



The National **81** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Fandom's Second Oldest Print Publication

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 81 Number 12

December 2022

Elections

We have reached the time for elections. Ballots will be counted on December 30, 2022. Send your ballot to Election Teller Jon Swartz. jon_swartz@hotmail.com or papermail to 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750. Vote for the candidate for President or write in an alternative. Vote for up to five candidates for the Directorate (this year there are six) or/and write in your alternatives. The paper ballot is on the lower half of page 11.

Statements of Candidates

Candidate for President

Statement by George Phillies: I have served the N3F for some years now. I hope that you find my contributions to the N3F adequate to justify my re-election.

This has been a difficult year for the N3F. Two major activists, Will Mayo and Justin E. A. Busch, died. They were joined by our last founding member, Bob Madle. I am reminded that there is a need to recruit more members, and to involve more of the current membership into being actifen of the N3F.

All current members of the Directorate are very busy with other fan activities. Please support spreading the work load more evenly by electing Becky Jones as the new member of the Directorate. In particular, John Thiel is doing wonderful work with Origin, Ionisphere, and his own fanzine, has recently lost writers, and should be given more time for his good work on his zines.

That's not to say that something is wrong with any of our current actifen, but it is time to distribute jobs more widely. I will always be happy to pass along the editorships of Eldritch Science, Tightbeam, The National Fantasy Fan, or all three of them.

Candidates for the Directorate:

Statement by Judy Carroll: I will do my best to help the N3F run smoothly and effectively. I will support the Club President and help him in any way I can.

Statement by Becky Jones: I am a recovering faculty member who left academia after 20+ years teaching political science. I grew up reading science fiction and fantasy and used to imagine myself in those stories, and now I write them! I currently live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area with my husband and our cat, Max, who acts as my editor.

Statement by Heath Row: Many of you might already know me—or at least my writing in the National Fantasy Fan Federation's clubzines and via social media. My name is Heath, and I've read science fiction and fantasy for as long as I've been reading, and comic books probably longer. I found my way to fandom by way of photocopied punk rock fanzines, minicomics, and other self-publishing. I've also dabbled in Dungeons & Dragons and other roleplaying games since about 1983. My first video cassette purchase as a youth was a Goodtimes edition of Night of the Living Dead.

I'm mostly a literary and fanzine fan, though I've become an apa (amateur press association) fan and a club fan, as well. Most of my fanac has been through the N3F, which I've belonged to since 2009. I served as editor of The National Fantasy Fan from 2009-2011, and I most recently served as chair for the directorate. (I've served on the directorate at least twice, for multiple years each time.) I participate in the N3F's apa, N'APA, and contribute often to the N3F's clubzines—even using the pen name Cathode Ray. In 2010, I received the N3F's Franson Award, and in 2012, I received the Kaymar Award.

Outside of the N3F, I'm also a member of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, for which I was elected

Your Volunteer Team

Directors

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 Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
 John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Kevin Trainor wombat.soch@gmail.com

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 Melody Friedenthal

Bureau Heads

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 Kaymar Award Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Continued Next Column, Middle

scribe for the first half of 2023. I'm an active letterhack and apahack, and I currently serve as Official Collator for APA-L—which celebrated its 3,000th distribution in December 2022—and participate in other apae including The Connection, eAPA, LASFAPA, and the Spectator Amateur Press Society. In late 2022, I worked on staff for Loscon 48, co-hosted the Fanzine Corner, and edited a one-shot conzine, Losconzine #48. I'm a member of the Fan Writers of America and an associate member of First Fandom. You can access an archive of my apazines at <https://efanzines.com/HR>. If you'd like to receive them by email monthly, let me know.

