

jd ARGASSY #39 November 17, 1958

Published by Lynn A. Hickman at 304 N. 11th Street Mount Vernon, Illinois.
Subscriptions accepted at \$1.00 for 12 issues or 10¢ per single copy 10 pages
or less, 20¢ per single copy 10 pages or more.

This issue marks another change in the Hickmanzines. Starting with this issue, JD and ARGASSY are combined. This is JD #32 combined with ARGASSY #8 or whole number 39. I am doing this to allow for

more flexibility in publishing. There will be a minimum of ten issues per year with a possibility of 12 or more. Most issues will run from 3 to 10 pages and will sell for 10¢ per single copy. These zines will be titled jd ARGASSY. About twice a year I will put out a large issue of from 10 to 30 pages. These will be titled JD argassy and will sell for 20¢ per single copy. Subscribers will get all copies at the 12 for \$1.00 rate. All copies of both will be sent through OMPA until the Madle London Report is completed. At that time OB will become my regular OMPazine. I will appreciate your comments on this change, although they won't mean a damn thing. After all I put this rag out for the fun I get out of it.

The next issue will be the large JD argassy and will continue the London report. It is almost finished and should be mailed 3 weeks after this one.

I was sitting in a motel room in Two Rivers, Wisconsin last Tuesday night watching the educational channel (10) out of Milwaukee. The show was "Teens Talk Books" moderated by Milwaukee fan Donn Brasier. This is a panel discussion by high school students on various books they have read. Reviewed were "On The Beach", "The Third Level", and "The Other Side of The Sky". A small Hugo to Donn Brasier for interesting these students in sf and putting on a GOOD educational show.



Since last issue I've had visits at Tucker's, Bloch's and Grannell's. The nicest surprise came when I pulled into Dean Grannell's and found Stu Hoffman had also come in from Black Earth. A wonderful evening of fine steak, cider and rum, and good fake-fannish talk. Dean & Stu passed on some good ideas for cartoons that you will see in future issues drawn by Plato Jones.

Last week-end Jim Harmon came over to spend a couple days. Bullfrog Beer and fannish frufaw was the order. . Jim has some stories coming up in Galaxy and Amazing soon and will also be doing a series on Tom Mix for Argassy if enough of you want. What say -- Do you want to see a series on the great Tom Mix?

Manly Banister has a novelette coming up soon (it will be billed as a novel) in Sattellite.

From Basil Wells....

ARGASSY is quite a mag. Think this concise brief format is fine and hope you can keep it up. Brevity and facts that interest all lovers of offtrail literature, are sadly lacking in a lot of graduate fan publications.... Don't mind me, I also liked your early L'il Monsters' rag, TLMA. It was a swell mag too but could grind a guy down trying to turn out all that wordage. For a busy man ARGASSY is your best compromise. I've thought that a title of SYNOPSIS might be fitting, along with COMPACT, SF DIGEST, IN BRIEF etcetcetc.....

Ed Hamilton and his wife, Leigh Brackett, headed back for California, the last of October. Leigh, who worked on the movie, RIO BRAVO, all last winter, is now to be working on the script of another John Wayne thriller that starts in ranching country and ends in Cold Rush Alaska. Ed has a new book soon to be released, and mention on the back of the dust wrapper is made of his movie sale of rights to "Pygmy Island" from the old WEIRD TALES.

One Saturday night in the middle of October I received a phone call from Youngstown asking me to meet a muscular admirer of Tarzan and John Carter at the Eagle's Club in Meadville. Margaret and I went over around 10 and talked until 11, when he put on his first unicycle, juggling, etc. act. Later we had more time to talk before the next show. We were particularly interested in the manuscript, and illustrations, of a novel dealing with Tarzan, La and Jane on Mars. Some mention of this manuscript has been made in the professional mags, I understand. All I can say is, good as it is, there was only one Burroughs. Vernell Coriell is working alone now. A week later was to appear in Oil City. After the second show he had to drive to Pittsburgh to pick up his wife. It takes an iron man to keep on the go like this.

