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VULCAN SURVEY VESSEL

D'VAHL

TYPE: SURVEY SHIP

LAUNCHED: 20th C

ENGINES: 3

PROPULSION: WARP ENGINES

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VULCAN SURVEY VESSEL D'VAHL

SPECIFICATION



OPERATED BY: (VULCAN HIGH COMMAND

TYPE: SURVEY VESSEL

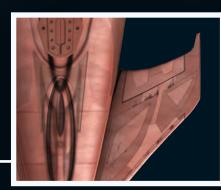
IN OPERATION: 22nd CENTURY

COMMANDER: CAPTAIN TELLUS

PROPULSION: WARP

ENGINES:

3













y the mid-20th century of Earth's calendar, Vulcan was a warp-capable civilisation that had begun to expand and explore the Galaxy. Survey vessels of varying classes and capabilities began cataloguing the technological progress of many far-flung worlds, assessing for first contact potential. One such world was Earth, which attracted the attention of the Vulcans with the launch of the planet's first orbital satellite, Sputnik. This ultimately brought the Vulcan survey vessel D'Vahl to the Solar System in the year 1957, responding to a distress call from a sister survey ship that experienced a catastrophic system failure.

INTER-PLANETARY SURVEY SHIP

In this period of history, the *D'Vahl* was under the command of Captain Tellus, undertaking a wide variety of survey missions around the galaxy during this time. The *D'Vahl* displayed the typically sleek aesthetics common to Vulcan starship design, leaning towards an aerodynamically efficient dart-like construction. The *D'Vahl* was not a large ship, with only a limited number of decks, crewed by a handful of survey officers under Tellus' command. It was warp capable, the necessary warp field generated by three engine pods – one mounted on the aft dorsal section with two further pods ranged to the lower port and starboard aft sections.

Although warp capable, the *D'Vahl* was able to enter a planet's atmosphere when needed. Its flight at impulse speeds and in planetary atmospheres was stabilised by forward-ranged

◄ In the mid-20th century, Captain Tellus was in command of the D'Vahl. In the year 1957, Tellus and the D'Vahl were dispatched to Earth by Vulcan High Command to rescue the crew of another survey vessel that had crash-landed on the planet. On arrival, Tellus found only two surivors of the survey ship's four-strong crew.



▲ Its dart-like configuration made the D'VahI a typically efficient example of Vulcan starship design. It was equally well equipped for interstellar travel at warp speed, impulse and atmospheric maneuvers.

wings to port and starboard, held in a swept back configuration. Unlikely to possess transporter capability in this early period, the *D'Vahl* regularly made planetfall on survey worlds, its landings made secure on varied terrain by three retractable landing legs in a three-point formation. When locked in the open position, the forward landing gear revealed a powerful landing/searchlight.

In the Earth year 1957, an unnamed Vulcan survey ship of a different class to the *D'Vahl* experienced flight difficulties while in orbit of the planet to engage in a survey of the *Sputnik* satellite. The ship's warp manifold failed during the third week of the mission, forcing the fourperson crew to effect an emergency landing on the continent known as North America. During the landing, the captain was killed and the ship damaged beyond repair. Surviving crewmembers T'Mir, Stron and Mestral were stranded on this

primitive world, not knowing whether their distress call had reached Vulcan High Command. With no other option available to them, the three Vulcans attempted to integrate covertly with the local human mining settlement of Carbon Creek. They awaited a rescue that might never arrive.

RESCUE MISSION

It transpired the Vulcan distress call was successfully sent and intercepted by a Tellarite freighter. Ignoring the extreme urgency of the situation, it took the Tellarites some time to forward the distress call on to the Vulcan High Command. As soon as it was received on Vulcan, Captain Tellus and his survey crew were assigned the rescue mission, setting course for the voyage to Earth aboard the *D'Vahl*.

