

STRONGHOLD THE GAZETTE

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Things That Go “Awe, Ewe, Thunk” In The Night

By A Terrified George
Aleister Wright

Following up on the Last article entitled “Things That Go “Honk” In the Night”, the creepy clown sightings around Stronghold Horizon escalated into an all out slug fest Saturday evening when the “Midnight Circus” came into town, intent on enslaving the good townspeople of Stronghold Horizon.

This newspaper man first sensed trouble when a large bearded man burst into the Red Poppy Tavern, incoherently yelling and hitting things with his club, clad only in what I hope was a clean diaper. As the local law enforcement dared to subdue the diapered man, a terrifying number of terrifying clowns began to arrive, with terrifying smiles and terrifying glints in their eyes. In what I consider one of the most terrifying encounters of my life, both in America and the Land of Oz, we somehow managed to gain the courage and stop these terrifying creatures. Once defeated, we freed the terrified people from their chains, all local people from the surrounding areas who had been snatched from their beds by the midnight circus. Alas, I do not think that some of these people will ever heal, as their terrifying captivity seemed to have mentally broken them. It is recommended that you shoot first and ask questions later if you encounter a terrifying clown intent on eating your soul. Please note that Mr. Harley, a citizen of Stronghold Horizon, is not a clown, and should NOT be shot on site.

From the Office of the Mayor

Dear friends and family of Horizon’s Stronghold, this has been a very productive summer for us. With the Harvest Season just beginning, we have taken necessary steps to make sure we have stores of food in case winter rears its frosted head once again. From the growing and harvesting of crops to your Director of Invention’s greenhouses, we are prepared.

In other news, a more formal announcement will be made at noon on Saturday, so I urge you to come to Hildie Hall to hear it, but I could not keep it to myself any longer. Effective immediately the rules governing votes for Changelings have changed: Anyone who is a citizen of Horizon’s Stronghold will receive a full vote, regardless of who or what they are. It’s that simple. If you’re a citizen, you get a vote. In order to become a citizen, Changeling will have to do the same thing the rest of Ozians do, they must be sponsored by an existing citizen for six months at which time they will present their Certificate of Domesticity to the judge who will review their candidacy.

And speaking of Judges, it is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Cookie. She has been the town’s judge for almost a year now and she’s ready to try her luck elsewhere. We wish her happiness and good luck in her future endeavors. As such, a new judge will be announced on Saturday at noon.

Your humble servant,

Howard Phillip Invento.

New Venturein Stronghold

By Samuel Jorston

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down with the Pfeffernüsse, the patriarch of the Snickerdoodle family, and discuss the unique flavor that they’ve brought to our fair town.

Samuel Jorston: The group you’ve come to town with seems to have some interesting skills, can you tell us a bit about the Snickerdoodles?

Pfeffernüsse Snickerdoodle: I presume you mean the Madame and her companions. The Snickerdoodles have been running Wiggles as long as we can remember. Wiggles is a casino and brothel, so we offer exactly the kinds of services that you’d expect, and plenty that you wouldn’t. Not all of the Snickerdoodles are necessarily engaged in that particular branch of the family business, but we’re all trying to cater to the unique tastes of every individual. In short, if it can be kissed, cast, or crafted, we’ve got you covered.

SJ: I’m familiar with the girls, maybe not as familiar as I could be, but I haven’t seen much gambling up there at the top of the hill.

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Help the Quadlings!

from Father Mulch

With the zombie horde’s still barricaded into Quadling Country and the strange “cold snaps” freezing over some towns completely, many Quadlings have started moving into Munchkinland to escape. Munchkin towns close to the border of Quadling Country have already become overfilled by the Quadling refugees, and many of them are worried whether they have enough supplies for their own people as well as the new influx of Quadlings with the dreaded “Winter” season seemingly on it’s way.

A number of Munchin towns near the border have started rationing food early and sending the refugees further into Munchkinland rather than allowing them to remain. Other Munchkin townships will likely start seeing these Quadling refugees soon. Our only hope is to do our best to spread out the burden of finding places for these Quadlings to live and eat in order to ensure that no one area of Munchkinland is overburdened. Please, if you have room and ample supplies in your town, send word to the Scarecrow Army barricades so they know where to direct incoming Quadling refugees. In your message include the name of your township and the number of refugees the town can reasonably accept. Together, we can make a difference! Daylight has already sent their invitation to the refugees, will your town do the same?

New Evidence in Bank Heist

Anonymous sources say New evidence, produced by Azkadellia, has thrown doubt on the real nature of a recent bank robbery. The culprits were seen wearing Azkadellia's colors, but have now been proven to be long time Scarecrow Army members.

The Scarecrow could not be reached for comment, but the culprits of the crime are now facing court martial and criminal trials. While this would normally put the matter to rest, rumors of delayed pay and irregular re-supply have been plaguing the army for months.

