

TIGHTBEAM
January, 1974

This issue of *Tightbeam*, the letterzine of the National Fantasy Fan Federation, is edited and published by Don Markstein, whose address is unimportant for the reason that mail shouldn't go to me, but to the editor of the March issue,

BETH SLICK
546 E. Wilson
Orange, CA 92667

But it's still Demented Turkish Dwarf Press publication #220, AM83, TSSA, and Printed in occupied CSA. How 'bout that!

Today is January 19. I expect to be finished with the stencilling of this zine within three days, at most, which wouldn't make the issue late despite the fact that the mimeo popped a band and tore its silkscreen last week, despite the fact that I'm looking intensively for a job (which is no part-time activity in this Nixonian America--but there *is* a light at the end of the tunnel [probably belonging to a train about to smash me flat] in that a public relations job at Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries *may* be offered to me Monday), and despite the fact that I'm hampered in my fanac by having to stay with friends (Norman Elfer says hi) while I look for a new place to live.

No, what may make this issue late is the fact that after I run it off, I have no idea in the world where to send it. My N3F roster seems to have gotten packed up with the rest of my fanzines when I moved out of my old place, and currently resides somewhere in the middle of fourteen cubic feet of mimeographed material. I've written to Stan in desperation, hoping he could send me a Xerox of his roster or something. He writes back that he's asked Janie to do so, but I haven't heard from Janie yet. Until I do, the issue just doesn't get mailed.

I suppose I would be less than an editor if I didn't have an editorial. Lucky for me, a topic suggests itself. In the previous issue of *Tb*, Janie said, "If it takes a drunken bet to get Markstein to run for president how many bets would it take to get him to do the job if he was elected. This in my mind is just a way of ridiculing the N3F, and it's been established that I am a 200 percent NEFFER." Let me slip into the typeface I plan to use throughout this zine for editorial comments. There.

I'm not a 200 percent *anything*, Janie, and I could argue that the last thing *any* organization needs is a 200-percenter running it--but that would become far too serious a discussion to cap off the fine frivolous campaign my intrepid campaign managers, George Wells and Ned Brooks, ran for me.

The campaign was fun, Janie. That's all. Just fun. I've been running fun-type campaigns for office in the New Orleans Science Fiction Association for years now. They began in the midst of a rather bitter feud, but by their second year they'd become excuses for fabulous claims of political prowess and gutterfilth jibes at The Opposition--all in fun and mostly taken as same (tho there was one regretted incident that second year that reopened briefly one of the old feud wounds). This last year, those bastards got even with me by electing me, and I'm now president of the club. Surprisingly to everyone, including myself, I've turned out to be just about the most popular president it's had in years. And when you clear away all the extravagant claims that weren't meant to be believed, all you've got left in my campaign is the promise to serve faithfully and to the best of my ability if elected.

That was my promise in this N3F campaign. By the terms of the agreement to run, making that promise was all I was supposed to do. And Janie, you've known me long enough to know that that word was all that was necessary. If I'd been elected president of this organization, I would have been a good pre-

sident. I have enough confidence in my abilities to know that I could have done it, and as for how good the promise was--there's only one person in all of fandom who would denigrate my word, and his own reputation is none too good.

But even this gets overly serious. The N3F has a good president, after all is said and done. It would also have had a good president had I won. I don't know yet whether or not George and Ned are planning to run me again. If they do, I make the same promise, and I'm sure they'll run the same campaign (and I nearly choked when I saw Ned promising to give me the same fine support as N3F president that he gave me as SFPA OE--he opposed practically everything I did). And may the best man win. Or the second-best, rather. Otherwise, I've got it!

And now down to business...the letters. In no particular order:

SHARON WHITE, 628 W. 10th St., Long Beach, Ca. 90813

This is going to have to be a short letter. I have been wanting to write a letter to *Tightbeam* before but somehow I kept putting it off til now.

