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WESTERN NEW YORK POPULAR CULTURE SOCIETY

Full Membership: \$15.00 entitles you to 10 monthly meetings held at The Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society Building (the second tuesday of every

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month, excluding July and August, our traditional summer break), 12 issues of our monthly newsletter, plus an annual. Since we are affiliated with the society, your membership includes a card-carrying standing in the B&ECHS itself.

Out-of-Town Nembership: \$10.00 per year gets you a subscription to the newsletter & annual, plus any other mailings to regular members. This offer does not entitle one to attend monthly meetings.

Back Issues: All are \$1.00 each postpaid, with the exception of this issue(\$2.00 postpaid). See full-page advertisement on the inside back cover.

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it seemed like a good idea at the time

It doesn't anymore. Seriously though, the prospect of working side-by-side with the great one(rotundius maximus) has been something I've looked forward to for a long time. Mr. Seeley was the original

Mr. Seeley was the original editor of our newsletter(#1-25), and is largely responsible for this "meeting of the minds" as it were. Jherefore, if it rots, blame him.

Actually, the purpose of all this is to acquaint those of you who are not familiar with WMYPCS to the goings on of our club. And, we want your money.

Stater, Ingut

It does too.

Once the initial difficulties of adjusting to one another's editorial idiosyncrosies are overcome, it's semi-enjoyable. 3t's certainly a plus for the SP to be both double-sized and classily type-written this issue, for which we have to thank the WNYPCS and Wir. Becker. Or his typewriter, anyway. If any generous OJRC member would care to donate an Olivetti Lexikon 82 to the club....

This issue should provide OTRC members a look at how the other half lives, an almost nostalgic look, since the OTRC was first brought together at a WMINPCS meeting. Enjoy it.

Chuck Seeley -Editor, SP

by Gil Kane & Ron Goulart

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STAR HAWKS

THE DATE WORDS OF THEIR INFORMANT HAVE LED THE STAR HAVING TO...





by Richard "Doc" Hurst

Sr. Richard M. Hurst, Curator of Resources at the B&CCHS, founded the WMYPCS in 1974. He was the driving force behind the current Pop Culture Exhibit at the B&CCHS, entitled "How We Entertained Ourselves". Doc Hurst has been a steady contributor to SMguM since its early days, with his long-running study of violence in the media. He is currently engaged in preparing his massive history of Republic Studios for publication this year.

The final three chapters of "The Masked Marvel" were shown at last month's to thunderous applause and crys of encore and more! However, we have no immediate plans to begin another serial in the near future. The programs for the next few months are already established and good ones they are, but chapterplays. That means that this column has no clearly defined topic and I am once again free to range afield for my remarks. Not that the title of this column ever would restrain me from meandering!

In any case, it is the beginning of a new year(at least at the time this is written). What better time to reflect on our accomplishments in 1978 and perhaps pat ourselves on the back where possible? A glorified annual report, so to speak. Our regular monthly meetings came off without a hitch. We meet more frequently, with a greater variety of programs, and with less preliminary preparations and special arrangements than any other affiliate of the Historical Society. We began the year with "The Quiet Man", ended with a multi-media tribute to Superman in conjunction with the movie opening, and in between were exposed to such topics as Garbo, "Mickey One", a roundtable on violence, a slide presentation on Buffalo radio, an updated talk on WNY streetcars, the

successors of Kong, and a stuntmen tribute among others. Variety is indeed our trademark.

Our monthly newsletter remains on schedule, and continues to be a competently produced periodical. Not that it doesn't have its occasional controversies or areas of difficulty. However, controversy within limits stimulates discussion and many of the problem areas such as small print are being, or have been dealt with by your conscientious and perceptive editor. In fact, the newsletter has shown steady improvement from issue one (alright ...



with occasional falterings) and there is no reason why the upward trend can't continue indefinitely. The annual journal this year switched from predominantly non-fiction articles to fiction pieces in a pulp magazine format. It was an interesting experiment and we are all looking forward to seeing what approach the editor will take in volume four.

In addition to our regular dependable monthly meetings and publications, the WNYPCS again ventured into the area of special events. In 1978, we were not satisfied with just one; we undertook three special activities, and each was a success. The second annual Popular Culture Flea Market, held in the summer, was even more successful than the first, according to some of the participants. And this must be going some, since it rained the day of the first annual market, people were inside, sales were brisk, and the dealers didn't want to quit at closing time, as I recall. The second market had sunny weather but continued good sales, I gather. ((The second annual flea market was a much greater success for the club than was the first. No brag, just fact... Cds.))

In late June the WNYPCS co-sponsored, with the Historical Society and the Irish Secret Society at Buffalo. a Sherlock Holmes workshop. Although only two of our membership were directly involved, it was a three day event, national in scope (international if you consider Canadian participation), and one of the best organized and run Holmes workshops yet, according to the faculty. Not only was it a feather in our cap as far as an enlarged program, it actually brought some money into our coffers



since the co-sponsoring groups shared in the proceeds.

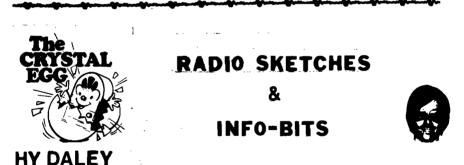
Finally, and perhaps most important in terms of prestige and proving we can accomplish things, the WNYPCS was the recipient of a grant from the Arts Development Service Inc. Regrant Program of the New York State Council on the Arts and the City of Buffalo for the support of an exhibit on Popular Culture in American history. Since the exhibit was already written up in a prior column I won't go into detail on its content here, but will say that it is one of the most colorful and entertaining that the Historical Society has had in a long while.

Entitled "Popular Culture in America--How We Entertained Ourselves," the exhibit, in the form of a panel show with three dimensional objects, will be at the Historical Society (which co-sponsored the project) until April, when it will be converted to an all-panel traveling exhibit for use throughout Western New York. We possibly could have done it better and there are those areas which I would like to improve but the fact remains that it is a very successful exhibit as it stands. The opening attracted twice as many patrons as expected, the media coverage has been great and continues beyond opening week, and the floor guards tell me that people "stay with the exhibit, follow it through, and pay attention to the whole thing." Which means, I hope, that they are not just enjoying the colorful and nostalgic pictures, they are also read-

ing the labels and thinking a little about popular culture. The six consultants, Brad Becker, Kean Crowe, Gary Evans, Frank Hoffmann, Milt Plesur, and Chuck Seeley, the Historical Society exhibits curator, Kristin Keough, the preparator, Bodo Foitzik, and Wilma Bertling who organized the opening, as well as other contributors, staff and members alike, are to be congratulated on a job well done. In fact, a projected book on popular culture in museums and libraries has expressed interest in an article on this project--popular culture is not normally emphasized in a regional museum--and your indefatigable columnist (and masochist par excellance) has undertaken to provide this article. Besides, the article will serve as 90% of the final narrative report on the grant. The publicity certainly won't hurt us.

Our membership has increased by six in the last few months, we've been approached for a radio appearance, and our coffee fund even added a small sum to our meager account. All in all, it's been a productive, positive year. I keep thinking I've left out something important but as I look over the preceding essay, I'd say we've done quite well for a small group.

No one can say the organization isn't alive. Now I just wish we could get the majority of the membership involved. We can't depend on the same six to a dozen people to run the group continually nor should we want to do so. This Society has a good cross-section of popular culture advocates, from the hardcore fans to the academics to the passive nostalgia buffs. In 1979, let's hope that members representing all viewqoints become actively committed to making the WNYPCS even more successful and involved in the community.



Hy Jaley is a man of many parts: high school teacher, sports writer, house painter, track and cross-country coach, science fiction writer, father, husband, transcription restorer, film hobbyist, and a few other things that can't be mentioned here. Hy has been a regular contributor to the OJRC publications since 1976 and is also doing a regular column for Kastlemusich Monthly Bulletin.

The ZIV radio series, BOSTON BLACKIE, starring Richard Kollmar as Blackie, Jan Miner as Mary, and Frank Orth as the inefficient Inspector Faraday, ran a whopping 220 shows, starting in 1945 and syndicated into the Fifties and Sixties.

True, the show was hardly on a par with Sam Spade or Nick Carter, but I find Blackie interesting because he's a down-to-earth person with no gimmicks, no shrewd assumptions, just a swift wit, a fast tongue, and luck. He makes no bones about being a low life. Some of his remarks to Faraday show Blackie as he really is--an adolescent in gumshoes. Maybe that is why kids like Blackie: he thinks like *they do*! I've listed the Blackie shows of the ZIV series that I have personal-

I've listed the Blackie shows of the ZIV series that I have personally heard. The titles are my own since the shows had no titles (only numbers) and since I discovered the shows--what the heck!--let me name them.

