

## 4SJ'S SCI-FI KALEIDOSCOPE

#20: 25 Dec 96

This "issue" of my cyberspacezine  
dedicated to Scienti-Claus

MERRY ACKSMUSS, ALL!

Nexttime you read about one of my Big Birthdays it'll be the legendary 21st Century that I've read about and dreamed about all my life for the last 70 years. I always hoped to live till then and now it looks like I have every reason to expect I will. And in 2001 A.C. (Arthur Clarke) I'll celebrate my 85th birthday.

4E/8E

I celebrated my 16th lustrum (8th decade) on the 3d planet from ole Sol at the internationally famous Friars Club in Beverly Hills. From Holland, Japan and all over the US of A came 220 fantastic friends to spend 4-1/2 unforgettable hours with me. My buddy for 60 odd years, Walt Daugherty, "Photographer of the Mon-Stars", same age as I, gave his swansong performance as Master of Ceremonies. The swan was in excellent voice. Also in vivacious voice was singer/actress Janet Carroll (you've seen her in films and on TV) who rendered "You Made Me Love You" to me as tho I were the only individual in the room. Speakers included director John Landis, sci-fi fan who has cameo'd me in 6 of his films, from SCHLOCK to BEVERLY HILLS COP 3 (where I played a teetotaller at the same bar with stopmotion star Ray Harryhausen)...Ray Bradbury, who had the audience misty-eyed with his reminiscences about our 60-year friendship...Bill "Keep Watching the Skies!" Warren, who said he felt closer to me as an honorary father than his own father...Gary Gerani, scripter who brought my character Vampirella to life in the Roger Corman Presents Showtime telefilm...the "Hideous Sun Demon" Robert Clarke... "Miss UFO", who features me in the first of her TV series, "Lives of the Sci-Fi"...WAR OF THE WORLDS star Ann Robinson...and Angus "Boy!" Scrimm, who had the celebrants in hysterics with a Sinatra-type roast for which the Club is famous. At my table to the right of me was Jannelies Smit, #1 sci-fi fan of the Netherlands, who had flown all the way from Holland for the occasion; to the left, a new young fanne friend whom I met at the 54th World Science Fiction Convention, on her way to becoming a motion picture actress, Johanna Mattox; and others at my table were Pamela Keeseey from Minneapolis, who is going to be collaborating with me on an Ackermanthology called "Sapphic Sci-Fi" (after all, I wrote the first Lesbian sf story 50 years ago--it's included in my new anthology, "60 Little Known Sci-Fi Shorts", due out from General Publishing Group in a \$12.95 format in April. Contributors include Bradbury, Asimov, van Vogt, Catherine Moore, Bates, Wells, Haggard and a number of new-name talents. --End of commercial.) Also at my table was my original secretary of 37 years ago, Jacie Appelbaum, who has swallowed the fountain of youth and is now a leading lady lawyer around LA and my personal legal representative; Tom & Terri Pinckard, of the noted Sci-Fi Salon (past participants have included Fritz Leiber, Jerry Pournelle, A.E. van Vogt, Catherine Moore, Ross Rocklynne, Robert Bloch, Donald Wollheim, Larry Niven, G.C. Edmondson, Ray Bradbury, Wendayne Ackerman, Bill Nolan, John Brunner, Sherwood Springer, H.L. Gold and dozens more); Naomi Gordon from Philadelphia, for 25 of whose songs I have written the lyrics (including "The Hot Song", themed around Fahrenheit 451); and actress friend of many years (first met her at a Trieste Fantasy Film Festival, have seen her in a play adaptation of "The Martian Chronicles"), Strawn Bovee.

Introduced at their tables were Curtis Harrington, the director who cast me as Basil Rathbone's space station assistant in QUEEN OF BLOOD; Kenneth "Hollywood Babylon" Anger, who's including me in BABYLON 3; beauteous actress/model Barbara Bean...Bob Weiss, director who made me a future President of the United States in AMAZON WOMEN ON THE MOON (in my following cameo, TURKEYS IN OUTER SPACE, I became President of the World; then after a term I was out of a job and aii I could get was to be a judge in NUDIIST COLONY OF THE DEAD...ah, how hath the mighty fallen)...Victor & Vanessa Koman, he the sci-fi author, she a child star in a forthcoming Fred Olen Ray teenage witch film...Erle Korshak, cc-chairman of the second World Science Fiction Convention of 1940...George Clayton Johnson, Twilight Zone contributor and co-author of "Logan's Run" (incidentally, a new version of it is in the works)...Kevin J. Burns, who involved me in the 3 TV biofilms about Karloff, Lugosi & Chaney Sr....Cheryl Rixon, a Centerfold of the Year from Penthouse, and a genuine sci-fi fanne to boot (altho I wouldn't dream of booting her)...Ron "Graven Images" Borst...Industrial Music's "Skinny Puppy" Ogre...Sean Fernald from New Jersey, editor of the Vampirella fanclub journal...the co-publisher of Monsterscene...Walt Lee, cinemarchivist of sci-fi & fsy films...Quay Hayes, publisher (G.P.G.) of my forthcoming Ackermanthology...Dr. Donald Reed, creator of the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films with his friend the director of THE USUAL SUSPECTS...Hajime Ishida & Saki Hijera from Japan, who were houseguests after the celebration, working on "Complete Ackermansion", a foto album to be published in 1997 in Japan, featuring up to 1000 fotos of the principal artwork, books, magazines, posters, props, et al gem-packed in the Ackermansion...Debbie Painter, writer of fantafilmbooks for filmonsterzines...Shel Dorf, creator of 25,000-attendance ComicCon...Ron Chaney, grandson of the immortal Lon... I'll bet you a dollar to a donut I've overlooked some very important friend whose feelings are going to be very hurt but

