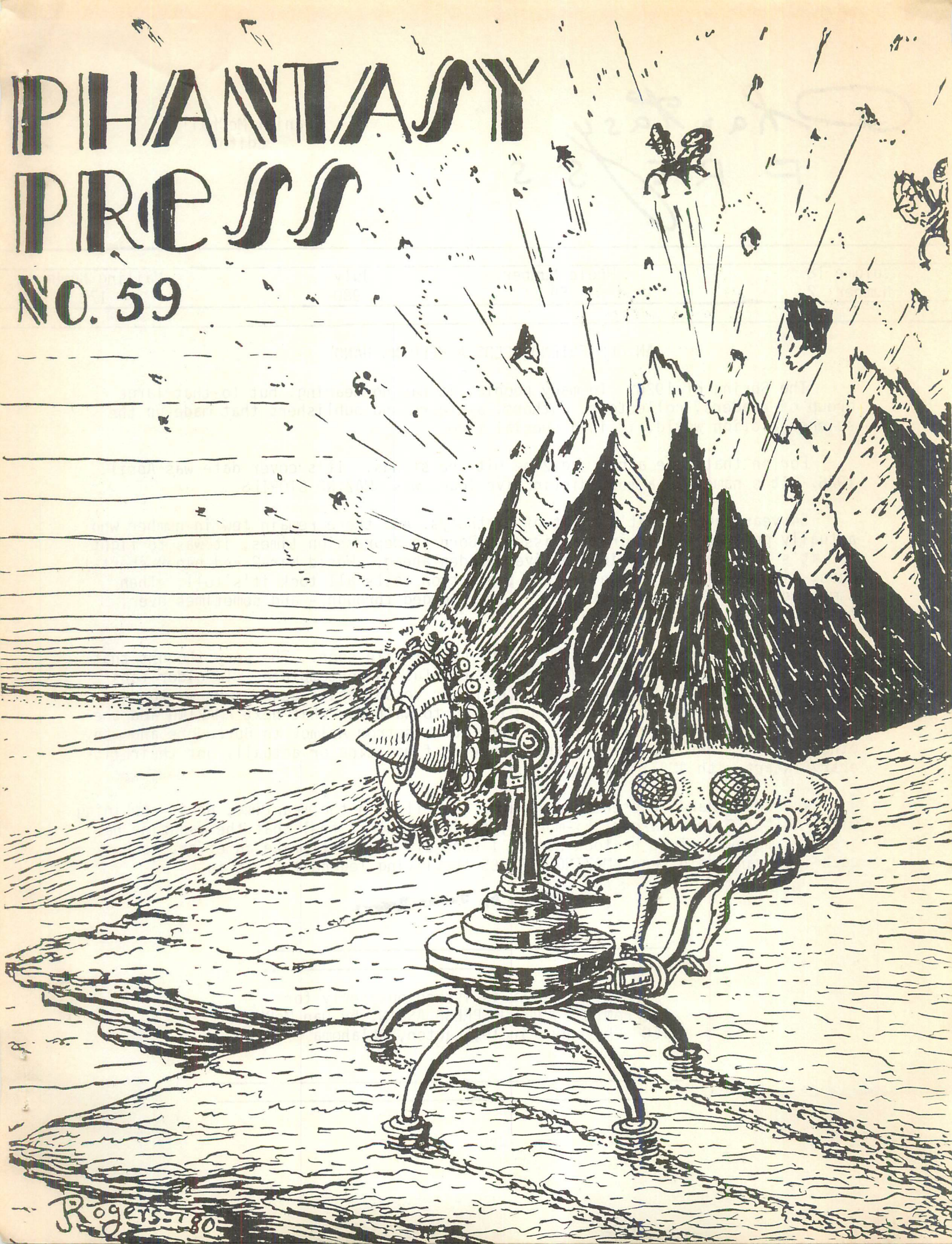


# PHANTASY PRESS

NO. 59



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# Phantasy P R E S S

Daniel McPhail  
Editor

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## AN OLD FRIEND NEEDS A HELPING HAND

The Spring of 1926. To many people, it has no meaning, but to that large group of readers, collectors, authors, amateurs and publishers that made up the science fiction world, it is a special time.

