

## Lasting Impressions: News from the World of Fanzines

### *More Maps of America*

Gene Wolfe once joked, with a dash of biters, that the difference between a book publisher and a faned is that if a fanzine sells out the faneditor will print more. Jerry Kaufman is the latest fan to prove Gene right, bringing out another edition of Peter Roberts' TAFF trip report, *New Routes in America*.

Jerry explains, "It's Peter's story of his trip as Trans Atlantic Fan Fund delegate to the 1977 Worldcon, the Suncon in Miami, Florida. He has many witty and sharply observant things to say about the American fans and American cultural icons he visits before and after the con, and his memories of Suncon itself are delightful."

The publication is 36 pages of text and artwork, plus cover, publishing details and table of contents, all for \$10 postpaid to: Jerry Kaufman, 3522 NE 123rd Street, Seattle, WA 98125.

Jerry and Suzle are also at work on the successor to their fanzine *Mainstream*, called *Littlebrook*. It's available in print and at [efanzine.com](http://efanzine.com). Jerry invites curious minds to inquire about being on the mailing list by writing to the above address, or via email to [littlebrooklocs@aol.com](mailto:littlebrooklocs@aol.com)

### *Another Golden Horizon for FAPA* *By Murray Moore*

The milestone 250<sup>th</sup> issue of Harry Warner Jr.'s *Horizons* appeared in the August 2002 Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) mailing.

Harry confounded his critics by using a new typewriter ribbon. For in the same mailing Bob Silverberg wrote, "It seems nicely ironic that the FAPA member who throughout the fifty-three years of my membership has consistently led the Egoboo Poll in the category of Most Difficult to Read Magazine would now tell us that 'My eyes water too badly to continue reading after about ten pages of an easy-to-read fanzine, fewer pages if it's on colored paper.'"

Harry himself explains *Horizons* 250 has no mailing comments because the previous mailing arrived late. Also "Extremely hot weather has sent the temperature in my house to 90 degrees or higher on most days this summer, making me reluctant to risk heat stroke by the exertion required to type."

The bulk of *Horizons* 250 is mini essays by Harry about Germany's *Andromeda SF Magazin* 148 and the

clubzines of the NFFF and First Fandom, and comments about a book by Forry Ackerman and a book about A. E. van Vogt.

For information about joining the FAPA contact secretary-treasurer Robert Lichtman at PO Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442 United States or [robertlichtman@yahoo.com](mailto:robertlichtman@yahoo.com).

### *Murder Must Advertise*

"Another Bloody Fanzine..." began Bill Bowers' e-mail and the warning was needed. It wasn't simply Bill's usual polite throat-clearing before launching a giant PDF file into my mailbox, because this time it wasn't going to be an *Outworlds* or a *Xenolith*. Instead, he would be broadcasting his mystery apazine titled *Neither Rain, Noir Murder #1*.

The inaugural issue is eight pages, much of it consumed by a 9,000-word article, "How To Do Research for the Police Procedural," from Jim Doherty, a working Chicago cop and published writer. Sounds quite sercon, for Bill adds this reassurance: "I imagine that, over time this will end up being as much a 'mystery fanzine' as *Xenolith* a 'sf fanzine,' but if you'd like to try this one, the price is reasonable: let me know!" Ask for the details by e-mailing Bill Bowers at [fanac@one.net](mailto:fanac@one.net)

### *Rotsler Masques Now Available* *Announcement by Marty Cantor*

When Bill Rotsler died, he had not published his fanzine *Masque* for some time. But he was obviously thinking about doing so at some future date as he laid out – and even printed – many of the pages for future issues.

When Bill Warren got hold of this material, he decided that the publishing of additional *Masques* was a public good – but some work had to be done to make them ready to "market." He sorted the pages so that the diary material was in date order and he printed the sheets which Rotsler had prepared but not yet printed. He also took Rotsler material and created the covers for these

fifteen zines.

The result was 15 zines of All Rotsler material, zines containing illos, diary entries, quotes from himself and others – and other original material. Bill Warren then attempted to reconstruct Bill Rotsler's old *Masque* mailing list, with help from Robert Lichtman. The result of this was that 30 people, most of whom were on Rotsler's old mailing list were found whose current addresses could be ascertained. Once a month each one of these people were sent a copy of the zine which Warren got ready that month. The last of these zines were handed out at Westercon to those recipients who were there (with the others having been previously mailed).

At which point all of the remaining zines were turned over to me to distribute – aside from those which were sold at the con. I had one condition: one complete set *must* be given to Greg Pickersgill's Permacollection as I felt that there should be one complete set on that side of the pond – and the Permacollection is one of fandom's premium fanzine collections. This was agreed to and I took over the zines.

And now they are available to anybody on a first come, first served basis. The price is \$5.00 for each zine and the *entire* proceeds will be turned over to the William Rotsler Award administered by SCIFI. This Award is a cash award and it is given to a fanartist each year at Loscon – Brad W. Foster was last year's winner. Do not send postage – SCIFI will pick up that tab.