The money has not been recovered, and many begin to suspect this may not be an isolated incident.

Bureaucrat Scandal in Van Der Gold Trial

Belugi Balderdrudge, of the Emerald City Balderdrudges, head of the Bureaucrat's guild, came forward yesterday with a shocking statement regarding his guild's participation in the Van Der Gold Trial. "We're very sorry to report that one of our own, Pin Pudgebin, has confessed to falsifying several key reports in connection with the Van Der Gold family's trial."

Unfortunately, this news came too late for Reginald and Everest Van Der Gold, whose sentences of death for food crimes were carried out last week.

Officials have not had a chance to look over the documents in question, but it is presumed that there will be a mistrial declared post-humously. In the mean time, the search continues for the missing Brachelia Van Der Gold, now named head of the Mercantile Guild, Chair Holder of the Emerald Guilds, and head of the Van Der Gold family. The Mercantile guild has put forth a 100 Emerald reward for her safe return to the Emerald City.

Poker Tournament Heist

By George Aleister Wright

A High-stakes poker tournament held in Stronghold's Horizon was robbed, causing not only property loss, but physical harm to one of the tournament players participating. At the request of the tournament organizer, Mr. Danny Emerald, the tournament sponsor shall remain nameless, and was not available for comment. At stake was 140 emeralds, each of the 7 players having put up 20 emeralds to earn the privilege of sitting at the table. For the winner of the tournament, 74 emeralds was to be the prize, followed by 14 emeralds to 2nd place. 11 emeralds were paid to the head of security, Mr. Devereaux, and 2 bits a piece for the 4 wait staff, leaving approximately 39 emeralds to Mr. Danny Emerald and his nameless patron.

According to the participating players, the game itself was run impeccably at the Stone Inn, the Gnomish embassy. Mr. Luc from the Red Poppy Tavern was lent out as the dealer for the game, which Mayor Invento was quick to praise. "He is the 'real deal'", stated Mayor Invento, as he tried to suppress a laugh at his own pun. "And the wait staff was first class. And Miss Esmeralda gave me a sample massage during the game, and that was just wonderful." Mr. Pfeffernusse Snickerdoodle, a proxy player, nodded in agreement. "Yes, the staff was wonderful. Other than the robbery and the flaring tempers afterward, it was a perfect afternoon."

The cause that marred what was an otherwise perfect tournament was a possible "Hell Riders" group sympathizer named Maple stealing the first and second prize money. It seems that this person was put directly in charge of guarding the strong-box, which was an oversight that Specialist Ambrose Moore was quick to point out to the head of security. Specialist Ambrose Moore, who had won the tournament and expecting his 74 emerald payout, was understandably upset, and accused Mr. Leroy Devereaux of lying and conspiring with the thieves. Mr. Zantetsu, a security guard who witnessed the events firsthand, tells the following. "Mr. Ambrose say "Where's my money? Stolen? You liar! Where's my money?" and Mr. Leroy no like being accused, and said "Call me a liar again and I'll shoot you". Mr. Ambrose also very mad and said "Go ahead and shoot me!" And Mr. Leroy shoot him! I try and protect Mr. Ambrose since I was hired guard for players, but it strange to protect Mr. Ambrose from own boss who tell me to protect players. It was no use anyway, I try and put myself between Ambrose and Devereaux, but Mr. Ambrose push me aside and stuck out his chest, daring Devereaux to shoot. And Mr. Devereaux shoot! Crazy gaijin, no honor guest safety rule! No civilized."

Specialist Moore, the victim that was not only denied his winnings, but shot, was surprisingly positive when asked to comment about the game. "The game was fantastic. I couldn't believe the pocket aces I had on the last hand, when it was just me and Jeb fighting it out. And before that, when we had 4 players go all-in and bust out...that was amazing.

ANNOUNCING GRAND RE-OPENING OF WIGGLIES CASINO AND BROTHEL!

Re-Opening Party 10:00 pm Friday th 10th
Feeling lucky? Heavy pockets?
Take a chance and roll the dice!
You could be the next big winner at Wiggles

Are you in need to companionship? Love?
Romance?

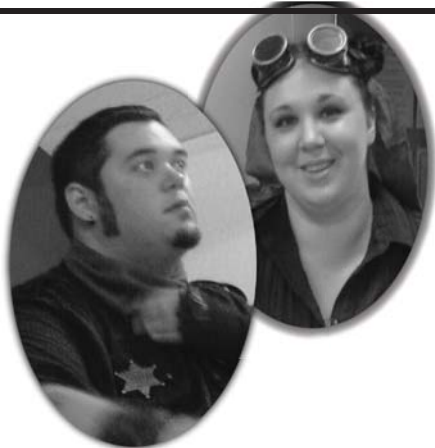
Leave it to the professionals darling.
Satisfaction guaranteed! Be serviced with a smile!

