

DeLorean World



Published Quarterly by the DeLorean Owners Association Volume 11, Number 4; 1994

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YOUR
DELOREAN**

COMPLETE
DELOREAN WORLD
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ONE LAP '94

MY LIFE AS A
DELOREAN



THE **BACK** **TO THE FUTURE** **FAN CLUB**

by Stephen M. Clark

President of the Back To The Future™ Fan Club

Back To The Future.™ What comes to mind when you hear these four words? The DeLorean? Time travel? Michael J. Fox? Christopher Lloyd? A classic Steven Spielberg film? To an elite group of fans known as The Back To The Future™ Fan Club, **all** of these and a whole lot more comprise the phenomenon known as the *Back To The Future* series.

ORIGIN OF THE FILM

The concept for *Back To The Future* was originally conceived by screenwriters Bob Gale and Robert Zemeckis in late 1980, around the same time that the first DeLoreans were coming out. The film eventually found its way to the silver screen almost five years later, backed up by Universal Studios and Steven Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment. The cast combination, ingeniously made up of Executive Producer Steven Spielberg (*Jaws*, *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind*, *E.T.*), Director Robert Zemeckis (*Romancing The Stone*), Actors Michael J. Fox (*Family Ties*) and Christopher Lloyd (*Taxi*), and a time-traveling stainless-steel DeLorean, helped make it the top grossing blockbuster of 1985 (upwards of \$210 million in the U.S. alone). Ever since its theatrical debut on July 3rd, fans across the globe have been discussing all of the intricate little details that comprise the three movies and themepark ride, and still view the films as their favorite time-traveling tale of all time. With fourth dimensional subjects such as a possible "other" Marty McFly, the Twin Pines Mall/Lone Pine Mall transformation, the number of DeLoreans in the year 1955, and legions of others, the topics never get boring! It was inevitable that these fans would someday find one another, and an organization of fans would be formed.

THE FAN CLUB

The Back To The Future™ Fan Club was conceived just over two years ago. Bob Boyce, the club's founder, contacted Screenwriter/Producer Bob Gale in the

Summer of '92 to acquire permission to begin a new fan club for the series, since the original officially licensed fan club for the series had folded a year earlier. Once permission was granted, Bob Boyce began seeking fans worldwide to join with him in a new chapter of the *Back To The Future* saga.

At the same time, I was also searching for fans of the series to start a fan club. I had been a fan of the series ever since 1985 and had always loved the concept of time-travel, but after reading a series of articles in the mid-to-late '80s based on the science and logic of the series, I had quickly become what the industry defines as a "Backie" (the *Back To The Future* version of a "Trekie"). I had been in contact with a few fans for several months, which in a long chain of events eventually led me to also come into contact with Bob Gale's office at Universal Studios by early October 1992. I found out from Mr. Gale's office that a new club had already been formed a few months earlier, and they gladly placed me into contact with Bob Boyce from Lakewood, California. Bob and I quickly became friends, as our individual goals and plans for operating a fan club promptly became one set of goals, and a partnership was born.

At the time I had met Bob, he had already published two newsletters on his home typewriter, which were highly enjoyed by the club's charter members. But it soon became obvious to the both of us that as we grew, the production of a quality newsletter needed to be a top priority within our publication goals. My career background is in Computer Information Systems, so beginning with the fourth newsletter, all publication of the newsletter became my area of expertise. The newsletter soon brought on a life of its own, along with a new name that all fans would easily recognize: **Hill Valley Telegraph**, which was the name of the fictional newspaper briefly seen throughout the films.

