

# FANAC Fan History Project

# Newsletter 17

February 1, 2022



Happy New Year! Hoping you all are safe and well in yet another pandemic year. We've spent our time trying to reverse entropy and adding to the Fan History Projects.

We'll tell you what's been new over the last few months, but first a call for help. There are projects and problems we'd like to take on, but lack the skills and the bandwidth to learn them. If you have some knowledge about these things, please get in touch. Here are the projects we have in mind.

<b>PiWigo:</b> Migrate our photos to modern photo gallery software from our 25 year old custom software
<b>Search Engine Optimization (SEO)</b> - We'd like to get search engines to find our materials more readily. FANAC.org had about 1,100 sessions in December according to Google
<b>People Cross Reference</b> – Needs to be replaced; currently using 25 year old custom code that indexes Fancyclopedia and FANAC. This lets us put together a list of material about a specific person and let the user know if the reference is a photo, fanzine, etc.
<b>PDF links to main site</b> – we are moving from a JPG for every page (inside a custom HTML) to a PDF per issue. However, when the PDFs are found via search, then the reader goes directly to the file. That means that unless they are savvy enough to inspect the url and tinker with it, they have no idea that they are on our site, and no easy link to the rest of the site.

Help? If any of these speak to you, please send a note to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org).

**The News in brief:** Server migration is complete. Faster! Bigger! Better!

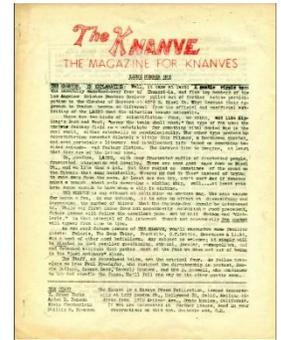
*Core list now 80% scanned.* A few years ago, we told you about our Core list of fanzines to scan - [https://fanac.org/fanzines/core\\_fanzine\\_list\\_to\\_scan.pdf](https://fanac.org/fanzines/core_fanzine_list_to_scan.pdf) . We've now hit 80% complete on that list! So, of course we're now building the next priority list to scan.

*Audio and video:* We've started digitizing some of the Science Fiction Oral History Society (SFOHA) materials that we received from Anne Gray last year. Thanks to the leadership of Eric Fleisher aka Dr. Gandalf, we are making progress. We're also beginning to make available Video Archeology recordings from the Midwest Tapes. See below for details of our first new YouTube video from that cache.

*Spring History Zoom schedule* is now up <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>. Our first session is "Death Does Not Release You - LASFS Through the Years" with Craig Miller (M), Tim Kirk, Ken Rudolph and Bobbi Armbruster, Date: February 26, 2022, Time: 4pm Eastern, 1pm Pacific. - LASFS is unique – in its history and impact on fandom. LASFS has a clubhouse, a long list of professional writers that have been members, and has had an incredibly active fan group over the decades. Los Angeles area fandom has produced innumerable fanzines, six Los Angeles Worldcons (and many other conventions). Join us for a session with our real world AND fannishly accomplished participants - convention runners (including a Worldcon chair), a noted fan and professional artist, and a fanzine editor, all past or present LASFS members - in conversation about Los Angeles fandom from the inside.

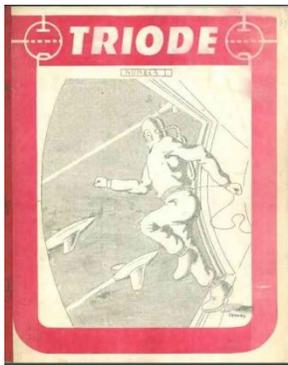
**FANAC Fan History Project website:** <https://fanac.org>

The last 6 months have been about continuing to fill in the gaps in the archive. While we've added new titles, and long runs, there's been a lot of just adding fanzines into the site, one or two at a time. We've completed the runs on Ted White and John D. Berry's *Egoboo*, Hal Shapiro's *Ice*, Ed Meskys' *Niekas*, T. Bruce Yerke's *The Knanve*, George Charters' *The Scarr*, Richard E. Geis's *Science Fiction Review* and Walter Gillings' *Scientifiction*. Many thanks to Kim Huett, Robert Lichtman, Jeremy Edmonds and Rob Hansen for seeing the gaps, and providing scans to complete the runs on hard-to-find zines *Ice*, *The Knanve*, *Niekas* and *Scientifiction*.



Long runs include Dave Van Arnam's *First Draft*, *Michifan* (clubzine from Michigan), a raft of John Foyster zines of various titles and one also of Lynn Hickman titles.

Convention pubs don't usually come in long runs, but we've added a considerable number of them.



They're all interesting, but here are a few highlights.

Thanks to Rob Hansen, we've been able to add a number of *Triode* issues from the 1950s. Contributors include not only editors Eric Bentcliffe and Terry Jeeves, but John Berry, Mal Ashworth, Eddie Jones, Harry Turner, Bill Rotsler, ATom, Walt Willis, Ken Slater and Vince Clarke.

