

TEN YEARS IN FANDOM!

Ventigo

39



HAWKINS 078

VENTICO #39 is the 38th issue of the Official Organ of the Carolina Fan Federation. This issue is to promote the September 17, 1978 Durham mini-con. Editor, Typesetter, Publisher: Edwin L. Murray, 2540 Chapel Hill Road, Durham, N. Car. 27707. Price - 35¢ or regular attendance at mini-cons (or continued show of interest). Production aide - Terry Murray.

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under the elm tree

TENTH ANNIVERSARY mini-con Dept

Durham mini-con XCVII, to be held on Sunday September 17, will mark our Tenth Year of holding cons at 2540 Chapel Hill Road, Durham, N. Car. The first Durham mini-con was held back on September 8, 1968. Very few of the people who attended those early cons are still with us today as the face of fandom in the area is always changing. Ten years is a long time and it almost seems like we have been hosting these cons forever. There will be no special program but we hope a lot of the oldtimers will come anyway for a reunion of sorts. As always, the "official" opening time is 9:00 AM and closing time is around 5:00 PM. We all know that these times are mostly traditional as some people come early and others leave late. With any luck the weather will be nice enough to allow us to set up tables outside for dealers. There is plenty of room outside and any of you who wish are invited to bring tables to set up. We do not have room to set up extra tables indoors so space inside is limited to what is available to us here. There is no charge for dealer space so please don't abuse the privilege by using more than your fair share of the available space. In case of rain we will have a clinic on how to stuff 15 people into a phone booth and 20 dealers into 10 dealer spaces.

JULY CON Dept

Durham mini-con XXXIX was held on July 23, 1978 at the same old place. We had our (shudder) usual crowd of about 110 but things weren't too cramped because so much of the action was taking place outside. Unfortunately, those outside ran the risk of getting a sunburn since the day was hot and sunny. Among those signing in were: Steve Rowe, William Baker, Eddie Lasky, Cathy Broadhead, B. Theron Brown Jr, Chris Renn, David Matthews, John Broadhead, Kevin Lashmit, Mike Coxe, Billy Saunders, Bill Bullard, Paul Snead, David Luebke, Rusty Rawlins, James Lowe, Beth & Brian Lockhart, Woody Leatherman, Jack Menberg, Lester Erim, Peter Hirschman, David Alan Ayscue, Rowdy Scarlett, Scott Whiteside, Doug Foltz, Adam Burns, Marc Whitley, Robert Loo, John Peters, Darrell Palmer, Sam Joyner, E. A. Cannady, Larry Robln, Mark L. Van Name, Tony Galloway, Jim Weston, Libby & Paul Maggitti, Dave Kelly, Richard & Mildred Minter, Russ Garwood, Charles Lawrence, Clay Kimball, George Deahn, Cheryl Tucker, John Allison, David Southerland, M C Goodwin, Richard Llewellyn, L.P. Williams Jr, Jesse Mills, Gerald Williamson, Mike Sellers, Michael Starnes, Steve Shoulars, Robert Lee Bradley, Brian Hooley, Philip Keafe, Kent & Viva Kerr, Paul & Virginia Stone, Robert Lurns, Dale Moody, Chuck Smith, Mike Pugh, Lobby Brewer, Drake Maynard, Jane Fisher, Jimmy Wade, Carol Strickland, Ron Brown, Chris Woodbury, Dennis Rockwell, Ben Harrell, Karl Wagner, Chris Foss, Charles Guess, Jim Groce, Eric Larsen, Barbara Wagner, Steve Turner, Andrew Brown, John E. Maroney, Kevin Maroney, Barry Hill, Margie McCutchen, Norman Hunter, Kenneth Lunichen, Ken Furryear, Jerry & Randy Minter, Mike Harris, Tag Gibson, Dallas Morales, Denis Wolff, Bill Monovec, Mike Cromartie, Mary Parker, Robert & Rebecca Bailey, Robert Sisco, David Larhan, Ray Templeton, James White, John Randall, Raymond Instead.

