



VERTIGO #21 is the 20th issue of the Official Organ of the Carolina Fan Federation. This issue is to promote the April 7, 1974 Durham mini-con. Editor, typosottor: Edwin L. Murray, 2540 Chapel Hill Rd, Durham, NC 27707. Publisher, staff artist: Randy Williams, 424 Montrose, Apt C, Greensboro, N.C. 27407. Cover artist: Ray Simone, 1503 W. Pettigrew St., Durham, N.C. Price: 35¢ For directions call: (919) 489-6239. This issue published March 23, 1974.

#### under the clm tree

## THIS ISH Dopt.

As you can tell, this issue is a bit different from the past few. For one thing we are graced with a Ray Simone cover for the first time since #9. Ray is a professional artist and we appreciate his taking the time from his very busy schedule to do this cover for us. You book publishers in the audience might consider him when you are looking for an artist for your next book. A hearty welcome to those of you joining us for the first time as a result of the generous mention by Don & Maggie Thompson in "Beautiful Balloons" in TBG #53. VENTIGO #20 had a lower print run than usual so all new orders were delayed until this issue. I hope the wait was worthwhile. The feature article this issue was stolen from the fine foreign strip KALEIDOSCOPE because of its obvious interest to comics fans.

### ONCL AGAIN Dept

Durhan mini-con XXIII will be held on Sunday April 7, 1974 at the old same place, 2540 Chapel Hill Road. No special program is planne (as usual) so there will be plenty of time for buying/selling, talking, tracing, etc. There will be some refreshments but no luncheon. We couldn't get Heinlein as a guest speaker so plans were cancelled for the banquet. These of you so inclined will find a Hardee's within walking distance. There is no admission charge but donations to help cover VERTIGO, refreshments, and official pictures are welcome. Anyone needing directions should call (919) 489-6239.

# Gin SHORTIGE REVISITED Dopt

At the last mini-con we had a sheet for people to sign to let us know how the gas shortage would affect Sunday mini-cons. There was some question as to whether the Spring & Summer cons should be hoved to Saturday to aid those traveling great distances. Nobody seemel to take the question seriously and the result was indecisive. Nober'v did more than check their choice (Saturday or Sunday) rather than sig o there was b llot box stuffing and the write-in of Feb. 29 won. A undance was not down very much last time so the decision was made to keep the con on Sunday. At this moment nobody is sure what the Sunday gas situation will be around the state so you will have to take your chances. These coming down from Virginia on I-85 should be able to get gas at the Gulf station next the South Hill, Va Holiday Inn. For others I suggest that you go by your local Holiday Inn and inquire about the gas situation in one or more cities in route to Durham. Holiday Inn has a new service that will tell you whether gas is available within 5 miles of a given Inn, whether there are limitations, whether it is available after 6 PM or on Sunday. These four yes-or-no questions should help you some in planning your trip. Unless things change in the next two weeks there will be no gas in Durham on Sunday.

#### LAST GO KOUND Dont

Durham mini-con XXII was held at the same old vault on January 27, 1974 and drew around 60 people in spite of the worsening gas situation. The highlight of the con we the arrival of Karl Vagner & Hanly tode Wollman with the newly published WORSE THINGS MAITING. Stuart Schiff was there with the new issue of WHISPERS. Jay Casper was there with his newly publed fenzine PERIGLE. The lost & found dept collected a folding table left by Tag Gibson & the Norfolk crowd. Among these in attendance were: Betty Stinson, Scott & Linda Whiteside, Tag Gibson, Ton Willians, David Kelly, Bill Stornes, George Whitaker, Pat Gebriele, Jay Casper, M C Goodwin, Paul Harwitz, George Di Fornando, Poter Hirschnan, Mile Bloukarn, Dano Johnsoundo, Robert Rubin, Elf Blackwell, York Phelps, Cley Kinball, Jerry & Richard & Mildred Minter, Barbara Matt, Steve Massey, Walter Harpor, Ray Kondrick, Karl Wagner, Kent Phelps, Mark & Alan Upchurch, John Squares, Greg Drapos, Dave Drake, Jin Greec, Stuart Lehiff, Den Brown, Steve Furner, Ray Simone, Tony Frazier, Steve Hoffius, Lois Ball, Milton Real, Bric Forguson, Bruce D. Arthurs, Elaine White, George Borha, Jacquelyn Kelly Frees, Tim C. Marion, Med Brooks, Eric Larson, Bill Honovec, Monyn Coughlan, Jinay & Sharon Wade, James Hubbard, Tim Blenkarn, Clai Smisson, John Allison, Norman Hunter, Yanco Parrish, Terry & ela. Apologies to those people who had their names mutilated in this list. Schetings reading the sign-in sheet isn't the easiest thing I do to but together an issue of VERTIGO.

