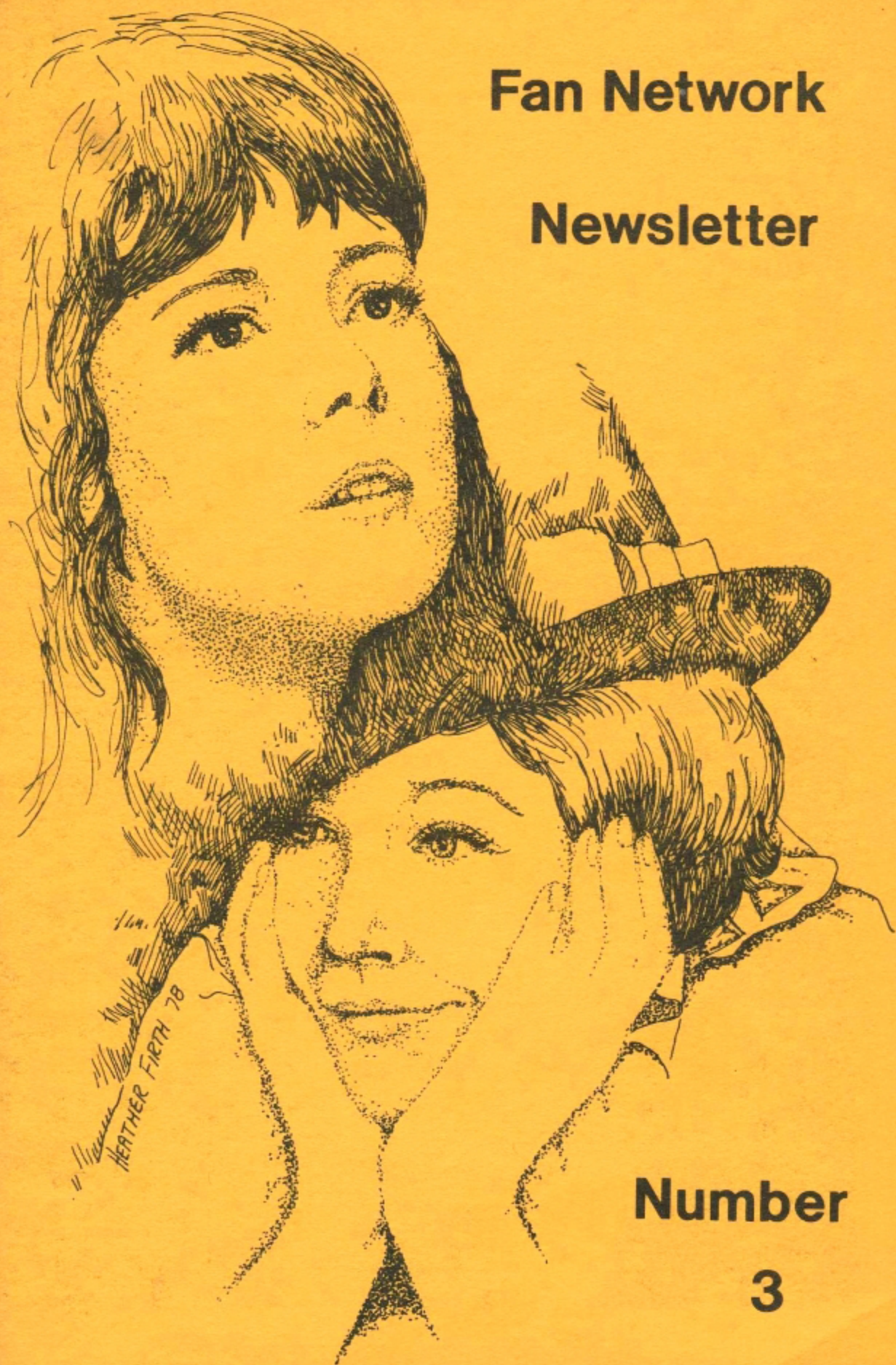


# **"The Avengers"/Patrick Macnee**

**Fan Network**

**Newsletter**



**Number**

**3**



# "The Avengers"/Patrick Macnee

## Fan Network Newsletter

Issue 3    May/June

### - Contents -

"Ramblings" by the editor .....	page 1
"LOCs of Gold" a letter column .....	page 2
"Midnight Meanderings" .....	page 7
with contributions from Steve Eramo, Jacqueline Edwards, and Sally Syrjala	
"Network News" .....	page 13
"Garage Sale" .....	page 18

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Deadline for contributions to be included in issue #4 is June 15, 1978.

This issue is dedicated to Mr. Patrick Macnee in appreciation of his giving us John Steed. We wish both gentlemen a long and illustrious career!

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# Ramblings

Once again I find myself sitting amongst a pile of notes and material for use in the Newsletter. It would look as though we will have enough information and contributions to fill future issues of the Newsletter, so it seems a safe gamble to commit myself to a regular publishing schedule. Beginning with this issue the Newsletter will be printed bi-monthly. We will (try to) mail promptly so that each issue will reach subscribers on the first of every other month. Contributions, letters of comment, and information to be printed in the next issue must reach me by the deadline stated on the title page.

Since the Newsletter will follow a set structure from now on and run a pre-determined number of pages we will not have room to print the episode list or cast credits as mentioned in the last issue. I am planning those two items for a special edition which will be available separate from the regular Newsletter subscription. It looks as though I will even be able to illustrate the episode list with a collection of photographs! More on that in the next issue.

I have had members ask about calling me. Certainly, you are most welcome to ring me if you can afford it. I'm usually up until 10:30 PM, Mountain Time, unless the Newsletter is being typed, at which time the sun sets and rises while work progresses.

The past month has seen me busy with selling one vehicle to buy another. Thus, I beg that you excuse any sluggishness in my correspondence. Two-wheeled transportation can be time consuming to shop for, albeit rather fun!

For those of you who are interested in numbers, we now have 39 members in the Fan Network. This membership spans the United States from Boston to Los Angeles and reaches around the world to Canada, The United Kingdom, France and Germany! Pretty good considering we've only been around for 3 months (at the time this was typed.).