I'm composing this 2 hectic weeks after the fact and without any notes and I think I've done pretty well for an 80-year-old, so forgive me. Verne Langdon, a friend for decades, snubbed my party because somehow he inadvertently wasn't identified as a previously attending celebrity and wasn't invited till 10 days before. I apologized and even volunteered to pay for his banquet and let him roast me royally but, his feelings hurt beyond repair, he declined. My loss. Curse my loss of memory.

During the proceedings I received a standing ovation of the type & length I remember Peter Cushing once being accorded, so I took a tip from what he said on the occasion and responded, "Have you ever felt unwanted?" I certainly didn't that evening.

#### LAST SCENE OF ALL (Quoting Ray Cummings)

Finally I called up on the podium to surround me a number of individuals to whom I wished to give special appreciation: Tony Brzezinski, artist who has decorated my home with over 100 re-creations of paintings by Paul, Bok, Dold, Wesso, Finlay and originals of his own, together with his daughter, my little Blue Angel Jasmine, famous for identifying the president on a penny as Vincent Price...Dennis Billows, who is doing yeoman work in creating scrapbooks dedicated to clippings about myself, Karloff, Lugosi, Chaney, Lang, Kong, Metropolis, Tarzan, trading cards, etc etc...Ira Newman (about whom more presently)...Jannelies "Mousie" Smit from Holland, my lawyer/loved one Jacie...and Dee Bowman, who spent 2 years creating the incredible scarlet & gold sci-fi jacket for me featured in the forthcoming CDRoms about the Ackermansion, wherein I am seen as a rocketeer of the spaceways. Three minutes of the "footage" of myself blasting badniks in space and landing in the city of Metropolis were previewed by the creator, Del Wolfensparger, who to date has "shot" 14 times as much "footage" as will fit into the 2 CDRoms that will exhibit me & my collection to the world. I don't envy him the editing job ahead! Brian Forbes insisted he not be singled out for any attention at the party but between him & Joe Moe, with an assist from Jacie Appelbaum, they provided me with a magnificent, memorable evening. THANKX!

It was the actual birthday of Eric Caidin, so I called him to the podium, he wondering what in the world I had in mind. I "explained" to him with a straight face that the entire evening had been a setup to wish HIM a Happy Birthday, and at that I broke into song and the whole room joined in. I don't think he'd ever been so surprised in his life. Many years ago, her birthday being only 20 days apart from mine, I pulled the same stunt on my astonished wife. Boris Karloff & daughter Sara were born one day before me and I on the same day (of course years apart) as Bram Stoker.

Every table had complimentary copies of my SPACEMEN & SPACEWOMEN for the sitters; there were 100 IBM windows for the 22 tables, historicizing scientification of the 20s, courtesy of Tony Brzezinski ; my Italian publishers of CIAK, a 2-million readership movie magazine of Italy in which I have a monthly feature about fantasy films, delivered a fabulous kingsize cake to me with appropriate decorations; and Ira Newman, a gentleman whom I met at the penultimate moment, provided black & white caps for every person present with embroidered figures of Ultima Futura Automaton (the METROPOLIS robotrix, silver) and Vampirella (red) with the legend FERRY ACKERMAN...24E Nov 1916...24E Nov 1996 - on to - 24E Nov 2016. Somebody's bound to ask so I'll say, yes, I have a few left over; you may have one of the souvenirs while they last for \$12.50 ppd. (One size fits both of your heads) Proceeds to Mr. Newman.

#### GIFTS GALORE

My cup ranneth over with goodies. Ken Anger gave me an artist's lifesize portrait of Marlene Dietrich in cutout sitdown form in her sexy Blue Angel outfit...Juan Camacho gave me a Mexican edition of "Frankenstein" to add to my 250 copies...Ron Borst gave me a beautiful BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN poster dramatically framed...the van Vogts gave me a stack of useful blank videocassettes...Jannelies gave me some beautiful gold cufflinks, one reading 4E, the other 8E...Kristina Hallind sent me from Sweden some gorgeous cufflinks with the famous mermaid-on-the rock... If I'd known it was so great to turn 80, I would have done so a long time ago!

Thanxamillion, friends near & far, dear, dearer & dearest. My cheeks were glowing red with kisses from Dee, Darcy, Debbie, Barbie, Cheryl, Terri, Pam, Mary Ellen, Norma Jean, Vivien, Jannelies, Jessika, Janet, June, Jasmine, Vanessa, Valerie, Hilary, Ingrid, Strawn, Joanne (Jerry Siegel's widow), Beverly, Ruth, Kristen, Miss UFO, Ann "WOW" and others. On to "STILL ALIVE AT 85!"