



# The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 79 Number 1

January 2020

## Short Story Contest Winners — 2019

First Prize: "As Day Follows Night" by Karen L. Kobylarz, a tale of heroic fantasy, highly emblazoned with both heroism and fantasy, a "quest" story following a magic student on a harrowing journey into myth and sacrifice.

Second Prize: "The Safety of Thick Walls" by Gustavo Bondoni, a tale of the Roman Republic...with zombies!

Third Prize: "Where You G-O-H When You Die" by Adam R. Goss, following a fallen space hero in his astonishing afterlife, more fantastic than he could possibly have imagined.

Honorable Mention: "The Captain" by Michael Simon, a three-time loser is sentenced to serve as the captain of a spaceship: does the punishment really fit the crime?

We had a wonderful variety of stories this year, from a remarkably wide spectrum of geographical locations. We had stories from Argentina, Britain, Italy, Ukraine, Ireland and Canada. We had stories from coast to coast of the United States, from big states and small ones.

We received science fiction, fantasy, and horror, with fantasy in the lead for a plurality. We had short-short stories and stories of significant length. We

had "punch-line" stories and "twist ending" stories, but also stories that explored meaningful philosophical questions. What are "right and wrong?" When do you have to break the rules? What is love? What is mortality?

One thing every single story in this contest had in common with every other: Imagination! The sheer stunning inventiveness of our writers is heart-warming to behold! It promises a bright future for our beloved "literature of ideas," and guarantees us that we will be reading wonderful stories for all the future. No one must be at all surprised to see familiar names on book-jackets and at conventions, for these are the writers we'll all be reading tomorrow -- and loving every moment of it!

Thank you, everyone who participated. It is necessary, in a contest, for only a few entrants to be winners, but in this contest, there have never been "losers." The depth of imagination showcased here makes every single one of you a true winner.

.....Jefferson Swycaffer

## Important News Notes

Treasurer; Kaymar Award; David Kyle; Zine eMail

### Treasurer

The N3F has been profoundly fortunate to have as a long-time activist our Treasurer, David Speakman. The Treasurer is appointed by the President; as your



Art

6 — Cat Woman Tech by Angela K. Scott



## Your Volunteer Team

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President, I have been delighted to have him as our financial officer. David, however, notes that his professional career has become more and more demanding on his time, and has therefore expressed the hope that someone else will agree over the next year to become the N3F Treasurer. As a general statement, the treasurer should be a long-time member in stable life circumstances. It would be really nice to be able to appoint a Treasurer and assistant who live in the same area, so that we can have two signatories on the same bank account. The Treasurer currently also keeps the membership records, but that responsibility could be divided, as it was for many years. Please contact David and me if you have suggestions.

### Kaymar Award

Nominations are here called for the Kaymar Award. Nominations should be sent to Jon Swartz, jon\_swartz@hotmail.com. The award, unlike other awards in fandom, can be awarded only once. It is not given for talent or for popularity, but for work — work for the benefit of the N3F and its members. A list of past awardees, who may not receive the award again, may be found at [n3f.org/about/awards/kaymar-awards](http://n3f.org/about/awards/kaymar-awards).

**Many New Volunteers are needed: Cosplay, Electronic Publication Support, Convention Hospitality, Outreach. Support the N3F. Volunteer Now!**

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### Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at [N3F.org](http://N3F.org). Our PayPal contact is [treasurer@n3f.org](mailto:treasurer@n3f.org). Send [phillies@4liberty.net](mailto:phillies@4liberty.net) your email address for a public membership.

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The award is a memorial to K. Martin Carlson [1904-1986], who originated, maintained, and financed it for 25 years. Carlson was a long-time N3F member who held many positions in the club, including club historian. He went by the fan name of Kaymar.

The Kaymar Award is given in April every year, supposedly because the N3F was organized in the month of April. The selection is made by a committee, consisting of previous winners who are still in the club, from nominations submitted by members.