## FOLKS AROUND MERE Dept

Some changes of address for area fans are: Claiborne Smisson, P O Box 10082, Raleigh, N. Car. 27605. Guy H. Lillian III, c/o Hational Periodicals, 75 kockefeller Plaza, NYC 10019. Pat Gabriele, 3320 Chesapeako Blvd., Norfolk, Va (at last notice), J03 D Gary Grady, Box 25 . MTS, FFO New York, NY 09571. . . We need current addresses for the envire Wilhington, NG crowd. . . The Menomoneo Falls Guardian had an interview with Dick Moores by James Childress in #31 and a CTMYNS promo articl. on Moores in #37. "Gasoline Alley" was added to the Guardian line-up with #37 to give them a decided NC look. The Guardian carries "Cenchy," "Gasoline Alley," and (overy other issue) "Boon Dock" (by Charlotte Observer artist George Freisacher. The article on Dick Moores from VIATICO #16 (based largely on the promo piece) was reprinted in The Stripper #4. . . A Norfolk mini-con was held on Feb 17 at 3320 Chesapeake Elvd. Unfortunately we were not able to attend due to a tight work schedule and a gas strike in KorTolk. I understand that future mini-cons may be planned so if you are interested in attending one get in touch with Pat Galriele or Tag Gibson. The con was sponsored by Dixieland Fandon. . . . MHISHELS #2 is cut from Stuart David Schiff ( 5508 Dodge Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303) and costs \$1.50 per copy or \$5.50 for four issues. #2 is an outst nding issue with stories by Dave Droke ("The Song of the Bone") and Fritz Leiber ("The Bait" a Fafhrd & Gray Meuser episode), articles by Fritz Leiber ("About Gather, Darkness! and Conjure Vife") and Manly Vade Vellman ("The Vempire in America"), and book reviews by Leiber, Dave Dreke, and Stuart Schiff. There are several other features also. If you are into the Arkham House/Weird Tales type of fiction this is a must iten. It also has much news of the limited edition scene. . . PELICEE is a fanzine from Jay Caspor (4900 Nostgrove Rd, Virginia Beach, Va 23455) that is worth the \$1.50 price tag. First and foremost is a cover painting and discussion with Frank Kelly Freas, six time Luge winning artist. The discussion is illustrated with preliminary sketches from his notobooks.

