Sometimes we read a book to transport ourselves to faraway places. At other times, we need one to sprinkle Stardust on our everyday surroundings and imbue them with intrigue and excitement. Author Tom Bredehoft's *Foote*, recently released by West Virginia University Press, leans heavily into its semi-fictional Morgantown setting for both plot and worldbuilding, which is part of why it's such a pleasure to read.

The Morgantown patrolled by "Big Jim" Foote, a taciturn local private investigator with more secrets than friends, is no mere cameo or background texture. Rather, it's an essential framework for the plot that slowly emerges, first with a scared young woman looking for her missing mother, then a violent murder at a local ramp festival. For reasons that soon become clear in the novel, Big Jim uses Morgantown's geography to screen his investigative movements—sticking to the woods and rail trails as much as possible while pursuing leads in Sabraton, Pickett's Fort, or downtown Morgantown.

The West Virginia otherworld Bredehoft patiently builds in this compact, 244-page whodunit is a delightfully odd noir melange. The author skips the tired old trope of the protagonist's long hikes and bike rides—it takes a while to get from Morgantown to otherworld Bredehoft patiently builds around us. Some of these lingering questions will stay with me for a while, like what it means to find and protect one's community, or how tough love and forgiveness apply in situations as dark and complicated as the present-day opioid crisis.

I received my copy of the novel direct from the author's hands when we met for the first time at the West Virginia Book Festival in October. Regular readers of *Foote* are by now familiar with my borderline obsession surrounding fictional Mountain State serial detectives, and won't be surprised to hear that the Virginia Book Festival in October. Regular readers of *Foote* are by now familiar with my borderline obsession surrounding fictional Mountain State serial detectives, and won't be surprised to hear that the West Virginia University alumnus Jay Chattaway's essay on the McNeill family of the national endowment for the humanities, the West Virginia Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the national endowment for the humanities to eWV, you'll be seeing more of them featured here in The Broad Side!

SOUNDS OF THE FUTURE

West Virginia University alumnus Jay Chattaway, who received an honorary doctorate from the institution in 2019 because his graduate music studies at WVU were interrupted by the Vietnam War, didn't set out to define the music of the future as we know it. But in 1991, after he'd been composing soundtracks in Hollywood for over a decade, Chattaway's agent submitted some of his client's work to top-billed television show *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. With luck, the composer from Monongahela, Pennsylvania, could score an episode or two.

Eighteen years and almost 200 episodes later, with an Emmy award under his belt, Chattaway finally finished composing for Gene Roddenberry's iconic science fiction series. By then, his work was ubiquitous across four different series of the franchise: *The Next Generation*, *Deep Space Nine*, *Voyager*, and *Enterprise*.

For students of motion picture music, or simply ardent fans of one of sci-fi's most beloved and definitive shows, WVU Libraries' West Virginia and Regional History Center (WV/RHC) has a treasure in store: Jay Chattaway's papers (collection number A&M 3985).

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According to the Jay Chattaway collection's description, the materials span from 1964 to 2016 and include “production materials related to music composed by Chattaway for Star Trek and other projects, including sketches, scores, cue sheets, breakdowns of spotting notes, spotting notes, and other material (such as manuscript notes, letters, etc.).”

Having only become available to the public within the last few years, Chattaway’s papers could become a major boon for researchers seeking new behind-the-scenes Star Trek material. Insights can be gleaned from “spotting notes” pertaining to where music is to be inserted into each episode, providing atmosphere for narrative and emotional beats. Cinema and music historians might analyze how Star Trek music of the 1960s and 2000s differed or paralleled other television soundtracks of the era, or how Chattaway’s unique sensibilities compare to the show’s other composers.

Or perhaps the collection’s greatest utility will be for a future composer from the Mountain State, as yet unknown in concert halls or the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Perhaps they’ll draw inspiration from a glimpse into Chattaway’s working processes, or incorporate allusions to his other material (such as manuscript notes, letters, etc.).

Whatever the outcome, West Virginia’s archives and repositories of past knowledge (large and small, whether cared for by university staff, government employees, or local community members) are essential to the development of future ideas. If we are to boldly go where no one has gone before, we’ll always need to know where we’re coming from.

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The West Virginia and Regional History Center (WVRHC) is located on WVU’s main campus in Morgantown, and serves as the Special Collections library of the university. Their mission is “to acquire, provide access to, and preserve information resources in all formats which elucidate the history and culture of West Virginia and the central Appalachian region.”

To research online or learn more about the WVRHC, visit https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/

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THEY KNEW TOO MUCH

While we’re on the subject of archives and outer space, don’t forget that the Clarksburg Public Library houses the collection of pioneering ufologist Gray Barker (1925-1984), an inveterate chronicler of the Mothman, Flatwoods Monster, and the man who minted the term “men in black.”

Braxton County-raised Barker went to Glenville State College, and broke into extraterrestrial stardom with his first book, They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers, published in 1956. The Gray Barker UFO Collection, located in the historic Waldomore house adjacent to the Clarksburg Public Library, “consists of approximately 29 drawers of file folders, 300 books, 75 groups of magazines, photographs of Barker and various props used by Barker.”

To start your own cosmic research trek, visit https://www.clarksburglibrary.org/barker-collection

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EVENTS OF THE FUTURE

December and January are usually mellow months for Council programming, as organizations focus on the holidays and batten the hatches for winter weather. However, be sure to bookmark our web calendar so you can stay up to date on the latest in History Alive! presentations, lectures, traveling exhibits, grant-funded events, and more.

Visit wvhumanities.org/event for information, and click “Subscribe to Calendar” to automatically add events to your itinerary.

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WE’RE LISTENING!

We’ve been enjoying your responses to The Broad Side readers’ poll, and would like to hear from even more of you! Since your answers have been so informative, we’re going to keep the online form open through the end of December to give more readers a chance to respond.

We want to know what you think! We’ve prepared a 10-question reader’s poll so you can tell us more about what you’d like to see in future issues of The Broad Side. Type the link below into your browser and share your opinion before December 31, 2022!