

# Vertigo!

Fall 1980 Issue

Featuring In  
This Issue:

Blackhawk  
Fights The  
Nazi Death  
Squad!

Once Again  
From Olaf,  
Chuck, Stanislaus,  
Hendrickson,  
Andre, Chop-Chop  
and Blackhawk,  
Their War Cry  
Resounds!  
HAWK-A-A-A!!

The Black  
Knights Fly  
Again!



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## RAINY DAY CON Dept

Durham mini-con XLIV was held on April 6, 1980 at the same old place. In spite of the rain that kept people from setting up in the yard we had a respectable attendance of around 87. Surprisingly enough, things did not go too bad even with the crowding caused by the rain. Among those who signed in were: Jeff Jones, Frank Curry, Eddie & John & Mark Patterson, Sam Joyner, Chris Wrenn, Will Bullard, William Baker, Brian Lockhart, Clay Kimball, Mike Cox, Bob & Adam Burns, Drake Maynard, H. Shelton Drum, Rose Herran, Scott & Linda Whiteside, Ken Puryear, Peter Hirschman, John Hitchcock, Mike Pratt, Jack Wenberg, Mike Bradshaw, Mike Harris, Darryl Hamilton, James Peaks II, James Lowe, Mike Wagoner, Richard Pace, Linda Coker, Robert & Rebecca Bailey, Jerry Minter, Richard & Mildred Minter, John Coker, Chuck Steely, Betty Stinson, Mark & Rana Van Name, Carol Strickland, Yance Parrish, Chester & Cherie Cox, Brian Hooley, David Bennett, Barbara Ward, M.C. Goodwin, David Southerland, Tyree Averette, David Ayscue, Charles Guess, Bill & Leslie Pearce, Charles Lawrence, Milton Read, Philip Keefe, Jim Koppers, Stuart Hough, Ned Brooks, Jim Weston, Greg Patton, Milo Holt, John Taylor, Russ Garwood, Tony Kirven, George Beahm, Rowdy Scarlett, L.P. Williams Jr., Kent & Viva Kerr, Doug Foltz, Raymond Winstead, John Peters, D Gary Grady, Randy Clay, David Luebke, Jay Leonard, David Barham, Kevin Martin, Eric & Jamie Larsen, Billy & Mark Saunders, Terry, & elm. Talk about dedication. Eric & Jamie Larsen came to the mini-con on the last day of their honeymoon.

## LOOKING BACK Dept

This mini-con marks our 12th anniversary and seemed to be a fitting time to bring things to a close. When we started the mini-cons (coining the term) and Vertigo there was little in the way of active fandom in this area. At first we could only find a few fans scattered around NC and began exchanging visits with them. Before long the visits became too numerous and we hit on the idea of consolidating them by inviting everyone over at the same time. The first two mini-cons were set up by letter and under 20 people attended each time. In order to reach more fans it was decided to start a club and a newsletter. At the time I did not have a mimeo so for years I had to rely on the kindness of friends to get the zine out. Carolina Fan Federation #1 came out in late June 1969 to promote the third mini-con. The title became Vertigo with the second issue. The pattern was set of an issue to promote each mini-con from that time on. In the early days we served lunch, had auctions, and showed movies but as attendance grew we had to drop each of these extras in order to get down to the basics of why people go to cons: buy, sell, and talk. By the mid-1970s attendance was 90-100 almost every time with the record coming at mini-con XXXVI with around 120 people in July 1977. By this time we had settled down to quarterly cons after a brief flirt with 5 a year (two in the summer) earlier. From that point attendance has dropped to an average of 80-90 through the current cons. This is a more comfortable level but something has gone out of the cons. It may just be us but after hosting more than 40 cons in 12 years they all blur into sameness and the work behind them has started to become a chore. Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy seeing and talking to all our friends from the mini-cons and plan to continue to do so at all the other cons that have sprung up over the last ten years. By no means are we gaffiating! The handwriting is on the wall though and it is time to pass the torch on to other more energetic and enthusiastic souls. The Carolina Fan Federation will more or less disband since it was comprised solely of those who were on the Vertigo mailing list and/or attended the mini-cons. The CFF has served its purpose. Fandom in

this area has grown greatly over the past dozen years and there are now cons of some sort in almost every major city to take the place of the mini-cons. These are held in areas (malls, motels, etc) built for crowds and are better suited to the times than the backyard mini-cons we have been holding. The fans of the area have outgrown the mini-cons whether we like it or not and it is better for us to retire them now than to continue on and let them continue to deteriorate. The mini-cons have served the purpose of introducing the fans of this area to each other and it is now up to you to maintain this contact. We will all miss the mini-cons but they are an idea whose time has come and gone. It is time to retire.