(continued on page 8)



#3 Wentworth Diamond Caper #4 John Walters Case #5 Cover-up for Mars #6 William Blaine Case #9 Mrs. Boston Blackie #10 Oscar Wolfe Case #11 Sam Bellows Case #12 Larry Brown Case #13 Blackie Jilts Mary #14 Worthington Pearls #15 Blackie's Car Kills Wealthy Woman #93 On the Trail of Jim Gary #16 \$50,000 Stolen #17 Body on a Boat #18 Hynotic Killer

 #18 Hynotic Klifer
 #19 Evelyn Jones Nurder
 #96 Sing A Song of Ex-cons

 #20 Blackie Steals Necklace for Charity
 #99 The \$10,000 Dive

 #23 Forgerv Murder
 #100 Stolen Cars & the Boys' Club

 #24 Fred Arlin Case #25 Westfield Diamonds #26 Diamond Bracelet Copy #27 Boxer Murder #28 Richard's Diamond #29 Mary Disappears #30 Amnesia Case #31 Murder in the Music Room #32 Blackie's Kidnapped #33 2lst Floor Case #34 Williams' Pearl Necklace #35 Murder in the Movies #35 Murder in one#36 Poisoned on TV#37 Masters' Diamond#114 Donald carver#38 The Sword Swallower#115 Death in Blackie's Pad#41 Disappearing Body#116 The Smuggled Woolens#42 The Inheritance Case#117 Death Comes for the#43 Brandon Jewel Robbery#146 The Smuggled Woolens#44 Ransom for Marjorie Congdon118 Construction Gang Robbery#44 Ransom for Marjorie Congdon118 Construction Gang Robbery#44 Ransom for Marjorie Congdon#120 The Poetic Assassin#44 Rolor-blind Accomplice#121 Butcher-boy Gang#48 Color-blind Accomplice#122 200 lb. Murder Victim#49 Worthington Ghost#123 Openfield Case"To Pierre the Designer#124 The Murder of Henry Dale#125 \$50 Shoe ShineThe Chost Lighthouse #54 Mary's Car is Stolen#125 500 Snoe Snine#55 Dr. Allen Accused of Murder#126 The Ghost Lighthouse#55 Diamonds Stolen by Pigeons#127 The Exploding Car#57 Marry-go-round Case#128 Old #86 is Missing#58 Pawn Shon Case#120 Death Wish #58 Pawn Shop Case #59 Mike Harlin Hunts Blackie #60 Witnesses to Will Murder #61 Disappearing Plane #62 The Hooded Gang
 #63 Skating Rink Murder
 #137 Murdock Gang Strikes

 #66 Big Green Line Hijacking
 #138 Open Season on Henry Williams

 #67 The Clock that Killed
 #139 Arnold Lawrence Case
 #68 Tramp Ship Murder #69 The Gardenia #70 Mama & Papa Case #71 Building Arson Murder #72 Rockwell Diamonds #73 Rare Book Murder #74 Marked Card Murder #75 Apartment House Swindle #76 Blackie Steals A Painting #77 Sunken Treasure #78 Show Dog Murders

#79 Murder At the Rodeo #80 Faraday is Shot #85 Airline Murders #86 Blackie Goes to Jail #87 Phony Doctor Case #88 The Mimic
#89 The Detained Train
#90 Death by Natural Causes #91 Jack Small's Big Blast #92 Blackie's Mink Caper #94 Willow Brand Diamonds #95 Tugboat Bess & the Saltwater Corpse #101 I'm Not Sam Fisher #103 Wayward Bus Driver #104 Spinster Sisters #105 Record of Death #105 Shorty is Murder Suspect #107 Sammy Saunders, Ball Player #108 Measured for Murder #109 Drowned After Robbery #110 Jail Break #111 Ghost of A Dead Girl #112 Eva Kronin, Starnon #113 Mary Hires Detective to Follow Blackie #129 Death wish #130 Dead Aunt Sara #131 Murder Comes to Town #132 Diamonds in the Air #133 Framed by Film #134 Old Shoe Clue #140 Steal or be Killed #141 Where Has My Mary Gone? #142 Valuable Door Buzzer #143 Riding Stable Murder #144 Invention worth Killing For #145 Killing of the Kid #145 Killing of the Kid #146 D.J. Caper #147 Blackie's Love Life #148 Best Seller Case #149 Anderson Killing #150 Three Times King #151 John Vale Case

#152 Disappearing Hoods
#153 Larson Extortion Case
#154 Big Tiny Mountain
#155 Walton Escapes
#156 The Winston Case
#157 Mueder At the Circus
#158 Crooked Accident Insurance
Racket

#159 Joe Ingalls Case #160 Bolo Gang #161 Laughing Killer #162 Walter Galloway Dies Again #177 Ten Cent Diamond Necklace #178 Disappearing Building

As you can see, there are some gaps to be filled. Being an optimist, I know somewhere, sometime, they'll show up, and Blackie will be complete and at rest.

VOLUME 4, #2 by Kean F. Crowe

Kean Crowe is a past President of the WMIPCS and currently edits <u>Fiction</u> <u>House</u> <u>Coming Attractions</u>. He has been associated with JMJuN from its very first issue. Kean is one of the leading comic collectors in the WMIN area and serves as a consultant for J & g Cnterprises. Besides comics, Kean has abiding interests in film, JV, the stage, and science fiction, among other things.

ARTHUR C. CLARKE

My learned fellow columnist, Mr.







Seeley, presented a column last month of recommended reading in regards to science fiction novels. As my favorite author was not on that list, I feel compelled to mention some of his works here. Though I realize Mr. Seeley is undoubtedly better read than I am on the subject, I do have a strong interest in SF writing and hope he does not consider this as a challenge to his list, but rather an addition to it by another fan whose subjective eye sees things differently.

Arthur Clarke is probably best known for his contributions to the film "2001: A Space Odyssey" which he co-wrote with director Stanley Kubrick.

(Actually the story is not that simple: Clarke and Kubrick got together and worked out their ideas to form the base of "2001." Kubrick then took these ideas and built a film from them and Clarke wrote a novel using those same ideas. Anyone who has seen the movie and also read the book knows that they are not quite the same story, although there are a lot of similarities. It is simply a case of two men of different minds taking a combined idea in seperate, but nonetheless entertaining, directions.) Clarke is also a respected science fact writer, his works include the Time-Life Science Library's Man and Space volume, and a gentleman of the first order due greatly to his work in communications devel-opment in underprivileged nations. For the moon landings he was hired as a commentator by CBS-TV and performed admirably in that medium. His fiction work, though often talked less about than his non-fiction, is of high quality and has won him two Hugo awards and two Nebulas. There is one more item which deserves mention in the list of his credits, and that is prophecy. Though he predicted a moon landing in the late Forties, which was very close to reality, it is an article in the October, 1945 issue of <u>Wireless World</u> that raises most eyebrows. In this article, he proposed the use of orbital satellites for global television. Needless to say, had he patented the idea he would be a very wealthy man today.

Arthur Clarke's fiction was the point of this dissertation, and since I've already said a great deal about the man, I'll try to make this brief. His novels have been few and far between, especially in the last 25 years. His last novel, Imperial Earth, was reviewed in the very first Crowe's Nest column in June, 1976. His next novel, and possibly his last, is due out at the end of January, 1979. Entitled <u>The Fountains</u> of Paradise, it will undoubtedly be reviewed here. Unlike many of the authors praised by Mr. Seeley, Clarke has not written any stories that make up a series, just individual novels that stand or fall on their own merits. The one story that might be regarded by some as an exception is Against the Fall of Night, which was an earlier draft of a later novel, <u>The City and the Stars.</u> It was the latter novel that was my first introduction to Arthur Clarke, and was also the main reason I became interested in science fiction. When I first read it (I cannot, unfortunately, remember why), I was at a more impressionable age and the spirit of the main character, Alvin, was much akin to my own. The story is basically one man's search for truth, the truth of his life, history, and place in a vast universe. And this novel gave me an image of a sight I would love to see in words of almost poetic beauty: "It is lovely to watch the colored shadows on the planets of eternal light." To this day, when I see the film of Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 and the scenes of the people who keep books alive by memorizing their entire contents, I know that faced with that situation I would choose The City and the Stars to remember. Though The City and the Stars is my personal favorite, it is probably not Clarke's best. One of his earlier works, <u>Childhood's End</u>, is more famous than all save 2001, and is generally considered one of the classics of SF. My vote for his best novel, however, would go to 1973's Rendezvous with Rama. I am not the only one who considers this a masterwork, as the novel won both the Hugo and Nebula awards for best novel. If there is one Clarke novel that should have been included on Mr. Seeley's list, this is it. Mr. Clarke is also a fine short story writer. Robert Silverberg mentions in his introduction to the Science Fiction Hall of Fame book he edited for the Science Fiction Writers of America that Arthur Clarke was the only author who placed two of his short stories in the top fifteen of those selected by the SFWA. Though all of the several Clarke short story collections are excellent, my choice for first reading would be his most recent, <u>The Wind From the Sun</u>. This collection includes his award win-ning "A Meeting with Medusa," which was first published in <u>Playboy</u> magazine, and seventeen other stories, showing his talent for humor as well as the dramatic form.

