



Dian Crayne: “Hot, I am used to, but the smoke was pretty awful. It reminded me of Los Angeles back before the smog abatement regulations.” It was bad here in the Oakland hills, too, with the same bad memories running through my mind of L.A. in the ‘50s when there would be days of chest pain from the bad air. We kept the windows closed as much as possible, which helped a little bit; but it wasn’t possible to wait out the whole smoky

episode indoors. Grocery shopping had to be done, and so forth. And bad as it was, it didn’t begin to approach the level of physical discomfort of those halcyon L.A. days.

“I think the only two Frederic Brown mysteries I have read are *Night of the Jabberwock* and *The Screaming Mimi*. I’ll have to check with the local used book shop and see if they have any of his other mysteries.” They tend to be thin on the ground in stores these days because it’s been a long time since any paperback reprints were done. You can get four in one volume with a hardcover that came out in 2002 called *Hunter & Hunted*, which collects the first four novels in the “Ed & Am Hunter” series: *The Fabulous Clipjoint* (his first published novel), *The Dead Ringer*, *The Bloody Moonlight* and *Compliments of a Fiend*. As of this writing a \$13.95 copy is available through Half.com (and since the seller is the publisher, it’s likely to remain available). (The other three Ed & Am novels are *Death Has Many Doors*, *The Late Lamented* and *Mrs. Murphy’s Underpants*. The least expensive copies of the first two in a Bookfinder search are currently \$9 and \$59.50; the last is not listed.) A lot of the other mysteries appear to be available from other sources (through Bookfinder) in the \$5-\$12 range.

“I didn’t know that Wilson Tucker wrote mysteries at all! He wrote some of my favorite SF, and it would be interesting to see what he did with mysteries.” I like some of his mysteries better than most of his science-fiction. His books are a little harder to come by on Bookfinder and generally more expensive. I’d particularly recommend *The Chinese Doll* (which happens to be the first of a series of “Charles Horne” mysteries) and *The Man In My Grave* (mostly cheaply available as part of an omnibus volume with stories by two other authors).



Regarding that Lovecraft letter you put in the July mailing, it's worth noting (as you told me in an e-mail) that it appears on page 413 of the Arkham House book, *Selected Letters 1934-1937*, the fifth and final volume in the series.

R-Laurraine Tutihasi: It was interesting reading that at Mesa Verde there are climbing ladders so that one can access some of the cliff dwellings. I don't have the same problem with heights you describe, but I think I would also feel uncomfortable on a ladder swaying in space. We've never been to Mesa Verde, but we have been to the Petrified Forest—and we've taken the tour of Canyon de Chelly, where we got to see lots of cliff dwellings up close (though no ladders, so not that close).

"I've always been a heavy user of catalogue shopping. I really don't like shopping; even on the Internet it can be frustrating. On the other hand, there are some things that have to be seen before one buys them. I hate having to return things I buy by mail." Because of being tall with very long arms, I've bought most of my clothes by catalogue for many years—and most of them from L.L. Bean and Lands End, both of which offer "tall" sizes. The only times I've returned something have been when either the material or the workmanship wasn't to my liking, and with both of these companies doing so is easy, and with no questions asked.

Continuing our political thread, you write, "The economy seems to be improving now, so my usual environmental cause has taken over in my presidential and other political decisions." I haven't noticed much improvement other than gasoline prices coming down as the "oil bubble" appears to have burst. If one has an adequate and stable income for purchases beyond necessities, these are good times



because retailers are running sales in order to attract customers. But groceries have definitely spiked upward. "Also the more I hear about McCain, the less sure I am of his mental stability." His choice of Sarah Palin as running mate is certainly a sign of that. I imagine it was done with the idea of peeling off some of the diehard Hilary supporters who think a vote for a woman, *any* woman, is a sign of progress; but it's hard for me to believe that women who were for Hilary would be blinded into voting for a candidate who's anti-choice (with an exception for the health of the woman but not for victims of rape or incest) when doing so implies support of a president who will get to pick the next Supreme Court replacements and perhaps tilt that institution into toppling *Roe v. Wade*.





(And that's just one of her many defects as a human being. She's the Tracy Flick of contemporary politics.) I'm glad to read that Obama's stand on the environment is close to yours, agree that McCain's voting record on the environment often doesn't match his rhetoric, and hope you continue to go with the League of Conservation Voters' recommendation of Obama.

Bryan Follins: I continue to wish you would interact with us directly in addition to including your bulletins, and I'm not the only one.

Chris Garcia: Sounds like you had a good time at the worldcon. You write, "Mike Glycer was there, as was his wife Diane, whose book was robbed of Best Related Book in the Hugos." Looking at the list of nominees, my own choice would have been Luis Ortiz's *Emshwiller: Infinity x Two*, with Jeff Prucher's *Brave New Words* a close runner-up.