Your Volunteer Team

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 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com
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 Video Bureau Cathode Ray the anonymous
 Welcomittee Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

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 Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

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 Send material for this zine as electronic files (txt or rtf preferred, images as jpgs, do not send PDFs) to the Editor:
 George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester MA 01609, phillies@4liberty.net The submission deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

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I've been a member of the N3F for more than a decade because I believe in our founding promise and continue to believe we can achieve it. As Damon Knight wrote in 1940: "Unite—or fie!" There's room for all fen in fandom, regardless of whether you prefer sf, fantasy, or horror; you're a literary or media fan; active online or offline; interested in adjacent fandom such as animation, comic books, or games of all kinds; or participate in cosplay and costuming. The tent's big enough for all of us. The N3F has long been part of One Big Fandom, and I recognize and respect the role that the N3F and its members can play to help neofen, BNFs, and pros alike—anyone and everyone—find fannish friends, family, and fun all around the world.

Please consider me for your vote for the 2023 directorate. If elected, I will decline serving as chair for another term so I can focus on other fanac, but you can rely on me to promote sf, fantasy, and horror literature and media; to advocate fiercely for the N3F and us Neffers; to maintain a straight line to the history of fandom as well as into the future; and to do everything I can to help meet the needs of Neffers, as well as better connect the N3F to broader fandom outside our cozy little club. I'll also just hang out and shoot the breeze.

Statement by Jefferson Swycaffer: I am running for a seat on the N3F Directorate, to help guide the club toward future growth and to make the President's job easier whenever possible. The N3F is a glorious bunch of fun people, and I want to help keep it running.

Statement by John Thiel: I've been with the Board of Directors since my first year of being in the NFFF and have been active as a director almost since the start, having done director bulletins and offering motions frequently. I was chairman of the board for a year and did my best to keep board activity going. I suggested a research bureau and on finding the suggestion agreeable, took the position as head of the bureau and located three people to join me in that bureau. It seems to me I should continue in my position as a member of the board of directors.

Statement by Kevin Trainor: ...since I am too old and out of shape to run... Fellow Neffers: As you have probably noticed, it's time to elect our Directors for the coming year. I am standing for reelection and would appreciate your support as we continue to muddle forward.

Treasurer's Report

Paypal balance \$229.10
In: \$30 for membership renewals (less fees)

NSB balance: \$2328.34
In: \$18 for membership renewals

2 life members
20 electronic + 14 regular + 3 household members = 39 voting members
7 archive members + 244 public members = 251 non-voting members

Thanks to Bob Jennings, Becky Jones, Jeffrey Redmond & Jefferson Swycaffer for renewing!

Expired/expiring memberships: Michael McLain, and Jack Mulcahy.

Apologies to Jon Swartz for inadvertently omitting him from the count of Life Members lastish.

Short Story Contest

The contest is wonderfully full, with 42 entries now, and more likely! This is wonderful and great!

The downside is that I may not be able to complete judging and critiquing by a Jan 15th deadline for publication. Can we plan ahead to put in a "teaser" box in TNFF/TB saying "Short Story Contest Results Coming Next Month!" I should have no problems getting you full results before a Feb 15th deadline. ... Jefferson Swycaffer

Eldritch Science

We have released the second issue of the year, emailed to all members.

Round Robins Bureau

Please Note:

I owe the members of the Worldwide Folklore RR an apology. As stated below,* I had intended to activate this RR last month. Unfortunately, life got in the way, as it so often does, and I have been unable to attend to this matter. I will have this RR running in January before the TNFF is sent to all members. Thank you for your understanding.

*I have good news about the Worldwide Folklore RR #2. First off, we are now calling it the Worldwide Folklore RR. We are dropping the number two and starting this Round Robin over. Totally and completely over. Second, I have an experienced RR member who

has agreed to be the Robin Master (the person who keeps track) for this RR. Third, I will be notifying the members of this RR within the next few days with the information they need. Fourth, the RM will start the RR after I have notified all of the members. If you have any questions about this RR, please contact me by email, if possible, or by postal mail. Anyone wishing to join the Worldwide Folklore RR, please contact. My email and postal address are at the bottom of this article.

If anyone is interested in starting a new RR, please contact me. I will put the information in the next TNFF as "seeking more members."

Netflix Streaming Round Robins

I would like to try something new. Granted, what I am about to suggest is different and may not work, but I would like to give it a try.

I have Netflix Streaming. I am curious as to whether N3F members, who also have this, would like to try a new version of the Round Robin. We need at least two members plus the Robin Master. I will be the RM for this experiment.