CONS OF THE FUTURE

There are a lot of cons and mini-cons spread out around our area but with the coming of Fall and Winter (and football & basketball) they will not be quite as frequent as they were during the Summer when you could go to a con almost every weekend. In Vertigo we try to mention all the ones coming up in the area so that those of you who do not see other advertising will at least know that there are other cons held around here that you may want to attend. Unfortunately most are first advertised and take place between issues so we only get to mention them in passing. Metro Con (yes, yet another con with that name) held in Winston-Salem on August 19-20 is an example of those cons that we find out about too late to mention ahead of time. Since the next issue of Vertigo is about six months away there will be quite a few cons that we don't have info on at this time. What we will do this time is list those cons which have been formally announced and also mention some people to write to for info on cons that are in the planning stages. A third group of people to write are those who have put on cons in the past (recent) and who may do so again. One thing we would very much like to see is a bit of correspondence between con chairmen/organizers so we will not end up with two cons in the area on the same weekend. Announce your dates well in advance so that conflicts can be avoided.

RoVaCon 3 will be held at the Northside High School in Roanoke, Va on October 6-7 (Friday & Saturday). Guest of Honor will be Frank Kelly Froas. Special Guest will be Manly Wade Wellman. Other guests include Nelson Bond and Karl Edward Wagner. There will be panels, an art show, films, and dealers room. Memberships are \$1.50 in advance or \$3 at the door. We have gotten many good reports from those who have attended RoVaCon in the past. It is usually more s-f oriented than the other area cons. (Our apologies to the organizers of this con for not attending but Saturday cons during football season are a personal no-no.) One highlight of the con will be the presentation of the First Annual Edmond Hamilton Memorial Scholarship Award. The organizers of the con include Dr. Fred Eichelman, Ron Rogers, and Richard Hurt. For more info write RoVaCon, P O Box 774, Christiansburg, Va 24073.

Richmond Mini-Con VI will be held on November 5, 1978 at the Holiday Inn West (3200 W. Broad St). The hours are 10:00 AM until 5:30 PM. For more info write to Bruce Messick, 5621 Walmsley Blvd, Richmond, Va 23224. Admission is \$1.

The Old Time Western Film Club should be holding another showing of old B-westerns sometime in October or November. Those of you who enjoy this type of film (and who doesn't) should write to Milo Holt (Box 142, Siler City, N. Car. 27344) for the announcement when it is ready. Don't forget to include something for postage (a good idea when writing to any con person).

There is talk of another Greensboro, N. C. con sometime in the future, maybe even in November. Those of you who wish to get a flyer if and when a con is planned should write to Clay Kinball, 212 S. Mendenhall, Greensboro, N. Car. 27403.

Greenville, N. C. has had two mini-cons this year so it is not unreasonable to expect another at some future date. These have been small, friendly cons similar in many ways to the Durham cons. For info if and when another is planned write to either Nostalgia Newstand, 919 Dickinson Ave, Greenville, NC 27834 or to Charles Lawrence, Box 27, Falkland, N.C. 27827.

I don't know how successful the recent con in Winston-Salem was but we would not be surprised to see another planned for the future. For more info if and when write to Kevin Lashmit, 2801 Brookhill Dr, Winston-Salem, N. Car. 27107. The last one was held in Hanes Mall.

After our own cons the oldest regular conventions in our area are the Virginia Comic Book Trade Mart Conventions held at the Colony House in Richmond. We expect to see the tenth one sometime around February (date may be set but I don't have it on hand). The durability of this con speaks for itself. To be put on the mailing list for flyers when the date is formally announced write to David Luebke, 6813 Edmonstone Ave, Richmond, Va 23226.

The first 1979 Durham mini-con will be April 1, 1979. We will miss our regular January slot in the rotation for at least two reasons (mentioned last issue). Because of our current size at least half of our dealers have to set up outside. This is almost impossible to do in mid-winter when the weather is simply too cold. That means that everyone must stay inside. In the past this has meant that dealers have inadequate set-up space and that you can't walk from one side of a room to the other because of the crowd. Also of influence is the trend in college basketball to have important games on Sunday afternoons. This season local teams will be involved in Sunday games during a four or five week stretch during which we usually hold our January con. By accident we conflicted with a game involving a local team two seasons ago (our date would have been changed if we had known) and we do not plan to do that again. The April 1 date should come after the play-offs and before most colleges get into exams.

