

DOTTY'S DIMENSIONS: THE COLUMN Issue #1

September 2012

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Hello. To those of you familiar with my writings, welcome again. For those of you who are new, greetings. This is a twice-a-year column that I hope I can publish for many years, and I included two pictures with each issue. As with my past publications, this column is available online. In addition, if you can't download or have access to the Internet, send me your flash drive, and I'll put the column on it as well as other stuff from my web site. Finally, if you don't have a computer, you can receive a paper copy of this column by sending me a few dollars to cover my postage and printing costs if you are in the USA. If in North America, send an International Reply Coupon (IRC); overseas, send two IRCs.

These columns will report on my New Jersey trips, trips to nearby cities, and other places. I also plan to write about events related to space exploration and science fiction (SF): science museums, SF conventions (cons), etc. Meanwhile, as I've said in the past: "I write to convince people to go to

these or similar places and events themselves. I don't cater to armchair travelers." Nevertheless, a lot can happen through the years; however, one particular place I've written about in the past covered the American Museum of Natural History's (AMNH) adjoining Rose Center of Earth and Space, Central Park West at W.81st St., NYC (212-769-5100). Although "Beyond Planet Earth..." is a temporary exhibit area (until August 12, 2012), the Rose Center includes many permanent exhibits having to do with Earth and Space, as well as the Hayden Planetarium. This place alone can take several hours to see and that's not counting the rest of the AMNH! Check their website for more information.

Friday, March 16, 2012: After a three-hour drive from Southern NJ, I arrived at the Rye Town Hilton, Rye Brook, NY, to attend Lunacon, the New York City area SF con that the Lunarians, a NYC area SF club, have run since 1957. Once I registered and received my con badge, I read some startling news on the back of this badge: The future of Lunacon is in your hands! It seems that the con committee needed more people to help out, especially before the con. Meanwhile, attendance as well as the numbers of volunteers and committee members had been shrinking in these last few years. (I hope there will be future Lunacons, plus I did donate to the con and received a "Friends of Lunacon" ribbon.) Then I spent that night going to some of the events: 1) Opening Ceremonies, where I listened to the guests-of-honor, author John Ringo, artist Howard Tayler, game designers Andy & Kristen Looney, and young adult author Tamora Pierce, introduce themselves. They also talked about their latest achievements and future endeavors. 2) At the next event, Classic Filk Songs Sing Along, Roberta Rogow and others kept us entertained by playing guitars and singing several time-honored filk songs about SF and space exploration themes. Some of the songs added lyrics to popular tunes, and other songs were original compositions. The most famous, or infamous, song was "Banned from Argo." (Most filk songs use folk tunes, and they used to call it folk singing. Then, years

ago at a World SF con or Worldcon, somebody did a typo on the con program and typed "filk" instead of "folk." The name caught on, and the rest is history.)

3) Later, in another room, the panelists discussed a more serious subject at If They Build It, They Won't Come. Dennis McCunney, Todd Dashoff, and Elspeth Kovar talked about how to draw more people to a con, how to network and advertise the con, and to answer the question, "Why should I come to your con?" Of course, they also covered Lunacon's latest dilemma. 4) Although I didn't formally meet any pros at the Meet The Pros party, I did get to talk to different SF fans and eat some savory & sweet snacks. I especially dipped some snacks into the chocolate fountain. 5) Finally, I entered the Con (hospitality) Suite. Here, I had more snacks, soft drinks, and I talked with more SF fans in a living-room setting.