The Netflix Streaming Round Robins would work like this (I hope).

1 - A member chooses the series he/she wishes to watch.

Following are three series to choose from:
Travelers - 3 seasons - series completed
Stranger Things - 4 seasons - on-going
Raising Dion - 2 seasons -on-going

2 - When they have decided which series they wish to watch they contact they me and I will tell them whether there are enough members to begin the RR

3- When there are 2 members, and the Robin Master, the RR will begin.

4 - The Robin Master (RM) will email the Netflix Streaming Round Robin (NSRR) members with a schedule. Right now, I am thinking, one or two episodes a week. . (The members will help decide the weekly frequency.)

5 - Once the required episodes for that week have been viewed, that member will email each member in that RR with their comments. At the top of the email the episodes viewed should be listed.

6 - Repeat steps 4 & 5 each week until the series ends. Please contact me if you are willing to try this experiment..

NOTE: Someone emailed me about joining the Netflix Streaming Round Robin. I can not find that email. Please contact me again.

Contact: Judy Carroll
971 East 120 South
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660
OR Email : blueshadows2012@gmail.com

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We need a project center for suggesting ideas for action relevant to fan-pro coordination. I am thinking over how a project center could be made and presented. Generally speaking, things are coming along fairly well in the bureau, with many interviews coming in.—John Thiel

--John Thiel

Games Bureau

Wesley Kawato reports he had no responses to his request last issue that readers interested in games should contact him, and therefore suggests that the Games Bureau should perhaps be shut down. A complication is that Kawato does not use email, so he can only be reached by postal mail. Members interested in games should please instead contact your President, Phillies@4liberty.net

Writers Exchange

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

I would like to start with a reader's response about October's writing suggestion on stress.

Jefferson Swycaffer: I have a friend who wears a t-shirt that reads, "Stress is the body's natural response to the desperate need to beat the living crud out of some jerk who richly deserves it." I would say that writing brings with it a number of stressors, such as deadlines and writer's block. Certainly *not* writing is quite a deal worse than writing, but writing only exorcises some of one's inner demons, not all of 'em.

I am open to suggestions as to what readers would like to see in the Writers Exchange in 2023, such as; interviews with N3F writers, information on writers contests, reviews on writing books, etc.

This is the time of year some people are prone to making New Year's Resolutions. I am not one of these people. I find New Year's Resolutions to be like a noose around my neck. At any moment I can find myself "choking" because I have already broken a resolution and it's only the first week in January. I don't need this kind of stress.

Instead of New Year's Resolutions I sometimes give myself suggestions, such as; I will try each day to write for one hour, or I will read a non fiction book this year. The problem with suggestions is I don't always take them seriously. I write when something "pops" into my head. It's faster and easier than staring at a blank screen hoping something worthwhile will become of my time. The suggestion I read a nonfiction book is already in the won't do pile. Who am I kidding? I don't like non fiction.

This year I am suggesting to myself that I do what I can, when I can, and don't stress over things I can't do. Simple. Easy. And hopefully calming and accepting by my inner self.

Following are quotes by writers on the new year.*

“The beginning is the most important part of any work.”
— Plato

“The horizon leans forward,
Offering you space to place new steps of change.”
— Maya Angelou

“[I]f this life of ours
Be a good glad thing, why should we make us merry
Because a year of it is gone? but Hope
Smiles from the threshold of the year to come,
Whispering 'it will be happier'...”
— Alfred, Lord Tennyson

“I made no resolutions for the New Year. The habit of making plans, of criticizing, sanctioning and molding my life, is too much of a daily event for me.”
— Anaïs Nin

“Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?”
— L.M. Montgomery

“For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.”
— T.S. Eliot

“[T]omorrow is a new day. You shall begin it well & serenely, & with too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense. This day ... is too dear with its hopes & invitations to waste a moment on the rotten yesterdays.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson
“A new heart for a New Year, always!”
— Charles Dickens

*15 Inspiring Literary Quotes That Will Start Your New Year Off Right
by Claire Fallon

If you have a story you would like read, please contact me, and I will check with our readers to see who is available. I will contact you with the name and email address of your reader.