Now, on to other matters...



# LOCs of Gold

Please be forewarned that any correspondence sent to me is subject to inclusion in this letter column. If you do not wish to have your letter quoted please specify that it is not to be printed. Thanks.

From Mrs. Jean L. Crocker, President of the International Council of Fan Clubs (est. 1953). Canada:  
Heather, I would like to say that you should charge a fee for your services if you do not wish to call it dues to a club. Your Club Information Sheet and your publications are far superior to many who have a set fee. ...I would suggest that you join the ICFC and affiliate your club. ...Normally a new organization is given the opportunity to register a club for one year before they are invited to affiliate. To have a club affiliated with the ICFC is like having the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval - it is KNOWN to be good. But you are much too advanced for registration and, therefore, I suggest affiliation. ...Our annual Fan Club Directory lists ONLY clubs that have been associated with us during the previous year and all clubs that are associated with us are competing. We have a point system based on what a club promises and what it does. Points are given for promptness of publication, number of printed pages, pics included, etc. etc. If a club has a regular schedule for publishing and keeps to it they receive more points than anything else because that is what a fan club is for - to keep members aware of the activities of the person(s) for whom the club was formed. I hope I will have the pleasure of welcoming you to the ICFC in the near future. ((The Fan Network has paid its dues for an affiliated membership in the ICFC. Let's try and make our group one of the best! You can help by contributing to the Newsletter and keeping me informed of any worthwhile information which you run across.))

From Steve Eramo, Stoneham, MA: "En Garde" sounds great, especially the episode transcripts and the TV

pics! ..."House of Cards" was terrific!((One of the "New Avengers" paperbacks.)) I recently received a catalogue from Futura Publications and ordered the entire set of six (minus book one). ...Patrick "Mother" Newell has been showing up on a lot of things. He was on the British comedy show "No, Honestly" last week and was excellent in it. He has also been in many educational programs playing characters of the Middle Ages. He's an excellent character actor. ...The "New Avengers" annuals have now been released in the U.S. Could this be advanced publicity? Let's hope!

From M. Diane Lind, President of the Patrick Macnee Fan Club, Omaha, NB: I, too, had no idea that there were any other followers of "The Avengers"/"New Avengers" in this area. My group has been in existence for almost 11 years, - practically ever since the series debuted in 1967. Throughout those years the group has done some marvelous things and we are proud of our many accomplishments. To name a few: Heart Fund, Kidney Foundation, Cancer Research, and other charitable projects, helping where, when, and as we could. Of course, all donations were given by the Club in Pat Macnee's name. Over the years the group has collected quite an extensive library of Black & White and color stills from ABC affiliates all over the country and from American International in New York as well as articles, clippings, some "home movies" (B&W 8mm films taken from TV), and some original, personal photos which Pat, himself, sent to the Club along with handwritten letters. ...In 1972, while Pat was in New York working in the play "Sleuth", he invited my mother and me to visit him and to see the play. This we did during my Christmas vacation. It was one of those rare occasions that one never forgets. He was charming and most gracious and his performance in "Sleuth" was just super. He seemed to enjoy the records and books which we had made up on him and even found several items that he had not seen or that he had forgotten about. It seemed that the play in New York was a "new beginning" for Pat and from that time on he has been quite busy, touring and appearing in plays, movies, and TV productions. ...



Naturally we have been very interested in the progress of "The New Avengers". Most of the stations here in Omaha and as far as Kansas City have been showing the reruns of the old series and have no plans in the immediate future for the new one. However, I have noticed that CBS has many mini-series such as the "Return of Captain Nemo", "Hulk", "Wonder Woman", etc. that seem to be holding their own. Perhaps on the strength of this success in those showings, CBS will add "The New Avengers" to their line-up, too. We certainly hope so.

From Jackie Edwards, Omaha, NB: Loved the second Newsletter. Especially glad to hear you're making up a titles list. ...I find since I've started up with your Network I'm running my tapes with "Avengers" episodes almost all the time. People are actually getting used to it. Good. I think it's gonna get worse!

From Henry C. Chmielefski, Glenolden, PA: Dinky Toys (London) has the rights to some of the toys from "The New Avengers". (They are the people who brought out the USS Enterprise in metal form and assorted Gerry Anderson car items) They plan to bring out Steed's Jaguar, with a small figure of Steed driving, and a villain hanging onto the right side. Press a button and the villain flies off. This is according to Toy Trade Times which didn't give a release date on the item. I assume that it will be out by September for the Christmas selling season.

From Bill Bradshaw, England: Have you seen any of the new shows? I understand the show (("The New Avengers")) was saved just last Thursday night (!) by an eventual sale of the first two series (26 episodes) to the CBS network making series #3 an actuality, thank goodness. ((note; Bill's letter is dated the 15th of March.)) I'm sure you'll like them if you haven't seen 'em yet. They are different to the old Emma Peel/Tara King shows, but Steed is even better than ever - rest assured!! ...Oh, point of interest. Ian Hendry (original 1960 "Police Surgeon"/"Avengers" star) was the subject

just tonight (Wednesday, 15th of March) of "This is Your Life" and Patrick was one of the guest stars. In fact, he began the programme: He and host Acron Andrews ((?)) were in typical Steed gear and collared Hendry in a busy London high street, much to the actor's bewilderment. As they all headed towards a taxi for the studio Hendry muttered, "I wondered who the Hell you were" to Andrews, and Pat laughed, "We look like a couple of bookies"! Later they showed a smashing old clip from the very first "Avengers" from 1961 - nice to see, as I can only just recall Cathy Gale's episodes.