Saturday, March 17: Lunacon's busiest day started for me by attending the following panel: 6) Hall Costume Versus Stage Costume. Experienced costumers Byron P. Connell, Tina Connell, Laurel Cunningham Hill, Laura Kovalcin, and Lisa Ashton explained the differences between the two kinds of costumes. Then they gave advice on what to do or not do in making and wearing those different types of costumes. For example, because most people notice stage costumes from a distance, trim and makeup must be brighter so that most of the audience could see you. The costume only needed to hold together long enough for the stage performance and photo shoots. On the other hand, hall costumes must be more durable, comfortable, and can allow for small details in trim because fans will wear these costumes around the con floor within close-up view to other fans. 7) Then I played host to the next panel. Lunacon made available a certain room for allowing fans to sign up and have a panel talk, demonstration, workshop, performance, and so forth, called Your Panel Here. Because I noticed there were no talks about space exploration on the formal program, I decided to have one myself and promote the organization that I'm a member of: the National Space Society (NSS). In addition, I provided the addresses of different local NSS

chapters, including the NSS/Philadelphia Area Space Alliance (NSS/PASA) - my local chapter. Meanwhile, only a few people showed up: somebody who studied astronomy from the Washington, DC, area; a former president of the NYC/NSS chapter; and somebody who ran a SF club in Bergen County, NJ. Nevertheless, we had a lively discussion about the state of the space program, NSS, and other related topics. 8) For the next panel, Herding Cats, aka Conrunning, Dom Corrado, David Kyle, Ben Yarrow, and Sharon Sbarsky mentioned past cons, and why somebody would go from attending cons to volunteering, working on the staff, and finally, being a chairperson for a con. Ben Yarrow said it best: "Because someone is having a better time at a certain con due to what a committee member or volunteer did." 9) On Beyond the Con: Geek Events Other Than Conventions, Phillip DePardo, Zorikh Lequidre, Eric Zuckerman (alias Eric in the Elevator), and Jim Freund tried to answer the question: What is a geek event? A few of the answers included comic book cons, tech events, and SF cons-both regional cons and media-SF cons. Some members on the panel talked about a secret science club in Brooklyn, events at Columbia University, and other stuff going on in the NYC area as well as different clubs involved in SF, costuming, and other related subjects. 10) Before going to dinner, I walked into the Art Show room. About 80% of the art displayed fantasy themes, and the rest showed space and science fiction themes. Around three-quarters of the art exhibited paintings and drawings, and the remaining art presented other mediums: sculpture, pottery, and glassware as well as quilts, jewelry, and other items.

Saturday Night: 11) The big event for the evening or for the con was the Masquerade. Among 15 costume entries, only three contestants wore SF costumes; the rest wore fantasy costumes. I also had a chance to see different film trailers from upcoming films that dealt with SF, fantasy, and horror. After this, the judges decided on the best costumes; two girls dressed as anime warriors won best of show. (I would like to see more SF costumes in future

masquerades.)

Sunday, March 18: 12) Finally, I ended my time at Lunacon 2012 by visiting the Dealers' Room. As was common at most regional SF cons, about half of the dealers sold reading materials of books, magazines, and fanzines. The rest sold other merchandise: jewelry, games, and costumes as well as toys, spices, etc. I ended up buying a book from 1980 about teaching SF, before going home. Anyway, I would like to see Lunacon continue; I hope this wasn't the last Lunacon. STOP PRESS: There will be a Lunacon 2013.

Sunday, April 1: "Space, the final frontier, this was the voyage of Dotty Kurtz. Her few-hour mission was to visit and report on a special exhibition that the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) presented—Beyond Planet Earth: The Future of Space Exploration. She boldly went where many have gone before—and many after her as well. " A few years ago, when I revisited the AMNH, Central Park West at W.79th St., NYC (212-769-5200), I explored as much of the museum as I could in a day. Nevertheless, I couldn't see it all in that amount of time. Nobody could! Therefore, I vowed that I would return for a future visit to see what I missed: the Rose Center of Earth and Space and the first floor of the AMNH. (I have reports about both the AMNH and about the Rose Center in past publications from Dimensional Press.) Then, last year, when I learned about the AMNH's special space exploration exhibit, I knew that I had to make my return visit to coincide with this presentation. Beyond Planet Earth: The Future of Space Exploration presented via tableaus, texts, and pictures as well as videos, scale models, and other exhibit items almost anything and everything to do with the final frontier. Divided into seven sections, 1) the Introduction showed past accomplishments in exploring space from reproductions of *Sputnik 1* and the capsule from *Vostok 1* through the USA/USSR Space Race of the 1960s, the moon landing, the space shuttles, to the current plans from NASA, space programs from other countries, and private space