Wiggles takes pride in the variety and skill of our capable and experienced courtesans to suit your needs and fill your every desire.

Group rates, Honeymoon Package, and Couples Delight specialty discounts available upon request.

Catering and hosting available upon request.

Located inside Hilde Hall.
Amenities include full bar,
snacks, private rooms, music.



Silver-Glass Engagement Announced!

By George Aleister Wright

The townspeople were filled with joy as two very prominent houses announced their intention of joining together. Mr. Thomas Silver, Marshal to the Town of Horizon's Stronghold, recently proposed to Miss Preena Glass, Deputy of Invention and proprietor of the Red Poppy Tavern. As a newspaper man, I felt my duty to learn more about how this love came to be, for the benefit of our readers.

Mr. Silver and Miss Glass, both having grown up in the Town of Horizon's Strong-

hold, have known each other all of their lives. They have been friends for a very long time, but the spark of romance only came to them recently. To Miss Glass's recollection, her view of Mr. Silver from friend to more than a friend occurred about a year ago. "I was working in the tavern, as always, one night about a year ago when we were attacked by the undead. It was very frightful, and the tavern was in chaos. Marshall Silver had been taking a late supper when the tavern was attacked. He stood up, turned and looked me straight in the eyes and said "Miss Glass, I will never let anything happen to you". His eyes lingered upon mine with a fiery passion that I never noticed before. Before I could catch my breath to say anything, he pulled out his sword and dashed out the door, and with him, my heart." Miss Glass, a little breathless, recalling the incident, continued her story. "A few months after the attack, which Marshall Silver and the rest of the townspeople successfully repelled, I was appointed as the Deputy of Invention and began to work with all the elected officials, including the Marshall. Working so closely with Tom, err Mr. Silver, I was finally able to get him to propose to me. It took a little time, he's so shy!" She laughed as Marshall Silver, sitting next to her, nodded in agreement. "I've always had a flame for Miss Glass, ever since I was a little boy" Marshall Silver told me, his cheeks red as apples. "The night I proposed, I've never been so nervous in my life. On the pretext of having forgotten something, I asked Miss Glass to walk back with me to my

room. I handed her a single candle as I unlocked the door and let her in. On the floor, I had spelled out "Marry Me" in candles. When she turned around, I was already on one knee. I gently took her trembling hand and popped the question. The glow of the candlelight illuminated her head like a halo, her smile dazzling. She looked like an angel, and blessed me with her answer."

There you have it folks, please congratulate the happy couple!

Heist

Oh, you want me to comment about the money? I worked things out with Danny, he's given me credit for the winnings. I'm satisfied with the resolution."

Mr. Emerald had only one thing to say about it all. "No Comment".

In a twist of events, it is my understanding that Maple returned to the scene of the crime the following day, seemingly unaware of the theft and demanding that her hat be returned. Is this a ploy to escape prosecution? Or is she in fact innocent and the money stolen by someone else? It seems that our local law enforcement has become involved, and will hopefully untangle what has become the largest Emerald heist reported by this Newspaper man. More details will be published as the truth is revealed.

As a final note, it is to be seen what will happen beyond our local justice system. Will Mr. Devereaux be extended Gnomish immunity or face Gnomish justice for the violence that occurred within the Gnomish embassy? Is this a black mark on Mr. Emerald and his nameless patron? What consequences will Mr. Emerald or his nameless patron face by the Gnomes?

**NEED AN UPDATE TO YOUR
OLD APPARATUS?
WRIGHT
INVENTIONS**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Found: Purple Horn

Tilling my field and found a purple horn.

Not sure what it does.

If you can verify the maker's mark and describe it, it is all yours.

And you can pay for my broken hoe.

Correspond through post and Gazette.

Wumble Tumble of Grumble

Seven Penny Nail

With five by three,

There existed a tree,

With leaves that stretched
To the height of all depths,

It stirs and watches,

Behind our eyes,

The darkness awaits

To takes our lives.

Professor Hezikiah Blue

Crime Most Fowl!

Here on the shores of Lake Orizon, it can be forgotten that there is a balance. With the not quite dead, the blue coldness, hunger in the depths and the horde, officials are overlooking other heinous crimes that are committed!

Garble Gaff Gander Geese are disappearing!
Days spent with the triple S-necked creatures are at an end!

What does it mean?

What does it herald?

Who is responsible?

The Garble Gaff Gander Goose is a herald of good. From Gander Goose Egg Day, to Down Comforter Night.

A reward of good tidings and well wishes is offered for anyone who can find out just what is responsible for this crime.