From Debbie Phares, Nederland, TX: I was hoping for more names on your pen pal list, none of them are what I really want, so I'll wait till next time. Or maybe someone will write to me. You never can tell. ...When one thinks of "The Avengers" and the girls, I think Emma Peel comes to most everyone's mind. We, here in the U.S. were not fortunate enough to see the first "Avengers" shows that starred Honor Blackman as Cathy Gale, John Steed's first female partner. So, therefore, we have to make our choice on the last two "Avengers" girls. Actually, I am more or less a Diana Rigg fan. But there is nothing wrong with Tara King. I first saw her in "The Forget-Me-Knot" destined to be my favorite show, and one of the saddest. Emma left and Tara entered. She was just the right girl to take Emma's place, although I think that Steed and Emma were a better couple. After a few shows with Tara King I liked her more and more. She wasn't Emma Peel, but for 20 years old she was darn good. I really had to admire her. She had to follow a tough position. Diana Rigg definitely gained quite a fandom for her portrayal of Emma Peel. Tara was good, there is no question of that, but I'll always be a Diana Rigg/Emma Peel fan.

From Cindy Phares, Nederland, TX: When you ask someone if they have seen the "Avengers", most say, "Oh yes, John Steed and Emma Peel. I remember that show." Then you ask them about the Tara King episodes. "Who? I don't recall another girl with Steed, just Mrs. Peel." ...Diana Rigg is a well known actress and gained world-wide recognition for her portrayal of Emma Peel. Women everywhere admired her bravery and wished they could be more like her.



Linda Thorson wasn't really recognized until she got the part of Tara King in "The Avengers". Since "The Avengers" went off the air in 1969 we haven't heard much from her. I believe she had a part in the movie "Valentino". If we could see more of Linda I believe she would have more fans. She did play her part well and made a good partner for Steed. ...I'm not sure who Steed liked the best: Cathy Gale, Emma Peel, or Tara King. We'll have to ask him. As for me, I liked Emma and Tara equally. ((That particular question has been put to Mr. Macnee many times and, like the true gentleman that he is, has never stated a preference of one lady over the other. I somehow doubt that we will ever discover John Steed's favorite partner. And remember, Purdey is now in the running also!)) I just received issue #2 of your newsletter. It was excellent, of course. I wish those guys at CBS would give you a definite answer. I know the show would be a big hit here. Also, I am very interested in ordering copies of "En Garde" - I'll have to count my pennies first. (Car insurance payment just came in, drat!) Can't wait for issue #3.

From Mandi Schultz, Rochester, MI: Nice issue - I think "Bowler & Brolly Bulletin" is cute - The "BBB". ...Actually, I liked Tara (a girl with bricks in her purse is OK by me). She was cute and clever, elegant in her own right. It was obvious she adored Steed. Who wouldn't? Rah-boom-de-ay! Some of her episodes were every bit as good as the early Peel/Steed ones, "Pandora" - oh, the lighthouse one, I can't remember the name - and the one with the resort hotel no one could leave. I wish we'd been treated to the Honor Blackman ones. Several years ago I was told that they were part of the syndication package, but they weren't going to be run because they didn't think anyone wanted them. \*Sigh\*

The "BBB"...It is rather catchy, isn't it? Has anyone out there thought up a name for the Newsletter? A contest has been suggested, but who am I to judge what would be a better title than others submitted? A vote taken through the Network would be too much of a hassle. Any suggestions?

## Midnight Meanderings

This will be a continuing column in each issue of the Newsletter as long as I have material to fill it. Commentaries and articles of interest written by members shall be printed here with each contribution competing for a yearly prize. Each issue I will suggest a topic to write on. Members may choose to comment on the suggested subject or may write about something of their own choosing. The only requirements are that the topic have something to do with "The Avengers" or its stars and that each piece should not exceed 450 words. I will accept longer write-ups on occasion as space permits. Of all contributions for each issue I will select the best 3 or 4 to be printed as a "Midnight Meandering". Other contributions may be printed in part as letters of comment or may be saved for future issues. In the last issue of each year there will be a vote taken on the best "Midnight Meandering" printed of the previous year. The results will be printed in the January/February issue and the winner will receive their next year's subscription to the Newsletter free of charge. I may offer an additional prize at a later date, but can't promise more right now.

Last issue I asked for peoples' opinions on the differences between Tara King and Emma Peel. It seems like almost everyone has something to say on that matter. A most controversial subject! Some of the responses are printed in the "LOCs of Gold" section. Included here are two of the better comments along with items on other subjects. Each of these are competitors in the "Midnight Meanderings" contest along with the commentary by Sally Syrjala in issue #2.

"An Old Series - Revisited" by Steve Eramo was originally printed in "Behind Blue Doors" Vol. 1, Issue 6. It is reprinted by permission of the author.

So happy reading. Do enjoy. The topic for next issue's competition: Why do you think that the character of John Steed is so popular the world over?



How did I dislike Tara King? Let me count the ways...

No, this shouldn't be poetry, because Tara King certainly was not. In this comment I am going to state in a straight forward, hopefully intelligent manner why I did not care for the Linda Thorson/Tara King arrangement. If anyone cares to dispute, feel free.

First of all, the girl couldn't really act. She was about 20 years old and obviously inexperienced at that sort of acting. She was not a graceful woman in comparison to her predecessors and was completely without class. Too cutsie. The mere fact that the Tara King episodes weren't even shown most places in rerun shows that she was not popular. It must have been depressing for the actress to be replaced by Emma Peel reruns.

Another point; whereas with Emma and Steed there seemed to be a certain "equality" about their relationship with Tara there was none of this. Steed seemed to be looking after her, like a father type, while Tara seemed to always be "after" Steed like a schoolgirl with a crush. I hesitate to say more because it's been years since a Tara King episode has been aired here. But from what I can remember I was not impressed. To be fair (and I am trying to be, believe it or don't), it wasn't entirely Miss Thorson's fault, and if presented with the role today, she might be a smash. I think she was too young, too inexperienced, with too much against her...namely all those Diana Rigg fans.

by Jacqueline Edwards, Omaha, Nebraska.