In the 1940s One Shots index, we've added "Bob Tucker Dies!", the zine that started the Tucker Death Hoax. Read more about those in the Fancyclopedia article at [https://fancyclopedia.org/Bob\\_Tucker#Tucker\\_Death\\_Hoaxes](https://fancyclopedia.org/Bob_Tucker#Tucker_Death_Hoaxes)

In [Fantasy Commentator #25, Winter 1951](#), there's a piece by George O. Smith on Space Opera, with commentary on his preferred sorts of plots, and on John Campbell's approach to writing. This was adapted from a talk he gave in 1949 to the Eastern Science-Fiction Association. We met George in the 1980s at one of the Conferences on the Fantastic in the Arts. He told us the story of how he was able to keep selling to John Campbell, despite his wife having left him for George.

There's also been a steady drumbeat of new convention publications added, from Worldcon to local conventions, and from flyers to committee APAs. If you want to see what the underbelly of convention running was like before email, check out the committee APAs at the conpubs listing for Magicon - <https://fanac.org/conpubs/Worldcon/MagiCon/>. If you have convention pubs that we don't already have online, we'd love to get scans of them. Write to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org) to let us know what you have.

We're also looking for a few fanzines to complete some runs. If you have any of these issues, please help. *Shangri-LA*: #2, 9, and 28; *Acolyte*: #2, 5, and 6; *Shangri L'Affaires*: Series A (1941) #7, 9, Series B (1941), #1, 9 (any 1941 Shaggy marked #1 would be good), Series B (1963-4) #68, 69 and Series C (1980s) #3, 6.

The team is working hard to convert our older JPG files to searchable PDF files, focusing first on the Core Fanzine list and newszines. To help support our upcoming Zoom sessions we are also prioritizing fanzines from Southern California. We have completely converted all the issues we have of *Shangri-LA*, *Shangri L'Affaires*, *Voice of the Imagi-Nation*, *Holier Than Thou*, *The Acolyte*, *Toward Tomorrow*, *Nova*, *Fan-Dango*, *Wild Hair* and many others. They're not all online yet, but they're on the way.

As a reminder, all the fanzines can be found at [https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic\\_Fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html) and all conpubs at <https://fanac.org/conpubs>

**Fancylopedia.org** <https://fancylopedia.org/>

Are you the kind of person that clicks on the “I’m Feeling Lucky” button on the Google search page? Are you the kind of person that has ever started reading dictionary definitions at random? After you’ve done your Wordle, or if you don’t do Wordle at all, try clicking on the Random Page selection in the left bar on the Fancylopedia.org homepage. I just did so and was served a brief biography of Pauline Ashwell, a page on the Milwaukee in 1994 bid, and a page on Peri, aka *Periscope*, the clubzine of the British Teenage Fantasy and Science Fiction Society (aka the Junior Fanatics Science Fiction Society), edited by Ken Potter and Dave Wood in the early 1950s. It’s addictive. Try it!



The last 6 months of Fancylopedia have also been about filling in the gaps, and about drawing the lines between facts. Fancylopedia.org is constantly being updated, with additions to existing articles and the creation of new articles. As we add more fanzines and conpubs, and conduct more Zoom history sessions, we learn details of the past that make their way into Fancylopedia. In the last 30 days, over a thousand edits have been made by 15 contributors.

**FANAC Fan History YouTube Channel:** <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>  
Woohoo, we’re up to 966 subscribers (98 new since last time), and over 130,000 views.

In addition to the Zoom sessions, we’ve uploaded four very different recordings to YouTube. In a small way as memorials, two were added after the death of their principals, Diana Gallagher and Ed Meskys. For Diana, we added a home recording of her filking in the early 1980s, and for Ed, a short excerpt of a longer interview in which he describes the origin of the Society for Creative Anachronism (with pointers to a contemporary description of the first tournament in *Niekas 16*).



Most recently, we added a 1977 discussion between Gordy Dickson and Poul Anderson on the history of the Minneapolis Fantasy Society, in which topics range from the club in prewar days to Torcon on a shoestring to how the writing community worked together in the 50s. This came to us at FANAC from Geri Sullivan and the Video Archeology project. We also added another Video Archeology recording - the Big Mac Hugo ceremony from 1976.

All videos can be found by looking at the channel listing at <https://youtube.com/c/FANACFanHistory>

**Zoom Sessions:** Our three fall Zoom sessions were all very different, and the recordings are now on our YouTube channel. We did an interview with Juanita Coulson, providing a fascinating view of fandom going forward from the 50s, with anecdotes on pubbing her ish, losing her job as a result, filking, Star Trek, conventions and more. With Keith Freeman and Rob Hansen, we learned more about British fan history from outside of London with the extra bonus of a non-fannish but absolutely fascinating story of what the explosion of an atomic bomb is like. Our most recent zoom, was an illustrated presentation on Australian fandom up to about 1960 by Leigh Edmonds and Perry Middlemiss. Leigh is a professional historian as well as a fan, and his talk provided both top down and bottom up context. There are gems of information on topics like the connection between the New York Futurians and Sydney fandom, and the difficulties that were faced by new writers in Australia. Very different sessions, but all three were illuminating and delightful.

