



The National **80** Fantasy Fan **Years**

Cras ad Stellas— Tomorrow to the Stars

Volume 80 Number 4 April 2021

Happy Birthday to Us! N3F 1941 –2021

Eighty years ago, the N3F was founded.
May we endure for another 80 centuries!

The first issue of this zine, then under the title “Bonfire” was published. It had a full-color (using the technology of the day) cover.

In celebration of the event, a copy of Bonfire will be attached to one of our mailings (alas, electronic only). Please read Art Widner’s editorial at the top of page 4 (numbered “3” in the issue). Its truths, though aged, remain unfaded over their passage through the years.



N3F member Jagi Lamplighter is doing polling on novels, etc., people thought were particularly noteworthy. The project is worthy enough that I will postpone closing Neffy nominations for a month and seeing what choices we might also want to consider.



Convention Operations Bureau

NeffCon is advancing. Expect news soon.

Convention Calendar

See our new zine Convention Calendar for live links.

Conventions for April Mindy Hunt

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world. This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>.

During the week, we also publish articles with any schedule changes or cancellations. Visit <http://scifi4me.com/> regularly to find these.

We also provide semi-regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/>.

We are always looking to keep the list and calendar as current as possible. If you know of a local event, big or little, send us an email at events@scifi4me.com so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions

Continued on Page 2, Top Right



Art

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 ... N3F Logo NefferCon Banner ... Alan White | 4 ... Dragon Mail ... Angela K. Scott |
| 5 ... The Invisible Scarlet O’Neil ... Leslie Croutch | 7 ... Alien’s Tribute ... Jose Sanchez |
| 8 ... Careful Landing ... Jose Sanchez | 11... Earth Winged Cat ... Angela K. Scott |



Your Volunteer Team

Directors:

Heath Row - kalel@well.com (Chair)
 Judy Carroll - BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Jefferson Swycaffer - abontides@gmail.com
 John Thiel - kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Kevin Trainor - wombat.soho@gmail.com

Officers

President George Phillies - phillies@4liberty.net
 Treasurer Kevin Trainor - wombat.soho@gmail.com

Editors

Editors, TNFF: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com Artists: Jose A. Sanchez, Angela K. Walker, Alan White, Nathan Warner
 N'APA: Jefferson Swycaffer abontides@gmail.com
 Tightbeam: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net,
 Jon Swartz jon_swartz@hotmail.com
 Ionisphere: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 Eldritch Science: George Phillies, phillies@4liberty.net
 Mangaverse: Patrick Ijima-Washburn patokon.com@gmail.com
 Origin: John Thiel kinethiel@mymetronet.net
 The N3F Review of Books: George Phillies
 Convention Calendar: Mindy Hunt mindyhunt@scifi4me.com
 Films Fantastic: Vacant
 Keeper of the URLs: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Host of the Web Site: George Phillies phillies@4liberty.net

Bureau Heads

Anime/Comics Kevin Trainor wombat.soho@gmail.com
 Artists Bureau Cedar Sanderson cedarlila@gmail.com
 Birthday Cards Justin Busch jeab@musician.org
 Book Review Bureau G. Phillies phillies@4liberty.net
 Convention Calendar: Mindy Hunt mindyhunt@scifi4me.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 jeab@musician.org
 Film Bureau Eric Jamborsky mrsolo1007@gmail.com
 Forwarder: Jeff Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com
 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
 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, Jeff Redmond redmondjeff@hotmail.com

Continued Next Column, Middle of Page

list on the internet.

The links are active on the conventions list site.
<http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>

APRIL 22-25

VIRTUAL

Penguicon - Dearborn, MI Apr 22-25
 Anime St Louis - St Louis, MO Apr 23-25
 Oz Con - West Plains, MO Apr 23-25
 SlavCon - Bratslavia, Slovak Apr 23-25

ON-SITE

Arizona Tiki Oasis – Scottsdale, AZ Apr 22-25
 Big River Comic Convention – Hannibal, MO Apr 23-25
 Swancon – Perth, Western Australia, Australia Apr 24-26
 Anime Pasadena – Pasadena, CA Apr 24-25
 Fayetteville, ComicCon – Fayetteville, NC Apr 24-

Your Volunteer Team (continued)

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 abontides@gmail.com
 Social Media: George Phillies
 Video Bureau: Cathode Ray the anonymous; Jason P Hunt jphunt@scifi4me.com
 Welcomittee: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
 Writers Exchange: Judy Carroll BlueShadows2012@gmail.com

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 Kevin Trainor, PO Box 143, Tonopah NV 89049. 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. LXXX Number 4, April 2021, 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.