#### "An Old Series - Revisited"

A man dressed in a suit coat, bowler and umbrella walks in front of the camera. He is holding a bottle of champagne. He hears a sound, turns, and holds out the champagne bottle. A gunshot is heard. The cork is off the bottle. A woman dressed in a white jumpsuit lowers a gold revolver and smiles. they both walk over to a small table and pick up two champagne glasses. The liquid is poured and the glasses click softly. The beginning to the British spy series - "The Avengers"

"The Avengers" started out on British television

in 1961. It starred Patrick Macnee and Honor Blackman as John Steed and Cathy Gale, two members of a British Intelligence Service. These people specialize in the bizarre and unexplainable crimes. The series was a smash in Britain and soon was syndicated in the USA.

In 1964 "The Avengers" premiered on ABC-TV Monday nights at eight. Honor Blackman left the series to pursue other acting areas. Patrick Macnee still starred as John Steed and Diana Rigg portrayed his new partner, Mrs. Emma Peel.

The series caught on instantly and ABC ordered a second season from Britain. The first series shown in the USA was black and white, but this second year was color - which added much to the show itself. The show was again renewed for a third season. However, Linda Thorson replaced Diana Rigg as Patrick Macnee's new partner. Exit Emma Peel - Enter Tara King.

The audience still enjoyed the show just as much, but the networks were getting a little tired of it. So, on that unhappy June of 1969, "The Avengers" was laid to rest. Many thousands of letters poured into the ABC Network protesting the cancellation, but like many, the show was ignored.

Seven years later Brian Clemens, original producer of the show, approached Patrick Macnee for a new show, "The New Avengers". That started the ball rolling. With Patrick Macnee as John Steed, Joanna Lumley as Purdey, and Gareth Hunt as Mike Gambit - "The New Avengers" was born. The show has been in production for a year and a half now and its response in Britain and other countries has been remarkable. Networks in the USA have seen the popularity of the new series and are fighting to get the series; either as a mid season replacement for January or February or as a summer replacement. In any event, "The New Avengers" shall reach US shores sometime this year - very soon.

The original series sparked a fan movement across the country; especially among the high school and college groups. Fan clubs were formed, newsletters published, paperbacks, stills, magazines and other "Avengers" related material. The new series in Britain has such items on the market as "The New Avengers" Annuals, "New Avengers" Puzzles, "New Avengers" Souvenir Booklets and paperbacks.



While this fan movement is not as "organized" as the "Star Trek" fans, there are New/Old "Avengers" fans out there. We just have to find each other!

by Steve Eramo, Stoneham, MA.

((I don't know the date that this article was written, but obviously "The New Avengers" didn't make it to the US in January or February. grumble, grumble! ed.))

Being one of those people who prefer Emma Peel to Tara King, I felt compelled to pick up the gauntlet and try to explain why.

Emma Peel had a very strong character and was quite capable of taking care of herself. On the other hand, Tara left one with the impression she was unable to steer a straight course without someone else's direction.

Of course, we have to take into account the fact Emma Peel was a very difficult character to replace. If her replacement had been too much like her, there would have been the obvious comparisons and failure to meet up to "her" standards would have ensued. We are all different and there are no two people exactly alike. Therefore, it would have been impossible to have another Emma.

Taken in this context, the decision to have her replacement be a completely different type of person was quite correct. However, the complete swing toward the side of helplessness and scatter-brained female was just too much to digest all at once. Had the character been portrayed with a little more humor it might have come off much better than it did. However, Tara came out as just a little too bland with nothing to really contemplate.

Emma Peel had a great deal of depth to her being. How did she ever manage to learn to do all those things and to do them so well? She was her own woman before it was fashionable. Could it be she was one of the very first liberated women to make it to television?

That could very well be one of the reasons so many felt such a disappointment in her replacement. to replace any character who has a strong, loyal following is difficult. Think of the Spock controversy in Trekdom and how any replacement he might have will automatically be looked upon in a very negative light.

Ditto for Emma's replacement. We were used to a certain character and did not want to see that character go.

However, Tara could have been accepted in time had she been a little more "together". It is difficult to picture a secret agent being so forgetful and accident prone remaining healthy for very long in field work. You expect to see a person with the ability to fend for themselves and to look after their partner's well being. This would seem to be an elementary ingredient that Tara lacked.

True, there were times she saved the day, but were those times more luck or skill?

Emma had a great deal of mystery about her. You knew that she was quite a person, but you didn't know all there was to know about her. It seemed there was always something just under the surface that you just couldn't quite comprehend. She was adept at so many different skills that one began to wonder what kind of person this was. Where had all the necessary training and learning originated?

Then, too, you had the relationship she enjoyed with John Steed. There were no overt actions; however, you did sense a great closeness that only comes from two people who have a great understanding of one another.

Somehow all this was lacking in Tara King. Perhaps the only problem was that enough time to work the character and the character interactions out had not been allowed.

by Sally Syrjala, West Barnstable, MA.

How many managed to catch "Sherlock Holmes In New York"? I thought I'd try and pass along a few thoughts on a performance which I thought was superb. This was the first time in my experience that the character of Watson was portrayed with any kind of class. Before he always seemed to come off on film as something of a buffoon. In this portrayal, Patrick Macnee managed to give Watson the class and knowledge of social graces which Holmes lacked. Who was it that rushed to help the fallen Irene? It was Watson. I'm certain that one of the reasons Holmes was so genuinely fond of Watson was the fact that he did have the social



tact to get them through the necessary public contacts.

Another reason, I think, was Watson's uncanny knack for cutting through all the window-dressing and coming up with the real crux of the thing. The only fault that Mr. Macnee gave to Watson was a loveable one. Something about the poor dear prevented him from seeing a subtle romantic relationship. Perhaps if Holmes had walked up to him and said something like, "Watson! I'm in love with Irene!", the Doctor would have gotten it. But subtly with regard to affairs of the heart was not his forte. Take for example the scene when Irene calls Sherlock "Scott". Charming. Watson misses the point all-together!

I believe that, without exception, Mr. Macnee's performance is to be applauded.

by Jacqueline Edwards, Omaha, Nebraska.