The week after our Durham mini-con there will be a con in Raleigh. The current plans call for it to be on Saturday April 7 at the State Fair Grounds in Raleigh. I also understand it will be a non-profit con with any proceeds going to charity. The organizers include Peter Hirschman, Paul & Libby Maggitti, Scott Whiteside, and other members of the Nameless Order. For more info contact Peter Hirschman, 8 Maiden Lane, Raleigh, N.C. 27607.

RETURN OF THE LAMIA Dept

Over the years Phil Hawkins has been the artist most closely identified with Vertigo and the CFF. He has done covers (#5, #8, #30, #32, #39), spot illos, a centerfold (#9), two sign-in/greetings posters, our name tags, half a dozen CFF postcards, our current logo (and logos for Trefoil), and has been a good friend since the early days. It seems fitting, therefore, that Phil is the cover artist on our Tenth Anniversary issue. The lamia (half girl and half snake) first appeared on Vertigo #8 (published by Phil) and has been resurrected for our anniversary issue by Phil (and some friends). For those of you who may have wondered, the lamia was a female monster in Greek mythology who preyed on children. (Hope I got that right.) Thank you Phil for all you have done for us over the years and especially for this beautiful cover. Anyone wishing to write to Phil can do so at 244 White Pine Drive, Asheville, N. Car. 28805.

FOLKS AROUND HERE Dept

Dave Drake, after selling regularly at the shorter lengths, has sold his first novel, THE DRAGON LORDS (I think). It is a 65,000 word fantasy novel set in the time period of the historical King Arthur (about 8th Century) Berkley will publish it sometime next year. Dave also has a collection coming out from Ace in early 1979, HAMMER'S SLAMMERS. This will be a collection of the future war stories that he did for Galaxy about Hammer's Slammers. Gordon Dickson is doing an introduction. Congratulations Dave on your first two books! . . . Congratulations are also in order to new author David Kelly (of the NO) for his two upcoming books. THE FALL OF STONEROSE and THE TOWER OF DESPAIR will be published by Publishers Consultants, Inc out of California. Covers will be by Michael Bennett. DJ's in Raleigh