Please do not contact a reader unless I have assigned that reader to you. Occasionally we get several short stories at the same time and I don't want any of our readers getting "reading overload."

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you.

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll. BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail, Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660.

History and Research Bureau

We continue to attempt internal relations, under the principle that bureau members should talk to one another, not just put in an appearance. Our latest Origin is much friendlier than it has been.—John Thiel

--John Thiel

Correspondence Bureau

Want to make new friends? Want to discuss the latest book by your favorite author? Want to debate the merits of soft science fiction vs hard science fiction? Then you have come to the right place.

If You wish to join you need to do the following:

1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address,
2. If you wish to correspond with a member already

listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name.

3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and I will contact them. I will let you know their reply.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person or persons you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

Following are the names, and interests of members seeking correspondence:

Jeffrey Redmond - by Email

I am an old Star Trek of the original television show days
I enjoy both Fantasy and Science Fiction
My favorite author is me with my Chronicles of Erda fantasy fiction books
My hobbies include reading, writing, watching TV, and meeting with friends
I have books and memorabilia collections, and try to keep up with my cat

John Thiel - by Email

I am interested in things I haven't seen much that have something about them that gives me a feeling of looking for more about them. Magazines which have interested me have been The Readers Digest, Future Science Fiction, Space Stories, Jack and Jill Magazine, Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories, Arizona Highways and others; Television shows that have interested me have been Tales of Tomorrow, The Sid Caesar show, Roy Rogers, Sky King, Masterpiece Theater; interesting books have been the mysteries of Mary Roberts Rinehart, Groff Conklin's anthologies, Tales of the Supernatural, the writings of Sigmund Freud, the life of Françoise Villon, The Big Push by Mickey Spillane, Theodore Sturgeon's books, Leo Margules' anthologies, Peyton Place; Movies of interest were the Voyages of Ulysses, The Life of Omar Khayyam, The House of Wax, Kiss Me Deadly; comics of interest were Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie, King Aroo; radio shows, Sky King, Boston Blackie, Marty Faye. Interesting places, Venice, California, the Florida Everglades, Valparaiso, Indian

Steve Confrey - By Email - New Member

Favorite genres: science fiction and fantasy, also some true crime and historical fiction. I particularly enjoy military and post-apocalyptic science fiction (but not of the "retired Navy SEAL who just happens to own a ranch in Montana bugs out amid a rampaging zombie horde that's totally not a proxy for societal undesirables" variety of

apocalypse).

Favorite authors: Like many others, I cut my teeth on Robert Heinlein, Ray Bradbury, and Isaac Asimov. I also enjoy Robert E. Howard, Octavia Butler, Andre Norton, Anne McCaffrey, and Frederik Pohl. Among writers who are still alive and active today, I like Harry Turtledove, Larry Niven, Robert Sawyer, David Weber, and S. M. Stirling.

Movies and TV shows: Star Trek, Babylon 5, Star Wars, Doctor Who, Aliens, Blade Runner, Conan the Barbarian (1980).

I do like to write, but haven't worked up the nerve to publish something. Maybe getting more involved here will help me get to that point (I hope!)

Outside of fandom, I am active in my local astronomy club. I edit their newsletter and occasionally do outreach activities. I also volunteer at my church. Most of all, my wife, two kids (ages 16 and 12), and a fluctuating menagerie of housepets.

Collections: I had a pretty sizable collection of books, games, and memorabilia that unfortunately was a casualty of the 2019 Missouri River flooding. I am currently rebuilding. My home office is heavily inspired by Forry Ackerman's Ackermansion, but at a much smaller scale (for the time being)

Mick Taylor - By Postal Mail - New Member

I am a somewhat marginal fan in that although I have been reading Science Fiction and Fantasy all my life, I have never been to a convention and it's been quite a while since I did a zine.

I love the old weird pulp writers - H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Robert E. Howard and that era. Of the more modern authors I enjoy Tim Powers, James Blaylock, Paolo Bacigalupi, William Gibson. I do like discovering new authors too. Apart from reading, I also like to collect paper stuff - stamps, covers, QSL cards, that sort of thing. For work, I manage an IT department at a teaching hospital in Portland, Oregon.

