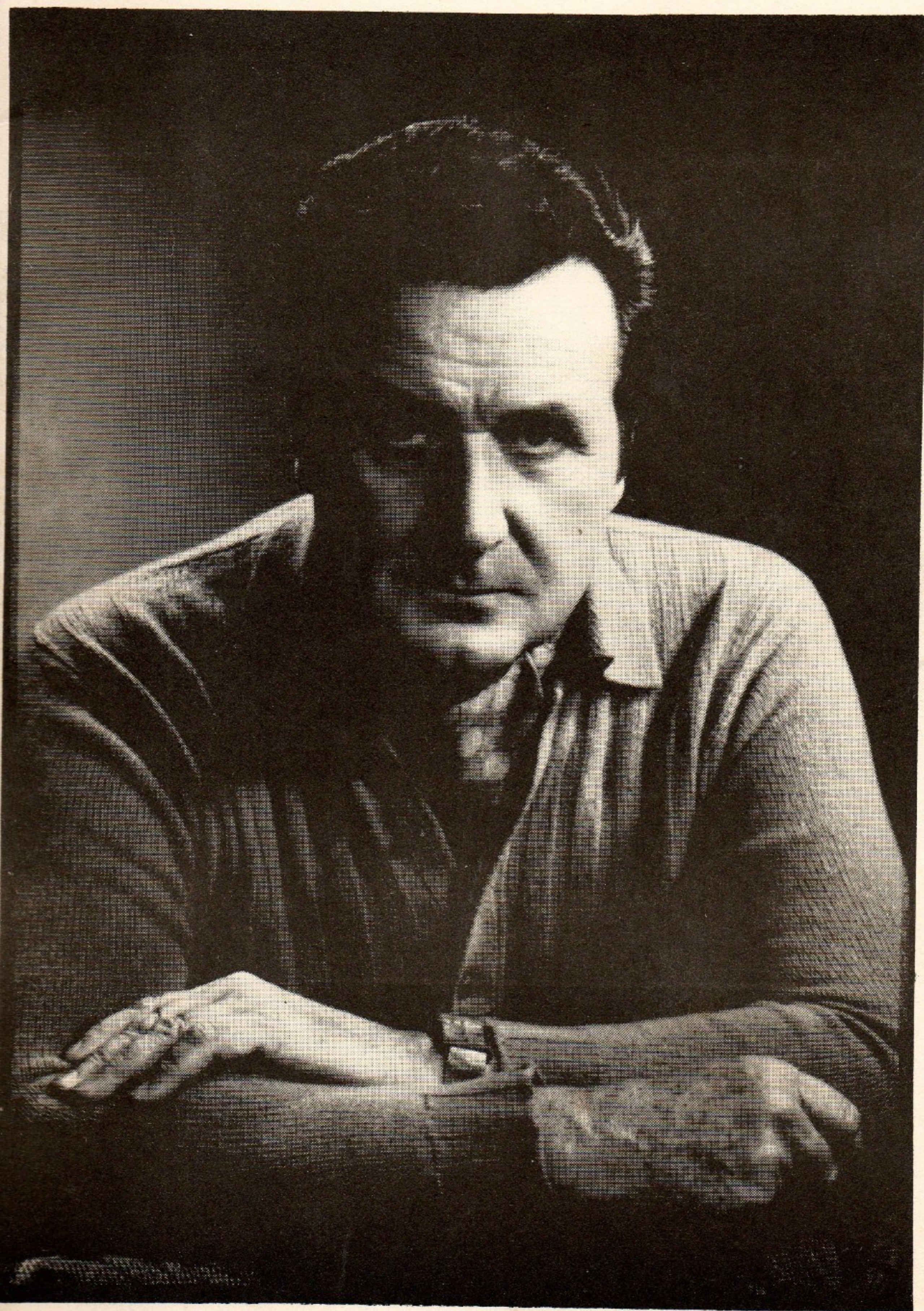


*The Avengers/Patrick Macnee  
Fan Network Newsletter 13*





# Fan Network Newsletter

Issue Number 13

*January • February 1980*

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# Ramblings

Welcome to the Fan Network's second birthday issue! As of this January, the club is two years old and growing strong. Membership now totals over 200 (thanks in part to the recent mention in Starlog's "Communications Handbook") and I'm expecting many more in the next few months.

The sudden increase in membership has caused a subsequent increase in my mail load, thus adding to my previous backlog. It seems that each issue I find myself apologizing for letters and orders which I owe people and have been unable to answer. This problem has been magnified since I began a full time job, having only weekends and a couple of hours each night to devote to the club.

With this in mind, I will soon be soliciting help from friends and club members who are willing to assist with answering mail (inquiries and new members) and with Newsletter production (collating, addressing envelopes, etc.). As these new officers are added they will be listed in future Newsletters.

I would like to stress that the addition of new staff members will not lessen my own involvement with the club nor will I sacrifice a personal approach for the sake of streamlining operation. But hopefully we'll be able to handle orders more efficiently and keep Newsletter production/mailing on schedule.

Another matter which I must face at this time is the cost and pricing of article clipping copies. Based on a 10¢ per page cost (which I established while living in Colorado some months back), the previous copy/mailing price structure was working beautifully. However, since moving to Kansas City I have been unable to find a copier which runs any less than 15¢ per page, 8½x11 size. After considering the price of a good used Xerox I've decided instead to raise prices on clipping copies. For those who have clipping catalogues already, please note these adjustments; regular size pages now cost 15¢ for copying, Oversize pages are 30¢ copying. Postage prices will remain the same.



You will notice this issue that the "New Avengers" synopsis printed within is not "Medium Rare" as promised last issue. I am awaiting additional material to print along with that synopsis and it did not arrive in time to be included this time around. Hopefully we'll have it for issue #14. And for you original series fans... "The Joker"!!

I'd like to take this time to thank everyone who sent Christmas cards my way this year. I'm a bit sentimental concerning cards and tend to save them for years on end so that I may hang them again each holiday season. They will be appreciated for a long time. Thanks!

We recently received our first member from Belgium... Welcome to Marianne Bussels.

And speaking of members overseas, I might mention for those who don't already know that Bill Bradshaw, our Representative in England, is now engaged to be married. I understand that Bill has been seen walking on air quite often recently and is caught up in such time consuming activities as courting and apartment hunting. Thus, we must excuse him if reports from that country aren't as long-winded as usual for the next few issues... his mind is elsewhere at the moment. Congratulations, Bill!

Reactions to the idea of Fan Network shirts and sales items (as mentioned last issue) have been quite favorable. I will be looking into the possibilities as soon as things settle down after the holidays and I've had a chance to reorganize things a bit with the aid of new staff. Thanks to everyone who commented or brought up new ideas on the subject. I'll let you know when we begin working on something definite.

