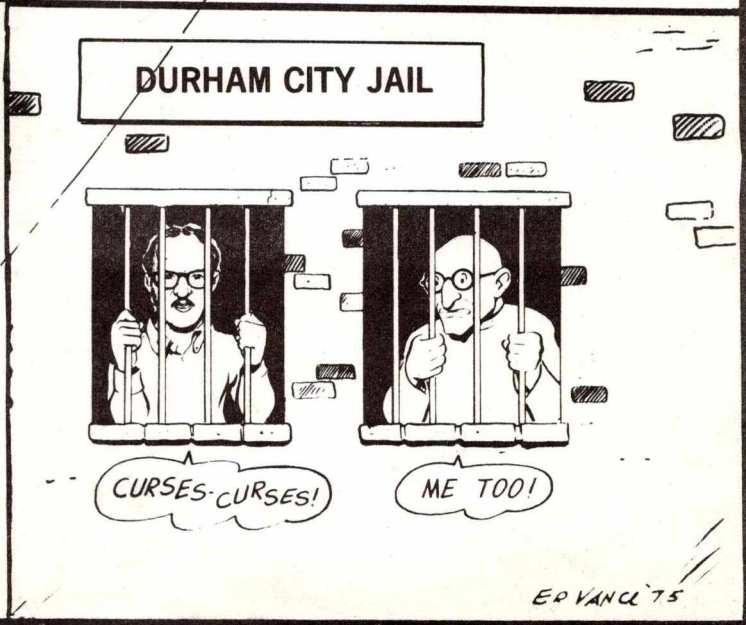


VERTIGO

The "ORIGINAL"
Original CAPTAIN MARVEL



VERTIGO #25 is the 24th issue of the Official Organ of the Carolina Fan Federation. This issue is to promote the April 6, 1975 Durham mini-con. Editor, typesetter: Edwin L. Murray, 2540 Chapel Hill Rd, Durham, N. C. 27707. Publisher: Scott Whiteside, P O Drawer 25830, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Cover artist: Edwin Vance, 2110 Snead Ave, Colonial Hts, Va 23834. Price 35¢ This issue pubbed on March 15, 1975.
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under the elm tree

THIS GO ROUND Dept

Last issue I predicted that we would have a thicker than usual issue but things didn't quite work out that way. I'm not promising anything this issue so we will take our chances. This issue's cover is by Ed Vance and depicts the Capt Marvel of the early 1940s. If you like his work you can look forward to seeing more of it in future projects from Tom Long and Thunder Graphics Studio. In fact I had to clip their symbol from a fine Owl Man piece by Tom & Ed. The studio will be specializing in stories and art in the Golden Age tradition. Watch this space for further news on their projects. Next issue we will have an excellent cover by JASOOMIAN artist Clyde Caldwell. Just ask David Kelly, who did the cover last issue, how good it is. Clydd has drawn a Conan button that is now being sold by John Rose, Box 728, La Crosse, Kansas 67548 for \$2.00 (money order preferred). Susan Caldwell wore a copy to the last mini-con but in case you missed seeing her we will have a copy of the art on display at this mini-con. If you are familiar with his work that should be recommendation enough.

THE BIG CON Dept

Durham mini-con XXVII will be held on April 6, 1975 at 2540 Chapel Hill Road. Most of you have either been to a con or have been following VERTIGO long enough to know what to expect so I'll just cover the basics. The con generally runs between 9 AM and 5 PM with most people arriving and leaving between those hours. There is no program so there is plenty of time to browse, buy, sell, converse, etc. A new Price Guide is due out that week so this will either be the last con at the old prices or the first at the new prices. With inflation the way it is a new Price Guide is nothing to look forward to.

