the President of the Country. Also, President George W. Bush the incumbent President, was voted in polls “The worst President in the history of the United States.” I do not know if that is true or not. But it seems some people feel that he is.

I have stored what you have told me for future trips in the years to come. For sure maybe one hundred years from now, someone will want to return to the year 2008. Do you think that information is important Ramblin?

I sure do Regge. But why someone would want to come back to this year, HmMMM right now, in November, there are over ten million people without work! and the economy is “for the birds”!

What do birds have to do with the economy Ramblin?

HA!HA!HA! Never mind Regge. Well Michelle and *Reginald* it is time to go to work. As you both know today we are on our way to.....

Epilog

And so the Retro Express continued to transport people daily to different times in the past, depending on what the Board of Directors decided would be interesting for them to see and understand, and would be willing to pay for. It seems that the dining car was a huge success thanks to the hostess Michelle and her charming ways with people. Ramblin and Mr. Jack became good friends, as did the relationship with Reginald and Mr. Jack. As Mr. Jack says “It is always great when all is well and ends well”.

(I still would like to know what birds have to do with the economy?)

**Remember, Today is the Past for
Tomorrow, and Tomorrow will
always be the Future!**



Author's note:

This short story is written to help young people to know a little about history in a form that is easy to digest, and for people of Foreign Countries who are trying to learn the language, English, to know a little of the history of the United States in a form that they might find interesting.

I wish to thank all the people who have written so much about so many things and published what they have written on the internet for all to see and learn from. The internet provides great quantities of information that young and old alike can gain from. It is a medium that has been misused by many, and as a result has gained the reputation as a source of porn and

useless information. Many feel that it is only good for sending messages and nothing more.

In my simple way I have tried to show people that much can be gained from this wonderful source and computers, along with of course, the Encarta Encyclopedia and the World Almanac.

I thank once again, all of the many people who have taken the time to write about so much.

Jack Joseph de Roco

