

the world of
STAN FOOGLE

preview



Gary Wilcox

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STAN FOOGLE



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THIS PREVIEW CONTAINS
THE TENTATIVE COVER, PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION TO
THE WORLD OF STAN FOOGLE
- PLUS SAMPLE COMIC STRIPS

VERSION 4.2
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PREFACE

Like many of us, Stan FOOGLE lives in his own little world.

And, like with many of us, Stan's path in life is strewn with obstacles - the "stuff of life" that keeps getting undersoot.

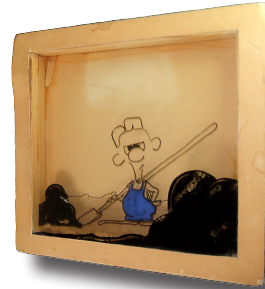
The stuff that prevents us from doing what we really want to be doing. That prevents us from becoming the person we really want to become.

Stan is mired in so much of

this "stuff" that he wears hip waders and carries a shovel.

Undaunted, our hapless hero slogs on with hopeless optimism, dealing with life and its vagaries while sharing his thoughts with the reader.

Gary Wilcox
October 2018

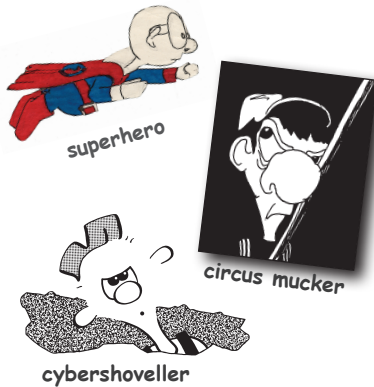


Patiently Waiting

I made this 3-D frame of Stan in the mid-1960s, and he's been patiently waiting for me to find him an audience for the past 50 years while I've been dealing with the vagaries of life.

INTRODUCTION

the **STAN FOOGLE** story
from superhero to cybershoveller



Click on centre of image for enlargement.
Click on right side or bottom portion for return.

Stan Foogle evolved, or perhaps "devolved," over several decades.

I say "devolved" because he started as a superhero in the 1950s and then disappeared for decades only to re-appear as a manure shoveller in the 1990s.

Hardly "evolution."

An important influence in

Stan's evolution was a circus mucker in the 1960s.

It's a very unlikely story.

Through a series of mistakes, accidents and failures, Stan Foogle has evolved into the man he is today.

And that's OK. He's not seeking the limelight. As Stan recently confided, "I've got enough problems without someone doing a comic strip about me."

INTRODUCTION

THE BEGINNING

Stan FOOGLE was created in 1958, when I was fifteen.

As a youth I was always drawing - landscapes, portraits and especially cartoons.

I was doodling on a scrap of paper when a bird's face started to take shape. But staring into this image I could also see another face.

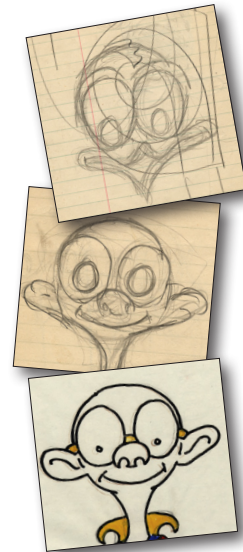
The bird's beak suggested a

character with big ears and a long neck.

The next scribbling was the first drawing of Stan FOOGLE.

Although I had created many cartoon characters, I was immediately taken by the personality in this sketch and wanted to do something with him.

I called him Captain Stanley FOOGLE - a superhero LOOKING for intergalactic adventures.



Evolution

The evolution of Stan Foogle from the face of a bird. The beak developed into Stan's ears and long neck.

INTRODUCTION



Comic Book
The intergalactic adventures of Captain Stanley Foogle never got off the drawing board



3-D
Captain Stan also flirted with 3-D, but this was more of a bemusement than a viable career move

CAPTAIN STANLEY FOOGLE

Stan started life as a superhero, Captain Stanley Foogle, but his own comic book never got off the drawing board.