OUR PURPOSES

The focus of the fan club is in promoting all aspects of the entire *Back To The Future* series. We have fans

We have fans from virtually every pivotal viewpoint of the series...

from virtually every pivotal viewpoint of the series, because so many factors make up the genre. The membership is made up of fans of the entire series (the movies, rides, and cartoons), the storyline and characters of the films (Hill Valley, Marty McFly, Doc Brown), the actors and actresses (Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Thomas F. Wilson, Mary Steenburgen, Elisabeth Shue, Crispin Glover, etc.), the directors and producers (Steven Spielberg, Robert Zemeckis, Bob Gale, Neil Canton), the DeLorean time machine, the music from the films (Huey Lewis and The News, ZZ Top, Alan Silvestri), time travel enthusiasts, and overall film buffs. We show no partiality to any one area — we cover each topic of the series in depth, as well as promote all new movie projects that each of the actors and filmmakers are associated with in their film careers in the form of movie reviews. We also promote the collectibility of *Back To The Future* merchandise & memorabilia, and new recordings by the artists who had cameo appearances in and performed music for the films. We also point fans in the right direction to the items they are looking for, whether it be a DeLorean, a poster, a pen-pal, or whatever their needs may be.

We are dedicated to offering up-to-date news on the series and its stars to our members, including exclusive interviews of as many of the celebrities as we can locate. So far, we have interviewed Bob Gale, *BTTF* Creator/Screenwriter/Producer; Thomas F. Wilson, who played “Biff Tannen” in all three films and in the rides; Jeffrey Weissman, who played “George McFly” in the two sequels; and Kevin Pike, who supervised the design and creation of the DeLorean time machine vehicle, along with all the Special Effects from the first film. We are always on the lookout for means of contacting the rest of the series’ cast in order to interview them as well, investigating every lead so that we might bring our readers inside news from the stars themselves.

But the top priority of our fan club has always been, and will continue to be, to establish a large

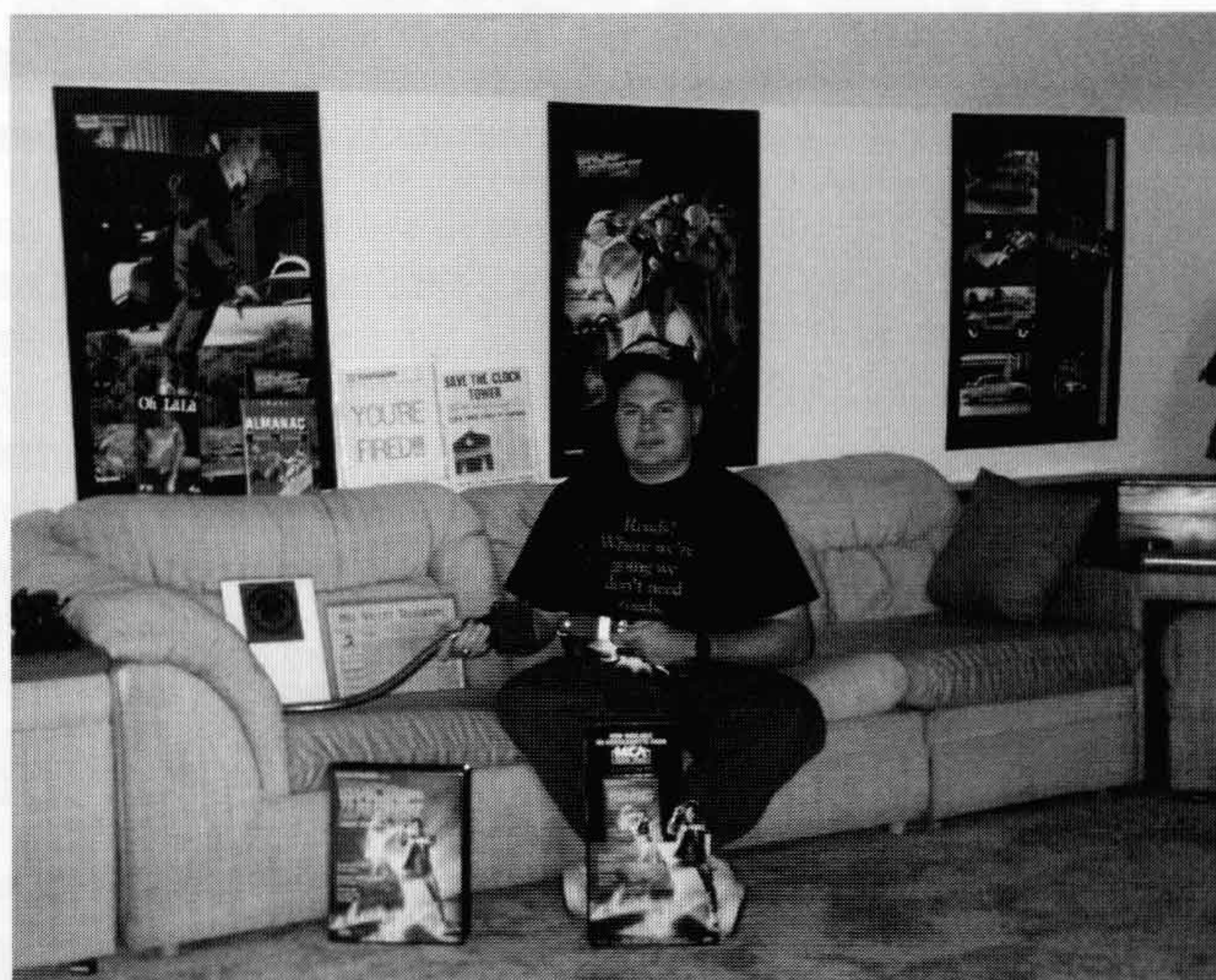
association of fans who love the series so much that they want to see it continued beyond its present state. Most fans of the *Back To The Future* series, as well as DeLorean buffs, all agree that they would love to see more of this series. Our never-ending goal is to convince Universal Studios & Amblin Entertainment that there is a worldwide desire by the movie-going public for *Back To The Future Part IV*. The common opinion among our membership is that if popular film series such as *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *Indiana Jones*, *Batman*, and the likes can continue, so can *Back To The Future*. A series as star-studded, intelligently & logically correct, and immensely entertaining such as *Back To The Future*, which also includes a classic design of a time machine, can inherently go as far and as long as there is an interest among its fans. Actor Christopher Lloyd was quoted last year in a maga-

