

STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

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Founded Oz CXLV

PREMIER EDITION

The Stronghold Gazette Lands in Horizon's Stronghold

By George Aleister Wright

The Stronghold Gazette, a newspaper published by Wright Publishing, literally lands in the community of Horizon's Stronghold. For the extremely fortunate townspeople, a wondrous printing contraption dropped from the sky, just a short distance from the town. George Bernard Wright, witnessed the entire scene.

"I was just on my way back to town from tornado salvaging," Mr. Wright stated.

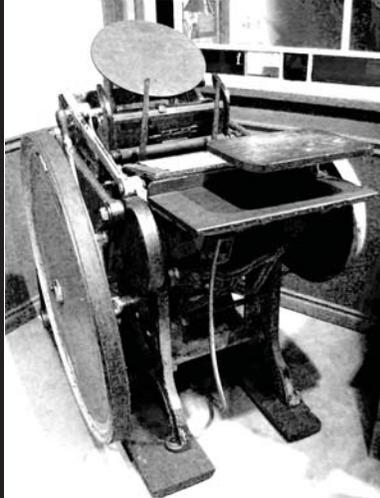
"When I saw something large and grey looming in the sky."

"At first, I think to myself, holy crap, is that a flying elephant? I better hold on to my hat and take cover!"

"But then I heard the telltale whistling sound of tornado debris falling from the sky and knew this was no elephant."

"The looming spec in the distance got bigger and bigger, and I realize that I'm in a whole heap of trouble, 'cause that darn debris was an entire two-story building raining down on me." Mr. Wright recounted as he wiped the sweat off his suddenly damp brow.

The way Mr. Wright described, it almost sounded as if the building had sinister intentions... Mr. Wright had broken into a full sprint to get away from the impending impact zone, but the looming shadow of the Building



seemed to pinpoint on his exact location.

"My gawd, am I done for? Is this how it ends? To be crushed to death by a falling building? I mean, what did I do that was so bad to deserve such an asinine fate? I mean, what kind of moron do you have to be to die from a building falling from the sky?"

It seems that Mr. Wright, a non-too religious man, began to colorfully call out the names of all the deities to save him from this awful fate.

KABOOM!

Would be the usual sound one would expect from a two-story building falling from the sky. And one would

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The Wright Way to Survive in Oz #1

By George Aleister Wright

My Dearest readers,

It seems the reputation of the courageous and devilishly handsome Wright brothers precedes us even here in the land of Oz. Though it has been only a few short weeks for me here, and several months for my twin brother George Bernard, we have been bombarded with questions about how we survived our harrowing trek from God knows where to the town of Horizon's Stronghold.

I must say that our experiences in the Wild West of the Americas has greatly aided in our survival in this dangerous place, and of course having the Wright gun at your side helps quite a bit. So armed with the twin pillars of knowledge and steel, one can pretty much stand tall in this land of Oz. Many a folk have stopped by our store, the Wright Arms, and we have assisted them with the latter, but how best to arm a person with the former? My brother and I have amassed quite a few survival tidbits from our personal experiences and from our new friends here in Horizon's Stronghold, but we do not have the time to teach everyone, and run our business, and run the paper, and be true gentlemen.

However, after having my arm twisted by the good folk, we have decided to share our wisdom through a recurring column entitled "The Wright Way to Survive In



Oz.". So here begins our very first column. We hope you enjoy and share with those who cannot read.

The single most important survival tip I can give to my devoted readership in the land of Oz is this.

Wear a hat.

A hat you say? The article of clothing that covers your head?

Yes. Always wear a hat.

From where I come from, a hat is very important. Not only is it fashionable, But it keeps the sun out of your eyes, the rain off your head. An item that might not be quite as useful as say a knife, but one that you would most certainly be thankful for when travelling in the Wild West.

In the land of Oz, however, a hat is the most important item you need in

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TOWN HALL MEETING: SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST, 3:00 PM

Your elected officials will be available to discuss issues plaguing the town.