Als. in the issue are an interview with D.C. artist Dan Green, a one page strip by Va. artist Grog Spagnola, and a folia of art by Dick Calkins, Wally Wood, Donnis Fujitake, and Roy Krenkel. . . Noted fan/pr artist Clyde Caldwell lives in NC and works in the Greative Services Dept of the Charlotte News/Observer. You will probably remember his work from several issues of ThE JISOOMIAN but did you know that he had a 25-piece art display at the Creation Comic Con in January? It appears that NC is a haven for talented artists. . . CULLOWHEE COMMENTS #1 is an s-f f nzine put out by Richard Llewellyn (Box 9201 Leetherwood, Cullowhee, FC 28723) and William Wilson Goodson, Jr (Box 9118 Leatherwood). Included are editorials, book & fenzine reviews, and a stray article or two. In interesting zine now in its first issue. , . Those of you interested in things along the line of the Suciety for Creative Anachronian should try SOUTHLING from Irvin Koch (c/o 835 Chattanooga Bank Building, Chatanooga, Tonn. 37402). SOUTHWING will be an UNofficial Anachronist type zire for those interested parties in a 10 state southern area (including NC). A sub is \$2,50 for 6 issues and issues will contain articles on news of area importance. The first couple issues will be combined with Irvin's MAYDL, Worlds of Fandon. I know that several of you have expressed an interest in this field so write to Irvin for more infe. . . LOCOMOTIVE "3 (Erott Cox, Box 542, Tabor City, NC 28463) is an s-f fanzino devoted to letters of conment. Price is 25¢ or an LOG. . . GODLESS is an s-f fanzine cdited by Sr4 Bruce D. Arthurs, 527-98-3103, 57th Trans Co, Fort Lee, Va. 23801. It includes articles, letters, art, etc and is available for 35¢ or the usual. . . Those of you who have some some of relinal identity are reminded that the Southern Fandom Confederation is a club premeting fandom (especially e-f fandom) in the South and is well worth the 1.00 dues to join. Several times a year Meade Frierson (P O Box 9032, Birmingham, Ala 35213) sonds out the SFC Bulletin to update inf. on arc clubs, fenzines, cons, publishers, and fannish happenings. The LFC also publishes a rester including quite a number of the addresses of active Southern fans. If you would like to get in touch with other 2 uthern fans (in or out of NC) this is the group for you. They have also jut out The Southern Fandon Handbook which consolid tes quite a bit of info about famish life in this area. Included are brief histories of the Carolina Fan Fodoration and the Handless Order of Rilych (Ralcith). Dues cover the period between DeepSouthCons (held in August) and bring you quite a batch of stuff. . . You know you have reached the big time when there is a finzine published devoted to you and/or your work. Karl Vacher has re ched the big time with MIDNIGHT SUN. This fenzine is published by Gary Hoppenstand (2014 Machenzic Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43220) and is due shortly. This is the one we have been hinting about for some time. Included are art by John Mayer (who illustrated both of Karl's Kane books), hay Capella, Lee Brown C.ye; two new Mane novelettes; a collaloration between Karl & Dave Drake; an unedited segment of D.A. PLSS WILVES (the first Kane book); an article about Karl & Kane by Manly Wade Wellman (that is a switch); and other features. The price is §3.50 and the print run is only 500 copies. The first acvertisement for mILLIGHT SUM appeared in KB-CC #108. As I said, you join the big time when a fanzine is published devoted to you or your work (especially if you don't jublish it yourself). Just ask Lin Carter where the fanzine devoted to Thenger is. (Private joke.) It couldn't happen to a nicer ay. . . JAN IN INDIA by Otis Adelbert Kline is now out from Fictioneer Books, Ltd in pape back for \$3.50. It is a very handsone book and a worthy successor to This VULTURES by HER, their first and new out of print Look. Order from Fictioncer Dooks, Ltd, Lakemont, Ga 30552 and editor David Anthony Kraft.

FOR STRIFFERS ONLY Dept

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The big comic strip news this time is the debute of "Gahan Wilson Sunday Comics" on March 3, 1974. Among the papers carrying this new and unique strip are the Washington Post, the Baltimere Sun, the Miami Herald, and the Nasheville Tennessean. The strip is drawn for the third page format with five separate gags. It can be cut for smaller sizes by dropping one or two of the gags. The syndicate with the forcsight to bring weird humor to Sunday mornings is the kegister and Tribune Syndicate. They seem to feel that it will be a trend-setter and lead to imitations in much the same way that Deenesbury has fostered imitation. An article on the strip appeared almost before it cane out in ChATOORIST FhOfiles #21.

I hate to gloat (not really) but it appears that the kind gentlemen at Street Enterprises have been paying some attention to what I have been stying in VallieO. The Guardian just added both "Gasoline Alley" and "Gordo," both of which I have been campaigning for on these pages. They won't be sorry because both strips are sure to add to their line-up rather than detract from it. "Sally Bananas" was dropped by the syndicate and was promptly replaced by "Gasoline Alley." "Konco Brown" was dropped by MFC-2 for financial reasons (too expensive) and was replaced by "Gordo." "Beyond Mars," mentioned here last issue, was checked out by MFG and found to be far too cestly to use. CTNYNK dropped "Friday Foster" with no warning and should soon be replaced in MFG by "Apartment 3-G" if things go well. Here is hoping that "Capt. Kate" reprints will some day 's added to MFG. A sample of the strip was run recently. Other than this I won't push my luck by pushing any strip for inclusion in either paper.