### David Kyle

Founding member David Kyle is the subject of the 2019 First Fandom Annual. We have here a short review with an extended review in the next issue of The N3F Review of Books. The annual this year is in two beautiful volumes, nearly 140 pages 8.5x11, center-stapled on glossy paper with full-color, including material from Forrest J Ackerman, Frederick Pohl, Robert Madle, and a bibliography by Christopher O'Brien. The core of the volumes is from Kyle himself.

### Zine Emailings

For unclear reasons, some common email services randomly treat some of our mailings as spam, and drop them into spam folders. If your email service ever blocks a zine mailing from us, our zine mailer may or may not decide not to send you any more mail. Ever. We appear to have found workarounds for most of these features.

We saw (but can't vouch for) the following instructions for validating our zines, assuming you use gmail:

Create a filter:

1. go on one of the affected emails
2. click on the 3 vertical dots
3. select "filter messages like these"
4. fix the criteria as you see fit
5. click "create filter"
6. click "never send it to spam"

## 2020 Neffies

For many years, the N3F has given awards for speculative fiction materials in all media. We now approach the Awards for 2020, covering award categories. By popular request, we have added fan activity categories. After last year, there was agreement that N3F Officers should not be eligible for the pro awards, e.g., Best Novel. Based on the suggestion of Bob Jennings, we will experiment with partially curated awards. The nomination lists for short fiction and anime will we hope include a curated list of nominees for these awards. If there are enough nominations for non-N3F fanzines, we will have separate final ballot entries for electronic and non-electronic zines.

Categories are

Best novel (over 100,000 words)  
 Best shorter work (under 100,000 words)  
 Best book editor  
 Best TV show  
 Best SF movie/video  
 Best anime  
 Best manga/comic  
 Best cover artist  
 Best non-N3F fanzine (electronic publication is allowed)  
 Best N3F fanzine  
 Best fan artist  
 Best fan writer  
 Best fan editor  
 Other

## Bureau Reports

### Zines

Yes, the N3F publishes fanzines. Our news zine TNFF is in front of your eyes. TNFF is published both in paper and in electronic forms; our other zines are only distributed as PDFs sent via email. The monthly review zine Tightbeam just came out, with 28 pages of reviews and letters on many branches of the hobby. N'APA, our long lived Amateur Press Association, continues semimonthly publication; an issue will appear about the same time TNFF does. Origin, on the history of fandom, and Ionisphere,

with fine interviews of famous authors and fan, continue to be edited by John Thiel. The next issue of Eldritch Science is expected this Spring. Films Fantastic expected to bring out an issue this month; writing has commenced! Mangaverse publication has had an interrupt; heroine editrix Jessi Silver is, however again publishing anime reviews on her web site S2E1.com. Our newest zine, The N3F Review of Books, continues to roll out monthly issues.

## Writers Exchange Bureau

The N3F Writers Exchange Bureau under Judy Carroll and Jefferson Swycaffer is still available to make helpful reviews of your fiction. Its inspiring thoughts on how to write better will return next month. Meanwhile, the Writers Exchange Bureau coordinates on publishing Prose Bono, our writing zine contained in The N3F Review of Books. If interested in helping, please contact Judy Carroll at AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

## Welcommittee

The Welcommittee welcomes new members to the club. We write new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other N3F publications. If interested in helping, please contact Judy Carroll at AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com

## Round Robins

Patrica Williams-King asks that folks with Round Robin letters get them back into circulation, even if you have been a bit slow on this.

## Recruiting Bureau

I placed an ad for the N3F in the online Amazing Stories. Jeffrey Redmond did an excellent N3F advertisement for the January Surprising Stories. We have not been idle. -John Thiel

## Pro Bureau

We continue to contribute to The N3F Review of

Books. Last year The N3F Review covered more than 100 novels. We look forward to covering even more this year. Our Non-Political SF Writers Facebook page sees occasional contributions including comment on writing and samples of Works In Progress. Would-be authors hoping for encouragement should also consider the daily accountability column in Art Bureau head Cedar Sanderson's More Odds than Ends page.

