



# The National Fantasy Fan

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 79 Number 9 September 2020

## Welcome to the N3F

On behalf of the Welcomittee, I would like to welcome our newest members to the club, Jason P. Hunt, Mindy Hunt, Richard Dengrove, Melissa Aires, Leah Zeldes Smith and returning former member - Ed Glaser. We hope you have a long and satisfying adventure with the N3F...Judy Carroll

The purpose of the Welcomittee is to welcome new members to the club. A letter is sent, by email or postal mail, to new members informing them of club activities they may be interested in joining. Those members with email addresses are also sent attachments to the current TNFF and other publications the N3F has to offer.

If you have questions about the club or are interested in helping welcome new members, please contact

Judy Carroll at [BlueShadows2012@gmail.com](mailto:BlueShadows2012@gmail.com)

## With Thanks

We thank Justin E. A. Busch, who has agreed come this November to take over the Birthday Card Bureau from R-Laurraine Tutihasi.

## Elections

Judy Carroll and Heath Row will run for the

Directorate. Candidates for N3F Office are currently:

For President — George Phillies

For Directorate member: John Thiel, Jefferson Swycaffer, Judy Carroll, Heath Row.

Jon Swartz will again serve as the Election Teller.

The Directorate has five members, so that there are currently more openings than candidates.

John Thiel gives as his platform: I've been a director for several years now and have been the chairman during one year, doing directorate reports for TNFF. I've contributed many suggestions for N3F improvement during this time, some of which were carried out, such as establishing an educational bureau (the History and Research Bureau) and doing magazine advertising for the N3F. I consider myself not at work if I don't send out a few mailings each term to the members of the directorate, so I consider myself active as a director. I am thinking of becoming more active than that if elected to another term.  
—John Thiel

Judy Carroll gives as her platform: I will do my best to help the club continue to grow, and to support the club president to the best of my ability.

Heath Row writes: I hereby accept my party's nomination to run for re-election.

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



Art

7 — Dragon Mailbox — Angela K. Scott



## Your Volunteer Team

### Directors:

Heath Row— kalel@well.com (Chair)  
 Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Jefferson Swycaffer - aboutides@gmail.com  
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 R-Laurraine Tutihasi - lauraine@mac.com

### Officers

President George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net  
 Treasurer David Speakman - davodd@gmail.com

### Editorial Cabal

Editor, TNFF George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Contributing Artists: Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker  
 N'APA Collator Jefferson Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com  
 Editors, Tightbeam George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,  
 Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Editor, Ionisphere John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 Editor, Eldritch Science George Phillies  
 Editor, Mangaverse Jessi Silver jessi@s1e1.com  
 Editor, Films Fantastic Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net  
 Editor, Origin John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 Editor, The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies  
 Keeper of the URLs David Speakman davodd@gmail.com  
 Host of the Web Site David Speakman davodd@gmail.com

### Bureau Heads

Anime/Comics Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com  
 Artists Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com  
 Birthday Cards R-Laurraine Tutihasi lauraine@mac.com;  
 Judy Carroll autumnseas8012@gmail.com  
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Convention Calendar: Heath Row kalel@well.com  
 Club Directory Heath Row kalel@well.com  
 Correspondence Bureau Judy Carroll  
 BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Election Teller Jon Swartz. jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Fandom History/Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@  
 mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau John Thiel  
 kinethiel@mymetronet.net  
 FanZine Review Editor Justin Busch  
 Film Bureau Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1@comcast.net  
 Forwarder Jeffrey Redmond  
 Franking Service George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Games Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Gourmet Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com  
 Historian Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 History and Research Bureau John Thiel kinethiel@  
 mymetronet.net; Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Information Technology David Speakman davodd@gmail  
 Lord High Proofreader Jon Swartz jon\_swartz@hotmail.com  
 Lady High Proofreader Jean Lamb  
 Membership Recruitment Kevin Trainor wombat.soho  
 @gmail.com, John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net,  
 Jeffrey Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com

Continued Next Column, Middle

## Facebook Pages

The Directorate is considering more detailed rules for our Facebook pages. Readers might consider something like:

Please Post on Topic: This is a science fiction and fantasy fan club. Off-topic posts will be deleted. If an off-topic poster persists, they will be removed.

Your posts should comment on science fiction and fantasy. Disagreement with the opinions of others is appropriate. Attacks on the person expressing the opinion are not, will be removed, and may lead to muting or blocking.