With the survey team out of communications range, it was unclear if there were any survivors

- ► The D'Vahl entered Earth's atmosphere. It came in to land near the crash site of the stranded Vulcan survey vessel, approximately six kilometers from the human mining town Carbon Creek.
- ▼ When landing on a planet's surface, the D'Vahl deployed three landing gears in a three-point formation, lighting its landing zone with a powerful searchlight to check for potential hazards.







to rescue. Three days out from Earth, the *D'Vahl* finally made contact with the survivors. Tellus advised T'Mir and her comrades to rendezvous with the *D'Vahl* at the crash site.

The *D'Vahl* made planetfall on Earth at the appointed time without alerting the nearby mining settlement. On rendezvousing with the survey team survivors, Tellus found only two of the four awaiting rescue. T'Mir informed Tellus that their captain and Mestral had perished in the crash, their remains cremated.

T'Mir and Stron joined Captain Tellus aboard his ship. Its rescue mission accomplished, the *D'Vahl* left Earth, ready to return the survivors to Vulcan.

FIRST CONTACT?

The arrival of the crashed survey ship and, later, the *D'Vahl*, on Earth predates Zefram Cochrane's breaking of the warp barrier by just over a

century, and in real terms marked the first contact between Vulcans and humans. According to the earth starship *Enterprise's* Vulcan science officer T'Pol, details of the incident were readily available in the Vulcan Science Directorate and Space Council. However, for the sake of history, little attention has been drawn to this relatively minor incident.



DATA FEED

T'Mir was the second foremother of T'Pol, the future science and first officer of the Earth starship *Enterprise* NX-01. Following the death of their captain, T'Mir became commander of the surviving survey crew. She was wary of the humans, and became frustrated at Mestral's integreation into the society of Carbon Creek. She was not without compassion, helping a local boy gain enough funds to attend college. T'Mir's experiences with the humans perhaps foresaw T'Pol's own human interactions on the *Enterprise*.

FUTURE FIGHTERS

The *D'Vahl* was a very early example of Vulcan interstellar craft – relatively small, multi-functional and capable of warp travel, albeit at a low level. The success of its sleek design would have a long-lasting effect on the future of Vulcan spacecraft, including those used for a wide variety of missions, other than planetary surveys.

Almost 200 years after the Carbon Creek incident, the Vulcans were known to use a practically identical design to the *D'Vahl's* class, but employed as an orbital fighter. These fighters displayed the same conical, dart configuration with three-point engine pod and forward wing spoilers. However, in this period the ships were markedly smaller than their 20th-century counterparts, designed for high-speed ship-to-ship combat engagements.

In 2154, fighters of this class engaged a shuttlepod launched by the starship *Enterprise* in orbit of Vulcan. The *Enterprise* crew were attempting to rescue Captain Archer and first officer T'Pol during a conspiracy instigated by V'Las, head of the Vulcan High Command. The shuttlepod was repelled and forced to return to *Enterprise*.