companies. Next, 2) the Solar System Theater presented a video about future Human and non-Human missions to Mars, other areas of the solar system, and beyond. Afterward, the next five areas enlightened visitors in more details about future space missions: 3) Return to the Moon, 4) Exploring the Asteroids, 5) Going to Mars, 6) the Outer Solar System, and 7) Beyond the Solar System. Here I saw a model of a space elevator, a one-third-sized inflatable moon habitat, and a model of NASA's *Curiosity* Mars rover as well as a small-scale model of the Virgin Galactic *SpaceShipTwo*, other space models, and many exhibit items. Unlike other space exploration presentations that I've seen in other museums, the AMNH also explained the pro and cons of exploring space, the hazards, and the challenges as well as why we should pursue both Human and non-Human missions to space. Finally, for the rest of the day, I did get to explore the Rose Center of Earth and Space and the first floor of the AMNH.

April 27: As I traveled north on the New Jersey Turnpike, and later onto other highways, I knew that Warren County, NJ, would be a mostly rural and hilly county, one of the most remote in the state. For those of you not familiar with my former NJ column, THE STATE I'M IN, I usually visited 12 sights in a different county each year. In the last two years, I've visited Sussex and Morris County, in that order. For 2012, I decided to visit the sights of Warren County. Anyway, I finally arrived at my destination, the Pequest Trout Hatchery, 605 Pequest Rd. (Off Rt. 46), Oxford (908-637-4125). The main purpose behind their contemporary concrete building has been to stock the lakes and rivers of NJ with trout. In addition to this, they also educated the public about fishing and wildlife throughout the state. Although the staff closed the main exhibit hall for renovation, one of the staff members told me that when it opens later this year, the exhibits would inform the public about fish, wildlife, and conservation in the different regions of NJ. Nevertheless, I was free to go outside and look at the run containing breeder trout swimming

about. Then I followed the fish images in the sidewalk to the nursery building. Here on the windows, I saw texts and pictures explaining how the staff raised the trout from eggs to tiny fish called fingerlings. (During certain times of the year, the public could also see the eggs and fingerlings through the building's large windows.) The highlight for me was the observation deck where I noticed the large tanks of young fish swimming in several schools. While the staff fed them, I could see the water churning and bubbling as the fish entered into a feeding frenzy. In time, the staff will transfer most of these brown and rainbow trout to the lakes and streams in this state.

Saturday, April 28: A few of my friends liked wolves so much that they collected items with wolf images on them: mugs, t-shirts, tote bags, and so forth as well as wolf sculptures and stuffed-toy wolves. When they heard that I was planning on visiting the Lakota Wolf Preserve in Camp Taylor, 89 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Columbia (908-496-9244 or 877-733-96530), they wanted to know what I experienced on that day. First off, despite the name, Mt. Pleasant Road was a narrow, steep road on a 53-degree angle before it leveled out. (Make sure your car's gears are working!) Once at Camp Taylor, I had the choice of paying for just the wolf preserve or for a bit more, I could use the facilities of the camp. I choose the latter, and this meant that I could walk around the campgrounds with its lake (that offered swimming in the summer), open fields, and hiking trails as well as picnic tables, the game room, and the gift shop with its nature-themed merchandise, especially plenty of wolf-themed merchandise. (Yes, I told my wolf-fan friends to bring extra money for the gift shop.) As to the wolf preserve, a shuttle bus drove several people and me to the main gates. Once our guide opened the gates, we entered and found ourselves looking at four packs of tundra, timber, and Artic wolves--and only two rows of high chain-link fences separated the wolves and us. Then our guide explained how wolves lived in the wild, how the staff took care of these particular wolves, and other "wolf" facts as he would every-once-in-a-while throw bits of