zine interview as being interested in donning the “Doc Brown” wig once again. As a group of dedicated and determined fans, we share his appeal for the character, and hope that our endeavors will someday come true.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Operating a fan club and maintaining the interest of its members is not an easy task, as the fan club has been through a lot of hard

times over the last two years. Lots of opportunities have come and gone, of which each were supposed to be our “big break.” *TV Guide* from Canada once contacted us to spotlight our organization in an article they were doing on fan clubs of the U.S., but they never published the story. Universal had verbally invited our club to participate in the grand opening of *Back To The Future...The Ride* last summer at Universal Studios Hollywood, but were accidentally omitted from the invitation list at the last minute. We also have experienced the departure of our founding President, as Bob Boyce had become too busy with his job, his family, and other areas of interest to adequately operate a fan club any longer at the rate the club was growing.



The author with his collection of *BTTF* memorabilia.

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BACK TO THE FUTURE

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Plans are underway to get a higher recognition from Universal Studios and from the entire fan arena. Advertisements are being placed in publications with wide circulations in attempt to locate fans. New contacts at Universal have been made and are being developed. This insures that the studios will gain a deeper appreciation for the fans who have helped make Universal Studios one of the most successful movie companies in the world. Other fan clubs and organizations have been contacted to help cross-promote each other's honoraries. Our initial contact was made with the DeLorean Owners Association and remains the most helpful organization we have encountered yet. We've had a lot of

already been introduced onto the multimedia market by Universal).