CON YOU BEAT IT Dept

Durham mini-con XXVI was held on January 26, 1975 was fairly successful for a mid-winter con and drew about 75 fans. Usually there is a dip in attendance about this time of year but things were pretty steady this time. We had a preview of the dust jacket for the next Carcosa book (see ad elsewhere) and some more of the Evans interiors. Karl Wagner brought an advance copy of the cover for Bloodstone so we could all see the fine job Frazetta did on Kane. Stuart Schiff gave us a preview of the cover and center spread for the next WHISPERS. George Chastain brought some of his art including a fine rendition of Kane and an HPL version of Uncle Scrooge. There were lots of things for sale including more than the usual amount of comics from the 1950s (a hard period to collect). Among those attending were: Scott & Linda Whiteside, Edwin Wray, Jay Lenard, David Kelly, John Allison, Bill Starnes, Norman Hunter, Andy Smith, Carly Wathirs, H. Shelton Durne, John H. Rosser, M C Goodwin, Clai Smisson, Billy Saunders, Richard Hurt, Denis Wolff, Jerry Minter, Richard & Mildred Minter, Robert Rubin,

Clay Kimball, Samul Joyner, John D. Squires, George Chastain, Jeanne Goodman, Martin Massoglia, Milton Road, Karl & Barbara Wagner, Walter Harper, Pam Turner, Ray Kendrick, Steven Massey, Stuart Hough, Ned Brooks, Elaine White, David Ortman, Alan & Mark Upchurch, Thomas Abrams, Leon & Donice Howard, George Beahn, Bill Graves, Dave & Joanne & Jonathan Drake, Cary Matthews, John Clark, Tag Gibson, Randy McClellan, Pat Gabriele, Vince Womly, Clyde & Susan Caldwell, Tony Blake, Mike Cromartie, Stuart Schiff, Jay Casper, Will Bullard, Grier Neely, Eric Larsen, W C Hales, Steve Turner, Mark Austin, Daniel Brooks, Nancy & Hal Barker, James Groce, Terry, and elm.

FOLKS AROUND HERE Dept

"Conchy" appears to be doing fairly well now. We have been noticing it in one paper or another in quite a number of major cities. It is doing well enough now that James Childress is able to devote full time to it. He has now moved across the state and is living in Bladenboro. I don't have to tell you how happy we all are for him. . . Kelly Freas had an exhibit at the Hayden Planetarium in NY. He has been asked by NASA to cover the US-USSk space shot in July. Kelly has a set of eight 6x9 postcards taken from his DAW covers. They are 35¢@ (minimum order 6). For more info on these and other prints write: Kelly & Polly Freas, Route 4, Box 4056A, Va Beach, Va 23457. . . The second Carcosa book will be FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS by E. Hoffman Price and with luck it will be out in late summer. . . Warner Paperback Library should be bringing out the Manly & Wade Wellman pastiches of Sherlock Holmes and the War of the Worlds. . . An upcoming WHISPERS will have a story by Karl Wagner using his medical background. Coming up in British collections will be "Barrow Troll" by Dave Drake and a new Kane story by Karl. . . Murray Leinster had a stroke recently. . . REH: LONE STAR FICTIONEER #1 features a piece by Karl titled "The Once and Future Kane" on the creation of Kane. This is in addition to the REH fiction and other articles. Copies are \$2.50 (plus 50¢ postage) from Byron Roark, 2951 South 34th Street, Kansas City, Kansas 66106. The second issue should have a story by Karl. . . A new issue of MIDNIGHT SUN is in the works and will feature a George Chastain cover with Kane. Watch for ads or write Gary Hoppenstand, 2014 Mackenzie Dr, Columbus, Ohio 43220. . . NUCLEUS #9 is out and is their first all non-pro issue. I haven't seen it yet but it sounds good. If you enjoyed the previous issues you will want this one. Send \$1.25 (Plus 25¢ postage) to Fantasy Worlds Unlimited, 3640 Wright Rd, Portsmouth, Va 23703. . . Barbara Wagner was a hit & run victim recently but luckily she suffered no serious injury. I understand most of the injuries consisted of bruises. . . THE JINNA CLAN JOURNAL is the newsletter of the Nelson Bond Society (P O Box 1367, Solen, Va 24153) and is available for 30¢@ or \$3.00 a year. Featured are news, reviews, and local happenings so any of you interested in the club or just the fanzine should get in touch. . . Dick Moores will be one of the guests at this year's San Diego Comic-Con. . . THE WLO'S WHO OF AMERICAN COMIC BOOKS vol II is out and includes entries for NC artists Sam Grainger and Dick Moores. A must item for the well informed comics fan. Send \$6 for vol II or \$10 for vol I & II from Jerry Bails, 487 Lakewood Blvd, Detroit, Mich 48215. . . THE STREET ENTERPRISES BENEFIT PORTFOLIO is a 48 page album of art done by a number of top artists to help raise money to get MFG out of debt (or at least cut the problem). Included are pieces by George Breisacher ("Boon Dock"), James Childress, and Dick Moores from NC. We join these men in supporting a fine publication. Send \$10 to Street Enterprises, P O Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisc 53051 for the Portfolio and subscribe if you haven't.