## Network News

One Network member finally found a firm in England who sells books overseas. I still have heard nothing from the people who I wrote to, so I will print the information from this new mail-order firm. These are the ordering instructions which were sent to me and I understand that they seem to work since the member who supplied me the information now has his copies of the "New Avengers" paperbacks, all in good shape.

- A74722 - "The New Avengers" #1, "House of Cards" by Peter Cave. 55pg
- A74714 - "The New Avengers" #2, "The Eagle's Nest" by John Carter. 60pg
- A74749 - "The New Avengers" #3, "To Catch A Rat" by Walter Harris. 60pg
- A75052 - "The New Avengers" #4, "Fighting Men" by Justin Cartwright. 60pg
- A75753 - "The New Avengers" #5, "Cybernavts" by Peter Cave. 65pg
- A75583 - "The New Avengers" #6, "Hostage" by Peter Cave. 65pg

Each of the above books costs \$2.00 and I am told that one should add \$3.00 to the total cost for Airmail Delivery overseas. If you want to order only one does that mean that you should add 50¢ for Airmail Delivery? I'm not certain on that point and have written for more detailed information. Either you can send an estimated amount and hope for the best or you can contact me to see if I've heard anything more definite. The place to order from is: J. Barnicoat, Cash Sales Department (Futura Publications), PO Box 11, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR10 9EN, England.

I have descriptions on each of the books (except #6) which the publisher sent to me. So, if you would like to know what each is about...

"House of Cards" by Peter Cave. Nicolai Perov, the top KGB agent operating in Britain, commits suicide.



His death sets in operation a deadly espionage plan - codenamed House of Cards - aimed at wiping out the entire British Secret Service by means of 'sleepers' - long-established agents planted in the country years earlier - programmed on receipt of a playing card to become mindless, deadly assassins.

A wave of terror is unleashed as the New Avengers struggle desperately against the unknown killers to learn the secrets of a dead man. Steed, Purdey, and Gambit find themselves in a nightmarish situation where friend and foe become indistinguishable and they have to wonder whether they can trust even each other. And then, it seems, dead men can tell tales.

"The Eagle's Nest" by John Carter. John Steed, bowler-hatted, imperturbable; Purdey, the ravishing ex-ballerina who has turned dancing into a lethal form of unarmed combat; and Mike Gambit, face not one but two deadly missions that lead them from a macabre ritual in a monastery on a lonely Scottish island to a factory of living death in the heart of London's dockland.

What is the significance of 20 April, which the strange monks take as the most important date in their calendar? And what is the real identity of the desperately sick 'saint' who lies in a coma, awaiting a medical genius to restore his consciousness?

"To Catch A Rat" by Walter Harris. This exciting new thriller about "The New Avengers" - John Steed, his ravishing, ex-ballerina assistant, Purdey, and Mike Gambit - centres on a vengeance trail for the White Rat, a traitor hidden somewhere in the highest echelons of British Intelligence, prepared to send colleagues to a terrible death in the Soviet Union - until his last victim. This man did not die, but after years in a mental home, recovered enough to enlist some formidable allies and set out on a mission of vengeance.

The New Avengers promised that, whatever the cost, they would help to identify and destroy the traitor known only as the White Rat.

"Fighting Men" by Justin Cartwright. John Steed, Mike

Gambit, and the beautiful, lethal, ex-dancer, Purdey, have only a limited time in which to discover the real purpose of 19th Special Commando before they, too, become execution targets for this sinister, murderous group, which disguises its true role behind the comfortable respectability of the British Army.

"The Cybernauts" by Peter Cave. Cumbersome, colossal, and deadly, they were metal robots emerging from a past everyone had believed dead: controlled by a man whose horrible mutilations in a car accident have turned him into a monster, half flesh, half machine.

This is the enemy the New Avengers - Steed, Purdey and Gambit - have to face when they discover that Professor Mason, Britain's leading expert on cybernetics, has been forcibly abducted from one of the most heavily guarded security establishments in the country.

They all sound great to me. It's one way to meet Purdey and Mike Gambit if CBS won't oblige us!

Since we are now gaining more members overseas I find that I failed to set postage rates for Airmail Delivery of article clippings overseas. So, as an addendum to the prices set in the last issue, please add 20¢ per 3 pages on regular size clippings and 20¢ per 2 pages for oversize copies if delivery will be overseas. I will print Airmail prices on the Article Clippings list from now on whenever the list is ordered.

We have a couple of additions to the Pen-Pal list since the last Newsletter:

HENRY C. CHMIELEFSKI, 523 Tatnall Ave., Glenolden, PA 19036. Interests: "The Avengers", "Modesty Blaise" (Film, book, or comic form), "Our Man Flint", "In Like Flint" films and fahrd and grey mouser. ((Fahrd and Grey Mouser?? I print it as I receive it, folks!)) Hobbies: writing, movie making.

PAM RHINE, 32936 Kelly Lane, Yucaipa, CA 92399. 27 years old, born December 31, 1950. Interests: Patrick Macnee, Linda Thorson, Oceanography, "Star Trek", reading and writing Sci-Fi, old novels.



There is a book out which should be available in your local bookstore that has several items about "The Avengers" included. The title is "TV Book" edited by Judy Fireman. It is dubbed as 'The Ultimate Television Book' and is published by Workman Publishing Company in New York. I shall refrain from judging on how 'Ultimate' the book is, but it certainly is very interesting; one of those books that you can look at for hours and be entertained without learning too much. There are hundreds of photos illustrating the history of television and television programming from its beginning to January of 1978. Along the lines of history there is an article, "Remembering Emma Peel" by Joseph Koch. There are also several small photos with captions concerning "The Avengers" and its stars. Price on the "TV Book" is \$7.95. You really should glance through it even if you feel the cost is unjustified. It is a pleasant reminder of all the wonderful shows which have come and gone over the years with a short look at television of the future.