Judy Carroll - By Email and Postal Mail

My favorite genres are Science Fiction and Murder Mysteries.

My favorite authors are Shirley Jackson, Ray Bradbury, Dean Knoutz, and Julie E. Czerneda.

I like to write short stories and poems.

I love being around young children. Their laughter, happiness, and excitement are contagious.

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll

BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

Son of SilverCon

Kevin Trainor is trying to set up a science fiction convention in Las Vegas for September 28-30. Son of SilverCon is not an N3F event, but it is something being done by a Neffer, so we are giving it publicity.

Since it's the holidays, I haven't expected a lot of people to sign up for the convention quite yet, and I haven't been disappointed! :) So far we have three attending members including myself - hey, everybody pays & everybody fights, to paraphrase Uncle Bob in Starship Troopers - which is about 10% of the way towards where we need to be to nail down the function space at the Plaza. There are, of course, fallback plans involving a smaller hotel further away from the Strip and Downtown Las Vegas, but I think everyone would prefer being at the Plaza. The planned dates are still September 28-30 in Las Vegas.

Membership rates:

\$20 supporting (can upgrade to attending before April 15)

\$35 attending (N3F rate)

\$40 attending (before April 15)

\$100 dealer (includes two memberships & a table)

For now, make your checks/money orders out to Friends of Fission-chan, and send them to PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. I have some additional paperwork to do before I can open the FoF account, but I expect to get that done before the end of this month, barring any illness or other misadventure.

Pro Bureau

We continue to release Prose Bono, our magazine for better writing, as part of The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono. Thanks to Cedar Sanderson, Jagi Lamplighter, Becky Jones, and A. C. Cargill for articles. Send your articles directly to the N3F Review editor, George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net

Welcommittee

We would like to welcome two members to the N3F, Becky Jones and Brian Hades. Becky and Brian, we hope your association with the N3F is long and enjoyable.

Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. If you find a bureau or activity you are interested in, please contact the head of the bureau or activity for more information. The purpose of the Welcommittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. When possible, those members with email addresses are also sent attachments of the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer. If you have questions about the N3F or are interested in helping with the Welcommittee please contact: Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Birthday Card Bureau

The Birthday Card bureau has been recharged with a fresh supply of cards and stamps.

The Circle of Time

Once upon a time, there was the first modern science fiction magazine, Amazing Stories. It had a letter column, allowing fandom to arise out of nowhere. In 1941, the N3F gave its first award. The award went to Amazing Stories for actions that led to the creation of fandom.

Now that series of events has come full circle.

The new Editor-in-Chief of Amazing Stories is Neffer Lloyd Penney. We quote the press release:

Amazing Stories publisher Kermit Woodall is pleased to announce the appointment of Lloyd Penney of Toronto, Ontario, Canada to the position of editor-in-chief. Lloyd succeeds fellow Canadian Ira Nayman in this position and Steve Davidson who operated as temporary editor.

Lloyd has been a member of science fiction fandom for 45 years and has enjoyed 30-year careers in both fanzine writing and convention management. He is also an associate member of First Fandom. He'll be working on both the website, magazine, and our line of books.



"I have been a proofread-

er and editor for most of my working life, with magazines, catalogs, and much more, but over the past four years, I have not only been the copy editor for Amazing Stories and Amazing Selects, but I have also worked with Scot Noel at Dreamforge Magazine, independent authors who need some fresh eyes for their novels, and also with a communications company in the east end of Toronto, working to edit their one paper magazine, and their two e-magazines.

“The editor-in-chief of Amazing Stories...this is a position I never would have dreamed of having, but now that I have it, I suspect the learning curve will be steep. Still, the best way to handle this curve is to start climbing it and see what is needed to tackle it. I will be reading as much as I can, relying on readers to look at the flood of submissions and choose what’s the best of that submitted, and also to make a few judgments on what will go on the website. I am sure I will make mistakes, and forget some vital things, but I am willing to learn. I hope to help produce a magazine that all readers of SF&F will enjoy and appreciate, and maybe make a little history along the way.”