## History and Research Bureau

Our new intrabureau bulletin is coming along fine, and there is greater contact among the bureau members. That's a real plus in having a bureau, for its members to have open contact. Our gradual progress in presenting fan history is coming along fine. -John Thiel

## Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

The upcoming Ionisphere gives some attention to attempts to interrupt or interfere with fan-pro coordination, so we are studying the conflict involved. George Phillies has supplied us with a few author interviews for upcoming issues. -John Thiel

## Correspondence Bureau

Bureau Head Judy Carroll continues to be available at AutumnSeas8012@gmail.com to link Neffers with similar or other interest as correspondents.

## Book Review Bureau

Over 100 novels reviewed in The N3F Review.

## Birthday Bureau

Dec—9 cards sent R-Laurraine Tutihasi

## Letters of Comment

Justin Busch  
308 Prince St #422  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Editor:

Having done what I should have done a long time

ago and joined N3F, I returned home from a teaching gig abroad to find the latest TNFF (for so I think of its title, my acquaintance stemming from bygone years when such were the letters on the cover) awaiting. And thus it is that I write my first ever LoC to The National Fantasy Fan...

The Ever-challenging topic of award categories naturally sponsor response. I would urge dropping the 'best book editor' category. Very few of us (and I decidedly include myself here) are qualified to do more than guess at a relevant vote here. Sidnet Lumet says, regarding film editing, that "no movie editor ever put anything up on the screen that had been shot." His point is that judging editing, even when you can see it in action, is a dodgy proposition at best. How much more so it must be when dealing with writing, where an editor may indeed literally rewrite whole chapters, or urge the author to add or delete entire characters. This is a process of which the reader will rarely know anything; a mediocre book might've been horrid but for the editor's intervention, or the same mediocre book might've been superbly offbeat had the commercial editor not shaved its wilder ideas. Without knowing what the editor was working with (or against), no reader can fairly assess the editing or lack thereof.

I'm glad to see more attention being given to fan category; it is surely these which will attract more fan interest in N3F. One suggestion here, though: split 'best non-N3F fanzine' into two groups, print and electronic. Prince scenes receive less attention by their very nature (the latest issue of Minn-stf's Rune, for example, actually use tech photography for its cover, and therefore had a very low print run; almost all FAPAZines are of similarly tiny circulation), and thus stand less of a chance, however good they may be, of receiving the award. Possibly the same division might be useful for the fan creative categories.

I'm not really a follower of comic books (apart from a fondness for some 1940s superheroines and Carl Barks-era Uncle Scrooge) but I found Jon D. Swartz's article on comic book clubs quite intriguing. The Rang-a-Tang Club sounds like something we could use more of today: "emphasis of the club was on the care and training of dogs rather than

patriotic efforts." I had never heard of these groups, or in many cases the comics behind them. Captain Canuck sounds almost like a put on; he has a decidedly satirical descent in Anglo-Man (Mark Shainblum and Gabriel Morrissette), who featured in at least two paperback volumes (Nuage Editions) in the 1990s but never, so far as I know, attained the glory of a reader's club.

I thought Angela K Scott's Stonehenge piece the most evocative artwork of the issue; it has some of the feeling of a Planet Stories illustration from the 1940s while remaining true to its own style. The baby owl was cute as well. I would encourage Angela to challenge herself through more attention to anatomical and muscular detail on the winged horses, though; the wings looked rather too pasted-on to be persuasive artistically.

Congratulations to the returned President and the new Directorate. The electoral turn-out, as too often with local elections, must've been disappointing. I promise that next year there will be at least one additional voter.

...Justin Busch

Heath Row  
4367 Globe Ave.  
Culver City, CA 90230

Dear Neffers:

Happy holidays—they are upon us! I finally got around to writing and addressing my Christmas cards this weekend, and the Scouts have been volunteering to wrap presents outside a local REI store, so it's finally feeling like the season in southern California. May 2020 bring only the best and brightest to you and your families.

This is a letter of comment on the November 2019 issue of The Fan.

Please keep me on the distribution lists for all of our zines. I received a copy of The Review of Books on Nov. 30. The last Tightbeam I got was #301, sent Oct. 6. In my Spam folder was a Dec. 22 email with Origin #22, Tightbeam #303, and the December Fan. I have now labeled that not Spam! I received

Ionisphere #19 on Sept. 23, and the Nov. 30 sending was in my Spam—no longer so. I hope the new email system irons out the wrinkles!