Elmer Clark is interested in starting a shire of the Society for Creative Anachronism in NC and would like any interested parties to get in touch with him. The SCA promotes interest in the medieval era. Write him at P O Box 5775, Raleigh, NC 27607. . . For those of you who missed the news at the last mini-con, Elmer was robbed at work on Jan 5 (the day after the previous issue of VERMIGO was printed) and was locked in the trunk of his car to give the hold-up man time to escape. Luckily he had seen the latest 007 movie that afternoon and knew that it was possible to pick the lock. It took an hour but he managed to get out okay. The thief was never caught. . . The special Weird Tales issue of WHISPEKS will be out around May and promises to be the best yet. Check last issue for the all-star line-up. You won't go wrong by sending \$3.50 to Stuart Schiff, 5508 Dodge Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28305. . . ETERNITY science fiction #4 is now out and continues the high standards of previous issues. Featured is an interview with Damon Knight, as well as fiction, poetry, and reviews. Send \$1.25 to Stephen Gregg, P O Box 193, Sandy Springs, SC 29677. . . Many thanks to Bill Blackwood for his kind and generous donation to VERMIGO. Hope to see you at one of the cons again. . . The new address for James Grace is Lake Johnson Mews, Box 35, 4221-2 Avenet Ferry Rd, Raleigh, NC 27606. . . The school address for Richard Llewellyn is Holy Trinity Seminary, P O Drawer 5378, Irving, Texas 75062 (near Dallas and not Houston as erroneously mentioned last time). . . School address for Eric Larsen is Box 16373 NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27607. If you are interested in news of Raleigh (and news in general), fiction, reviews, etc send him 25¢ for SHADOW, the newsletter of the NO. . . One time NC resident Guy H Lillian III is at DC and, among other things, doing work on The Amazing World of DC Comics. . . David Kraft, who made one mini-con when he was living in Ga, is now at Marvel and doing work for the black & whites as well as Man-Wolf. . .

EX CONS Dept

The Old Time Western Film Club held another meeting on March 8th at the Siler City City Hall. As usual, things were very entertaining for both the experts and the novices (like me). Featured films were "Saddle Aces" with Rex Bell and "Desert Gold" with Tom Keene, Buster Crabbe, and Bob Cummings. There were also two chapters of the first "Flash Gordon" serial, a film on the Mack Sennet comedies, and a silent short featuring a reformed outlaw whose name escapes me. Live entertainment included music by Wil Scotten and magic by George Perry (The Old Rebel). To join the club and hear about the meetings in advance send \$5 to Herb Swilling, 401 S. Florida Ave, Greenville, SC 29611. You might also get in touch with Milo Holt (Box 142, Siler City, NC 27344). ((Do any of the rest of you remember when the Lassie TV show was supposed to take place in NC. Back before Timmy when the male lead was called Jeff the nearest town was always mentioned as being Siler City. That was a looong time ago so my memory may be faulty. Anyone who can confirm or disprove this is welcomed to write.))