### Your Volunteer Team

Neffy Awards Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Pro Bureau George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net  
 Round Robins Patricia Williams-King, 335 Forrest Park  
 Road, Apt # 75 Madison, TN 37115.  
 Short Story Contest J. Swycaffer aboutides@gmail.com  
 Social Media David Speakman, George Phillies  
 Video Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous  
 Welcommittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com  
 Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

## WANTED! WordPress & Web Help

### Join or Renew

We offer four different memberships. Memberships with TNFF via paper mail are \$18; memberships with TNFF via email are \$6. All other zines are email only. Additional memberships at the address of a current member are \$4. Public memberships are free. Send payments to N3F, POB 1925, Mountain View CA 94042. Pay online at N3F.org. Our PayPal contact is treasurer@n3f.org Send phillies@4liberty.net your email address for a public membership.

**The National Fantasy Fan** (originally Bonfire), Vol. LXXIX  
 Number 9, September 2020, ISSN 2169-3595. Published  
 monthly by The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

**COPYRIGHT NOTICE:** All material in this issue, unless expressly noted otherwise, is contributed for one-time use only in this publication in its various print and electronic forms including fair use in electronic archival libraries. All other copyrights are retained by the contributor. Other use of any portion of this publication in any medium requires the express permission of the current (at time reproduction is to be made) President and Directorate of N3F and the original copyright holder.

Disagreement with the opinions of others is appropriate. Attacks on the person expressing the opinion are not, will be removed, and may lead to muting or blocking.

Be Courteous, Kind, and Polite: We're all in this together. Let's treat everyone with respect. Healthy debates are natural, but politeness is required. You can like what you like, and I can like what I like. Comment on opinions, not people.

Credit Artists for Their Work: When you share artwork that's not your own, please include the name of the artist—and link to where you found it—whenever possible.

No Promotions or Spam: Give more than you take from this group. Excessive self-promotion, spam, and irrelevant links aren't allowed. We ask that you limit posts promoting your own projects and commercial work to once a week.

No Porn: This group is family friendly and All Ages. If you want to share something a little sexy, risqué, blue, or otherwise not PG-rated, take it to N3F Adult. That means no bad language, sexual comments or posts; and no X-rated or suggestive posts or comments.

Fake Profiles Are Prohibited: We only want genuine people in here; no sock puppets. If you cannot contribute without having to hide behind a phony profile, then this group is not for you. We will remove people found to have fake profiles. People who block a moderator will be banned.

## SerCon

### Jack Armstrong: The All-American Boy by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.  
N3F Historian

Jack Armstrong was primarily a radio adventure series which maintained its popularity from 1933 until 1951. The CBS program originated at WBBM in Chicago on July 31, 1933, and was later carried on NBC, Mutual, and finally on the NBC Blue Network (that later became ABC).

The storylines centered around the globe-trotting adventures of the teenaged Jack Armstrong (played by Jim Ameche until 1938 and later by Michael Rye [Rye Billsbury], Stanley Harris, Charles Flynn, and others), a popular athlete at Hudson High School, his friends Billy and Betty Fairfield, and their Uncle Jim Fairfield, an inventor and industrialist.

Frequently, Uncle Jim would visit an exotic part of the world in connection with his business, and he would take Jack Armstrong and his niece and nephew along with him. Early in the series Jim Ameche's famous actor brother Don appeared on the program, playing Captain Hughes, a friend of Jack's. Many of the episodes had science fiction elements.

Each program began with “Jack Armstrong. . . Jack Armstrong. . . Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy.” Then we heard a chorus (originally the Norsemen Quartet) singing:

“Wave the flag for Hudson High, boys.  
Show them how we stand.  
Ever shall our team be champions!  
Known throughout the land.”

The program was created by Robert Hardy Andrews, who was a very successful radio serial writer. Sponsored throughout its long run by the breakfast cereal Wheaties, the program was renamed Armstrong of the SBI (Scientific Bureau of Investigation) when Jack graduated from high school and became a government agent. This plot change came in the final season, when the program shifted from a 15-minute daily serial to a half-hour complete story format. Throughout its broadcast span, the program offered many premiums, some of which were related to the adventures in which Jack and his friends were involved at the time the premiums were offered.