25

Haunticon Omaha – Omaha, NE Apr 24
 Annandale Comic Book & Nostalgia Show – Annandale, VA Apr 24
 Frankfort Comic Con – Frankfort, KY Apr 24

APRIL 29-MAY 2

VIRTUAL

Castle Point Anime Convention - Hoboken, NJ
 May 1-2
 SwampCon - Gainesville, FL May 1-2

ON-SITE

Spooky Empire – Orlando, FL Apr 30-May 2
 Alamo Hero Con – San Antonio, TX Apr 30-May 2
 Metrotham Con – Chattanooga, TN Apr 30-May 2
 Savannah Mega Comic Con – Savannah, GA May 1-2
 Big Apple Comic Con – New York City, NY May 1
 Kupo Con London – London, United Kingdom

May 1

Milton Keynes Brick Fest – Milton Keynes, United Kingdom May 1

Oddities & Curiosities St Louis – St Louis, MO
 May 1

Pulp AdventureCon – Fort Lauderdale, FL May 1
 Vernon Comic Con – Vernon, British Columbia, Canada May 1

Wayne NJ Toy Show – Wayne, NJ May 1
 Capital Trade Show – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada May 2
 SW-Florida Comic Con – Fort Myers, FL May 2

Letters of Comment

Editor:

Looking at the Kaymar awards again and the notation about K. Martin Carlson, I was in the NFFF when he was still a member and the bureaus were numerous. K. Martin was head of the Traders' Bureau, which I joined because fanzines were traded off there. The bureau magazine was The Kaymar Trader. I got boxes of fanzines from there, all of them of great interest to me.

There was a lot of talk among members of the bureau and recipients of the trading where people discussed what they got. One of the conversations had there was of the lack of activity in many parts of the NFFF, and Carlson said he had heard of some of the membership being referred to as "Deadwood". He didn't think that was any way to talk about people. He was also of the opinion that the Traders' Bureau might be earning that kind of talk, because the traders seemed to be getting off by themselves and doing nothing but trading, which didn't interest anyone. This got the peo-

ple concerned with the traders' bureau very active, and they started inquiring about other bureaus and seeing what kind of activity they could stir up. One of the officers at that time wrote, "There seems to be some sort of inquiry or investigation coming from the traders' bureau."

As the Kaymar award is given for constructive activity, this might be a bit of background on the person after whom the award is named. There was counter investigation coming from other bureaus and the membership in general, and what was started then went on for a long while and grew and upped its pace. Those were exciting times. The people connected with the Traders' Bureau were complaining about feeling sequestered because other bureaus were wrapped up in their own doings. It was agreed Martin had acted before a growing investigative curiosity struck the Traders' Bureau. I was just a grade schooler back at that time, so what I did mostly was look.

The president finally observed that there were big shakeups going on in the N3F. Kaymar was quite an activator, looking for a better N3F.

John Thiel

Dear Neffers:

Thank you for yet another issue of The National Fantasy Fan, this time, Volume 80, No. 3. And now, the news...

Congratulations to Bob Jennings on his Kaymar win. And congratulations to all Neffy nominees, listed here and perhaps yet to come. It was a pleasure to win Best Fan Writer last year.

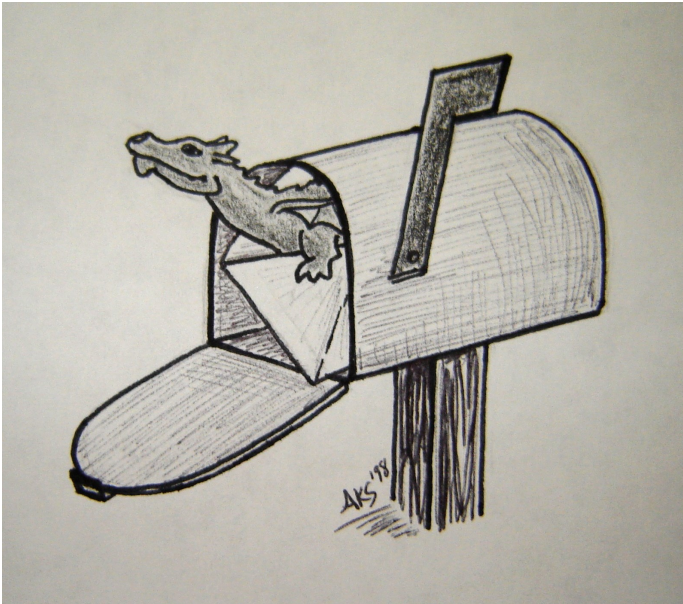
My letters... I did nominate this year for the FAAn Awards, and I did finish 7th in Best Letterhack, so I did well. We have completely recovered from COVID-19, and I have had my first shot. Yvonne's first shot come up on Easter Monday. The people in our building still will not wear masks, so we hope to get our second shots soon. Seeing it is Easter, we might make it outside to get some fresh air, and perhaps go for a walk in one of our local parks.

I attended the Zoom from Fanac.org with Greg and Jim Benford, and had a very good time. Both Yvonne and I intend to return to a Fanac Zoom later this month with Ruth Berman and Devra Langsam, on early Trek fandom, in which we had a small role, with the Star Trek Welcomittee.

Not much to say... We are making plans to get in touch with our local community when the pandemic finally ends, and that isn't looking too close...tomorrow morning, the province of Ontario goes into total lockdown. For us in Toronto, we've been in lockdown since November, which will probably make it about six months. And...I could really use a haircut right now.

