

# Arthur P. Toscanini



Journeyman conductor Arthur P. Toscanini (no relation to Lloyd) was in a pickle. He was scheduled to lead the Christmas Eve concert of the Northern South Carolina Symphony Orchestra in Fingerville when his car broke down. As luck would have it, the area taxicab drivers were on strike, and Fingerville was serviced by neither bus nor train. Then Arthur had the bright idea of air-mailing himself directly to the concert hall. A parcel packing company did an excellent job of bundling him up, even using the music scores to pad his keister. Alas, the packers failed to regard the maestro's baton as a potentially dangerous weapon and simply slipped it into his coat pocket. The Fingerville coroner later surmised that the artificial intelligence chip accidentally switched on during transit, sensed a nine-eight rhythm in the rocking of the aircraft, and began to self-conduct "The Ride of The Valkyries." Firmly trussed and unable to defend himself, poor Toscanini bore the brunt of 236 ferocious downbeats.