food at them. (This made sure that the wolves would stay close to the fence; otherwise, the wolves would stay in the background, and the public couldn't see them.) Next, our group walked toward a smaller compound where another guide showed us first, some bobcats, and later, some foxes, as she explained how they lived in the wild, how the staff took care of these particular bobcats and foxes, and why it wasn't a good idea to keep them as pets. Finally, for a loud finale, our guides got the wolves to howl for our group.

Sunday, April 29: Many fans of horror films knew that Blairstown, NJ, was the location where some scenes from the film *Friday the Thirteenth* took place. I, on the other hand, am not a fan of horror films, and it was for a different reason that I decided to visit Blairstown for the day. Blairstown's Main Street comprised buildings from the 1800s and 1900s, and many of them contained shops and other businesses. Gallery 23, 23 Main Street (908-362-6865), was the most well known of the businesses there. Here, I looked at art from different famous local artists in paintings, sculptures, and jewelry as well as pottery, woodworking, and photography. Each month, the gallery featured a different local artist. When I was there, the gallery displayed jewelry and beads by artist Lisa Ehrich-Feidler. Most of the art exhibited nature scenes and contemporary themes. It felt similar to walking through a small art museum, except this art was for sale. Although Blairstown had a small Main Street, within it, I visited a few other art galleries, an antique/hobby store, a natural-foods store, and so forth. In addition, I noticed an old mill (that now serves as housing for students at the nearby Blair Academy), a bright-blue-colored theater, and a small waterfall. Overall, it was an interesting and colorful few hours of my time.

Saturday, May 26: It's been four years since I've last been to a Balticon (the Baltimore area regional SF con that the Baltimore SF Society has run since 1967), and other than higher prices in certain things, not much has changed. Balticon, May 25-28, at the Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, Maryland, offered four days worth of programming in several tracks. For a few different reasons of my own, I only attended for three days. Once I arrived, I entered the 1) Art

Show room where I noticed that about 85% of the art displayed fantasy themes, and the rest showed SF and space themes. I was especially impressed with the paintings by a particular artist whose works I've seen at other SF cons, Bill Wright. His specialty was space art that covered pictures of space ships, space stations, and other spacecraft as well as planets, star systems, and other wonders of the cosmos. His style and subjects almost reminded me of the paintings of Robert McCall and Chesley Bonestell. Anyhow, about three-quarters of artworks in this art show presented paintings and drawings, and the rest exhibited other mediums: jewelry, sculptures, glassware, and so forth. Next, I checked out the 2) Con Suite. Just like four years ago, Balticon used a former 1950s-styled diner restaurant. It was well air-conditioned as I was free to help myself to snacks, soft drinks, and chatting with other SF fans in an interior of chrome, multi-colored neon lights, plus decorations provided by the con committee-- especially multi-colored holiday lights on mirrors. Then, before calling it a night, I saw the 3) Masquerade. Out of two-dozen costume entries (more entries than the last Philcon and Lunacon combined), I'd say that around 20% of the contestants wore SF costumes, and the rest wore fantasy costumes. Some of the costumes proved to be very shiny and colorful, and others included LED lights. One couple, wearing black form-fitting vinyl, did a professional-looking dance that could rival *Dancing With the Stars*. In addition to the costume contest, the emcee, Marty Gear, presented the Jack L. Chalker Young Writers' Awards for ages 14 to 18 for the best SF and fantasy stories.