I am sending this to several fannish e-lists and will operate the sale this way. I am going to list availability by sets of zines and those who want a set should indicate the set number: the lower the set number, the more zines there are in it. So, set number one will be the most complete available set; and, as the number of the set gets higher, there will be a smaller selection of zines in the set. This is because an unequal number of zines were produced.

*Warning:* There are no complete sets of all 15 zines – the last complete set went to the Permacollection. There is no set of 14 zines – the most complete sets have 13 zines.

Remember, first come, first served, so the earlier you post me if you want one of the more complete sets, the better your chance of receiving it. After I receive a posting for which I have a set I will reserve it for you and send you a posting letting you know this. If somebody posts me the message, "The Most Complete Available Set" I will set aside the



Howard DeVore and Ray Beam at Midwestcon 2002. Photo by Keith Stokes.

most complete set for him and let him know the price. At which point you should send me a cheque for the proper amount – made out to Martin L. Cantor, *not* to SCIFI, as I am handling the finances to make it easier to keep these separate books. After I receive your cheque I will send you your zines.

Here is the list of the zines (with the titles being taken from the words or cartoons on the covers). For the record, #8 (Tall Stories) and #15 (The Only Fanzine in the World Edited by William Rotsler) are not available, having been completely distributed. When I list the zine sets please note that the zine numbers shown in the list of zines in each set is the number in front of the zine name in this first list.

(1) The Fanzine That Returned from the Dead; (2) Formerly KTEIC; (3) The Fanzine Looking for a Grand Purpose (So Please Help); (4) Every Fan's Dreamzine; (5) The Fanzine You've Waited For; (6) The Fanzine of the People; (7) Published on Nothing Even Approximating a Schedule; (8) Tall Stories – (none available as all were distributed); (9) "So What Do You Think of Hell Now?" (cartoon caption); (10) The Once-Gaudy Fanzine; (11) "One of Those Who Will Not Commit Themselves" (cartoon caption); (12) The Fanzine You've Been Waiting For; (13) The Fanzine That is, in So Many Ways, the Best Way to Know William Rotsler; (14) The Fanzine Without a Title Page; (15) The Only Fanzine in the World Edited by William Rotsler – (none available as all were distributed)

SETS 1, & 2: 13 zines in each set (missing only zines #8 & #15 from the above list) - \$65 each set; SETS 3 & 4: 12 zines in each set (missing only zines #8, #10, & #15

from the above list) - \$60 each set; SET 5: 8 zines in this set (zines in the set are - #1, #2, #4, #7, #9, #11, #12, & #14 from the above list) - \$40 for this set; SET 6: 4 zines in this set (zines in the set are - #1, #2, #4, & #12 from the above list) - \$20 for this set; SETS 7 & 8: 2 zines in these sets (zines in each set are only #1 & #2 from the above list) - \$10 each set; I also have 6 individual copies of the first zine, "The Fanzine That Returned from the Dead" which can be purchased separately if one merely wants a smaller sample of the work of Bill Rotsler. - \$5 for this zine.

Please contact me soon – as you can see the supply of these wonderful zines is limited. My recommendation for those wanting the most complete available set is to ask for just that – "The most complete available set." I will then put that aside for you and let you know the price, sending it after I receive your money. Marty Cantor, 11825 Gilmore St. #105, North Hollywood, CA 91606, USA, E-mail: hooahpubs@earthlink.net

### Without Rhyme or Reason

Joe Kennedy, fan writer, artist and editor of the 1940s has a new book being published by the Johns Hopkins UP, a collection of poetry entitled "The Lords of Misrule" under the name X. J. Kennedy.

Michael Walsh wrote online, "Met him a year or so ago at the New England Booksellers Trade Show. Nice guy. He's something of a big name in poetry circles." To say the least.

From one of the poems in the collection:

Alive, we open eyelids  
On our pitiful share of time,  
We bubbles rising and bursting

In a boiling pot"  
-- "September Twelfth 2001"

### Changes of Address

Woody Bernardi, 622 St Andrews Rd., Henderson, NV 89015-7513  
Dr. Bob Blackwood, E-mail: bob.blackwood@attbi.com  
Diane Blackwood, E-mail: diane.blackwood@attbi.com  
Wm. Breiding, P. O. Box 1901, Tucson, AZ 85702  
Linda and Ron Bushyager, 4025 Mitra Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89103  
Fred Cleaver, 2146 - C 35th Ave., PMB#801, Greeley, CO 80634  
Connor Freff Cochran, E-mail: connorfc@earthlink.net; Snail mail: P. O. Box 668, Lafayette, CA 94549  
Elspeth Kovar, E-mail: ekovar@worldnet.att.net  
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Ed Meskys, E-mail: edmeskys@localnet.com  
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Will Shetterly and Emma Bull, P. O. Box 1597, Bisbee, AZ 85603 (Keep track of them at: <http://www.player.org/pub/flash/emmaywill.html>)  
Keith Stokes, 13159 W. 108th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66210; Telephone (913) 663-2979  
Sally A. Syrjala, E-mail: ssyrjala@aol.com



## KURT ERICHSEN WINS 2002 ROTSLER AWARD

Kurt Erichsen won the 2002 Rotsler Memorial Fanzine Artist Award, presented at Loscon 29. Sponsored by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests (SCIFI), the Rotsler Award honors the lifetime work of outstanding fanartists and the memory of esteemed fanartist William Rotsler.

