



The Drink Tank issue 228- [garcia@computerhistory.org](mailto:garcia@computerhistory.org)



The cover happens to be an Ann Green watercolor. Steve was nice enough to send it my way and I think it's a wonderful piece. I'm very glad I get the chance to run it. Ann's work was just fantastic and

This issue should have been done last week. Sadly, time has conspired and thus, I'm doing it now. So many things going on, and they're all crazy.

This issue features a couple of pieces from Barbara Johnson-Haddad that should have run in the 5th SiWire for Silicon, but alas, space and time did not allow it and I thought they should see the light of day somewhere.

I'm getting ready for SteamCon in a couple of weeks. I'm doing two lectures (one on Babbage and one on Exhibitions) and the fun pieces they led to. It'll be a good time and I'm glad I'll be able to do it. The best part might be the fact that it's in Seattle, one of my favorite Con-going towns. Plus, Jay Lake, Mike Perschon, Tim Powers, Merv & Judith, The Lovely & Talented Linda, Espana and various others will be there!

Of course, there's WindyCon. I'm excited, you can tell can't you. You never know if you're ever going to get to be a Fan Guest of Honor again, and you've got to make the most of it. I'm always happy to do panels, but now people might actually know who I am when I do panels at an away con! That's a rare deal. Plus, getting to meet Jim Blaylock and various others will be fantastic. I'll talk more about all of this later.

OK, enough about that, let's get on with this!





## **Villainy!**

**What light is there that fights the  
darkness?**

**Villains flock to learn.**

**For in the depths of their evil  
hearts,  
a sick curiosity burns.**

**There is a sick compulsion in the  
night  
to find a hero and boast,  
for otherwise evil would triumph in  
secret  
and most of the world would be  
toast.**

**Perhaps this is self-destructive,  
or truly that 'bad guys' are dumb;  
but more to the point, if they strive  
but still fail  
it leaves them new vistas to plumb.**

**For succeeding and ruling over a  
world now dust  
means no new challenges arise,  
for if evil triumphs and crushes re-  
sistance,  
then nothing remains as a prize.**

## **A Hero Responds**

**Another day, another death trap,  
and this one built in a park.  
A pit with sharks? A destruct-o  
ray?  
and all this fought before dark.**

**Where do these guys find time to  
make,  
their cunning bases and plans?  
Is there a union of teamsters out  
there?  
I'd hate to think it's built by group-  
ies and fans.**

**There's villains lined up to fight me,  
for no good reason I can see.  
The closest I've heard to an expla-  
nation,  
it that it's to confirm their own vil-  
lainy.**

**Since when are blood stains a fash-  
ion statement?  
Destruction's the resort of fools.  
So why are the 'bad boys' consid-  
ered  
sexy, intriguing or cool?**

**Hero / Villain Sonnets from Barbara Johnson-Haddad**

# Ka-Blam! Zow! Taral Wayne

It's that time of year. The Canadian National Exhibition opened two weeks ago, and the First Day of School is around the corner. The earliest warning I had of it was a deafening crash, followed by a roar that nearly shook me out of bed.

It was the annual CNE airshow.

Although the Exhibition grounds are a bit east of my building, the jets have a *wide* turning circle, and whether I want to or not, I see a great deal of the show from my 21st floor balcony.

I've seen quite a few impressive things from that balcony. One year, not long after the fall of the Soviet Union, I realized I was watching a 50's era F-86 Sabre and Mig-15 fly side by side. Who'd have think *that*? I've seen the huge bat-winged British Vulcan bomber, a B-17 in flight, B-52's, and I think even the B-1 "stealth" bomber. P-51 Mustangs, Steadmans, and F-18 Hornets are such a commonplace that I hardly notice.

I've seen the F-22 Raptor as well, a so-called second generation "stealth" fighter. It was out for the final afternoon of the airshow like a tipsy fruit bat, swooping

and dancing around, draping long streamers of jet exhaust over the watching boats on the lake. The one thing the Raptor ain't, is *stealthy*. It may be well-nigh invisible to air-to-air missiles, which is the only real point of stealth technology I suppose. But the plane is huge. Flying alongside two Mustangs and a Hornet, it dwarfed the WWII fighters, and was about half again as large as the F-18. It also made more noise than all of them together. Even at what I guessed to be ten or fifteen thousand feet - - so high it was nearly out of sight -- the F-22 roared like Niagara Falls. When it eased off the throttle, the Raptor could glide silently, but step on the gas and GRRROOAR-BB-BB-BOOM! I don't know how anyone could miss it coming as much as five miles away.

This year the special treat seemed to be the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. These hot shots fly on more testosterone than the usual Canadian Snow Birds. Our stunt pilot team flies the modest Canadair built CT-114 Tudor trainer. The U.S. Navy's aerobatic team flies a full-fledged combat aircraft, the F-18 Hornet. The difference is mainly in levels of noise. The Tudor whispers at a thousand feet, but the Hornet at ten thousand sounds like freight train going off its rails. The Navy pilots also fly a *lot* more aggressively, as I found out.



Toronto is well positioned for an airshow. The city huddles on the shore of Lake Ontario, and has all the open sky over the lake for planes to dive, climb, turn, tumble, and once in a while even crash. Only a few years ago a British, four engine, Orion anti-sub plane went straight into the drink, killing the crew aboard. (A piece of the tail is in the air museum here, now.) The planes pass over the city too, but usually on a simple return loop. The Snowbirds keep up their formation flying on the return, but keep a pretty fair altitude.

Not so the Blue Angels. When I rushed out on my balcony the first day, I was just in time to see a deep blue Hornet, with yellow trim, zap around the corner of my building. I was looking at the pilot almost level. And he was close enough to see clearly. This can't be right, I thought.

The next day I was up a little earlier. From the street you can't see as much of the action as from my balcony. Trees, buildings, and homes get in the way. I bought a slice of pizza and sat on the curb a while to eat it.

Ka-blam, zow! A *huge* blue Hornet races across the fifty feet of sky between the building on the other side of the street, and the trees on my side. I know how big these planes are. It gives me a pretty good idea how far

away they are too. If that plane was higher than 200 feet and going less than 200 mph, I'd be much surprised.

The height of my building, by



the way, is about 200 feet. It's one of the taller ones in the neighborhood, but not the tallest.

Okay... I didn't have much time to estimate. I recall the F-18 seemed about as large as my hand held out. Might have been 300 feet. Certainly he was flying over the stall speed, so that puts a lower limit on the m.p.h. Either way, that was much too low and much too slow. Had the slightest thing gone wrong, he would have had less than a split second before plowing into Queen street. And

whoever was on the ground would have had no notice at all before they were blown to glory. And the neighborhood would be incinerated by a rain of blazing aviation fuel. It would be some show, alright.

When did they relax safety precautions, I'd like to know?

There were a few other close encounters of the Blue Angles kind that afternoon, but it seemed there were no repetitions on the final day. U.S. pilots are

notorious for being trained to be exceptionally aggressive. Worse, they're deliberately hopped up on speed. I'm guessing these top guns were given a little too much leash, and perhaps they were pulled back a bit the next day.

Anyway, I don't want the next tremendous bang I hear to be the engine and sundry parts of an F-18 Hornet crashing their way through my apartment while I'm watching Iron Man on DVD.



**Letter Graded Mail  
sent to garcia@computerhistory.org  
by my gentle readers**

Dear Chris:

Slowly but surely catching up with the generous supply of Garciazines...next up are comments on The Drink Tank 226 and 227.

***Always good to have ya, Lloyd!***

226...The abstract art is fun stuff. I remember black and white abstract art in older fanzines, and colour adds to the abstractness.

You have that special train issue coming up, and I know I've sent you pictures from our Steampunk trip to the South Simcoe Railway. I think you might need more, especially any taken on the train itself, so I should send you more.

***I'll be using them, trust me! Sadly, the issue'll have to wait an extra week or so.***

I didn't start in fanzines soon enough to get copies of Energumen, but seeing them in .pdf format was good, and my thanks to Taral for taking on that job. I wish there were more fanzines coming from Canadian fans, but I understand the finances behind it. Not enough money or time.

***Always the case, isn't it?***

My loc...World Fantasy will be fun. I enjoyed the one I went to in Montréal in 2000, mostly because of friends there. There were lots of books, and that was great, too, but there was the attitude of being More Literate Than Thou, and readers were placed below writers. As the song says, players only love you when they're playing. Don't give me that, who are the Stones, you aren't that young, kid...

***I get the idea that it's not really my scene, but there are gonna be a lot of folks I wanna see there, so I'll probably have a good time.***

I finished up my loc on Banana Wings 39 a few days ago. It's always a difficult zine to respond to, not because it's a poor zine, but because it's a very good one, and I want to take the time to write a suitable loc. Sometimes, I write a loc according to the mood of the zine itself. With the UK Corflu coming, what year do you plan for your Corflu?

***A CorFlu for Garcia: 2011! I'm already starting on simple things to make sure it's the best CorFlu I could possibly put on!***

227...Shortly, I will be purchasing conversions for the Reno Worldcon, so we can actually attend. We forgot to do it in Montreal entirely; I knew where it was, but it wasn't well advertised, and I guess we were distracted by having a great time.

***A Reno WorldCon should be a blast. I've got...plans...***

If you like roller derby, and I remember seeing it on television as well, you've probably seen the new Drew Barrymore movie Whip It. I don't have any intentions myself of seeing it, but I thought you might like it. Latest movies I've seen...Up and The Time Traveller's Wife. Sgt. Slaughter was in Toronto a couple of weeks ago at an action figure convention here. I didn't see him, but he was well advertised, and I dropped off SF convention flyers for the 200+ people attending. Margot Kidder...I don't see her often in Toronto, but her sister Annie is the executive director of People for Education, an education research and support group here.

***A Roller Derby movie? Of course I saw it! It was actually a lot of fun not only for the derby, but Ellen Page was great. It also had Zoe Bell in it, who I met at the Sonoma Valley Film Festival a few years ago.***

It's good to know how many people are downloading zines from eFanzines.com, especially your own. Probably everyone who's connected with zines in Toronto downloads your issue. I check the site everyday to see who's got their latest issue posted. Taral lives in Toronto, so I'm trying to think of who might be checking out Askance in Peterborough. There was recently a gaming con in Peterborough, and one fan I do know there is Dean Shewring, who is a big Doctor Who fan living there. Hey, John, maybe the Department of Homeland Insecurity is checking out your zine?

***I always figure I've got about 50 regular readers and maybe another 200 who check it out once in a while. I've got one issue that's got more than 10000 views on Scribd, which sorta blows my mind. The Corset and the Cocktail issues are right up with more than 5K views too.***

More photos coming to you as soon as I get this loc finished up. Use them where you will. Have fun, and see you next issue! I will get comments on the latest Exhibition Hall to you asap.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

***Always good to hear from ya!***