Sunday, May 27: This proved to be the busiest day for me as I attended several events, starting with 4) Designing a Religious or Spiritual System for Your Short Story or Novel. Here, the panel said that they had a problem with writers who had no experience with religion, and then, added what they perceived to be religion in their stories, or they stereotyped certain religious characters, such as the holy-roller preacher. Most of the panel agreed that before adding religion to a story, the author should research other religions, study anthropology, or both. The next event was not what I expected, 5) Introduction to Astrosociology. This has been a new field of research, and I thought that it would cover how people working in space, especially in close quarters, could and should interact and behave around each other. Instead, Simone Caroti used another form of outreach in trying to convince the public to be more supportive toward a space-faring society. (For example, yes, we are already in space via Spaceship Earth, and life began in space via the Big Bang or other theories, and so on.) His talk was interesting, but much of it I've heard before, especially through the NSS. Another outreach event was 6) How to Get Other Teens to Come to Balticon. Therefore, I thought that this panel might have given me ideas as far as convincing teens and more young people into being interested in becoming a space-faring society. Then the panel mentioned how several teens have been going to anime cons that have branched off from SF cons. Anyhow, this panel wondered how these teens could be convinced to go back to Balticon. In addition, how do we convince them to attend a Balticon if they have only attended anime cons? (This is nothing new to me because I saw a similar thing since the 1970s. The most popular case is the large attendance at the Star Trek and other media SF cons; nowadays, most people who attend the big media SF cons and comic book cons seldom or have never been to a regional SF con, let alone a Worldcon.) Anyway, this panel thought that a track of programming for teens and better advertising would help increase teen attendance as well as offering teen or student discounts. After this panel, I took a walk through the 7) Dealers' Room. Similar to other regional SF cons, about half of the dealers sold reading materials in the form of books, magazines, and fanzines. The rest of the dealers sold other merchandise: jewelry, games, and t-shirts as well as leather work, costumes, etc. I also noticed that the dealers' tables spilled out to the adjoining hallways because the Dealers' Room was full. Afterward, I listened to a talk about 8) Google +

for Authors and other Content Creators. The two people running this event explained how Google + compared to other social networks such as Facebook and Twitter as well as the pros and cons of all three. Finally, before going to dinner, I sat in on one more panel: 9) How to Get to Other Stars—if We Can. In this discussion, the panel wondered if there were steps that we could do to start this endeavor to the stars. Some of these panelists said yes, and a few others said no, it would not be possible. Even the ones who said yes agreed that it wouldn't begin to happen in the next 50 to 100 years. Then, all of the panelists agreed that it would be the biggest undertaking that Humankind has ever done and something that we wouldn't see in our lifetimes.

Sunday Night: One special event that had been unique to Balticon, as far as I knew, has been the 10) Sunday Night Short Film Festival. For the next few hours, Balticon presented several films lasting from a minute to close to an hour covering SF, fantasy, and horror. (The committee saved showing the horror and R rated films for the second half of the evening—after about 9:30 pm.) My favorite film looked like the start of a TV series or series of films about a future Earth, the L-5 Space Colony, and a starship that was returning from Bernard's Star. Overall, most of the films showed much imagination and talent on the part of the filmmakers. This was the best night-at-the-movies that I've had in a while!

Monday, May 28: Before going home, I sat in on two more events: the first being 11) Internet Search Engines. Here, Marvin Zelkowitz explained the history of the Internet from the 1970s and '80s developments, the start of the URLs around 1990, the birth of the Internet on Christmas Day 1990, and up to the present. He also covered the hows and whys of different search engines. (Why do companies and people on the web strive to be on pages one or two on the search engines? Answer: Because most people don't bother searching beyond pages one and two.) Finally, at 12) Private Access to Space, some of the panelists, Simone Caroti, Yoji Kondo (pen name Eric Kotani), Ian Randal Strock, and others, discussed going into space using private money—not government money. Of course, they mentioned Virgin Galactic and its owner Richard Branson as well as the influence of certain SF authors such as Robert Heinlein and Jules Vern. They also said that the biggest industry in space would be tourism and maybe, retirement communities; another industry would be mining. There may be a "Wild West" mentality at first. However, in time, there would have to be government regulations, but not government control, in the name of safety and fairness. Most of the panel agreed that the biggest obstacle has been money, and until the costs for private space goes down, then private space ventures will remain SF.

