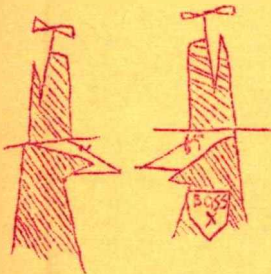


April 16, 1965

OP#41



"I managed to infiltrate
into the UPA successfully
but they wouldn't accept
25 homemade bombs as
activity requirements"

This week's opotoon is the last of the series ATom sent us for Christmas '64. In Olden Times that would have meant pasting them up, having them somethingfaxed, then cutting them apart and patching the cartoons into fresh stencils, then running them in several colors. Oh well. Nest week, back to Stiles.

Speaking of various kinds of 'toons, we saw a very special one on television recently. Up here in Merry Hell we get New York channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 11. Once in a great while we pick up channel 3 from Philadelphia. We get 6 from, er, I think it's Syracuse...someplace like that...and 10 a little fuzzily from Albany. Channel 13 is a special case: sometimes we get channel 13 from New York and sometimes we get channel 13 from Albany (an ABC affiliate).

But I was talking about something. That 'toon that was shown I think on one of the non-NY stations, was a genuine George Pal Puppetoon. Puppetoons were rather popular in the 1940s, even to the point of there being a Puppetoon Comics (Fawcett). Somehow they just stopped appearing, although I believe the process was used in making "The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm," which I have not seen. Puppetoons are an odd hybrid of stop-motion miniature photography and animation, producing an effect which I find highly appealing. But I guess not enough other people did...or maybe the costs were just too high to make the process pay.

Speaking of old cartoons, does anyone remember Professor Tall and Mr. Small? (Or was it Professor Small and Mr. Tall?) When I was Working My Way Through College in the early 50s, I had a job as an usher in my friendly neighborhood flick, and on Saturdays we used to have Kiddie Shows, with things like old serials (J. Carrol Naish putting poor old Bryant Washburn in the Animated Suspension machine... would Batman get there in time to save him from becoming a mindless *zobie? Answer: No!) and huge batches of cartoons. One Saturday we had this bunch of cartoon footage, incredibly jumbled and spliced, including a few of the early two-color Technicolor process cartoons, and an incredible cartoon that seemed to embody all of the humor and techniques for which UPA was just then becoming famous.

The cartoon featured Mr. Tall and Professor Small (as revealed, I think, in the dialogue), but there were no credits left on the film, and nobody knew just what the background of the film was. Does any Effer?

Then tonight channel 5 had "Comrade X," a nifty old Ben Hecht-scripted satire, circa 1937, with Clark Gable and Hedy Lamarr and Sig Rumann and Oscar Homolka and lots other nifty ol' actors. Last time I saw "Comrade X" was also on television, the Late Late show or so the night of August 27 (or the morning of August 28), 1958.

Dick Lupoff must have a fantastic memory to remember things like that, hey?

-ral-

*That's right, a mindless zobie.