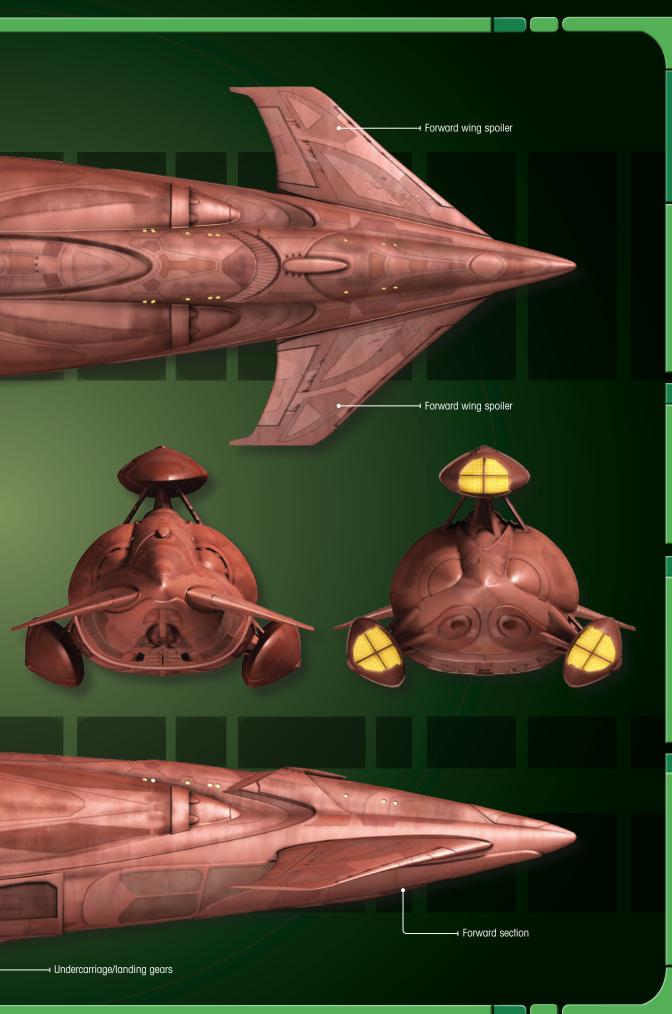
▲ The survey ship that crashed on Earth was of a different design to the *D'Vahl*, although it displayed an aesthetic that was typical of the era for Vulcan starship design. It was deemed beyond repair.



DATA FEED

While stationed on Earth, T'Pol took five day's of leave to visit the town of Carbon Creek in Pennsylvania. This fact piqued Captain Archer's curiosity, and when asked about it over dinner, T'Pol related the story of her second foremother...





EARTH VISITORS

Other alien races to visit Earth prior to first contact include the Platonians, the El-Aurians – Guinan was present on Earth in the 1890s – the Skagarans and the Briori.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

T'Pol related the tale of her great grandmother's time on Earth to Archer and Tucker during a dinner to celebrate the first anniversary of her joining the *Enterprise*. The previous record for a Vulcan serving aboard a human ship was 10 days.

FIRST CONTACT

While T'Pol referred to the Carbon Creek incident as "first contact" between humans and Vulcans, official history records that moment took plac on 5 April 2063 in Montana after Zefram Cochrane broke the warp barrier, attracting a passing ship.



▲ The Sh'Ran was due to rendezvous with Enterprise to transport Ambassador V'Lar home to Vulcan; this powerful combat cruiser was typical of 22nd-century Vulcan design, featuring an annular warp engine hoop and sleek, elongated primary hull. This class of ship was more powerful than Enterprise in both weaponry and propulsion.

VULCAN

FLEET LISTINGS

Across the 20th and 22nd centuries, the Vulcan High Command operated various ship classes and types to explore the Galaxy.

y Earth's 20th century, Vulcan was an established, warp capable civilisation that had begun to chart the Galaxy and study worlds that were cosidered primitive at

crucial points in their development. By the 22nd century, Vulcan starships were highly advanced, forming a powerful fleet of science and combat vessels of highly distinctive design. **20TH CENTURY SURVEY SHIPS**During Earth's 20th century period,
Vulcan was busy exploring the galaxy.
The *D'Vahl* was one example of the wide-ranging survey fleet, along with



▲ (Clockwise from top left): A small, four-crew Vulcan survey ship entering Earth's atmosphere in 'Carbon Creek; a *D'Kyr* type ship rendezvous with *Enterprise* — note the rotating engine hoop and docked support craft within the engine housing; the *Ni'Var*, a Surak class vessel, comes into conflict with *Enterprise* in orbit of the planet Coridan; belonging to an outdated class, the *Vahklas* docks with the *Enterprise* when the Vulcan ship experiences difficulties in the Arachnid Nebula.

smaller ships that were known to visit Earth in this period. One of these survey ships crash-landed on the planet in the Earth year 1957. Smaller ships of the *D'Vahl* configuration were used as fighters in the 21st century during a period of political upheaval on Vulcan.

