



When Weather was Wildlife

by Werner Cee

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Certainly, the desire to influence weather patterns is as old as humanity itself. At present, climatologists, politicians, economists and the military are discussing options to modify the chemical and physical properties of the atmosphere up to the stratosphere on a global scale.

In the age of the Anthropocene, geo-engineering has replaced old-fashioned ritual and religious invocations. Today, in the context of weather manipulation, we are confronted with a jumble of dystopies, concrete plans to save the planet, terror, facts and fake: „whether we like it or not“, as climatologist David Keith puts it, weather has lost its „wildlife“ character.

When weather was wildlife joins historical and up-to-date documents: The ironically poignant „Cloud Songs“ by Bettina Obrecht are spoken by Neville Tranter. The breathless voice of Freddie Wadling quotes Jón Steingrímsson's description of a volcanic eruption in Iceland in the year 1784, when an enormous amount of sulphuric aerosols released into the atmosphere resulted in the darkening of the entire Northern hemisphere (Fires of the Earth, 1784). Rachel and Becky Unthank are the interpreters of Lord Byron's sombre apocalyptic poem „Darkness“, written in the „Year Without a Summer“ 1816 – also in the context of a big volcanic eruption. Meandering between all of these texts are extracts from a list of patents on the subject of Geo-engineering released by the US Patent and Trademark Office, spoken by Adrian MacNally. They are supplemented by the original sound of David Keith as well as field recordings of the Sant'Agata Procession in Catania, Sicily, where the faithful ritually try to conciliate the Mount Etna volcano. Over and over again, lost idylls meet bizarre soundscapes, apocalyptic storms, iridescent atmospheres and sunsets lost in reverie.

Contributors

Words and voices:

„Cloud Songs“ by Bettina Obrecht (2017): voice: Neville Tranter

„Fires of the Earth“ by Jón Steingrímsson (1784) spoken by Freddie Wadling

„Darkness“ by Lord Byron (1816). Voices: Rachel and Betty Unthank.

US Patent and Trademark Office, List of Patents ref. GeoEngineering Voice: Adrian Mc Nally

as well as

„I Devoti“ – Sant’Agata Procession, Catania, Sicily Field Recordings.

Original sound: David Keith, climatologist., US TV ad promoting geo-engineering

Musicians:

Alf Terje Hana, git

Eivind Aarset, git

Stian Westerhus , git

Peter Hollinger, drums

Werner Cee, bass, e-chin

When weather was wildlife

Manuscript

Neville Tranter

Remember that noise against the attic window?
There are no attics now.
Remember the shimmering pearl strings on grass blades?
There is no grass now.

That was once
When we were wet
When weather was wildlife
Untamed.

Remember dark patches soaking our boots?
There are no boots now.
Remember the earthen smell in the air?
There is no air now.

That was once
When we were wet
When weather was wildlife
Untamed.

Remember satellite images
And weather forecasts?
No need for forecasts now.
Remember barometers
And rain dances?
There is no dance now.

Just a button to push.
There were no buttons then.
That was once
When we were wet
When weather was wildlife
Untamed.

Freddie Wadling

Iron turned rust-red, timber lost its color
It turned grey, grey from the downpour of salty,
sulphurous rain.

I devoti

...cittadini, siamo tutti devoti...

US video clip Geo-Engineering

How could you steer a hurricane? There are several ideas,
such as oil fires on the ocean
cloud seeding
possibilities are endless, the unanswered questions fascinating

Adrian Mc Nally

Extensive List of Patents

June 4 – Rocket having barium release system to create ion clouds in the upper atmosphere

May 6 – Communications system utilizing modulation of the characteristic polarization of the ionosphere

August 12 – Powder contrail generation

August 16 – Method and apparatus for triggering a substantial change in earth characteristics and measuring earth changes

September 6 – Atmosphere modification satellite

February 17 – Method and apparatus for modification of climatic conditions

June 9 – Use of artificial satellites in earth orbits adaptively to modify the effect that solar radiation would otherwise have on earth's weather

May 2 – Method and apparatus for modifying supercooled clouds

May 27 – Method and device for cleaning the atmosphere

January 12 – RFID environmental manipulation

Oct 05. – Geoengineering method of business using carbon counterbalance credits

Freddie Wadling

All the mice in this country and the next one to the west, which had often caused great damage to our lyme grass grain and other stores, were killed and there has been no sign of them here since. In the eastern part of the district no mouse has been seen nor made its presence felt for a long period of time, so they may well have been killed off there in like fashion although there are no tales of such.

