

fanac 93

The Dated Fanzine -- April, 1963 :::

4s or 18 for 10s. X beside your name on the mlg label means this is your last (unless you Do Something). Cartoons thish mostly by Steve Stiles, who is another Good Man.

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SPY "STILES" AT THE ESFACON

Everybody's regional convention seems to begin at a different time. For some fans it begins when they spot Milton Lesser in the convention room; for others only with the first intermission; for still others, when they pile into the car which rushes them home to Los Angeles or wherever from the convention. For your reporter, the ESFacon held on March 3 began that morning when I cut myself shaving. I fainted.

Well, that's a hell of a way to start an ESFacon.

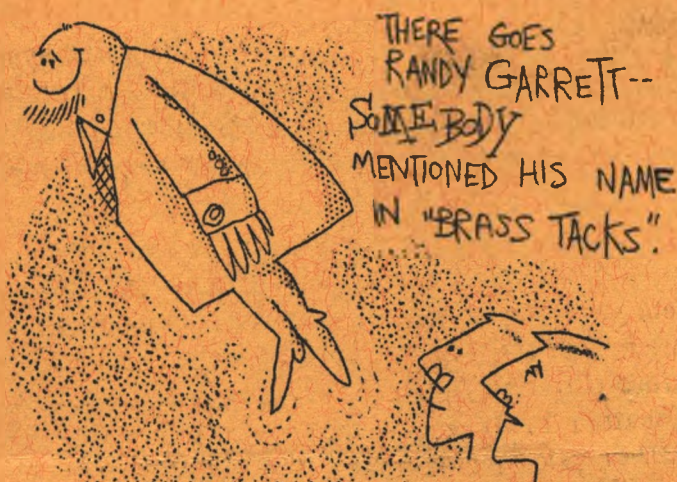
So anxious had I been to leave home (leaving home dominates all my thoughts) that I arrived at Newark a full hour before the con was to have started. This time was passed wandering around the streets of Newark; they were the first clean streets I had ever seen, and I was fascinated.

Steeling myself to enter the YMCA, I plunged through the shiny glass doors (leaving not too many fragments behind) and headed on downstairs. I was pleased to note that Seth Johnson was present. Also a whole bunch of neos and Gary Deindorfer.

"Hello there, Stiles," said jolly old Gary Deindorfer, "howcome you have heavy black lines running all around your figure?" (Not coagulated blood, but a perverted reference to my cartooning style, the rat.) Dorf & I chewed the rag for awhile, telling each other all kinds of secret ingroup DNQ stuff, while the neos clustered around, hanging on our every word. No BNFs had arrived yet, and we were all they had.

Gary revealed to me that he intended to conduct an Impolite Interview with Larry Kafka ("Swordman"), centered around that Vital Question, "Why in Hell do you always carry that sword around?" This Gary later did, and was promptly disembowelled....

I have only a vague memory of the earliest speakers, Lester del Rey, Randy Garrett, & Ike Asimov. It is unfortunate that I neglected to take notes, but in all due defense I never expected to be writing this. All the speakers gave lip service in one way or another to *John W. Campbell*



who was Guest of Honor, and also, wonder of wonders, actually present at the con. This is kind of amazing, I think, because I've never seen him at a con, and was given the impression that he loathes & despises and, like, doesn't particularly care for fandom.

Anyway, everybody was saying what a Fine Fellow JWC Jr was. (He was also their Editor.) Asimov went into his own beginnings as a Writer, going waaay back into prehistory just like THE IMMORTAL STORM. I was interested to note that Asimov took an extraordinarily long time to complete his first story (written, I believe, on a dare), and did not meet with any

immediate success with this first piece, or subsequent tries. This ought to have heartened any would-be pros in the audience. I was also impressed that all the authors mentioned quite sincerely that Campbell had taken the time out to discuss in detail their early works, making criticisms and suggestions for improvement, as well as encouragement. ((Remember what Blish said about JWC Jr at the Phillycon? "Campbell has been extremely helpful to me. I once wrote for him a story, and I got it back with a 4-pp. single-spaced letter in which he said 'Look, Jim, here's all the things you could've developed from those ideas.' For years I've been writing stories and crossing off those ideas in red pencil, a line at a time." --FANAC 82, p.2.))