Now that Vertigo is coming to a close it is a good time to recognize all those people who contributed to its success over the years. In the early days, before I had my own mimeo, Vertigo went through a succession of printers/publishers who donated their time and energy to keeping us going. This covered everything from doing the typing, art, printing, and mailing to just providing a mimeo that we could run the finished stencils off on. There was no Vertigo #6 (the famous missing number) because of a printing foul-up and more than once we had to switch printers at the last moment because of some problem but these problems are hardly worth mentioning as we are deeply indebted to all those who did this thankless job for us. A round of applause is due our publishers over the years: Randy Williams (#1-4, #7, #11-20), D. Gary Grady (#5), Phil Hawkins (#8), Ray Simone (#9), George Beahn (#10), Scott Whiteside (#21-32), and elm (#33-43). Thanks, fellas.

Over the years Vertigo has been blessed with covers better than it has deserved. We have always tried to showcase local talent and have only on occasion run a cover done by someone out of the area. The local talent came through with flying colors and often came back for more than one appearance. Cover Artists for Vertigo have been: Phil Hawkins (#5, #8, #30, #32, #39), Randy Williams (#7, #12, #13, #14, and backcover #9), Ray Simone (#9, #21), strip reprints (#15, #16, #34), David Kelly (#24), Ed Vance (#25), Clyde Caldwell (#26, #31), Nancy Barker (#27), George Chastain (#28, #36), Charles Vess (#33), Raul Lopez (#35), Alex Nino (#37), Tony Galloway (#38), Robert Bailey (#40, #43), Matt Hale (#41), and Adam Burns (#42). Also special note should go to Randy Williams for the custom logo illustrations he did (#4, #11, #17-20) at the time when we were not running covers. We should also note the fine job he and Phil Hawkins did on interiors in some of the early issues. Issue #9 was a special offset issue and included outstanding interior art by Ray Simone, Randy Williams, Phil Hawkins, and John Baldwin. With people like these doing work for us it is little wonder over the years that we have developed a reputation for fine covers. Thanks.

In recent times I have done all the writing in Vertigo but this has not always been the case. Over the years we have had a number of fine articles, reviews, checklists, etc done by others. I'm not going to list all the outside work done in the text portions of Vertigo but a few do deserve a special mention. Among those who contributed text of note are: Bill Pearce (#9, #13, #32), Clay Kimball (#9), Ray Simone (#9), Ed Smith (#9), Scott Whiteside (#12, #13, #28), Karl Wagner (#15, #16, #26, #28), Richard Hurt (#18), Eric Larsen (#19, #20, #24, #34), and Steve Rowe (#37). Thanks to these and all the others who have contributed to our reading enjoyment over the years.

What have been some of the highlights of the history of Vertigo? The first thing to come to mind is the 30 page autobiography I did in #7, complete with history of the CFF up until that point. Also worth mentioning is #9 in which we tried to be a regular fanzine with reviews, articles, lots of art, and offset printing. Then there would be the pieces that Karl Wagner did for

us. His fans and friends have made each of those issues a sellout and a collectors item. Then there was the memorial issue to James Childress, the creator of the comic strip "Conchy." Beyond these there were any number of issues that are remembered for a particular cover or article but these were the ones that stand out.