- Please remember the following rules in the open forum.
- Please do not fire your weapons during the town meeting, roofing is expensive.
- Please keep your Constructs and other devices under control for the duration of the meeting. We don't want a repeat of the Great Hypnotica incident.
- Anyone found excessively intoxicated will be removed by an officer and held until sober. This means you, Brig.



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FANCY YOURSELF A CRACK SHOT? NEED A LITTLE PRACTICE? EVERYONE'S WELCOME AT WRIGHT ARMS

STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

Mission Statement of The Stronghold Gazette

OBJECTIVE

To produce economically sound newspapers that add to the identity and pride of the communities they serve, record the history of the town and its people, and make a difference in the quality of life of HORIZON'S STRONGHOLD community.

DON'T GET YOURSELF INTO A PICKLE WITH THE WRONG GUN. GET THE WRIGHT GUN! WRIGHT ARMS

YOUR AD HERE WRIGHT PUBLISHING

INTERESTED IN A PORTRAIT FOR YOUR WALL? WANT SOMETHING TO SEND HOME TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE ALL RIGHT? SEE WRIGHT PHOTO SITTINGS

The Wright Way to Survive in Oz #1

Con.

order to survive.

In the land of Oz, there are horrors that were beyond what my poor Outworld mind could comprehend.

In the land of Oz, you see, there are flying monkeys. I believe the natives call them winged monkeys or mobats. I sometimes refer to them as flying shit factories. In any case, these creatures have a very ornery demeanor, and seem to revel in fly-by defecation. And when these creatures get riled up, they start to fling it.

On my journey to Horizon's Stronghold, I made the terrible decision of pulling off my hat and wiping the sweat off my brow without having looked up into the sky.

And when I started shooting half-blind into the air to protect myself from their onslaught, a gaggle of monkeys came from the tree line, both barrels, er hands, blazing. The shit storm that followed was not unlike the snowball fights we had as young children during the occasional blizzard we would experience in Kansas. Only there was no gleeful laughter of children to be heard in the howling wind. The incessant chattering of those monkeys during the brownout still haunts me to this day. And I could have sworn I heard the cackling of a woman carried by the wind as we shot our way blindly out of that fight.

I feel very blessed that we survived that encounter with only a bruise on my ego.

I feel even more blessed that they don't have flying elephants in Oz. Wait, you don't have flying elephants in Oz, do you?

So, my friends, I implore you. Always wear a hat. And if you are a lady, also carry a parasol, just in case.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the Mayor:

Hello fellow citizens!

Please do not be alarmed by my absence during the next town hall meeting. While I would love to be there to share a word with all of my dear neighbors, I'm afraid business is taking me to the Emerald City. While I am there I plan on broaching the topic of a Train Station in our fair town.

In my absence, the Judge will be tasked with overseeing my duties.

To Health and Prospaaaaarity!

Dictated but not read by: Ewenice the Humblest Sheep

The Red Poppy Tavern is Hiring

Looking for competent, trustworthy bar staff and serving staff. Oz citizens or service-constructs preferred. Must have a flexible schedule and competence with money. Friendly demeanor is a must. To inquire further,

See Miss Preena Glass.

VOTE FOR MAYOR EWENICE

A vote for Mayor Ewenice is a Vote for Tradition!

A vote for Mayor Ewenice is a Vote for Stability!

A vote for Mayor Ewenice is a Vote for Decency!

As Mayor of the town of Horizon's Stronghold for the last 6 years, Mayor Ewenice - the Humblest Sheep - has gotten this town through tragedy and brought the town stability. A Ewe for the people, she has served the town faithfully, and always with a smile.

hen voting this November, remember: Ewenice: the Humblest Mayor.



COLVILLE MARKSMAN PARTICIPANTS

1st Marksman Tournament to be Held in Horizon's Stronghold

The 1st Marksman Tournament will be held on June 1st, in the town of Horizon's Stronghold. Contestants may register and compete at the gun range located at the Wright Arms. The contestants may compete using their own rifle or sidearm, or one will be provided to them by Wright Arms. You can't shoot a gun? No problem! Contestants will also be allowed to compete with their choice of thrown weapons. If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball...err, if you can throw a wrench, you can compete in the Marksman Tournament!