Kurt, an Ohio fanartist, has been chosen in recognition of his current fanac as well as his many years of contributing art to fanzines (a history reaching back even farther than his wonderful pen-and-ink cover for a 1982 Worldcon Progress Report.) He has been generous with his cartoons, and his work is insightful, humorous, and versatile. Kurt is a worthy successor to Rotsler's legacy.

The annual award consists of \$300 cash and an award plaque. Mike Glyer, Richard Lynch, and Geri Sullivan served as this year's award judges.

Past winners are Steve Stiles (1998), Grant Canfield (1999), ATom (2000) and Brad Foster (2001).



Larry Niven researches artificial gravity for his new novel, "Dryer World."

# Donn Brazier

## The Name Above The Title



**Donn P. Brazier**  
(October 4, 1917 – May 27, 2002)  
by Don Ayres

Donn Brazier, of Milwaukee and St. Louis fandom, has died of a stroke. His son, Terry, reports that he never regained consciousness during a 5-day stay at Missouri Baptist Hospital and that the entire family was present when he passed away peacefully about 9 p.m. on Memorial Day. After a private funeral service, he was buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. He is survived by Betty, his wife of 60 years; five children; a brother; sister; and seven grandchildren.

His professional career included a curatorship at the Milwaukee Public Museum until 1959, when he accepted the post of education supervisor at the Museum of Science and Natural History in Clayton, Missouri, a St. Louis suburb. He became the acting director in 1961 and served as director from 1962 until his retirement in 1982. In Milwaukee, he hosted the early television program "Let's Explore" (1950 - 1958) and later started "Operation: Explore" on the St. Louis public television station.

Brazier often said that he went through three stages of fanac and fen today might best remember his third stage: *Title* #1 bore a date of April 1972. At a time when most fanzines appeared irregularly, *Title* appeared monthly for 73 consecutive issues until its abrupt cessation with the April 1977 issue.

Readers who were attracted to Donn's style and wide-ranging curiosity tended to really be hooked. After a few pages of editorial natterings and a few 'articles' a page or two in length, *Title*'s differences rose to the fore in the lettercol – but instead of the customary parade of letters by one author after another, Donn splattered the letters confetti-like throughout the zine according to topics or by editorial departments, a few sentences here, another there. It was the equivalent of a con by Postal Service, an atmosphere that generated a huge volume of comment to feed Donn's hun-

gry scissors. Leah Zeldes Smith credits him as one of the earliest faneds to move from the mimeograph to the photocopier as a reproduction medium. What would this faned have done with a modern scanner and word processor?

Donn brought in writers who were avoided by other faneds, including Frederick (*Seduction of the Innocent*) Wertham and Richard Shaver. Books like *We Almost Lost Detroit* and *Murder in the Synagogue* received visibility and lengthy discussion. Excerpts from Brazier's World War II diaries (he supervised a crew of AAF mechanics in the PTO) appeared. There were always questionnaires to fuel the editor's penchant for statistics and lists. It is fitting that the three books that he was savoring at his bedside were *The Book of Lists* and story collections by favorite writers Ray Bradbury and Fredric Brown.

Donn was a deserving Fan GOH at Autoclave I, held 28 – 31 May 1976. It was also one of the few times that he was induced to attend a con, and most fen who met him did so by stopping at the museum as they passed through St. Louis. He also edited nine issues of the more traditional *Farrago*, from 1975 to 1978. I believe that there were earlier zines from his first two stages of fanac, but I don't have any information about them.

Terry Brazier asked me to "inform others whom dad would have liked to tip his cap to," and I hope that I have lived up to the honor of that mission: you know who you are, since most of you graced the pages of his fanzines.

### **Donn Brazier (RIP), Title (RIP) and Titlers: A Love Affair** by Sheryl Birkhead

Donn Brazier died May 27, 2002. He was a gentleman, a gentle man, and a fan who let me into his world of fanzines. He *Titled*.

If you've never seen an issue of *Title*, it is a bit difficult to explain the phenomenon. In order to stay on his mailing list you had to contribute and he cut everyone's bits merrily,

slapping unusual bedfellows next to each other willy-nilly.

The obituary reprinted by *The Insider* (clubzine of the St. Louis SF Society) gives his birthday as October 4, 1917. In a letter from Donn (on *First Fandom* stationery) he said that he began his fanac in 1935 and joined First Fandom in 1970.

Although each issue maintained that he wrote an editorial, I was hard pressed to locate one consistently. Instead, each issue (on a pretty consistent monthly basis!) was a frenetic mix of everyone talking about everything. Somehow Donn sorted out the comments and organized (??) them so that there was a cohesiveness.