### Radio Premiums

The Jack Armstrong premiums included badges, banners, patches, rings, bracelets, bomb sights, tru-flight model airplanes, a sports library (booklets on how to play different sports), stamps, cereal bowls, manuals, training kits, photos of the performers, a sun watch, an explorer telescope, a flashlight gun, torpedo flashlights, utensils, signal lights, hike-o-meters/ped-o-meters/walk-o-meters/jog-o-meters, newspapers, parachutes, identification tags, games, a crocodile

whistle, and various other toys.

### Movie Serial/Television

In the 15-chapter Columbia movie serial of 1947, science whiz Jack Armstrong (John Hart) must free his friend, Vic Hardy, from an island fortress after he was kidnapped by a villain who wanted his help in building a death ray. Hardy was a scientist who had been working in one of Uncle Jim Fairfield's factories. Others who appeared in the serial included Rosemary La Planche (as Betty), Joe Brown, Jr. (as Billy), and Pierre Watkin (as Uncle Jim). Vic Hardy was played by Hugh Prosser.

A short Jack Armstrong animated pilot was developed by Hanna-Barbera for a proposed television series. However, when negotiations for rights to the characters collapsed, the planned series was reworked into what became the animated Jonny Quest (1964). Some of the Jack Armstrong footage survived in the closing credits for Jonny Quest.

### Big Little Books

There were two Jack Armstrong big little books (BLBs) published in the United States: Jack Armstrong and the Ivory Treasure (1937) and Jack Armstrong and the Mystery of the Iron Key (1939). Both books were illustrated by famous BLB illustrator Henry E. Vallely (1881-1950). The first BLB was written by Leslie N. Daniels, Jr. The second was written by Robert Hardy Andrews, the writer of the Jack Armstrong radio program.

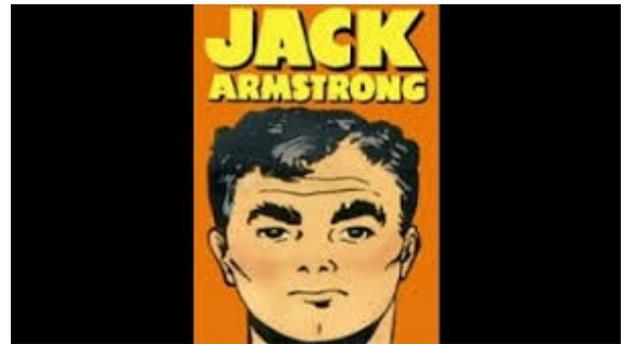
In the 1937 BLB, Jack and his friends search for an elephant burial ground and the ivory to be found there. This story was adapted by Daniels from a 1919 novel by Talbot Mundy titled The Ivory Trail.

In the 1939 BLB, Uncle Jim takes Jack, Billy, and Betty on his dirigible to India. Jack brings along an object that looks like a giant key made of iron. As they near their destination, the key begins to hum and vibrate. Later, even more keys are found!

### Comic Books

There were thirteen issues of a Jack Armstrong comic book published during the late 1940s by Parents Institute Magazines that also published Calling All Boys, Calling All Girls, and True Comics. The Jack Armstrong comic book was subtitled "The All-American Boy of Radio Fame." Vic Hardy's Crime Lab or Vic Hardy's Crime Clues were featured in the book, and even Billy and Betty Fairfield had their own adventures in some of the issues.

Bob Schoenke was the book's principal artist. Schoenke had earlier done work for the Street & Smith line of comic books. After Jack Armstrong, he did the artwork for the newspaper comic strips Laredo (1950-1957) and Jane Arden (1964-1968).



### Newspaper Comic Strip

A Jack Armstrong daily and Sunday newspaper comic strip published by the Register and Tribune Syndicate during 1947-1949 was also drawn by Schoenke. Uncle Jim did not appear in the strip, being replaced by Vic Hardy, the scientific detective who had also replaced him on the radio series and who also was a character in the movie serial.

### American Boy Magazine

Jack Armstrong had an association with American Boy Magazine in the 1930s. Stories about Jack Armstrong appeared in the magazine, written by Carl H. Claudy, a science fiction writer. One of the stories, published as a serial, had Jack going to Mars to rescue a prisoner! Since Jack was "The All-American Boy," it was a natural tie-in to have stories about him in American Boy Magazine.

### Merchandising

Jack Armstrong had a long association with Wheaties, billed as “The Breakfast of Champions!” Heard on the Jack Armstrong radio program was:

“Have you tried Wheaties?  
They're whole wheat with all of the bran.  
Have you tried Wheaties?  
They're the best breakfast food in the land!”

Premiums and ads for premiums appeared on Wheaties boxes as long as the association with Jack Armstrong lasted.

### Some Conclusions

Jack Armstrong entered the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1989. Timothy Bottoms portrayed a character named Jack Armstrong in the action-adventure film *American Hero* (1997). Even today many people remember Jack Armstrong as one of their favorite old-time radio programs. A surprising number can even sing the opening song. Wheaties, of course, is still going strong.

### Sources

Cline, William C. *In the Nick of Time*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1984.

Goulart, Ron (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of American Comics*. NY: Facts On File, 1990.

Hake, Ted. *Hake's Price Guide to Character Toys*, 5th Edition. NY: Gemstone Publishing, 2004.

Harmon, Jim & Donald F. Glut. *The Great Movie Serials*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972.

King, Fred L. *Jack Armstrong Encyclopedia*. Macon, MO: Author, 1986.

Lowery, Lawrence F. *The Golden Age of Big Little Books*. Danville, CA: Educational Research and Applications LLC, 2007.

Swartz, Jon D. & Robert C. Reinehr. *Handbook of Old-Time Radio*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1993.

Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted.

### Brick Bradford

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.

N3F Historian

Brick Bradford was a science fiction (SF) newspaper comic strip, written by William Ritt, a journalist based in Cleveland, and drawn by artist Clarence Gray. Begun as an airplane adventure strip, Brick Bradford quickly developed into one of the most popular SF strips of the 1930s.

The strip was first distributed by Central Press Association, a subsidiary of the King Features Syndicate, beginning on August 21, 1933. Central Press Association (1910 – 1971) was based in Cleveland and specialized in providing material for rural newspapers, so it was some time before the Brick Bradford strip was seen in the larger population centers of the country.

The strip was thought of as competition for Buck Rogers, and appeared about five months before the other popular SF strip of the 1930s, Flash Gordon, was launched.



Many of Brick’s fantastic adventures were accomplished because of the Time Top, introduced in 1935, a time-traveling machine that allowed Brick and his companions to explore both the past and the future.

These adventures included Brick’s reducing to microscopic size and fighting one-celled horrors; battling winged men, undersea serpents, and intergalactic villains; escaping an atomic sun; and many other fantastic adventures in futuristic cities and primeval jungles during the strip’s 50+ year run.

### Comic Books

Reprints of the comic strip appeared in King Comics and Ace Comics during the 1930s and 1940s.

In the late 1940s, a Brick Bradford comic book was published by Standard (Nedor/Better) with art by both Paul Norris and Alex Schomburg.

In the 1960s, Brick Bradford reappeared as a back-up strip in some of the original comics published by King Comics, including *The Phantom* and *Mandrake the Magician*. The Brick Bradford strips were by Paul Norris.

### Big Little Books

The comic strips first two story lines were revised as two big little books (BLBs) and published as *Brick Bradford and the City Beneath the Sea* (1934) and *Brick Bradford with Brocco the Mountain Buccaneer* (1938). Both BLBs were published by Saalfield.

In the 1934 BLB, daily strips from the first Brick Bradford story were reproduced. In the story Brick joined a search for a lost Incan city that was said to possess great riches.

In the 1938 BLB, the second story line of the daily strip was reproduced; in this story Brick was captured by Brocco, a submarine crewman who led a mutiny and planned to use the submarine for his own nefarious purposes.

### Movie Serial

A Brick Bradford serial was released in 1948; it was the 35th serial released by Columbia Pictures, and starred Kane Richmond (who had starred in the *Spy Smasher* serial in 1942). The Brick Bradford serial was one of only three SF serials produced by Columbia. Others in the cast were Linda Johnson, Pierre Watkin, Rick Vallin, Jack Ingram, Fred Graham, and Charles Quigley. The directors were Spencer G. Bennet and Thomas Carr.