Along this same line, those persons who have inquired about the MI-5 Division or have sent registrations are advised that I'm still waiting for permission on the project and have not forgotten about you! If word does not reach me soon I plan to abandon the idea or come up with an alternative design for stationery and cards. More on that later.

End of this issue's lecture. Now, on with the entertainment and information!

# Report From England

by Bill Bradshaw

((editor's note: a temporary lapse of memory during production of issue #12 caused me to omit Bill's credit from his report. I get so caught up in the content and wonderful style of his letters that I get carried away typing them! Sorry 'bout that...))

Remember Linda Thorson appearing in a British TV quiz game last year called "Give us a Clue"? Well, the show is back with us again and Gareth Hunt has recorded an episode for future transmission.

They've finally gone back to work at ITV incidentally (after 10 weeks) and we're into the third episode now of series #3 of "The Professionals". Though it looks as competent as ever, the show isn't quite as tight and offbeat as before.

I rang the studio a week or so ago to ask for a bit of location-shooting information on "The Professionals" (on the off chance they might be shooting in central London again like they were 10 days ago when Jan and I saw Martin Shaw and Gordon Jackson being filmed just across the road from our studio when we nipped out for a spot of lunch. We even managed - we think - to get in shot when Shaw walked across to Jackson's limousine!! Stars are born??). I also asked about the "Sunday People" article ((see Newsletter #12)) and she said that it was false and that the story wasn't true at all. There are possibilities still for a 1980 series but nothing is definite! However, she said that we'll be among the first to know when the news does come through, if ever.

"Sapphire and Steel" has resumed its run on ITV and (wonders of wonders) not only have ITV not missed out the intervening week's episodes, they are actually repeating the four episodes of the second 6-part story that were originally aired just before the strike took effect. Extraordinary (but welcome) consideration by a TV company.



# Network News

Last issue I announced the "Midnight Meanderings" contest and asked readers to vote on their favorite articles from the past year's issues. Unfortunately, I did not have room on the enclosure flyer/ballot to fully explain the voting and tally system. Since we are gaining new readers with each issue, many of whom have not been informed about the "Meanderings" contest, I will give here a quick run down of reader submitted articles as well as the contest rules.

The "Midnight Meanderings" section contains articles written by Network members to be entered in the yearly competition. With the last issue of each year, members are asked to vote on their favorite entry from the last six Newsletters. The winner and runner-up receive a prize (which is donated by the Fan Network) as well as having their articles entered in the International Council of Fan Clubs' literary contest for that year.

Readers who have received at least two issues in the past year which contain the "Meanderings" section are eligible to vote and designate their first and second choices. First place votes receive two points, second place receive one point. After all votes are counted the points are totalled and the article receiving the most points wins First Place with the next highest point total as Runner-Up.

For those wishing to enter articles for consideration as a possible "Midnight Meandering", the requirements are these:

- 1) The article must concern some aspect of "The Avengers", "The New Avengers", the series cast or its crew.
- 2) The article should not exceed 600 words unless previous arrangements have been made.
- 3) We do not print fiction, poetry, etc. Please make articles of a speculative, informative or commentary nature.
- 4) Articles not accepted as a "Meandering" may be printed in part or in whole as a letter of comment unless otherwise specified. If you do not wish your entry printed except as a "Meandering" please let me know!

In most cases I will announce prizes to be awarded before voting begins (although, again, I didn't have room on the flyer last issue). Prizes will vary each year but will generally include a free yearly (for First Place) or half yearly (for Runner-Up) subscription to the Newsletter plus whatever else I can come up with.

This year's prizes are as follows:

First Place - one year's subscription to the Fan Network Newsletter plus the winner's choice of "Avengers"/"New Avengers" photos from Jerry Ohlinger's Movie Material Store - three B&W 8x10 stills or one color 8x10.

Runner-Up - one half year subscription to the Fan Network Newsletter plus winner's choice of "Avengers"/"New Avengers" photos - two B&W 8x10s.

Votes have been tallied and counted from the ballots received and I will now let you know who receives the above prizes for the 1979 "Midnight Meanderings" contest (drum roll, please.....)

Runner-Up award goes to Derwin Mak for his article entitled "Luck of Avengers Fans in U.K. - or How Patrick Macnee Arrived and We Didn't Know It" which was published in Newsletter #11.

First Place award goes to Gene Davidson for his article, "A History of The Avengers" from Newsletter #7.

Congratulations to both members, and thanks to everyone who submitted "Meanderings" last year as well as to those readers who took time to vote for their favorites.

The January 1980 edition of "Starlog" magazine contained a couple of articles concerning current projects of some "Avengers" people. There was a very nice item on British TV science fiction, including a write-up, with photo, on "Sapphire and Steel". Among the information brought up there is good news that "Sapphire and Steel" is doing well in the ratings - currently fourth - and the author speculates that airing within the U.S. may result from its popularity within Britain.

Another report within the issue deals with the proposed Canadian television series, "Through the Eyes of Tomorrow" (from the pilot "The Tomorrow Man").



Stephen Zoller, writer/creator of the series, mentions having "some interesting people lined up" for the future episodes including Patrick Macnee (as well as William Shatner, Leslie Nielson and David McCallum).

Patrick Macnee has been working on other projects as well. Canadian viewers can watch for him to turn up in an episode of CTV's "The Littlest Hobo".

Upcoming in April or May of 1980, ABC-TV plans to air Universal's "Masada" as an 8-hour TV movie (over 4 nights). Adapted from Ernest Gann's book "The Antagonists", this 'novel for television' recounts the struggle of Jewish Zealots to resist Roman conquerors in AD 73. From the top of Masada Mountain Jewish resistance held out six months against Rome's Army before committing mass suicide rather than surrender.

The historic epic was filmed on location near the Dead Sea and stars Peter O'Toole, Peter Strauss and Anthony Quayle (among the 95 speaking parts). Patrick Macnee has a part in the film although at this time I have no information on his role. As I learn anything readers will be updated in future Newsletters.

Beginning in January, Mr. Macnee will be working in India with Gregory Peck, Roger Moore and David Niven in the film "Sea Wolves", based on James Leasor's book "Boarding Party" (available in paperback from Bantam Books). Leasor's book gives a capsulization of the story:

"In late 1942, when Allied fortunes stood at their lowest, German U-boats unexpectedly began to decimate shipping in the Indian Ocean. In one month alone they sank 46 ships, a total of 250,000 tons. These U-boats were being guided to their targets by a secret transmitter aboard a German ship, which had sought shelter in the neutral harbor in the Portuguese colony of Goa 400 miles south of Bombay. No action involving regular British forces could be taken against this ship for fear of infringing Portuguese neutrality - yet it was imperative to silence this transmitter. The result seemed stalemate, until someone remembered that in Calcutta 1400 miles

away, some civilian merchants, bankers, solicitors and accountants belonged to a part-time territorial unit, The Calcutta Light Horse.