With the popularity these days of "Director's Cut" video marketing, *BTTF* fans pray that the three films will soon be released with added footage missing from their theatrical and video releases. There are literally dozens of scenes from the three films that still lie on the cutting room floor. Did you know that the role of Marty McFly was originally filled by actor Eric Stoltz in the first *Back To The Future* film, and over six weeks of filming was completed before Michael J. Fox was brought in to take over as Marty? One third of the movie was filmed with Stoltz, but none of this footage has ever been seen!

There is so much potential for the series to continue to flourish well into the next century...

success with members of the DeLorean Owners Association, and we've valued the experience and insight into the DeLorean that each of our new members have brought with them. We also have recently been in contact with clubs and organizations that promote the careers of Michael J. Fox, Steven Spielberg, ZZ Top, and many others who are also interested in "networking" members with each other's organizations.

1995 is a big year for *Back To The Future* fans, as it will mark the 10th Anniversary of the first film's release. There has been some interest generated by members of the fan club to hold our very first gathering in early July to commemorate this glorious event, either at Universal Studios Hollywood or Universal Studios Florida. Initial plans are to get together at one of the two parks, if for anything but just to ride *Back To The Future...The Ride* as a group, make purchases at the *Back To The Future* gift shop, and discuss "the future".

There is so much potential for the series to continue to flourish well into the next century, as the future holds a lot for *Back To The Future* if Universal Studios is willing to continue their popular franchise.

Many movies are finding themselves transformed into interactive multimedia games. *Back To The Future* certainly seems to be a likely candidate for a CD-ROM interactive game (Jurassic Park has

Fans are dying to see what would have been had the filmmakers continued filming, and we all hope to see this footage released someday in a "Collector's Edition" version of the films.

We await the rest of the existing *Back To The Future* series' release onto the home video market over the course of the next few years. One item of big interest to fans is the hope that the entire footage from the 25 minute *Back To The Future...The Ride* theme park attraction, a logical extension of the films' storyline and practically a "sequel" in its own right, will also find its way onto home video in the not-too-distant future.

A Saturday morning children's show, *Back To The Future - The Animated Series*, ran for two seasons on the CBS network from 1991-1993. Twenty-six episodes in all were produced, of which 18 episodes have already been released onto the home video market. Our hopes are that the remaining eight episodes will also be released soon in order to complete that series' run.

Yet, the biggest compliment to *Back To The Future* fans worldwide would be for us all to see Doc Brown & Marty McFly with their time-traveling DeLorean at least one more time on the silver screen. That's one of the biggest reasons why the fan club is here, and it is likely that our group will remain together long after it happens. It is as if all our futures depend on it. ☺

INSIDE THE

by Barbara Houston, Orlando, Florida

It seemed like the only natural location for a card-carrying Back to the Future buff and DeLorean devotee. I was thoroughly enjoying myself at my original Universal Studios Florida haunt – I was working at the Ghostbusters show – but I wanted desperately to transfer to Back to the Future...The Ride for several reasons. First, who better to promote ...The Ride to the guests than a fan? Even better, a rabid fan? Second, I wanted to learn all of the internal workings of ...The Ride. I'm one of those people who always wants to know all the details of how things function and why. Also, the idea of roaming the rooms and corridors of the Institute wearing an outfit identical to Doc Brown's really tickled me (I'm still trying to figure out how to make one of the train shirts part of my own personal inventory). And I thought that – just maybe – considering my experience with my own DeLorean, they'd allow me some sort of access to Doc's DeLorean time machine. I hadn't thought far enough ahead to consider what kind of access that might be, but hey, access was access! Maybe I could start off polishing the time circuits and move up to – gasp! – actually driving the vehicle from its storage spot at Tech Services to its display area in front of the Institute of Future Technology. Just the thought made my head swim.