*Title* was more of a phenomenon than a "mere" fanzine and the extent of participation reflected that. Somewhere along the line he mentioned that *Title* was available for participation within three issues, but that was pretty much a myth. It seems that almost everyone participated every ish. Otherwise you did not get the nextish. Even your intrepid *File 770* editor had a fanzine review column ("Boone Farkings") running in *Title*.

I have thought about it before and cannot figure out what created this interaction. Therefore, I cannot come up with a recipe to recreate the energy and gee-whiz-gosh-wow-ness of it. The list of *Titlers* is impressive in some of the names that are there, but also in some of the names that are there but never heard of again.

My own personal, admittedly skewed view of the fanartists who appeared in *Title* is a mixed one. Few are names that I recall going on to fandom at large and yet names like Jackie Franke (Causgrove) are there and talents not cajoled into artwork in many other zines.

Donn didn't seem to care overly about the look of *Title*. The rest of us didn't seem to notice as long as the text was legible. He did come up with interesting mixes of ditto and mimeo, where even the bleed-throughs were intriguing.

Donn loved doing *Title* and it showed. He

loved talking about his family, science (he was the Director of the St. Louis Museum of Science and Natural History) and science fiction. I got a chance to meet him twice – once as he traveled through D.C. we met at the airport – along with Mike Shoemaker – and again at his home while I was passing through. He was easy to talk to and never short of conversation topics. I suspect he would have loved to have written some speeches for the fictional guest of honor at this year's Worldcon, Ferdinand Feghoot. His sense of humor just seemed to run that way, sideways.

This may be an obscure reference to many, but Donn's friendship with and the visibility of Ed Cagle in *Title* was sort of an example of the regularly awesomeness of Donn's personality on paper. I apologize to those who never knew Cagle (in actuality, I never met him) but his letters were intimidating and he never shied away from being direct. The two men seemed to be opposites, but their chemistry worked.

*Title* issue #1 (April 7, 1972) was 10 mimeographed pages with a print run of 98. The second annish (#24) listed 78 contributors to the ish – a whopping 78% response rate, because Donn tried to keep the *Titler* list at a slightly fluid 100.

By January 1974 Donn succumbed to capitalism and made one sample copy available for 25 cents. Part of the zine's attraction was the egoboo that Donn doled out to the readership. Readers provided all the artwork (ahem, some of it less than museum quality) and he felt – *strongly* – that content outweighed look. Each issue was dedicated to readers and it was a thrill to see your name



there with a reason why.

I found Donn's list of 12 of the original 13 and assume (since I only got invited in at issue #4) there was some reasoning behind this number that I never quite fathomed) – Bruce D. Arthurs, Claire Beck, Ned Brooks, Ann Chamberlain, Ed Connor, Buck Coulson, Jackie Franke, Mike Glycer, Norman Hochberg, Ben Indick, Roy Tackett and Harry Warner Jr.

Donn also created *Farrago* and several other titles (which were actually sub-*Titles!*), *Natterings* and its mutated sibling *Nutterings*,

along with *Reverb Howl* (“...is not a fanzine. It is a solution unsatisfactory!”)

With the demise of *Title*, Donn's fanatic slowed considerably. I suspect that family obligations were coming to the forefront. We always managed the postcard/letter at Christmas – until this past year – and he never indicated that things were other than just right.

There is a large fannish family. Only the death of William Rotsler has shaken me as much as did hearing of Donn's death. Three years ago I asked him if he would create the definitive *Title* history and gave him two choices – either he could write one on his own or I would provide him with a list of questions. I think he believed that my list would be the lesser (and easier) of two evils. However, my list turned out to be six pages long and I felt I had covered *every possible aspect* of *Title*. Donn tried to procrastinate by saying there was no need to provide the information since no one was interested. I already had that one cut off at the knees since I had two faneds ready to take a look and one or the other of them would publish the material. I never thought Donn would go to such lengths to avoid getting that information to me.

He was one of a kind – and that kind was a superb human being. Even though we had not written much lately, I always knew I could – and now I can't. That indefinable something that he put into his creations made every ish a party and called out the best in the reading family. I'm so very glad I knew you Donn. Don de Barbecue and Dr. Splrfsk, I'll miss you.

## Clipping Service

In *Instant Message 711* (and what issue could have a luckier number than that?) Clerk **Pam Fremon** reported the menu of NESFA's November 24 Other Meeting: “Deb [Geisler] and Mike [Benveniste] fed us to the gills with an enormous tray of lasagna (containing 5 lbs. of meat and 2 lbs. of mushrooms). It was a free-range lasagna that had been humanely slaughtered and carried no trace of fur, feathers, nor scales. Deb acknowledged that this year she hadn't also made an emergency back-up lasagna, figuring that this one would be enough. As she said, people had brought enough sweets for 27 courses of desserts. At the end of the meal there was only one helping of

lasagna, and Dave Grubbs (after some coaxing) valiantly threw himself onto it.”