Dawna 'Down' Dander

Shackles of Oppression

Question the borders. Question the motives. Question what happened to our leaders.

I will always be there. Just look, and you will remember the legacy that we created. Don't forget that our King is Wise, never forget this.

Wonder why He has made the choices He has thought. Wonder what happened to what we built. Wonder what happened to our peace.

The Dispossessed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOWN HALL MEETING: SATURDAY, OCT. 11TH, 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.

Tax Collection after town meeting

TAXES IN EFFECT

By Lucrezion acting officially as Town Treasurer
 By requirement of the Emerald City and in order to assure a community chest for the medicines, foods and other items that our town so greatly needs, a new TAX POLICY is being enacted. Each resident of Horizon Stronghold shall pay THREE BITS every tax-season. In the interest of fairness, those not eligible for full votes will pay a reduced amount: TWO BITS for partial votes, ONE BIT for those who cannot vote.

To lighten the burden, the Treasury has agreed to accept certain goods at a reasonable discount from market value. At least ONE BIT per Person must be paid in cash, for we must have coin to send to the Emerald City. Overpayment may be logged as a CREDIT against future taxes, or may be spent to help pay the taxes of others.

Thanks for Town

The Wright Bro.

The Wright Brothers would like to thank the Townspeople of Horizon's Stronghold for welcoming Stormriders such as ourselves with open arms. We dedicate ourselves to the betterment of the town, and present The Wright Brothers Invention "The Healing Shrubbery" to the Red Poppy Tavern, Stone Inn, and Hilde Hall, for all to use when injured. Thank you for your continuing support of Wright Publishing, Wright Arms, Wright Inventions, Wright Chemicals, Wright Locksmithing, and Wright Portraiture.



The Foot Snipe

Civil Authority Department

new criminal dubbed 'The Foot Snipe' has made way into Munchkin Land. Perverse the creature makes way into people's homes during the night an steals their socks.

This fiend must be stopped at all costs.

Death at Work Camp

By Lilia Astren

"An accident has been reported at one of the scarecrow army work camps involving the infamous Hell Runner who was involved in robbing the high stakes poker game in horizon's stronghold. There aren't many details at this time but the woman is said to have been killed."

Clawdette's Corner

Sit down and take a load off, y'all - yer elder changelin's got some words of wisdom to make yer time in Horizon Stronghold a bit safer an' happier, I'm hopin'. I get that sometimes it's hard t' know how t' be polite with folk you ain't met before - diff'rent races, even diff'rent towns got their own customs on how they like t' do things. Here's a lil' bit o' advice if ya haven't figured it out yet - changelin's may be the same 'race,' but we ain't all alike.

Now I know what ya might be thinkin' - if a changelin's lookin' like a regular human, how're ya supposed t' know? Well here's the thing - maybe yer not. Sometimes changelin's are shy or just like keepin' to themselves, and don't go pryin' in their business if you don't want trouble. They may be testin' you t' see if you're worth trustin', or they may just like the comp'ny o' stormriders who tell fantastical stories an' aren't usually so comf'terble with how things work in Oz and are tryin' to ease into it.

In alotta ways animal form or 'wild' changelin's are easier t' understand, if ya got a good wild instinct. Most animals don't like it much when you surround 'em or trap 'em in a corner, I hope that seems plain as day t' most of y'all but ya know I see people doin' this t' my brothers and sisters all the time. I know a lot of 'em are sick, and thank EVERYONE who has been helpin' fix it, from those who gave time or money or the brains t' put everythin' together - but not all of 'em are sick, and if you treat 'em all like they are you ain't livin' up to how I come t' expect our townfolk to treat guests.

An' thanks everyone for makin' the kitchen staff's job just a lil' bit easier by bringin' your dishes to the tiny window!! :)

New Venturein Stronghold

PS: That's fair; we've had a few card games but most of the casino goods are due to arrive shortly before the grand re-opening of Wiggles, which should be about the time this article gets printed. It'll be a heck of a party: girls and gambling, cocktails and class.

SJ: It sounds like it's going to be busy up there in the Government Building. Speaking of government, I've heard a rumor about a mayoral bid that I was hoping you'd like to discuss.

PS: As I'm sure you can imagine, we don't care for rumors at Wiggles. That said, I'll be happy to tend to the veracity of that particular rumor at our party. We've made Horizon's Stronghold our home and are committed to doing what it takes to see it continue to prosper.

SJ: Why come to Horizon's Stronghold?

PS: There are a lot of unique opportunities in Horizon's Stronghold. Sapphire City took a turn for the worse when the Great Spell broke and protecting the well-being of my family led us here. There are a lot of good people here and it gets rough out there sometimes with the bandits and killer clowns, so we thought some well-deserved recreational opportunities would be welcome.

So there you have it, a family business that is sure to provide some extra color to this town.