Locally our sf population is down to Betsy and Ed Curtis, and with two new babies in the last couple of years they aren't much interested or have time. Just called up to see what new stories or plays they had produced and Betsy was in hospital and Ed teaching in the college. Honestly since Sputnik went up sf has gone dead. I know I haven't sold a word since then. The three stories in Dec. issues may have been my last fiction (in sf, that is). Currently my novel is historical keelboats and flatboats and War of 1812. Even the detective story market is weak, but not disintegrating like sf....SPACE, THE JOURNAL OF ASTRO SCIENCE a fine slick paper mag, informed me they are through too.

A memo from Royal Publications to Basil:

Sorry -- but Infinity is gone too.

Larry

Lynn, this is self explanatory. At this rate will be reading our back files only by 1960.

Basil

Charles V. De Vet writes....

Enclosed a buck, I certainly wouldn't want to try to get along without my J.D. I enjoy your stuff, whatever you put out, but I think you have a good idea in changing ARGAS SY into a chatter and newstypezine. That I like. Missed the local conventions you were at this year - only one I went to was the Solacon. But I will see you at Detroit I presume.

Chicago speaks....

I LIKE THE ARGASSY!!!! Life is so quiet here in Chicago Earl Kemp is going to put out a fanzine in the near future.. Took a trip to Gary, Indiana last Sunday, the Lights and the Kemps to visit the Becks (She's the gal that went to the MIDWESTCON and the SOLACON with me)...we have 7 assorted children in the 3 families and if you don't think that is fun!!!

Also there is a small sized rumor that the U. OF C. SF CLUB will move to the north side in the near future...and the meetings will be held here on alternating Wednesdays...so Lynn...we have to give you a marked calander and see if you can't become a member,

Oh yes...I'm one of the directors in the NEFF now and just let that honest Howard DeVore and Ron Ellik start an argument with me! Also Stan Woolston, Honey Wood, Ray C, Higgs, and Larry Sokol, while Ralph Holland is re-elected as President (just got the news this afternoon,

Where are all the con reports??? No one has written except the Busbys which I didn't see...Earl got a copy and I'm going to borrow it at the first opportunity. (Hey - I also got one from Fran Light, didn't you see that one? ed.)

Have you been thinking about an ILLWISCON???? Honestly Lynn, things are so quiet...we need some noise to wake us up. And the end of May is so far away, as is the end of June. (We haven't gotten much beyond the thinking stage for this years ILLWISCON. Are thinking of three sites now, Elkhorn, Wisc., Chicago, Ill. and maybe here in Mt. Vernon unless more Wisconsin fans attend. As plans progress we'll keep you informed. This years was successful in that everyone seemed to have a heck of a good time. I was especially glad that Dean Grennell was able to bring his family. It was Jean's first con and she really enjoyed it. ed) Again...I like the ARGASSY very much. Hope you become a real frequent publisher of same.

Fran Light

Bob Warner, Orlando, Fla, says....

Lee's artwork impressed me greatly. I don't know whether or not he has had anything published in the

pros; but I'll wager that if he hasn't already, he will in the near future.

Here in Orlando, we're but a scant 40 or 50 miles from the Cape; and quite often we're able to see the rockets climb into the evening sky. It's a thrilling experience, watching them, knowing that one day those first- and second-stage rockets we see will push still other stages on out into space and land some fortunate homo saps on Luna, or Mars or Venus. One of the fellows in my section works for the local tv station, and he was present at the last "Moon Probe" launching last week. He secured a film of the show, brought it to the office and ran it for us. When I began watching the rocket climb skyward, I thought of the many science fiction films I've seen during the last few years. But this was no Hollywood production; this was no trick-effect shooting -- this was REAL. This was, perhaps, the beginning of Asimov's Galactic Foundation.