Shelby Vick: To John Purcell you write, "FAPA is quarterly, and you surely have SOMETHING you can include! You don't HAVE to make comments, just get something pubbed! Even if you hafta do that for two, three mailings, you'd be IN!" While I certainly agree with your sentiments, John has made it pretty clear he wants to finish his doctorate before joining up. At least with his publishing her and doing *Askance*, he won't lack for proper "credentials" once he gets around to it.

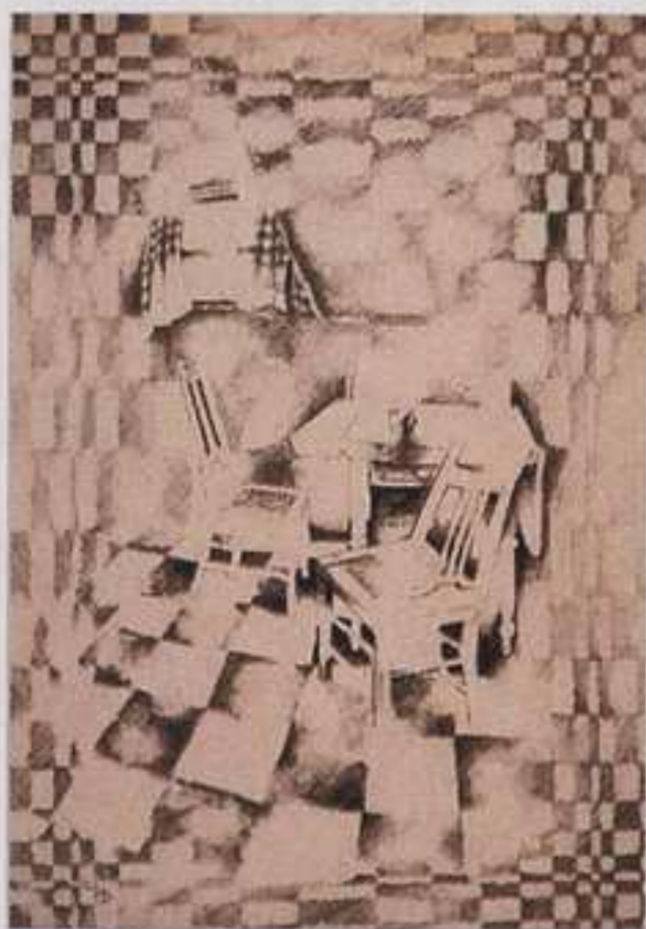
"I've run into problems with *Planetary Stories* and fanzines," you write, in finding yourself dealing with contributors who get all bent out of shape when you suggest editorial changes in their submissions: "Touch one line on a drawing or in an article, and the contributor blows their tops!" Bunch of primadonnas, I'd say—with but one or two exceptions I've had absolutely no trouble with the contributors to *Trap Door*, to whom I send changes for approval and comment. (One of them was the late rich brown back in the days when one still had to type contributions from a paper manuscript. I accidentally dropped a line and didn't notice; amazingly it still read just fine. But *he* noticed and had a cow about it, accusing me of heavy-handed editing. I compared the typed version to his manuscript, saw the problem, restored it, and all was well.) I've seldom suggested alterations in any artwork, though, feeling that as a non-artist myself I'm hardly qualified to pass that sort of judgment. On rare occasions I've pointed out that some aspect of a contributor's artwork might not reproduce well and suggested that some adjustment be made to maximize quality.



None of my artists have ever had a problem with that. On the contrary, they've all thanked me for looking out for their best interests.

Regarding your "conflict of interest" with Joe Green, I can see both your points. As a movie fan myself, I agree with his finding it amazingly wonderful that over 150 free movies are available for download. But as a faan, I sympathize with your view that computers allow one so many more creative tools than were available in the past—and that contemporary means of reproduction, most definitely including PDFs, are far superior to the mimeography and ditto work of past fanzines. I own "a good collection of lettering guides, shading plates and styli," and even have some fine-point pens with which to use them outside the old repro methods—and did on some of the early *Trap Doors*—but these days if I were to do that I'd end up scanning the results, converting them to a JPG, and sizing them to go in my layout. Oh brave new world of fanac!

To me you exclaim, "Whaaaa. . . ? TWO 160GB harddrives?" I had to go searching for the issue from which you extracted my comments about those drives, and that sent me time-traveling back to February, where I explained, "I back up everything to one of the external drives on a daily basis and to the other once a month—that one lives in my car as an 'offsite' backup—out of concern that the onboard one could decide to give up the ghost at any time due to age." And as I note in the text you extracted, the first drive was installed to provide breathing room and expanded file storage off the 30GB hard drive that came with this computer (back in December 2000).



You further write, "I have no external drives, just an enlarged inner drive." Don't you worry about a hard drive crash taking away *all* your data, or do you have some back-up you don't mention here (such as CDs or DVDs)?