has these books on special order. It isn't often we have this much good news to pass on. . . Manly Wade Wellman has sold his new John the Ballad-Singer novel, **THE OLD GODS WAKEN**, to Doubleday. . . Frank Frazetta has finished the cover for the new edition of **DEATH ANGELS SHADO** by Karl Wagner from Warner. . . The third Frazetta book is out and on the cover is the painting for the recently released Karl Wagner collection **NIGHT WINDS**. Also in the book are the covers for **BLOODSTONE** and **DARKNESS WEAVES**. . . The next Kane book will be **IN THE WAKE OF THE NIGHT**. . . Robert Bailey is now a Kubie. He has been accepted in the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon & Graphic Art. This is where you go to learn the comic book business from the pros. Robert should be doing a cover for Vertigo sometime in 1979. . . Xenophile #40 (July 1978) had an extra long article on old time pulp fan Virginia Combs (Nanek) Anderson including repros of many letters written to her by some of the leading fans, authors, and editors of the time (1938-43). Our own Richard Minter was to a large degree responsible for this piece seeing print. . . **THE SILVER BELL** is a one-shot fanzine dedicated to Faahrd and the Gray Mouser. The lead-off article is "Address To The Lankmar Literary Guild" by Karl Edward Wagner. Copies are \$3 from Robert Barger, P O Box 8, Evensville, Tenn. 37332. . . Milo Holt has put together a 1979 B-western star calender that many of you may want to have. Besides a featured star for every month it has over 125 pictures of your old favorites and a list of over 250 B-western stars of all time - silent and sound. Copies are \$3 by mail (less in person) from Milo Holt, Box 142, Siler City, N.C. 27344. . . Richard Llewellyn has revived his fanzine, **CULLOWHEE COMMENTS**, and #2 was available at the last mini-con. The next issue should be out in time for our next con. This s-f fanzine may be had for 35¢, trade, contribution, loc, etc from Richard Llewellyn, P O Drawer 1P, Cullowhee, N. Car. 28723. . . COA: Eric Larsen, 5009-D Ft. Sumter Rd, Raleigh, NC 27606. . . Tim Marion, 113 Deepdale Rd, Strafford, Pa 19087. Tim is now working for Isaac Asimov's SF Mag. . . Yance Parrish is spending the summer (and longer) in California helping one of his sisters move into her new home. He may be reached at 6222 Lake Lucerne Dr, San Diego, Calif 92119. . . **FARMERAGE** is a new fanzine dedicated to the works of Philip Jose Farmer and put out by the PJF Society. Our own Charles Lawrence is an associate editor and had a short article in the first issue. Among other things the first issue included a reprint of "O'Brien and Obrenov," Farmer's first story. Back issues are \$1 each and subscription is by membership in the Philip Jose Farmer Society at \$3 per year. The next issue is due in Oct. Send all correspondence to George E. Scheetz, 710 West Moss Avenue, #8B, Peoria, Ill. 61606. . . The USA is putting together a Fandom Directory and a computerized International Fan Location Service. Listings in both are free. With luck we hope to have some data forms at the mini-con that you can fill out and send in. For more info on this and other USA services write to Harry Hopkins, P O Box 873, Langley AFB, Va 23665. . . The Comic World #18 (\$1) will feature my update to my ACC article in CW #17 (#2). It also has (Clay) "Kimball's Kolumn." You can order both from Bob Jennings, RFD 2, Whiting Rd, Dudley, Mass 01570. . . The final nominations for the World Fantasy Awards are out. Locally Manly Wade Wellman is up for the Life Achievement Award and **MURKUNSTRAUM AND OTHERS** by Hugh B. Cave (pubbed by Carcosa) is up for Best Collection. Best Novel nominees are: **THE CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT THE UNBELIEVER** by Stephen R. Donaldson, **THE HOUR OF THE GUN DEAD** by Charles Grant, and **OUR LADY OF DARKNESS** by Fritz Leiber. The nominees for Best Short Fiction are: "The Chimney" by Ramsey Campbell, "Lovenan's Comeback" by Ramsey Campbell, "Manatee Gal Ain't You Coming Out Tonight" by Avram Davidson, "Jefftee is Five" by Earlan Ellison, "When All the Children Call My Name" by Charles Grant, and "Bagful of Dreams" by Jack

Vance. (Hope I got all the titles correct as I took this news over the phone to scoop the other newszines.). . .Local experts (tho they hate the label) Steve Rowe and Charles Lawrence will be doing articles for GL. SPZL CLAN!, the Sheldon Mayer fanzine.

FOR STRIPPERS ONLY Dept

Last issue I neglected to include anything on syndicated strip news as I didn't really think it would be missed. I was wrong and several people told me so. It shouldn't happen again.

The most exciting news this time is that the Conan syndicated strip is due to start on September 4 and it will be followed in a few months by a Hulk strip. I've seen the first few weeks of the Conan strip and it looks like a winner. Roy Thomas and John Buscema are doing the strip and there appears to be a strong carryover of quality from the regular color comic book. The Sundays are very attractive and have a strong Alex Raymond/Flash Gordon feel. The big question appears to be whether heroic fantasy will be accepted on the comics page. I have my doubts but look forward to the strip anyway. We have no word on which (if any) local papers will pick up the strip but you can get it from the beginning in The News-Herald from Willoughby, Ohio. The News-Herald also carries World's Greatest Superheroes (DC), Star Hawks, Dick Tracy, Howard the Duck, Rip Kirby, Doonesbury, Duz Sawyer, and other collectable strips. Rates are \$17.95 for daily and Sunday for three months from The News* Herald, Box 351, Willoughby, Ohio 44094.