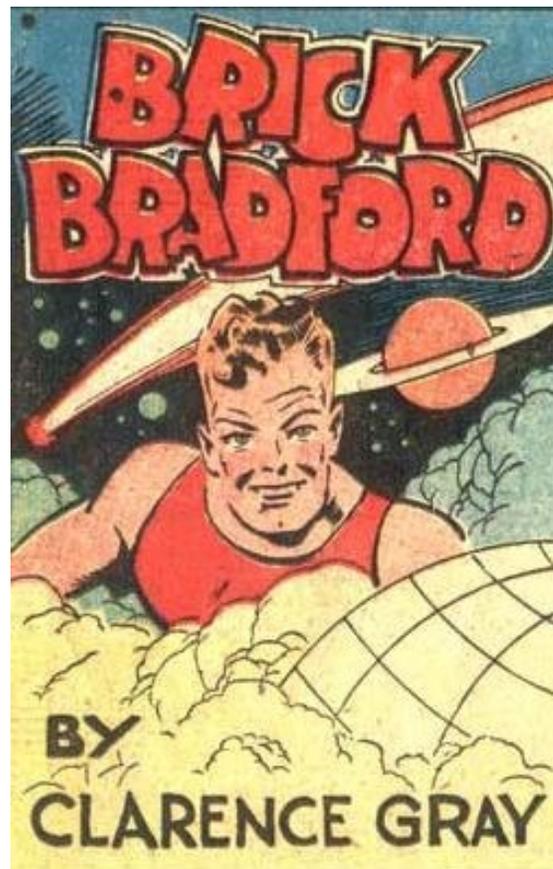
Movie serial experts Harmon and Glut described it as a “rather shoddy, low budget space cliffhanger” while Cline considered it to be a “mediocre serial

that enjoyed a wide audience.”

On the other hand, a later review (in a UK publication) found it to be “Crackling fun from start to finish.”

### William Ritt

William (Bill) Ritt was born in Evansville, Indiana, on December 29, 1901. He was a journalist based in Cleveland, and is primarily remembered today for writing Brick Bradford. Ritt was proud of his encyclopedic knowledge of the pulp genres, anthropology, and classical mythology, and used his unique knowledge in writing the strip. Ritt died in Warrensville, Ohio, on September 20, 1972.



Clarence Gray

Gray (1901 – 1957), born in Toledo, Ohio, was known primarily for drawing Brick Bradford for over two decades; he also worked as a freelance illustrator for various magazines during his career. When he was young, he described himself as “a red-headed, freckle-faced little punk.” He started his career, while still a teenager, as a sports and editorial



Dragon Mailbox by Angela K. Scott  
cartoonist with the Toledo News-Bee.

### Paul Norris

When Gray left the strip in 1952, the art was taken over by Paul Leroy Norris [aka Roy Paul]. Norris (1914 -- 2007) had been heavily involved in comic book art, working on such characters as DC's Aquaman (co-creator), Crimson Avenger, and Sandman; Fox's Blue Beetle; Western/Dell's Flash Gordon, Jungle Jim, and Tarzan; and Prize's Power Nelson (creator) and Yank & Doodle (co-creator), among others.

When Norris, who had also taken over the writing of Brick Bradford in 1957, retired in 1987, the strip was discontinued.

### Reprints of Brick Bradford Strips

When the strip was at its height, Brick's adventures were reprinted in several European countries, as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

Later, when new episodes no longer were being reproduced, reprints of both the daily and Sunday pages were published by several companies, including Nostalgia Comics, Pacific Comics Club, Menomonee Falls Gazette Comic Weekly, and Dragon Lady Press.

### Premiums

There are almost no Brick Bradford premiums to collect. I have seen a Brick Bradford watch listed in an old catalog, but nothing else with his name on it. If the strip had been adapted to radio and/or television, there would undoubtedly be many premiums to collect today.

### Concluding Comments

Popular culture critic Ron Goulart summed up Brick Bradford as follows: "an aviator, explorer, soldier, costumed avenger, confidant of physicists, gentleman sleuth, and sometimes even a cowboy."

Couperie and Horn once concluded: "While 'Brick Bradford' has neither the grandeur of 'Flash Gordon' nor the technical qualities of 'Buck Rogers,' it radiates a poetry and a festive atmosphere that are very often absent from its two rival strips."

Although Brick Bradford was one of the three most popular SF strips of the 1930s, Brick was not quite as successful as the other two -- and didn't turn out to have their staying power as well.

While both Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon made frequent appearances in other media in later years, such did not prove to be the case with Brick Bradford -- whose exploits were limited to the ones described herein.

### Sources

Cline, William C. *In the Nick of Time*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1984.

Couperie, Pierre & Maurice C. Horn. *A History of the Comic Strip*. NY: Crown, 1968.