Ross Chamberlain: The only part of trimming that lovely tree in your photos that I'd go along with would be maintaining proper clearance of the part that's overhanging the sidewalk. I'd save every possible bit of shade to help mitigate those hot Vegas days you enjoy so much.

"I remember at various times being asked who my favorite pro stfnal artists were and while I could think of Virgil Finlay and...and grr, a couple of other names that fail to come to mind now...I tend to forget

Bok.” Perhaps if I was put on the spot for such a list I’d freeze up, too, but when I put my mind to it I come up with (in addition to Finlay and Bok) such worthies as Frank R. Paul, Edd Cartier and Ed Emshwiller, all of whose work I like for one reason or another.

John Purcell: I’m glad to see that my (and others’) suggestion that you “embed” your fonts when converting to PDF worked—not a single dropped letter in the entire issue. Thanks for following through!

My being a fan of the Beach Boys doesn’t mean they’re my top favorite or that I listen to their music to the exclusion of all else. On the contrary, I still enjoy hearing the music of all the others you listed and many more. Some of the others would include the Grateful Dead, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Chuck Berry, Otis Redding, the Velvet Underground, Fats Domino, Little Richard and even some Elvis and Sinatra. That’s hardly a complete list, either, just (as with my list above of favorite stfnal artists) those who first come to mind.

To Dian you write, concerning the holographic HPL letter, “Wherever did you find this, and I hate to ask how much this might fetch at an auction.” Dian responded to the first point in this mailing, and as for the second the quick and dirty answer would be “a lot,” especially since (as I note above) this is one of the letters included in the five-volume Arkham House *Selected Letters*—and also one of the last letters Lovecraft wrote near the end of his short life. For more specifics, go to <http://www.lwcurrey.com>. Once there select the “See other catalogues” link on the left side and then select “H. P. Lovecraft: Printed and Manuscript Material, 1890-1948.” Item numbers 53 and 62-69 inclusive are representative, and don’t miss drooling over items 77 and 78. There’s lots more here to faunch for, of course, and I particularly wish I could afford the two issues of W. Paul Cook’s *The Ghost* and the single (and only) issue of his *The Recluse*.

Joyce Katz: As I may have mentioned before, the only parts of SNAPS mailings I print out are your and Arnie’s pages—done because I keep copies of all your publications. (And I never actually read those prints. Like everything else in the mailing, I read them on my monitor and comment directly to a word processing file—cutting and pasting things on which I wish to have my say.) I simply don’t have room to store paper copies of the SNAPS mailings here.



“...It certainly is a money saver to

have desert landscaping. Vegas was very green when we moved here. But the water shortage has caused many, probably even the majority of people, to give up the grass in favor of more ecological surroundings." I imagine that over time nearly everything in Vegas (with the exception perhaps of some of the casinos) will revert to "natural" out of necessity. We're subject to mandatory water rationing here in Oakland. None of our landscaping is "natural," but much of it requires little water and we've been able to keep up so far.

"I enjoy those rare occasions when I get to hear pre-rock ballads. I was crazy about Frankie Laine and Johnny Ray." I liked them, too, especially Ray, and in fact the first "adult" record I ever bought was a 78 of "Hernando's Hideaway." I never owned a copy, but always liked "Mule Train," too. Later I did have a 45 of Laine doing "Most Happy Fella." I guess I'm also a member of "the In-Between generation," because rock 'n roll hadn't quite started when I became aware of and began listening to popular music.

"I will always regret that I didn't get into fandom when I first learned about it at age 13, back in the early 1950s." As I believe I've mentioned before, I could also have gotten into fandom a couple years earlier than I did if only I'd figured out that Rog Phillips's fanzine review columns in late '40s and early '50s *Amazing Stories* probably meant that something like that was still going on when I read them in 1956.

Arnie Katz: Good to read of your career changes—anything that leads to fewer work hours and more personal satisfaction is to be applauded—and I hope that next time you do catch up on mailing comments as you've been saying for too long now.

"Up To Here" was an interesting read, but I think the conclusion needs more work to be ready for prime time. Yes, I laughed out loud at your reference to "the N3F's merger with the Republican Party" and enjoyed the fall-out from your encounter with "a bunch" of the writing of Calvin W. "Buff" Demmon when Capitals Leaked All Over (and I wondered if "Buff" was one of your typos or done on purpose). But after that it all unfolded in what seemed to me a fairly predictable way, and the ending seemed weak. In your introductory comments about it, you make reference to the possibility of "a very entertaining sequel." Perhaps you should combine that with what you've written already and have a conclusion with more...what is that word I'm looking for, Meyer!?

Thanks to all those who voted in the SNAPS poll. I must admit I'm rather surprised at the results, but appreciate your...appreciation.

This issue's artwork is from a February 2008 New York *Times* "slide show" of migraine art, courtesy of the Migraine Action Association.