The most important point in regards to Clarke's writing is that he is very easy and pleasant to read. His main talent is in presenting ideas of magnitude and hard-science in terms comprehensible to readers who are intelligent, but not necessarily technically inclined. Arthur C. Clarke is a humble man as well, and I'm sure he doesn't think of himself as the greatest (I do have a feeling that he regards Chuck's favorite, Robert A. Heinlein, for that position), but I feel it worth mentioning that after Isaac Asimov, his friend and fellow writer, corrected him on a mistake Clarke made in one of his non-fiction works, Arthur wrote the following as a dedication to his book <u>Report on Planet</u> <u>Three:</u> "In accordance with the terms of the Clarke-Asimov Jreaty, the second-best science writer dedicates this book to the second-best cience fiction writer."

25 YEARS OF PLAYBOY

This past December, <u>Playboy</u> magazine celebrated its twenty-fifth year of publication. <u>Playboy</u> was born in 1953 (as was I) and went on to become more than just a successful magazine, as it echoed and influenced the changing sexual mores of America over the past quarter-century. I was a young man of fourteen, still going through the painful process of puberty, when I began to obtain and read the magazine on a regular basis. I don't deny that I also looked at the pictures, but the written word was of equal or greater interest to me at the time. By the time of my introduction to <u>Playboy</u>, it had already become a financial and cultural success and attracted a lot of quality writers to its pages. The content of its issues in the late Sixties was as much political as sexual and no doubt influenced my impressionable mind in ways I am to this day unaware. <u>Playboy</u> was an active magazine, championing causes left and right, still growing



pioning causes left and right, still growing and maturing as we all did in those years, unsure of what the changes in our world would lead to. It seems to me that they led to awareness not only of the problems facing us in life but of the fact that we are seemingly unable to correct them. <u>Playboy</u> in the Seventies has retained much of its quality, but little of its spirit. It is not unlike those of us who marched for peace and in protest a decade ago and who now find ourselves surrendering our dreams for survival and apathy. <u>Playboy</u> is no longer a publishing leader, though no single magazine has passed it by; it plays things safe, which is a common philosophy for those interested in a long life. Entertainment is the object today, and <u>Playboy</u> succeeds as entertainment, and it can always reflect on its glowing past and be more prideful than most. If there was a single sign to tell me that I was getting old, it was when I realized that the <u>Playboy</u> Playmates were younger than I. It has been a turbulent quarter-century and I suppose anything that survived should be commended. So, happy birthday, <u>Playboy</u>, you've earned a place in this writer's memories (as has <u>TV Guide</u>, also born in 1953, and <u>Mad</u>, born a year earlier). I wish you many more years

BEST OF 1978

I was less active in 1978 in the world of movies, but here's a general list of my favorites. "Superman," "An Unmarried Woman," "Coming Home," and "Heaven Can Wait" were in my opinion the best films of the



year. Also entertaining, however, were "Animal House," "The Fury," "Pretty Baby," "The Big Sleep," "Goin' South," "Magic," "The End," "Hooper," "In Praise of Older Women," and "The Revenge of the

Pink Panther." No year is perfect, as the following disappointments also came out: "The Cheap Detective," "Omen II," "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," and Woody Allen's "Interiors."





Acting performances of special note were turned in by Jill Clayburgh in "An Unmarried Woman"; Anthony Hopkins in "Magic"; Jon Voight, Jane Fonda, and Bruce Dern in "Coming Home"; a wonderful comic performance by Jack Nicholson in "Goin" South"; and a special mention to Christopher Reeve as the title character in "Superman."

Television was, for the most part, uninspired as well, but the following shows I make it a point to watch on a regular basis: THE NEW AVENGERS (of course), M*A*S*H, WKRP IN CINCINNATI, ONE DAY AT A TIME (due in no small part to the presence of Ms. Valerie Bertinell), THREE'S COMPANY, TAXI, CHARLIE'S ANGELS, VEGAS (I'm madly in love with Phyllis Davis), MORK AND MINDY, BARNEY MILLER, SOAP, THE RETURN OF THE SAINT, THE PROFESSIONALS, LORD PETER WHIMSEY. THE EDDIE CAPRA MYSTERIES.

DALLAS, THE HARDY BOYS, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, and most of all, DR. WHO.

In the comic book field, my favorites are much the same as last year; The Avengers, The X-Men, Master of Kung Fu, Tomb of Dracula, and Warlord were my favorite series. Chris Claremont was my favorite writer and John Byrne my favorite artist. The major disappointment in comics over the last year was another price rise with the end still not in sight. Newspaper comic strips, on

the other hand, are on the rise (at least in an adventure sense) with "Spider-Man" and "Star Hawks" con-





Man" and "Star Hawks" continuing their success, and with "Conan, the Barbarian" and "The Incredible Hulk" premiering this past fall. The latter two strips will be available in story format (along with "The Howard the Duck" strips) as fellow WNYPCS/OTRC member John Zawadzki is publishing them under the title <u>It's Adventure Time With...</u> Those interested can find the publications at the Fiction House or can write to me and I'll forward it to John.

While on the subject of newspapers, let me say that since the last time I commented on them (INJUN #30) little has changed at the <u>Courier-Express</u>, but the Buffalo <u>Evening News</u> has been going further downhill. At the <u>News</u>, their regular TV colum-

nist, Jeff Simon, vacated

that job several months ago and was replaced by Ms. Mary Ann Lauricella, a person admittedly not fond of the medium. Since she began, the radio-TV column of the <u>News</u> has become worse than terrible: it has become boring. Jeff Simon was at least interesting to read, even when I disa-greed vehemently with what he had to say. Besides being boring, Ms. Lauricella's columns have regularly featured dated news and have rarely dealt with the programming of the commercial networks which, despite what one may think of their quality, are the major interest of her readers. To further the disappointment of those interested in the various pop



culture forms, the <u>News</u> Friday night special <u>Gusto</u> section has featured some plain bad reporting, most notably the recent article by Dale Anderson which supposedly covers comic book collecting in WNY. To those of you interested in television especially, Jim Baker's work in the <u>Courier-Express</u> rates high marks over any of the entertainment columns in the <u>News</u>.

COMMENTS

It's too bad more of our membership couldn't make the January meeting, due I suppose to the weather. For something put together quickly and with little help, it turned out pretty well. Sometimes surprises can be pleasant, though better planning should be the rule.

It is curious to note that, after reading INJuN's editorial response to my letter last month (concerning the script-type seen in the few recent issues and its uses) and checking over my recent columns, except for editorial interruptions, titles of cartoons, a signature, and an occurrence I requested in this month's column, the new type has been little used to "dress up" my columns. I would assume my writing is not as "droll" as some would have you believe.

Now, at the close of another column, I feel the weirdness slipping into control. Before I go, I'd like to ask: Is there anyone out there listening?

Oh well, whether there is or isn't, I'd like to close with a line from a poem I wrote back in '71: "The volcano never process for the bird in flight."

GEOFFREY FOURMYLE'S BOOKSHELF



Geoffrey Sourmule's book review column appears on occasion in MMM. Sor this special issue, we've combined Mr. Sourmule's reviews with the regular JP reviews. The first two reviews below one Mr. Sourmule's; the others are as initialed. As for Geoffrey Sourmyle himself, we actually know very little about him. We do know that he was involved with the Jrish Republican Army during his youth and was forced to leave his homeland for personal reasons, supposedly something to do with his health. He's a man of few words, and his column of reviews generally appear in the WMYPCS mailbox with no explanation.

The Last Celt, edited & compiled by Glenn Lord, Berkley Windhover, 1977, 416 pages, no index, \$5.95.

Conan, Kull, Colomon Kane, Bran Mak Morn, Breckleridge Elkins, El Borak, Turlogh : Sh O'Brien: all are

two-fisted, steel-eyed warrior/adventurers created by Robert E. Howard. Truthfully, there's not a great deal of difference between these characters; they're practically interchangeable. They are also reflections of their creator, a tragic young man who felt born out of time, and who claimed that many of his stories were written from racial memory.

Howard's prolific writings appeared exclusivel in the pulp magazines of the Thirties; his tales of blood and thunder didn't appear between hardcovers until long after his death. But pulp fiction though they may be, his stories have a certain power, a compelling drive that has made him a best-selling author of fantasy forty years after his self-inflicted death.

In <u>The Last Celt</u>, Glenn Lord, literary executor of the Howard estate, has provided a listing of all of Howard's works, published and unpublished, including all publishing data. Besides the exhaustive bibliography, there are autobiographical sketches and letters by Howard, and other biographical details and reminiscences of Howard by other fantasy authors.

If you're a Howard collector, this book is essential. The bibliographies may not interest the casual reader, and the biographical details probably won't either. If you'd like to try a Howard book, pick up Conan the Warrior. It won't bore you.

