

# Hard Science TALES

## Fourth Issue

I'm so excited about starting SNAPS, the Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society. This is the first

Distribution and it looks like we're going to have a nice start-up group. Most of the experienced publishers in Las Vegas are jumping in, and even some of the newer fans in our group. I particularly salute the newbies who are taking their first stab at publishing today: I'm proud of you; and, see, it wasn't too hard at all, was it?

This isn't the first APA (Amateur Press Association) that we've had in Las Vegas Fandom. There were a whole series of one-shot publications done in connection with the 1990s Socials, followed by a five-year-run of APA V by the Vegrants. (I believe that Arnie and I were the only ones who hit every one of these monthly mailings, but I can't promise to be so faithful this time through.)

Group fanac of this nature is always exciting to me. We all push each other to do a little more, or a little better, and we end up with something much more exciting than the sum of the individual parts. Who knows what fabulous stories we'll read here in months to come, what terrific writers will polish their crafts writing their apazines? At the very least, we'll promote better knowledge of one another; at the best, we'll entertain each other with amusing tales, romantic fantasies, and scientific truths.

Unlike the earlier Las Vegas Fan apa, this one will also have an electronic arm. I'll take everyone's electronic version of his or her zine (either email it to me at [JoyceWorley1@cox.net](mailto:JoyceWorley1@cox.net) or hand me a disk at the Snaffu meeting on the west side each month.) Then I'll put them all together into one group publication, and ask **Michael Bernstein** to post the distribution on [www.snaffu.org](http://www.snaffu.org). This will make it possible for **Teresa** to read and participate, as well as those members of Las Vegas fandom who don't make it to the Snaffu meeting.

Only one other point I wanted to make, about the name of our group. (Snappy, isn't it?) SNAPs gives a deliberate tip-of-the-hat to SNAFFU, our local formal open club which is the umbrella over so many of the Vegas fan activities. But we didn't want to limit it to only the club members; that's why it is the Southern Nevada amateur press society. Everyone is welcome.... and the more the merrier!

**I Always Wanted To** publish a fanzine called Hard Science Tales. The phrase makes me think of those marvelous old prozine covers with monster machines, rocket ships, robots and

Thing-a-majigs on the covers. Some of the best science fiction I ever read were those old, pre-Golden Age stories about run-away machines

**Hard Science Tales Volume 2, Issue 1, Whole Number 4** comes to you from Joyce Worley Katz, PMB 152, 330 South Decatur, Las Vegas, NV 89107, on April 8, 2005. This is created for SNAFFU members and other Vegas fan friends, and specifically for the first distribution of SNAPS (The Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society.) Hard Science Tales is also posted to [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) for the amusement of the rest of fandom. Thanks to **Arnie Katz** for production help.

and marvelous inventions. (Killdozer jumps to mind, by Theodore Sturgeon, right?...and The Roads Must Roll, by Heinlein, I think.)

Personally, I am not very scientifically oriented, and often skip the science explanations in science fiction stories. But my affection for these old saws is what prompted me to begin Hard Science Tales. I don't think I've finished my scientific lessons yet, so decided to retain the name as we begin this new apa. But, for sake of continuity, I'm starting a new Volume to signify the beginning of SNAPS. Hence this is HST Volume 2 number 1, whole number 4. Thus will I stay ahead of you all!

**We Were Talking** about what it was like for me when I first made contact with fandom. I owe a lot to Dave Hall for hooking me up with my first zines, and for getting the original group together to form the Ozark Science Fiction Association.

Dave was really my first good buddy in fandom. He was a senior in high school when we met, charming and eager and bright in that half-crazy way that describes so many young fans. His dad, Jim Hall, was also pulled into the excitement of the new club, even though he'd originally said he wasn't into fandom. We saw them almost every weekend, and Dave frequently drove up to St. Louis from his home in Crystal City for mid-week visits, too.

The entire group of OSFAns were publishing fans. At first, most of the activity was centered around various apas, and through Dave, Hank and the others, I quickly started correspondences with Lon Atkins, Dave Hulan, Al Andrews, and other southern publishers. Although I didn't join any of the apas, I did read most of them during the mid-60s; that's where I started building knowledge about more active fandom.

Ray was somewhat more reluctant to get involved; I think seeing the nonstop spatting between the Apa45 members reminded him of the fanfeuding in his own youth. At one point, I convinced him to get in touch with his old co-editor, Richard Elsberry, and he and his wife actually came to visit us in St. Louis. We spent a pleasant enough evening; they were charming and articulate. But Rich was off fandom in a big way: "Why would you want to do that?" he snarled,

when Ray spoke about getting back into it, and refused to give us any addresses for any of the old friends Ray remembered from the 50s.

There was another setback when we received an issue of Warhoon from Richard Bergeron. Definitely the best fanzine we'd seen to that point, it nonetheless had the reverse effect on Ray, because it was the issue in which Bergeron had rehashed the entire Boondoggle affair. I guess Ray was thinking of G.M. Carr and the cleanup fandom campaign that censored fanzines (and got Odd barred from the mails) in the early 50s. When he read about the Boondoggle, he was so antagonized that he laid aside all thoughts of fanzines, saying "It's just like it was before; bickering and backbiting. I don't want to be in it again."

Yet nothing could actually stop us at that point. We were spending most of our social time with the OSFAns; we were getting quite a few zines in the mail; we were actively participating in the new club. And I was getting more and more anxious for us to start publishing a fanzine of our own. Then, too, there was a convention coming up.

And, the fact is, Ray wanted to publish again: it was a growing passion with him. He and I were avid readers of underground papers and magazines, and devoted followers of the counterculture movement. He wanted to be part of the Revolution; he wanted to mold opinions by editorializing against the Establishment, against the War, against Mundane Conventionality. And he had this vision of a magazine in which every aspect, from the poetry to the articles and even the art worked on the heart and mind of the reader to make him or her see the injustices of the world.

There was never any question about what he'd name the new publication. He'd loved Odd, back when he was a teenaged fan publisher, and the fact he'd been unjustly forced to give it up made him all the more determined to revise it. So although his plans for the new Odd were much more organized than when he'd been in fandom before, he definitely planned to bring it back to life.

**(That's all for now, but don't you know there'll be more next time!)**