The Institute was founded by Doctor Emmett Brown in May of 1991 after he and his family returned to the present – for good – in his time-traveling train, which is parked just north of the building. The story goes that Doc, having invented a new improved 8-passenger DeLorean time machine is welcoming volunteers to try it out. But Biff Tannen, after having stowed away during an experiment being conducted by the Institute in 1955, pulls the plug – literally! – on the operation and steals another 2-passenger DeLorean time machine and disappears into the ether. The Doc, having been locked in his lab, recruits his volunteers to track Biff down and bring him back to the present, with Doc piloting his new DeLorean via remote control. The result, to say

the very least, is jaw-droppingly astonishing.

(As a side note, it must be assumed that Biff stowed away on the time-traveling train, not in Doc's standard DeLorean time machine. We all know the only things that fit in the luggage compartment of the DeLorean is a folded car cover and several bags of groceries that have been creatively arranged so that most items are resting on their sides.)

The show begins in the queue area and continues into the Institute with new and original video and music, and props that further the story and set the scene (perhaps my favorite item is Doc's bullet-proof vest complete with flattened slugs – that he wore the night of his 'first' time travel experiment at the Lone Pine Mall in 1985).

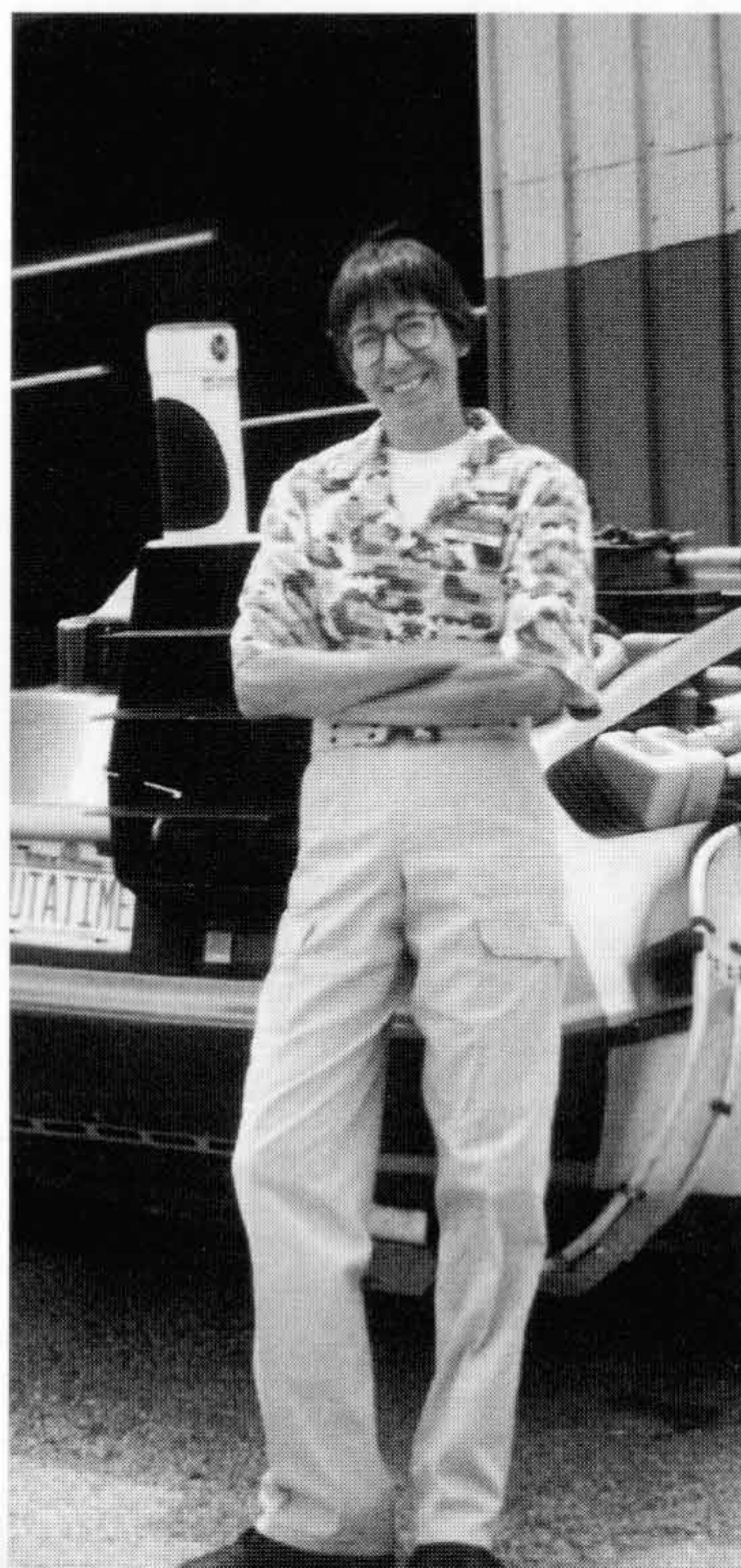
But when the Institute's garage doors open and volunteers clamber into the new time machine is when the story launches itself into high gear, flawlessly blending vivid imagination with high technology.