The Complete Professor Challenger Stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, John Murray/Jonathon Cape, 1976, 577 pages, \$12.50.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, of course, created Sherlock Holmes. Doyle's other major creation, and less well-known, is Professor George Edward Challenger. Personally, I enjoy Challenger much more than Holmes, probably because the Challenger stories are more imaginative.

Of the five Challenger tales included in this volume, only "The Land of the Mist" was new to me, and it's certainly the least interesting of the group. Doyle's obsession with the spirit world is given full rein in it, and it's simply boring.

"The Lost World" is undoubtedly the best known Challenger story, having been adapted twice for the screen. This is straight high adventure, set in a prehistoric world atop an Amazonian plateau. "The Poison Belt" approaches cosmic scope, as the earth passes

"The Poison Belt" approaches cosmic scope, as the earth passes through a poisonous area of space, leaving Challenger and his small party of friends the apparent survivors.

"The Disintegration Machine" deals with just that, and Challenger's delightful solu-

tion to potential global destruction. My favorite of the collection is "When the Earth Screamed." It chronicles the professor's greatest accomplishment: forcing Mother Earth to notice him. He uses a somewhat large pin.

If you're familiar with only Doyle's Holmes, I urge you to try a Challenger tale. I think you'll find it most entertaining.

The World of Yesterday #19, Dec. 1978, published five times a year, subscriptions \$10/year from WOY, 13759 60th Street North, Clearwater, Florida 33520. Edited by Linda & Ron Downey. The centerpiece of this issue is an excellent article on Jane Withers by Charles Stumpf, lent article cn Jane Withers by Charles Stump done in WOY's usual high standard with an extensive filmography. Stumpf, in fact, is responsible for most of the issue with other pieces on the Mauch Twins, Guy Lombardo, CLARA, LU, AND EM, Mickey Mouse, Mabel Paige, and an update of his monumental Dead End Kids article that appeared in WOY #15. Also included is a little biographical detail of Charles Stumpf, very welcome since he is certainly the most prolific and knowledgeable nostalgia writer working, WOY is fortunate to have him as a steady contributor; he makes a great magazine ---CAS that much greater.

Nostalgia Radio News, January, 1979, \$7.50/12 monthly issues from NRN, Box 2214, Syracuse, NY 13220, edited by Al Rockford & Don Richardson. The mainstay of NRN has long been the extensive listings of re-broadcast OTR and logs and plot summaries for the CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER. These are especially useful since local newspapers are notorious for their ignoring of radio listings in general. But the NRN is carrying more and more columns, each with a different emphasis. Charles Stumpf and Rod Phillips are regulars, and there are now severel rotating columns. Check out the NRN; I think you'll enjoy it. ---CAS



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<u>OTRC TAPE LIBRARY</u>: Volunteers are in the process of rating the sound quality of each reel and cassette in the OTRC Tape Library. The rated contents of these tapes will be listed here until all have been graded, at which time an entirely new Tape Library list will be issued. Tape Library Rates: 2400' reel - \$1.25/month; 1800' reel - \$1/month; 1200' reel - 75¢/month; cassette - 50¢/month. Postage must be included

1200' reel - 75 g/month; cassette - 50 g/month. Postage must be included with all orders according to these rates: For the USA & APO, 50 g for 1 reel, 25 g for each additional; 25 g for each cassette. For Canada, \$1.25 for 1 reel, 75 g for each additional, and 75 g for each cassette. All tapes to Canada are mailed First Class.

R-71 (1800')

Hop Harrigan, 15 min. "Hop in Hospital" 6/7/43 E "Freeing German Prisoner" 1/17/44 E "Tank is Wounded" 1/24/44 E "Stein's Sacrifice" 1/27/44 VG/E "Secret Plans" 2/2/44 E "Photo Run" 10/4/44 E "Shot Down By Spitfires" 11/7/44 E "On Way to Prison Camp" 11/9/44 E "Trapped in a Mine" 2/18/42 VG/E "Serbian Underground" VG "Riddle of the Ghostly Avenger" #1 9/17/45 VG/E Sky King, 15 min. "Army of Blue Men" 7/14/47 E "Stolen Pearls" 7/23/47 E "The Four Deuces" 7/31/47 E "Lady Sheriff" 4/21/51, w/comms. % hour, G/VG Cartain Video, 10 min. "Captives of Saturn" E Tailspin Tommy "Tungsten Mine" 9/5/41 VG Captain Midnight, 15 min. "Suicide Squadron" 1/17/44 VG 11 1/20/44 VG ** ... 1/21/44 VG "Prisoner of the Japs" 1/24/44 VG Clyde Beatty Show "Death in Stateroom B" E

R-73 (1800')

Hallmark Playhouse "Enchanted Cottage" 5/19/49 E "Wyatt Earp" 3/24/49 E "Free Land" 11/25/45 E "My Financial Career" 11/18/48 VG/E "So Big" 2/24/49 E "The Barker" 5/26/49 E "Parnassus on Wheels" 1/20/49 E "Clay-shuttered Doors" 1/13/49 E "April 25th as Usual" 2/16/50 E "Wild Swans" 11/11/48 E Chase & Sanborn Show w/W.C. Fields 9/4/47, hum, G w/Fred Allen 11/2/47 E R-74 (1800')

Broadway is My Beat, AFRS, E "Otto Procaugh" "Joan Gale" "Gordon Ellis" "Val Dane" "Eugene Bullock" "Jimmy Dorne" "Henry Baker" "Mary Murdock" "Julie Dixon" "Robert & Rhoda Lynn" "Joe Keto" "Eddie Amboy" R~75 (1800') Same Time Same Station "Vic & Sade" 1 hr. VG Gunsmoke "McCoy-Perkins Feud" VG "Prof. Bone" E Aunt Jemima 6/21/44, 5 min., G/VG Radio Spoofs 5 min., VG Amazing Radio Adventures of Bonnie & Clyde #1-4, 12 min., E Have Gun Will Travel Last show, 11/27/60, E "Old Girlfriend" 3/27/60 B Vic & Sade Last show, 15 min., G/VC Adventures of Topper "Cosmo's Cold" 7/5/45 E "The Spiritualist" 8/30/45 E "The Psychiatrist" 9/6/45 VG The Shadow "Isle of Fear" 10/30/38, static, w/comms., G/VG Boston Blackie "Mrs. Boston Blackie" static, G/VG Murder Clinic "Governer of Cap Afria" 8/11/42 VG R-80 (1800')

Hallmark Playhouse "Old Man Minnick" 12/2/48 E Father Coughlin "20 Years Ago" 4/4/37 VG Groucho Always Picks on Me...'

People feel sorry for the man Groucho heckles most

HOLLYWOOD.

W Gé

By SID ROSS

HENEVER GROUCHO MARX insults George Fenneman some listeners get so worked up about it they sit right down and write protesting letters.

Fenneman is the amiling young fellow who does the "announcing" for Groucho's "You Bet Your Life" show (NBC) on radio & TV.

Fenneman will take a deep breath and begin his anouncements. Right in the middle, Groucho will say: "Smile, amile!--this is the *fun* show ... Look idiotic. Fenneman!"

And Fenneman (who is 33, has a wife and three kids, and lives near Hollywood) has to amile while TV watchers in 48 states laugh at his expense and look for traces of idiocy.

Fenneman likes Groucho, but he's also a little fearful of him. He never knows what predicament Groucho may put him in next.

Groucho Interrupts Everything

Fenneman, in fact, went through high school doing imitations of him.

"And he admires me, I suspect," says Fenneman, "because I can memorize lines. Groucho hates to memorize anything."

The people who write those protesting letters would feel better if they knew that the barbs Groucho continually throws at Fenneman probably do conceal a very deep respect.

The day of the show, George Fenneman comes into the studio a half hour before Groucho, so he can do the commercials in peace.

"We found it doesn't pay to try to do them with Groucho," Fenneman says wryly. "It's pretty hard to be serious with this man aroundnothing's sacred to him."

The shows are filmed in advance for TV. During the filming, it doesn't take much by Grouch to 'break up' Fenneman's announcements. "He can do it by merely interrupping me," says Fenneman. "He'll wait until I am just about to utter a word. Then he'll start speaking and, of

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course, he bawls me out for interrupting him. "He'll break me up for four or five minutes and everybody laughs except the director, who see 10,000 feet of expensive film that he can't use going through the cameras."

Recently Groucho gave the announcer the business by shaking his hand and saying:

"Fenneman, show the people your teeth." So Fenneman smiled.

"No, po!" Groucho said. "Take 'em out and

"No, go!" Groucho said, "Take en out and "show them your teeth!"

The Brush-Off

O R Groucho will toss an aside: "How are you, Fenneman, you drunk?"