Letters of Comment

Dear Neffers:

Thank you, I've received The National Fantasy Fan, Volume 81, No. 10, and there are some things to say... perks up my sense of wonder.

We have lost many over the span of 2022...valedictorians Bob Madle and Justin E. A. Busch, and yesterday, the passing of Ray Faraday Nelson, and today, the passing of Hania Wojtowicz.

I have read much about various companies who have decided to monetize their services further to help the corporation recover from the pandemic. Credit cards will soon be charging their card holders for the privilege of actually using the card, I suspect mostly because of record massive consumer debt. Paypal may soon follow suit in this, along with other companies who seem to think that all consumers are simple fountains of money. Soon, we will be back to real cheques, and cash under the mattress.

Life at Amazing Stories...I got the latest John Stith book edited, and then, THIS happened. See the attached press release...

Time to go, time is short. Looking forward to more issues.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Hi George;

Received the new TNFF. Not much to comment on this time round. I enjoyed Jon Swartz's brief coverage of the Jet/Jet Powers comic from Magazine Enterprises. I have an almost complete collection of every comic ME ever published; it's my all time favorite comic book company. The character of Jet Powers was later turned into a hot-shot air force jet fighter plane pilot who battles commies during the Korean War in issues of American Air Forces from #5 thru 12, the final issue of which came out in 1953. The first 4 issues of American Air Forces came out during WWII and issue #4 was dated 1945.

The early 1950s saw a big surge of public interest in space travel and science fiction, with movies, TV shows, radio programs, new science fiction magazines, plus lots of new comic books all hitting the scene and trying to capitalize on the fad. Jet Powers was one of many, one of the many that fell by the wayside. I always thought that the stories and art were exceptional, clearly aimed at the older late-teen, early twenties crowd rather than the kiddies. It is also my opinion that had ME waited a year or two to launch the character he might have had a better chance of succeeding, but of course, they didn't.

Jon mentions the PS Artbooks reprint volume from 2017, but a much better reprint hardback came out in 2015 from Dark Horse Comics which reprinted all of the original Jet Powers science fiction stories, and also every one of the stories featuring the character after he became an Air Force fighter pilot. Bob Powell and his studio did the art for all those stories, plus most of the other art in those issues of American Air Forces as well. Copies of this volume are still available at many internet sites for discounted prices.

Incidentally Vincent Sullivan, publisher of Magazine Enterprises Comics did not entirely disappear from comics. He bobbed around the fringes of the business and during the 1980s claimed he had ownership rights to both Skyman and The Face, two characters created while he was the editor for Big Shot Comics in the 1940s. He sold the rights to those characters to ACE Comics, a fan owned b&w comic company in 1987. ACE managed to turn out a few issues of both characters before going out of business. Skyman subsequently showed up in some Dark Horse comics and is often regarded as being a public domain hero (lawsuits might have to decide that).

Also incidentally during the early 1990s a group of dedicated comic fans and researchers were having a meeting with Sullivan in Connecticut to discuss his long involvement with comic books in a sort of intimate session. I

was originally invited to go to that meeting, but later was dis-invited when the number of people was deemed too large and unwieldy (I dunno who made THAT decision!). I always regret not meeting Sullivan. I'm sure all the other people wanted to ask him questions about the early days of DC Comics and how he signed Superman with the company and how he handled Siegel and Schuster, but I wanted to ask him a bunch of questions about his own company, Magazine Enterprises. A golden opportunity lost forever. Stuff happens, I guess.

---Bob Jennings

“The people I distrust most are those who want to improve our lives but have only one course of action in mind.”