Neville Tranter

Whitish trails in the sky
Lines of dirty chalk on the blueboard
Scribbling lies and truths
In windblown letters

Wipe them off.

Who will wipe them off
Whitish greyish smears
Cross puzzles
Drawing the parallel bars of our jail windows.
Drawing the grids measuring out the earth.
The squares on the graph paper
Used for sketching secret plans.

Trails in the sky.
Wipe them off
Who can wipe them off.
We follow them with our eyes
We follow them with our doubts
As they melt down the sun
Ashen blankets choking the colors.
Dry fog shrivelling the skin of the sea.
Our electric steps slowed down
By the sand in our running shoes.

We look up
At the white sky
We're unable to read.
As we follow our trails on earth
They will wipe them out.

Neville Tranter

Hurrah

I awake from yesterday
alive but the war is here to stay
so my love Catherina and me
decide to take our last walk
through the noise to the sea
not to die but to be re-born
away from a life so battered and torn.... forever..
oh say can you see its really such a mess every inch of earth is a fighting nest
giant pencil and lip-stick tube shaped things continue to rain and cause screaming pain and the
arctic stains
from silver blue to bloody red
as our feet find the sand
and the sea is strait ahead..
strait ahead.....
well its too bad
that our friends
cant be with us today
well thats too bad

The changed the time, depths, location and parameters

so my darling and I
make love in the sand
to salute the last moment ever on dry land

our machine has done its work played its part well
without a scratch on our bodies and we bid it farewell

The changed the time, depths, location and parameters

starfish and giant foams greet us with a smile before our heads go under we take a last look

at the killing noise
the out of style..
the out of style, out of style

Freddie Wadling

A great number of people observed this strange cloud or portent which hung there in the sky without moving, until it disappeared instantaneously just before sunset.

Around midmorn , in clear and calm weather, a black haze of sand appeared to the north of the mountains. The cloud was so extensive that in a short time it had spread over the entire area, and so thick that it caused darkness indoors and coated the earth so that tracks could be seen. A light drizzle, which fell from that black cloud that day, turned this powder into black, inky liquid.

Becky and Rachel Unthank

(In the background) excerpts from Lord Byron „Darkness“

Neville Tranter

They still have wings.
They soar.
Who's going to tell them?
They cruise.
High above,
but not as high as before.
Not high enough.

They still have wings
That carry them.
They still know the trees.
They'll die not knowing.

Original sound David Keith, climatologist

There's no big mystery about it, there's lots of mysteries in the details and there's some bad side effects like it partly destroys the ozone layer, but we'll get to that in a minute, but it clearly cools down, and one other thing, it's fast. That's really important to say. So much of the other things we ought to do to slow down emissions are intrinsically slow.

So you cannot step on the brake very quickly, but if you do this, it is quick. Does it work? Can you shade some sunlight and effectively compensate for added CO₂ and produce a climate sort of like it was back to what it was originally and the answer seems to be: yes.

I Devoti

...cittadini, siamo tutti devoti...

Original sound David Keith

If engineers and scientists really turn their mind to this, it's amazing how we can affect the planet. The one thing about this is, it gives us extraordinary leverage. This improved size of engineering will, whether we like it or not, give us more and more leverage to affect the planet, to control the planet, to give us weather and climate control, not because we plan it, not because we want it, but because science delivers it to us bit by bit - with better knowledge as to how the system works and better engineering tools to affect it.

I Devoti

..cittadini, siamo tutti devoti...

video original sound

Landslide in southern Italy

Original sound David Keith

But the problem is the following. Knowing that geo-engineering is possible makes the climate impacts look less fearsome and that makes a weaker commitment to cutting emissions today. That's what economists call a „moral hazard“.

Becky and Rachel Unthank

The world was void,
The populous and the powerful was a lump
A lump of death --- a chaos of hard clay.
Ships sailorless lay rotting on the sea,
And their masts fell down piecemeal: as they dropp'd They slept on the abyss without a surge
The waves were dead; the tides were in their grave, The moon, their mistress, had expired before;
The winds were wither'd in the stagnant air,
And the clouds perish'd;
Darkness had no need of air from them
She was the Universe.