Or, Fenneman will announce the Great Man, who enters to applause. Fenneman extends his hand for a handshake, but Groucho puffing at his cigar, walks right by the announcer, commenting: "How do you get to Grand Central Station from here?"

Or Groucho sits by the mike and tells the audience: "This is Mr. Fenneman, who will be just as dull as I was for the last three minutes."

It happens off stage too. Groucho will remark to Fenneman before the show: "George, you're lucky to be working with a fellow with a face like mine. You have to look good!"

Fenneman usually drops in to Groucho's dressing room before the show. "We chat about books and authors or something in the news," he says.

Down to Work

A TER OONG OVER the commercials, Fennez man gets notes on the people in the studio audience-housewives, truck drivers, firemen, servicemen. Before the show, the people are interviewed quickly and have television makeup applied.

While this is going on, Groucho is being made up in his dreaming room (he never sees the contestants before the alow begins), but he always appears onstage before the audience warmup



Fenneman has a job to do but sometimes it takes him 10 minutes to say 3 lines,

is over, to stroll around, blow cigar smoke in Fenneman's face, and otherwise heckle him.

"Maybe there'll be a pretty girt on the show," says Fenneman."He'll tell me casually, 'Get her phone number!' Or he may say something the audience can't hear.

"Subconsciously, I'm on guard, but I can't ever figure out what he's going to do or asy. I never even know how be's coming on stage: once he rode out in a wheelchair. Another time he walked right past me and announced: Welcome to John's Other Wife. I was out with her last night, and you're welcome to her?

"I may have only three lines to say to introduce the contestants but it may take me 10 minutes to get those three lines out," says Fennentian.

Fenneman does not have much outside contact with Groucho. For that matter, Groucho doesn't have much social contact with anybody. Once a year he gives a party. Everybody goes home by 12 o clock and Groucho goes right to bed.

One of Groucho's favorite subjects is Fenneman's education. Groucho still insists that Fenneman went to Stanford, despite the fact the announcer attended San Francisco State.

'I Pleaded with Him'

"I CORRECTED HIM about this, but you just never try to correct Groucho," says Fenneman. "He still persisted in saying that I had come to Stanford.

"All my friends thought that I was 'going Hollywood, disowning my college. So I went to Groucho and pleaded with him:

"'Gee, Groucho, you're getting me into trouble with this Stanford business.'

"'Okay, we'll correct that,' Groucho promised. So that evening he says on the show: 'Ladies and gentlemen, I've been saying all along that George went to Stanford. Now he tells me this isn't true.' Then Groucho turned to me in front of everybody and asked, 'Where did you go, George?' I enunciated very clearly, 'San Francisco State College.'

"Then with that double look he gives people,

he told the audience: 'Aw, you made that up. You went to Stanford!'" (Feaneman has quit trying.)

Other people might consider this rough treatment, but Fenneman says he actually enjoys it. "Everybody seems to think Groucheo is always picking on me and lots of people feel real sorry for me," he says. "But he's not masty. I don't think he's ever said anything in malice to me. Sure, I used to worry that he didn't like me."

Despite all these things, or perhaps because of them, Groucho and his announcer have a remarkable rapport during the show.

"When he likes a contestant, he glances over at me and we sort of mentally agree with a little aside glance," says Fenneman.

"Once you get to know him," Fengenson says, "you find that this kind of guy you can't get mad at."

He Worries

According to Fermeman, Groucho is a chronic worrier. "I think he's perturbed very much about the condition of the world. But he never burdens anybody with his own problems. The only time I really heard him complain was when he made a movie." I have to memorize these asinion lines,' he said.

"The guy is simply a tremendous person," says Fenneman. "There are so many sides to Groucho that I'd like to know him better myself. There are very few guys in his league. He's not cast in any mold. One thing I do know-he can deflate anybody and sometimes it'll sound cruel."

Fenneman relates an incident that happened not long ago at a restaurant.

Groucho hates to be bothered especially when he's eating. A woman rushed up to his table' and started gushing all over him. Groucho ignored her as long as he could. The woman identified herself as a "typical fan" and then, getting no response from Groucho, asked half doubtingly, "Aren't you Harpo Marx?"

"No," said Groucho. "Are you?"

R-80 (continued)

Academy Award Theater "Snow White" 4/27/46 VG "Guest in the House" 9/25/46 VG Nelson Eddy Show 1st song: "Strike Up the Band" VG Grand Marquee "A Man's Home is Her Castle" 2/20/47 vol. burst at start, VG, w/comms. Jack Benny Show (Lucky Strike) w/A1 Jolson, 5/18/47 VG Whatever Became Of.... "Stella Dallas" VG "The Great Gildersleeve" #2 w/Willard Waterman VG "Gangbusters" bassy, light x-talk G/VG "Jessica Dragonette" bassy, G

<u>R-110 (1800')</u>

Jungle Jim, 15 min. #303 (30 sec. drop-out), 304, 306-309, 310, 311, 316-319 all VG #330 (30 sec. drop-out), 331, 332, 336-340, 13, 15 (opening titles cut), 18, 20 storylines: episodes numbered 300 deal with hidden Nazi sub bases and islands. Other episodes deal with Shanghai Lil's attempts to marry Jim. <u>R-11</u>4 (1800')

General Mills Radio Adventure Theater, all VG "Captains Courageous" "Bravest of the Brave" "Last of the Mohicans" "Three Swords" "The Clown Who Wasn't" "Lewis and Clark" "Journey to the Center of the Eart'." "A Different chost Town"



Storiing Drug Co. Prosents "MYSTERY THEATER" 8 P. M. "The Forbidden Romence Murder Case"

Jim Snuder is another long-time IP recular contributer. His recent columnsconcerning UTR dealers have caused a good deal of convent in the hobby. His series on the radio networks runs as follows: JP #16, NBC; JP #20, HBC; JP #24, CBS; and JP #28, Mutual. Below is the latest installment in this series.



Wireless

Continuing with my series on the radio networks, this report deals with the Arica Forces Radio Service, AFRS. For most stateside residents, this really doesn't fit with the four major networks already covered, but for those of us in the OTR field, with a very large percentage of our programs from AFRS,

it certainly does fit in. Time-wise, AFRS came into existence at about the same time as ABC.

As World War II got under way for the United States, Americans in uniform were being sent to overseas bases, and short-wave broadcasts from America caught their interest. Letters from them started arriving in Washington. This resulted in the War Department starting the series COMMAND PERFORMANCE, and in the spring of 1942 they had eleven short-wave stations that agreed to carry it. It was an instant success. In June of that year, the Office of War Information was organized with Elmer Davis as its director. Its job was to beam broadcasts to the people of other countries, but it also inherited COMMAND PERFORMANCE. Since its primary function was toward other nations, its broadcasts did not satisfy the American serviceman.

In Kodiak, Alaska, servicemen put together a low-powered station from junked Signal Corps equipment and began to broadcast to **18**

the base with available troop talent, phonograph records, and news they obtained from shortwave. Early in 1942, they began writing to Hollywood stars for recordings of their broadcasts in the States. The stars ran into wartime mail restrictions and so they started contacting the War Department for permission to comply with the requests. This was the first indication the War Department had of "its" station in Alaska. With this demand, and the concern about



troops who were regularly listening to Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally, the War Department asked Thomas H. A. Lewis, supervisor of the SCREEN GUILD THEATER, to start up Armed Forces Radio in mid 1942. This new organization now took over COMMAND PERFORMANCE.

At the start of 1943 AFRS had 21 stations and by the end of that same year this had increased to 306 in 47 countries. Each week, each station was sent 42 hours of recorded programming by plane, directly from the United States. In addition, they picked news in special events, such as baseball games, by short-wave. (If you have a shortwave receiver, you can today probably pick up AFRS material being sent to their overseas stations.) In addition to this, each of their stations did their own local programming.

While the network was being formed, time was also leased on foreign stations, often government stations. Troops in Reykjavik, Iceland, for example, got their programs in a block of leased time over station TFU in Reykjavik. These arrangements were made with over a hundred stations, most notably in New Zealand, Australia, India, and China. AFRS moved however, as quick as possible to establish its own stations. The first, in March of 1943, was a thousand-watt station in Casablanca. General Eisenhower at onc



9/3/46

19

General Eisenhower at once ordered additional stations. and they got so good at it that six days after the capture of Naples, Italy, AFRS had a station broadcasting there. In Italy, a 400-watt transmitter, mounted on a 1½ ton Army Truck with a power unit in a trailer, and a second truck that housed a studio, closely followed the troops as they moved forward. Stations of lower power were needed for compact areas. AFRS designed a fifty-watt station complete in five suitcases. These, along with their instruction manuals, became stations VUZZW in Agra, India; KJAM

in Chungking, China; JCZE in Cairo, Egypt; and WVTU in Nandi, Fiji. On ships the programming was carried over the PA system aboard, often with the turntables located in the Chaplain's office. By the end of the war, in 1945, more than 800 AFRS stations were broadcasting.