"Little Orphan Annie" is due to go reprint on April 22, 1974 but no announcement has been made yet as to when the reprints will cone from. Anything would have to be better then the current strip, which is to be one of the worst strips over published. The art on the current strip is completely without redeching qualities and I dare say that the worst fan artist for the worst crudzine could do better. My vete is in for dropping the strip entirely.

One bit of bad news is that FROENIX has not been heard from since the second issue. It is supposed to be bi-weekly but it has already been a couple of months between issues. It is about time the publisher put out another ad to tell his poor subscribers why they haven't getten any goods for their money. It was expensive to begin with and should be trying harder to put out a better product.

VINT.GL FUNNIES and Alan Light continue their familiar role as the black sheep of the strip famile scene. King Features reniged on their contract and forced VF to drop Mandrake, Brick Bradford, Phanton, Tim Tyler's Luck, and Thimble Theatre. This was right after VF had expanded from 16 to 20 pages and raised their price. The dropping of the strips was out of their hands and could not be helped but we fans should complain that VF has not replaced four of the strips and has kept the increased sub rates. They replaced one of the strips with "He" by EhB & Hal Foster (Tarzan Sundays with all mention of Tarzan carefully cut out) but this is not enough. If they could afford to expand before they should still be able to afford four extra pages for our money. What happened to "Li"1 Abner" then the other strips were dropped? Why haven't some of the strips from FAVORITE FURNIES been added to VF? The best strips in FF were Alley Oop and then Worlds Collide (Speed Spaulding) but they did not survive the switch. What happened to SKYMLSTERS, the Kirby & Wood strip heavily advertised as being added to VF? Was this just another Alan

Light stunt to trick fans out of their money? Outside of fanden this is known as bait and switch or false advertising and is against all good Lusiness practices. Alan Light is letting hinself in for a hell of a lot of bad feelings by not having any editorial material in VF where he can explain why he doesn't deliver what he premises. The MFC deesn't always deliver either but with them everything is above board and we are told why a preaised strip does not appear. Between a renewal and sub switched from FF I now have about 70 or 80 issues to go on my VF sub so I will be reading it for some time. Here is hoping that Alan Light will mend his ways and play things straight with his public. Until then I know a lot of us won't order cnything he advertises until we either see a copy or see it reviewed by a responsible individual. VF deesn't need the advertising tricks to sell it as it has three strips that make it worth the price. Dick Tracy, Terry & the Pirates, and Mickey Mouse daily reprints are enough to make any paper when they are from the right periods. I have gone out of my way before not to be too harsh with Alan Li ht in print but there is only so much I can take.

BULLDOG (Steve Kristiansen, 6216 185th Pl. SW, Lynnwood, Mach. 98036) has shifted from an adzine with ne ads to an ad and article zine for the conic strip collector. The first new format issue was #4 and included several very interesting pieces/columns on strips and collecting. It deserves your support just as much as over and should get even better. The new sub rate is four issues for \$1.00 and is still a good bargain.

ThE STRIPPER is the other major comic strip oriented familie and continues to have informative articles on the carly days of various comic strips and ads. Diljo White (P O Box 440, Columbia, Me. 65201) puts it out so you know it has to be a labor of love and well worth jutting. Copies are 50% each and an issue sells out fairly quickly so it is best to order in advance. I hate to think about how much money I have spont on strips advertised in THE STRIPPER. It seems like I send Diljo a week's pay every month or so.

If you don't think Washington state is trying to take over the comic strip fundom leadership just look at Quintessence Publications (F O Low 5246, Spokane, Washington 99205). They are putting out reprint booklets of Phantom deilies (41.50), Secret Agent Corrigan (750), and Alley Oop (750). There must be more reprint projects in the wings so keep an eye on these folks for strips that don't make it to one of the other papers.

You know Sunday strips are in trouble when you see the way strips like Funky Minkerbean are set up. It starts out as a third with a long the title strip/panel. For the fake half tab the title panel (2/3 of the top line) is dropped and the remaining panels rearranged. It is also set up for 1/6 page by just dropping the top line entirely.

#### LIBRGELCY Dept

Due to changes in his work schedule Randy Williams was unable to print this issue after all and a last second shift was made to get feett Whiteside to run the issue off. Many thanks to Scott for his last minute rescue.