Fane-Saunders, Kilmeny. *Radio Times Guide to Science Fiction*. London: BBC Worldwide Limited, 2001.

Gifford, Denis. *The International Book of Comics*. NY: Crescent Books, 1984.

Goulart, Ron (ed.). *The Encyclopedia of American Comics*. NY: Facts on File, 1990.

Harmon, Jim & Donald F. Glut. *The Great Movie Serials*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972.

Lowery, Lawrence F. *The Golden Age of Big Little Books*. Danville, CA: Educational Research and Applications LLC, 2007.

Swartz, Jon D. & Lawrence F. Lowery. *The Buck Rogers Big Little Books and Other Collectibles*. Danville, CA: Big Little Book Club, 2013.

Wagh, Coulton. *The Comics*. NY: Luna Press, 1974.

Note: In addition to the above, several Internet sites were consulted.

## Letters of Comment

Tobias Buckell, winner of the 2020 Neffy Award for 'Shorter Works' for his tale "By the Warmth of Their Calculus" writes us:

Hi, thank you for the honor and please pass on my thanks to your members! I was quite fond of the story and pleased it landed with you all.

...Tobias Buckell,

Lee Modesitt, winner of the 2020 Neffy Award for 'Novel' for his tale "Endgames" writes us:

Editor:

I'd read about Endgames winning the award, which came as a definite, but welcome, surprise. Thank you for contacting me, and please convey my thanks and appreciation to the N3F community for the support of and enthusiasm for Endgames.

Again... my thanks and appreciation.

...Lee Modesitt

New member Leah Zeldes Smith calls our attention to the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, which apparently started meeting in 1935, making it the oldest extant sf/fan club. Current writer members include Michael Jordan, Steve Leigh, and Laura Resnick.

Dear Neffers:

Fanzines are a dying interest, say some, but I still have a pile to respond to just about all the time. I keep the paper fanzines I get in a file folder beside my desk, and the e-zines I get, I place in a folder on my desktop labeled Zines To Loc. A look in the desktop folder says there are two issues of *The National Fantasy Fan*, Volume 79, Numbers 7 and 8, the July and August issues, and here are some comments on each of them.

July... The results of this year's Neffys were such a pleasant surprise for me, and thank you to all for your consideration and votes. (Just wondering... is there a certificate that goes with this?)

Good luck to all on the upcoming elections. It is always difficult to keep the club going and to keep the positions to do so filled, but I hope you will consider devoting at least a little time to filling a position. The history of the NFFF is an amazing story, so please think about keeping that history going.

The letter column... Heath Row, you honour me. I have been working in the LoC columns for getting close to 40 years, and while my production is down to around 200 locs a year or so, I am still enjoying myself with providing some column-inches for many zines. My inspirations were the late, great Mike Glicksohn, who said that the letter column was the heart of any good fanzine, and the late and honoured Harry Warner, Jr., who felt that any attempt at a fanzine was worth some response. Harry was a journalist, which is also my own training. I also have as an inspiration the late Clifford Simak, also a journalist, who could tell a good story with a minimum of wordage, as a good journalist should. That's why Simak could tell a great yard in about 130 pages.

Thank you to Jon Swartz for a mention of Halifax, Nova Scotia-born Hal Foster. I not only remember him for Prince Valiant, but also as an artist for an early Tarzan strip. I read online that too much anaesthetic during an operation took away most of his memory, and he never again remembered anything to do with Prince Valiant. In 2005, Foster was inducted into the Joe Shuster Canadian Comic Book Creators Hall of Fame.

August... A Saudi bid for Worldcon, and a Chinese bid as well. Well, we might not have imagined a Finnish or Irish bid some years ago, but they came, they won, and they staged successful Worldcons. I wouldn't support the Saudi or Chinese bids, not because of the people on the bid committees, but because of the governments of those countries who might make life difficult for foreign nationals on their soil. I hope that will change in years to come.

Letter column... To Justin Busch, I have won other awards, and I do remember the great feelings and egoboo that came with them. So, yes! I liked being nominated, I liked winning, and I hope I might win again in future years. Let's see if that is too much honesty. A sizable letter column this time, let's keep that up.

Yvonne and I are planning to have our regular Thursday Picnic in the Park, so we will be getting ready to head out shortly. Simple pleasures are often the best. So, time to wrap, and thank you all for these issues. Please do keep them coming, and see you the next time.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

## Bureaus

### Correspondence Bureau

Because there have been few responses I have decided to change the setup of the Correspondence Bureau.