Take care, and see you with the next!

Yours,
 Lloyd Penney



Dragon Mail by Angela K. Scott

Editor,

I will say, however, that it's good to see that we appear in some ways to have moved beyond religious and political controversy and have gotten back to the art where our hearts belong. You'll have to excuse some of us, though, including myself, if such things rear their heads again in our arena. Right, left, all points between, it's a weird world out there and I, for one, find it unfathomable.

Thanks again for the time and opportunity.

Will Mayo

Hi George;

Well, big surprise that I am the winner of the Kaymar Award. I certainly never expected it! Does this mean I can add another propeller blade to my fan beanie? I hope there aren't too many duties associated with the office. Of course I will be glad to officiate and act as judge at the annual club Chocolate Temptation Confectionary Contest (delayed from last year due to COVID-19). Just let me know when and where it will be held and I'll be right there for the opening ceremonies.

I notice you are still using the new Technicolor 3-D style N3F emblem. Am I the only one who prefers the tried and true original club emblem? Has anybody else except Lloyd Penney and myself even noticed the change?

I think the club could certainly benefit from a few videos lodged on YouTube. At the least a basic straight forward explanation of who we are and what the club does, along with info on how to get in contact with the club ought to be posted as soon as feasible. The problem, again, is who would do this? I know nothing about producing one of those things, or the

mechanics of getting a completed video OKed by the site, but surely somebody in the club has the tech know-how to handle the mechanics. One of the club officers could handle the on-camera basic explanation and welcoming speech.

I think that if we can do this it would reach a lot more people with a more positive impact than all the Face-Booking and other social-media efforts that have been recently discussed. People from all across the spectrum of humanity check out YouTube, and science fiction related sites seem to be popular (from what I can tell anyway).

I don't know what else could be offered as part of an on-going N3F site; perhaps some interviews, or a few fans discussing recent books or SF related TV/movies. But first, a basic introduction video ought to be scripted and shot, and placed on the site.

I again suggest we follow Heath Row's ideas about doing a small Zoom style meeting for club members to see how it works and to determine how many people are actually interested before the club tries to embark on a full fledged virtual convention. A Saturday Zoom gathering with some of the Directorate/officers and more active members with a common discussion theme, and a set time limit would work best. Limit the discussion by the active participants to thirty or forty minutes and leave another fifteen to thirty minutes for questions and comments from the audience.

Let's see if this is going to work before making a major commitment to doing a convention project that is going to take quite a lot of time, effort, and technical expertise to set in motion. I also think the club should put aside any thots of racking up buckos from these sessions until we see if they are both feasible and popular enuf with the club members to continue (and if so, then we can expand and enlarge on the concept).

I am deeply impressed reading all the things the FANAC folks have been doing lately to preserve fan history. Who wundda thunk it possible? Always amazing to me is how diverse and open ended the entire fan experience has been for people even in the very beginnings of the hobby, and I'm glad the Fanac folks are working to preserve so much if it.

I found Jon's write-up on Invisible Scarlett O'Neil to be interesting, mainly because this is a comic strip I never really cared much about. It seems to me from the first time I encountered it that the concept was flawed; that instead of expanding on the intriguing possibilities of an invisible character (who could also make her clothing invisible too), that mostly the strip was an ongoing Good Sister type soap opera. Scarlett encounters someone with a problem, often a child, and works invisibly to help solve it. There were lots of soap opera elements in the stories that I read. I have the Authorized Whitman Edition hard-back from 1943, but I have to admit I never got around to

reading it.

I think it's remarkable that the character continues along into this new century. I just checked the Invisible Scarlett O'Neil website, and also clicked on the links for a free preview look at the new(ish) graphic novel about her written by creator Stamm's son. The art and action look interesting, but only three pages were provided, mostly retelling her origin. I would have appreciated another couple of pages to setup the new adventure.

This was a good solid issue of the clubzine George. Keep up the fine work.

Bob Jennings
29 Whiting Rd.
Oxford, MA
fabfickbs@aol.com

Dear George,

Happy eightieth birthday (April, 1941) to the National Fantasy Fan Federation!

As per Heath Row's letter and an unsigned comment from the Convention Operations Bureau, it seems that the NFFF convention idea seems to be morphing into something much closer to a chat room (N3F-BBS?) than an actual convention. This might in some ways be an even better option—assuming that the goal is still to increase active memberships. Participation in an on-line forum can develop into serious work elsewhere. Nonetheless, the idea comes with a very serious concern of its own. The Bureau descriptions states that "Posts would be moderated." This needs to be fully fleshed out well before so much as a single post is accepted. Who, and how many people, will be doing the moderating? Can they commit the necessary time? Posts can come from all over the globe, and a poisonous one left untended for hours, or days, can be catastrophic to the quality and reputation of the BBS. The example of Baen's Bar is a powerful illustration of exactly this problem. Until the questions regarding moderation are fully and solidly answered, it would be best not to rush into anything.

