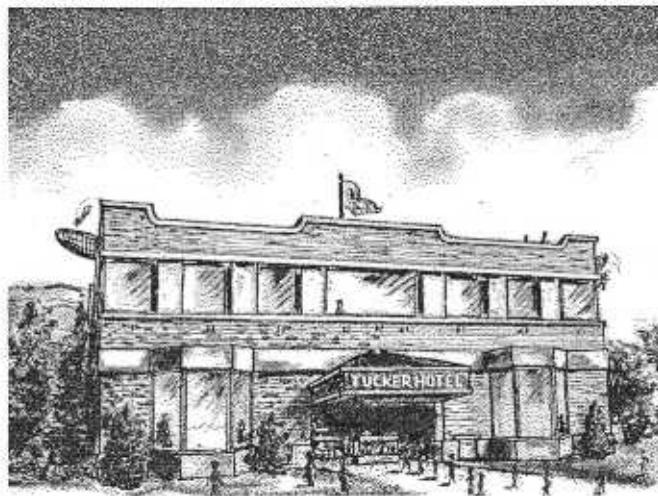


Virtual Tucker Hotel



Issue Thirteen

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>

From: Peter Sullivan (“ceemage”), peter@burdonvale.co.uk

Boring webpage at <http://www.burdonvale.co.uk>

Slightly less boring livejournal at <http://ceemage.livejournal.com>

VTH is primarily an electronic fanzine, available on <http://www.efanzines.com>. Paper copies of this fanzine do exist, however, and will be available for the fannish usual. In any case, e-mails and letters of comment are, of course, welcome.

Thanks to: Bill Mills (“FanLounge”), without whom The Virtual Fan Lounge wouldn’t exist. Also to Arnie Katz for hosting another edition of The Wasted Hour last weekend.

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 282. Today is Friday 25th July, 2008.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

In The Virtual Fan Lounge last weekend, there was a chat session around the sixth edition of Arnie Katz’s “The Wasted Hour,” his 30-minute fannish programme. A transcript of this session should follow next issue, hopefully.

Coming up next weekend, there will be the regular Southern Fandom Classic chat session on the Saturday. Details as overleaf.

This issue of Virtual Tucker Hotel is in catch-up mode, so we have the transcript of the previous edition of The Wasted Hour, plus the

chat-room session from the original broadcast on Saturday 5th July, plus the chat-room session from the re-broadcast on Sunday 13th July.

Joining the Lounge

To use the chat-room, just go to <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>. On the left hand side of the page is the live video feed – replaced by a slide show when there isn’t anything happening. On the right is the actual chat-room. You can see what everyone else is typing in the top window, and add your own contribution in the smaller box

at the bottom.

You will be assigned an initial user name in the format "ustreamer-12345." If you'd rather change this – to your real name, livejournal name, or whatever – you can do this by clicking the "Sign Up" link at the top to register for free. Some people have been slightly put off by the amount of information that the registration form asks for, which I can empathise with. But registration is entirely optional – you can simply stay as "ustreamer-12345" if you prefer.

Video Library

As well as the live events, The Virtual Fan Lounge is beginning to build up a library of recorded material available for viewing. The clips are listed under the main viewscreen – just click to select.

The following videos have been added this week:

- Bruce Dane 2003 – some webcam-quality footage of this respected filk singer, who died recently.
- The Wasted Hour 6 – the latest episode.

Also, if you have problems with the streaming video, most of the videos are also available at our alternative/back-up site, The Fan Video Network, which is available at the web address <http://TFVN.renebooks.com/video/fanvid-1.html>

Art Credits

Front cover: Another outing for Ross Chamberlain's vision of the Tucker Hotel. Thanks to Arnie Katz for passing this along.

Schedule for this weekend

Southern Fandom Classic chat-room session

Dean Sweatman and other members of the Southern Fandom Classic group will be holding their regular chat session, and invite other interested fans from around the world to join them.

- Saturday 26th July, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 26th July, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 26th July, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 26th July, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 6.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 8.00 am NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

The Wasted Hour 6 - Re-mix Session

Last week's edition of the The Wasted Hour re-broadcast. Arnie Katz aims to be in the chat-room to respond to any queries, and re-argue all or any of his more contentious points.

- Sunday 27th July, 10.00 am PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 1.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 5.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 6.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Monday 28th July, 1.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Monday 28th July, 3.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Monday 28th July, 5.00 am NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

And More?