I'm sorry that I missed getting to Torcon 2. From all reports I've had it was a great con. Ever since L.A.Con I've had the con bug. I just got back from my fifth con last week.

~~Dorothy Jones, our visit went by too quickly for us too. Maybe we can get back up to see you again soon.~~

Argee, I'm sorry to hear about your having to drop the Manuscript Bureau and I was just about ready to write you for more stories. My zine is finally coming along splendidly and I'm going to need art, stories and articles.

Rose Hogue, you have done a really fantastic job on the Welcomittee and the Round Robins. I hope I can do an equally good job on the Welcomittee. I'm looking forward to it. Speaking of Round Robins. It seems like all the robins I'm in have flown the coop, so you can put me down for a story robin if you would. I've never done one of those before. It should be quite interesting.

GEORGE SENDA, 340 Jones St. #1163, San Francisco, Ca. 94102 says he's innocent, but I don't think there's a single person in fandom who escaped getting that letter, so I won't bother to print it.

STAN WOOLSTON, 12832 Westlake St., Garden Grove, Ca. 92640

[Note: This is gleaned from what I consider to be of general interest from three separate letters from Stan. Two of those letters went to Beth Slick, and if her ideas of what's of general interest are broader than mine, she may opt to print other parts of them.]

For your information, I can say for President Stan Woolston got 40 votes, Don Markstein 36, George Wells 2. Close! [I demand a runoff between the top two candidates! Besides, those results can't possibly be official, since I've not yet been notified by the vote counter.]

And I might as well pass along Directorate votes too: Joanne Burger got 75, Sheryl Birkhead 59, Rose Hogue 55, Ned Brooks 47, and Gary Mattingly 45--and with no ties this means they are in the Directorate. Roy Tackett got 42, Stan Woolston 33 votes, Tim C. [that's Timsie] Marion 19, George Wells 8, and Kaymar Carlson 2 (with Janie Lamb, Frank Denton, Don Markstein, Kenneth R. Frost, Mary Sweatman, Sharon White, Dean Sweatman and Harry Warner Jr. 1 apiece).

Now about the new *Tb* editor: Beth Slick sought the job without any reservations; she has the machine available, is willing to do it, and in fact wants to do it. The one other person who might have had the job, Kenneth R. Frost, is hospitalized--and so his doing it seems uncertain at this time. However, I think he might well provide a service to his Canadian fellow-fans if he wants to provide a sort of Canadian section.

By Canadian section, I mean a place where news, letters and so on by Canadians who'd like to write to him as a sort of editor of a Canadian section--not just limited to things about Canada, but including that. It could in fact have info on clubs in that country, information on Canadian sf and fantasy (and anything else they want to write about) as well as whatever is of interest from other parts of the world. Canadian BSFA members might have observations about BSFA,

or others on non-U.S. amateur press associations they may know about.

Of course, if other Canadian fans write direct to Beth, their letters would be used--and in fact perhaps it would be best that Beth put the letters in with the others if she wanted--maybe grouping some by subject matter or for some other reason in certain sections or areas of the publication. But if grouped, and edited by you, Kenneth, you could answer queries, in notes after their letters, perhaps better than Beth might (for I imagine you know more about Canadian fan matters than she). At least this is an idea that I think you and Beth can work out between you.

For your information, Sharon White is new Welcommittee gal (after the holidays). Rose will remain as a Wc member, and keep up with robin listings.

I've still not had a volunteer to handle the Manuscript Bureau. Like all volunteers, people who correspond are apt to find themselves considered more seriously than those who seem not to correspond. The Manuscript Bureau is for art as well as articles and other materials, and covers all areas of fanstuff including personal columns, reports, criticisms and both fanfiction and poetry. The Mss Bu is a center for faneditors (especially those of genzine sorts--though personalzines with a little imagination could use some of their stuff too). It would take some "building"--locating willing editors, and more writers...but I think it's a very good project. Any takers?