They had joined because they liked riding and racing. Military activities were strictly limited to an evening parade once a week - and often drinks at the bar constituted this parade. These civilians were asked to volunteer for a task no one else could undertake - at their own risk and expense. If they failed, then the whole episode could conveniently be written off as a regrettable drunken prank that misfired."

"Sea Wolves" is currently being filmed on location in Goa and additional information about the film and Mr. Macnee's role will be forthcoming after a bit of research.

"Avengers" producer Brian Clemens has been working on a couple of films which fans will want to be watching for. Mr. Clemens writes:

"My Disney film is almost finished - starring Bette Davis, Carol Baker and Ian Bannan - and so far titled "A Watcher In The Woods". John Hough directed it - John got his first directorial break with "The Avengers"... on "Fog".

"I have just finished an original screenplay for Vincent Price and Coral Browne entitled "Stiff". It is a comedy thriller very much in "The Avengers" vein, and will shoot in and around Memphis early next year."

Mr. Clemens has also agreed to help us with an interview (similar to Mr. Macnee's in issue #10) and I plan to begin work on that very soon. If anyone has specific questions which they would enjoy having answers to please drop me a line.

I have received a good deal of reaction to the idea of an "Avengers" mini-con or gathering to be held sometime in the future (as brought up in Newsletter #12). It would appear that any get-together based here in Kansas City would be a very small affair with few people... along the line of a picnic. However, there is still great interest in a major convention, perhaps in combination with another



fandom group. I've spoken with the chairman of Houston's Mystery Con about the idea and he is strongly considering the possibilities. Mystery Con, previously with an emphasis on "Star Trek" and SF, might go with an 'Agents' convention next year... "Avengers", "Prisoner", "007", "UNCLE", etc. If enough interest is shown they will begin planning along these lines for future conventions rather than trying to compete with other "Trek" cons in the area.

Mystery Con invites feed-back on this idea and hopes to hear from fans who have comments or suggestions. Write to: Mystery Con, PO Box 36451, Houston, TX 77036.



## Garage Sale

There is another dealer selling "Avengers" stills... fans may wish to contact them for more information: Movie Star News, 212 East 14th St., New York, NY 10003. They have 32 photos to choose from, all 8x10 B&Ws. The price is \$2.00 each, postpaid.

Anyone wishing additional information will need to write. I do not know if or how much their catalogue costs. Also, no member has informed me on their quality or service.

Larry Charet, Larry's Bookstore, 1219-A Devon Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 has for sale copies of "Starburst" #13 and 14 (as a set, only) for \$6.00, including postage. As mentioned last issue, these are the copies of "Starburst" which contain an excellent 2-part article on science fiction in "The Avengers"... highly recommended! Supplies are limited so order soon if you wish to obtain a set. Please enclose a SASE with your order - your money will be returned if Larry has sold out of the magazines.

Sue Ginter, 1816 Yermo Place, Fullerton, CA 92633 has for sale several of the "New Avengers" paperbacks, British editions:

#3 "To Catch a Rat" - 3 copies

#5 "The Cybernauts" - 3 copies

#6 "Hostage" - 2 copies

The price is \$2.75 each, payable by check or money order made out to Sue Ginter. Enclose a SASE with your order and indicate an alternate choice if possible.

Karen Esibill, 1130 Pleasant Valley Dr., Baltimore, MD 21228 has for sale various items on "Man From UNCLE" and "The Prisoner". Send a SASE for details.

There has been a great deal of interest in the "Avengers"/"Prisoner" article which Dan Helmick



commented on last issue. By way of explanation, "Relationship" by Hank Davis was printed in the "Avengers" fanzine, "En Garde" #6 (copyright 1969). This publication was a non-professional fan produced magazine edited by Richard Schultz during the series initial run in the 60's. It is long since out of print and no longer available.

For those interested in obtaining a copy of the article by Hank Davis, I would be happy to run one for you at my costs for copying/postage: 75¢.

I have on file copies of the fanzine "En Garde" (#1, 2, 4, 5, 5½ and 6) and would be willing to copy them for anyone wishing copies. The publication is quite interesting and informative although the contents are occasionally outdated, of course. Please note, however, that copy/postage costs will be quite expensive due to the fact that later issues contain a great many pages!

If you wish further information contact Fan Network Headquarters, PO Box 1190, Belton, MO 64012. Enclose a SASE with all inquiries, please.

Also available from Fan Network Headquarters are the following books:

"New Avengers" #1 - "House of Cards"

1 new copy (American ed.) \$1.75

"New Avengers" #1 - "House of Cards"

1 used copy (American ed.) \$1.25

"Avengers" #8 - "The Magnetic Man"

4 used copies \$1.00 each

Also available are the following Fan Network Newsletters: #3, 4 and 5 - \$1.40 ea. or \$4.00/3. #9, 11 and 12 - \$1.60 each or \$4.50/3. All other issues are sold out and will not be reprinted.

Prices are for U.S./Canadian members. Make checks or money orders payable to Heather Firth or The Avengers Fan Network. Please enclose a SASE with your order and indicate an alternate selection if possible. First come - first served... if your order can not be filled I will return your money in the SASE (otherwise it will be returned with your order, unused).

## 'Target'

by Dennis Spooner

Five top agents, McKay, Potterton, Talmadge, Palmer and Myers all die of natural causes within just more than a month. Meanwhile, Draker, a man in the shadows, gloats.

Dr. J. Kendrick, the doctor who carried out the post mortems on the five, insists on the cause of death - natural causes. Were the deaths due to overwork, for example? Steed can't understand. Natural causes? Five agents? All within four or five weeks. All had just been declared A.1. The doctor is ordered to look more closely. But Draker knew the reason because they were victims of his killing machine... poison. Subtle, faultless and undetectable. That is what he believed along with a compatriot, Colonel Ilenko, who had arrived in the country to observe Draker's annihilation of the agents in the manner of the Ten Little Indians.

Then Dr. Kendrick does look more closely and on Myer's body he traces three tiny marks, barely pin pricks under a microscope; also on Palmer and Talmadge. Gambit and Steed recall that each of the dead agents were about to go on leave and they had also just had their practical test; target practice on the intricate shooting range which is, in fact, a mock-up street with houses, shops and cut out characters of life size men and women which controls a sophisticated push button set up which activates revolver, rifle, machine gun fire along with a precision method of hurling hand grenades in the mock-up street. All this to keep agents aware of a vast permutation of the ways they can be gunned down or blown to bits.

If they are hit by Bradshaw's cardboard assassins a red spot appears on their clothing. Bradshaw actually controlled more than Steed then knew about. He is a Draker puppet with sharp shooting talents that kill his colleagues instead of teaching them gun fire survival. Both Purdey and Steed have been hit by Draker's killing machine.





minute slivers of glass dipped into a South American poison called curare and they are slowly dying while Gambit finds himself in a furore of shattering cross fire delivered by a desperate Draker on the target range.

Target

by Dennis Spooner

Directed by Ray Austin

Producers:

Albert Fennell

Brian Clemens

Music by Laurie Johnson

- Cast List -

Character

Artist

John Steed

Patrick Macnee

Purdey

Joanna Lumley

Mike Gambit

Gareth Hunt

Draker

Keith Barron

Ilenko

Robert Beatty

Bradshaw

Roy Boyd

Klokoe

Deep Roy

Kendrick

John Paul

Palmer

Robert Tayman

Talmadge

Dennis Blanch

Nurse

Suzanna MacMillan

Titherbridge

John Saunders

Jones

Frederick Jaeger

Lopez

Bruce Purchase

Potterton

Peter Brace

George Myers

Malcolm Stoddard

McKay

Marc Boyle



# 'Pandora'

by Brian Clemens

It is a bizarre scene from another era. In the corner a phonograph blares out a rag-time tune of the 1914-18 period. And even the conversation between Rupert Lasindall and his brother Henry, as they sit at the heavy Victorian dining table, is dated.

Rupert is in the uniform of an Army Captain of the First World War and he tells his brother that he will soon be recalled as the Kaiser has launched an offensive on the Somme.

"But they cannot call me before tomorrow, so I shall not miss your wedding," he says, turning to Pandora, who sits at the head of the table.

Pandora looks back blankly. For Pandora is a dummy.

The elaborate charade is part of the brothers' plan to prise a hidden fortune from their insane and senile Uncle Gregory - by recreating Pandora, the beautiful girl who jilted him in his youth... and the next step is to capture Tara King and brainwash her into believing she is Pandora.

Tara is lured to an antique shop to see a rare clock and chloroformed by Henry, while Rupert looks on.

Steed has invited Tara to lunch and when she does not arrive he goes to the antique shop to investigate - only to be told by Murray, the proprietor, that he was out to lunch when Tara was supposed to have called.

The next occurrence is unprecedented. Instead of Steed visiting 'Mother' in one of his unusual offices, his superior actually calls on him! He explains that his latest office was a balloon and communications had become difficult...

Steed shows 'Mother' a piece of paper which fell from Tara's assailant's pocket. It contains the words "Fierce Rabbit".

'Mother' is astonished. He explains that "Fierce Rabbit" was a code name for our man in Armentierres during the First World War!

In the Government's file room, Carter turns up the dusty file on the "Fierce Rabbit". And Steed goes to a clock shop to meet Simon Juniper, the operative who had that code name. Juniper tells him the name was used twice before he inherited it.

Later Juniper goes to see a previous "Fierce Rabbit" - who turns out to be the brother's weird and sinister Uncle Gregory. Gregory Lasindall is heard rather than seen. And in the forboding Victorian house, a terrified Juniper dies mysteriously.

Tara's brainwashing continues at the hands of the brothers and their grim servant Miss Faversham. Dressed in Pandora's clothes, she is continually drugged and told she is Pandora. Yet tenuously she clings to her real identity.

To sidetrack Steed, Rupert and Henry place a skeleton in Tara's car and set fire to it, and lay the body of Juniper nearby. 'Mother' breaks the news of her death to Steed, who refuses an offer of compassionate leave and continues the case with renewed fury.

He is visited by another "Fierce Rabbit", Hubert Pettigrew, who exhausts the contents of his cocktail cabinet. He fails to help him when drunk, but returns when sober to tell him the third "Fierce Rabbit" is Gregory Lasindall.







Tara's brainwashing is complete. She now believes she is Pandora, and wearing Pandora's wedding dress, she is taken by the brothers to their terrifying, decrepit Uncle.

Faced by his lost love, Uncle Gregory tells them his fortune is hidden behind the picture of Pandora on the wall.

Too quickly Rupert slashes away at the painting with a knife... and discovers he has destroyed a priceless Rembrandt beneath.

While Henry angrily struggles with Rupert, the old man suffers a heart attack and dies.

Finally, Steed breaks in and with the aid of his bowler, lays low Rupert, Henry and Miss Faversham, to rescue Tara.

In the closing scene Steed appears to be suffering from a headache and on the table is the rare clock Tara has been hunting for in antique shops. On it is a gift label to Steed.

But when Tara arrives, he begs her to take it back. She discovers the reason why when it starts to chime and the room rocks. It chimes like Big Ben!



## Pandora

by Brian Clemens

Directed by Robert Fuest

- Cast -

### Character

### Artist

John Steed  
Tara King  
Rupert  
Henry  
Miss Faversham  
Mother  
Juniper  
Pettigrew  
Carter  
Lasindall  
Murray  
Young Gregory

Patrick Macnee  
Linda Thorson  
Julian Glover  
James Cossins  
Kathleen Byron  
Patrick Newell  
John Laurie  
Anthony Roye  
Geoffrey Whitehead  
Peter Madden  
Reginald Barratt  
Raymond Burke

Produced by Albert Fennell and Brian Clemens

Designer Robert Jones

Music Supervision by Jaurie Johnson



# Midnight Meanderings

Perhaps Even a Meandering?  
by Sally Syrjala

You raised some interesting thoughts on the comparison of "The New Avengers" to the vintage version. Indeed, Steed is the type of character who ages very well. His prime ingredients, like that of a good wine, can only improve with the passage of the years.

Another character that ages well is that of Brett Maverick. Neither one of these fictionalized personages are overly fond of violence. Both would rather avoid the commodity if at all possible. Wit and charm are their main weapons in dealing with adversaries. I suppose you could call them the intellectuals of their trade.

It is interesting and pleasant to see objectives can be met with the employment of as little force as necessary. It is also nice to see how well this type of character is able to last the test of time. Those who use the superficial elements come and go, but those who tap deeply enough to come up with a good character seem to last indefinitely.

Like basic story lines that refuse to pass into nonexistence, there are basic character types who also refuse to do so. Those of Steed's calibre fall into the latter category. He is savy to the ways of the world, but refuses to let that knowledge taint him. He is rather like Edward Austin Abbey's portrayal of the pursuit of the Holy Grail. In Abbey's painting, the knight is clad in white, but a red robe hangs around his shoulders - signifying the fact that the purity within could not be obscured by the realities the world presents.

John Steed is much like that knight of legend. He must clad himself with the knowledge and implements of the reality he knows. However, he still keeps that inner portion of himself free from the contamination such exposure often brings.

The dress of Steed also helps to symbolize the comparison between the line of work he pursues and

his inner substance. Perhaps one of the reasons this dress is picked is to emphasize the point. Steed does not let his profession sour him to life or its enjoyment. He still manages to discern that which is lasting... the human spirit. Crises may come and go, but humankind remains. He makes sure he keeps the qualities he admires alive within his life. A most interesting character Patrick Macnee has managed to portray within the essence of John Steed... most interesting, indeed.

'False Witness' - My Favorite Episode  
by Gene Davidson

The Avengers have an uncanny ability to make us laugh at some of their exploits in the midst of the drama which is taking place. This is the case in "False Witness".

Mother's department is losing agents mysteriously and Mother suspects that one of his men, Melville, may be working against the department. Melville was on a case with a fellow agent and failed to warn him when danger was approaching. An enemy agent kills our own agent and Melville just stands there.

Steed decides to put Melville to the test. They both go to the house of a witness they have acquired. The witness agrees to testify against a person named Lord Edgefield, whom Steed suspects is blackmailing security personnel. They force Lord Edgefield to come to a preliminary hearing. Steed brings his witness in and the witness proceeds to contradict everything he is supposed to be testifying about.

Steed can't understand why the witness broke down and failed to indict Lord Edgefield. He decides to test Melville on a mission. He asks Melville if the coast is clear and Melville says it is, but he is lying because an enemy agent is coming. Steed accuses Melville of being a traitor while Melville denies that he lied at all.

Lord Edgefield has developed an anti-truth drug which forces people to tell the exact opposite of the truth. He has a dairy company which puts the



drug in milk bottles and leaves the milk at the doorstep of people they wish to use.

Meanwhile, Steed has a new witness named Nesbitt who is willing to testify against Lord Edgefield. The witness is summoned to the hearing and so is Lord Edgefield. Nesbitt drinks a cup of coffee (with the milk in it) first and then they begin to question him. "Do you wish to testify against Lord Edgefield?" they ask. "No," replies the witness. "You mean you have nothing to say against this man?" "That's right," says Nesbitt. Again Steed is perplexed.

Tara has found her way to the dairy which is making the drugged milk. She gets into a fight with a worker there and falls into a vat of the milk. She escapes and calls Steed from her apartment:

Tara - "Steed, this is very unimportant..."

Steed - "What?"

Tara - "I don't want to warn you."

Steed - "Warn me about what?"

Tara - "Whatever you do, don't be careful!"

Frustrated, she hangs up and goes back to the dairy where she is caught. Steed remembers seeing a dairy truck at Tara's apartment earlier and rushes to the company who delivered the milk and rescues Tara.

Later, at Tara's flat, she shows him a new dress she just bought. Steed is rude and insulting about it... there is a half-drunk glass of milk beside him!

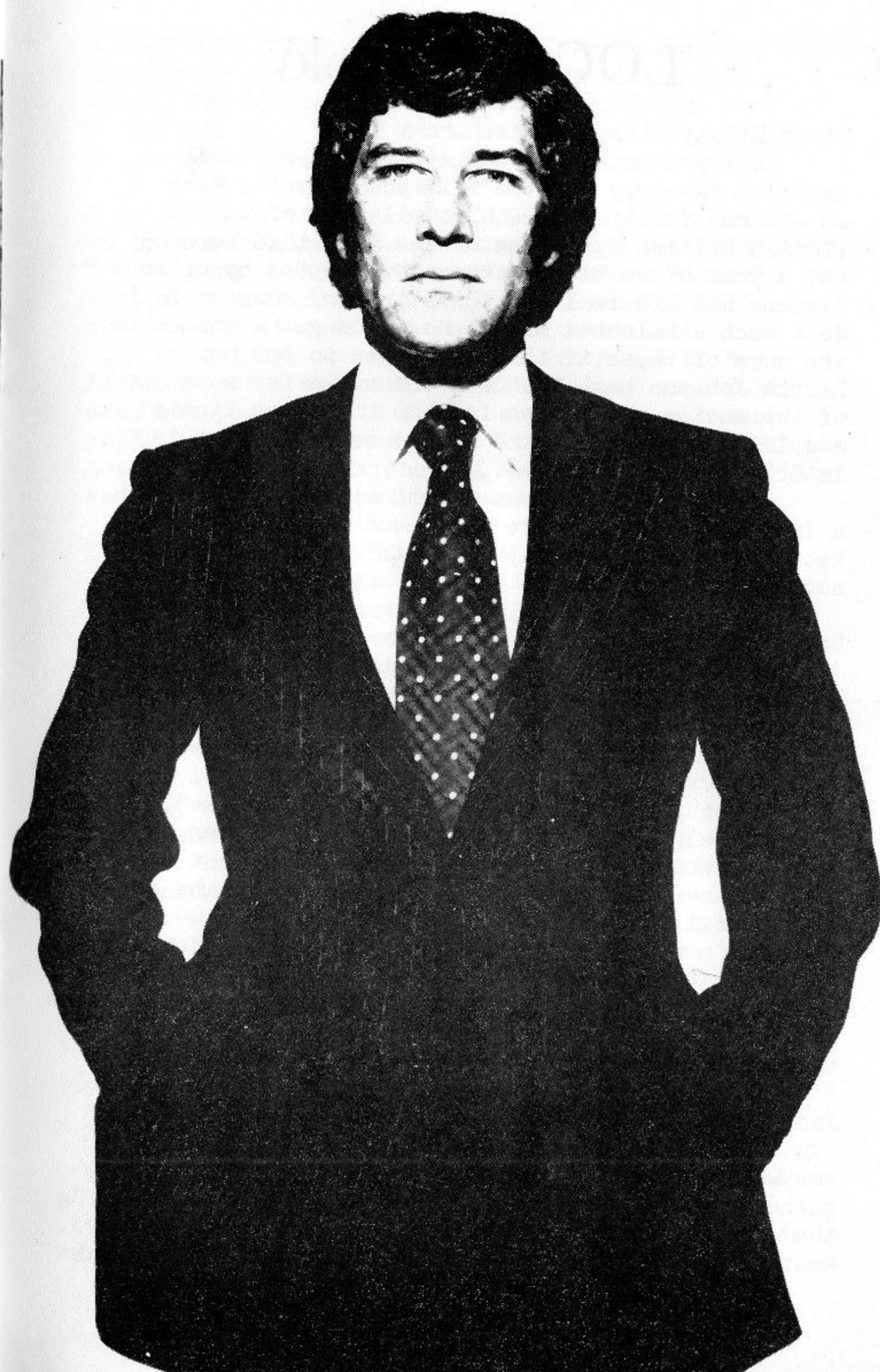
Those Were The Days!  
by Charles Bradley

"Attacked, I fight! Back and forth, forth and back... a leg trip, a prodigious throw. The secret of the double barrel atomic sock knitter is safe. Our nation is secure!"

Such were the words of Emma Peel in an advertisement for one of the top rated TV shows of years gone by - "The Avengers".

It concluded with Emma inquiring, "Steed, did you ever hear of finding a body under a bear skin rug?" And Steed would say, "It's a lady's body... and it's alive."

Those were the days!





# LOCs of Gold

Steve Eramo; Stoneham, MA:

Have you noticed a new series in your area entitled "Mystery Theatre"? If you haven't, keep an eye out for it. It is a compilation of the 48 ITC/ABC British Mysteries of the Week that were on ABC a year or so back. Many were scripted by Brian Clemens and are really interesting and suspenseful! He's such a talented man! I hope you get a chance to see some of these if they do happen to pop up. Laurie Johnson has also done the music for some of the movies. Favorites include "The Next Victim" and "Midsummer Nightmare" (can't remember if this is Brian Clemens or not...).

A friend of mine met Gareth at the opening of a large department store in London a couple of weeks ago. Got a nice autographed photo plus a larger autograph on a sheet of paper... not bad at all.

David Lubkin; Lansing, MI:

"Paladin" is coming along quite nicely, although as far as I can remember, we have not received a single "Avengers" contribution... which I do not approve of. Do definitely have, though, "Wild, Wild West", "The Prisoner", "Starsky and Hutch", "Paper Chase", "M\*A\*S\*H", "Lou Grant", "Man From UNCLE", "Modesty Blaise", "The Young Rebels", "Mod Squad" and Sherlock Holmes. More to come, and we still need contributions. Most of the stories are pretty short. We'll go to press the moment we have all the material together.

((editor's note: anyone wishing additional information on "Paladin" is welcome to contact me and I'll put you in touch with David. Likewise, if you have contributions which you'd like to have considered for printing in the zine. SASE to Fan Network Headquarters.))

Jacky Fulton; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada:

Re: a convention - I do see that a full-sized con would be out of the question, but your idea of a gathering might be feasible. Trouble would be balancing the cost of the trip by fans against the items offered. Most people wouldn't come if all they were getting was

a couple of hours conversation! Take me for instance - I'd be looking at a large financial outlay for 48 hours of travelling, food and conversation. I would certainly think twice if I'd be faced with a bill of \$200 for that weekend!

Personally, I'd like to see the episodes. When I go to cons, this I really like. What I do object to is the infiltration of other things into the con. I get cross at seeing "Star Wars", "Buck Rogers" etc. at "Trek" cons. If they want a con to sell their stuff at then let them run their own!

Certainly, you might consider things to buy. Although not a collector myself, I know some folks are. But people would like the chance to talk as well. Add to this some cheap (is there such a thing nowadays?) accommodations and reasonable accessibility and I think enough people would come.

Leni Sommer; Omaha, NE:

The 'Rose-and-Revolver' logo would work well on folded notes (I believe while I was in Omaha I sent you a very brief letter on one that I did with the "Prisoner" type bicycle on it) and I'm going to do some experimenting with printing on mirrors.

I hope there's a lot of interest in a mini-con, even if we just sit around continuing the Emma vs. Tara vs. Purdey debate, eat and play frisbee! After getting together with you, on the phone and in person, and after a 2-year insane acquaintance with Melinda Murdock and Company, I look forward to meeting more fans anytime. We could have it in Omaha, or use it as a meeting place and drive down to K.C., red carnations tied to radio antennae and bowlers strapped to the tops of cars... what a bizarre fantasy!

I've given as much thought, and maybe a wee bit more, as I could afford to the question of what we know about Gambit. Having not seen all the episodes, and being a little slow on the uptake (especially late at night), I'm having a little trouble separating what I've gleaned from the series and what I've come up with in my own mind. So I'll just free-associate for awhile...

Besides the obvious (that he's gorgeous), I do know that Gambit is dangerous - possibly the most



dangerous man I've ever seen. Even more so than John Drake or Number 6 (I personally consider them one and the same). Under the calm, efficient exterior is a power that I wouldn't want to be on the wrong side of!

And he is efficient. Truly an extraordinary agent. However, he goes a little too much by the book, which was his downfall when Purdey was kidnapped. Steed doesn't always play by the rules and was able to get the best of him.

He depends less on intellect than does Steed and usually goes in with hands flailing or gun blasting. My favorite example of this is in the cybernaut episode when, at the end, Gambit bursts in holding his spray can exactly the way he holds his gun.

While I wouldn't want to have him as an enemy, I think he's priceless as a friend and ally. I can't exactly say that his loyalty is unwavering (during "Hostage" he was torn between duty to the Service and loyalty to Steed - caught between a rock and a hard place, you might say) but it does take a major catastrophe to shake it.

On top of all his other good qualities, Gambit has a terrific sense of humor. He may be hopelessly in love with Purdey, but that doesn't stop him from joking with her about it (which probably keeps him from going off the deep end because of the hopelessness of the situation) and enjoying the company of assorted young lovelies. There is a lot of humor in his interchanges with Purdey - her feelings about Steed (which may turn into another essay!), he dumping her out of bed, she returning the favor and so forth. And the glint he gets in his eyes...! Like at the end of "Hostage", when Purdey is telephoning Steed's latest lady friend to explain because "...She thinks I'm inordinately fond of you." Gambit looks at her with his heart in his eyes, yes, but a hint of mocking too and says, "Silly, foolish girl."

In response to your comment ((last issue)) - I think at least two episodes should be filmed in middle America ((if "The New Avengers" continue)). While Colorado is more scenic, I won't be there. So, Omaha is next best 'cuz we'll all let Pat ride our ponies.

Marie Buren; Deer Park, TX:

I really enjoyed the "Special" you did on Patrick Macnee ((NL #10)). Could you also do a "Special" on the other characters?

I would go to an "Avengers" con if some of the main actors (Macnee, Rigg, Thorson, etc.) were there, but I'm afraid I live a little too far away to go to a mini-con or picnic.

In regards to Vic Gryniewicz from Chicago who wrote that the androids in "A Man Called Sloan" reminded him of the cybernauts in "The Avengers"... parts of the show reminded me of "The Avengers", too. For instance, the tuning fork that disintegrated steel reminded me of the "Avengers" wood-rot episode. I mentioned this to a friend and she said that the tuning fork is a take-off from "The Man From UNCLE" series.

What did happen to 3 Stable Mews?

Don Van Duuren; Vancouver, B.C., Canada:

Tomorrow I am going to write a letter to CBS asking for more "New Avengers". I do, however, prefer to watch "The New Avengers" on the CTV network as opposed to CBS for two reasons: 1) The CTV never cuts off those excellent main titles used for the program (I recall when CBS showed the Canadian episodes and, by cutting off the original main titles, took away the credit from Hugh Harlow, Ross McLean and Jim Hanley who produced those episodes). 2) The CTV doesn't extend the program to 70 minutes by adding a dozen more commercials. I think by the time CBS finishes showing commercials in between acts I've already forgotten half the plot! But I realise that the American networks have the right to add up to 25% more commercials after 11pm, and I guess you just have to live with it. It's too bad they don't show the program in prime time.

How many episodes of "The Avengers" were made altogether from the beginning in 1960 through until the series demise in 1969? ((editor's note: those of us here in America are able to count the Emma/Tara episodes - 83 total - but we have very little information on those with Ian Hendry or Honor Blackman. Anyone have a count on those??))



Patty Anderson; Omaha, NE:

Here's some info for your Newsletter readers. I contacted Joseph Tricarichi on Cleveland, Ohio whom you indicated might have copies of the "New Avengers" Annuals. He wrote me that he no longer has the Annuals available and probably won't be getting any more (if available at all) for at least 2 to 4 months. My search for these precious little journalistic commodities is getting frustrating. Do you know anyone else I might contact? ((??))

Virginia Bowman; Denver, CO:

Now for my juicy little tidbit! I wrote you before about Dirk Benedict in "The Rainmaker" at Elitch Theater, but after the letter was mailed a friend and I managed to talk to him. Although he was definitely into accelerated time, I was able to ask him about the 'occupant' of the demolished spaceship in the "War of the Gods" episode (everyone's favorite!). He said that they (SFX people, I assume) made a burned-out alien creature for that scene. Mr. Benedict seemed mildly surprised when I told him it (the creature) hadn't been shown, so it obviously must have been cut and/or censored.

Karen Esibill; Baltimore, MD:

Well, you've done it again! Newsletter #12 is just super. I don't know where you keep finding all those delicious photos of Pat Macnee, but keep it up.

Where can I get a copy of the article from "En Garde" which was mentioned in one of the LOCs... the one speculating on "The Avengers" and "The Prisoner" overthrowing the Village together? That does sound intriguing. As you must have noticed, I am quite a McGoochan fan, too. Just the thought of the two Patricks together is almost more than one can stand.

Loved the "Report from England" on "The Grass is Greener". Sure wish Patrick would bring that over here and perform in a city reasonably close to me. I have a friend in Pennsylvania who saw him seven times in "Sleuth" and was fortunate enough to meet him. Her feelings concur with everyone who has met him... he's gracious, charming and a genuinely warm, friendly man.

Judy Webb; Glens Falls, NY:

Sigh. CBS is beginning to sound like another network I know (shades of Star Trek!). Although I've written, I intend to write again. Fall of 1980, indeed! I can remember when it was supposed to be Fall of 1979, then January 1980. Oh well, at least I'll get to see Mrs. Peel again... the old "Avengers" haven't been rerun here since God knows when.

Have you noticed the differences between the plot synopses and the aired episodes? In "K is for Kill", for example, "...Gambit and Purdey raced off on a motor bike to investigate while Steed, with Frenchman Colonel Martin, went by car." In the actual episode, all four went in the same car. Personally, I'd give just about anything to get my hands on some of the scripts - any draft will do! Judging by "Star Trek" scripts I've seen, there can be lots of difference between the first draft script and what's finally aired.

Re: Cons. May I make a suggestion? Some cons have "Avengers" programming. Perhaps, if we found out about one far enough ahead, we could arrange to attend it. At least we'd get to see each other and have some "Avengers" programming.

Dan Helmick; Lansing, MI:

I'm anxiously looking forward to the re-premier of the old "Avengers" next week because what this will amount to is the first time I've seen them. Envy me!

Another experience I gloat upon; two weeks ago I was able to view "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" five times up at MSU! Diana Rigg is beautiful...

Now that I think of it, I doubt "The New Avengers" should go to prime time. Though the networks still take a perverse joy in editing their late-night fare, at least CBS offers ten minutes over what we'd be getting two hours before.

Mark Voorhies; Algiers, LA:

On Sunday nights in my area the educational station runs a program called "TV to Remember". This offers four old TV programs which they consider classics. One of them is "Twilight Zone", a program



I thoroughly enjoy. I was watching an episode last night (and I don't know what the name was...) which was very interesting. It was about a ship during WWII which got seperated from its convoy. On board is a man who is not sure of his identity or surroundings. All he knows is that something bad will happen at 1:15.

As the story progresses, you also find out that he is a German who knows a lot about submarine service. As it turns out, the ship (which is carrying women and children) is sunk without warning by a sub... commanded by the man who is so confused on the ship!

After the sinking, a young German officer (played by James Franciscus) is troubled by the fact they killed women and children without warning. He wonders if they are going to be damned for their acts... which, of course, is what happens. The Commander finds himself on that ship, just before it's sunk, every night for eternity.

You're probably wondering what all this has to do with you, right? Well, during the show, the Captain becomes suspicious of the man because he is a German and he does know a lot about U-boats. So he has his First Mate bring the man to him for a talk and then later has the First Mate keep an eye on him.

The First Mate is played by a very young but good actor named Patrick Macnee! He didn't have a very big part, but for me it enriched the whole program.

Charles Bradley; New Orleans, LA:

I noticed that one club member is trying to locate someone who has recorded episodes of the old "Avengers". I would like to find that person also. In addition, if there's anyone who owns a VHS recorder and gets "The Avengers", I would like to set up some type of taping arrangements. ((editor's note: contact Charles at 2219 Burdette St., New Orleans, LA 70118. If you know of someone who is willing to help supply copies of "Avengers" videotapes to members, please let me know as there are several members looking. Thanks!))

Paul Bishop; Camarillo, CA:

"In which Bish answers a letter and sends a check... and Heather gains another member to the club!"

Speaking of "Mystery" ((a magazine which Paul helps publish...)), our second issue will be out in January and we are very excited about it. "Mystery" covers the entire field of mystery/suspense fiction in all its forms from books, television, movies, plays and soundtracks to mystery related products and mystery tours, etc. The magazine ((going nationwide with this next issue!)) is available by subscription at the rate of \$10.00 for one year (6 bi-monthly issues) or \$2.00 for a single sample copy. Any inquiries should be addressed to: "Mystery", Box 26251 Los Angeles, CA 90026. Our second issue will cover Raymond Chandlers Los Angeles, an interview with Aaron Marc Stien and an 'Eye-Q' test for hardboiled fans along with reviews, fiction and mystery related products.

As far as Diana Rigg being on "The Professionals", I briefly caught a reference to it in a British publication I recently received. The only problem is that I haven't been able to relocate this reference, but I will keep searching for it. I wasn't aware that "The Professionals" was an Avengers Enterprise (production). I have a copy of "The Professionals" paperback, "Where the Jungle Ends" by Ken Blake that states the series was created by Brian Clemens, but I didn't put two and two together.

Have you ever seen the book by Andrew Garve, "The Long Short Cut", that is basically an "Avengers" pastiche?

Gene Davidson; Berea, OH:

As for the idea of an "Avengers" convention... I think the idea will become practical as you get more members. A good idea would be to have a con in the middle of America so that people could come from both directions and no one would have to go completely across country.

If anyone writes wanting material on "The Avengers" you might have them write me as I have a lot for sale. ((444 Larchwood Dr., Berea, OH 44017))



# Comments, Anyone?

By the time this Newsletter is out, "The Avengers" will have started showing as part of the CBS late-night double feature. Hopefully most members will be able to see it in their area (although I understand that the Houston affiliate will not be carrying the show, nor is it aired in Kansas City).

Fortunately, I'm able to bring it in via cable from a Topeka, Kansas station which has it slotted for 10:30 Fridays. The first installment was "Dead Man's Treasure" (ah... that lovely Bentley!) and this week promises to bring the classic "Winged Avenger", a true delight for comic fans! Having been several years since the original series was on in my area, I plan to spend 70 minutes each Friday sitting blissfully in front of the television, gaining a better appreciation of the wonderful partnership which was John Steed and Emma Peel.

It occurs to me that Mrs. Peel's return will pose an interesting situation for some network members. There are quite a few 'new wave' fans who were drawn to the "Avengers" magic by the team of Steed, Purdey and Gambit... having never seen an episode of the old series! No doubt it will seem a bit odd to them viewing this earlier version of our Chief Avenger in league with a "new" lady named Emma Peel.

There is a great diversity of opinion within "Avengers" fandom concerning Steed's various partners and the changes of format which accompanied each switch. Some viewers prefer Emma, some favor Tara King. We have those who have only seen the new series, and then there are some who have weighed both and chosen "The New Avengers" over all. We now have the opportunity to hear comments from "New Avengers" fans who have been introduced to Emma Peel for the first few episodes. The comparisons should prove quite interesting.

Members who had never viewed the old series are now able to grasp a bit of history... the roots from which Gambit and Purdey have grown. Whereas you

were previously confined to a mixture of confusion and detached interest produced by others' comments on the early series, you now have a chance to formulate your own opinions. What are your impressions of new vs. old, Mrs. Peel, the earlier Steed, format differences, storylines and so on?

Likewise, those of us who have not seen an old episode for several years might have new observations to make. What have been your reactions upon re-viewing a few Emma Peelers? Has absence made the heart grow fonder, or do Purdey and Gambit now overshadow the Steed/Peel team?

There seem to be many available topics of discussion brought on by Emma's return. I hope to hear a variety of opinions!

There is another item which I'd appreciate your response to... if you have a moment to jot a line voicing your preference.

Several issues of the Newsletter are now out of print and unavailable to new subscribers. Often I am asked questions about the stars, about sales items, etc. which were previously answered in back issues of the Newsletter.

To remedy this situation, I am considering a special project publication - either separately or as a section within some future Newsletter - to be used as a 'handy-dandy reference source' for "Avengers"/"New Avengers" fans. Included would be such information as dealers and sales items, listing of episode titles (and sub-titles), short biographies on each star, information about all "Avengers" books published to date, details on Network services, letter-writing hints and so on.

What I need to know from you is: 1) Would you prefer to have this as a separate publication or as part of a Newsletter? If separate, I would need assurance that enough people are interested in purchasing! 2) What other information would you like to see included? Left out?

At present there is nothing definite on this proposed project and I have no idea if/when it would come about... I am only gathering reactions now. If something develops, I'll be sure to let you know.



## Etcetera

There are a couple of reminders which I would like to present here, lest I forget them myself.

First off, along with "The Avengers", we now are able to see Ian Ogilvy's "Return of The Saint" series on CBS late-nights. In Topeka (and hopefully in other areas) it runs as the second half of their double feature, immediately following "The Avengers".

For those who missed the mention in an earlier issue of the Newsletter, Linda Thorson guest starred opposite Ogilvy in one episode of the series, entitled "The Roman Touch" (Linda played the manager of a superstar singer in trouble). You'll want to be watching for that. Ra-boom-ti-ay!

Also, another mention for those who weren't around earlier... The Gareth Hunt/Joanna Lumley "Avengers" Fan Club is alive and well and living in Texas. Cindy Phares, President, has published several issues of their newsletter to date and back issues are still available. The club newsletter has somewhat of a different emphasis than ours and contains such features as cartoons, puzzles, games, fiction, quizzes, etc. The publication is quite nice - with photos and artwork throughout - and improving with each issue.

For more information on prices, content, club services/dues... send a SASE to: PO Box 267, Nederland, TX 77627.

As this Newsletter is being typed, I discovered that Diana Rigg was the scheduled guest on Dick Cavett Wednesday, December 19th at 10:30 (in this area). With only a few lines left on this page, I'm unable to give much of a report on her appearance, except to say that it was highly entertaining and very interesting to hear her speak of her career, various roles, thoughts on the theatre and her part in it as well as commenting on life styles and her plans for the future. One comment of particular interest concerned the possibility of Diana doing a Broadway musical in the near future! Is there anyone who saw the show and can work up more detailed info for next issue??

## Back Cover

Linda Thorson - 1914 Style

(A press release blurb from American International Television, Incorporated.)

A new Linda Thorson emerges in an Avengers episode called "Pandora"... coiffeured and gowned in the style of 1914.

She undergoes the transformation when two brothers kidnap and brainwash her into believing she is Pandora, a young girl who jilted their maniac uncle in his youth.

### *Acknowledgments*

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Photo on pg.21 - courtesy of Avengers (Film & TV) Enterprises, Limited, England.

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- Endline -

Be kind to Avengers..... or else!