Along with this, there is a distinct but related concern; membership. Yes, it could be great news if N3F expanded, but only if the expansion means something. Chat rooms are a good example here: the best of them need not have a massive membership so long as the proportion of usefully active members remains high. Having ten thousand members means nothing if the same sixteen people are doing all the real work. We mustn't fetishize numbers at the expense of participation.

But enough of that. Here are some comments inspired by the issue itself:

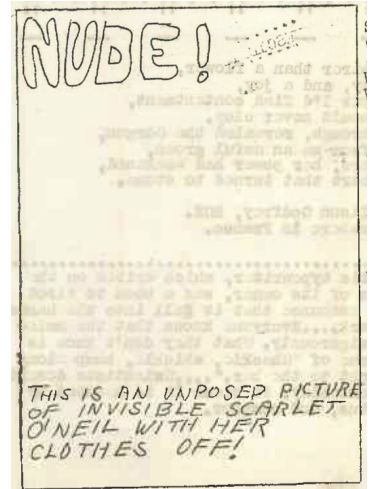
- 1) The spacing is much better, and the issue is both more readable and feels more substantial.
- 2) Angela K. Scott's "Wind Unicornus" is lovely, reminiscent of the work of former TNFF editor Sheryl Birkhead without being at all derivative. "Misty Travels"

is also a nice piece, although I think it should have been reproduced at a larger size. In any case, the renewed presence of artwork in TNFF is wholly to be welcomed.

3) Congratulations to Bob Jennings on winning the Kaymar. I do wish, though, that the description of the Kaymar's history had been replaced, or at least supplemented, with some indication of Bob's history in the N3F; this isn't his first N3F award, and his activities have been many.

4) Jon Swartz's article on Invisible Scarlett O'Neil, of whom I had never heard, was interesting. I like the fact that "Scarlet's typical adventure . . . involved helping children in trouble."

It's good to know that at least someone in the comics world thought that duking it out with mad scientists was not the only way to do good. I do note, though, that Jon didn't mention the scandalous photograph of Scarlet O'Neil published in Leslie Crouch's *Light 132* (Fall, 1944; see accompanying illo).



5) For once I feel confident in making a Neffy nomination for best novel: Elizabeth Bear's *Machine*, which is not only the best space opera I've read in some years but a surprisingly thoughtful book intellectually as well. It's both solidly grounded in sf history (C.J. Cherryh and James White in particular, along with a very clever riposte to Lester del Ray's "Helen O'Loy") and in cutting-edge AI philosophy. I nominated it for a Hugo, and now for a Neffy; I hope I have more success with the latter.

Justin E. A. Busch
308 Prince St., #422
St. Paul, Minn. 55101

SerCon

Buck Rogers and His Creators

by

Jon D. Swartz, Ph.D.
N3F Historian

In 1928 Philip Francis Nowlan, a Philadelphia newspaperman, wrote the first science fiction (SF) story about his interplanetary hero, Anthony Rogers (later renamed "Buck" after western star Buck Jones). This initial story, "Armageddon 2419 A. D.," appeared in *Amazing Stories*



(August, 1928 issue).

While exploring an abandoned mine, Rogers – a 29-year-old former officer in the United States Army Air Corps – fell into a coma after exposure to radioactive gas and woke up in

the twenty-fifth century. The sequel to this initial story, “The Airlords of Han,” appeared in the March, 1929 issue of *Amazing*.

A comic strip was created in 1929, and radio programs, Big Little Books, comic books, a movie serial, hardcover and paperback books, a feature film, advertising promotions, games, and television series followed.

Comic Strip

The first comic strip about Rogers, titled “Buck Rogers 2429 A.D.,” appeared in newspapers on January 7, 1929 – written by Nowlan and drawn by Richard (Dick) W. Calkins, an Army Air Force pilot during World War I and a lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve. At first, the strip's title was updated each year to keep 500 years difference in time from the present up to date. Eventually, the title became simply “Buck Rogers in the Twenty-Fifth Century A.D.”

The first series ran through 1933. The second series began in 1934, and ran through 1936. The third series began in 1937, and the fourth in 1939. In the strip Rogers battled his mortal enemy, Killer Kane. The strip was the first to deal with SF themes in an entertaining manner, and was very successful.

Radio Programs

“Buck Rogers in the Twenty-Fifth Century” was a program based on the newspaper comic strip – and the first SF series on radio. This 15-minute program was broadcast first from 1932 to 1936, with brief reincarnations in 1939, 1940, and finally, during 1946-1947.

In addition to the many futuristic devices that were a regular feature of the program, the scientist Dr. Huer also provided fantastic new inventions that were often an important part of the storylines. The first actor to portray Buck was either Matt Crowley or Curtis Arnall, followed by Carl Frank and John Larkin. Buck's companion in most of his adventures, Wilma Deering, was played by Adele Ronson and then by Virginia Vass; Edgar Stehli

played Dr. Huer.