At first their was a shortage of radios. Soldiers found themselves having to make their own "fox-hole radio" with a razor blade and piece of pencil lead serving as the crystal. (NOTE: this really works. I can remem-ber making one of these myself from plans given in Boy's Life sometime in the late forties.) Captured equipment began to ease the problem and American sets were sent out as rapidly as possible, but this involved problems also. A 1944 War Department order forbade issue of any receivers "to officer clubs, officer recreation rooms, or groups of officers until the enlisted men of the command had adequate broadcast reception facilities." The word "adequate" seemed to be the loophole here. A touring AFRS staffmember in Italy reported, "Here at the Caserta the entire enlisted men's billets boasted one radio

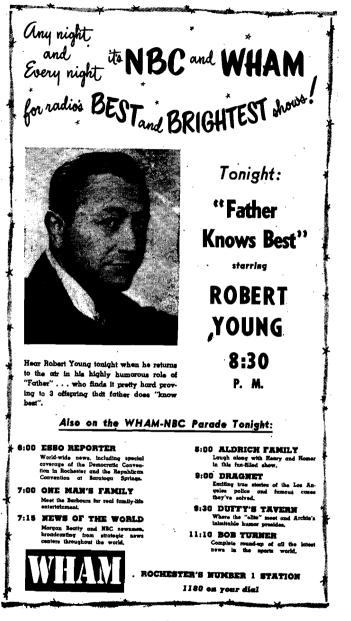


while the great majority of officer's billets its dradios, more than half of which were government issue sits."

AFRS continues to be active wherever these are Americans stationed overseas. It's programming seems to be aimed at the interests and ages of the present servicemen, thus is heavy on the "top 40" format so common in the States. They do, however, seem to try to meet the interests of everyone. For example, both when living in Japan and in Germany, I found AFRS carrying Dr. Karl Haas' one hour classical music program from WJR in Detroit five afternoons a week. Most military personnel hated this program, but it was offered for those who did like classical music, even though that type of music was readily available over civilian FM stations in both areas. More recently of course, the Armed Forces Television Service has joined its radio counterpart, but not in as many areas, and the network has become AFRTS, the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service.







<u>NEW MEMBERS</u>: Welcome to the following new OTRC members. Darrell Albright, 1745 Burnett Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604 Brad C. Becker, 818 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222 Kean F. Crowe, 200 Woodward Drive, West Seneca, NY 14127 Tom Mc Fadden, 207 16th Ave., Sterling, Illinois 61081



From Chuck Blaskower, 311 F. Maple St. #8, Glendale, CA 91205--"Dear Mr. Seeley,

"I feel that your allowing of Paul Hemmer of Iowa, to slander my name in your recent IP of Dec. 1978, was to say the least in very poor taste.

"You had no right to let this man run an ad in the IP especially to my knowledge, not even being a member. I thought you were an honorable and trustworthy individual after I had explained about a radio group in Iowa do-

ing me an injustice. "Then I receive the latest edition of the IP, and Paul Hemmer is allowed openly to slander my name and make abusive remarks that are false. I never mentioned his name in the previous issue as you well know. I was very vague about what I had said about Iowa. He specifically berates and defames my name as so to cause injury to my character in your latest issue (*(#30)*), apparently with your consent to do so. He openly and freely admits to the bad job he did and glorifies himself on the other hand. You talk about a contradiction of truth. If you saw some of the typewritten letters to me from him, it wouldn't even honor a second grade child.

"I'm deeply disturbed you could allow him so much space in the current IP to commit defamation of character. "If there is anyway I can take



legal action in regards to this matter I certainly

will. I'm certain there is, as I never slandered his name in the IP, he has slandered mine. This is a grave injustice Mr. Seeley, and you are responsible for allowing it. Because of what you published nobody will be interested in doing my show. As far as the crimes being realistic? Just step out to Calif. sometime if either you or Paul Hemmer wish to see what real crime is! I wouldn't guarantee either one of your safety here. That show was written about true crime stories taken from real files. Hemmer even admitted bungling the show also. Besides, I never claimed to be a professional. He goes on to berate my talents. "Well I have news for you, plenty of people

"Well I have news for you, plenty of people have heard the show, they thought the play write was superb.

"However, the music was loud and over intru- **T:00-7:15 p.m.** sive the sound effects were the same also! How can Paul Hemmer claim to have professional quality to his work? You people back in New York are as miserable, low down and contemptable as Paul Hemmer is. I hereby as of today want nothing more



6/26/44

to do with IP and have already discouraged two new potential members and will continue to do so in the future. You people are filthy with deceit and treachery allowing this man to use IP for a vehicle to cause defamation of my name and character, ruining any chance of anyone endeavoring to help me in obtaining a decent professional show of Crime Wave.

"I will get it done, but with no help from the corrupt people that publish this booklet. I'm very disappointed in the way you handled this. I have the proof that I never said anything about anyone in a derogatory manner in Iowa. "However, you have let this smallminded ant-brain individual use

"However, you have let this smallminded ant-brain individual use IP to vent his feelings and defame my name. It shows his guilt by what he wrote, I never accused him he was so worried he confessed his poor work and at the same time time publicly demeaned my show and my name. Both New Yorkers and Iowans are scum in my opinion and many others also!

"This is a picture of the great so called Paul Hemmer. (*Mot shown...eds.*)) If he were so wonderful why is he in Dubuque, Iowa. "Just look at the picture all 310 lbs. of human hog with a big mouth and greedy mind. Can you honestly look at this man and say he's a winner?

"He looks like he belongs in a circus side show! You are all dishonorable people back there, and I want nothing to do with lousey and corrupt people!"

(Igez, Chuck...Does this mean the engagement is off?....I know I said in SP #30 that there wouldn't be any more of the Blaskower/Nemmer, ah, dispute, but this letter simply astounded me. I've never received one quite like it. And the letter is real, I assure you. I have it here in front of me, all six scrawled out pages. I print it here verbatim with no editorial corrections. While I feel that's hind of a cheap shot (a writer's ignorance should be confidential between he and his editor), it seemed apropos in this instance. The picture referred to above is a picture of Mr. Hemmer that Mr. Blaskower enclosed in his letter. Scribbled in the margin are more comments on Mr. Hemmer's appearance, some of which are legible. Mr. Hemmer's been sent a xerox of the letter and picture and I look forward to his reaction....I received advice from some friends not to publish this letter, but I decided to run it for a couple of reasons. First, I find it very entertaining, hilarious in spots. Second, and most important, I think it essential for anyone considering performing Mr. Blaskower's radio play to see what hind of person they're dealing with. I might add that Mr. Hemmer's letter in SP #30 wasn't very slanderous and was published in the interests of hearing both sides of the dispute....At any rate, I find it difficult to take either Mr. Blaskower or his letter seriously. But I will treasure the letter....CAS))

TAPESPONDENTS: Send in your wants, catalogs, etc., and we'll run them here for two consecutive months.

Pete Bellanca, 1620 Ferry Road, Grand Island, NY 14072-- Looking for the pre-game show from the 1978-79 AFC play-off (Houston/Pittsburgh), and any AFL games. Will trade two hours for one.

Chuck Blaskower, 311 E. Maple St. #8, Glendale, CA 91205-- Will pay generous amount to an acting group to put on his original radio play CRIME WAVE to his satisfaction. Call (213) 240-3280 collect for info. Doug Brown, 409 Louisiana Ave., Cumberland, MD 21502-- Looking for BREAKFAST CLUB.

Millie Dunworth, 47 Kamper St., Buffalo, NY 14210-- Looking for THOSE WE LOVE, starring Nan Grey, Richard Cromwell, and Donald Woods. Jim Snyder, 517 North Hamilton St., Saginaw, MI 48602-- Looking for any LUX RADIO THEATER shows he doesn't have. Will trade two for one to get them and has over 300 to choose from.

متيرد خارد



You all know Chuck Seeley. He is a writer, an editor, and a publisher. But he has several good points as well. He buys toys for his mom, is hind to his dog, and purchases his comics from me...BCB

CHARLIE'S FINAGLES

In last month's issue of INJUN, this column presented a list of science fiction novels that I consider to be among the very best of the genre. The books were all chosen strivtly for their entertainment value; they're all crackling good <u>stories</u>. If you're looking for edification or education, you're on your own. Please don't tell me about it.

This month I'd like to conclude the list with the works of Robert A. Heinlein. In my opinion, RAH is the very finest SF interesting stories peopled with flesh-

writer. He writes intensely interesting stories peopled with fleshand-blocd characters, the kind of story you don't want to see end. A measure of his popularity is the fact that his novels and short story collections are never out of print. Four of his

novels have won Hugo voted by readers of remarkably honest for writing: it's working and he likes is one of the two responsible for intro-readers into SF (the Norton) through his That label is not enhowever, RAH's juvenile novels stand head-and-shoulders above most adult SF. When asked how to. write a good juvenile, RAH replied, "Just write the best story you know how, then take out the sex." Any of you old Boy Scouts out there might wards (an award SF). He is about his reasons easier than the money. He authors most ducing young other is Andre "juveniles".

remember reading one of RAH's novels serialized in Boy's Life.