Stan also flirted with 3-D, which was popular in the 1950s, but this proved to be more of a bemusement than a viable career move.

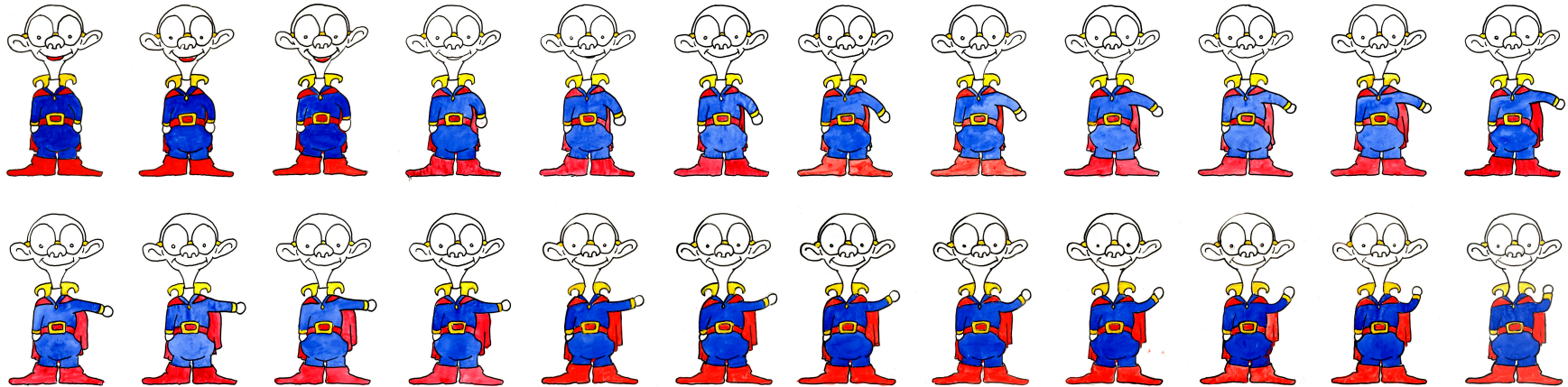
Stan even tried his hand at film animation, but his efforts

were never actually filmed.

Sadly, Captain Stanley Foogle's career as a superhero in comic books, 3-D and film animation languished because of my many ineptitudes as a fifteen-year-old.

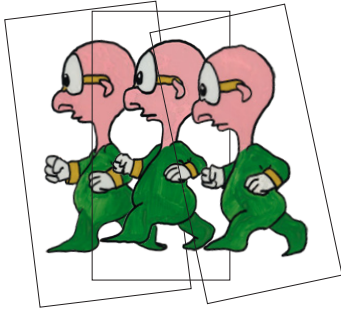
I became involved in high school sports and Captain Stanley Foogle was put in a bottom drawer for the next four years.

INTRODUCTION



Captain Stanley Foogle Raises his Arm
Unfilmed animation sequence

INTRODUCTION



Animation Cels

The drawings are painted on transparent celluloid sheets so the camera (above) can photograph the background scene (below)

STAN FOOGLE

I was determined to animate Captain Stanley Foogle.

Humbled by the bottom-drawer experience over the past four years, Captain Stan was willing to discard his cape and superhero status to become simply, Stan Foogle.

I built a Disney-inspired multi-plane camera stand and borrowed an 8mm movie camera that

could film one frame at a time.

The camera was installed on the animation stand, looking down on the work area.

On the top level were the transparent cels - a walk cycle - that I filmed one frame at a time.

On the second level was a large panoramic drawing of my desktop, which was moved incrementally with each exposure.