Other ad-hoc events may be added around this 'core' schedule – see future issues of Virtual Tucker Hotel for more details. And, of course, the chat-room itself is open 24/7.

The Wasted Hour episode 5

Arnie Katz announced that this show would be a bit different - normally episodes of The Wasted Hour co-incided with the twice-monthly Vegrants meetings. However, this weekend's Vegrants meeting was also the weekend of the Las Vegas Westercon, and hence this edition of The Wasted Hour was being pre-recorded on July 1st, for broadcast on Saturday 5th July.

Arnie's main announcement was the passing of Jack Speer. He said that Jack had been a "great friend of mine" and a "great pioneer of fandom," having done so much to add to what we enjoy today in fandom. For instance, he was not generally known as a humourist, but had played a key role in the Great Staple War, and the pseudo-religious war between Ghu Ghu and Foo Foo. He had also published the first history of fandom - Up to Now - which had only recently been made available at <http://efanzines.com/UpToNow>. He also compiled the first Fancyclopedia. He was also generally recognised as the co-inventor of the apa mailing comment - it was very hard these days to imagine a fannish apa without mailing comments, but Jack had had the insight to create that form of expression. Jack & Arnie were long term friends - although disagreed on some grammar issues. Arnie said "I will miss him - fandom will miss him - we lost a great one." He added "let's remember him the way he was," dedicating this episode of the Wasted Hour to Jack Speer (1920-2008).

After a short break, Arnie was back with his first guest, who looked suspiciously like Joyce Katz, but who claimed to be Noah's wife, Mrs. Ark. Arnie explained that they had had a flood, due to a broken hose leading to the washer. Joyce explained that she had discovered this after waking in the middle of the night - Arnie claimed to have been having a dream about Niagara Falls at the time. The neighbours had come to help out. There had been no real damage - the Library was safe, as the water had been gushing in the other direction.

Arnie turned to the topic of hosting fan parties, which he and Joyce had been doing in Las Vegas for some 19 years. Joyce said that

she avoided most of the negatives of being a hostess by being careful never to think up anything original. She noted that hosting fan parties could cause wear and tear beyond belief on your carpet, as well as rings on your table. Arnie noted that, in general, Vegas fans were very good at cleaning up after themselves - people would stay behind afterwards to help put the house back together afterwards. Ken and Aileen Forman set the tone in the early days - also Sue Williams - and now it was pretty much expected.

Arnie noted that two traditions had been imported from the Fanoclasts and Brooklyn Insurgents meetings in New York, and were now Las Vegas traditions as well. It was accepted that seating was basically a free-for-all - if someone left a place, it was always allowed for another fan to take it as long as they announced "I take your seat." The other expression that had been imported was "Want to make a BNF happy?" When Arnie had been a young fan, he had been the one "making a BNF happy" by going to get a soda or whatever. These days, he had moved to the other side of the equation, and was usually the one receiving the drinks, which he appreciated a lot. Joyce noted that one of the things she liked was that, as hostess, she always got a chair, notwithstanding the "I take your seat" rule.

Arnie introduced a musical item from Bill Mills – a filk song called “Thank Ghu I’m a Fannish Boy.”

Arnie talked about one of the more famous events in fan history - the Exclusion Act of 1939. The first Worldcon in 1939 excluded a group of fans lead by Don Wollheim, saying that they were threatening the safety & security of the rest of the convention by their pamphleteering on behalf of left wing causes. They were not allowed into the convention. Fandom reacted by having a protest banquet the next day, lead by Forrest J Ackerman, which included toasts to the fans who had been excluded. Many years later, Arnie had actually worked for Sam Moskowitz, who had been one of the chairs of this Worldcon, as a writer and editor on a (non fannish) magazine. Arnie had got to ask him a lot of questions

over the years about fannish history, and one day plucked up the courage to ask him about his role in the Exclusion Act. The public version of the story pretty much assumed that the decision to exclude had been agreed by all three of the co-chairs. Sam's take on it - the "untold story" of the Exclusion Act - was that the other two co-chairs had been in charge of the convention whilst Sam was at work. When Sam got to the convention, he discovered that Wollheim and the others had been excluded and Sam felt he had to stay with his partners even though they had messed up. Sam's own view was that whilst the Futurians were protesters and he didn't agree with their positions, he would not have kept them out the convention, as freedom of speech was an important value in fandom. The way that other fans rallied around the Futurians - on freedom of speech grounds - in some ways confirmed this.

The next edition of The Wasted Hour would be at 7 p.m. PDT, the new standard show time.

The Wasted Hour chat-room, 5th July

After the initial broadcast of The Wasted Hour 5, icemonkey-812 noted that the Vegrants meeting had been "kinda of quite tonight - wasted hour was taped on tuesday - bill made arnie do three takes of the opening." Burbank396 commented "ah the power of the* PRODUCER*" DianCrayne agreed - "What a slave driver!" icemonkey-812 said "the difference between live radio or tv and modern broadcasting made very real."

katster noted that the forest fires near her were now dying away. "The smoke was bad last week; this week's been rather nice. But you can still see it in the distance (re: smoke)." DianCrayne added "our smoke was bad last week too." Burbank396 noted "we have had the 3pm showers most days so little smoke down my way." icemonkey-812 added "about 100 here according to joyce's computer." Burbank396 responded "I'll take 100 vegas over 95 New Orleans any day." DianCrayne agreed - "Yeah -- dry vs. wet! I've only been in N.O. once and it was like a sauna."

As more people arrived at the Vegrants meeting, Burbank396 surmised "Westercon must be lacking something if everyone is at the meeting." icemonkey-812 said "from the prelim program it looks like a bog standard general convention," adding "from the what I can tell arnie and bill are tearing westercon a new one :)" Burbank396 said that different fans had "different interests - No accounting what the Giant ants want from a con<g>." On the other hand a bit of AC, a bar and enough chairs to gather around and we are set." icemonkey-812 pointed out "don't forget the bathtubs full of beer." Burbank396 replied "I don't do Bheer. Much to holy a drink for a low life like me<g>" icemonkey-812 suggested "well I guess you can suck on the ice cubes :>" Burbank396 agreed - "them and a bit of sou-co will do just fine," explaining that this "Used to be the fannish drink about these parts. first room party I attended was set up by Dan Galouye with Schotch and Bourbon but the part lacked spirit till the sou-co arrived." LennyB noted "Re Westercon, I watched five minutes of the clip Bill was broadcasting and observed that at least three or four people in the audience were slumped over their chairs, supine. As if so mysterious gas were emanating from the podium and putting them into catabolic ravages. I wasn't even there and I immediately wanted to leave the room."

Later, jpurcell asked "is there a show tonight?" LennyB explained that he had "missed a rare chance to M3STK tonight's Wasted Hour, with Arnie, himself in the audience. There were no dinosaurs in it to do voiceovers of, alas." jpurcell had "been seriously thinking of doing "live" fanzine reviews on the Wasted Hour. i like the idea. I could tape a segment - call it in to Arnie - or just do it live - read prewritten reviews on air." LennyB said "You should do that -- add content & attract new blood to the chatroom." Burbank396 added "It is true that that the room has been a bit lonly<g>." jpurcell thought "it could be an interesting development. Can you imagine getting instant feedback - or discussion of a zine - through the chatroom or a call in deal?" LennyB suggested "We could do a "zine of the week" barbecue," adding "Definitely bring ketchup for the zines with blander taste." jpurcell added "worcestershire sauce - HEY! I

spelled that correctly!"

Talking of fanzines, crystal-2235 noted "Airwaves I & II are on eBay - \$15." This was Alan White's old fanzine. jpurcell remembered "getting Alan White's massive zine "Delineator" back in the day. Those issues were huge, to say the least."

Commenting on the Virtual Fan Lounge's slideshow, jpurcell said "I like the Rotsler illos scrolling past." DianCrayne agreed "Yep, nice illos!" jpurcell added "that looked like a Hannes Bok on the cover of Crosoid just a moment ago."

Burbank396 asked "Arnie's birthday was a couple of days ago anyone sing to him tonight?" jpurcell replied "Oh, that's right! Can we have him blow out a virtual candle?"

jzak reported that "I am stuck at a Marriott in Memphis... I was on my way to New Orleans, and Northwest sidetracked me." Burbank396 sympathised - "Ya gotta love the airlines today." jzak added "And, of course, since it was "weather related", they would not spring for the hotel," adding "I should have driven." jpurcell agreed - "You probably would have gotten there faster." jzak noted "At least my flight to Denver" (in a few weeks, for the Worldcon) "is non-stop." jpurcell empathasised "sounds like you could use a drink." jzak replied "I had a beer, but I decided to pass on \$13.00 Dalmore." jpurcell replied "Are you kidding me? \$13 for something to drink? Airport bars are getting pricier than I thought." jzak explained "It's a Hotel bar, and I thought 6.00 for a Bass was standard, but 13.00 for a decent, but not great, single malt is a bit much." jpurcell agreed - "I can buy a lot of Shiner Bock for \$13" Burbank396 wondered if it was a form of "Sin Tax???" jzak said "I could use a bit of sin right now," adding "They were out of the only local bheer they carry, so I had to go with the Bass."

Burbank396 said that "reminds me of a con I did in Austin in 2000 - last call was 11:30 and the bar didn't open until 6 pm." jpurcell surmised "that must have been an Armadillocon." Burbank396 said "for a new Orleans boy this was barbaric - Pre Katrina there were a few bars that had not closed since" the previous hurricane. jzak

commented "Now, WindyCon usually has drinkabkle bheer in the con suite." jpurcell asked "it's not Leinenkugel's is it?" jzak re-emphasised "drinkable." jpurcell replied "I get it," adding "Geri Sullivan used to stock her fridge with Leine's everytime she hosted a Minn-stf meeting way back when." jzak said that, at Windycon, for the "Last few years it was Sam Adams-before that it was a good local." jpurcell added "Well, we've got Shiner Bock and a lot of other good local brews down here." icemonkey-812 asked "ever try sierra nevada ?" jpurcell replied "kind of a dry bheer, eh, James?" jzak said "I like the Pale Ale. But then, I like hops." DianCrayne added "The best brew I ever had was Old Peculier. Good stuff!" Burbank396 asked "Do pearl and lonestar still brew?" jpurcell added "whatever you do, don't try the Cherry Wheat Sam Adams. It tastes like cough syrup. now if they invented cough syrup that tasted like bheer, that's perfect." icemonkey-812 suggested "I don't know single malt cough syrup might be nice." jzak noted "Many years ago, Alan Stewart (Duff Delegate) crashed with me at a Deep South Con. He gave me a beer from one of the Islands near Vancouver which was great."

DianCrayne asked Burbank396 "You're the LASFS librarian, aren't you? Or am I confusing you with someone else?" Burbank396 replied "No I am near New Orleans." DianCrayne confessed "Oh lordy! *laughter* I am WAY off base! It was the "Burbank" that confused me." Burbank396 wished "I was near a reall fannish enclave but am outside a village of less than 1000 and 75 miles from NO." DianCrayne replied "We're in about the same boat -- I'm outside of a town of 5,000 and 150 miles from a major city." Burbank396 noted that there were "some media fen in NO and Baton Rouge but few Trufen." DianCrayne said "I recently joined Arnie Katz' electronic apa, because I was getting sort of lonely." Burbank396 said that he knew "the feeling I mostly play on the list servs when I HAVE the time." DianCrayne added that she "did join the Trufen DL on yahoo groups, but of course they have nothing much to say during Westercon. Fortunately I am old, decrepit, and retired so I have lots of time to play." Burbank396 said "Corflu happened in a lull in

the work cycle and had a lot of time off to play but things have pitched up a bit and I have to be in NO and the resulting 3 hours a day behind the wheel going back and forth." DianCrayne replied "That is one hell of a commute, especially with gas prices the way that they are. I think people who can are going to do a lot more telecommuting. My daughter has about 1-1/2 hours daily commute in Los Angeles, and the gas prices are eating her alive." Burbank396 agreed, but noted that telecommuting wasn't possible for everyone - "I am a plumber and HAVE to be onsite<sigh>."

DianCrayne noted "So was Dwain Kaiser. He finally realized his dream of opening a book shop." Burbank396 had "seen a lot of bookstores and comic shops close the last 10 years." DianCrayne replied "I don't know about the comic shops, but the big chains have sort of eaten up the independents. Dwain has a used bookstore, and I think they're a little more immune." Burbank396 said that "depends on the market NO used to be BIG on used books but all that are left are the high end stores with really high prices - our local store reopened after Katrina only to burn down because of faulty electric wiring." icemonkey-812 added "I think Powells in portland is still around but since they shelf new and used next each other they're kind of a hybrid."

Burbank396 could "remember the Good old days after Betsy when the attics were emptied of Pulps Digests comics etc and a paperback ws 10/15cents each and comics 5/10 each Built a nice collection until the floods wiped me out. Since then the market has changed." He explained "I was rebuilding until Katrina since then I have mainly just given up collecting other than digital formats - lots of stuff now in ascii and pdf that I had in book form." He added "The MP3 old time radio shows on CDs survived the best of everything." icemonkey-812 surmised "well if you can clean them I guess cd's would hold up better then paper." Burbank396 "had started a set of new book cases just before the 95 flood for the hardbacks and they were in the shed waiting for me to finish when the waters hit - since then I had no shelves less than 4 feet off

the floor but when the waters lap at the roof line it didn't help." icemonkey-812 asked "so dean just how many floods have you been through?" Burbank396 replied "Two bad ones and a few that could have been worse. in 95 I stopped counting the damages at 85k and never even tried to estimate the katrina losses," adding "at least now I am above sea level but am still in the Blood River Flood plane which gives us a scare every spring - but not like the northern mississippi."

The Wasted Hour chat-room, 13th July

The Wasted Hour 5 was, as usual, rebroadcast the weekend after its initial airing.

ArnieKatz initially reported "My chatroom is not working well at all - I am getting a delay between typing and seeing the words in the typing window - and then another big delay before what I have typed goes out to you. OK... I will try signing onto the site again." He reported "I am back - I tried using Internet Explorer and the page just never loaded - So I went back to Firefox and here I am." FanLounge wondered if "it probably would have been better to just have everyone play the video from the gallery than trying to rebroadcast as that is such a variable depending on how ustream is working at the time of rebroadcasting a prerecorded vid - I think it's dragging and going out of sync." ArnieKatz replied "You may be right, Bill. I like the idea of a chat, and the first one we did was ok - but maybe we have to re-think."

FanLounge admitted "I am not in the best frame of mind to fairly consider anything this morning... for which I apologize - Bruce Dane mostly." Arnie noted "he has many friend, especially among Socal fans." He added "The news about Elliot Shorter is very bad. Doctors do not expect him to leave the hospital." FanLounge explained "Bruce and I were brothers... he was a part of my extended family for years and years, we played a lot of music together and we used to play, for awhile, with another friend of mine Ron Colegrove. Ron died on the 5th of July and it hit me hard... and then Bruce died yesterday and I am still reeling." ArnieKatz suggested "Maybe you'd like to write something about

him for VFW? I don't mean an obit... but maybe some memories about your experiences with him."

As the rebroadcast progressed, ArnieKatz noted "Hey, I think I am getting semi-tolerable as the show's host... whoopie!" Fan Lounge agreed - "now if you could just get DECENT guests!" The re-run got to Bill's rendition of "Thank Ghu I'm a Fannish Boy." FanLounge explained "that Helen Keller line isn't really in the lyric... I just threw it in at the last mo for Arnie." ArnieKatz added "Yes... it was an allusion to the fact that I actually met Helen Keller. They called it the Rump Banquet... but I didn't think I could say it without Bill laughing at "rump"."

FanLounge added "I posted a little webcam vid from 2003 here in the gallery of Bruce and I jamming during a rare visit to Vegas - it had been several years since I had seen him and played any music together and it was really impromptu - we didn't even have a good cam available so I just flipped on the webcam we had at the time and recorded it to the computer... the vid sucks but I am sooooo glad I have something of him."

ArnieKatz asked "I wonder if folks would like me to do more of these fanhistory segments? I would like it, but that's only half the story." FanLounge said "I think YES Arnie." ArnieKatz was "already thinking of the next show.... By the way, Joyce apologies for not being here,

but she is still under the weather and just didn't feel up to it." Burbank396 said "Take good care of her Arnie." FanLounge added "our best to Joyce... feel better." ArnieKatz said "I'm going to depart, but thanks for coming today. This is still the frontier... we will get where we all want to go. It's just gonna take a little time." FanLounge agreed - "Ghu willing - and the creeks don't rise." ArnieKatz added "Not that we mean to slight any Fooists, Rosconians, Pthalloites and followers of yet even more obscure fannish Ghods."

FanLounge said "I should put the Bruce vid thru my video editor to try to make it a bit better, but I didn't have the heart to work on it yesterday... I just pulled the avi off a cd on which it's stored and posted it... it went to YouTube as well (on my channel <http://YouTube.com/BillMills>)" ustreamer-75885 (Don Anderson) suggested "Leave it be, that was as nice a jam as I've heard in a long time." Burbank396 introduced himself - "good to hear, Don. I am Dean Sweatman from the New Orleans area." Don had "Never had the experience of visiting that area. I'm afraid if I did I'd be eevn more overweight than I am now. Good food, good music, good booze. What more has life to offer." Burbank396 agreed - "We are a civilized group we eat , Drink, Smoke and chase women<g> - and the feds want us to change for their KATRINA dollars."