D'KYR TYPE

Belonging to an unnamed class, the *D'Kyr* was a Vulcan combat cruiser active in the 22nd century. At 600 meters in length with a crew of 147, the *D'Kyr* was distinguished by its rotating annular warp-engine. A smaller support craft docked within the main engine hoop. Other ships of this class included the *Tal'Kyr* and *Seleya*.

SH'RAN TYPE

The Sh'Ran was a combat cruiser, larger and more powerful than the Earth starship Enterprise. It featured the fixed annular warp engine hoop typical of 22nd-century Vulcan starship design. The Enterprise rendezvoused with the Sh'Ran in 2152 while transporting Vulcan ambassador V'Lar on her return to Vulcan.

SURAK CLASS

The *Surak* class was a multi-function Vulcan ship of the 22nd century era able to operate as both combat cruiser and science-vessel. Featuring an annular warp drive configuration and elongated hull, a *Surak* class ship, the

Ni'Var, was assigned to escort Sub-Commander T'Pol back to Vulcan from her duties aboard the *Enterprise*. Later, the *Ti'Mur* was instrumental in rescuing *Enterprise* crewmembers after a shuttle accident stranded two of its personnel during the study of a comet.

VAHKLAS

The Vahklas belonged to a much older class of Vulcan ship. Largely used as civilian transport, ships such as the Vahklas were outdated by 2151 but still in use for various tasks. While charting the Arachnid Nebula in 2151, the Earth starship Enterprise helped the Vahklas' crew with repairs to its antiquated and failing systems.



ADVENTURES IN HISTORY

'Carbon Creek' took a journey into Earth's history, but it was not the first – or last – STAR TREK adventure to turn back time.

season, 'Carbon Creek' took a step far back into Earth's history as T'Pol narrated a story in flashback of her great grandmother's enforced stay in a North American mining town in 1957. It's one of STAR TREK's infrequent but memorable journeys into the past, presenting a comforting and detailed depiction of a distinct period in Earth's history. It's a story device STAR TREK has used to great effect on other occasions, stepping out of its futuristic setting to visit early points in history that are either contemporary to the era in which the show is produced, or much earlier.

'Carbon Creek' is unusual in that it utilised neither time travel, temporal anomaly or holodeck simulation to present its historical setting. It's a story within a story, with Jolene Blalock playing T'Mir in the 1957-set scenes in addition to her regular ENTERPRISE role of T'Pol. Narratively speaking, the episode shares similarities with '11.59', a 1999 episode of VOYAGER in which Captain Janeway reflects on the life of her distant ancestor, Shannon O'Donnell shortly after the Millennium in 2000. Like Jolene Blalock in 'Carbon Creek', Kate Mulgrew played Janeway's forebear for scenes set in 2000, and the episode covers similar themes of using

▲ 'Carbon Creek' told the story of T'Mir, the second foremother of Enterprise science officer T'Pol. As part of a Vulcan survey team that crash-landed on Earth in 1957, the crash survivors — including Mestral — were forced to integrate themselves into human society at a primitive time in its development.

history to highlight coming changes on the horizon for humanity.

This use of flashback to show the past in both 'Carbon Creek' and '11:59' sets the two episodes apart, with no series regulars appearing in the historical sequences, aside from Blalock and Mulgrew. Set in December 2000, '11:59' took place around 18 months after its contemporary production dates in April 1999.

Narratively similar to 'Carbon Creek', in the VOYAGER episode '11:59', Kate Mulgrew played Janeway's ancestor Shannon O'Donnell in the first year of the new Millennium in 1999.