At any rate, you shouldn't have any trouble finding any of the books discussed here, either at a bookstore or library. We'll discuss only novels here and leave the short stories for another time. All are very highly recommended, <u>especially</u> if you say you <u>don't</u> enjoy SF.

Illustrator Kelly Freas has described <u>Starship Troopers</u> (published in 1959) as "Star Wars" with a plot. It is that and much, much more. The novel was originally written as part of the "juvenile" series RAH was doing for Scribners. But the publisher insisted on cutting some of the more violent bits (and some of the militaristic philosophy; RAH believes that a nation cannot enjoy both peace and freedom at the same time; and that view tends to sneak into his fiction at times), so RAH simply went to another publisher and the novel went on to win a Hugo. Come to think about it, describing ST as SW with a plot actually does it a disservice. In RAH's SF, as in all excellent SF, the literary special effects take a back seat to the story proper, and the science fiction aspects are presented almost off-handedly (which helps the reader to suspend his disbelief and get into a story). ST is set at a time of space war and is the story of the making of a star soldier. It glorifies the fighting man and is stirring stuff indeed. Readers tend to love it or hate it, depending on their political/social beliefs (in ST, you have to be or have been a soldier in order to have voting rights, a concept which I'm sure raised hackles here and there). An interesting counterpoint to ST is <u>The Forever War</u>, by Joe Haldeman, discussed here last month.

The Moon is a Harsh Mistress (1966) is a handbook for revolution. When the government starts controlling what we read, this novel will be among the first on the forbidden list. In it, RAH relates the story of the moon's (called Luna here) revolt against Earth rule. The revolution is told in every detail, no potential problem is overlooked. The most outstanding character of the novel is a sentient computer, who plays no small part in Luna's winning its freedom, which it finally does...by literally throwing rocks at Earth.

The Rolling Stones (1952) is sort of a sequel to Miahm; one of the minor characters in Moon is a major character in RS. The novel is concerned with the meanderings of a lunar family, the Stones, as they seek to escape from organized society. The novel becomes a celebration of personal freedom (within limits; it takes close cooperation to fly a spaceshic). The plot is enloydic, but that in no way detracts from the novel. The characters are revealed through their actions and dialog, a RAH trademark. It treats its theme pretty lightly, what with bicycles on Mars and Dealer Dan, the Spaceship Man (he sells used rocketships, natch)

but it has its suspenseful moments and a scene that might make you sniffle a bit.

I'm sure many of you remember <u>Tom Corbett, Space Cadet</u> from either TV or radio or comics or books. The model for Corbett was RAH's <u>Space Cadet</u> (1948), one of the "juveniles", and like ST is a story of maturation. The fascination of the novel lies in the methods by which the protagonist is chosen, tested and trained for the Space Patrol, and in the heavily detailed Patrol itself. And, like the other RAH juveniles, SC isn't juvenile at all.

like the other RAH juveniles, SC isn't juvenile at all. <u>The Door Into Summer</u> (1957) has one of RAH's most delightful bits of imagery: during winter, the protagonist's cat tries each door of the house, looking for the door into summer. DIS is a love story that shows a May-December romance can work out with the aid of time travel and cryogenic sleep.

of time travel and cryogenic sleep. Luxmox, the title character in <u>The Star Beast</u> (1954), is one of my favorite aliens. She's a loveable behemoth who belongs, sort of, to the protagonist. The novel is hilarlous and satirizes many things, among them the government, red tape, and stupid people. It's short enough to read at a sitting and will certainly have you laughing out loud at spots (and trying to explain it to your family).

RAH gets in a few more jabs at politics in <u>Double Star</u> (1956), but it is not at all a comic novel. DS is a Prisoner of Zenda-like tale in which an actor impersonates a well-known politician. Doesn't sound like science fiction, does it? The same story, I suppose, could have been told by, say, Allen Drury, with certain modifications. But it certainly wouldn't be as good. (Drury depends too much on inner dialog anyway.)

Time Enough For Love (1973) is the best book I've ever read.



Captain Video and Space Ranger

It affected me deeply enough to change my thinking on a number of things. A bare bones plot summary will make it sound either absurd or intriguing, depending on your sense of wonder: the oldest man in the universe is saved from voluntary death by a descendant, who talks him into postponing his death until his several thousand years' worth of knowledge is transcribed, and until he can no longer find a new experience. The knowledge is eventually transcribed, and the new experiences include raising twin daughters cloned from himself, teaching a sentient computer to be human, and travelling back in time to meet himself as a youngster, make love with his mother, and "die" on the fields of World War I France. It's an astounding work. There are shorter stories told within the framework of the larger. Arabian Nightsstyle. The novel is told from different characters' viewpoints and is interspersed with gleanings from the notebooks of Lazarus Long, the oldest man in the universe. TEFL caused an uproar in the SF community; as with ST and some other RAH works, the reader either loved it or hated it. (RAN delights in confounding the critics by espousing different viewpoints, and making a valid case for each. His readers love it.) TEFL is also the end of RAH's massive Future History, a long series of interconnected tales. All the stories but one are collected in The Past Through Tommorow (1967), the exception is Universe (1963). It happens

that Lazarus Long, the main character in TEFL, appears in several of the other FH stories, under various guises.

The books listed here are, in my view, the best of Heinlein and thus the best of SF. They are all available in paperback, as are all of RAH's work, only a portion of which has been discussed here. Some readers may be surprised to find that <u>Stranger In A</u> <u>Strange Land</u> (1961) is not on this list, because it is certainly RAH's best known novel and enjoyed cult status in the 60's. Frankly, I don't consider it among his best. While it is an excellent novel, rich with intriguing concepts and characters, I just don't get the same thrill from it as I do from the other books considered here. Totally subjective reasoning, as is all of this.

I hope that this column and those to come will jog a few of you into reading good SF. Reading SF requires a certain stretching of the imagination which, of course, not everyone is capable. But for those who are, it will enrich you.

INJUN MAIL



Dear Editor, Just finished INJuN #34 and wanted to comment.

I certainly enjoyed it more than all the Superman articles in #33. Maybe INJUN should avoid theme issues altogether and just go with the usual mix. Couldn't get through all of

Seeley's column, I'm just not a sci-fi fan.

Crowe's column was OK; I remember watching some of those old British shows on TV. DANGER MAN was a particular favorite, although I didn't like THE PRISONER. I've seen THE PROFESSIONALS a few times but I think it's much too violent, though.

I disagree with Fourmyle on the 50 Worst Films book. It's better than he says it is. I've seen some of the movies listed in the book, and they're right about them.

Susie Johnson's story was OK. It brought back memories of Sixties' music and go-go dancers in cages, SHINDIG and HULLABALOO.

I've pretty much changed my mind about INJUN with the past few issues, and now I pretty much enjoy it. How about going to a larger size? God bless.

Ethan Edwards

Good to see you're still with us, Ethan. Certain of us have agreed with you on theme issues, though I must sau I'm rather fond of the little buggers myself. Seeley doesn't take criticism well, I'm afraid, so you might expect a night caller. By the way, the proper term is StI, or scientifiction.

Joo bad you never commented on the Star Jrek story by former member Joan Van deWater; I have this feeling it would have brought back memories for you.

have brought back memories for you. Juny you should mention a larger format for INJuN. It just so happens that beginning with the 3rd anniversary issue (#37, April 1979), the <u>printed</u> size will be standard 8% x 11. The change has been thought over carefully; complaints of type being too small to read, photographs turning into shapeless blobs of ink, etc. Speaking of shapeless blobs, be sure to catch the closing editors' words for more about the goings on at WMYPCS. Dog sselb.____Cds.



MONTHLY FORUM OF GRIPES

... to Channel 7 (WKBW, Buffalo) and their crack news production team for constantly running the final news comment over the opening credits of the late show (that is, when they are considerate enough to even start the credits at the beginning)...

... to the Western New York area radio stations that aren't carrying ALIEN WORLDS and SEARS RADIO THEATER ...

... to Kean Crowe for his valuable assistance in writing this column...

... to Jed Hanes for blowing out all comic dealers in Buffalo with ducks ...

... to Emil Novah & Norm Sinski for bribing Sale Anderson ...

.. to Bruce Jorrey for withholding the 16mm scope footage of <u>Mixon</u>, Prince of <u>Jarkness part 2: Born</u> Republican. It indeed it exists ...

... to <u>The Masked Marvel</u> for turn-ing out to be the tall, skinny au.

... to Chuch Seeley for blowing the deadline for his column in the latest <u>Mational Radio Irader</u>. Sorry, Phil...

... to your friendly editors for coming up with the idiotic idea of doing a joint newsletter, and giving themselves two nights to complete 32 pages. Hoo-haa!...