Our next three sessions are in final planning. The first one in February is on LASFS history, the second in March on Fan Funds and the third coming in April on "Fandom From Both Sides, with Joe and Gay Haldeman. Schedules can be found at [fanac.org/zoom.html](https://fanac.org/zoom.html). If you're not on the Frequent Zoomer list, please send an RSVP to [fanac@fanac.org](mailto:fanac@fanac.org).

### **FANAC by the Numbers.**

**Fanzines:** 16,634 issues (covering 991 titles) with more than 286,845 pages. This is up from the 15,478 fanzine issues and 263,386 pages reported in our August update.

**Conpubs:** 2,943 publications, with 57,673 pages, representing 692 conventions. This is up from the 2,491 publications, with 50,418 pages, representing 605 conventions reported in our August update.

**Fancyclopedia:** 28,776 pages which include 6,262 for people, 4,518 for fans (a subset of people), 8,008 for fanzines, another 1,505 for clubs and apas, and 6,070 for conventions. This is up from the 28,240 pages including 6,092 people pages, 4,368 fan pages, 7,819 fanzines pages, 1,433 for clubs and apas, and 5,993 convention pages reported in our August update.

**YouTube:** 130,157 views, 966 subscribers and 120 recordings. This is up from 118,930 views, 868 subscribers and 111 recordings in our August update.

### **Looking Forward to September**

FANAC plans to have a presence at Chicon 8. In person! If you're planning to attend, please stop by the table and say hi. We plan to have a scanning station, and a small exhibit, so bring your exotic fanzines and photos and help build the archive. Of course, we can take digital files of publications, photos and recordings too. Bring them on a USB key, if possible, please. Whether you have something to bring or not, come and get a ribbon for your badge and show your colors. Fingers crossed that the pandemic abates and hoping to see you there. Please pass this update on to any fan or list where you think it might be of interest. Those interested in subscribing can sign up on the [FANAC.org](https://FANAC.org) home page.

Fanhistorically yours. Joe Siclari and Edie Stern

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**Contributors** since the last newsletter: We have received new material and helpful corrections from many fans including: Jean Aker, Mowgli Assor, Margaret Austin, Astrid Bear, Jim Benford, Sandra Bond, Leybl Botwinik, Bob Bramwell, John Bray, Luke Bretscher, Thomas Bull, Bill Burns, David Butterfield, Pat Cadigan, Tom Cardy, Eva Whitley Chalker, Darrah Chavey, Eli Cohen, Eric Coleman, Juanita Coulson, Vincent Docherty, David Dyer-Bennet, Eva Whitley Chalker, Jeremy Edmonds, Leigh Edmonds, Ahrvid Engholm, Udo Emmerich, Steve Fahnstalk, Gary Feldbaum, Eric J Fleischer, MD (Dr. Gandalf), Keith Freeman, Bruce Gillespie, Roelf Goudrian, Mike Glyer, Eli Goldberg, David Grigg, Rob Hansen, John Hertz, Irwin Hirsh, Kim Huett, Kim Hull, Steve Johnson, Jerry Kaufman, Roxanne King, Dave Langford, Jack Lechner, Mark Leeper, Evelyn Leeper, Robert Lichtman, Guy Lillian III, Michael Lowrey, Joyce Lloyd, Rich Lynch, Bruce Mai, Joseph Major, Laurie Mann, Rich McAllister, Sam McDonald, Gary McGath, Perry Middlemiss, Frank Olynyk, Mark Olson, Marc Ortlieb, Ben Ostrowsky, Pascal, Catherine Pickersgill, George Phillies, Andrew Porter, John Purcell, Thomas Recktenwald, David Ritter, Tom Rogers, Nigel Rowe, Ken Rudolph, Matthew See, Joe Sikoryak, Wendy Sheridan, Steven Silver, Leah Zeldes Smith, Randy Smith, Sparky, Dale Speirs, Alan Stewart, Geri Sullivan, Jan Vaněk Jr, Pat Virzi, Taral Wayne, Jesse Weinstein, Peter A. Young, and Ben Yalow.

### **Selected links:**

**FANAC.org:** <https://www.fanac.org>

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/fanacproject/>

**Fancyclopedia 3:** <https://fancyclopedia.org>

**Fanac YouTube channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/FanacFanhistory>

**Fanac Zoom Listing:** <https://fanac.org/zoom.html>

**Chronological Convention list:** <https://fancylopedia.org/Convention timeline>

**Convention Publications:** <https://fanac.org/conpubs/>

**Fanzines:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic\\_Fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html) (FIND ALL FANZINES HERE)

**Core List: to Scan:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/desired\\_fanzine\\_list\\_to\\_scan.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html)

**Chronological Listing:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological\\_listing\\_of\\_fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/chronological_listing_of_fanzines.html)

**Country Listing:** [https://fanac.org/fanzines/country\\_listing\\_of\\_fanzines.html](https://fanac.org/fanzines/country_listing_of_fanzines.html)

**Newszine Project:** <https://fanac.org/fanzines/newszines.html>

The FANAC Fanhistory Project is a project of The Florida Association for Nucleation and Conventions (FANAC) Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization recognized by the IRS.

FANAC.org is archived by the US Library of Congress for long-time preservation and future availability