---Frank Herbert (1920-1986)

SerCon

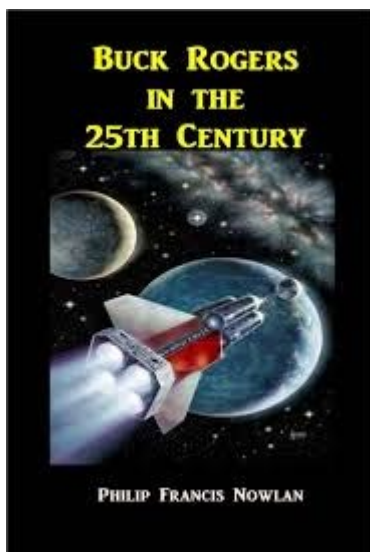
Science Fiction on Radio: Buck Rogers

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

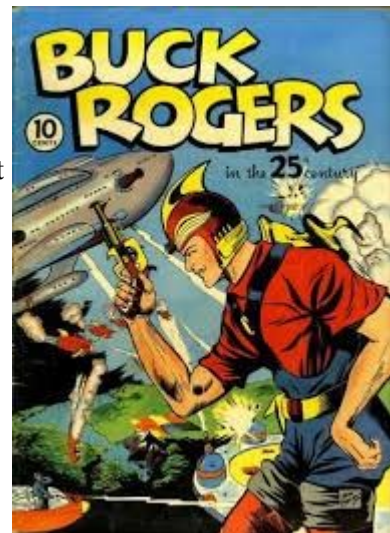
Buck Rogers in the 25th Century debuted on CBS radio on December 7, 1932, and was originally titled *The World in 2432*. Based on the popular newspaper comic strip, the 15-minute, five days-a-week program was first sponsored by Kellogg's cereals, then by Cocomalt, Cream of Wheat, Popsicle, and General Foods. It ran from 1932 until 1936, with subsequent reincarnations in 1939, 1940, and finally during 1946-1947; and it was broadcast in 30-minute shows on Saturdays at 12 noon from May 18, 1940 until July 27, 1940.



The closing commercial for the last episode, broadcast in 1947, was as follows,

“Announcer: You know, boys and girls, a really good breakfast starts with a heaping bowl of the freshest, crispest corn flakes possible, Post Corn Toasties. The Post people hope you've all enjoyed the excitement and wonder of the 25th century.

We hope you'll keep right on enjoying the crisper, fresher corn flakes every morning. We hope you'll start each day bright with Post Corn Toasties.”



It was the first science fiction (SF) program on radio. The last series was heard on Mutual, and the final episode (March 28, 1947) is memorable due to the tremendous fight between Buck and his enemy Killer Kane, a fight that lasted almost the entire show.

The program was a SF thriller featuring the interplanetary adventures of Buck Rogers, an Army Air Corps veteran (World War I) who had been trapped by a peculiar gas in suspended animation in a mine cave-in, and then awoke in the 25th Century, hundreds of years in the future.

Cast/Announcers

Curtis Arnall was the first Buck, followed by Carl Frank, Matt Crowley, and John Larkin. Buck's beautiful companion, Wilma Deering, was played by Adele Ronson (who also appeared on radio shows such as *The Eno Crime Club* and *The Gibson Family*) and Virginia Vass. Virginia was a member of the singing Vass Family.

Buck's other constant companion, the brilliant scientist Dr. Huer, was played by Edgar Stehli. Buddy was child actor Ronald Liss. Killer Kane, Buck's enemy, was played by Bill Shelley, Arthur Vinton, and Daniel Ocko, who later acted in several motion pictures. Buck's friend, Black Barney, a Martian, was Jack Roseleigh and Joe Granby. Willie, Barney's protege, was played by Walter Tetley. Arch-villainess Ardala Valmar was acted by Elaine Melchoir (once married to movie/TV actor Lyle Talbot).

The program's announcers were Fred Uttal, Paul Douglas, and Kenny Williams. Douglas later became a major movie actor. Williams was also an actor, and appeared on other radio programs, including NBC's *X Minus One*.

Matt Crowley was once described as having “the most American voice on radio.” He played other popular radio heroes, including *Dick Tracy*, *Jungle Jim*, *Mark Trail*, and *Batman* (on *The Adventures of Superman* program).



Ronald Liss, who played Buddy, also appeared on other popular radio programs, including Mark Trail (as Scotty) and The Adventures of Superman (as Robin).

Producers-Directors/
Writers

The radio series was produced and directed by Carlo De Angelo and later by Jack Johnstone.