This is the last issue of Vertigo and even though one of its major functions will be left unfilled when we are gone we have no plans to revive it at some future date. Vertigo is first and foremost an advertisement for the Durham mini-cons. You can't have one without the other. The other function is to promote area fandom with news, gossip, etc. Unfortunately this is the gap that will be left unfilled. The best alternative is the Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin which covers all the southern states and not just the NC-SC-Va area. The only problem is that since it covers such a large area not much time or space can be devoted to us but that can be fixed by sending all items of local interest to Meade and he will fit in what he can. Dues are \$2 a year to Meade Frierson III, P O Box 9032, Birmingham, Ala 35213. Beyond this it is up to some other area fan to start a regional news zine if anyone feels the need for one. I do not have the inclination to pick up a regular zine to replace the irregular one I've been doing. I can satisfy all my publishing urges by doing Trefoil for K-a and not have to worry about subscriptions, etc. Vertigo has had a long run and has served its dual purposes well but the time has come to put it to rest. Each issue has become a carbon of the one before it and the one before that. After such a long run it can't be much fun for you to continue to read and it has become a chore to write. Very few fanzines can boast our record for durability and it is a record I'm proud of. Having done 43 issues in almost 12 years means that Vertigo has almost become an institution. I dare say we have been around for almost the entire fannish careers of a good many of you. But everything must come to an end sometime and with this issue we will be retiring to the sidelines.

#### OTHER AREA CONS Dept

The listing of other cons will be a bit more general this time because it is the last listing we will be making. If you plan to attend any of the other area cons be sure that the organizers have your current address so they can send you a flyer when it is time to announce their next event. I can't stress this too strongly because many of them do not have big advertising budgets and must depend on word of mouth, flyers, and one or two well placed ads. We won't be around to pass on info on all the area cons so be sure you get in touch with the organizers in your area.

As usual, we are not able to give you advance word on a number of cons. David Luebke (6813 Edmonstone Ave., Richmond, Va 23226) is holding his Comic Book Trade Mart Convention at the Executive Motor Inn on August 17 and it will be over by the time you get this. One of the longest running cons in the area.

Milo Holt and the Old Time Western Film Club are holding a showing at the Siler City (NC) city hall on August 23 and chances you will not get this before then. If you enjoy old B westerns inquire about the date of the next one to Milo Holt, Box 142, Siler City, N. C. 27403.

The 2nd Pembroke Mall Show will be held in Virginia Beach on August 29 & 30 so you still have time for that one. There will be a costume contest with cash prizes. Inquiries may be made to Dave Weaver at Benders, 17 E. Mollen St., Hampton, Va. 23663.



RoVaCon 5 will be held at Northside High School in Roanoke, Va on Oct. 10 & 11. Guest of Honor will be Fred Pohl. Special Guest is Frank Kelly Freas. Also featured are Paul Dellinger, Thomas Atkins, Nelson Bond, R.H.W. Dillard, and Richard Preston. There will be panels, workshops, films, Star Trek episodes & blooper reel, art displays, a costume contest, an amateur fantasy film contest, the RoVaCon Scholarship Awards ceremony, and the dealer room. for more info write RoVaCon, P O Box 117, Salem, Va 24153.

Charlotte mini-cons are often held at the Eastland Mall Community Room so if you are interested in attending an established con in that area be sure to send your name and address to H. Shelton Drum, 2049 East 5th Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28204.

There are also occasional cons in Greenville, N.C. If you would like to get on their mailing list write to Nostalgia Newsstand, 919 Dickinson Ave, Greenville, N.C. 27834.

Another series of cons held in Richmond is put on by Bruce Messick, 5621 Walmsley Blvd, Richmond, Va 23224.

Raleigh Con is held annually at the State Fairgrounds in the spring. If you would like to be on their mailing list for next year drop a line to Russ Garwood, P O Box 5334, Raleigh, N.C. 27650.

Clay may kill me but there are occasionally cons held in the Greensboro and Winston-Salem area and he should be able to pass your name on to the organizers if you write him. Write to Clay Kimball, 212 S. Mendenhall, Greensboro, N.C. 27403.

That just about covers the regular cons in this area. If I missed any I apologize. Remember that the best way to find out about the dates of cons you want to attend is to write the organizers and get put on their mailing list. It is a lot easier than hoping you see an ad they may or may not put in TBG.

