

# The Dalton Star

## BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER

By Wolf Hertzberg

In 1949, test pilots had their mind set on one thing: breaking the sound barrier. "The beast" was an invisible line which no man could pass. The speed of sound had been called impenetrable, impassable. But one day in 1949, in a plane called the Bell X-1, one man - Charles "Chuck" Yeager - did it.

A few years previously, a breakthrough had occurred. This breakthrough was the jet engine. The jet worked something like this: air is sucked into a tube called an intake. The intake leads the air into the combustion chamber. The air is slowed and compressed. Then fuel is burned in the compressed air. The force of the following reaction is channeled out the back, resulting in forward movement.

This engine had been boosting the speed of aircraft for five years by 1949, but the Bell X-1 did not run on a jet; it ran on a rocket. A rocket is like a jet but instead of sucking in air from outside, a rocket carries its own air in compressed air tanks. The result is a greater amount of force, but a much shorter supply of air, as it has to be carried on board. Because of this, the Bell X-1 had to be carried to its cruising altitude by a modified B-52 bomber and then dropped.

Chuck Yeager still flies. He is now in his eighties. The exciting moments of his flight sixty years ago are old news. But you know what they say, the dream never dies.

## Sound

By Teddy Katz

Hummmmm... Huh? What did you say? Oh, that wasn't you? You think I'm going to believe that? This time I'm watching your lips.

Hummmmm...

Very strange! It sounds like someone is meditating.

Oh no, I shouldn't have given you any ideas...

Hummmmm...

All right, I'll wait for you to stop.

An hour later...

YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH TIME TO MEDITATE!!! NOW STOP!!!! IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR AN HOUR!!! Oh all right, sorry about screaming. But for heaven sakes, get a life! On to sound.

Sound is really in waves. No, don't propose to go to the beach. You really want to? Fine. Let's go.

A few minutes later...

Here we are. Uh-oh. HAMMERHEAD SHARK!!! Let's get out of here.

Back in the other location...

What was I saying? Hammerhead shark? No, before that. Right, waves (if you want to go to the beach again, don't. That hammerhead probably scared all the sand away). These waves travel at 759 mph. That's very fast, but not immediate. It seems like right when someone opens their mouth, the words reach your ears. But how would that work with a telephone? A telephone can transport sound more than 759 miles almost instantly. Well, something in the telephone turns the sound waves into electricity. Now, light travels at 55,800,000 miles per hour. That means it can travel around the earth about 7.5 times in a second. This would be what it would be like:

"5, 4, 3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF!!! And now the landing!" Anyway, the electricity is turned back into sound waves. I guess I have to turn on my article-ending machine on short notice, because this article is getting much too long. Ending article... Ending article... Beep! Beep! Beep! So long, dudes!

## MATZO MEAL CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

By Mac Taback

1 1/3 cups brown sugar

1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon granulated sugar

3/4 cup unsalted butter (1 1/2 sticks)

2 large eggs

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract\*

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup matzo cake meal (or make your own - see note)

1 cup potato starch (potato starch flour)

2 cups chocolate chips (or approved Kosher type chocolate)

\*Original recipe did not include vanilla. It called for 1/2 cup sugar and 1 tablespoon vanilla sugar.

In a large mixing bowl, cream both sugars with butter. Add vanilla. Blend in the eggs. Stir in the salt, cake meal and potato starch. Fold in the chocolate chips. Chill the dough for 1 hour or overnight for chewy cookies, do not chill if you prefer thin, crisp cookies.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line 2 baking sheets

with parchment paper. Scoop out generous teaspoonfuls of dough or roll marble sized balls. Place on the baking sheets, leaving plenty of room for the cookies to spread (3 1/2 inches). Press down a little if using chilled dough.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes – watch carefully – then cool on the baking sheets for 20 to 30 minutes. Use a thin metal spatula to remove the cookies.

Note: To make matzo cake meal, place regular matzo meal in a food processor and process for a minute or until finely ground.

## The Deadly Robot: Chapter One

By Jake Weiss

Once upon a vacuum cleaner, whoops! I mean time! Boy, have I gotta work on my narration system. Anyway, once upon a radish–

AAARRRGGGHHH! This *has* got to be fixed.

Once upon a time, (finally, I got it) on a cold winter day, there was a boy named Steven. He was the age of ten and he had mostly given up with life. He just moped around his house and, when his Mom let him, he moped around the streets of Perilville. On Pi Day\* he got a gift from his parents that changed his life completely. And that's where this story begins.

Steven unwrapped the present and there was a large cardboard box inside.

“Wow! I got a cardboard box! This is the best Pi Day present ever!” he exclaimed.

“Well...uh...I'm glad you like it,” said his mother, slowly, “but if I were you, I would open it up.

“Ohhhhh, now I get it.”

Steven opened up the box and found that his gift was a robot building kit.

“Don't you like it?” asked his mother.

“Well, I guess so, but I liked the cardboard box more.

\* \* \*

When Steven went to school he talked with his best and only friend Hendrick. They arranged for a play date so they could build the robot together. Hendrick came to Steven's house. They built the robot. They set it to walk and it walked perfectly. They set it to run and it even ran perfectly. It jumped perfectly! From then on nobody knows *exactly* what happened. The robot started to build a mind of its own. It walked up to Steven and said,

“Hello Steven. How are you doing?”

Then it went about three feet from Hendrick, raised its left arm, and shot out a jet of electric force. It was so bright that it blinded Steven for ten seconds. Then, when his eyes opened, Hendrick was on the floor, dead.

**TO BE CONTINUED**

\*Pi day is on March 14th. It celebrates the number pi.

## INDONESIAN FROG

By Elias Oakes

On April 10, Indonesian scientists announced the discovery of a rare frog with no lungs!! The frog breathed through its skin. It was found on a remote part of the Indonesian island of Borneo last year. It is flat and has 5 large eyes (just joking! Only 2!) that bulge out. Skin flaps hang from its eyes and legs. It may be possible the frog may have evolved in order to adapt to the cold, fast moving, and oxygen-rich streams in which it lives. This “extreme adaptation” was probably necessary to reduce the frog's buoyancy, or its ability to float. That way, it could keep itself from being swept down the mountainous rivers. Recently, illegal logging and gold mines have polluted the once clear rivers that are its home. The gold mining is small scale, but when there are so many mines on the river, it has a massive impact on the frogs.

## Preview: Riddles: The Finale

What word can be written forward, backward or upside down, and can still be read from left to right?

Answer: NOON

Look forward to *Riddles: The Finale*, by Devin Plumb assisted by Makoto Nara next week in our “Mega Issue.”

## A PIZZA

By Wolf Hertzberg

A Pizza

Just A Pizza

But what really goes on on A Pizza?

A Party!

Tomato Sauce!

Mozzarella!

Pepperoni!

Sausage!

Garlic!

Mushrooms!

Olive Oil!

Liver! Wait-Liver? Good grief. So, where was I...

Basil!

Herbs!

Pepper! But most importantly, A hungry boy.

But most importantly,

A hungry boy.