Buck Rogers Premiums/Toys

There have been many Buck Rogers premiums and toys offered, first by the sponsors of the Buck Rogers radio program. In its second year on the air, the radio show was sponsored by Cocomalt, a food drink, and a book premium, Buck Rogers in the 25th Century, was offered.

In the next few years a flood of Buck Rogers premiums and toys appeared: Buck Rogers Cocomalt Map of the Solar System (1933), Buck Rogers Pistol (1934), Buck Rogers Helmet (1934), Buck Rogers Rocket Ship (1934), Buck Rogers Pop-Up Books (1935), Buck Rogers Paint Book (1935), Buck Rogers Space Suit (1935), Buck Rogers Disintegrator Pistol (1936), and many, many more.

Big Little Books (BLB)

Like other popular newspaper comic strips of the day, Buck Rogers was reprinted in Big Little Books by Whitman, using text adaptations of the daily strips. The earliest storyline appeared in Whitman's second BLB, Buck Rogers in the City Below the Sea (#765). In this BLB, Buck and Wilma meet Killer Kane for the first time.

With only a slight gap in the storyline, *The Adventures of Buck Rogers* (#4057) was published in 1931. In 1935 *Buck Rogers on the Moons of Saturn* (#1143) appeared, originally published in 1931-1932 strips. The next BLB in storyline sequence was titled simply *Buck Rogers in the Twenty-Fifth Century*. The next BLB in storyline order was *Buck Rogers and the Depth Men of Jupiter* (#1169).

Buck Rogers and the Doom Comet depicts the beginning of strip series #2, published in 1934. Killer Kane shows up again in *Buck Rogers and the Planetoid Plot*, reproduced from the newspaper series published in 1934-1935. At the time *The Planetoid Plot* sequence appeared in the newspapers (1935), Cream of Wheat began sponsorship of the Buck Rogers radio program. This sponsorship lasted until May, 1936.

The next book in storyline sequence was *Buck Rogers in the War with the Planet Venus*, a Better Little Book (#1437). The next Better Little Book was *Buck Rogers Versus the Fiend of Space* (#1409), originally published in 1938. *Buck Rogers in the Overturned World* came next, reprinting the strips originally published in 1938. This is the only Buck Rogers book with the Flip-It feature that allows the reader to view a mini-story when the book's pages are turned rapidly with the thumb.

The last BLB was *Buck Rogers and the Super-Dwarf of Space* (#1490). This is the only All-Pictures Buck Rogers BLB.

Comic Books

In 1940 Famous Funnies issued the first Buck Rogers comic books, and the run lasted until 1943. The first five issues reprinted artist Rick Yager's Sunday storylines. Famous Funnies published Buck Rogers material from daily and Sunday strips as well as some original stories. The strip reached its artistic peak when Frank Frazetta took over the cover art with issue # 209. The final issue of this run was dated July, 1955.

Toby Press published three issues of Buck Rogers in 1951. Gold Key/Whitman produced their own comic books from October 1964 until May 1982, describing them as "movie adaptations/movie editions." Finally, in 1990-1991, TSR, Inc. produced ten issues of a Buck Rogers comic book, described as a "comics module."

In 2009, Dynamite Entertainment began a monthly comic book version of Buck Rogers by writer Scott Beatty and artist Carlos Rafael, with the first issue released in May, 2009.

Hardcover/Paperback Books

There have been a number of hardcover/paperback books over the years, including pop-up books as mentioned earlier. The first such book, published in 1934, was *The Pop-up Buck Rogers in a Dangerous Mission* and had a single pop-up in its center, showing Buck and Wilma in a rocket ship. A second pop-up book was published in 1935, titled *The Pop-up Buck Rogers in Strange Adventures in the Spider Ship*.

Other hardbound books include *Armageddon 2419*



Alien's Tribute by Jose Sanchez

Avalon, 1962) and *Wings Over Tomorrow* (Wildside Press, 2005), both by Nowlan; and *Buck Rogers: A Life in the Future* (TSR, Inc., 1995) by Martin Caidin (containing a reprint of the 32-page premium, *Buck Rogers in the Twenty-Fifth Century*, originally published in 1933). Dell published two Buck Rogers paperbacks as by Addison Steele (pen

name of SF author Richard Lupoff), both based on the TV series: *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* and *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century: That Man on Beta*.

There was also a Buck Rogers Fotonovel that contained 500 color photos from the BR movie, a series of four "annuals" (1981-1984), a color/activity book, another pop-up book, a Little Golden Book illustrated by Kurt Schaffenberger, and a 48-page children's book from Golden Press.

In the early 1990s several "Buck Rogers Books" were published by TSR, Inc. in three different series: *The Martian Wars Trilogy*, *The Inner Planets Trilogy*, and the *Invaders of Charon Trilogy*.