Best Seller Showcase appears to be in trouble. In the past few months it has been dropped by quite a few papers. The last adaptation I've seen was "Illusions" with Gray Morrow art. The Charlotte News dropped it for the bland Winnie the Pooh and the News-Herald has apparently dropped it to make way for Conan. Can anyone name some papers still carrying the strip?

When Max Collins took over Dick Tracy he promised to kill off a number of characters he felt were wrong for the strip. In the current story there is an open contract out on Tracy and there have been several attempts on his life. The Moon Maid was a victim of one of these attempts. It irks me that the Durham Sun recently decided to replace Tracy with Winnie the Pooh. The strip was just getting good again. This leaves them with only two straight strips: Steve Canyon (which they attempted to drop last year) and Rex Morgan (which I find unreadable).

BOOK NOTES Dept

The Armchair Detective for July 1978 (vlln3) contained several articles that should be of interest to our readers. Foremost was the "In Memoriam: Leigh Brackett" by Robert E. Briney. For years it has been rumored that she ghosted a novel for another author but would not reveal the title. Finally we learn that this book was STRANGER AT HOME (Simon & Schuster, 1946) by George Sanders. We are also reminded that her final crime novel was SILENT PARTNER (Putnam, 1969), something that I had forgotten. We need both.

Also in that issue was an interview with Warren Murphy who, with Richard Sapir, writes the Destroyer series for Pinnacle. Murphy & Sapir have an unusual method for writing the books. Sapir will write the first 95 pages, stopping in the middle of a sentence if necessary, and then send the ms to Murphy to finish up, without an outline. Sapir sets everything up and Murphy resolves all of the problems. Sapir never reads the completed books and only occasionally will glance at the last page. Strange! The first book was written in 1963 and the second in 1972, after the Executioner boom had started.

Also in TAD vlln3 is an interview with Max Collins in which he discusses his books and his work on Dick Tracy. At this time he has five unsold books gathering dust, three of them in the Nolan series that features a comic book collector as an apprentice crook. Having read two of his six published books I am looking forward to word that someone will publish the others. If you would like to get a copy of this TAD send \$3.25 to TAD, Drawer P, Del Mar, Calif 92014.

There is a lot of Gardner Fox news to pass along this time. I have a whole batch of new pseudonyms and titles to pass along that have either been just printed or just revealed. To the evergrowing list of Gardner Fox books you can add the following: Margaret Maitland - EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE, SACRED AND PROFANE, LOVE'S GOLDEN CIRCLE; Lynna Cooper - THE LIKED WIFE, AN OFFER OF MARRIAGE, SUBSTITUTE BRIDE, and FORGOTTEN LOVE (not out yet); Robin Anne Selby - THE EASTERLEI INHERITANCE; Frieda Thompson - THE SECOND LADY CAMERON; Cara Palmer - A HOUSE OF GOOD REPUTE, THE GIRLS OF RAMROD RANCH; Linwood Carter - THE AVENGING ANGELS; John Pendleton Kennedy - THE LONDON EXPERIMENTS; and Louise MacKendrick - WATCHEZ, and A PASSION FOR HONOR. Upcoming are BLOOD TRAIL (a western), THE DEMON MISTRESS (about the time of Francois Villon in France), and a novel about World War II. He has had fantasy stories about Niall of the Far Travels in THE DRAGON Aug 1976 (#2), March 1977 (#5), April 1978 (#13), and a future issue. He has a science fiction game coming out from TSR (the Dungeons & Dragons people) in early 1979. It is tentatively called SPACE PATROL. His WARLOCKS & WARRIORS fantasy game from TSR is doing well from latest reports. Gardner Fox will be the Guest of Honor at Fireball II in NYC on Sept 30 - Oct 1, 1978. Fox has been quite active since he left the comic book field and has made his mark in a number of different fields. At the moment I have title listings for a little over 130 books of his with many more unknown to me. I still need an unholy number of his books for my collection so if you have any odd ones let me know.

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TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL