



NEW  
YEAR'S  
TALE

THE MICHIGAN SUMMERSET  
WINTERSET THEATRE  
PRESENTS

AN ORIGINAL PRODUCTION  
OF ASTOUNDING PROPORTIONS

CAST: GOD MKHIFEN  
STAGED & WRITTEN BY  
DANNIE PLATCHA  
AND  
DICK SCHULTZ  
1963-'64

## A NEW YEAR'S TALE

Opening Scene: Quaint native hut  
rotting in the  
quaint enchanted forests of south-  
eastern Michigan. There is a  
party going on in this quaint  
native hut, as is obvious from  
the noise, light and merriment  
issuing from the quaint native hut.

Characters: Plenty of them.

Time: Not too long before the  
beginning of 1964 (EST).

\* \* \* \* \*

Dannie Plachta: Oh, it's spectact-  
ular enough,  
Dick, but I somehow or other  
doubt if George Young would be  
terribly enthusiastic about us  
burning down his house in order to  
commemorate the New Year.

BHHoward DeVore: Besides which,  
it's been done  
before.

Dick Schultz: Oh? Really?  
Whose house?

BHHoward: I promised never to  
tell, but you might  
ask Art Rapp about bombs some  
time.

Dean McLaughlin: Furthermore  
Dick, you  
wouldn't be creating the Proper  
Image of Michigan Fandom.

Orma McCormick: It's a perfectly  
horrid idea, as  
far as I'm concerned.

Al Andriusekvicius: (Entering,  
stage right.)  
What's a horrid idea?

Dannie Plachta: Oh, you see, Al,  
we were just  
discussing various ways by which  
we might suitably commemorate the  
demise of the grand and glorious  
year of 1963.

Dick Schultz: And I thought it  
should be something

really spectacular!

Al: (Entering into the Spirit of things.) Say there, let's burn down George Young's house!

George Young: (Strangling noises, with great feeling.)

Orma McCormick: I still think it's a perfectly horrid idea. What's the matter, George?

George Young: (More Strangling noises, still with Great Feeling.)

Dick Schultz: Give George another drink, Dean. The lyrics to that song he's trying to sing aren't coming through too well.

BHHoward: Actually, Dick, Dean is right. We can't be giving people the wrong impression of Michigan fandom right now. Dannie?

Dannie Plachta: Oh, definitely.  
We must every-  
one the good side of Michigan  
fandom.

Dean McLaughlin: (A brief  
pause. Then  
Dean finally looks up from his  
drink.) Is there a good side to  
Michigan fandom?

Dannie Plachta: (With a Hurt  
Look on his  
sensitive Fannish Face.) Have-  
n't you ever heard of Norman  
Vincent Peale?

Dean McLaughlin: Isn't he the  
one that coll-  
aborated with Leigh Brackett on  
a story for Avram?

BHHoward: If you're interested  
in buying his stuff,  
Dannie, I just might be able to  
find a copy for you!

Fred Prophet: Now there's some-  
one who's thinking  
positively, eh Teddy Bear?

Roger Sims: (Opening his eyes.)  
If you ask me, we  
should go back to discussing im-  
portant things like women and  
where's the Johnny Walker bottle?

Dannie Plachta: If we really  
want to do some-  
thing outre and spectacular for  
the New Year, let's do something  
that will stagger all of fandom.

Al: You mean like getting them  
all drunk?

Jim Broderick: Why don't we  
protest something  
or other? We can pour gasoline  
over Schultz here and burn him in  
protest!

Rog Sims: That sounds like a  
grand idea!

Dean McLaughlin: Yes! What shall  
we protest?

BHHoward: How about the NFFF?

Dannie: What? An NFFF Policy?

BHHoward: No... Just the NFFF!

Dick Schultz: If anyone was to  
ask me, I'd think  
it would be ever so much more  
appropriate to burn Alma Hill.....

BHHoward: Good idea, Dick! We  
can use both!

Orma McCormick: I think it's a  
horrid idea!

Jim Broderick: Yes.. It's spect-  
acular, but it'd  
be all over so quickly.

Orma McCormick: Can't anyone  
think of some-  
thing nice?

Anonymous Stage Whisper: Let's  
put on  
a WorldCon.....!

(The Curtain crashes down.)

## ACT II

What Has Gone Before: About six pages, more or less.

Scene II: BHHoward has turned deathly white. It is oppressively quiet. You can even hear the ice cubes cracking in the drinks.

Al: Goshwowboyohboygeewhizgolly!  
That doesn't sound bad at all!

Dannie Plachta: An inspired statement.

Dick Schultz: A stroke of genius!  
I'm sure that  
Howard is quite capable of putting  
on another WorldCon, too!

BHHoward: (Strangling noises with  
Great Feeling.)

Dick Schultz: Whatsa matter,  
Howard? Maybe you  
had better move away from George.



Whatever it is that he had, I think it's catching.

George Young: You people aren't actually serious about this WorldCon business, are you?

Dannie Plachta: Oh, yes. Definitely. Why not?

George Young: (A pause.....)  
Let's go back to the idea of burning down my house.

Orma McCormick: I think that's a horrid idea! Where would we go for the rest of the night?

Dannie Plachta: Actually, it's not such an impossible idea. After all, the revived Michigan group is certainly capable of putting on a WorldCon.

Dick Schultz: Oh yes. In fact,  
(gasps!), I'll even  
volunteer for some of the work!  
What do you think, Teddy Bear?

Rog Sims: Hand me the Johnny  
Walker bottle, please?

Fred Prophet: Yes, and pour me  
one too.

Al: But you know, we could put  
on a good WorldCon!

Dennie Plachta: We could cert-  
ainly try to  
put on a good one.....

BHHoward: Well, the last one  
certainly wasn't a  
bad Con.....

Prophet and Sims: (In Unison)  
Oh yes, it  
certainly wasn't!

Orme McCormick: Well, I don't  
think that that  
is such a horrid idea!

Dean McLaughlin: I say there..!  
Do you know  
what? While we've been talking,  
1964 has crept up on us. It is  
almost twelve o'clock now!

Dick Schultz: By Degler! It's  
only two and a  
half years now until the '66  
WorldCon! By Degler....!

Dannie Plachta: Ladies! Gentle-  
men! I propose  
a double toast..... (Rising.)

BHHoward: Hear! Hear! (Rising)

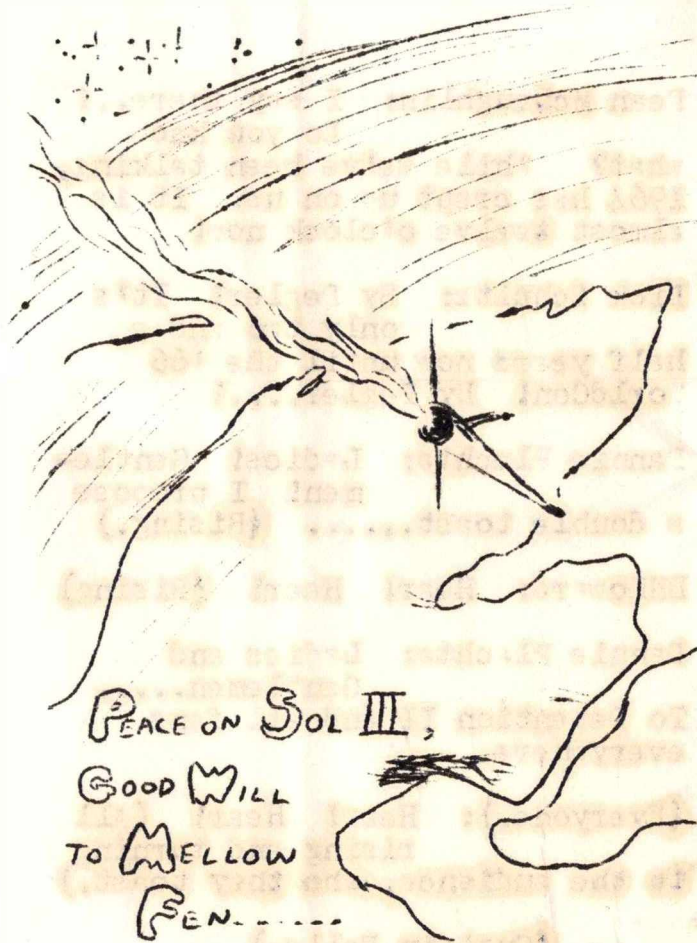
Dannie Plachta: Ladies and  
Gentlemen.....

To Detention II and all fans  
everywhere.

(Everyone.): Hear! Hear! (All  
rising and turning  
to the audience, who they toast.)

(Curtain Falls.)

ENDE



PEACE ON SOL III,

GOOD WILL

TO MELLOW

FEN.....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!