If You wish to join you need to do the following:

1. Send me your name and either email address OR postal address,
2. If you wish to correspond with a member already listed with the Correspondence Bureau include their name.

Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information of the person you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

The following members are interested in corre-

sponding:

Jeffrey Redmond - by email

John Thiel - by email

Judy Carroll - by email or postal mail.

Send email requests to : Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com. Send postal mail requests to: Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

### Birthday Card Bureau

Cards sent in August=8

R-Laurraine Tutihasi

laurraine@mac.com

<http://www.weasner.com/>

### Writer's Exchange

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

I think it would be fun, exciting, and informative if our writers would actively participate in the monthly Writers Exchange article. We could get to know one another and help with writing questions and problems. I would like to see a lot of our writers frequently contributing.

Since I don't give up easily, when it's something I really care about, I am going to continue requesting input from our N3F writers. I know there are a lot of you out there.

Since next month is October and Halloween is the favorite time of year for scary stories, I would like member responses on what you feel is the scariest book, short story or movie you have ever encountered, and why. I would like to put your answers in the October Writers Exchange.

Last month's question was - What do you do when you sit down to write and discover you have nothing to say? Since no one answered this question I am going to give it another chance this month. This month's question: Do you prefer writing on a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a tablet, a cell phone, or paper and pen/pencil?

For years I preferred writing with paper and pen. I chose paper because I can write way faster than I can type (especially when my mind is running at a

rapid pace) and pen because it is easier to see and doesn't need sharpening. People from family members to co-workers to acquaintances to famous writers were singing the praises of the computer as a tool for writing. That's fine and all that, but to each his own.

I worked in the front office of a childcare center and was on the computer five days a week typing letters and schedules and recording the ins and outs of the children in our care. When there was a lull, and I had a bit of free time before the after school buses arrived and the parents came to pick up their kids, I would sometimes write. I started putting my stories and ideas in my computer files along with the programs, bulletin board projects, and other things I was asked to create.

At home, I started to put my writing on my computer. I found it helped in organizing the clutter of notes and partial stories and poems on my desk. I also discovered it was easier to read and quicker whenever I wanted to work on something rather than having to decipher my handwriting each time. My greatest discovery of all was the cleanness of everything. I could see each sentence clearly, play around with words, switch sentences by copy/paste and generally get a feel for the entire project. There was also a sense of calm. Slow down. Take your time. Think. I actually took time to contemplate and better understand what I was writing and why.

I still write with paper and pen. I have to. Sometimes the ideas show up so quickly and can disappear even faster. But some days, at three in the morning, I am frantically texting myself with the beginning of a story, because I fear, by the time I grab my notebook and find a blank page, my mind will also be blank.

If you are a new writer, a professional writer, or someone who dreams of being a writer - this is the place for you. If you love reading unpublished work and find it exciting to do so, this place is also for you

The Writers Exchange is for anyone interested in writing. If you have a story you would like read and commented on, or if you just want the excitement of reading unpublished work, then the Writ-

ers Exchange is here for you. Published or unpublished - all are welcome. You may join as a writer, a reader or both.

If interested, please contact: Judy Carroll.  
BlueShadows2012@gmail.com OR if you prefer postal mail, Judy Carroll 975 E 120 S Spanish Fork, UT 84660

### The N3F Review of Books

Regular monthly publication on behalf of the N3F Writers Exchange, the N3F Pro Bureau, and the N3F Book Review Bureau continues. This month we welcomed two new reviewers, Jason P. Hunt and Mindy Hunt...George Phillis

### History and Research Bureau

I've located a stash of early fanzines at the Fanac project and am now able to give readers of Origin a link to these early fanzines. The Fanac project has complete runs of many significant fanzines. Jeffrey Redmond is steadily doing research papers on aspects of science fiction. Jon Swartz is offering many views of early science fiction, and Judy Carroll is providing Origin with excellent columns promoting interest in science fiction history.—John Thiel

### Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

A slack month for Ionisphere. The Pandemic has kept some potential interviews from occurring, for the time being anyway. However, we got good, professional quality art for the cover of the forthcoming issue from one of our new members. I am working on communications and got a communications breakthrough with Jose Sanchez, whom I was finding it difficult to contact. There may be more about communications in IO in the future. I sent paper fanzines (my own) to Jose and to one of our new members to re-establish some ground contact and interchange. A lot of work is being done in the bureau on interrelations.—John Thiel