For on that date a new magazine hit the stands. It's cover date was April, 1926. It's name, in a most distinctive logo, was AMAZING STORIES.

54 years ago - that's a lot of birthdays. And there remain few in number who actually purchased that initial issue. Born in depression times, it was to fight for it's life many times in the five decades ahead. World War-2 and paper shortages, fierce competition and rising production costs all took it's toll. Then came the flood of paper-back books. They surged through - and sometimes over, the magazines thin line of defense.

And now we hear that AMAZING may be up for sale soon. The very thought that we may not see that familiar old logo is painful to contemplate. To older fans like myself, we recall that this is the magic vessel that was to take us to distant worlds in space and time....how I used to wait for that next AMAZING and the wonderful colors of Frank R. Paul. Many authors from Asimov to Burroughs and many others were either inspired by the pioneer s-f magazine or actually got their literary start with AMAZING.

Arthur Bernard, present owner wants to sell. In the meantime, he is combining with FANTASTIC in a larger, bi-monthly publication. I feel that the magazine has greatly improved since he took over. I hope all fans will make an effort to buy each issue and help keep AMAZING STORIES the living legend that it is.

*Cover by James Rogers*

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in the 171st

F.A.P.A. MAILING

FOR

MAY, 1980

FANTASY AMATUER: Inflation has raised the cost of everything and FAPA must raise dues to keep a - float. There is no other choice. ...Note to Bruce Pelz: I hope you can get back to the regular size mailing bags. The current one is too large & somewhat difficult to file with the others. DAMBALLA #40 (Hansen) Hope your brother-in-law is well again.... Yes, Peggy Rae is doing a great service to members with her listing of activities. It's a lot of

work, as I well know. For many years I provided an annual "X-Ray Report" for FAPA..... I am honored to be picked as Favorite Unsung FAPAn, but regret I failed to score in any other category. As I recall, Bob Pavlat and I took turns being named Favorite Unsung FAPAn. Any way - congratulations to all the winners!...thanks, Chuck, for the good advise about hope & good faith...Another nice cover.

WHAT THE DORMOUSE SAID #7 (Ortlieb) There were bound to have been many fanzine-like publications put out by boy editors in the decades past and a few of them may have been of a s-f nature. True or not, I would enjoy studying their layout and art work...I like the blue-ink cuts you have...glad you like the Press.

POOR FISH (Wesson) What a beautiful publication; Helen! It is so neat, it is a pleasure just to look at.

SAMBO #30 (Martinez) Your two covers are most attractive, Sam...as I type this, Louise and I are preparing to attend the OKON in Tulsa on July 19th.

CONACS (Johnson) A very excellent specialixed zine... Good job.

CONTINUOUS BRIAN EARL BROWN #6 (who else?)...interesting use of newspaper clips..... best of all, and a real treat, is the great art by Bergeron.

HOG ON ICE #9 (Thorne) This hog is a long way from being handsome....I concur with you in re Destinies mag. It's contents are so overloaded it needs sideboards.I'd rather see it in true magazine format.

GRANDFATHER STORIES (Devore) Good luck in 1982!

SAGEBRUSH, SADDLES & SIXSHOOTERS (Miller) a most interesting & well-produced zine. Cover is very good, too.

FLOCCIPAUCINIILIPILIFICATION #6 (Glicksohn) I think you are wrong in your attitude on mailing comments. In past years, some of the most spirited verbal battles have taken place in the mc's of various zines. Often, they spark comment from other related fields. I agree with Chuck Hansen about them. Then, too, you often learn facts that are new to you. For example, this column ("LEO") first appeared in the third FAPA mailing. Actually, it is a carry-over from my pioneer Science Fiction News (1931-36) Perhaps you did not know that - or that SF News was the 3rd fanzine to appear in First Fandom (behind the Comet & The Planet and ahead of the Time Traveller.) Russ Chauvenet, Chuck Hansen, Bob Pavlat, Jack Speer & Harry Warner are but a few who do excellent mc's. There are many others, and I think you could easily be one of them.

