

FANZINES 14

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By Ted White

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NONSTOP FUN IS HARD ON THE HEART #5 (Dwain Kaiser, P.O.Box 1074, Claremont, CA 91711; e-mail to dgkaiser@hotmail.com; available for “the usual” – trades, contributions or letters of comment – but send the guy a buck for his postage when making an initial query)

Nonstop Fun is a good journeyman fanzine. Once upon a time fandom was full of good journeyman fanzines – one or more could be counted upon to arrive in the mail weekly, if not more often. These days such fanzines are rare and to be prized.

They’re also a good place for newcomers to fanzines to get their toes wet. They won’t overwhelm you or intimidate you with their brilliance; they’re more likely to make you feel like this is something you can do and want to do too. They are easy to participate in.

The fifth *Nonstop Fun* runs a solid 52 pages of readably large computer-set type mimeographed impeccably by the LASFS superGestetner on a light turquoise paper. There are a few color-printed pieces (art and photos) and most of fandom’s best artists are well-represented in these pages but the late William (Bill) Rotsler gets the place of honor: in addition to a generous helping of his art throughout the zine, Rotsler is remembered appreciatively by Earl Kemp in the centerpiece article, “Just My Bill, An Ordinary Guy.” Several of Rotsler’s short written pieces are also reprinted.

The issue opens with a photo tribute to the late Jack Harness. In his editorial Kaiser talks about a “mini-vacation” in nearby Nevada – and illustrates it with a color photo of himself on a jet ski. Following the “Rotsler section” there are a couple of pages of filk lyrics – “This Old Fan” and “Talking LASFS Blues.” Then there’s Jim Schumacher’s “The Good Ol’ Daze,” about Los Angeles fandom in the late ’60s – in which Rotsler also figures prominently, “Las Vegas Adventures 2001” by Lyn Pederson, “The ValSFA Chronicles,” a story by John Welsh, and 17 pages of letters by fans whose names will be increasingly familiar to you as you read the fanzines I’ve reviewed here in the past year.

There are hundreds, if not thousands, of fans out there in Greater Fandom now. But the number of fans who are active in fanzines is much smaller – between 500 and 1,000 worldwide. And of those fans perhaps 200 are regularly active in English-language fanzines. Thus the same 20 or 30 names will crop up over and over in the letter columns of various fanzines, and fairly quickly they become easily identifiable individual voices, people you begin to think you know (at least a little) and with whom you want to discuss various topics. And that’s what fanzines are really about: unambitious venues for discussions, essays, arguments and conversations. Sound interesting? Get a copy of *Nonstop Fun*.

—Ted White