#### FOLKS AROUND HERE AND ELSEWHERE Dept

Spectator (an area giveaway paper) had in its May 28-June 3, 1980 issue a long interview with Karl Edward Wagner. Perhaps interview is the wrong term as Karl did all of the talking after a brief intro. One of the better pieces I've seen. According to the piece upcoming stories include ".220 Swift" in NEW TERRORS, a British anthology edited by Ramsey Campbell. Also due is "Where the Summer Ends" in DARK FORCES, Kirby McCaulie's anthology due out from Viking in August. He also has IN A LONELY PLACE, a collection of modern horror stories, due out sometime from Warner. A novelette called "On the River of Nights' Dreaming" is due to appear in the WHISPERS 3 anthology edited by Stuart Schiff and scheduled for next spring by Doubleday. The next Carcosa book is LONELY VIGIL by Manly Wade Wellman. It is a collection of his occult detective series characters. . . David Drake has changed jobs to allow himself to devote more time to writing. Currently he is working on a long historical novel that will include, among other goodies, pirates (tho he tells me he hasn't gotten to that part yet). Between this and THE DRAGON LORD he hasn't been doing much short fiction recently tho I believe he still has a couple of stories on inventory at Destinies and has just finished the research on a time safari story. (I hope I didn't mess up this time, Dave.) . . . Ralph Roberts is another of our rising young authors. He had "A Sailor's Delight" in the May issue of Isaac Asimov's and has "Oh The Things Those Galazies Say" coming up in a future issue. He has also had numerous other sales of stories and articles. He can be reached at P O Box 8549, Asheville, NC 28814. . . COA Capt. Bill Starnes, P O Box 5207, Ft. Hood, Texas 76544. .

THE YEAR'S BEST HORROR STORIES: SERIES VIII is the first Karl Wagner edited volume and is out from DAW (#393). . . Karl continues to have a bimonthly col in Fantasy Newsletter (\$12/year from Paul C. Allen, 1015 W. 36th Street, Loveland, Colo. 80537. . . J.R. Sams of Pleiades, Inc. (10 Ben Lippen Road, Asheville, NC 28806) reports that he is taking over Datmannia from Richard Morrissey and is looking for writers & artists. Earlier reports had Ward O. Datty of Atlanta taking over the zine but apparently nothing came of that. . . The Comic Strip News is due to start on August 25 and will be a weekly comic strip paper. Current strips include Conan, Dick Tracy, Hulk, Modesty Blaise, Rip Kirby, Spider-Man, and Steve Canyon. Reprints are Buz Sawyer, LOA, Terry & the Pirates, Secret Agent Corrigan, and Wonder Woman. Sample is \$2 or a 13 week sub is \$24 from Quality Comic Art Productions, 20 Burke Dr - Dept TJ, Buffalo, New York 14215. . . Chapters is a monthly comic strip reprint paper now in its third issue. They are running On Stage, Alley Oop, and Buz Sawyer from the beginning as well as Terry & the Pirates, Modesty Blaise, Johnny Hazard, LOA, Thimble Theater, Wonder Woman, Gordo, and Tarzan. Also featured is the unpublished Lester Dent novel "The Flame Horror!!" Subs are \$10/12 issues from Chapters, 4 Brattle St, Rm. 306, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. . . At last report Carl Oliver had recovered well from his open heart surgery & was even talking about coming to the mini-con. We all wish him well whether he makes it or not. He is an old friend and we have all been thinking of him. . . COA Eric & Jamie Larsen, 6409 Secret Dr, Raleigh, NC 27612. . . D. Gary Grady, 817-D N. Buchanan Blvd, Durham, N.C. 27701. . . A WEALTH OF FABLE is still available from Joe Siclari (4599 N.W. 5th Avenue, Boca Raton, Fla 33431) for \$10 for the 3 mimeographed volumes. This is the Harry Warner history of s-f fandom in the 1950s. Highly recommended. And thanks to Harry for his LOCs over the years even tho we seldom managed to print them. They were appreciated. . . And so the final issue of Vertigo comes to an end. I hope we don't lose contact with all of you just because the mini-cons, the CFF, and Vertigo are ending. We still hope to see most of you at the other area cons. Farewell.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL