

Melton, J. G. *Encyclopedic Handbook of Cults in America*. New York: Garland, 1986.

John M. Bozeman

*See also*  
Coffeehouses

***Jetsons, The*** (1962-1963). As every successful television show begets a spinoff, so it was with the animated show *The Flintstones* (see entry). Hanna-Barbera followed their first prime-time venture with *The Jetsons*, another takeoff on TV situation comedies. This time, it presented a typical sitcom family in the 21st century. Though *The Jetsons* didn't have the same memorable sight gags or catch phrases as *The Flintstones*, the show's ultra-retro-modern design and its jazzy theme song are well remembered.

*The Jetsons* premiered September 23, 1962, on ABC, competing against *Dennis the Menace* and *Disney's Wonderful World of Color* on Sundays. The family more closely resembled the Andersons of *Father Knows Best* than they did the Flintstones. George Jetson (George O'Hanlon) was chief button-pusher at Spacely Sprockets, where he was tormented by his boss, Cosmo Spacely (Mel Blanc). Jane (Penny Singleton), pushed housekeeping buttons, aided by her robot maid Rosie (Jean VanderPyl, sounding like Shirley Booth as "Hazel"). Teen-age Judy (Janet Waldo) mooned over singing idol Jet Screamer, and young Elroy (Daws Butler) played with their dog Astro (Don Messick).

The futuristic family lasted only 24 episodes in prime-time, but immediately jumped to Saturday mornings, bouncing among all three networks until 1983.

In 1984, Hanna-Barbera offered *The Jetsons* for local syndication, producing 41 new episodes for a total 65, the minimum needed for weekday "stripping." Another 10 episodes were produced in 1987. Hanna-Barbera also made ten feature-length cartoons that year for first-run syndication, including the team-up *The Jetsons Meet the Flintstones*.

The family's popularity surged through the 80s: a disco mix of the *Jetsons'* theme was issued, sampling George's catchphrase "Jane, stop this crazy thing!" The show was spun into a theatrical cartoon feature, *Jetsons: the Movie*, in 1990, with teen singer Tiffany dubbing the voice of Judy.

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Lenburg, Jeff. *The Encyclopedia of Animated Cartoons*. Rev. ed. New York: Facts on File, 1991.

Mark McDermott

**Jewell, Frederick Alton** (1875-1936), early 20th-century composer, bandmaster, and publisher, was born in Worthington, IN, one of seven children that made up the Jewell Family band between 1885 and 1894. He left home to join the circus band at about age 16. From 1891 to 1901 he worked with the Gentry Brothers Dog and Pony Show, first as baritone horn player and then as conductor.

In 1902 Jewell was hired as a baritone player with the Ringling Brothers Circus, a much larger organization with a