The two-ton flight simulator cars are created to look just like stubby DeLoreans – modified, of course, to hold eight time-travel volunteers. The detailing of the time machine is exact, inside and out. Along with all the vital time-traveling circuitry, there's a monitor in the dash through which you are kept in contact with Doc and Biff, and which displays important graphics, as well. Enormous scissor-lifts elevate the ride car eight feet into the air to be surrounded and engulfed by its high-speed aerial chase through time.

It's a very common thing for me to welcome the volunteers back and have them be thoroughly stunned at what they've just experienced. Nothing can touch ...The Ride. Nothing. It has no peer. Perhaps they would be even more bemused if they were able to experience ...The Ride from the bottom, as well. It's an amazing sight – the lights and video flashing around you, the exciting music, and the flight simulator stretched high above you running through its intricate, hydraulically powered maneuvers. It's deeply impressive.

The movement the building endures each day is equally impressive. The Institute contains 24 ride cars on three levels – the first houses six simulators, the second ten, and the third level

The author, Barbara Houston.





Back to the Future...The Ride. Photo courtesy of Universal Studios

has eight. These are then divided in half and contained in two separate 7-story high domes to keep the traffic of volunteers flowing in and out of the Institute at a fairly even pace. When the cars are flying, you can not only feel the building twist and turn itself with the cars' efforts, but from the interior corridors, if you look closely, you can actually see it as well.

It's endlessly fascinating to me to wander down the corridors that separate the two domes and hear the film's soundtrack and people screaming at the tops of their lungs behind the walls (and Aaaagguuhhhaaaaa!!! is the same in every language!). There has never been anything like ...The Ride. It's creativity and originality are boundless, as well as its ability to exceed all expectations – and those expectations are very high indeed. Frequently, while talking with guests just beginning their wait – and sometimes moaning about that wait – in the queue, I give them an unequivocal guarantee that ...The Ride is worth the wait. And they tell me that's what they've heard.

And it's common for me to hear comments from volunteers exiting ...The Ride about the length of time they stood in line – perhaps as long as 90 minutes – and that ...The Ride was worth the wait. Was worth every minute of it. When I welcome the volunteers back from their successful mission of bringing Biff back to the Institute they are often overwhelmed by what they've experienced (perhaps my favorite example of this was from a foreign gentleman who extended his hand to me and said, haltingly, "Congratulations." He gestured around him at the DeLorean, the dome, the garage. "Congratulations!") That I actually helped to intensify these peoples' experiences and perceptions of ...The Ride with my contributions of dialogue and attitude is extremely gratifying to me.

What more could a card-carrying Back to the Future buff and DeLorean devotee want? Well, I'm still waiting for my opportunity to drive the time machine, and the ultimate for me would be to actually meet and speak with Christopher Lloyd (and maybe go for a spin in the DeLorean!). But hey, – who knows what might happen in the future? ☺