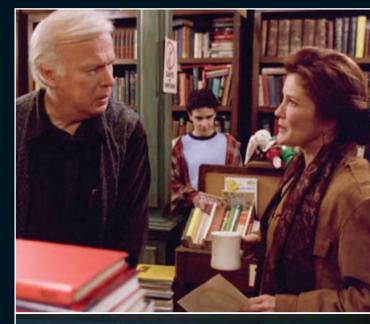
TIME TRAVEL

Although time travel is not necessarily part of STAR TREK's core concept, other trips to the past have used this mechanism in a more direct fashion, the first example of this being in THE ORIGINAL SERIES' first season. Proximity to a black star in 'Tomorrow is Yesterday' flung the Enterprise back to 1969, where the crew must destroy evidence of the Enterprise's presence there in an episode that keyed in to the vogue of the time for UFO sightings. Time travel seemed far simpler the following season for 'Assignment: Earth' and another visit to the late 1960s. Here, the Federation apparently had time travel technology and the Enterprise travelled back in history by design and not temporal mishap. There was an ulterior production motive to this historical romp; Gene Roddenberry hoped to use the episode to launch a spin-off series of the same name featuring the adventures of guest characters Gary Seven (Robert Lansing) and Roberta Lincoln (Teri Garr). The spin-off failed to take flight, but the episode remains a fun side-step into Earth history.

A more serious journey into history took place in one of STAR TREK's most-famous episodes. In 'The City on the Edge of Forever' Kirk and Spock pursued a delirious Dr McCoy to New York of 1930 through a time portal, the Guardian of Forever. In 1930, McCoy unwittingly saved the life of Edith Keeler, cuasing a catastrophic change to history, and forcing the Enterprise officers to take drastic – and tragic – action to restore their futures. New York of 1930 was recreated on the street backlot set used for sitcom 'The Andy Griffith Show', while Spock's use of a knitted hat to cover his Vulcan ears was echoed years later in 'Carbon Creek' (and a trick used again in 'Assignment: Earth' the following year).

Captain KIrk gets a grilling from the authorities on 1960s Earth after an accident sends the *Enterprise* hurtling back through time in 'Tomorrow is Yesterday'.











 ▼ There was time travel and tragedy for Captain Kirk in 'The City on the Edge of Forever' To restore established history, Kirk and Spock must ensure that Edith Keeler died in 1930s New York.



1996 in 'Future's End'.





Of all the original STAR TREK crew's adventures into Earth history, STAR IV: THE VOYAGE home scored widespread popularity on the film's release in 1986. It was STAR TREK's most detailed exploration of Earth's past, part culture-clash comedy, part ecological parable. There's much to enjoy in the crew's attempts to insert themselves into 1980s culture, finding a chaotic and bewildering environment that emphasises how much the past really is another country.

10 years later, the crew of the Voyager had their own experience of contemporary Earth culture in the two-part 'Future's End', a temporal accident bringing the ship into orbit of Earth in 1996 and a resulting high-paced adventure in Los Angeles of the day.

HISTORICAL CELEBRITIES

While the crew of the Enterprise-D had many brushes with temporal anomalies and a famous meeting with Zefram Cochrane in STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT, their most notable trip into Earth's distant history came in the two-part adventure 'Time's Arrrow'. The discovery of Data's severed head in a cavern near Starfleet Command was a potent image, and the unfolding mystery of how it got there led the 24th century Data through a portal to 19th-century San Francisco. Captain Picard and the rest of the crew soon followed. 'Time's Arrow' is a rare STAR TREK example of what could be called a celebrity historical, where our regular characters interact with real figures from history. On his arrival in San Francisco, Data befriended a young Jack London before his rise to fame as a celebrated novelist, and later encountered Samuel Clemens (AKA Mark Twain), played with relish by Jerry Hardin.

For other historical celebrities, the holodeck has provided simulacra of Albert Einstein, Sir Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking, Sigmund Freud, Leonardo da Vinci, Socrates, Lord Byron and Mahatma Gandhi.