Preliminary rounds will begin on Friday, May 31st, and will run until midday on Sat. June 1st. The top 3 contestants will advance to the championship round. The winner will be awarded with a prize, immortalized with a portrait, and will be interviewed for an exclusive

article to be featured in The Stronghold Gazette.

Stop by Wright Arms for further details.

STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

The Stronghold Gazette Lands in Horizon's Stronghold

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also expect that Mr. Wright would have, at that very moment, left the land of Oz and be reincarnated as the foundation of said building.

But to the amazement and gratitude (to all of those deities) of this writer, the building that came screaming down upon Mr. Wright seemed to gently bounce off his hat and again take to the sky.

Mr. Wright stood dumbfounded as he watched this building bounce gently off the surrounding trees and blades of grass until it finally settled to the ground.

What a wondrous place this land of Oz! Where whole buildings might become light as a feather and balance on a single blade of grass. It seems as if these scientific unexplained phenomenon happenings can spare a person's life one minute, then rear its ugly head the next (that's a story for another time).

After taking a few moments to gather his wits about himself, Mr. Wright slowly approached this building that should have rightfully been his coffin. Push, pull, pinch, slap, kick. The building seemed to have reverted to its own original building self. Very hard, heavy, and unforgiving.

"Good gawd, this is the Colville Press building! Hello! Anyone need help?" Mr. Wright belted out as he began to check for any living survivors.

"Hmmm, not a soul about. Not surprising, it looks like they only kept business equipment and archives here. Everything here is in great condition, not like the wreck I pulled Al out of. Well, better leave my claim marker And get Al and a wagon from town.

There ain't no way I can move this printing press by myself..." Mr. Wright mumbled to himself as he pulled out one of his tornado salvage markers from his coat and affixed it firmly to the front door.

And as it can be attested by all the readers and listeners to this written word, George Bernard Wright successfully salvaged the Colville printing press with the help of yours truly, and the community of Stronghold Horizon will, from this day on, benefit from many more tales that are of interest to me, er, the town. If you want to advertise your business, or proclaim your love to your sweetie, come see the Wright brothers and place an ad. Or if you have some newsworthy event or a fun tale to spin, come see us and we may just immortalize you in our publication. Sadly to say, this may now be the only way to truly be immortal in Oz, but that's another story for another time.



**CAN YOU STRING TWO WORDS TOGETHER?
SEE ABOUT A FUTURE AT
THE GAZETTE
WRIGHT PUBLISHING**

A Tale of Two Brothers

By George Aleister Wright

"Hey Bernie, I thought you were lost for good when that tornado sucked you through the window!"

"Actually brother, 'twas you that was lost...I've been searching for you for the past 6 months!"

"You hit yer head? We've only been weathering this storm for the past 2 days..."

"No Aleister, I'm afraid you're the one with the bump on yer head. That tornado sucked up the store and almost shook the life out of us. I was flung clear and landed in a nice soft patch. But you and the store kept going and I lost sight of you.

That was 6 months ago."

"That can't be...I mean, I would've starved to death months ago if I'd been stuck in that tornado for so long..."

"Well, you ain't dead, and you ain't hurt badly enough that you can't travel. Now quit beatin' the devil around the stump and help me pack up the guns and merchandise, and let's get a move on. It'll take weeks for us to get back to Horizon's Stronghold."

"Horizon's Stronghold? You mean Colville brother. We need to pack up and get back to Colville."

"Al, we ain't in...shhh, get down! If we get spotted by those damn flying monkeys, we're in for a whole heap of trouble!"

"Flying monkeys?!?! Bernie, I have a feeling we're not in Colville anymore..."