In 2002, Milwaukee airport security saved the world from... **Laura Brodian Freas** and her husband, **Kelly**? She described the harrowing experience for readers of *Chronicle of the Dawn Patrol*:

“I inadvertently caused an incident at the Milwaukee airport: Had a long layover waiting for our connection. Kelly [was in a] wheelchair as we anticipated a long distance to the next departure gate. Attendant met us as we disembarked the plane, and wheeled him toward the gate, as I carried a very heavy tote bag. Kelly had to use the restroom, so the attendant parked him at the entrance to the men's room, and waited for him to walk back

out. I suddenly had to use the women's room, and gave the attendant the bag to hold for me.

“That resulted in an ‘unattended bag’ situation, the Sheriff was called, a bomb-sniffing dog brought in, a report being made, etc., etc. End of story. I was pretty shaken up for the next hour.”

Philadelphia SF Club President **Hugh Casey** almost made his show business debut in September. “I was supposed to be checking out an alternate location for meetings, but was unable to make it due to being held up in traffic. In fact I ended up driving into the middle of filing for Kevin Smith's upcoming movie *Jersey Girl* – apparently disrupting a shot and getting some crew members very angry at me. I did not see either the director or the stars.” [[Source: *Phrodo 10/02*]]



## Obituaries

**Bruce Pelz**

**August 11, 1936 — May 9, 2002**

**by Mike Glycer**

Surely you met him: did any reader of *File 770* not know Bruce Pelz? What did he look like the first time you met him? The young, faannish Bruce on his way to enter the 1963 Worldcon Masquerade as Fritz Leiber's Fafhrd, his hair dyed blond, a matching beard on his chin, carrying a huge broadsword, who paused to sell Lenny Bailes a subscription to *Starspinkle*? Or the 1970 vintage Bruce, who came to the LASFS' anniversary banquet dressed in black from head to toe like a bellicose prince of darkness, and plumped the Building Fund by auctioning donated desserts? Or the grey-bearded, book-huckstering Bruce of the late 1990s, still spinning-up new LA bids for the NASFiC, Westercon and Worldcon?

Before finding fandom, writes Milt Stevens, "Bruce was an Eagle Scout. Really. I guess once he started collecting merit badges, he had to have all of them." When Bruce transferred that passion to fandom, he continued to excel. He built the largest fanzine collection in the world. In 1980, as Worldcon Fan Guest of Honor, he published the *Fantasy Showcase Tarot Deck*, each card done by a fan or pro artist of the time. He organized many conventions and successfully bid for LA to host the 2002 Westercon, to be called Conagerie ("It's a jungle out there").

He died suddenly in 2002, of a pulmonary embolism, two months before the con and two hours before the weekly LASFS meeting, which broke up, stunned into silence.

Writing about him now, I think of a scene from the movie *Gladiator*:

*Maximus: You knew Marcus Aurelius?*

*Proximo: I didn't say I knew him. I said he touched me on the shoulder once.*

I knew Bruce better than Proximo knew the Emperor, but I realize that our friendship was based more on shared experiences than on shared confidences. As Bill Warren says, "[Bruce] only had a very, very few close

friends over the years, including Ted Johnstone, Drew Sanders, Elayne [Bruce's wife], Larry Niven and, for a while, people such as me and Craig Miller."

Drew shared a Santa Monica apartment with Bruce in the early 1970s, and once compared the two of them to Archie Goodwin and Nero Wolfe. Larry Niven's celebrated his friendship with Bruce by using him as the inspiration for characters Gregory Pelton in "Flatlander" and Bruce Hyde in *Fallen Angels*. Also, Larry's "What Can You Say About Chocolate Covered Manhole Covers" fictionalized the 1968 party where Bruce and his first wife, Dian (now Crayne), celebrated the finality of their divorce. There really was a cake with a little bride and groom on top facing in opposite directions.

Bruce first lived in Los Angeles with fellow LASFSians Jack Harness, John



Trimble, and Ernie Wheatley, renting a house on the hillside above the L.A. Civic Center, until John married Bjo Wells in 1960. Around that time, Jack and Bruce finally managed to join every existing apa, becoming known as omniapans. Their achievement was too terrible to be allowed. Members of one apa conspired to produce two versions of the official organ saying the apa was dead. Everyone but the omniapans received the version announcing a successor apa, APA-X, and inviting them to join. That effectively dropped Jack and Bruce, and also Ted Johnstone (who was then in many, but not all, apas).

Bruce had discovered fandom at the University of Florida. Around 1957 he and some fellow members of the Florida Speleological Society, finding they shared an interest in science fiction, started a club

called SCIFI, which met weekly. In 1959 he came to L.A. for library science at the University of Southern California and earned his living as a librarian at UCLA.

Forry Ackerman was early on so active in LASFS it could have been called Forry's Club. Later it could have been Bjo's Club. John Trimble writes, "Bjo, Al Lewis, Ernie Wheatley, and I, along with others, had been the moving force in the LASFS for several years. Bruce, Ted Johnstone, and some other fans saw themselves as our competition. We let them be the loyal opposition until we were convinced they'd do a good job with the club, and then let them take it away from us. Obviously, looking at where the club is today, it was a sound move."