Johnstone also was an announcer and writer at times. Johnstone wrote for many radio programs, including The Adventures of Superman, Other Buck Rogers writers were Dick Calkins and Joe A. Cross.

Unique Elements of the Program

The program was noted for its special sound effects, created to convey spaceships, submarines, robots, and the firing of rocket pistols. A CBS promotional piece stated:

"The chief problem lay in creating for the audience the atmosphere for a future civilization by sound alone: without the aid of the settings that the stage and screen call upon to create their illusions. Further, the atmosphere had to be created by sounds of weird devices that existed only in the imagination – atom disintegrators, rocket ships, guns that fire a stream of annihilating protons instead of ordinary bullets."

In addition to the many devices that were a regular feature of the program, the brilliant scientist Dr. Huer also provided fantastic new inventions that often were important parts of the story lines. Some, like his gyrocosmic relivator, were a major challenge to the program's sound effects personnel.

Premiums

The program offered many premiums during its long run, namely the Kellogg's Buck Rogers Origin Story Book (1932) that has been reprinted several times.

Other premiums offered included drawings/pictures of Buck and Wilma, a solar map, a big little book, painted lead figures of the principal characters, badges, knives,

pendants, pistols, games, masks, pencil box sets, helmets/uniforms, buttons, rings, toy spaceships, etc.

Buck Rogers figures, toys, and other items are still being sold on eBay. While some of these items are from the 1930s-1940s radio series, most are from the TV series shown in 1979-1983 that starred Gil Gerard and Erin Gray. This series was very popular with TV viewers of the time.

Buck Rogers Clubs

Most of the premiums mentioned above were associated with Buck's radio clubs. Buck Rogers' Solar Scouts was created in the 1930s, and offered several premiums, especially badges. Buck Rogers' Rocket Rangers was created in the 1940s and offered various premiums, including school supplies. Satellite Pioneers existed in the 1950s, sponsored by various newspapers. Some of the most expensive (and hard-to-find today) toys were store items created by various toy companies and related to the Buck Rogers 1939 Universal movie serial starring Buster Crabbe.

Recollections

I listened to the 1946-1947 series when I was 11-12, and sent off for the premiums offered during that period. I still have my glow-in-the-dark Ring of Saturn from this series.

One of my favorite sequences involved the discovery of a planet of robots. At first the robots were hostile, but Buck re-programmed them to be friends of mankind. The head robot, named One, became a loyal sidekick of Buck's.

Conclusions

World famous SF authority Donald Wollheim once





wrote: “The role of Buck Rogers in the rise and popularization of science-fiction can scarcely be overestimated.”

A comprehensive study of children and radio, published in 1936, found that Buck Rogers was among the programs liked best, and was found to be “the most exciting.”

There are several of these early Buck Rogers radio programs available for listening today, and the character still occasionally appears in the popular media.

A Buck Rogers Website exists on the Internet, and reports on happenings involving the character.

Sources

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Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted, including Wikipedia, Fancyclopedia 3, and ISFDB.

Ballot

To reach the N3F Election Teller by December 30, mail your votes to Jon Swartz, 12115 Missel Thrush Court, Austin, TX 78750 or email your votes to jon_swartz@hotmail.com

For President (vote for one):

George Phillies

Write-in _____

For the Directorate (vote for up to five)

Judy Carroll

Becky Jones

Heath Row

Jefferson Swycaffer

John Thiel

Kevin Trainor

Write-in Names _____

As per bylaws, sign your ballot. Only the Teller will ever know your individual votes. _____



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Statements of Candidates — Candidate for President — Candidates for the Directorate

Treasurer's Report

Activities

Short Story Contest — Eldritch Science — Round Robins Bureau
Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau — Games Bureau — Writers Exchange
History and Research Bureau — Correspondence Bureau —
Son of SilverCon — Pro Bureau — Welcommittee
Birthday Card Bureau — The Circle of Time

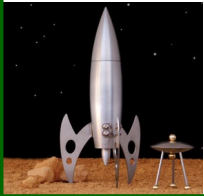
Letters of Comment

Lloyd Penney, Bob Jennings

SerCon

Science Fiction on Radio: Buck Rogers

Ballot



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