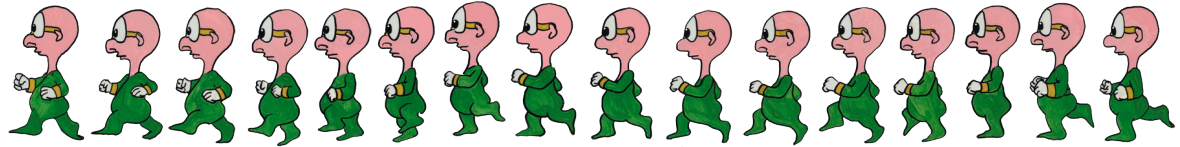
INTRODUCTION

The effect was to see Stan taking a stroll across my desk.

After weeks of preparation and high hopes, I produced thirteen seconds of animation.

The film was mailed to the processor and, after an eternity, threaded onto the projector.

But, alas, more misfortune. Because the camera was installed incorrectly, Stan projected onto the screen upside



down and backwards, thus ending his filmic aspirations.

Then university and life called.

And Stan Foogle was put back into the bottom drawer to remain forgotten for the next five years.

Walk Cycle

These are the animation cels of Stan Foogle's walk cycle. This thirteen second animation sequence showed my hand drawing Stan and then, with the snap of a finger, he arose from the page and walked across the desk. Unfortunately the animation camera was installed incorrectly, so the film ran upside down and backwards, thus ending Stan's filmic aspirations.

INTRODUCTION

FRONT ROW CENTER

The Circus Mucker
The first character developed for FRONT ROW CENTER was an anonymous circus mucker who had opinions and liked to philosophize

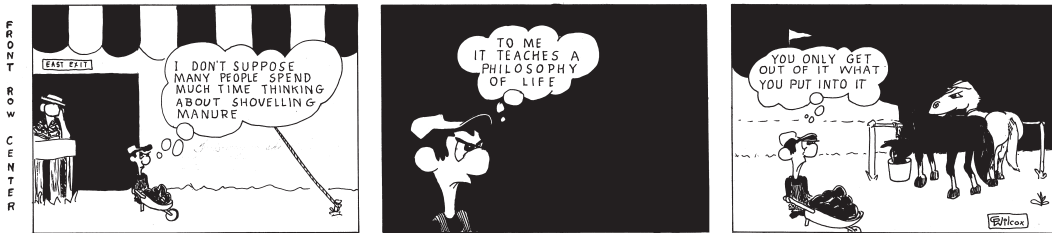
I graduated from university in 1965. The one thing I learned at university was who I wasn't.

After graduation I turned my back on my formal education

and immersed myself in a world of creativity - writing music, drawing, cartooning, graphic design and publishing.

I started exploring a comic strip with a circus theme, with the performers and roustabouts representing personality types.

I tentatively entitled the strip FRONT ROW CENTER, giving the viewer a prime seat to watch the show.



INTRODUCTION

For some unexplicable reason, unbeknownst to me to this day, the first character I started to develop was the mucker who tended the circus animals.

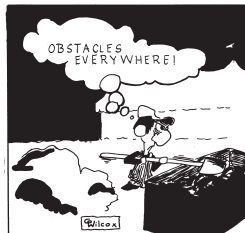
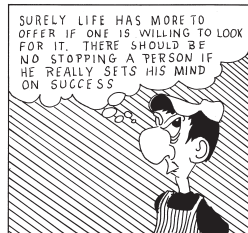
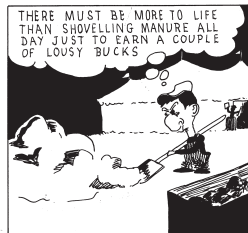
I gave him a harsh look, to reflect a man who knew the realities of life. I thought this would play against the more exuberant personalities of the circus performers.

As I started developing this

unlikely character, I learned that he had opinions and liked to philosophize, and realized that a mucker-philosopher could offer an interesting take on life.