Tidewater mini-con II was held at the Lake Wright Motor Hotel in Va Beach on February 16th and drew about 175 fans. All but one of the dealers tables were filled. Sponsors of the con were Tag Gibson & Jay Casper. Elm & Terry managed to attend but arrived late and had to leave early due to our work schedule. Before I turn over the speaker to Tag Gibson to say a few words about the con let me mention that the directions given did not help those coming from the south. Both Eric Larsen and myself had to backtrack when we overshot the site after discovering that there was no such exit for those coming from the south. At least I got off before having to pay the troll.

"A recent issue of Vertigo made the statement that Richmond was becoming the city for mini-cons. Tidewater Mini-Con II, however, offers strong evidence to the contrary.

"The con was held on Sunday Feb 16, a day marked largely by an incredible rain storm which was discouraging when coming or going, but at least for me was entertaining to watch through the picture windows of the Lake Wright Hotel's Cape Henry Banquet Room. We received several compliments on the location and set-up, as well as a compliment of sorts from the hotel who graciously re-named it the "Cape Henry Mini-Con" on their events board in the lobby, as well as spreading a quantity of herbiscum throughout the room, evidently for the entertainment of the fans.

"The high point of the convention was, of course, the speech by Kelly Freas which attracted the greatest gathering of fans at any one time, close to 100. Mr. Freas was well-received by the audience, who followed his twenty minute talk with about a half-hour of questions. Mr. Freas also unveiled his new set of eight full-color postcards which were, as usual, masterpieces.

"About 50 people stayed around for the film show, which was a program of cartoons from the early 1930's, highlighted by five early black and white Mickey Mouse cartoons and the first Woody Woodpecker. The show began sometime after 5:00. After three full reels of cartoons, at about 6:30, most of the people began to drop out so we decided to call it quits for the day.

"Plans for the future are, again, a bit vague. We would like to have a major convention (i.e., 2 days, about 500 people and 40-50 dealers and a larger film and talk program) but we can't be sure yet and we aren't going to make any statements about this until we have all the details set. No matter what happens there we will continue the mini-cons, although probably not on any regular schedule. So, one way or another there will be something happening in the Norfolk/Va Beach area this summer, and at any rate we will be sending out our newsletters in a month or so. Anybody who is interested, just write me or the mini-con address and we'll put you on our mailing list. The address is: Tidewater Mini-Con, 4900 Westgrove Rd, Va Beach, Va 23455."

FOR STRIPPERS ONLY Dept

I'm afraid that the news this time isn't very good. First of all, PHOENIX still hasn't come out in spite of innumerable promises! Everyone has problems but this is ridiculous. Three issues in a year is a bit slow for a weekly zine.

eyes
 Alan Light has just given VINTAGE FUNNIES a shot in the head by doubling the price without improving the product. VF now costs \$40 a year for 16 pages an issue. MFG is \$33 and 40 pages. Those I have talked to agree that upping the price like this won't help get VF out of debt because a number of the subscribers are marginal (circulation has been going down from what I hear) and will not renew rather than pay extra. I can only guess that VF will not be with us much longer unless something else changes in addition to the price. The fellow strip fans I've talked to about it agree that a third of the line-up is weak and could be replaced. It is shuffled often enough as it is. It needs another strong strip to replace the departed Superman & Batman. I would like to see another well known strip (such as Smilin' Jack) and maybe one more adventure strip such as the "When Worlds Collide" adaptation that was running in Favorite Funnies. I would hate to see VF go under because they have some fine strips but things don't look good at this point.

The Overseas Weekly is a little different from that mentioned last time. The current line-up includes the following strips, all Sundays: King of the Royal Mounted, Barney Baxter, Red Barry, Mandrake, Popeye, Jungle Jim, Flash Gordon, Radio Patrol, Red Ryder, Phantom, and the daily Michael Brand. It is back to weekly and \$16.50 a year.