Saturday, June 2: The Academy of Natural Sciences (ANS), 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA (215-299-1000 or ansp.org) has been the oldest natural history museum in the USA, and as of 2012, it celebrated its 200th anniversary. Although it was not as large as the AMNH in NYC, it still contained plenty of exhibits in the natural sciences in its late 19th century, redbrick building that included a wide marble staircase inside. Once I arrived, I had to see for myself how the ANS celebrated 200 years of its existence. First off, since I was here last in 2005, the ANS has joined with Drexel University, and I noticed remodeling throughout the museum. For its 200th

anniversary, the ANS displayed a large inedible "cake" with different animal, vegetable, and mineral specimens on each layer. Then, in the main auditorium, I saw a brief film covering the history of the ANS and interviews with different department personnel on how they continued the work of this museum. Next, the Special Exhibit Gallery highlighted the many subjects of study at the ANS via specimens, pictures, and texts as well as videos, hand-on exhibits, and other items. As for the rest of this museum, there were four floors of exhibit areas. The best-known area with the public has been the dinosaurs, but the ANS also comprised other exhibit areas: animal dioramas showing fauna and flora from Africa, Asia, and North America. Another exhibit area explained how taxidermists and artists made the dioramas here via exhibit displays and a video. In addition, this museum also included some live animals, especially butterflies, and rocks & minerals. Then there were the dinosaurs. A whole gallery enlightened visitors with displays of dinosaur bones, models of dinosaurs, and texts as well as pictures, videos, and exhibit items showing how paleontologists went about their work. Overall, the ANS included many exhibit areas worth seeing, but it was not overwhelming; you could cover most of it in a day!

Sunday, July 1: Almost everybody has heard about the Georgetown section of Washington, DC, with its trendy shops, restaurants, bars, and so forth, most of which have been located along Wisconsin Ave. and M St. In fact, the corner of Wisconsin Ave. and M Street has been the heart of Georgetown! What many people have not been aware of, however, was a three-story stone building along M St.: Old Stone House, 3051 M Street, NW (202-895-6070). Dating back to 1765, this has been the oldest building in DC, built back in the days when this area was Georgetown, Maryland. After several years of ownership by different people, including being a car dealership in the early 1950s, the National Park Service bought the property in 1953, restored it, and opened it to the public in 1960.

When I was there, I saw the first-floor kitchen that displayed many 18th-century cooking utensils, pots, pans, etc. near the open-hearth fireplace. Upstairs, I noticed the parlor, master bedroom, and children's room furnished for an upper-middle-class family from the 1700s. Best of all, the cost to see this place was free, and National Park employees were on hand to answer questions. Anyway, it only took less than an hour to tour the house and the English-styled garden in the back. Then, I went on to observe Georgetown's 20th- and 21st-century-styled attractions.

Friday, July 27: Although I've seen many pictures of the Delaware Water Gap, there was nothing like seeing it myself while standing on a stony beach along the Delaware River. I had plenty of time to admire its rugged beauty while I was having a picnic lunch. Afterward, I entered the Kittatinny Point Visitor Center (908-496-4458). Once inside, a helpful staff member offered us advice and brochures about the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area. In addition, this wooden, cabin-styled structure also included a gift/book shop and a few display cases showing the flora & fauna of the area as well as tools used by the Lenni-Lenape Native-Americans and the early European settlers. Adjoining the national park, Worthington State Forest offered its share of natural scenery that looked similar to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area.