Those of you who found the descriptions of "En Garde" in the last issue of interest will no doubt be pleased to know that we now have a boxful of original photo pages to send out with any copies ordered. The editor found a stash of extra pages while searching the basement and shipped them off to me. There is a large stack of photo covers and inside pages for issues #4, 5, and 6. As long as they last I will include them with orders for those issues at no extra charge. I will also sell, seperately, some of the inside photo pages to the "Forget-Me-Knot" transcript. There are 4 photo pages to the transcript, but I only have extra copies of 3. These are offset printed, two sides on each page; a total of 44 small photos from the last Emma Peel episode. The price for a set of 3 photo pages is 65¢, including 1st class postage. Also available, while supplies last, are single copies of the front cover from "En Garde" #4, front cover from issue #6, and back cover from issue #6. The #4 cover is a posed shot of Steed and Mrs. Peel looking forward, Steed speaking and Emma smiling. The front cover of #6 is the farewell between Mrs. Peel

and Steed, she with her hand on his tie, speaking. The back cover of #6 is a shot of Steed pushing some antique auto with Mrs. Peel in the driver's seat, watching. All cover photos are 8X10 black & white. These covers sell for 40¢ each or all three for \$1.00.

The profits from these photo pages will go to help offset some of my monetary losses caused by the Network. We are currently more than \$150 in the hole for the first three months of operation! Printing costs are terribly steep here in Longmont. I am also selling a couple of other items to benefit the Network:

Art Prints - of the "Steed" drawing used on the back of our first stationery and flyers. These are offset printed copies on heavy stock, white paper. Suitable for framing. If you haven't seen this drawing, it is 6 1/2" by 9 1/2" done in pointalism and is of a photo in "Look" magazine of Patrick Macnee. "The Avengers"/Patrick Macnee Fan Network stationery - This will be the same stationery that our new flyers are printed on. It is on 20# stock buff paper. The Fan Network title is printed across the top of the paper with a drawing of Steed below and to the left. The drawing is outlined with the outline extending down the left side of the sheet. The price is \$3.00 for 25 sheets including postage.

I have still heard nothing official on the "New Avengers" here in the US. Bill Bradshaw states that the news in England is that CBS has signed for the show. However, I received word from Henry Chmielefski that CBS is not buying "The New Avengers" but, rather, have taken on "Avengers, USA", also produced by Brian Clemens and Albert Fennel of "Avengers" fame. And CBS won't tell me anything. I have a couple more letters out to them and am hoping for a reply before this issue goes to the printer. If I don't hear from them I will call, once again, before printing and have something to tell, hopefully. If anyone else hears what's going on before I do please let me know so I can pass the news on. But I would prefer that you don't send me rumors. I have enough already!



# Garage Sale

If you know of any "Avengers" sales items send me the information, descriptions, prices, and ordering address so that I may print it for other members' use. Also, if you purchase any "Avengers" items which you feel are inferior quality, not worth the price, or if a firm cheats you in any way please send details of your complaint. Your experience may serve as a warning to other Network members.

I ordered a cataloge from Ken Pierce as detailed in the last issue of the newsletter and thought that you might be interested in what Ken has to sell. Not only did he send the catalog, but included copies of each "Avengers" photo he sells for my inspection. There are 8 shots available, all 8X10 black & whites. These are all posed publicity shots mostly of Emma Peel/Diana Rigg. Two shots include Patrick Macnee and one shows Mrs. Peel showing some poor gentleman the quickest way to the floor. The photos are matte finished prints, actually, not photographs, but are clear and good quality for the price you pay. The cost is 75¢ each or 6 for \$4.00. It says here to add 50¢ for handling on orders under \$4. There are also many other photos of various movie and TV stars from the 30's on (and maybe some from the 20's). Order numbers for the Diana Rigg (alone) shots are: K-62, K-39, 287, 212, and 202. Diana Rigg and Patrick Macnee together: 204 and 213. Emma Peel with unknown victim: 247. The response to my order was fairly speedy and the photos arrived in good condition.

I mentioned a page or so back that the editor of "En Garde" has been going through the basement and junk piles of late. Several items have been unearthed that she wishes to sell and which "Avengers" fans will undoubtedly be interested in. (Actually, the editor was a "he", Richard Schultz. But I have been corresponding with Richard's wife, Mandi, and will refer to her when speaking of the editor of "En Garde") A hearty "Thank you" to Richard and Mandi for taking

time to dig through all the cobwebs in response to my pleas for "Avengers" material. I thought that we were lucky when they came up with copies of "En Garde" for the Network's use...wait until you see what else they found!

First off, they have several "Avengers" slides which they will make duplicates of. These are 35mm, full-frame, color slides. Yes, I said "COLOR"! Some of these slides were sent for my inspection and they are beautiful. If you have a projector you will want to show these over and over again. Can you imagine a life-size Steed or Mrs. Peel in your living room?! If you don't have a projector you can have prints made from your slides. I have a couple of 5X7's and 8X10's made in this way and they turned out very nice. Quite sharp and with good color. Here are descriptions of what is available:

- E1 - RETURN OF THE CYBERNAUTS. Beresford (Peter Cushing) checks his new cybernaut, Emma Peel, to see if she's responding. Emma in lovely red suit.
- E2 - RETURN OF THE CYBERNAUTS. Cushing is entertaining Emma and they are admiring the copper bust that Steed didn't think too much of. Cushing in tie and tails. Emma in green velvet evening mini-dress.
- E3 - YOU HAVE JUST BEEN MURDERED. Emma is under the arch of the bridge and has just grabbed the suitcase of money that was thrown there.
- E4 - Emma, still in water, is being coached on a hold. Being demonstrated on is the scuba-diving villain.
- E5 - THE LIVING DEAD. Scene in the Pub - Mrs. Peel in red suit is at the bar laughing.
- E6 - NEVER, NEVER SAY DIE. Emma Peel, in blue cat suit, is about to try a blow or two on Christopher Lee.
- E7 - Fashion shot of Diana Rigg, reclining on a couch, wearing a very mini-dress, deep burgundy velvet, and holding 'Poopsie', her poodle.
- E8 - THE WINGED AVENGER. Mrs. Peel is painting a bit of abstract art. Green skirt, yellow turtleneck. Steed can be dimly seen in the background being made up prior to shooting the sequence.
- E9 - Side view, front lighted; Diana Rigg has a very big pout on her face and is toying with a large variety of chemical laboratory glassware arrayed in front of her. In maroon turtleneck.