If any of you go to a convention, please consider writing a brief review of the experience for the zines. This fall, I supported Loscon 46 but was unable to participate because of the Thanksgiving holiday and family commitments. It's a hard sell for me to be away from the family for Thanksgiving. I was also a supporting member of the World Fantasy Convention, held in Los Angeles over Halloween weekend this year. A colleague of mine, Katie Warren, served on Program Staff for the event, so I offered to volunteer. It didn't come together in time because of missed emails crossing in the night, so I didn't participate. Regardless, I was named in the program! I shall have to make good otherwise.

Loscon is always worth going to. I particularly enjoy John Hertz's book discussions. This year's notable visitors included Howard Waldrop (Professional Writer Guest of Honor), Edie Stern (Fan GOH—Webmaster of the Fanac Fan History website), and Moshe Feder (Editor GOH—senior editor at Tor). I just wrote John a letter to see what his recommended titles were this year—and I pulled Waldrop's *Night of the Cooters* off my shelf to recognize his contribution to sf... by reading it.

While I supported the World Fantasy Con, I couldn't rationalize the fee for attending. I'd like to volunteer in the future (even for Loscon) but even as a supporting member, I got a pretty neat goody bag. We're already using the canvas bag featuring Reiko Murakami's "The Horror of Party Beach" for groceries (I used it last week, and my wife used it this week). And the con book, *World Tales*, is a "special fantasy noir edition" that sports a logo similar to that of *Weird Tales* and a cover image of Murakami's "August." You can see her artwork at [www.reikomurakami.com](http://www.reikomurakami.com).

This was one of the best con books I've ever seen. Betsy Wollheim contributed an appreciation of GOH Tad Williams, and Gary K. Wolfe submitted an appreciation of GOH Margo Lanagan. The booklet is richly illustrated with the works of Murakami. And there are excerpts of work by Sheree Renee Thomas, Lanagan, and Williams, as well as selected bibliog-

raphies of all the GsOH. Rich fodder for reading! And the back matter—the 2019 nominations and honorees, the convention and awards list dating back to 1975, and brief profiles of people who died in late 2018 and 2019—is also worth exploring.



Cat Woman Tech — Angela K. Scott

The excerpts are excellent. Thomas's "Head Static" is an excerpt from a forthcoming fiction collection *Nine Bar Blues* (Third Man Books, 2020). The four-page excerpt seems to be about perhaps alien vampiric DJs and musicians who feed off people's enjoyment of music and the emotions it inspires. That's overly simplistic in its point of view, and I was impressed by the combination of modern-day music and magic, a kind of voodoo blues. "Tooth of Bat, Eye of Frog" comprises five vignettes by Lanagan. The five short pieces, not quite flash fiction, address horror, loss, wonder, mystery, and magic. Finally, Williams's "Foreword" from the forthcoming DAW book *The Navigator's Children* is a five-page sample of the author's writing, setting up a story about protecting a witchwood egg. And Murakami's artwork throughout is glorious.

So I sure missed out on volunteering, didn't I? Next year's World Fantasy Con is Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 in Salt Lake City. We'll see what I can swing.

Wesley, did you have a hand in Stellar Horizon? Will the solitaire scenarios be made available otherwise? A hello to Lloyd Penney; thank you for adding me to your Third Monday Reminders and Pubnites emails. I appreciate the fodder for the con calendar.

Penney's mention of Amazing Stories took me to the recently received Vol. 77 #1, in which Mr. Penney indeed has a copy editing/proofreading credit! I've read two stories: Paul Di Filippo's "Ancient Hearths" and Paul Levinson's "The P&A." Both are worth reading, the former a post-Singularity tale of caution and hope, and the latter a speculative proposal for anti-collision technology in cars. On a recent business trip, I drove a rental car with anti-collision technology and found it quite distracting; the AAA recently found that pedestrian detection systems work about 40% of the time. Regardless, we should consider advertising in the magazine!

I also enjoyed Jon's piece on other patriotic comic book clubs in the 1940s. I appreciated his comment on how short lived some of them were and enjoyed learning what their welcome kits contained. But I do wonder what benefits members received over time!