Later on, Sam Moskowitz gave a slide talk on the covers of old Astoundings. I was disappointed to note that the slide showing the Moskowitz bedspreads with little rocketships on them had been deleted. At this point Les & Gary departed to eat, and I wish I had followed them. However, since I have an interest (more than passive at present) in SF illustration, I stayed on, hoping to learn about early SF art, its history, its traditions, and maybe some biographical information on those SF artists I admired, as well as maybe a hoped-for discussion, or at least mention, of the artist's position in SF. I mean, the ESFA bulletin said there would be a talk on the covers of ASF, so naturally I assumed it would be the art. Boy, was I wrong! Moskowitz would flash on a slide, sometimes neglecting even to name the artist, and then go on to tell us interesting stuff like "And on this cover you will notice something interesting: L. RON HUBBARD'S NAME!!! Yes, folks, this was the First Issue of *ASTOUNDING* that Had a Story by L. RON HUBBARD!!!!" Astounding...((Yes, exactly.)) And Sam went on: "On this cover you will notice that on the logo the words SCIENCE FICTION are Larger than 'ASTOUNDING'!!!!"--and on: "This issue was put together with ONLY TWO STAPLES!!!!"artistic stuff like that.

I was overwhelmed.

I wish that someday Sam or somebody would give a talk on SF illustration. I rather like to think that it is important to the field, and that an interesting coverillo is maybe one of the reasons why a person will pick up a particular prozine from a magazine rack laden with other titles. This is how I became

GOSH.

JUST
THINK--THAT
WAS THE FIRST
L. RON HUBBARD
HAD IN
ASTOUNDING.

...GOSH...

...so...?

GOSH.



interested in magazine SF--specifically through the covers of Ed Emsh and Kelly Freas. I think that these two, among others of earlier and later periods, have done SF a real service both in ably capturing the image of SF and in selling it.

The Guest of Honor spoke, holding forth on (among other things) planetary conditions in the solar system. We all know now that Venus has proved to be a rather disappointing ~~planet~~ with its extreme surface temperatures; no prehistoric Pellucidars there. Mars, on the other hand (said John W) has an atmosphere containing, among other things, nitrogen dioxide--a reddish-brown gas which could conveniently explain Mars' ruddy hue.

After JWCjr's speech, the con broke up, and Esther Davis, Larry Ivie, Les Gerber, Terry Carr, Sandi Bethke, Ted White, Gary Deindorfer & I headed for an eatery for refreshments and fangab. Unfortunately, this proved easier said than done, as we found ourselves trailed by a large flock of neos, and with so many in the group most restaurants had not enough seats to accommodate us all at once. Therefore, a desperate plan was devised: heading for a subway station we all pretended to be heading back to Manhattan, and speedily rushed down into the depths of the station, to sneakily emerge from another exit a block away. There followed a number of evasion tactics, such as sneaking single file down back alleys, running down side streets, and doubling back on our trail. After all these measures we triumphantly entered a drugstore, only to be followed a few seconds later by a howling mob of enraged mefen. We quaked in our boots.

"Are you trying to get rid of us?" they asked.

"Yes," said Tactful Gary Deindorfer.

There followed more running...

--Steve Stiles

ATOM FOR TAFF IN 64

Yes, you read it right. This is the story we've been hoping to see in print for years; the story Ron Bennett has been sitting on for quite awhile; the story nevertheless known all over Los Angeles for the past month. That Good Man has finally accepted, and will win in a walk. Details are still lacking on how the objections which prevented him from standing for TAFF in earlier years were overcome, but it's now definite. Additional funds to supplement ATOM's TAFF trip are now being quietly raised in Britain. One could do worse than help out; almost any of the British BNFs will probably be able to funnel contributions to the right place. (Listening, Archie, Ron, Ethel, Ella, etc.?) So look forward to a richly cartoon'd trip report sometime in '65. # Shaws--are you going to start a publicity campaign for ATOM a la TAFF?

BLOWPS HAPPEN DEPT.: Ron Ellik, noted purveyor of chitterchatter, and Peggy Rae McKnight, pubber of ETWAS (and why didn't you send me one of #7, PRMcK? or don't we trade anymore?), have broken off their engagement; the wedding is postponed to Friday the first of Summerfilth", as one Tolkienist put it. § SINA and G.Clifford Prout turned out to be a hoax, after a grand finale wherein SINA people picketed the White House demanding that JFK put clothes on the Presidential horses. "Prout" is a writer for the Garry Moore show. I always felt that there was something very odd about the definition given for SINA ("Society for Indecency...") and am not too surprised; however, the thing was kooky enough to have been for real in Los Angeles. (Thanks, Fred Patten & MENACE 65A) § On the other hand, Jack Speer's hoax neo, "Juniata A. Bonifas", fell pretty flat; nobody made much fuss about it when the addressee proved to be Speer's. (But why did you join Mensa under her name, JohnABristol Speer?) § And speaking of hoaxes, another one recently blew up with a dismal phfffft: The report that Dave Locke, sometime editor of PHOENIX, OE of MAPA and Welcomittee Chairman of N3F, had died 29 March in an automobile accident, proved to be a cruddy April Fool joke cooked up by DL and Billy Joe Plott. Feh. Look, kids, hoaxes are OK, but death hoaxes are in bad odor nowadays. Like, they stink. Hoping you are not the same...