Saturday, July 28: Once upon a time in 1832, Abram Garis built a gristmill along a flowing stream. In time, a village formed nearby and farms as well. Thus, Millbrook Village came about and reached its peak by 1875. Then, starting in 1880, the village started to decline due to industrialization of farming and isolation from railroad lines. Garis's mill closed around 1900, and by 1950, only the blacksmith remained. In the 1960s, Millbrook's population mostly included summer residents and retirees. Meanwhile the proposed Tocks Island Dam was going to flood low-lying valleys and its structures. This led the National

Park Service and the Millbrook Village Society to move many of those structures to Millbrook. In later years, the staff added even more structures to give this village an idea of how it would have looked in the 1870s. On weekends in the summer, volunteers dressed in 19th-century-styled clothing may offer to take the public on a tour around the village as well as inside some of the buildings. When I was there, our tour guide showed us the inside of a few different buildings: a hotel, a 1860s house, and a 1900s cabin as well as a blacksmith shop and general store. After a picnic lunch, I crossed NJ Route 602 to see the rest of the village. Here, I saw more volunteers in 19th-century styled clothes weaving and woodworking. Finally I was free to peek inside of a 1830s cabin, look at a nearby garden, and enter a reconstructed 1830 Methodist church. (The staff built this church in 1973, and it has an active congregation.) Although, it was a quiet day during my visit, Millbrook Village does have events at certain times of the year. For more information, phone 908-841-9530 or go to www.nps.gov/dewa.

Sunday, July 29: Here I sat watching an English-styled horse-riding competition. The riders, dressed in their proper riding attire of black-riding hats, blue-riding coats, and close-fitting riding trousers, rode on an English-styled saddle. Meanwhile, I observed as they put their horses through the paces of walking, trotting, and cantering. Nevertheless, this wasn't the English countryside! This event happened at the Warren County Farmers' Fair, off of Route 519, Harmony Township (908-859-6563). In addition to English-styled riding, other contests in the horse ring included Western riding where the riders wore cowboy attire and rode on Western saddles as they put their horses through the same paces as the English-styled riders, except that they also added galloping as well. In another horse competition, people of all ages walked alongside their horses as they showed them to the judges. Anyway, this fair offered a lot more than horse shows. First: The Main Arena had a full list of different competitions for that week. The day I was there, I saw a

lawnmower race. Those mowers were quite loud as the drivers, while dressed in car-racing attire, raced these vehicles around the dirt track several times. Second: There were the exhibitors. In different buildings, I glanced at livestock: cattle, goats, and sheep as well as rabbits, poultry, and of course, horses. Other buildings displayed plant products: vegetables, fruits, and grains as well as flowers, trees, and other plants. Then there were the buildings showings arts & crafts, especially quilts, other textiles, and photographs. Finally, another building exhibited antique tractors. Third: Throughout the fairgrounds, many vendors either promoted their causes, such as different government groups, special interests, and organizations or merchants sold their wares, including some food vendors. Forth: What would a fair be without a midway with amusements and games of chance? This fair had its share of rides and games, and between the midway and the other attractions at the fair, overall, it reminded me of a slightly smaller version of the NJ State Fair that I attended a few years ago. In the opinion of many, the Warren County Farmers' Fair is the best county fair in NJ.

So ends my first DOTTY'S DIMENSIONS: THE COLUMN. It is a work-in-progress for now. By the way, does anybody reading this watch a TV show called *The Big Bang Theory*? I do, and I find this show very funny; the main characters remind me somewhat of some of the SF fans that I've been seeing since I started going to SF cons in 1977. One of the main characters, Dr. Sheldon Cooper, played by Jim Parsons, stands out from the others with his own quirks. In some ways, this reminded me of the quirky way that Mr. Humphries, played by the late John Inman, stood out from the other cast in *Are You Being Served?* Both Sheldon and Mr. Humphries, however, were quirky for different reasons. Anyway, my next column will be out in March 2013. Meanwhile, feel free to check out my website at http://lp_web4us.tripod.com . Goodbye for now!