E10- In maroon cat suit, Mrs. Peel has just discovered a cigar butt. She is standing outside her apartment and you can read the "Emma Peel" engraved on her door knocker.

E11- Emma in same maroon cat suit. She is in a chemical laboratory.

E12- THE LIVING DEAD. Mrs. Peel, in white overalls, is sitting alongside the engine of the '29 Bentley and looking very mystical. You can see the "Bentley" engraved on the top of the 4 1/2 Litre engine block.

E13- Same scene, a smile on Mrs. Peel's face.

E14- Same scene, a pensive look, as if to inquire, "What next?"

E15- MISSION: HIGHLY IMPROBABLE. Mrs. Peel talking on phone, perplexed expression. In white dress.

E16- MISSION: HIGHLY IMPROBABLE. Mrs. Peel in a sleeveless green dress is seated on a couch, speaking.

E17- MISSION: HIGHLY IMPROBABLE. A very mini-Peel awaits return to a more normal stature. She is dressed in a sea blue cat suit with white.

E18- MISSION: HIGHLY IMPROBABLE. In the 'General's' office, Mrs. Peel is discovering that inside the "toy" Saracen armoured car is a mini-Steed.

E19- SOMETHING NASTY IN THE NURSERY. Mrs. Peel, in blue cat suit, has just been zapped by a chemically treated "Baby Bouncer". She is leaning toward a revolving merry-go-round.

E20- THE JOKERS. Mrs. Peel, with a very warm smile, is behind the gramophone, winding it up. She is dressed in fire-engine red lounging pajamas.

E21- Same scene, perplexed look on Mrs. Peel's face.

E22- EPIC. Mrs. Peel is tied to a leaning chair which is about to be sent toward a large buzz-saw. Gloating over her misfortunes are Stewart Kirby and Damita Syn, the two aging film stars.

E23- THE 50,000 POUND BREAKFAST. Mrs. Peel seated on the floor of Steed's apartment, her arms around a pair of Bolzoi Russian Wolfhounds.

E24- Full-face shot of a very happy Mrs. Peel giving someone the business. Unknown sequence.

E25- THE LIVING DEAD. The FOG girl, Mandy, is in the uniform of the enemy. She and Mrs. Peel are in the underground city and Mrs. Peel is giving her a double cartoid squeeze to put her out of work.

E26- Mrs. Peel surrounded by cobwebs and musty racks.

E27- THE JOKERS. Emma sitting in high-backed rocking chair, unhappy expression. Red lounging pajamas.

E28- THE SEE-THROUGH MAN. Mrs. Peel in records office questioning look on her face. Dressed in white.

E29- Studio shot of Diana Rigg in sleeveless suit with hip holes and watch and chain. From hips up.

E30- HONEY FOR THE PRINCE. Emma in black leather suit is miming fight sequence. Ornate background.

E31- YOU HAVE JUST BEEN MURDERED. Mrs. Peel in dark blue leather suit with silver trimmings.

E32- Diana Rigg in patterned shift. Hair in curls.

E33- ESCAPE IN TIME. Emma at open doors with executioner.

E34- FEAR MERCHANTS. Mrs. Peel in black suede with midriff cut-outs, holding a horse pistol.

E35- Similar to E34, but different pose.

E36- Fashion shot of Diana Rigg, blue navy coat.

E37- Diana Rigg in red skirt outfit from THE LIVING DEAD.

E38- HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT. Emma confronts the computer.

E39- ESCAPE IN TIME. Emma talks with an East Indian girl.

E40- FROM VENUS WITH LOVE. Emma in the eye doctor chair.

E41- FORGET-ME-KNOT. Sean Mortimer and Mrs. Peel talk by Steed's fireplace, Sean trying to remember.

E43- BIRD WHO KNEW TOO MUCH. Emma being wrapped in flag.

E44- A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON MY WAY TO THE STATION. Mrs. Peel fighting in the club car.

E45- Julian Wintle and Diana Rigg on set from EPIC.

E46- A FUNNY THING HAPPENED...Same fight sequence as in E44. Someone sneaking up behind Mrs. Peel.

E47- THE CORRECT WAY TO KILL. Emma analyzing a cigar.

E48- THE JOKERS. Emma in corridor full of roses.

E49- Unidentified. Emma is facing some man

E50- SOMETHING NASTY IN THE NURSERY. Emma watching the merry-go-round after touching the "Baby Bouncer".

T25- WISH YOU WERE HERE. Tara lying on a bed.

T35- THE INTERROGATORS. Christopher Lee with Tara.

T62- THE FORGET-ME-KNOT. Tara in Mother's den.

G2 - Tara, Mother, Steed, and Rhonda.

G3 - Mother in pool.

SE3- Emma and Steed seated together. She is wearing a blue and white striped mini-dress with shocking pink hose. From THE WINGED AVENGER.

SE10- THE FORGET-ME-KNOT. Mrs. Peel and Steed in his apartment. The final farewell.



SE14-HONEY FOR THE PRINCE. The costume ball scene. Steed and Mrs. Peel in Directorate dress.

SE15-THE GRAVEDIGGERS. Steed has just rescued Mrs. Peel, everyone is laughing.

SE16-Fashion shot. Steed is in front with Emma leaning on his back, holding a Webley .44 on the camera.

SE17-Emma on couch in white pants outfit. Steed is sitting next to her. Pout on Mrs. Peel's face.

SE18-RETURN OF THE CYBERNAUTS. Steed is in a tux, Mrs. Peel is de-linting him.

SE19-THE FORGET-ME-KNOT. Steed and Emma in the green Bentley on their way to Mother.

SE23-THE LIVING DEAD. Mrs. Peel and Steed in the pub.

SE24-THE WINGED AVENGER. Steed and Mrs. Peel contemplating how the publisher was murdered.