Capt Biljo's STRIPPER #9 is the first issue edited by Ronn Foss and is not up to the previous standards. The only legit article on strips was Ron Goulart's piece on how he put together his upcoming book on the adventure strips of the 1930's. This is only his first issue though and it will take a little while to get together the "staff" and back-log of material needed to make the zine more interesting. We could do with a little less emphasis on the literal meaning of the title. This first issue ran it into the ground the way it never was before. Foss once edited ALTER EGO so we know he can turn out a quality zine if given a little time. Price is 3 for \$1 from Ronn Foss (715 St. Marys, Decatur, IN 46733).

A CERTAIN CHARM Dept

It has come to my attention that a few of you are collectors of the ACG comics of the 1950's and 1960's. I'm a big fan of the American Comics Group and would like to hear from others who like them. Before the code they were a run-of-the-mill low grade horror company with an occasional Williamson story. After the code their s-f and fantasy stories had to change or go under. The company developed a personality through the stories of editor Richard Hughes. For a more detailed analysis of the ACG "type" see VERTIGO #9 but now I'll just say that they thrived on sentiment, humor, and the surprise ending! The letter pages always contained lists of the readers favorite stories and if you have such a list I would like to see it. Mine was in #9. My code wants are Forbidden Worlds #36, #41, #43, & #47 and Adventures Into The Unknown #62 & #66. Steve Turner brought us one of our wants at the last con and we thank him muchly. A surprise of sorts will await him at the next con.

just gave away

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS
VERTEX is going to change to a monthly tabloid with the issue on sale in April due to a shortage of the type of paper they have been using. This will give them a chance to do longer stories and serials. . .VOID is a new Australian s-f mag. . .Roger Elwood is quitting the original anthology field to edit mainly novels for Pyramid and Harlequin. . .Kull and ~~WZ~~ ~~WZ~~ The Barbarians is a new Marvel b&w that will feature a number of REH characters. . .Marvel Classics will take up where Classics Illustrated left off. . .Archie Goodwin to edit Marvel b&w mags. . .Rima & Black Magic dropped. . .Aquaman replaces Spectre in Adventure Comics. . .Grim Ghost dropped. . .the new X-Men are Legion rejects. . .Conway gave up Savage Tales, Spider-Man, etc to edit at DC. . .Len Wein on Spider-Man. . .Targitt to become an Iron Man type as all Atlas heroes not in costume get them. . .Jeff Rovin quit Atlas editing, Steve Mitchell quit production, and many others have left too. . .The Scorpion will move into the present and get a costume and powers. . .Thor the Barbarian will be a b&w after the Marvel Preview appearance. Most strips in that mag will get their own titles. . .Where Monsters Dwell to feature new strip called Bloodstone which is a Night Stalker type. . .There may be a Sherlock Holmes b&w coming up. . .The Mike Friedrich/Dick Giordano strip in Star*Reach #2 was planned to be a back-up in Aquaman years back and is a sort of Modesty Blaise of the future. . .There is an Executioner digest due out. . .Larry Leiber is head editor at Atlas . . .

GEORGE EVANS

((Many thanks to Karl Wagner for letting me borrow some letters that George Evans sent him in correspondence about the new Carcosa book. The following piece is autobiographical and edited from those letters. You are in for a treat when you see the art Mr. Evans did for the book.))

Birthdate: 5 Feb. 1920--Harwood, Penna. An anthracite-mining town near Hazelton, Pa. Moved on to Kulpont, Pa. at age 9. I tell you--breaking into a new school, with established cliques, was in those days some adventure! A new kid had to fight his way to any acceptance, and black eyes were battle honors!

