Pterodactyls

By Nicky Silver c. 1994

TODD:

In the beginning, there were dinosaurs. Lots of dinosaurs. And they were big. They were very, very large- in comparison to man they were. They were huge. And there were many different kinds. There were cerotops and stegosauruses. There was the tyrannosaurus and the pterodactyl. And they lived, not in harmony, roaming the earth at will, raping, as it were, the planet and pillaging without regard. And, and um uh. (He loses his place and quickly checks his pockets for notes.) Um, I seem to have forgotten my notes. I'm sorry. I thought I left them in my pocket. Maybe I wasn't supposed to wear this. Maybe I left them on the table. Maybe I-oh well, it doesn't matter now. I don't have them. That's the point. I think I remember most of it - Maybe I left them-it doesn't matter. Where was I? Oh, yes. It got cold. That's right, it got very, very cold and all the dinosaurs died. They all died. At once. It got cold and they died. And the land masses shifted and arranged themselves into the pattern we see now on the map. Basically. I think. There weren't any divisions for countries or states or anything, and I'm sure California was bigger, but it resembled what's on the map. During the cold spell, which is generally referred to as "the ice age" or maybe it was before the ice age, or after it I can't remember-but life started spontaneously. In a lake. Here, I think. (He indicates the sea of Japan.) And amoebas multiplied and became fish- don't ask me how- which evolved into monkeys. And then one day, the monkeys stood up, erect, realized they had opposing thumbs and developed speech. Thus, Mankind was born. Here. (He indicates Africa.) Some people liked Africa, so they stayed there and became black. Some people left, looking for something, and became Europeans. And the Europeans forgot about the Africans and made countries. Some Europeans were Jewish, but most were Christians of some kind, Jesus having been born sometime prior oops, I forgot that. I'm sorry. Jesus was born. And there were other religions too, but I can't remember much about them, so I'm sure they weren't very important. I give you this brief summary of events, this overview, so you'll have some perspective. I'm sure I got some of it wrong, l've lost my notes, but it's basically the idea. And I wanted you to have, I think, some sense of history.