Neville Tranter

Another plucking of the strings.
Their music shakes the earth.
Silent resonances make the ground
Shift under our feet.
We cling to steady rocks
As they tumble down on us.
Mountains shake off their dwellers.
Radios keep silent.
Noises erupt.
We listen to their music.
It saves our souls.
said the TV man.

Another plucking of the strings.
There is a wave. A shock wave.
A sea wave.
It rushes to the shore.
What kept those thousands there
On a Christmas day?
Said the clergymen.
They could have climbed snowy hills,
couldn't they?
It wasn't our fault.

It was just sea water.
Everyone loves fresh fish.
Everyone loves to surf.

Another plucking of the strings.
They've grown addicted to the game.
To pull the strings of atmospheric puppets
That bow deep for their lametta Gods.

Another plucking.
An arpeggio.
The puppets dance and fall.
The strings get all entangled.
The sky falls down on us.
Rocks flow.
The ground rises.
Snow burns our skin.
Fire freezes the wells.
The air is choking..

A broken string.
Snaps back at your face.
This couldn't have happened,
said all experts as one.
The earth dances and jolts.
Now, what's that face?
Why don't you sing along?

Neville Tranter

There's bound to be a planet
veiled in unbranded clouds.
There's bound to be a star
where winds blow at their will.

I'm building a spaceship
in the shelter of my garage.
Big enough to house
all endangered species.

Single and in couples, no matter.
Unbranded poets and musicians,
Unbranded thinkers and speakers.
No-name creatures carrying no profit.
Those who remember the colors of the sky.
Those who remember the shapes of clouds.
Those who refuse to buy lies.
Those who sing unlabelled songs.
Get into my spaceship.
Let's take off
go through the roof.
We have no safety belts.
They'll try to shoot us down.

If we make it to the planet
veiled in unbranded clouds.
If we reach the star
where winds blow at their will
All species will reproduce, no matter.
Unbranded creatures.
Unlabelled poets.
No-name thinkers.
We will start a new age.
We will age there in freedom.
We will speak of earth clouds.
We will dream of earth colours.
We will stare at purple planet skies
grieving for our home on earth.
Let's take off
Go through the roof.
Leave unbranded clouds behind.
Return to our home earth.
Reclaim our sky
Reclaim our colours.
We have no safety belts.
They'll try to shoot us down.
Chase them off.
Build them a leaden spaceship
to be sunk in the deepest
most poisonous ocean.

Becky and Rachel Unthank

And men forgot their passions in the dread
Of this their desolation; and all hearts
Were chill'd into a selfish prayer for light:
And they did live by watchfires--and the thrones,
The palaces of crowned kings--the huts,
The habitations of all things which dwell,
Were burnt for beacons; cities were consum'd,
And men were gather'd round their blazing homes
To look once more into each other's face;
Happy were those who dwelt within the eye
Of the volcanos, and their mountain-torch:
A fearful hope was all the world contain'd;

Adrian Mc Nally

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I Devoti

...cittadini, siamo tutti devoti...

Freddie Wadling

All the ornaments of the church, its books and burial implements burned, as well, as did the beautiful bell. The weather was quiet with a light wind from the south. Far into the winter, when the moon sailed through the clouds, those surrounding it would appear bright yellow.

The bluish colour remained on the ground for some time.

The weather was quiet. There was a light wind from the north and so great were the showers of ash and sand which blew down from every ridge that we could just make out the outlines of the farm and church, even though they stand on high ground.

Adrian Mc Nally

October 17 – Nuclear-sized explosions without radiation

March 12 – Creation of artificial ionization clouds above the earth

March 26 – Stratospheric Welsbach seeding

August 13 – Method for producing a shell of relativistic particles at an altitude above the earth's surface

August 20 – Artificial ionospheric mirror composed of a plasma layer which can be tilted

Becky and Rachel Unthank

Seasonless, herbless, treeless, manless, lifeless.....

Neville Tranter

Drifting,
on a sea of forgotten tear drops

On a life boat
Sailing, sailing home
Drifting on a sea of old heart breaks

On a life boat sailing
Sailing home .