Can't remember when I was not at least trying to draw. Had a chronic ear problem which kept me cooped in when the weather turned bad, and found that with tablet and crayons the hours passed more pleasantly. That ear bit ended in an operation at age 12, and a three-week stay in the hospital where for the first week I was immobilized. My bed was near a window which looked out toward a nearby airport where, for most of the day, pilots frolicked about in the old biplanes. The enchantment of this hooked me forever. I wanted to fly more than to draw. Almost made it in WWII -- but got scratched from flying because of deficient eyes. Did make it as an AM (mechanic). Line work--just service of aircraft to keep them flyable. Major work was done by civilians in thoroughly equipped hangars. After any sort of adjustment or repair work, the BT 13's and AT 6's were test flown by hot pilots. They were most willing to take along the mechanic who had done the work--gesture of faith!--so got in some air time. And the braver ones were even willing to allow bits of stick-time--at plenty of altitude!

As a kid I'd taken a correspondence-school art-cartooning course; and in the Air Force I tried the Army-sponsored brand of same. On separation from service I got a staff-job with a magazine publisher and attended night classes and lectures at the Art Student's League in N.Y. City. Did a year or two of staff work, then picked up enough work to set up freelancing, which I have been doing ever since. Most of it was comic-book work, but I did a number of things in wash and two-color for the old "Air Trails" and "Air Progress," plus quite a few pulp illustrations of various sorts. A staggering lot of work, most of it best forgotten!

Started as a staff artist (sic) with Fiction House just after WW II. Helped the other featured artists meet forever-missed deadlines, so had bits of this and that of nearly every Fiction House character. I guess Jane Martin, the flying nurse, was the first feature they let me try alone. Then Lost World, or The Voltamen, or whatever it was called, in Planet Comics. Didn't get to feeling anything till they gave me a chance at Tigerman, which was my favorite while with Fiction House. Went from there to Fawcett's where I began with adaptations of some movies, including "When Worlds Collide." Then Romantic Mysteries, which featured two longish stories per book. A short stint with a "Bob Colt" western, which didn't make it. Then "Captain Video." Remember Captain Video? Fifty-two pages a month...story always in late, letterer always late. That was where I became a coffee-fiend, and wasted enough midnight oil to ease our current crisis! All this was not bad enough--I had to get a likeness of the two TV characters. After I had slaved to do this, there was a scramble at TV HQ, and those two were fired...and it was redo faces on both leads on all 52 pages. My hair turned white--what was left of it by then.

George Evans' illustrations for "House of the Monoceros"—one of more than 30 full page drawings in FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS!



CARCO SA PROUDLY ANNOUNCES:

FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS by E. Hoffmann Price
With Illustrations by George Evans

Carcosa, whose first publication--WORSE THINGS WAITING by Manly Wade Wellman, with illustrations by Lee Brown Coye--has been hailed as one of the most outstanding fantasy volumes of the past decade --and one of the biggest bargains the field has seen--now announces its second offering in the Carcosa series of luxury limited editions: FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS, a mammoth collection of the best fantasy and adventure stories of E. Hoffmann Price, with over 30 full page illustrations and a full color dust jacket by George Evans.

E. Hoffmann Price--One of the last surviving members of the original WEIRD TALES circle of fantasy greats --later one of the top adventure writers in the field. E. Hoffmann Price--Soldier-of-fortune, astrologer, Orientalist, and fictioneer. Price, a major name in the Pulp Era and well known today for his reminiscences of famous colleagues and friends such as Robert E. Howard, H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Otis Adelbert Kline, Farnsworth Wright, Hugh Rankin and countless other legendary names, now presents 31 of his best fantasy and adventure stories--along with a new 6000-word foreword that gives Price's unexpurgated reminiscences of his own career along with candid appraisals of his colleagues.

FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS--31 tales of wonder, terror and adventure--carefully chosen from Price's more than 500 published stories. 31 gems selected from rare and legendary pulps such as WEIRD TALES, STRANGE STORIES, GOLDEN FLEECE, STRANGE DETECTIVE STORIES, ARGOSY, SPICY MYSTERY STORIES, SPEED MYSTERY, SHORT STORIES, TERROR TALES and others. Virtually none of these have ever been reprinted. Three years were spent in collecting these scarce stories, searching through some of the top pulp collections in the world. Current market value of the pulps represented here is well over \$600--if they were available!