64 FRISCO NO FIGHT. The announcement was made officially at a Little Men party on 15 March, to much raising on high of glasses (and cheers), that the Stark-Rogers-haLevy Bareacommitee would no longer have opposition in their bid for the 1964 Worldcon. Accordingly, PACIFICON II (that is its official title, despite some attempts to call it SFCon II) will be held over Labor Day weekend 1964, at the Hyatt House Hotel in Burlingame, a little south of the SF Int'l Airport—the same place as the 1963 Westerncon, which I imagine some of you will be attending 4-7 July. And our erstwhile rivals will presumably be coming up to enjoy themselves the way we might have done had they gotten the con instead.

THE L A SCENE: LASFS's dropping of the comicstrip disguises for members' names from the **MENACE** was signaled by publication of an issue on pale lilac paper and adorned with a pansy. Why Pelz didn't insert the obvious caption "LASFS is Back to Normal (disclaimer)" is anyone's guess. But we hear that another version of the **MENACE** continues to be pubbed, keeping the comicstrip names--why? § For some reason, the bylaws were amended 21 Feb. (1332nd meeting) to provide that No-Confidence votes could be made against any officer, on written petition by 5 members. Fouts (the GGFS term for ~~responsible~~ votes) by half the members present at a meeting suffice to execute the censure; three such censures against the same officer within a single term of office force him to resign. The dethroned officer can run for reinstatement in the special election to fill his place (which election must be called immediately), but if he resumes office and is once again fouted down, he must resign again. Rick Sneary is responsible for this by-law, but as it stands, nothing prevents the twice-dethroned officer from running again for reinstatement or re-election. § Eventually they got through counting votes on the question "Who are the 12 greatest SF heroes?", the voting having taken place at the end-of-January meeting which I attended. The paradoxical results: (1) Kimball Kinnison, 15 votes. (2) CL Moore's Northwest Smith, 10. (3) ERB's John Carter, 9. (4) A tie: Prof. Challenger, Tarzan (1), Buck Rogers, 7 each. (5) A tie: Jommy Cross, Fafhrd & Grey Mouser (1), and the team of Arcot, Wade & Morey, 6 each. (6) Dick Seaton, 5. (7) Gilbert Gosseyn, Harold Shea (1), Curt Newton (thank you Bob Jennings), Conan (1), 4 each. (8) Capt. Nemo, Flash Gordon, Superman, Frodo Baggins, 3 each. Reedickle-dockle. This is SF?

CURIOSER & CURIOSER DEPT.: Alma Hill's plan to impeach Tyrannical Al Lewis in his capacity as Tyr--er--Chairman of the NBF Directorate, owing to the Harsh-Eyed One's blast at me in TNFF, seems strange indeed. I was never in any sense a "colleague" of Al L, and Alma Hill was dropped from the FANAC mailing list some time ago for nonresponse. At the announcement of the impeachment petition, laughter resounded in LA and Berkeley; but if the impeachment goes through, the laughter will probably change to howls. What began this tempest in a thimble was that Al L. left his sense of humor at home in reviewing FANAC 89, choosing deliberately (?) to misunderstand my annual (or thereabouts) "Silly Season" feature, something originally inaugurated by Terry Carr years ago. I chuckled in reading Al's cantankerous nonsense, & commented on it on p.3 of FANAC 92. (The offer still stands.) # And Harry Warner wrote me as follows: "What is Al Lewis going to do to me, when he finds in my fan history a chapter devoted to the start of the Cosmic Circle, the ShaverMystery, and the NFFF, all headed 'The Silly Season'? I got quite a few NFFF publications in loan recently, and was astonished to find how little the organization has changed from the early years when I was a little nut in its mechanism. The brouhaha over Art Rapp's presidency and the fouled-up election...were exactly like many of the pioneer messes. I was also impressed by the tape bureau, with its list of eight or ten officials and its admission that it will be months before it can get together a list of what tapes are available." # And now comes Clay Hamlin with a petition to get Al L. chucked out of the official editorship because, forsooth, Al defended Earl Kemp against D. Bruce Berry's unspeakable nonsense. I begin to wonder if it isn't time for another Silly Season feature...

EVERYBODY WANTS TO GET INTO DA ACT: Following the lead of TW, Ray Nelson and the one & only Calvin W "Biff" Demmon, Don Studebaker has turned pro. Under the pseudo "Jon De Cles", he has sold a story, working title "Cantabile", to Avram. Says Don, "It feels very good to be a pro. I now have such supreme confidence that I have acquired, through lack of need to bolster my ego, a colossal modesty to match my colossal conceit. This is a ~~colossal~~ no small accomplishment."