Movie Serial/TV Series/Theatrical Films

In 1939 Universal Pictures produced *Buck Rogers*, a movie serial in 12 chapters. Larry (Buster) Crabbe played Buck, with Constance Moore as Wilma and Jackie Moran as Buddy. The plot focused upon an underground revolution that was trying to overthrow the regime of President Killer Kane. Buck sided with the revolutionaries. The serial was re-released in edited versions in 1953 as *Planet Outlaws* (for theatrical release), and in 1965 as *Destination Saturn*, for telecast as a television movie.

The first Buck Rogers television series aired on Saturday evenings on ABC. Kem Dibbs played Buck the initial season, beginning on April 15, 1950; and Robert Pastene starred the second season. Lou Prentis played Wilma, Harry Southern was Dr. Huer, and Harry Kingston was Black Barney. The final episode of this series was telecast on January 30, 1951.

Then, in 1979-1981, *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* appeared in another TV series, this one produced by Universal Studios. In addition, the feature-length pilot episode for the series was released as a theatrical film several months before the series aired. The film and series were developed by Glen A. Larson, with Buck an American astronaut in 1987. In this version Buck is launched on a deep space probe, but his rocket is blown out of trajectory and he is frozen for 500 years, returning to Earth in the Twenty-Fifth Century.

The cast consisted of Gil Gerard as Rogers, Erin Gray as Wilma, and Tim O'Connor as Dr. Huer. Mel Blanc supplied the voice of Twiki, a comic relief robot. There were many guest stars, including a 71-year-old Buster Crabbe as an aging brigadier.

Revival of Comic Strip

The popularity of the TV series led to the revival of the Buck Rogers newspaper strip, daily and Sunday, drawn by Gray Morrow and written by Jim Lawrence. This strip ran from September 9, 1979 until October 26,

1980, and was later reprinted in its entirety -- with the Sunday strips in color -- in a large trade edition paperback.

Conclusions

There have been rumors of a Buck Rogers revival for many years, and there are still occasional announcements of the return of Buck Rogers in one form or another. A recent announcement I saw stated that "George Clooney may be heading into the future." The actor and filmmaker "is circling Legendary's adaptation of classic pulp hero Buck Rogers in potential multiple capacities." I, for one, hope this is so!

Sources

- Buck Rogers in the 25th Century: The Complete Newspapers Dailies, 6 Volumes. Neshannock, PN: Hermes Press, 2008 -2012.
- Caidin, Martin. Buck Rogers: A Life in the Future. Lake Genera, WI: TSR, 1995.
- Dille, Robert C. (Ed.). The Collected Works of Buck Rogers in the 25th Century. NY: Chelsea House, 1969.
- Lowery, Lawrence F. The Golden Age of Big Little Books. Danville, CA: Educational Research and Applications LLC, 2007.
- Nowlan, Philip Francis. Wings Over Tomorrow. Rockville, MD: Wildside Press, 2005.
- Swartz, Jon D. & Lawrence Lowery. The Buck Rogers Big Little Books and Other Collectibles. Danville, CA: Big Little Book Club, 2013.
- 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.

Club Activities

Video Bureau

From deep within the underground bunker at SciFi4Me World Headquarters, this is the new report on various activity on the video front of the genre. We'll highlight what we're doing, but also take a look at other channels and networks that are notable for their efforts.

For instance:

Chatter is ramping up about Brad Wright's comments that he's been working on a new Stargate project, with the inclusion of Dr. Daniel Jackson, made



Careful Landing by Jose Sanchez

during a livestream with Michael Shanks.

Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow) is drawing some fire on social media (and support on YouTube) after her comments that actors should stick to acting and leave the politics out of the discussion.

Recently during a livestream organized by former Jacksonville Jaguar lineman Uche Nwaneri and the Geeks + Gamers YouTube channel, over \$100,000 was raised to benefit Zack Snyder's charity of choice, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This follows the Drunk3P0 channel raising nearly \$80,000 for Operation Underground Railroad, which assists in the rescue of human trafficking victims around the world.

Is this the start of a trend for YouTube and Twitch channels being used for more charity benefits? Possibly. Something we'll keep an eye out to see what develops.

Also, if you have a favorite YouTube or Twitch channel you like to watch, please share it with us so we can tell others about it!

What's happening at SciFi4Me TV

By way of introduction, SciFi4Me is an online channel that's been covering science fiction, fantasy, and horror since 2009. Currently, we have seven TV programs in production on our channel, which can be found at www.SciFi4Me.tv – that points to our YouTube channel, but we have plans to eventually have a dedicated destination platform that gets us off YouTube sometime in the future.