These are not "newly discovered" bottom-of-the-barrel scrapings or unsold duds, but the cream of half a century of writing by one of the genre's greatest authors. Here you will meet some of E. Hoffmann Price's most popular series characters: Pierre d'Artois, French occultist and master of the blade; Ismeddin the Darvish, rogue and mystic; Glenn Farrell, brawling adventurer; Davis Landon, doomed soldier-of-fortune. Here are tales of individual courage, of determined men striving to reach personal fulfillment--such as "Allah Sends a Reaper" and "Vengeance in Samarra". Here are tales of chilling sorcery and desperate fear--such as "The Word of Santiago" and "Web of Wizardry". Over thirty tales of fantasy and adventure in exotic lands and another age, of characters ordinary and extraordinary, of tongue-in-cheek whimsy and of stark tragedy.

Featuring a full color dust jacket and over thirty full page illustrations by top professional artist, George Evans. Evans, who moved from the Fiction House stable to become one of the stars for E.C., went on to draw the TERRY AND THE PIRATES dailies for the last dozen years of that famous adventure strip's life, and now draws for D.C. Evans' finely detailed artwork brings Price's exotic adventure stories to life in the great tradition of the magazine illustrators of the '20s and '30s. Not since the glory years of BLUE BOOK has there been such a merger of top quality adventure fiction and illustration!

FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS will be similar in format to Carcosa's WORSE THINGS WAITING, acclaimed as one of the most handsomely produced books the fantasy field has seen: Journal Roman on deluxe book paper, black Arrestox binding cloth with Carcosa's distinctive red spine stamping and red endpapers, close to 600 pages in the larger 9 x 6 format, in a limited first edition of 2000 copies. At over 250,000 words and over 30 full page illustrations, FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS will be one of the largest fantasy volumes ever published! Don't miss this one!

SPECIAL BONUS FOR ADVANCE PURCHASE!

A special bookplate featuring an Evans drawing and autographed by both E. Hoffmann Price and George Evans will be affixed to all prepaid advance orders. This special edition will be available only by advance purchase. The book has been at the typesetter since December, and even with today's naggingly slow production, don't take a chance. Price is set at \$15.00 prepublication, but this may go higher on publication. So order now if you want to reserve this special autographed edition for your collection--and at this price!



CARCO SA P.O. Box 1064 Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514

Please send me _____ copies of FAR LANDS OTHER DAYS at the prepublication price of \$15.00. Payment of \$ _____ is enclosed.

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Also still available! WORSE THINGS WAITING by Manly Wade Wellman, illustrated by Lee Brown Coye. After one year less than a thousand copies remain of this 3000-copy limited edition. Order a copy now, or pay out-of-print prices later. Only \$9.50 postpaid.

7
But Fawcett got me a couple of guys to help--including a background man who just never kept anything like a schedule. Constant lateness helped kill der Captain, after about 7 issues, I think. Then they stuck me with a job of pulling together ~~the~~ first pocket-book comic, the originally selected artist having had a breakdown. That was a bad-luck effort, for don't you know, I got a dozen pages done when I acquired an abscess where no chair-bound cartoonist ought to get an abscess. You've heard of the Chinese torture cage where the victim can neither sit nor stand erect? --that was how I labored on "Mansion of Evil" till I couldn't take any more, and turned in to the hospital to have the ol' butt lanced. (And there on me bed of pain I was foolish enough to listen to radio's old "Duffy's Tavern," with a laugh a minute--and every cachinnation tore my tattered tokus like a reamer!)

Fawcett lost their business then to DC, in the plagiarism suit, and my buddy Al Williamson talked me up at Gaines' EC comics. They tried me on a couple of stories, then kept me busy till the comics-code wiped out their line. Worked for all the EC books, but mostly the horrors and Kurtzman's war books.