#### NEWS Dopt

SAVAGE TALLS #5 will be the last issue with Conan and will co-star Ka-Zar that issue. After that Ka-Zar will be the star of the conic. In June Giant-Size Conan #1 will appear with an adaptation of "hour of the Dragon." After that there may also be a \$1.84-page book titled THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN which will pick up where Savage Tales #2-5 left off.

((KALLIDOSCOPE is a factual strip of international origins (c PIB Copenhagen) that covers everything from history and science to biography. The format is like something out of the past. Like the old Tarian deilies, it has a paragraph at the bottom with several illos from the text above it. The format is also used by Prince Valiant. The material covered varies widely and is always interesting. One of my favorite sequences was the ten day series on "The Modern Robin Hood." The training of this real life criminal is almost identical to that which Bruce Wayne underwent. Not only this but he had a secret identity of serts. Hugo Breitenwisser was a super-crock who would have fit casily into the Batman comic. At the risk of being sued by someone from Copenhagen I'll relay the story of this "Batman of Crime" just as it appeared in the strip.))

Hugo Breitenwisser of Vienna, during the period up to the First World War, proved to the world that even coming from the best family and under the best of conditions during adolescence, it doesn't stop a man from being a criminal. Good-looking and presentable, Hugo was sent by his father to the university at Vienna to be an engineer. His professor considered that he would go far. He diligently studied such subjects as the composition of metals and their strength, the production of bolts, screws, locks and safes. He took a course in the use of cutting blowpipes, he learned boxing, wrestling, judo and criminology. What was he aiming at?

At the weekends Breitenwisser the student wet out into the country always alone and always with a case full of home-made tools. From a carefully chosen village inn he went out at midnight and slipped away to an office or a villa he had chosen during the day, to try out his newly acquired skill in practice. Before entering the building he disconnected the burglar alarm, then once inside he quickly opened the safe, but he never touched anything inside. When he was 21 years old and was an orgineer, he told his parents that the was going to America, but eight days later he was back in Vienna, where he lodged in a cellar and allowed his beard to grow.

In his hiding-place Breitenwisser continued his studies. He read constantly (criminology and politics) and decided to be an anarchist. He would take from the rich and - just like Robin Hood - give to the poor among when he lived. There was plenty of poverty and misery in Vienna at this time. Thousands wakened on Christmas morning without a bucket of coal to burn on their fires, and the fuel merchants kept the prices up. Two days before Christmas an elegant young man stood in front of one of the worst of the profiteers and handed him a list of addresses of 1,000 of the poerest people in the city, and ordered that a hectoliter of coal be delivered to each of them before Christmas Day, from an anonynous benefactor. "That'll cost quite a lot of money," said the merchant. "I didn't ask you what it would cost," replied the young man, as he counted out the money.

The norchant inmediately arranged for the coal to be delivered to the poor people, and as the banks had already closed, he put the large sun of money into his safe and left the office, while thousands of families had a pleasant surprise when the coal arrived from the anonymous benefactor. Next morning the coal merchant discovered his safe open and the mency missing. The newspapers had magnificent headlines: "Anonymous fift to thousands of people" and "Anonymous theft at the anonymous giver's supplier." But they didn't connect the two events until they received an anonymous letter: "I have only taken my own money from the merchant Metz, plus 10% for the blood he has sucked from others. (Signed ) Robin Hood." From that time on there was a burglary on a large scale at least once a week often carried out in a completely new method bearing the hallmark of genius. The police were helpless and had to be satisfied with the fact that after each burglary a considerable number of poor people received sums of money from an anonymous person. After a while it was obvious that the burglaries were carried out by one man - the famous "Robin heed" of the coal merchant episode. And as they couldn't discover his hiding place, they decided to tempt him to come out of hiding.

As a decoy the police chose a Viennese butcher, who supplied neat to the army. Through paragraphs in the newspapers he was suddenly made "the man of the moment." Whenever they went his wife and daughter always wore a plentiful supply of jewelry, while his big house was always in total darkness by midnight. One might there was a faint sound on the first floor of the butcher's house. The lights were lit and four policemen advanced towards the young man, who was knocling in front of the safe: Breitenwisser. He immediately shot out the lights and exchanging shots as he ran (one policeman was killed), he made his way in the dark to the window - and a rope dangling cutside. But three policemen waited for him at the bottom of the rope, and fifteen minutes later he sat in a prison coll.