SEARS RADIO THEATER news: Emmy Award-winning actress Cicely Tyson will host the Thursday night broadcasts of SRT, which should have debuted in most areas of the country by now. Tyson will be hosting the night devoted to "love and

hate and featuring historic and contemporary stories of people in love and in conflict," according to the CBS press release.

A host for Monday night had not been set at press time, but here's the lineup so far: Tuesdays, host Andy Griffith, comedy; Wed-

nesday, Vincent Price, mys-tery: Thursday, Cicely Tyson, love and hate, etc.; and Friday, Richard Widmark, adventure. Nelson Riddle has been commissioned to do the

music for SRT. Riddle has composed and recorded a theme song for the series and will do an original score for each program.

"An original score for each individual program," says Riddle, "will be recorded by small musical groups. For example, I am considering a Dixieland band for one of the comedies, and a harmonica-guitar-bass combination for a western."

Riddle has scored numerous films and TV shows, among them "Ocean's 11," "Lolita," "Come Blow Your Horn," "Paint Your Wagon," THE UNTOUCHABLES,

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4/2/47



NAKED CITY, ROUTE 66, EMERGEN-CY, and PROJECT UFO. During the Forties, Riddle played with the bands of Jerry Wald, Charlie Spivak, and Tommy Dorsey.

In November, 1977, CBS broadcast a weekend special entitled AMERICAN KNOW-HOW which included profiles of home-grown millionaires and inventors, looks at American inventions such as the frisbee, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Coca-Cola, and features on innovations in the worlds of advertising, fast food, language, and education. The special has been since reproduced into a two-hour, four audio cassette format. The cassettes are designed for use by schools, libraries, and businesses. Here's the kicker: the package costs \$29.50....It's available from General Cassette Corporation of Phoenix, Arizona.

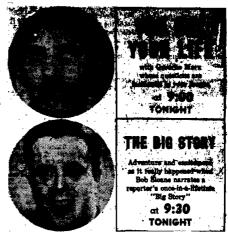
January saw a bunch of new shows premiering on CBS Radio. THE GOLF SPOT and THE TENNIS SPOT are just that, mini-features that will offer beginning and average golf and tennis players helpful

hints to improve their games and perhaps enjoy them more. FOLLOWUP is a series designed to bring listeners up-to-date on past news stories. HEALTH, SCIENCE AND YOU is a Monday-Friday series anchored by Charles Crawford that will deal with advances, breakthroughs, and news on the science and medical fronts, plus matters of personal health and fitness. And finally, THE REASONER REPORT continues into its 15th year with, naturally enough, Harry Reasoner (without Barbara Walters). This daily series carries Harry's analysis,

insights, and background views on the issues of the day, often on the lighter side. THE REASONER REPORT was previously heard on CBS from 1964 to 1969, and on ABC Radio from 1970 to 1978.

Thanks to Mary Ann Lauricella for plugging the club in her column in the January 10th Buffalo <u>Evening</u> <u>News</u>. The plug listed our <u>new officers and gave Jerry</u> Collins as the contact for further information. Jerry says that he has received several calls from the mention.

Howard Brenner provides further information on the Radio Reruns/Nostalgia Lane/ M.F. Productions lawsuits concerning selling mass quantities of OTR (see OTR Notebook in IP #30). It



seems the NAACP has pressured the A&P Stores to stop selling AMOS & ANDY tapes because they present a stereotyped image of the black.



Well, that's the issue. Produced under pressure, I think it's pretty damned entertaining. Although I've jokingly expressed a distaste for doing it this way, it must be said that I couldn't imagine improving the choice of co-editor. Chuck's been doing this stuff longer than I, and it shows in his determination to stick it out.

One thing that must be taken care of: the WMYPCS welcomes three new members this month.

Ron Lodowski of Amherst, N.N. Dennis Carey of Buffalo, N.V. Corb/Sky("**call** me Bob")Besco of Atlanta, Georgia.

It seems to me that after perusing this tome, many of you may be interested in finding out more about WMMPCS. If so, feel free to call me at 886-0939. Our meetings are held the second Juesday of every month (excepting July & August) at 8PM at the Buffalo & Crie County Mistorical Society Building, 25 Mottingham Court, Buffalo, New York. Jhanks for reading. ---BCB



What a mess. The table is littlered with scraps of paper, jars of rubber cement, exhausted typewriter ribbons, empty Coke cans and coffee cups, heaped ashtrays, and all the various and sundry paraphernalia necessary to put together one of these dragons.

But out of chaos comes order. Or something.

Actually 9'm pretty pleased with the way this combined effort turned out. It's an interesting change of pace from the JP's usual fare, and certainly should contain something for everyone. I hope it will--pardon me, I forgot nou're reading this last--has entertained/informed/delighted/outraged nou.

I certainly enjoyed working with Ilash Becker on this gonzo project. Nopefully our individual editorial strengths and weaknesses have combined to produce something better than usual. Or maybe not.

But this issue was really kind of a treat for me. I hope for all of you as well. ---CAS





WESTERN NEW YORK



Featuring a basic introduction to Popular Culture; DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL; SF Quiz; and much more. Newsletter #2, May '76

Animation in films; News and Reviews; Animation trivia quiz; Introduction to TWIN EARTHS newspaper strip; more. Newsletter #3. June '76

Review of THE UNDERSEA KINGDOW movie serial; News & Reviews; ROBIN & MARIAN; IMPEBIAL EARTH; TWIN EARTHS by A1 Nc-Williams; plus more, Newmietter #4, July '76

News & Reviews; Comic Books Today; Censorship; TWIN EARTHS: much more. Newsletter #5, Aug. '76

LOGAN'S RUN, Pro & Con; film reviews; Geoffrey Fourmyle's Bookshelf; TWIN EARTHS: more. Newsletter #6, Sept. '76

THE THREE MUSKETEERS; Geoffrey Fourmyle; The Logan Reaction; more. Newsletter #7, Oct. '76

FRANKENSTEIN; Violence in the media pt.1; End of the West; plus more. Newsletter #8, Nov. '76

Violence pt.2; News & Reviews; Movie Ad Censorship; lots more! Newsletter #9. Dec. '76

LUST HORIZON: Geoffrey Fourmyle; TWIN EARTHS; Violence pt. 3; more. Newsletter #10, Jan. 177

William Shatner; King Kong; Violence pt.4; much more. <u>Newmletter #11, Feb. '77</u> Violence pt.5; more Kong; Television; much more!

Newsletter #12, March '77

Carol Lynley; Violence pt6; Alice on the Mushroom;more.

Newsletter #13, April '77

1st Anniversary issue; TAR-ZAN; The Comics; TWIN EARTHS; Violence pt.7;more.

Newsletter #14, May '77 SPY SMASHER; Comic Books; Violence pt.8; plus more!

Newsletter #15, June 177

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD; Annie Hall review; Culture Snobs; Violence pt.9; and lots more!

Newsletter #16, July '77

Theme issue: KING KONG; Violence pt.10; plus more!

Newsletter #17, August '77

STAR WARS; Violence pt.11; Sinbad; more.

Newsletter #18, Sept. '77

Espionage: NEW YORK, NEW YORK; The Yellow Fart; Violence pt.12; Geoffrey Fourmyle; much more!

Newsletter #19, Oct. 177

Interview with Marvel Comics' Pete Iro; The World of Star Trek; Violence pt.13; The Yellow Fart; more.

Newsletter #20, Nov. 177

Yellow Fart; Comic Books; Television; plus more!

Newsletter #21, Dec. '77

DOC SAVAGE; NETWORK; A Subjective view of Comic Book collectors; Yellow Fart; Violence pt.15;more!

Newsletter #22, Jan. '78

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS; THE QUIET MAN; Violence pt. 16; much more! Newsletter #23, Feb. '78

Garbo; The best and worst of '77; Violence pt. 17; more.

Newsletter #24, March '78

The Unknown Stars; MICKEY ONE; Violence pt. 18; lots more!

Newsletter #25, April'78

2nd Anniversary issue; Violence pt.19; Yellow Fart: full of surprises!

It's Not Just Nostalgia #26, May '78

Errol Flynn; interview with Pat Boyette; TV pilots; more!

INJUN #27, June '78

Old-Time Radio; Violence pt. 21(conclusion);more.

INJUN #28, July '78

Part one of "The Moving Picture Mystery" a NICK CARTER adventure from 1909.

INJUN #29, August 178

NICK CARTER part two.

INJUN #30, Sept. 178

Streetcars; History of the WNYPCS; Star Trek; News & Reviews; more.

INJUN #31, Oct. 178

James Bend; SON OF KONG AND WIGHTY JOE YOUNG; Science Fiction; more.

INJUN #32, Nov. '78

The Saturday Serial; SF convention report; Old Time Radio con report; plus much more!

INJUN #33, Dec. 178

Special SUPERMAN tribute issue! Plus more.

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