The H2O Podcast is our longest running program. The show began Christmas 2012 with an explanation of how Santa Claus is a Time Lord, and things took off from there. Every Monday night, hosts Jason Hunt and Timothy Harvey discuss a variety of topics. In March, we reviewed the Snyder Cut, discussed the future of Star Trek, took a look at remakes that we'd actually like to see, and on Monday we'll cover what makes for a good title and why it's important. [The H2O Podcast Monday 9pE |

8pC]

Live From The Bunker is the interview/talk program, sort of a cross between Larry King Live and Inside the Actors Studio with a dash of talk radio. This month, we've interviewed authors Richard Paolinelli, David Weber, Chris Kennedy, Stargate producer Joseph Mallozzi, horror director Jamison LoCascio, comics creators from Pittsburgh, and PR communications expert Juda Engelmayer. Plus we've talked about cancel culture, defeminizing She-Hulk, the Nebula Award nominations, what's next for conventions, and we've even had a fairy come in to offer up some questionable advice. [Live From The Bunker Monday – Thursday 1pE | 12pC]

Foreign Bodies is our latest production, a discussion of horror stories from outside the United States. Leslie Walker and Timothy Harvey have so far visited South Korea, Russia, Italy, Canada, and Spain. [Foreign Bodies Saturdays 1pE | 12pC]

Alternating with Foreign Bodies is our discussion of Doctor Who. We call it TARDIS Sauce, and we offer up conversations about all manner of Whovian topics. Episode reviews, comparisons of villains, examinations of themes and tropes we've seen during the run of the show ... our discussions range far and wide throughout time and space. [TARDIS Sauce Saturdays 1pE | 12pC]

Our coverage of Star Wars comes in the form of two shows: Salacious Crumbs for the news, and The Rancor Pit for the discussion – and lately, it's been a lively discussion! Juda Engelmayer and writer/producer Kamran Pasha have been guests to talk about the situation surrounding Gina Carano's firing and the subsequent fan backlash. [Salacious Crumbs Tuesday 9pE | 8pC // The Rancor Pit Thursday 9pE | 8pC]

And finally, on Saturday mornings, we have our weekly news program Good Morning Multiverse. Very much like that other show in the morning, ours is a wrap-up of the week's headlines in sci-fi, fantasy, horror, comics, gaming, along with event news – new events, schedule changes, etc. – and the weather forecast for cities hosting comic-cons. News, rumor, interviews when we can, and more! [Saturday 11aE \ 10aC]

So that's what we've been doing in our little corner of the multiverse. And while we may "just" be broadcasting to YouTube and Twitch, we approach SciFi4Me TV as a regular TV channel that just happens to be broadcasting to those platforms. One of these days, things may change, but in the meantime we're happy to be growing our audience where people can find us pretty easily.

We're also open to collaborations, so if anyone has a YouTube or Twitch channel, maybe there's something we can do together to build each other's channel.

That's all for now. Hailing frequencies closed.

Jason P Hunt

Editor-in-Chief, SciFi4Me

Writers Exchange

Welcome to the Writers Exchange!

Part of our service is to read short stories and critique them for any of our members who would like a second opinion. Actually, your work would be critiqued twice, once by me and once by Jefferson Swycaffer. Each of us sees the same story in a different light.

If interested, please contact me.

Since we are almost a third of the way through the "new" year, I feel it is time to check our goals and see how we are doing. In case you have forgotten, the following is the question asked in December, 2020.

"Do you have any writing goals for 2021?"

My answer. My writing goal is to visit my writing documents frequently - resulting in at least twelve stories and/or poems for the year.

The question for May.

How well have you been keeping your writing goals?

Well, I have to admit, I'm not doing too well. I've had a few ideas pop into my head and have written them down and even played with them a bit. I have not visited my documents frequently. I have organized my documents - going over stories and poems - seeing which ones I felt like tackling. Nothing done but thinking. About two weekends ago, I had the urge to revisit a Christmas poem I started about a year ago. I reread it. I left everything the same - no corrections. Then, I got to the last part. The part that made me leave last time I was visiting and the time before that and the time before that. I finally fixed the problem and added a little more to the poem. I think my problem is, I have no idea where it is going, how it will end. I usually have an idea when I start writing, which many times changes before the end and a new ending pops in, usually better than first. But with this one I am still rolling around trying to find something I like.

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 Writers 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.

Welcommittee

We would like to recognize the following new members to the N3F: Nancy Bohemian, Mackey Chandler, Glenn Della Monica, Kia Heavey, Erik Hansen and Dani Zweig. We hope your stay with us will be a pleasant and happy experience.

Please read the current TNFF for a list of the many activities and bureaus you can join. Being active is the most fulfilling way to enjoy being a member of the National Fantasy Fan Federation.

The purpose of the Welcommittee 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, please contact

Judy Carroll at BlueShadows2012@gmail.com
or 975 East 120 South, Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Recruitment Bureau

The N3F is becoming more and more well-known on the net. Jeffrey Redmond's Facebook group SCI-FICTION, whose membership numbers many thousands of people, is increasing in quality. Redmond has a large staff of moderators and administrators to assist him; lately George Phillies and I have been added to that staff, so that increases N3F interest at that site. Phillies seems to be improving the order of the site, and I have been eliminating obvious bots who have been applying for membership. With the rapid increases in membership Jeffrey is getting, perhaps Jeffrey should analyze the pull his group has and see if it can bring in new N3F members. The group has been adding to our membership.—John Thiel

Pro Bureau

The latest issue of The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono published two interviews and two articles on better writing.

