

23 "Jewlie" 05. Hail D.R.! Thanks for yours of "Jewlie" 17<sup>th</sup> & the B&O Museum brochure! Memories are made of that. Most towns, including Yakima, have their locomotive roundhouses with the turntables to convey each locomotive to its stall for repair & maintenance. For some reason, locomotive repair shops for diesel-electric locomotives are no longer round. The last time I looked, they were repaired on straight tracks in sheds with switches instead of turntables. This arrangement would allow for repair & maintenance of a string of locomotives, instead of single locomotives, I would think. Since diesel-electrics are usually used in strings of more than one locomotive unit, that would make sense. Even the long steam locomotives, like the Big Boys, might have been too long for a roundhouse stall. Anyway, roundhouses were distinctive & they were in general use when I was a kid in the 1940s. My father would take me to see the locomotives being repaired in the Bakersfield, CA, roundhouse. In those days, no security passes were necessary! My ride in the cab of a Santa Fe steam locomotive was unforgettable, even though I was just 3 years old. Ever since then, I've had some connection with railroads, either as employee or as passenger. When I was younger than I am today, U.S. trains had a minimum crew of 5: engineer, fireman, brakeman, switchman & conductor. A train would always have a caboose for this crew, even if there was only the locomotive & tender. Union rules. Now, a long train has a crew of two: engineer & conductor, who reside in the locomotive unit (s). The caboose is gone, in favor of a box on the rear coupling, which looks like a tail light of some kind. The crew in the caboose were needed to look & sniff for hotboxes while the train was in motion, but that job is done by trackside sensors, as I understand. As you probably know, a hot journal box on an axle can derail the car & even the train if it is undetected, for the friction between the bearing & axle will weld them together & stop the wheel, which jumps up & down on the rails. At high speed, such behavior can wreck a train if that wheel jumps the tracks. I have seen the results of hotbox derailments, & they are quite nasty. I recall seeing the result of such a derailment in CA, where a freight train derailed in the middle, toppled a freeway overpass & plowed up the double-tracked mainline so it looked like a trackless field, strewn with wrecked freightcars. The railroad had to build a "shoo-fly", or temporary track around the wreck so traffic on the north-south mainline could continue. That's why trainwrecks are to be avoided, even in the U.S. Congress.

Thanks, also, for the scary word picture of the denizens of Digitalia. I think the article by Irwin Schiff, who is kosher, would also describe them as "unproductive". I also think that the pattern of mud men & blonde trophy women is disgusting & uncalled for. This is likely due to affirmative action. You cite the old, sad theme of the cities' corrupting effects on youth from the more rural areas, which now applies, on the double. Spengler would shake his head & say, "I told you so, but you wouldn't listen!" It's Weimar-style decadence + race-mixing. I get the impression that these keyboard-peckers & cellphone-wearers are more like drones than worker bees. How much useless overhead can a collapsing economy carry? Such denizens are on the extreme end of the "information/service sector" of our society. If the lights go out in a crisis, they will likely have nowhere to go & no way to get there. I would feel extremely vulnerable if I existed in such an artificial world, for I know what can happen, & probably will happen, sooner or later. Of course, out-sourcing of computer jobs is quite common, as well as affirmative-action "in-sourcing" with 'cheap' aliens & expensive colored quotas. My observation is that no society can survive off the "service sector" because it does not create wealth in the form of food, raw materials & manufactured goods. Man does not live by computer & cellphone, alone! Who makes the things they use? The food they eat? The shelter they live in? The clothes they wear? These items do not come from the service sector, & without such real domestic production, the service sector cannot sustain this consumer economy. As Schiff points out, accounting, records-keeping & data-processing are not additions to wealth. They are expenses, which are, nevertheless, added to our gross domestic production figures (along with inflation). People can see great increases in such numbers, & still be jobless & starving. Wealth is not consumption, but that which is available to consume. Wealth is not a matter of "job-creation", unless those jobs produce wealth. The jobs you describe seem more like wealth-consuming jobs, rather than wealth-producing ones. Such an economy is on a false footing, that will merely hasten, & increase the dimensions of our economic collapse. It strikes me as a re-enactment of Star Trek or Deep Space 9, in which no wealth was produced by the actors, nor their travels & residence in space. All I could see was race-mixing & consumption, with scripted adventures as pastimes. Apparently, all the actors' necessities were produced without work, perhaps with some source of 'cheap energy', including their spacecraft. The city scene you described reminded me of these sterile science fantasies from Hebrewood. Those are my first impressions. All the best, as always. DCWZ! & ORION! E.T.