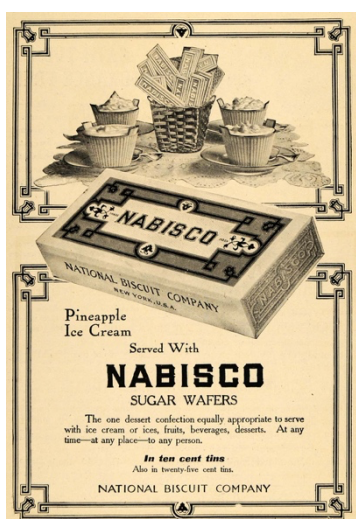


1925-2025

un an avec Howard Phillips Lovecraft

#244 | 7 septembre 1925



« Je vais plutôt passer un bon coup de balai et dépoussiérer cette pièce, ne sortant que pour m'occuper de tâches banales telles que la lessive et les courses. J'ai un nouvel aliment de base pour mes repas à la maison : les Cheese Tidbits, de minuscules crackers National Biscuit au goût de fromage très prononcé, vendus en paquets de 5 cents dans les épiceries locales. Pour le dessert, j'ai également un nouveau favori : des sandwiches à la guimauve, composés de guimauve entre deux petites gaufrettes à la vanille, également vendus en paquets de 5 cents. Ces sandwiches et les chips occupent désormais une place importante dans mon alimentation, même si je mange souvent à l'extérieur, principalement dans des restaurants italiens. C'est étrange à quel point j'aime les plats italiens, mais l'omniprésence de mon aliment préféré, le FROMAGE, explique sans doute en grande partie cette passion. »

Lovecraft et la guimauve ? ô scandale !

Il a peu à dire, Lovecraft, dans sa réclusion retrouvée (et gaspillée à des lettres et des lettres, malgré les deux manuscrits à dactylographier et Cthulhu ébauché). Mais si ça nous vaut ce petit coup de zoom sur son quotidien, on tient notre récompense !



[1925, lundi 7 septembre]

Up 1:30 p.m. — wrote letters — read *Weird Tales* — retired.

Levé 13h30. Écrit des lettres. Lu le Weird Tales daté octobre. Couché.

« Dimanche, une fois réveillé, je me suis remis à écrire des lettres et me suis couché à 22 heures, ne me réveillant qu'à 13h30. Lundi, j'ai continué à écrire des lettres, et je ne sais pas quand j'aurai terminé, mais quand ce sera fait, je lirai quelques-unes des nouvelles de *Weird Tales* et me recoucherai ». Cette lettre du 8 septembre est si détaillée pour les journées de bougeotte qu'on n'en voudra pas à Lovecraft d'être si lacunaire quant à sa réclusion retrouvée, quoique stérile (mais de quel droit le dire) ? Il y a aussi, allusion dans la lettre à sa tante, une lettre à Sonia, avec des documents joints, qui s'est perdue, et bien sûr elle le restera pour nous aussi. Mais bien sûr il nous donne lui-même des pistes, complice, pour qu'avec lui nous continuions notre aventure : d'une part ce qu'il mange, page ci-dessus les nouveaux biscuits au fromage élus comme favoris, et page ci-dessous l'incitation à nous aussi ouvrir le *Weird Tales* qui vient de paraître, daté octobre, ci-dessous ! À noter (et merci l'équipe, une fois de plus) la publication dans *Weird Tales* d'Alanson Skinner, un des précurseurs et collectionneurs de l'histoire indienne d'Amérique du nord. Né à Buffalo, mais ayant grandi à Staten Island, Skinner a 38 ans quand, ce mois d'août 1925, il meurt dans un accident de voiture, en travail de terrain dans le North Dakota. Il ne lira pas son histoire, *Bad Medicine*, bien sûr en territoire indien (et si on la lui traduisait, en hommage ?).

New York Times, le 7 septembre 1925. Asbury Park et les stations balnéaires voisines ont enregistré la plus forte affluence de leur histoire. Les hôtels d'Asbury Park ont transformé leurs solariums et autres salles communes en dortoirs, puis ont été contraints de refuser des clients potentiels. Hier, les plages étaient tellement bondées de baigneurs que le sable était à peine visible. Le nombre de visiteurs a été estimé à plus de 150 000. On estime que 125 000 personnes supplémentaires ont visité Ocean Grove, Bradley Beach, Avon et Belmar, dans le New Jersey. Atlantic City était également un lieu de rendez-vous pour les vacanciers. Hier, des milliers de personnes ont afflué toute la journée. Les responsables des chemins de fer et des autoroutes ont estimé que la foule du Labor Day et du défilé atteindrait un demi-million de personnes. Les principales autoroutes menant à Atlantic City étaient encombrées, et le chemin de fer Reading a à lui seul transporté 126 000 personnes vers la ville. La circulation dense en provenance de New York, ainsi que le ciel nuageux, ont réduit la foule sur les plages locales. À Coney Island, il n'y avait que 300 000 visiteurs, qui ont établi au moins un record pour le dimanche précédant la fête du Travail en ne perdant que trois enfants. Une seule personne, Fred Hemple, 31 ans, domicilié au 1 391 Madison Street, Brooklyn, a été secourue. Il avait nagé au-delà de ses capacités. Alors que les départs ralentissaient hier à midi, le trafic entrant à la gare Pennsylvania Station

et au Grand Central Terminal augmentait fortement. Les responsables ont estimé que cela était dû en grande partie au désir de certains vacanciers d'éviter la ruée vers les transports pour rentrer chez eux après la fête du Travail. De nombreuses personnes sont arrivées pour passer leurs vacances ici. La pression des voyages ne s'est pas entièrement concentrée sur les destinations proches. Des wagons supplémentaires ont été ajoutés aux trains réguliers de la Pennsylvania vers Chicago, Saint-Louis et Cincinnati. Les trains réguliers sont arrivés et ont quitté Grand Central en deux ou trois sections. Des horaires ferroviaires très chargés sont prévus pour ramener les vacanciers aujourd'hui et demain.



Asbury Park, le bord de mer dans les dimanches d'été, cartes postales 1925.

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