S24- FEAR MERCHANTS. Steed in the ceramics test area.

S29- THE POSITIVE-NEGATIVE MAN. Steed leaning against the Bentley.

S40- THE 50,000 POUND BREAKFAST. Steed and Mrs. Rhodes at the ventriliquists' shop.

Mandi said that there used to be more, but they have disappeared to who-knows-where. If they show up sometime in the near future maybe we will be able to order some of those shots.

These are very rare slides and can not be purchased anywhere. So, of course, they want to take special care of them. They don't want to have the slides away from home for any length of time, so there will be only one run. The order will be sent in June 1st, 1978, so get your order and money to Mandi before then. Once the slides are sent in and come back there is a good possibility that you won't have another chance to order. Richard and Mandi say that they might consent to another run sometime in the future, but they're not promising anything.

Color slide duplicates are 50¢ each. With each order include a self-addressed, legal size envelope. For postage send one first-class stamp for every 8 slides ordered. Insurance is extra, and Mandi will not be responsible for orders lost in the mail. Payment will be accepted by money order only, made payable to Mandi Schultz. The address to send all this to is: 1649 Longfellow Court, Rochester, MI 48063. Prices

apply to orders from within the United States, only.

As for the other items which they have for sale: There are a bunch of Mrs. Peel/Mr. Spock covers which were printed for some project that never came about. The covers are 8 1/2" X 11", printed on heavy stock, black on white. The artwork is by Alicia Austin, who did quite a bit of illustrating in "Star Trek" fandom. The work is pen and ink with screen shading. Mrs. Peel is shown full-face, head slightly tilted, a slight smile on her face. She is looking to the side where Spock, in back of her, is shown semi-profile.

Also for sale is an original copy of "En Garde" #6. This fanzine went out of print long ago and is no longer available, except through me in photo-copied form. A true collector's item, indeed. This issue has full-page photo covers, front and back. It contains a transcript of the episode "Forget-Me-Knot" which is illustrated with 60 photographs (taken off of a TV set) which are surprisingly good. It also has an article about how to shoot photos from the TV, "What a Way to Take a Trip!" by John Mansfield (a first person account of what it was like to visit the "Avengers" set during filming), partial episode lists, reprints of several articles concerning "The Avengers" and a couple of articles about "The Prisoner" TV show. One of these "Prisoner" articles comes up with an explanation of how The Village was responsible for Emma Peel's departure from "The Avengers". Interesting. And, of course, there is the usual editorial, letter column, and such. In my opinion, this is the best issue of "En Garde" which Richard published. Pages are numbered to 109. Some lucky person can own an original copy of this item. If you miss out, though, I still have a copy from which I can make you a copy...

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Ooops! I forgot to print the price of the art prints mentioned on page 17. They are \$1 each including 1st class postage. Art prints and stationery will be mailed flat in large envelopes.



Mandi also has several 5" reel-to-reel tapes of "Avenger" episodes which she is willing to part with for a price.

For "Prisoner" fans: There are several copies of a fanzine devoted to that show. It is 76 pages, mimeo with offset printed photos and covers. There are detailed summaries of all the episodes included.

#### And Now For The Prices:

The Mrs. Peel/Mr. Spock covers are \$1 each, postpaid. There are 91 of them and the original has vanished to who-knows-where. So when supplies run out there will be no more printed! Order these covers from Mandi Schultz at the same address listed on page 22. Money orders only, please.

The original copy of "En Garde #6" is now in my possession, so the first order to reach me takes it. The price is \$7.00, which includes postage by first class mail to within the US or Canada. If the order comes from overseas the price would be \$8.50 to cover Air Mail Postage. All orders should include a SASE so that if you miss out I can return your money. Order from the address on the title page of this Newsletter.

For more information and prices on the "Avenger" tapes send a SASE to Mandi. She will inform you of what episodes are available and the cost of each.

The "Prisonerzine" is \$2.00 postpaid and can be ordered from Mandi.

Is anyone interested in obtaining original "Avengers" artwork which appeared in "En Garde"? There is quite a bit of it around and Mandi is willing to sell it if someone is interested. If you would like to know what is available drop me a line (since I have most of it here at the moment).

That's the lowdown on what is for sale from Richard and Mandi. Please note that slide orders may be sent in a little after June 1st, depending on the response. So please allow a reasonable amount of time for slides to reach you. Keep in mind that this is a fan undertaking and not professionally run. Mandi is supplying us with these items in her spare time, delays might pop up unexpectedly. Please be patient.

#### FOOT IN MOUTH!

(Additions, Corrections, and things I forgot to put where they belong.)

I just received official instructions for ordering the "New Avengers" paperbacks from J. Barnicoat. (See page 13) I am told that each book is \$3 including Airmail delivery, \$2 for surface mail. Book #4, "Fighting Men", is out of print and currently unavailable. They do not carry "John Steed" by Tim Heald, but can special order it. The price is \$15 if sent Airmail, \$12 for surface mail. I might point out that surface rate mail is slow. So unless you want to chance waiting several months for delivery of these items you should probably spring for the extra postage money.

"THE NEW AVENGERS" IS COMING TO THE US!!!!  
It is official, signed, and definite. So break out the champagne. Let's see, what was that brand Steed was so fond of...

"The New Avengers" will debut on American television September 15, 1978, or thereabouts. CBS has purchased 26 episodes and will be airing them at 11:30 PM. That may be a little late for some people, but it's just about right for me, so I'm not complaining. Perhaps if the show puts in a good run at the ratings it will be changed to a more reasonable hour.

I should have publicity material and information about the new series within a month. Issue #4 of the Newsletter will go into a bit more detail on the characters and such.

Mr. Don O'Neil in Programming at CBS has been very helpful and informative about the show. I would like to thank him and wish CBS the best of luck with "The New Avengers".

That about does it for this issue. I hope that you have enjoyed and been informed. Please feel free to comment or make suggestions. And especially feel free to contribute!

Your subscription expires with issue # \_\_\_\_\_