HORIZONS #156 (Warner) I didn't vote in the EGOBOO Poll either. The ballot was hard to understand & that 300-point spread was just too much. I hope next time it will be a lot more simple...as to your wish that some would produce additional listings for the years before this series began. At the start of this LEO, I mentioned that I had published an annual review of membership publishing activity. It covered a period of 7 years - from 1957 to 1964. Surely you remember "Under the X-Ray"? It first appeared in Phantasy Press #18 for January 1958 and last appeared in PP#48 for April, 1965. The X-ray Report mirrored the print activity of the entire membership, in considerable detail. King Pin during these 7 years was - Richard Eney who produced a fantastic 435 pages in 1962! It should be pointed out that Dick's total included his 398-page book "A Sense of FAPA". Total pages for that year was 2,432, as compared with 1973 in 1961. For reference, see the Report in the following issues of PP: # 18, 22, 26, 32, 35, 40, 45, and 48.

YHOS #17 (Widner) This has just got to be one of the best looking zines in FAPA. The neat layout, and good use of color is outstanding. And your art work is good, also.

STARSHIP, nee Algol (Porter) These two mags make FAPA the biggest bargain in fandom...a lot of fine art, with the cover by Kelly Freas being the best, I think that Andy is doing a fine job with his publication.

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Garage mechanic: "My advise, Sir, is to keep the oil & change the car".

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#### DATE LINE HELIUM CITY

Some of you may have missed the report by NASA scientists some time back about exciting pictures of weather patterns on Mars. A mosaic of 102 photos taken by the Viking Orbiter 1 satellite is said to show a distinct weather front or an atmospheric shock wave.

NASA said the photographs show a sharp dark line of clouds & weather activity near the giant volcano Arsia Mons. They also show four small clouds near Lowell crater. Nothing like this weather phenomenon has been seen before.

The satellite was launched August 20, 1975 and entered Mars' orbit the following June 1976 and continues to transmit an average of 30 pictures a day.

#### OLDIES AND ODDIES

During WW-2 days, the Gulf Oil Company issued a "Funny Weekly", a four page free handout at all Gulf dealers. Feature comic was Wings Winfair by Stan Schendel an excellent art & Story. I have one issue, dated Nov.3, 1939 (No. 341).

The year of 1936 saw a lot of zines appear - many of them one-shot, and all of them very limited circulation. Information follows:

SUPRA-MUNDANE STORIES by Miles Frome. This was proposed but may not have appeared. Frome did art work for the Planeteer Magazine.

SPACE SHIP STORIES. A typewritten mag by Jim Blish.

THE ROCKETEER AND THE FUTURAGRAPH. These two titles were edited by R.M. Holland.

QUEER a small size 4-pager by Dan Wollheim.

THE SCIENCEER a political zine put out by the ISA. Only one issue.

CURIOUS STORIES Two issues, Carbon-copied, by Wollheim.

Other happenings of this era included Wollheim taking over Hollands SFRVIEW, with the 7th issue. Fiction Digest reviews but little news. 4 pages.

FANTASTORY will be edited & mimeoed by Fred Pohl & contain short stories.

Other Wollheim titles are THE FUTUROGRAM & PSEUDO-SCIENCE ROMANCES.

The reason for the delay in the promised June Planeteer was at Blish ordered fonts of the wrong type (Modernistic 8-point instead of 18-point Century Roma 8-points).

#### L. TAYLOR HANSES

Some time back, it was stated that L. Taylor Hansen had disappeared while checking on mysterious tunnels in South America. Nothing is known what happened to him. Of related interest in the June 80 announcement that a satellite had "X-rayed" a vast area of the old Indian empire & photos revealed that hundred of miles of ditches & canals had been constructed, probably for irrigation purposes.