I didn't mention it to anyone, but I was tempted when I typed Janie's letter in *Tb* to comment that Don Markstein was a 200 percenter too--or 200 proof. But why should I get all drunken Neffers to vote for you, I asked myself. [So I'd win, of course. That way, you wouldn't...but...oh, good Lord! I just realized! you mean you actually *wanted* to win? Well, congratulations.]

What you say about editorializing or commenting on Janie is something I'd have to see before I commented on it. Sometimes I think it is apparent that fans are human, capable of having either a sense of humor that another human (fan) doesn't really understand, and it seems to me either of you two may need a bit of insight into this. [I understand perfectly, Stan, and I'm sure Janie does too. But I was somewhat put out by her comments in the last *Tb*, even tho I doubt she'd have made them if she'd thought about it.]

I imagine, Beth, you'll mention *Star Trek* in *Tb*. We've quite a few members who enjoy it (I use the present tense from watching replays, and could even for the new version on animation). (If Mother was a Neffer she'd probably speak of *Star Trek* favorably. She also liked *Time Tunnel*, which seems to have disappeared forever. I liked both.)

Did you want to suggest N3F have a *ST* activity? Actually we can use some of that in any of our zines--but of course I'd think it would be logical for you to mention some of your own publications in *Tb* and *TNFF*. Anything that is newsworthy would be welcomed by Sheryl Birkhead--and an occasional feature could probably be placed in *TNFF* by sending it to Joanne. The important thing about activities in N3F is to have someone interested enough to get involved. The pages of a clubzine is a place where continuous inflow of material is needed--and anything of news value, or readable (like a fanzine) should be brought to attention of the membership.

But--I wonder, Beth--is your interest in TV more than *ST*? If so, I would appreciate seeing something on that interest in *TNFF* or *Tb*.

Movies and TV fare (fantasy or sf) provides interest to me, even if I am not so oriented to either as some people are. I'm selective in ways not necessarily the same as other fans. (Tim Marion has mentioned *Kung Fu* in his fanzine: I like it as much as any of the programs being produced today--but I don't even include the *ST* program because I've not seen a single animated sequence.) *KF* may not be fantasy, but...in its own way, it's out of this world.

DAVID SHANK, 30 East Laurel St., Lawrence, Mass. 01843

I read in *Locus* 150 that Tim Kirk's first Hallmark creation has been a 1974 Bambi linen calendar. Some may think that this isn't a good start, by heck--it's good enough. I'll buy it. It won't be long that my local card shops will carry Kirk cards. I've pestered a stationery store in Andover in telling me when Kirk cards appear. I've looked far and wide and Tim's first creation will wind up at the bookstore across the street from my business school. They carry

Tolkien (God rest his soul) calendars and other items, including posters. I'm still waiting to see Odd John in Penguin paperback.

Russ Parkhurst: Enjoyed your October cover. Elinor Poland raved about your work and now I get a chance to see a sample at last. Resembles a bit of Joe Staton work I saw in a single copy of Rich Brown's *Beardmutterings*. Will you ever send cartoons and work to *Title*, *Kwalhioqua* and the upcoming *Doric*?

To those who I saw at TorCon: Gary Mattingly--I'm so glad that you had some nerve to unflinchingly watch me polish off a complete Japanese dinner at the Benihara of Tokyo while you only had ice cream. That takes real guts, Gary.

And for *Garth Danielson* and *Joe Krolak*, Winnipeg fandom does exist. It was nice to see you. Too bad *James Hall* couldn't come with *Chester Cuthbert*--I could've started a Winnipeg fan upsurge demonstration! Frout!

For Jackie Freas: I'm still in love with you.

To Sean Summers: You broke me up severely with those cards.

To Frank and Matt--I don't need last names--everyone knows who they are or *what* they are. [Who and what?] Gee, Frank, are you sure Matt isn't a clone extension of yourself?

Sheryl Birkhead: I love you, too.