And so begins the tale of how the Wright brothers, George Aleister and George Bernard, came to be in the mystical land of Oz. The twins, born and raised just outside of Kansas City, Kansas, had travelled a long way West to Colville to get a fresh start and establish their dreams of becoming respectable business-gentlemen. And now, though a bit farther than they intended, their entrepreneurial spirit has led them to opening a shop right here in the center of Horizon's Stronghold. So do yourself a favor and mosey on down to Wright Arms and have a chat with the owners. A one-stop shop, where you can place your ads for the paper, buy a gun, get your portrait, change your locks, and even hire someone to shoo away those pesky flying monkeys out of your chimney. If you have a respectable request, we'll have a respectable answer, the Wright answer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE GREY MENACE!!

Citizens! I must once again warn you of the deadly peril which has taken root in the heart of our homeland. I speak, of course, of the NOMES!

This town is in imminent danger of being OVERRUN by these filthy rockbiters. Once they've got one base established, what's to stop them tunneling their way into everything? Your homes will no longer be your own! Your businesses will no longer be your own! Your government will no longer be your own! It will all become THEIRS!!

Our brave comrades haven't fought and died in countless wars against these perfidious invaders so that we can simply HAND our country over to them. We've been too inattentive, and the sneaky little bastards have seized the opportunity to worm their way in.

I'm calling on all the good citizens of Horizon's Stronghold to join me driving the menace from our fair community! For the green fields of OZ and the Rainbow's Light!!

Lt. Brig (ret.)

**YOUR
AD
HERE**
WRIGHT PUBLISHING

Town's motto:

"Do no harm and no harm shall come to you."

Positions of authority:

In order to be eligible for a position in the land of Oz, one must be a Citizen.

Mayor: The elected leader of the town who has authority that supersedes all other government positions. The mayor is still subject to the law. If the mayor is unable to fulfill their duty the judge takes up the mayor's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The mayor receives a bimonthly salary of 4 bits for their service.

Judge: An elected official who oversees all trials and decides innocence or guilt. If the judge is unable to fulfill their duty the sheriff takes up the judge's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The judge receives a bimonthly salary of 3 bits for their service.

Sheriff: An elected official who commands the local law enforcement, while defending and enforcing the laws. If the sheriff is unable to fulfill their duty the deputy takes up the sheriff's duties until a new elected official can be chosen. The sheriff receives a bimonthly salary of 3 bits for their service.

Deputy: The 2nd in command in local law enforcement. The deputy receives a bimonthly salary of 2 bits for their service.

Officer: An officer is a member of the local law enforcement and are chosen by the sheriff or deputy. An officer receives a bimonthly salary of 1 bit for their service.

Law Enforcement:

The members of the local law enforcement are entrusted to uphold and enforce the law. Law enforcement can be identified by the Star worn on their lapel. Special Service to the Ruler of Oz wear a silver star. National officers such as Tin Men wear a tin star. Local officers such as the Sheriff, Deputy, and his Officers wear a brass or copper star. Temporary officers, when required, wear a cloth star. In the line of duty an officer should strive to defend the laws and the people by non-lethal means. An officer may see a situation where lethal force is warranted and this grim duty is lawful in defense of the law. An officer may arrest anyone suspected of a crime for two hours for questioning. At the end of the two hours the suspect must be charged and awaiting trial or released. Trials should be swift and held within 24 hours of the arrest, circumstances permitting.

Elections:

Every Autumn, the position of mayor is put to a vote. All citizens are expected to participate in the voting process. Once elected, the Mayor has the option of placing the position of Judge, Sheriff or Deputy up for election, whose Election takes place in Spring. Voting counts as follows:

Citizens vote count as one vote

Changeling Citizens count as 2/3rd vote

Non-Citizens count as 1/2 vote

Changeling Non-Citizens do not get to vote.

Whoever has the most votes at the end of the election wins.

Death of an official: In the unfortunate circumstances that an officer dies, a special election will be held 2 months after. Should he be returned as a construct, he may fulfill his duty until the election is completed. He may not return to his position until he regains his citizenship.

Citizenship:

With the recent opening of Oz's borders, and the rise in threats from outside forces, it is necessary to have a path to citizenship. In order to make all equitable under the law, eligibility to citizenship applies to all living within the borders of Oz.

Humans living in Oz before the Great Spell faded are granted automatic citizenship.