Many of the people here are like thousands of people all over the states; they think this "outer space stuff" is just so much hogwash -- an expensive toy manipulated for the sake of politics, propaganda and prudence ("can't let the Reds get ahead of us, you know"). They fail to realize, it seems, that we are going into space for other reasons. What those reasons are, I think the sf fan knows well enough; at least he knows some of them. It's easy for one to think we're reaching for the Moon -- and the stars -- "just to keep up with the Reds, or the Greens, or the Blues, et al;" but it should be fairly obvious to everyone -- the multi-colors included -- that "out there" is the next logical step.

Even before I heard of rockets of so-called "outer space", I stood in the night and looked at the Moon and knew that someday we would go there.

Now I look at the Moon, and what once seemed such a far-off coin seems a very near globe of light. The other Planets, and the stars, are still in the background; but after having seen the rockets in action, I know that after all, the planets, the stars, and perhaps even other Universes are not too far away -- REALLY.

And from Berkeley...

How did you arrange to get a Weyauwega postmark on your Argassy? (It was simple Jim, I mailed them from there. ed)
What is this GOOSE you're always printing wonderful cartoons from? (Goose is a college mag from Macomb, Ill. Western Ill. U. ed)
What is all this pro news? No trufan reads science fiction! (Lots of fake-fen like me do though. ed)

Jim Caughran

I picked up a new science fiction pocket book in Sturgeon Bay. It is a privately printed deal. "Theory of Flight" a theoretical science novel by Jacques Casolet. I haven't had a chance to read it yet, but I wanted to mention it so completeists could order it if they wanted. Send 35¢ plus postage to James Worley, School and Office Supplies, Wholesale magazines, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. It is a neat looking pb printed on high quality book paper.

Had an eight inch snow here yesterday. That is an odditty in this part of the state. We are 300 miles south of Chicago, about on even line with Richmond, Va. Something like this hits hard as they have no real snow removal equipment.

And in a card from Ron Ellik.... News for your newszine: Jim Caughran is officially going into competition with *FANAC*, although he's not going to publish as yet. He's decided he circulates more news, faster, to more people, than we do in *FANAC*, by writing letters. He decided this after we told him to dammit stop writing letters before we really *decide* to fold. More seriously, I'd advise you read all Jim letters carefully for overstatements, in which he delights, but which are interpreted literally by fandom. He's watching it now, too.... And *FANAC* isn't folding, as you can see. Seen *CRY OF THE NAMELESS*? The "dead" Carl Brandon is writing fanzine reviews for them. Carl Brandon Lives. Even now, he's working on a Gilbert & Sullivan parody, continuing ON THE ROAD, and doing fanzine reviews. No such thing as race prejudice in Berk fandom -- we're all wearing blackface these days.

Ron

A letter from John Koning.....

I prefer *ARGASSY* to *FANAC* in some ways, and noy in some others. Less frequent, which means I see it less, but its pace is more leisurely. And just a little different atmosphere. Read in *FANAC* that Kent Moomaw is dead, by his own hand. I want to believe this, or rather not want, but the many hoaxes the Berkeley boys have pulled before strengthen my belief that they would not be above a phony death hoax. Just the same, I can only go on the assumption that it is true, as much as I wish it were a hoax. (It is not a hoax, John. *FANAC* is a dependable source on all news items. I also have it from a very reliable source that Ken Newman, Indianapolis fan who wrote the Shaggy Science Fiction printed in *OB*, also took his own life a short time ago. I would like to have any of the Indianapolis fans write me the details on this.)

John

The sage of the south, Wilkie Conner, says....

With you and Madle in the Mid-west and Banisder and Ackerman in the far west, fandom has deserted the east and south. Of course I'm still in the south, but all the fanning I do is the cover.... (Wilkie goes on to say that he may rewrite the *STF TRENDS* tale TALE OF TWO CUTIES for a possible sale to one of the Mens mags. I hope it sells as it was one of the best humorous yarns I had printed.)