On one occasion, STAR TREK intersected with supposed real-life historical events at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947 where a crashed military weather balloon led conspiracy theorists to deduce that an alien incursion had taken place. According to DEEP SPACE NINE's 'Little Green Men', an alien incursion did take place when a











▲ Captain Picard and other members of the *Enterprise* crew enjoyed the opportnity to dress-up in the world of private detective Dixon Hill for the award-winning episode 'The Big Goodbye'.

temporal accident forced Quark, Rom, Nog and Odo to crash land near Roswell. Quark's dreams of establishing a Ferengi economic empire centuries early didn't come to pass and these particular little green men returned safely to their own time.

HOLODECK HISTORY

Outside of time travel, the holodeck has also provided the narrative basis for other recreations of historical eras, but from a more fictional perspective. 'The Big Goodbye', a notable first season episode of *THE NEXT GENERATION*, used hard-boiled detective fiction in the Dashiell Hammett/Raymond Chandler mould to create Dixon Hill, a favourite literary character of Captain Picard. The holodeck environment, filmed on the New York street backlot at Paramount, was a lavish recreation of a 1920s/30s city, filtered through a fictional lens and populated by broad characters. This brief side step from a 24th century starship aesthetic



▲ The game was afoot for Data, Geordie and Dr Pulaski on the streets of Victorian London in 'Elementary, Dear Data'.



▲ Kirk and Spock visited Sigma Iotia II in 'A Piece of the Action'. It may have been an alien world, but the sharp suits and Tommy guns were influenced by the book 'Chicago Mobs of the Twenties'.





▲ Kirk and Spock experienced 'Patterns of Force' on the planet Ekos, which had been culturally contaminated to resemble Nazi-era Germany.

▲ Kirk and his crew were transported to a nightmarish recreation of the Western town of Tombstone in the surreal 'Spectre of the Gun', their phasers replaced with six-shooters!

allowed both set and costume designers to indulge a different style. The episode won an Emmy Award for William Ware Theiss' period costumes and was the recipient of the prestigious Peabody Award for excellence in television broadcasting.

The following season, THE NEXT GENERATION explored the world of another fictional detective in 'Elementary, Dear Data', recreating the world of Sherlock Holmes on the holodeck. It was another successful undertaking for the costume and design teams, bringing a heightened Victorian London to detailed life through the

pages of Conan-Doyle's novels and countless screen adaptations. Elsewhere, various Starfleet crews utilised the holodeck for some historical socialising in Earth's past - DEEP SPACE NINE's Vic's Las Vegas Lounge recreated a Las Vegas hotel of the 1960s, while the VOYAGER crew visited 18th century France and Chez Sandrine.

Shades of Earth history are seen in STAR TREK outside of time travel and the holodeck in a staple of science-fiction storytelling. Alien worlds that adopt the period detail of Earth's past in their society and culture were seen in THE ORIGINAL SERIES' 'A Piece of the Action' (1920s

In 'A Fistful of Datas', the iconography of the classic Earth Western provided the basis for an adventure in which a holodeck malfunction populated the program with numerous versions of Data.





▲ The trappings of Western Earth culture were in evidence when the crew of the *Enterprise* NX-01 discovered a civilisation of lost humans. The humans on the planet were descendents of settlers abducted from Earth in the 1860s by the Skagarans and still lived as their ancestors had.

gangster culture), 'Patterns of Force (Nazi Germany)' and 'Bread and Circuses' (Ancient Rome). 'Who Mourns for Adonis' offered a reverse of this, suggesting that the ancient Greeks were influenced by visiting aliens who proclaimed themselves to be gods.

WILD WILD WEST

The mythology of the American 'Wild West' has been explored in several episodes across STAR TREK's history, with THE ORIGINAL SERIES' 'Spectre of the Gun' riffing on the events of the Gunfight at the OK Corral. The fragments of sets used to create an incomplete Western town from within Kirk's mind was a necessity of budget, but it led to one of original STAR TREK's most-unsettling and nightmarish episodes and a rare foray into surrealism. The tropes of the Western were the basis of much fun in THE NEXT GENERATION's 'A Fistful of Datas' as a malfunction populated a Western holodeck program with multiple iterations of Data in Western guises. In 'North Star', the crew of the Enterprise NX-01 discovered a world in the Expanse with a thriving society modelled on the 19th century West. The population were the descendants of Western settlers abducted from Earth by the alien Skagarans.