Early in the 1960s, Bruce could not have been elected dogcatcher if LASFS had one. He even opposed creating the Building Fund, which Paul Turner, then Treasurer, got approved in 1964. It had \$7,000 by 1969; that was a lot of money then but not nearly enough. Bruce became Treasurer. As self-described Committee to Gouge Money Out of the LASFS, he was so effective the Fund bought a clubhouse three years later, making LASFS the first sf club ever to get one.

In 1962-1964, Ron Ellik edited the newszine *Starspinkle*. Bruce published it and later became unofficial co-editor. In 1963 he stood for TAFF, finishing third to Marion Zimmer Bradley and Wally Weber, the winner. Among Bruce's nominators were Marion and the Trimbles. Ellik had been the TAFF delegate in 1961. *Starspinkle* ceased when he moved to Washington, D.C. Bruce promptly launched a newszine of his own, *Ratatosk*, in November 1964, named for the squirrel in Norse mythology who runs up and down Yggdrasil, the tree of life, carrying rumors between the dragon at the bottom and the eagle at the top. Ron was known as the Squirrel. (Bruce was known as the Elephant.) Bruce published *Ratatosk* for three years, and then, when Ron died in 1968, Ron's TAFF report *The Squirrel's Tale*, which Ron had finished in 1965.

In 1964 Bruce persuaded LASFSians to start a weekly apa, APA-L. New York fans did it first with APA-F, but APA-L is still going, and should reach its 2,000th distribution in the summer of 2003. Almost everyone seems to have been in APA-L. I was (and even helped Marty Cantor run it for a little while). Robin Johnson and Kees van Toorn contributed from overseas and became Worldcon chairs. Bruce's Lzine was *Nyet Vremya* — Russian for "no time." He naturally found a Russian typewriter to put his title onto mimeograph stencils in Cyrillic letters.

Bruce's ambitious fanzine collection — part of the reason he'd joined every apa --

grew dramatically when he acquired the holdings of the Fanzine Foundation from Al Lewis in 1965. By the end there was over a ton, including some or all of the collections of Lewis, Martin Alger, Howard DeVore, Phyllis Economou, Larry Shaw, and R.D. Swisher. Bruce styled himself a “completist collector” who wanted every issue of every fanzine. To keep track of how he was doing, back in the 1970s he spent many lunch hours at UCLA keypunching the data on his collection onto hololith cards and proudly displayed the list, printed on an endless stream of 11 x 16 computer paper. All finally went to U.C. Riverside, where Greg Benford says the existing fanzine collection has been treated well.

Bruce’s penchant for binding some of his better fanzines in hardcover was the subject of a satirical article in the (apparently quite tardy) final issue of Dick Lupoff’s *Xero*. Dick described Pelz’ “stubby peasant fingers” opening the envelope and the frustration of having his complete bound collection marred by a loose issue. Since I happened to read the article in Bruce’s bound volume of *Xero*, I was puzzled. Bruce said Lupoff had credited him with too much efficiency -- the run of *Xero* had been sitting for years in a stack to be bound Real Soon Now when the issue arrived.

Bruce also applied his publishing skills to filking – a term based on a typo by his friend, Lee Jacobs. Bruce wrote music for three songs from John Myers Myers’ *Silverlock*, “Little John’s Song,” “Widsith’s Song” (with Ted Johnstone), and “Friar John’s Song.” Bruce and Ted trekked halfway across the country to Myers’ home, sang him the songs (with Gordy Dickson’s setting of “Orpheus’ Song,” also known as “I Remember Gaudy Days”), and got permission to publish Myers’ words. Bruce included these songs in the first of his four *Filksong Manuals*, which printed both words and music (wherever legally possible), another first. At Westercon XX (1967) he sang Master of the Universe in Virginia and Stephen Schultheis’ “Captain Future Meets Gilbert & Sullivan.”

A star in all the fannish arts, Bruce had a great track record as a costumer, too. His Westercon award-winners included: 1963, Heavy Trooper, from *Dragon Masters*; 1965, Gorice of Carce, from E.R. Eddison (with Dian Pelz as the Lady Sriva); 1966, the Fat Fury, from the comic-book adventures of Herbie (with Dian as Ticklepuss); 1967, Barquentine, from *Titus Groan*; 1978, Nick van Rijn, from Poul Anderson’s Polesotechnic League. Among his Worldcon winners: 1963, Fafhrd (with Ted Johnstone as the Gray Mouser, and Dian as Ningable); 1966, Chun the Unavoidable, from *The Dying Earth*; 1968, Heavy Trooper; 1969,

Countess Gertrude of Groan; 1970, Gorice of Carce. He entered the 1974 Worldcon masquerade as a one-legged character, achieving the effect by keeping one leg belted double against itself.