LEAVE IT TO BEANIE: Earl Noë and artist friend Robt Rowland left for San Bernardino (see CoA) about 18 March just after visiting Tom Armistead; they had planned to go much earlier but Earl totalled his father's car. (Welcome to the club, Earl.) Earl expects to attend the Westercon. # Speaking of Tom Armistead, his expected trip to Spain may not materialize for awhile; the army seems to have changed its plans after all—and now that I know what it had in its excuse for a mind, I am very glad. If Tom does go to Spain, head for the hills and prepare to gaffiate indefinitely. # Steve Stiles, following Bob Stewart and Andy Reiss, sold two cartoons to the Realist. Avram couldn't use his F&SF coverillo, but I gather Steve is continuing to try; good luck. # GMCARR has been sending around mimeo'd notices to local parents of fans, exhorting them to vote for "Grassroots" candidates for School Board in some recent Seattle election. "Oh, well, at least it keeps her off the streets." (...Gordon Eklund; thanks.) It turned out that the Eklunds were in the wrong district or something and couldn't have voted for those candidates anyway. Somehow, that figures. # FANS ARE ~~STARS~~ PROPHETS: "I foresee the day when fan, meeting in the street, will recognize each other by lapel badges."--HYPHEN 7 bacover. Now comes a discussion in FAPA, last few mailings, about proposals to use lapel badges consisting of diminutive rocketships, fleurs-de-lis, representations of prop beanies in miniature (this last was my suggestion), or map pins a la Mensa but of different color (Mensa's is yellow) and worn on left or right lapel according to whether the wearer wanted to be left alone or it'd be all right to talk to him (Eney's suggestion). So far as I know, nobody has actually been using any such pins or badges yet. # READ IT & WEEP DEPT.: Paul Zimmer (thanks), MZB's younger brother, sends a clipping to the effect that in Jersey City, NJ, ex-army chaplain Rev. James A. Carey, head of 600-student St. Michael's School, passed a ukase (eff 1 March) to expel immediately any student found to be dating one person exclusively of all others. Object: "I don't want any forced marriages." (But this same headmaster had refused permission to one pregnant student to marry her boyfriend.) Result: "Nirvana (or, 'Jersey City!')", as Gary Deindorfer put it... Now, if someone would only clue these kids in on Expansive Love...

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BARGAIN

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WHAT DO YOU NEED IN SF MAGS?

I have plenty of duplicates. A few only mentioned here: ASF back to 1941 in reading copies; most from 1945 in mint condition; complete Galaxy; most other titles, Golden Age to date. Send your wantlists. Things I need in trade: WARHOON from #6 on, file of XERO, other first-rate fanzines, SF-centered and otherwise. I can locate books and some other things you might need. I expect to attend the Westercon; look me up there, or in the meantime address inquiries to:

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS; or, Descent into the Mailstrom

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Miri & Jerry Knight, 2106 Spaulding, Berkeley 3
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Capt. Peter B. Hope, O 5012956, 1st Hosp Unit,
42nd Fld Hosp, APO 44, NY
Fred Lerner, 152B Donor Ave., E. Paterson, NJ, eff 10 May
Gerald Johnson, Box 532, Sherman, Texas
Earl Noe, 7012 Newbury, San Bernardino, Calif.
Ella Parker, 43, Wm Dunbar House, Albert Rd, London
NW6, England. (No, it's a house number, not her age!)
Bruce Palz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, LA 24
Gretchen Schwenn, Box 1233, Berkeley 1
Mae Surtees Strelkov, Las Barrancas, Ascodinga,
(disclaimer!), Cordoba, Argentine
Steve Tolliver, 24 E. Peoria, Pasadena, Calif.
Andy Main, 333 Ramona, El Cerrito, Calif.
OMTAE 8, 333 Ramona, El Cerrito, Calif
Bjohn Trimble, 5571 Belgrave Ave., "Eastgate",
Garden Grove, Calif. (eff. immed.)

John Charles Fricke Jr.,
175 Lansdale, San Francisco 27. (Attn: GGFS,
Little Men, fans of
SF-centered & high-quality
New Trend stuff.)

HATCHED

Erik James Kemp, to Earl
& Nancy; 27 March; all
fine. (Gonna put him on
the FAPA waiting list?)

MATCHED

Jim Caughran & Susan Marcus, NYC, 23 March, at a
Jewish ceremony; again 7
April at a Quaker meeting
in Ann Arbor, Mich.
Charlie Brown & Marcia
Elkins, 21 Feb., add in
CoA.

DETACHED

Burton Crane, fapan 1946-
52, and the Art Papp of
the mundane apas; NYC;
c. 1 Feb.
Bob Richardson, the leader
of the St. Antony movement;
April 1. I'd tho't
this a hoax from the date
but apparently it wasn't.

F S N A C 93, from
Walter Breen
2402 Grove St.
Berkeley 4, Calif.

Ed Meskys tc
c/o Metcalf
Box 336
Berkeley 1, Calif.