History and Research Bureau

Origin is increasing its interaction among bureau members by getting articles that relate to the other articles in the issue more closely than they have been doing, sometimes getting a theme issue effect. We are all communicating better with one another. One of our concerns now is boosting interest in science fiction by

better information and by writing on the subject of science fiction. We try to keep our departmental publication entertaining.—John Thiel

Film Bureau

Eric Jamborsky advises us that various issues make it impossible for him to continue publishing Films Fantastic.

Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau

We've been coordinating the bureau a bit better, and are paying more attention to the setup of the bureau. In the issue just out, Jefferson Swycaffer writes of relating to fans, and Jon Swartz does a profile of a writer he has met, Chad Oliver, showing how things have been going among the writers and others professionally connected with science fiction. We are running down on interviews; any interviews with fans and pros anyone cares to send in are welcome. Ionisphere is now being presented at the Fanac Project.—John Thiel

Fanzines

Eric Jamborsky advises us that for the time being he will be unable to continue with Films Fantastic. He may have occasional contributions to Tightbeam. We hope things improve for him, soon, but until then a new Editor for Films Fantastic is needed.

We welcome Mindy Hunt as the new Editor of Convention Calendar. I'd originally planned this as a column in TNFF, but her wonderful column is full of active links unlikely to survive transplantation, so our Convention Calendar will be appearing separately.

N3F zines published recently include Ionisphere, Origin, N'APA, Tightbeam, The N3F Review of Books, and The National Fantasy Fan. We salute Mangaverse under its new schedule, and greet Convention Calendar. Eldritch Science is coming soon.

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.
3. If you have a postal address and wish to correspond with someone listed "by email" let me know and



Earth Winged Cat
by Angela K. Scott

I will contact them. I will let you know their reply. Depending on your preference you will receive an email or postal mail with the contact information for the person you wish to contact, and they will receive your contact information.

The following members are interested in corresponding.

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

Book Review Bureau

The latest issue of The N3F Review of Books Incorporating Prose Bono published reviews of 22 novels and short story collections.

Birthday Card Bureau

Only four members (besides me, to whom I opted not to send a card) had birthdays in April; all were sent cards, none of which, so far, have returned.

Justin E. A. Busch

Treasury

PayPal balance \$863.99

NSB balance: \$1785.63

Life members: 2

Electronic members: 24

Regular members: 31

Household members: 1

Total voting members: 58

Public members: 200

Total membership: 258

The renewal is J.I. Rogers.

Expiring in April: Bob & Diane Blackwood

Sent out reminders to a bunch of folks whose memberships lapsed last year and who somehow got overlooked.

Presidential Thoughts

Greetings to all on the occasion of the N3F's 80th birthday. The N3F has had good times and bad times, but through 80 years we have persevered. Thanks to the wonders of modern electronics, as anticipated by several great science fiction writers, we can now publish nine fanzines, plus Films Fantastic on hiatus, at less expense than would be needed for the single paper fanzine that we still publish.

We also have a web site, pages and groups on Facebook and MeWe, and a Discord page, all sending the N3F message loud and clear to fen across the universe. With some luck, we will soon have our own virtual convention, NefferCon, the con that Neffer ends.

The N3F Speculative Fiction Awards, the Neffies, continue to be given, even as they were given in 1950 when they were called the Laureate Awards. Yes, our Awards are older than the Hugo awards.

It would be wonderful if our future were even better than the past, with more recruiting, more active members, more zine contributions, more fannish activities beyond our current bureaus.

We have had other bureaus, after all.

There was a Fan Clubs Bureau maintaining a large and thorough list of all fan clubs, seeking to persuade them to join the N3F. We had a Future Fandom Bureau, doing outreach to really young people. There were membership cards. The N3F Bookworms actually read and discussed the same book. The Bureau on Teaching Science Fiction considered how science fiction curricula, replacing literary fiction with romantic (that's not the same as 'romance') fiction, might be advanced. Once upon a time we had a separate letterzine, because there were too many letters for our regular zines. Once upon a time we published a newszine, full of fannish news.

A Bureau for the Blind read novels out loud and shipped magnetic tape recordings across the country. The Hospitality Bureau had members fond of attending real SF cons, members who staged hospitality suites and Meet the N3F parties.

Yes, surely there are many other activities we could have.

But all those activities need two things. They need members who will step up and become more active. And they need members who will reach out and recruit more fen into the N3F. Until that happens

Happy Birthday, N3F!



In This Issue

Happy Birthday to Us ... N3F 1941-2021
Neffys ... NefferCon ... Convention Calendar

Letters of Comment

John Thiel, Lloyd Penney, Will Mayo,
Bob Jennings, Justin E. A. Busch

Sercon

Buck Rogers and His Creators

Club Activities

Video Bureau, Writers Exchange, Welcommittee, Recruitment Bureau
Pro Bureau, History and Research Bureau, Film Bureau, Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau
Correspondence Bureau, Book Review Bureau, Birthday Card Bureau, Treasury

Presidential Thoughts

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