SPECIAL NOTICE!!

I received a wrapper found without contents notice from the post office in Chicago. The part they sent was addressed to me but had no return address. There was 9¢ postage on it. It was addressed by a typewritten label on heavy white envelope paper. If any readers had sent me a fanzine or anything and recognizes the above description of the part of the wrapper I received, you will know why I haven't acknowledged it.

You will continue receiving JD ARGASSY if you

Write ~~XX~~

trade

send \$1.00 for a twelve issue sub.:

to Lynn A. Hickman
304 North 11th
Mount Vernon, Illinois

A check mark after one or more of the above means you must comply or I will drop you from the mailing list. The zine is too much work and costs too much to produce to send to disinterested fans.

Front cover cartoon by James V. Culberson, courtesy of Rotsler-Grennell. Back cover cartoon by Randy Jason.

This issue is also intended as a post-mailing to OMPA's 18th mailing.

An Illinois fan writes....

I like ARGASSY!! Your idea to change it into a midwestern zine is good. Here's what I think of the zine by parts....I have seen PANAC before, but I prefer ARGASSY. I'm one those fans who genuinely likes SF, and ARGASSY is full of not only fannish activities but has excellent coverage on publishing work, upcoming stories, etc. Do keep your promise to print all fannish bulletins. Around Springfield, I have been unable to find a club of any sort. Would you please print a report asking if there are any active clubs in the Springfield area? I would appreciate it if you would just stick in any legible note with the request to contact me. Keep up the good reporting on Gnome Press's activities. I'm glad to hear of Marty's enthusiasm. (Marty would be even more enthused if you joined PICK-A-BOOK. --and it's a good deal!) I see you enjoyed THE LINCOLN HUNTERS - that makes me feel like a fool: I passed that selection up. Now what'll I do? (You may still order the book from the club at the same price.)

Vic Ryan
2160 Sylvan Rd.
Springfield, Illinois

From Harry B. Moore....

Seeing the nature of ARGASSY, I haden to ask: what's the uptodate address of Dawn Press? This is the same as Shroud Press, as I recall...Ken Krueger? I had to Moon-maker and then didn't confirm when he changed prices and addresses. If only 350 copies are coming out I'd better do so and I've lost his blurb.

Harry B. Moore
Harahan, La.

Any one knowing of Ken Krueger's present address please notify this zine!

Nov. 27th....Here it is Thanksgiving day, and I still haven't finished this. Have more letters here that I would like to print but since I want to get this mailed yet this week-end and get most of #40 printed also, I'll have to forgoethem. (Is that a word?) Spent most of last week in Egg Harbor, Wisconsin so didn't get back to Mt. Vernon until Tuesday night. Stopped at Roger and Sally Dunn Brues' Saturday night. After a nice dinner we sat around the apartment chatting until around midnight, when they decided I should visit Jim's Bar. We sat around the university room there for a few hours telling jokes and drinking beer. Someone mentioned going over to Bill Halfpenny's then so Rog, Sally, Dick Barron and myself headed for his apartment where we were soon joined by Marc Goff. Marc and Rog and myself discussed the segregation problem, especially in relationship to the differences in the north and south. Marc was raised in Ga. and has made a few trips back there in recent years. It was very interesting and affirms some beliefs I've had. I was quite impressed with Marc and hope I have the chance to get together with him for another discussion on various topics in the near future. Bill Halfpenny has a good SF collection and some of the damndest built bookcases I've ever seen. The late movie tonight is King Dinosaur in which prehistoric reptiles are encountered by a rocket-ship crew on some planet. Sounds like loads of laughs so I'm going to switch on the tv and close this off right here. See you in about three weeks with #40.

Lynn A. Hickman

from:

Lynn A. Hickman
304 N. 11thh
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

To:

Rick Smeary
2962 Santa Ana St.
South Gate, Calif-

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Sorry but the Randy Jason cartoon credited on page 3 had to be cut due to lack of space.