Of all the depictions of Earth's history in *STAR TREK*, real or imagined, the most acclaimed and

affecting example comes from DEEP SPACE NINE. Directed by Avery Brooks, 'Far Beyond the Stars' placed Captain Sisko into a vision of 1950s America where he was Benny Russell, a writer of pulp science-fiction for 'Incredible Tales of Scientific Wonder'. The staff of the magazine were all familiar, and the 1950s and 24th century merged together to weave a tale of civil rights and Benny's struggle to be taken seriously as a black writer of science-fiction. It's one of STAR TREK's most-important episodes featuring a tour de force performance from Brooks, using a depiction of Earth history to tell a story that resonated in 1998 and beyond.



◀ For one of DEEP
SPACE NINE's
most-acclaimed
episodes, 'Far Beyond the
Stars', Captain Sisko
experienced visions that
cast him as Benny
Russell, a pulp
science-fiction writer in
the 1950s. Directed by
Avery Brooks, the episode
used a period Earth
setting to highlight an
important message based
around inequality and the
struggle for civil rights.

ON SCREEN



FIRST APPEARANCE: CARBON CREEK' (ENT)

TV APPEARANCE:

STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE

DESIGNED BY: John Eaves

KEY APPEARANCES

STAR TREK: ENTERPRISE 'Carbon Creek'

T'Pol attends a dinner with Captain Archer and Commander Tucker to mark the first anniversary of her joining the Enterprise crew. T'Pol relates the story of her second foremother T'Mir's part in the true first contact between humans and Vulcans in 1957.

While studying Earth, the Vulcan survey ship on which T'Mir serves crashlands near the town of Carbon Creek. With their captain dead, survivors T'Mir, Stron and Mestral investigate the town. Unsure if rescue is coming, they are forced to integrate covertly with the humans and work to earn money.

T'Mir is frustrated at Mestral's closeness to the humans and his fascination with their culture. When workers become trapped in a mining accident, Mestral urges T'Mir to let him help with their technology. Willing to let the humans perish at first, she eventually agrees and the Vulcans save the trapped miners.

After giving up hope of rescue, the Vulcans receive word that the D'Vahl is three days away from Earth. Before their rescue, T'Mir displays unusual compassion by gaining enough funds to help a local boy go to college by selling future technology.

Continually fascinated by humans, Mestral chooses to stay behind, as T'Mir and Stron leave aboard the D'Vahl.

TRIVIA

'Carbon Creek' was broadcast as the second episode of ENTERPRISE's second season, but it was shot before the season opener 'Shockwave, Part II' went into production. The episode's original working title was 'Population: 612', and although they are credited in the opening titles, 'Carbon Creek' does not feature appearances from John Billingsley (Phlox), Dominic Keating (Lt Reed), Anthony Montgomery (Ensign Mayweather) or Linda Park (Ensign Sato).



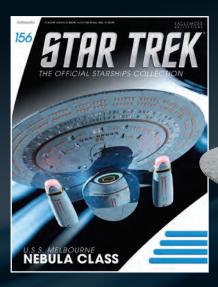
Mestral, played by J Paul Boehmer, was named for George de Mestral, the Swiss engineer who invented Velcro. To earn enough money to send Jack to college, T'Mir travels to Pittsburgh and sells a patch of Velcro – two years after Mestral had already established his own patent in 1955...



Mestral becomes interested in the popular culture of Earth of 1957, regularly watching television shows such as sitcom 'I Love Lucy'. In the real world, 'I Love Lucy' starred Lucille Ball and Dezi Arnaz, who set up Desilu Productions, the studio that originally produced STAR TREK: THE ORIGINAL SERIES from 1965-1969.

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STAR TREK