George recently informed me that I've been elected to the Directorate as a write-in candidate. I was pleasantly surprised by the honor. Just goes to show what writing letters of comment can do! (Just kidding.) I've served on the Directorate in the past and look forward to doing so again. I'll have to come up with a focus for the year and some goals worth pursuing.

Sincerely yours,

Heath Row

Dear Neffers:

Many thanks for the November and December National Fantasy Fans, Volume 78, Nos. 11 and 12. As always it seems, I am behind, but making the attempt to get not too far behind. I may not have much to say, seeing it was election time, but let's see what can be said. Or written.

Vol. 78, No. 11... Looks like the elections got off to a good start here. A good idea from Bob Jennings... Sometimes, there seems to be a huge amount of SF in professional form or in fan activity, that much of the membership may never see.

Update to my last loc... I have taken on the task of editing a YA book from old friend and experienced author Shirley Meier. As of writing time, I am about 40 pages from the end. To the best of my knowledge, her book is being published by an Australian publisher. More info as I know about it.

Vol. 78, No. 12... Time for the Neffies, definitely awards time for the best of 2019. And good to see so many renewals of memberships.

Good to see that you list Captain Canuck as one of many comic books with a club. Yvonne was a member many years ago, still has all of her issues of the comic book, and her t-shirt is around here someplace... Richard Comely was born in England, but moved to Canada as a child. He's lived in various places in this country, but I think right now, he lives near London, Ontario. I have recently seen his name on flyers for comic shows in that area.

Well, I have done my best... I am feeling a little warm, and can't rightly tell if I am feverish, or just tired. I will split the difference and head to bed shortly. Thank you for these issues, hope everyone has a Happy New Year, and let's see what it brings us. See you all soon.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

George,

The December, 2019, issue of TNFF arrived today, and in good shape. The new folding method works better than the old. In the past, copies have arrived in less-than-acceptable condition.

I received my copy of the new 2-volume First Fandom Annual for 2019. It looks great. I assume you will be receiving a review copy before long. Please give it some publicity in one of the N3F zines. John Coker has put a \$60 price on copies, \$50 for the An-

nual and \$10 for postage/handling/insurance, etc. I imagine he put a lot of money into its printing. Back to work on our new N3F Fandbook. Should have something for you before long.

Happy Holidays,

Jon Swartz

## Sercon

### Comic Book Clubs: The Hop Harrigan Clubs

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.  
N3F Historian

Hop Harrigan was a multi-media aviation hero, appearing in All-American (AA) comic books [along with Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, The Flash, etc.] and in Detective Comics (DC) comic books [along with Superman, Batman, etc.], on the radio in the 1940s, in a 1940s newspaper strip, and in a 1946 movie serial. The character was created by writer/artist Jon L. Blummer, who also used the pen names of John Elby and Don Shelby.

Hop was assisted in his many adventures by his pal, mechanic Tank Tinker. It was Tank Tinker who gave Harrigan his nickname. When talking about a memorable flight Harrigan had made, Tank remarked, "Some hop, Harrigan."

### Comic Books

Hop was the most successful aviation hero in comic books. Comic book appearances of Hop included nearly 100 strips in All-American Comics and appearances in Green Lantern, World's Finest, Comic Cavalcade, Flash, and the Big All-American Comic Book. He also appeared in text stories in various other AA/DC comic books, including All-Star and Wonder Woman.

It was in one of these text stories that Hop made his only crossover into the superhero world: the

Justice Society of America made a guest appearance in a Hop Harrigan text story in All Star Comics #8 (dated January, 1941).

Hop briefly became a costumed hero himself, when that genre was at the height of its popularity. From All-American Comics #25 (April, 1941) to #28 (July, 1941), he put on a colorful costume and fought evil under the name of The Guardian Angel. For a time, he also used the alias of The Black Lamp.

### Comic Book Clubs

The All-American Flying Club and the All-American Observation Corps were the two Hop Harrigan comic book clubs, both of which were advertised in All-American Comics and in other comic books published by AA/DC. You had to be a member of his All-American Flying Club before you could join his All-American Observation Corps.