Lee Gold writes, “Of these costumes, the one I particularly remember was Countess Gertrude. Bruce wore a green and gold caftan, a green cap, and a string of snails. He spent the presentation murmuring to a dove which perched on his finger (and was actually stuffed). No one recognized him including old friend Charlie Brown, who actually helped ‘Gertrude’ up the ramp. The panel of judges was sufficiently impressed by the whole affair to award him MOST EVERYTHING, including Most Beautiful, Best Presentation, and Best Group (after all, there was Gertrude and the Dove). When the name of the winner was announced, the entire audience burst into applause.”

The show never ended for Bruce, even in his street clothes. Sandy Cohen recalled, “One of my earliest memories is seeing him with dyed hair for a costume and hearing him almost gleefully discuss how his co-workers would react.” And Walt Willis wrote that after the 1962 Worldcon “fancy dress parade” contestants were “mutely challenging people to guess who they were... The most remarkable transformation was that of Bruce Pelz, who had performed the notable feat of wearing fancy dress throughout the convention until he looked quite normal in it, and then had changed his clothes, shaved off his beard, had his hair



**What goes around:** Bruce wore a carousel-animal guise to promote an LA worldcon bid at the 1986 BayCon. From a picture tribute by Alan White.

cut and left off his glasses.”

Bruce’s activity in filk and costuming fell dormant as he invested more of his talents into LASFS fundraising (in 1977 the club replaced its first clubhouse with a roomier property) and convention politics.

With Chuck Crayne he co-chaired Westercon XXII (1969) and L.A.Con I (1972 Worldcon). He chaired Westercon XXIX (1976). He convinced LASFSians to start holding a local convention, Loscon, and he chaired Loscon X (1983). At Noreascon I (1971 Worldcon) eighty fans proved willing to pay him and Charlie Brown a buck to be registered as Secret Masters of Fandom; Charlie kept #1 for himself and gave Bruce #2; for years Bruce’s car license plate was *SMOF 2*. He was a Fellow of NESFA.

In 1970, he and Chuck Crayne held the first annual Anthony Boucher Memorial Mystery Convention. “It was Bruce’s idea,” explains Len Moffatt, “to make the convention a memorial to Anthony Boucher, who had died the year before,” a leading editor, and no slouch as a writer, of s-f and mysteries. Bouchercon, still going, officially the World Mystery Convention, made Bruce its Fan Guest of Honor in 1991.

Bruce innovated financial practices in science fiction convention-running. L.A.Con I reimbursed Bruce and another fan’s expenses of bidding, which had included airfare to the voting Worldcon (Heicon ‘70) in Heidelberg, Germany. L.A.con II (1984) also reimbursed expenses. This drew fire but was quietly adopted by other cons. Bruce co-founded the Southern California Institute for Fannish Interests, a nonprofit corporation, which produced L.A.con II and III, the 1999 NASFiC, and Westercons. Bruce persuaded SCIFI to give a \$500 bounty to TAFF or DUFF any time a delegate published a trip report. This was to some extent a success. In 1992 he led SCIFI to publish a hardbound edition of *A Wealth of Fable*, the history of fandom in the 1950s by Harry Warner, Jr., edited by Richard Lynch, which earned a Hugo as Best Non-Fiction Book.

Though always busy in these activities, Bruce also pursued his favorite recreations, especially card-playing. At one time he was so enamored of duplicate contract bridge that he wanted to hold a bridge tournament during an LA worldcon! Over the years, as LASFS went in for Hell’s Bridge (with some justice referred to simply as Hell), poker, bowling, miniature golf, Diplomacy, and Mah Jongg, Bruce took part in all. Mah Jongg is straight Chinese style, so much so that when Gary Louie arrived he could mix right in. At poker, games like Anaconda are mild; there’s Ha-Ha Herman and Hot Pas-trami, and if you play Big Squeeze with the wild-card rules for Baseball you get Girdle Sale at Yankee Stadium. One may detect the

influence of Jack Harness, but he was not alone. Joe Minne and I each succeeded at inventing games which were not only banned from play, we had to pay a dollar to be allowed to explain the rules. Bruce published the collected rules of *LASFS Poker* in the 1970s. Later he kept a computerized journal of the Hell-Five Society, with life standings at Hell under nicknames so clever we forgot what they meant; he was Hathi (“elephant” in Hindi, after Kipling). See my article “Lifetime Positive” in Steven Silver’s *Argentus 2*.

These games were a feature of the frequent parties hosted by Bruce and Elayne. They belonged to Petards, which had a different “Hoist” each month, and to the Prestigious International Gourmand Society. They held a yearly Ellik-Jacobs wine & cheese party, and a Virgileo ice cream party (originally named for his & Dian’s astrological signs). Inspired, or not, by Terri & Tom Pinckard’s salons, for many years Bruce and Elayne issued party invitations on the letterhead of the “Drinking Readers’ Entropic Gaming Society (DREGS) of L.A. Fandom.” Theirs was the society the rest of us aspired to. Since the 1960s wherever Bruce lived was the Tower, including the house in Granada Hills where hundreds of fan gatherings were held over the years. Bruce loved pet names: his blue Ford van was called the Ox, after Paul Bunyan’s big blue ox Babe, a name that carried over although his next van was red; the Ox figured in several famous road trips.

