

Dave Van Arnam (of 1730 Harrison Ave,
Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453) says that
Art Is Long but Steve Stiles Is
Short.

FIRST DRAFT #168

Vol. 28, No. 6

2 Jun 67

And Dave Van Arnam would like to com-
pliment SP5 Stiles on his imminent
passage from being under arms to being
one of our vast multitudes of people
(theoretically) in charge of the Army
which SP5 Stiles is leaving so hastily,
after only two years or so. Just like
me...

STEVE STILES IS SHORT!

NOTES ON ME: At some point during the publishing of that long letter
from Ted Pauls, I actually finished the LOST IN SPACE novelization, an
event of some significance which I did not note at the time because I
was still hard at work on it after it was over. I finished it, in fact,
on the day Jack Harness left for England, I believe; but then I had to
retype it and do considerable cleanup on the ragged parts of the first
draft.

I like it. I like it enough to put my own name on it after all, so that
it will be published as "by Dave Van Arnam and Ron Archer," which in a
way sort of gives me ¹/₂ of the second billing for a 1½ billing to me.
I like that too. If they don't publish WHEN IN ROME one of these days,
tho, nobody will know about this, and I will get only half billing
after all. *sigh*

Ted White has written than when he turned in his Captain America noveliza-
tion to Henry, Henry told him "you did a better job on this than you
needed to." Well, Henry hasn't had a chance to read LOST IN SPACE yet,
so I don't know what his reaction to it is, but I think that I also did
"better than I needed to." It isn't pure gold, but I like it...

It shd be out very shortly, as such things go, which may mean copies
available by NYCon or may not; but certainly it shd be within a month
after the con.

All but one brief passage at the beginning is by me, by the way, and
even that one bit by Ted was considerably rewritten by me. So all the
prose is mine. The first two episodes, on the other hand, were mostly
plotted by Ted, tho again the elaborations beyond the outline were
mostly mine. I feel that the second of the two episodes Ted outlined
worked out as the best part of the book (the middle section), and that
my own plotted section worked second best. This means it starts rela-
tively weakly from my point of view (and from Ted's; he tells me that
tho I did what he'd intended in the second story, I hadn't really, in
the first), but I think it flows along well enough to carry into the
second episode. After that I think it works ok.

LOST IN SPACE is the third professional book writing commission I've
had, and looks like it may be the first on the stands, followed shortly
by my second contracted book, STAR GLADIATOR from Belmont (my only work
so far that's entirely by me), and possibly followed shortly thereafter
by my first contracted book, WHEN IN ROME. I don't know whether there's
a lesson in that, but there sure is a lot of aggravation...

This has been another ARNIE KATS SPECIAL ISSUE, and I am hoping you
are the sane...

Null-Q Press

-- dgw

Undecided Publication #261