### All-American Flying Club

For ten cents a reader could send in for membership in Hop's All-American Flying Club and receive a letter from Hop, a numbered membership card, some Keep 'Em Flying stickers, and a metal Flying Club badge in the shape of wings (later a square cloth emblem).

At one time, various baggage stickers were offered free to those who were already members. In early ads for the club, it was also stated that membership would entitle the member to enter contests for prizes.

### All-American Observation Corps

A member of Hop's All-American Flying Club could then become a member of his Observation Corps for an additional ten cents. New members received a letter from Hop, a membership certificate, and a cloth Keep 'Em Flying Observation Corps emblem.

There was also a Hop Harrigan "History of American Aviation" page that accompanied ads for the clubs in All-American Comics.

### Radio Program

Hop Harrigan, America's Ace of the Airwaves, aired from August 31, 1942, to February 6, 1948. The series began on the ABC network and moved on October 2, 1946, to the Mutual Broadcasting System, the largest of the networks at the time. Actor Chester B. "Chet" Stratton appeared in the title role, with Ken Lynch as Tank Tinker. Lynch was later replaced by versatile radio actor Jackson Beck. Mitzi Gould played Hop's girlfriend, Gail Nolan. One of the writers for this series was the popular noir novelist David Goodis.

The famous, and still-remembered by many radio listeners, opening to the program was as follows:

"CX4 to Control . . . CX4 to Control . . . This is Hop Harrigan . . . standing by" to the roar of a prop fighter plane.

From the control tower: "Control Tower to CX4: Wind southeast. Ceiling 1200. All clear."

"Okay, this is Hop Harrigan, coming in!"

### Movie Serial

Hop Harrigan (1946) was a 15-chapter film serial, based on the Hop Harrigan strips in All-American Comics. The serial was produced by Columbia Pictures.

In the serial Hop and Tank operated a small airport and flying service where they were hired by J. Westly Arnold to fly a scientist, Dr. Tabor, to his secret laboratory where he had a revolutionary new power unit. But an unknown character, known as The Chief Pilot, was interested in the invention as well -- and used a destructive ray to cripple Hop's airplane and kidnap Tabor. Hop and Tank, aided by Gail Nolan and her younger brother, Jackie, finally overcame the criminals but then found a bigger threat to them within their own group.

The cast was as follows: William Bakewell as Hop Harrigan; Jennifer Holt as Gail Nolan; Robert Henry as Jackie Nolan; Sumner Getchell as Tank

Tinker; Emmett Vogan as J. Westly Arnold; Claire James as Gwen Arnold; John Merton as Dr. Tabor; and Wheeler Oakman as The Chief Pilot.

### Jon L. Blummer

Blummer (1904 – 1955) was a writer, penciller, and inker for AA, DC, and other comic book companies. At the age of twenty, he left his hometown in Hartford, Connecticut, and moved to New York City, where he worked as a line artist in newspapers. At first he spelled his name John Blummer.

In the early 1930s, he began to sell freelance pen and ink illustrations to pulp magazines for three-to-five dollars each -- depending upon the various publishers' standard rates. Blummer's work appeared in many pulp magazines, including Clues Detective, Complete Western Book, Dime Adventure, Dime Sports, Pirate Stories, Flying Aces, Sports Novels, Western Action Novels, Super Sports, and 10-Story Sports.

In 1939 he drew the popular syndicated newspaper comic strip The Lone Ranger. He later drew a strip about adventures aboard a ship, The Sea Hound. The Sea Hound was also a radio program and a 1947 movie serial. It featured the master of The Sea Hound, Captain Silver, in all its formats.

In 1943 Blummer opened an art studio in Gramercy Park. He continued to work in comic books, but used the pen names of John Elby and Don Shelby. To reinforce copyright control of his Hop Harrigan character, however, he legally changed his name to Jon L. Blummer.

In addition to the Hop Harrigan character, his comic book credits included Captain X of the R.A.F.; Captain Quick; Gary Concord, The Ultra-Man; The Fighting Yank; The King; The Ghost Patrol; and Little Boy Blue and the Blue Boys -- most of which appeared in different AA/DC comic books.