### Recruiters Bureau

Strictly maintenance of recruitment at the present time, no new ideas. But we keep on the lookout for advertising possibilities.—John Thiel

## 2020 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest

### Story Contest Rules and Entry Blank

Now and then, it has been suggested to open the N3F Amateur Short Story Contest to professional writers, writers who have had one or two sales. I've never favored this. It is my opinion that we want new blood. We want to reward the new kids on the block. To be blunt, we want writing that is not that good. We want stories from people who don't know their object from their subject, who don't know where commas go, and who use apostrophes to denote plurals -- but who have a story to tell. I want stories from guys nobody's ever heard of...but in the years ahead, we will. Those who are already successful don't need the encouragement of our little contest. If they were to enter the contest, the danger is that they'd win, every time, and crowd out the promising newcomer.

1. This contest is open to all amateur writers in the field, regardless of whether they're members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation. For the purposes of this contest, we define an amateur as someone who has sold no more than two (2) stories to professional science fiction or fantasy publications.
2. Stories entered in the contest must be original, unpublished, not longer than 8,500 words in length—and must be related to the science fiction, fantasy, or similar genres in the opinion of the judge.
3. Email attachments of Word documents are acceptable for submission. Manuscripts on paper should be typed, single sided on 8 1/2"-by- 11" white paper, double spaced, with pages numbered. The name of the author should not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure impartial judging. Photocopies are acceptable, if they are of good quality. Computer printouts must be legible.
4. Contestants can enter up to three stories. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) if you would like your story returned at the end of the contest. Stories will not be returned without an SASE. Do not send your only copy in case of accidental loss. We are not responsible for lost manuscripts.
5. Email entries will be accepted. Send to Jefferson P. Swycaffer at [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). No guarantee can be made of email receipt. Privacy and property rights will be absolutely respected. No one other than the Short Story Judge will ever see the submission.
6. There are no entry fees.
7. Cash prizes totaling \$100 will be awarded as follows: First prize is \$50, second \$30, and third \$20. Honorable mentions and semi-finalists will receive a certificate of award.
8. Send all manuscripts to the contest manager: Jefferson Swycaffer, P. O. Box 15373, San Diego, CA 92175-5373; [abontides@gmail.com](mailto:abontides@gmail.com). Emails with the story attached in word format are preferred. Paper manuscripts are acceptable. All entries must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2020.
9. The Short Story Judge is a published science fiction professional, and also a loving fan of the sf and fantasy genres. All comments and critiques are solely the Short Story Judge's opinion, but he promises to be constructive and polite.
10. Stories will also be reviewed by the Editor of the N3F Fiction zine Eldritch Science; authors of suitable tales will be invited to submit their tales for publication in our zine. This review and invitation will only occur after contest winners have been announced, so it can have no effect on the contest outcome.
11. The NSF may want to publish an electronic book including top entries from one or more years of publication. You will not be contacted about this until after the contest is over and prizes have been awarded. If we want to publish your story, you will have to sign over to us first world serial rights. Your willingness to sign over rights cannot affect whether or not you win the contest. Winners will be notified as soon as the judging is completed. Announcements and notifications of winning entries will be made by March 2021. Please take your time and submit your best work. You can resubmit stories previously entered if they did not win previously. All entries will be kept confidential and will be judged fairly and anonymously. The deadline for all entries is Dec. 31, 2020. Good luck!

*Please supply on a separate page the following information as your entry form.*

**Title of story (for identification):**

**Author's name and address:**

**Author's email address:**

**I have read the above rules for the 2021 N3F Amateur Short Story Contest, and I agree to them.**

**Signature:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



Welcome to the N3F — With Thanks — Elections  
Facebook Pages

SerCon  
Jack Armstrong: The All-American Boy  
Brick Bradford

Letters of Comment  
Tobias Buckell, Lee Modesitt,  
Leah Zeldes Smith, Lloyd Penney

Bureau Reports  
Correspondence Bureau, Birthday Card Bureau, Writers Exchange  
The N3F Review of Books, History and Research Bureau  
Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau, Recruiters Bureau

N3F TNFF  
c/o George Phillips  
48 Hancock Hill Drive  
Worcester MA 01609