A non-citizen must have a sponsor for citizenship. The sponsor agrees to pay an equal fine should the non-citizen commit any crimes. Sponsorship lasts a minimum of 6 months.

Upon completing Sponsorship, The non-citizen and sponsor meet before a judge. The Sponsor announces that the non-citizen is worthy of citizenship, the non-citizen makes an oath of fealty to the Nation of Oz. Character witnesses may then speak on behalf or against the non-citizen. The Judge had the final word on granting citizenship to the non-citizen.

Should the non-citizen fail to pass citizenship, he may attempt the process again with a new sponsor.

A newly formed Construct does not retain his Citizenship that he held in life, and must seek it anew.

Nomes are forbidden from acting as sponsors.

Changeling must have a Certificate of Domesticity before they may seek sponsorship.

Laws:

Fines are doubled for non-Citizens. If a non-Citizen is sponsored, His sponsor pays half of the fine, and he pays half of the fine. Non-Domesticated Changeling are not tolerated within the borders of Oz. Changeling who break the laws lose their Certificate of Domestication. If they are not Domesticated and they commit a crime, they are to be put down.

1. Any act of assault will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than 24 hours in jail. Assault is defined as doing physical, spiritual, or severe emotional harm to an individual. Manipulation of free will through magical or other means is also seen as assault.
2. Any act of assault with clear intent to kill will be dealt with by a fine of 12 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than one month in the local jail.
3. Any act of murder will be dealt with by a fine of 5 Emeralds, 75% of which will go to the victim's next of kin and no less than 6 months in the local jail. The punishment for murder can also include execution but this must be signed off on by the mayor, judge, and sheriff.
4. Any act of theft will be dealt with by a fine of Twice the value of the stolen item, 75% of which will go to the victim.
5. Any act that results in the willful destruction or damaging of property will be dealt with by a fine of Twice the value of the damaged property, 75% of which will go to the victim.
6. Any act that interferes with local law enforcement will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits.
7. Any act of public drunkenness or recklessness will be dealt with by a fine of 3 bits.
8. The casting of involuntary necromancy (raising the dead) will be dealt with by a fine of 2 Emeralds and no less than 3 months in jail.
9. Creation of a construct without the permission of the constructed party will be dealt with by a fine of 2 Emeralds, 75% of which will go to the victim and no less than 3 months in jail.
10. An deliberately wrongful accusations of a crime will be dealt with by a fine of 4 bits, 75% of which will go to the victim.
11. Unregistered Witches Pose a serious threat to the Nation of Oz. A discovered, unregistered witch will be fined 8 bit and no less than 1 month in Jail.
12. Acts of Treason will not be tolerated. Anyone found guilty of Treason will pay a fine of 5 Emeralds and no less than 1 year in the local jail. The punishment for Treason can also include execution but this must be signed off on by the mayor, judge, and sheriff.
13. Anyone found aiding, abiding, or not reporting suspicious activity will be met with a fine of 4 bits. If they are doing so on behalf of a traitor, the fine is raised to 2 Emeralds, and can lead to 3 months Jail time.

Witches

The nation of Oz promotes the advancement and creation of all technologies. But just as an inventor registers a device with the national patent office, a witch must register with local law enforcement. When a witch or other magic user moves into a new area, they must notify the Mayor, Judge, and Sheriff of their presence. This includes their Magical leanings, abilities, and reasons for relocating. Local officials have the option of requiring the Witch to wear specific markings, allowing their neighbors to identify the witch without direct communication. An unregistered witch is punishable by law.

Domesticated Changeling

Due to the unpredictable nature of Changeling. Changeling living in town must prove they are fit for society. Changeling may seek a Certificate of Domesticity, which documents a Changeling's training to live amongst humans in society. Certificates of Domesticity are granted by an Elder, defined as the Changeling who has lived the longest in town. Exact tests are up to the Elder, but may include: public service, obedience training, character testimony, and fees. Should the changeling meet the Elder's requirement, she will receive a certificate of Domesticity. Should an Elder be found irresponsible in his duties, he may be overturned as elder and a new one will be chosen by the Mayor, Judge and Sheriff of town.