Bruce spent the last decade of his life immersed in projects to preserve fanhistory. He was on the Timebinders electronic list, and co-founded Fanhistoricon. He coordinated Worldcon exhibits, recently a history of Worldcon bidding, largely from his own collection. His elephant memory served well. He could also trumpet if someone failed to make a story march. He did not spare himself. After his passing, Joyce Scrivner posted online that he had sent her, as advice, “I find that the ways of dealing with a group that isn’t doing things I think they should — including me in their activities, for instance — are: (1) subdue them (a takeover); (2) subvert them (establish a rivalry that outdoes the group); (3) sideline them (steer others around them in a different and better direction); (4) subsume myself to fit in (almost impossible, for me); or (5) retreat (a last resort).” This was a stern autobiography.

After Bruce retired as librarian at the UCLA Engineering school, he started selling books, at the LASFS and at cons. He said it paid his way; in fact, as usual, he was doing a service. He remembered what people bought, and was ready with something else that would be to their taste. It made him easy to find, which was good for business, for bidding, and for friendship.

Bruce and Elayne enjoyed traveling,



**Bruce** in 1979. Photo, Jim Bearcloud

touring all over the world, usually by plane and car. After retirement, Bruce tried out a couple of ocean cruises, at first going on his own then persuading Elayne to join in. He wrote up the highlights of these trips in his annual *FAPA*zine, *Tripe Report*. An issue about their visit to Antarctica featured a color cover of Elayne in polar weather gear. Their most ambitious cruise came in 2001, an epic 65-day voyage up the coast of Africa and around the Mediterranean to visit exotic places most of us have heard of only in Hope and Crosby “Road” pictures. Bruce took advantage of the Internet cafes in port to e-mail a long list of friends about good eating and good shopping, though contrary to what you might expect, Bruce admitted, “We’re not the most adventurous of eaters.” Pondering whether there was anything worth eating locally at the stop in Turkey, Bruce wrote, “I suppose there’s always Turkish Delight -- the real stuff, not the Bonomo’s junk. ... We took a break in the Grand Bazaar and had drinks -- Diet Coke, of course -- and a plate of Baklava. That the stuff we get in the states dares to use the same name is really a crime!”

He and Elayne became such good customers of Princess Cruises that their picture was in the Spring 2002 issue of *Captain’s Circle*. It did not occur to them why the company might have sent them an entire carton of copies. Early arrivers at a Westercon committee meeting made the discovery.

Bruce had an edgy, fruitful imagination and a rare ability to accomplish what he envisioned. It’s been hard to come to terms with the fact that someone who lived so fully was taken away so suddenly. Those of us who leaned on him, and who cared about him, feel the parts of life we accessed best in his company have been cut away. John Donne’s well-known verse says that anyone’s death dimin-

ishes us, and with Bruce we know we have lost part of ourselves.

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### **Bruce Pelz** **by Takumi Shibano**

When Mr. Hiroaki Inoue, the chairperson of our bidding committee for the 2007 Worldcon in Japan, called me and told me that he had just heard that Mr. Bruce Pelz passed away I couldn’t find the words to express how much I was shocked.

I am deeply grieved to hear the passing of Bruce and we share the same feeling among the committee members. His name was well-known as the model of Mr. Elephant or Bruce Hyde in Mr. Larry Niven’s stories even to Japanese SF readers who have never met him. (Translators explain officiously about them in their postscripts.)

I first met him in the summer of 1968 when my wife and I visited the USA for the first time and stayed with the Trimbles. John and Bjo took us along to the Thursday Meeting of LASFS on our second day in the US, and saw Bruce on a stage as an auctioneer. In those days they were raising a fund to buy a house for LASFS. It seemed to me as if Bruce was leading the whole group -- Mr. Elephant was big and looked dignified even 34 years ago. And when we talked to him in person, later, I was rather surprised to find out that he was a very polite and graceful person.

Bruce visited Japan in April 1985 in a tour group of six American SF people including Mr. and Mrs. Larry Niven to visit The Science Expo held in Tsukuba. I think some of my friends made friends with him at that occasion.

In the fall of 1999, when our fandom started a plan to bid for the worldcon seriously, I was asked to become one of advisers for the bidding committee, and the first thing I did for the committee was to write to Bruce asking for his advice. At the Westercon in 2000, he introduced Mr. Ben Yalow to me saying that Mr. Yalow was the most informed person of the business. Their advice was really more than useful and Bruce kindly recommended us his wife, Elayne, to be our American agent. It is not too much to say that we couldn’t start our bid without him as smoothly as it did.

Elayne and Bruce gave Mr. Inoue a lot of valuable information after Chicon 2000, too. At the last day of the Millennium Philcon, Bruce also gave me many good advise and suggestions. His advise always helped us to progress our preparation very much.

Bruce was really a wonderful and great person. I think that we can never thank him enough. He will live forever in our hearts.