I was so intrigued that I

FRONT
ROW
CENTER



Panel Format

I experimented with both 3-panel and 4-panel formats with the succinct 3-panel quickly winning out with the context/set-up/punch format

INTRODUCTION

Mucking About

Before the circus mucker morphed into Stan Foogle, the early strips showed this character in a variety of situations, including taking a shower

dropped the circus theme to develop a comic strip based on this one character, who at this time was still nameless.

The strip started to change as

the mucker became the focus.

First, his job description changed.

Originally his duty was to keep the fairgrounds clean. We saw him wandering around the grounds attending to his chores. Sometimes we'd see him at his locker or in the shower.

But his new job description had him mired knee-deep in a pile of manure. The hip waders,



INTRODUCTION

shovel and manure piles had become metaphors.

The strip was now about a hapless soul wearing hip waders and carrying a shovel to deal with Life's vagaries - the 'stuff of Life' that keeps getting underfoot.

Second, his LOOKS changed.

As the strip focussed on this one character, his LOOKS gradually softened to be more sympathetic and vulnerable.

He eventually morphed into my ex-superhero Stan FOOGLE. Albeit, Stan was older now, and his big eyes had become wary with time. But after spending most of his Life in a bottom drawer, he was grateful for the recognition and employment.

Finally, after these cosmetic and philosophic changes, the strip was re-named, STAN FOOGLE.

Then Life called again.

Job Descriptions

The duty of the circus mucker was to keep the fairgrounds clean (top three images).

Stan Foogle, (bottom image) on the other hand, is always knee-deep in a pile of manure as the strip evolved from literal to metaphorical. It was now about a hapless soul wearing hip waders and carrying a shovel to deal with life's vagaries - the "stuff of life" that keeps getting underfoot.



INTRODUCTION

SYNDICATION

Thirty years pass.

Then, in the mid-1990s, I decided to submit STAN FOOGLE for syndication.

I still felt it had something. And it was certainly unique with only one character who shared his thoughts with the viewer.

I re-drew the old pen and ink comic strips from the 1960s with brush and ink strips, and

created many new ones.

Submissions were sent to the six biggest comic strip syndicates in the United States.

Weeks later I received six very polite rejection letters.

I guess the powers-that-be felt that America wasn't ready for a potential role model who shovelled manure for a living.

STAN FOOGLE was set aside for another twenty years.

The Package
Thirty-six
STAN FOOGLE
comic strips were
submitted to the
six biggest U.S.
syndicates
in 1994,
only to be
returned
weeks
later
with
polite
rejection
letters



INTRODUCTION

OUTA MY MIND

In 2013, at the age of 70, I undertook to catalog my personal creations over the years in a retrospective eBook entitled OUTA MY MIND.

In the course of gathering old artwork, I came across Stan Foogle's animation cels that were drawn but unsuccessfully filmed in 1962.

After scanning these old cels

into the computer in 2016, magic happened!

Because OUTA MY MIND is a multimedia eBook, I had the joy of seeing - for the very first time in over 50 years - my animation of Stan Foogle walking!



Click on left foot
to see Stan walking

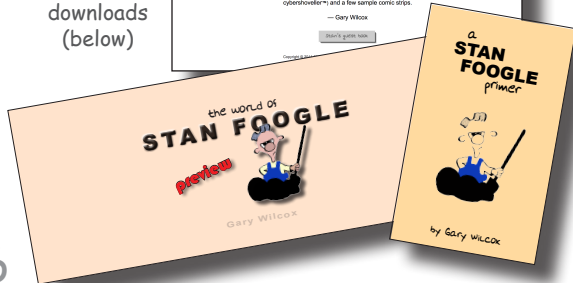


OUTA MY MIND My eBook was finished at the end of 2016 and is now available on a USB flash drive. It's a retrospective look at my personal creations over the years in an interactive, multimedia PDF presentation that features an animation of Stan Foogle.

www.webturf.com/outa_my_mind/

INTRODUCTION

Stan's Website (right) offers two free downloads (below)



CYBERSHOVELLER™

Stan's website was created and launched in 2014,

webturf.com/stanfoogle/

which probably makes him the world's first cybershoveller!