Did a couple stories for Classics Illustrated, first on my own, then with Reed Crandall. Switched over to Dell/Gold Key and adaptations of thriller movies: The Hercules stories with Steve Reeves; Vincent Price/Peter Lorre in Poe stories. Many more. Then they created a series "The Frogmen" which was an enjoyable series to do. About the same time I was also doing "Serling's 'Twilight Zone'"--and with all this, I would wail for help to friends like Williamson, Roy Kronkel, Frazetta, Crandall, so much of that is a hodge-podge of styles. About then the Terry offer came along. I got a shot at working with George Wunder on "Terry and the Pirates" for which I did the art on the dailies for some 13 years. In the Wunder style, of course.

Amidst all this, I was also doing a lot of work for an agency (Johnston & Cushing) which supplied the comic supplement to "Boys' Life" and a religious pamphlet called "The Sunday Fix". Most of what I did for them was on specifics: The parables of Jesus; Sights That Jesus Saw; etc. They were well-researched, and the company reissued them as separate collections. Also did yearly projects of the same sort for religious textbooks and project books. And for then-existing aviation mags I did illos, one cover which I never saw in print-- if they ever got to use it. Some stuff on cars. Ye gods! I'm beginning to feel like father time!

Was a pulp addict myself, for during the depression years out town had no library, and pulps were a godsend to reading addicts. Price was then one of the big name writers, and reading these stories they stand just as high now, so was delighted to have the chance to illustrate them. If the time ever comes when I can (or must!) retire and can still paint and draw, I would like to create a "Khosru's Rug" for the devotees of WW I aviation: The whole scene, not just plane shooting down plane. The era is moving into legend already, more fantasy than real, but the real should be recorded. There are a billion fading black-and-white photos, and even some jumpy movie newsreel stuff. But virtually all are pilot-and-plane and little else.

Hey--remembered one interesting bit, if I may boast: I got into the pulps myself at age 14! (Maybe 13!) Won a buck (or was it five???) from Daredevil Aces in the readers' dept contest with a four-line poem plus drawing. Anti-war doggerel, as WW II was coming on. Inspired by this, I took some German aviation mags a N.Y. friend kept sending me-- which had inside dope on everyone else's equipment when out own mags

couldn't get it!--and extrapolated what I could interpret from these into pictures and texts called "Sky Secrets." Frightful stuff--but they paid real money for it. (Not much--but real!)

While doing Terry I also assisted occasionally on a few other famous strip features. Tried a couple of my own, but gave up that fight when one rejection said bluntly that I "expected too much intelligence of newspaper strip readers!" Did a series of cartoon/illustration things on Railroad oddities. Some books. A few paintings and drawings for private collectors--usually on air history, particularly WW I.

But on Terry, ol' George Wunder and his wife were both in deteriorating health, and it was too much for him to keep up with. When he told them he was retiring, a newish comics-ed decided Terry should, too. I tried to convince Wunder in that case to have Terry go out a hero in the last episode, by ramming his unarmed fighter into the dirty, dope-smuggling dastard--but he wouldn't do it, and let it fade with a whimper.

Since Terry died I have done a lot for DC, lately some for Marvel. Books. A few private commissions--aviation, mostly. Did the art on a sequence of "Secret Agent Corrigan" while Al Williamson took a hiatus.

What I'd have liked to do among all that was: either Flash Gordon or Prince Valiant--both of which are ghosted. Or a strip of my own on the barnstorming days of early flying. Beachey at the county fairs, the air races around Europe. I drew up a sequence, but everyone said, "No one's interested in that old-fashioned crap"...so now we have "The Waltons," "Manhunter," etc on TV.

Family: Wife, two grown daughters, one married, one about finishing final year of college. Note on book-jacket of "Flight" which I illustrated for Random House some years back mentioned I had a "very smart dog." That dog died a few years ago at age 19 years, and people who visit us never fail to recall him. Now I have a big, lovable hoodlum type, who if he is at all smart manages to conceal it pretty well.

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