Next night Breitenwisser asked his good-natured warder to bring to his cell all Vienna's newspapers containing reports of his arrest, and for hours - apparently he studied them. Every fifteen minutes the warder inspected the cell, but in the intervals the prisoner sawed through one of the bars covering the window with a steel saw blade, which he and hidden in the sole of his shoe. Finally he pulled out the iron bar, and when the warder came into the cell to fetch the pile of newspapers, Breitenwisser felled him to the ground with the bar, placed him in his bed and taking the nam's keys, made his escape. For three days he his in a ventilation shaft before leaving the prison grounds. Three days later the First World War brokelout, and Vienna's police forget about Breitenwisser until.

In the greatly diminished Austrian kingdom after the First World War, many of the social climbers had more than doubled their fortunes, and among them was the butcher, Schwarz, when the police had used as a doery fur years carlier. One day in a restaurant he not an attractive cavelry officer, who introduced himself as Count von Richard. The butcher considered it a great honour to stand treat for his new acquaintance, and was colighted when the "Count" accepted his invitation to visit him. During the following two weeks the "Count" was the butcher's constant companion and social adviser. One day he suggested to Schwarz that to consolidate his position he should give a party with music and champagne, where all the guests should wear costumes. On the evening of the party the guests were sparkling with jewelry. Hr. Schwarz stood at his zenith.

Later that night; when the party was at its height and the guests were making merry, the "C unt" suggested to Schwarz that: "To avoid any unpleasantness in such a crowd, you suggest to the wealthiest of your guests that their valuable jewels will be safer in your safe, until it's time for then to go." The guests thought it would be a wise procaution and placed a hatful of pearls and diamonds in Schwarz's safe in his bedroom. Later on the "Count" was so drunk that he had to lie down - in the bedroom. Meen it was time for the guests to leave, they discovered that Schwarz's safe was empty, and the "Count" had disappeared with the jewels and about 100,000 dollars in ready cash. It was not until a newspaper remembered the part Schwarz had played as a decoy for Robin Hood, that it was remembered that the "Count" had been dressed in a green hunting outfit with a feather in his hat - once again Robin Hood had struck.

Throughout two years the police sought in vain for "kebin Hood," alias "Count von Richard," alias Engineer Ereitenwisser. One day they received a tip that a stranger, who lived alone in a house at a tiny village about 20 miles from Vienna only engaged in reading, hebby work in the cellar and lonely cycle rides. A small force of police, dressed as Austrian mountain climbers, went out there and surrounded the house. Suddenly the stranger appeared in front of the house on a cycle. It is not known who fired the first shot, but within a minute Breitenwisser, together with a couple of the policemen, lay on the ground, rideled with bullets. In the cellar the surviving policemen found a complete instrument maker's workshop, filled with new, ingenious burglar's tools. The Viennese police rightly classified him as "the burglar's Edison."

Something cane up and Scott Whiteside was unable to print this issue of VERTIGO after all so Randy Villians is printing it after all. That is why this issue is especially late. . . Curtis Dooks has been discontinued. . Sen Moskowitz is out as WEILD TILLS editor. . .Jenes Been is the new editor of IF and GALAAY. . . THE SOURD OF A SEVIEL is a new Ellison novel we from Signet in Dec. . . Alan Dean Fester does a series of Star Trek cartoon adaptations for Ballantine Books. . . Alox Teth has a Datman story, a Plop story, a horror story for Orlando, and a story for Gray Morrow's "Sorcery" conic coming up. . . Kull, Sub-Mariner, and torlds Unknown are dropped. . . The first Marvel 100 paper will be Super-Giant Spider-Man featuring a Spidey & Bracula story. Other 100 pagers will be Avengers & Conan. . . Duathlok in Astonishin, Teles; The Goles in Strange Teles; and Hen Welf at LC to return to Warren. Schwartz takes Lotective Comies Leck. . Mirly books coming up are OMAC (One Man Army Corps) and The Dingbats. . . C & Ecck to write & draw some Capt Marvel stories. . .

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