The site offers two free downloads - A STAN FOOGLE PRIMER and a PREVIEW of Stan's upcoming book, THE WORLD OF STAN FOOGLE.

The PREVIEW contains the Preface, Introduction and a few sample comic strips.

The website will ALSO post download updates and keep viewers apprised of the latest news about Stan.

The latest scoop, so to speak.

There's even a guest book. Stan doesn't get out much. He'd love to hear from you.

INTRODUCTION

THE WORLD OF STAN FOOGLE

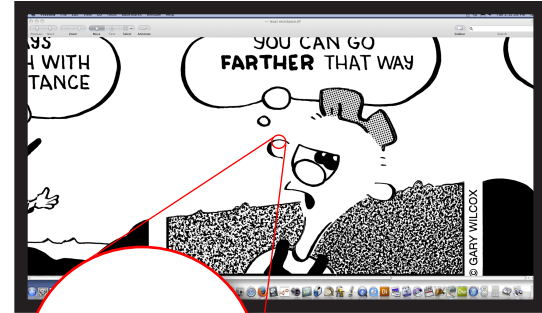
A portfolio of Stan Foogle comic strips will be showcased in THE WORLD OF STAN FOOGLE - the definitive collection expressing his views on romance, politics, self esteem, nasal congestion and other aspects of life.

I didn't think that assembling this project would require much time as, after all, most of the artwork was done years ago.

But after scanning the old boards into the computer, I quickly saw the imperfections in my old artwork.

Publishing Stan's book has now become a major project that will require time to prepare.

In the meantime this preview look at the Preface, Introduction and sample strips will hint at the shape of things to come.



Digitally Incorrect
Once in the computer, the imperfections of my old artwork became very apparent. These are being cleaned-up digitally.

INTRODUCTION

SHAPING OUR REALITIES

This comic strip is premised on a simple piece of wisdom:

Because we are shaped by our environment (friends, workplace, geography, etc.), it's important that we shape our environment.

Stan FOOGLE hasn't shaped his environment. He's always taken the path of least resistance.

His life has been shaped by bad decisions and, more often

than not, no decisions. He simply hopes for the best.

Consequently he's overwhelmed by the "stuff of life" that keeps getting underfoot.

Stan is mired in so much of this "stuff" that he wears hip waders and carries a shovel.

Undaunted, our hapless hero slogs on with hopeless optimism while sharing his thoughts with the reader.



STAN FOOGLE

by Gary Wilcox



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LIFE

STAN FOOGLE

by Gary Wilcox



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LIFE

STAN FOOGLE

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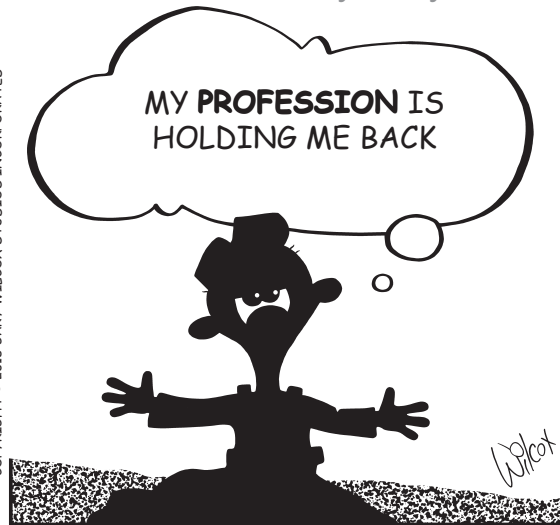
A WOMAN IS
ATTRACTED TO A MAN
WITH A **FUTURE**



MANURE SHOVELLING
DOESN'T OFFER A **FUTURE**



MY PROFESSION IS
HOLDING ME BACK



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STAN FOOGLE



ROMANCE

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ROMANCE

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