### Some Conclusions

Hop Harrigan had a very long run for a more or less routine boy aviation character. According to comic book historian Ron Goulart, Hop was one of DC's

more successful properties in the 1940s. Hop lasted for 10 years in comic books, for more than six years on the radio, and starred in a movie serial. His two comic book clubs, described herein, were also very popular.

Of all the characters appearing in All-American Comics over the years -- including such Justice Society members as The Green Lantern, The Atom, and Dr. Mid-Nite -- Hop Harrigan was the only one to achieve the distinction of also appearing in a newspaper comic strip, on a radio show, and in a movie serial. Moreover, Hop Harrigan appeared as a character in DC comic book stories as late as 1988, long after many other popular comic book characters of the 1940s - 1950s were gone.

I belonged to both Hop Harrigan clubs as a young comic book reader and collector. My various radio premiums were lost when I went off to college, apparently stolen from a small suitcase I kept in my parents' garage. Later, however, my Observation Corps items showed up for sale on eBay, and my younger son bought them for me. They now are exhibited in my room of collectibles, with my signature as an 11-year-old on the club certificate. I still don't know what became of my All-American Flying Club items.

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Goulart, Ron. *Great History of Comic Books*. Chicago, IL: Contemporary Books, 1986.

Goulart, Ron (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of American Comics*. NY: Facts On File, 2001.

Harmon, Jim & Donald F. Glut. *The Great Movie Serials*. NY: Doubleday, 1972.

Keltner, Howard. *Index to Golden Age Comic Books*. Detroit, MI: Jerry Bails, 1976.

### Fanzine Reviews

**Surprising Stories**, edited by Neffer John Thiel, appears thrice a year. The current issue, for Janu-

ary 2020, features a front cover by José Sanchez, an editorial, seven relatively short stories, an article from Jeffrey Redmond on Roswell, New Mexico, ten poems, links to websites and sites of authors and artists, and a variety of columns. Of particular interest might be Martin Lock's column Yesterday's Tommorrow on science fiction magazines roughly of the 1950s, including Thrilling Wonder Stories and Space Stories. These are somewhat obscure science fiction magazines, but I do notice they published tales by people including L. Sprague de Camp, Mack Reynolds, and Sam Merwin, in addition to letters from the like of Poul Anderson and Algis Budrys.

The stories are very different from each other. Note, for example, tales by Neffers Jeffrey Redmond and Will Mayo. Landfall by Matthew Spence is in a slightly antique style; it describes explorers lost in the Antarctic ice who find a strange if safe and gentle future.

**Dreams Renewed** from new member Justin E. A. Busch (308 Prince St #422, St. Paul, MN 55101) is a pamphlet, one side of an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper that has been cut and folded into eight printed sides. These are reviews of books of fantastic fiction, mostly from long ago.

We have, for example, a review of H. G. Wells' *The Holy Terror*. Wells describes the rise in the United Kingdom of an English neofascist, who is both the hero and the villain of the piece. A new political structure is set up, and at some point the populist renders himself an obstacle to progress in the directions he is advocated, so he ends up being assassinated. Wells actually wrote a series of these novels, critical of authoritarian directions. At this late date, they are mostly forgotten.

Also reviewed is Leigh Brackett's novel *The Long Tomorrow*, an early novel on post atomic war in which a peculiar society has evolved, to be explored by the protagonist. C.L. Moore gave us five short stories about Jirel of Joiry, one of the first warrior women of sword and sorcery. Of some interest also is Alva Rogers' *Requiem for Astounding*, about *Astounding* magazine and its history before it became *Analog Science Fiction*. The individual essays in *Dreams Renewed* are highly literate, well written, and reach stories many of us have forgotten.

# 2020 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

## Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.

2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.

3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.

4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.

5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.

6. There are no entry fees.

7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.

8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2020.

9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.

10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.

101 The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2020. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2020. Good luck!

*Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.*

**Title of story (for identification):**

**Author's name and address:**

**Author's email address:**

**I have read the above rules for the 2020 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.**

**Signature:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373 ; or email [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com)



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