Don Markstein: I'm sorry I never locced your fanzine, but it was very enjoyable. I love Daffy Duck too. [Yeah, but I love Daffy Duck only when he's directed by Chuck Jones, as in *The Scarlet Pumpernickel* and *Duck Dodgers in the 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ th Century*.] I get guilt feelings whenever I watch the Loonie Toons. Sober people would call them childish, but being as stoned (on animated fun) as I am, I say foo to them. I'm not going to be a closet cartoon kook. [One of the advantages to having bought comic books all one's life is that by about the middle 20s or so one has developed a technique for staring down those who think one childish. I find it quite useful.]

I think the worst gook ever put out had to be by Hanna & Barbera. I'd say the *Huckleberry Hound* and *Yogi Bear* series were good, but when *The Flintstones* and their Saturday morning groupie hip swill came, they reached their nadir. [I dunno--I sort of think their nadir is yet to come, God help us. I'd disagree with you on the two you like, incidentally. Personally, I don't think Hanna & Barbera have done anything worthwhile since *Ruff & Reddy*, which was funny but not very well animated, and *Tom & Jerry*, which was decently animated but not very funny. You pays your money and you takes your choice. *The Flintstones* is, as you say, wretched. In situation it's swiped whole hog from *The Honey-mooners*, which is so good that even now, twenty years after I first saw them, I'm laughing at their reruns. But *The Flintstones* captured none of that, and has absolutely nothing at all to recommend it.]

The best cartoons were put out by those who created *Bullwinkle*, *Tennessee Tuxedo* and Warner Bros. [I've never been a *Tennessee Tuxedo* fan to any great extent, but Jay Ward, the creator of *Bullwinkle*, ranks up there with Chuck Jones as one of the two greatest comic geniuses ever produced in the animation field. The Disney bunch has some of the greatest craftsmen, but for sheer enjoyment, give me Jones and Ward. Warner Brothers is variable. The ones directed by Jones--including all the early *Road Runner*, Bugs Bunny classics like the ones containing the Tasmanian Devil and that little Martian character, and lots of others--are great. But they had some rotten directors, too.] Early WB cartoons were very complex in in-jokes on Hollywood celebrities if you watch *Porky's Naughty Nephew* and *Porky's Store* and others. Daffy Duck had to be the craziest and best character. Road Runner and Pepe LePew? Semi-good, contrary to your tastes.

Walt Disney never qualifies if you enjoy short cartoon features, and they butchered time-honored children's classics, but I'll admit they were great epics. Pre-1960s Disney cartoons with Mickey, Donald and others. [It's kind of difficult for me to appreciate animated Donald Duck cartoons, since I suffer under a handicap. To me, the One, True, Authentic Donald Duck is the comic book character as depicted by Carl Barks (whose work I'm collecting toward completion--I'm 2/3 there). I just can't accept that squawking moron.]

Animation experiements like *Fritz the Cat* and *Heavy Traffic*, no matter how disgusting, are good because they are milestones in the serious introduction of animation to adults, even if they were X and R rated and crude.

I forgot the Popeye cartoons as next to WB as the best. [The original Popeye cartoons of the early 1930s, by Max Fleischer, were classics, every last one, I could see *Sinbad the Sailor*, *Alladin*, *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* or any of those any number of times, and never get tired of them. Toward the late 30s and early 40s, they went down some. In the late 40s and early 50s, there were two directors doing them. Seymour Kneitel directed some really funny cartoons--I've enjoyed them even tho I've seen them all any number of times. But I. Spärber did some real travesties. Even the original stuff he did was dull, but his mainstay was to dream up some ridiculous excuse to use footage from the earlier Fleischer material--usually *Sinbad* or *Ali Baba*. Even so, his taste ran to action scenes, and the fantastic depth of background that Fleischer managed to animate was seldom present. As for the Popeye cartoons of the 60s, I disdain comment.]

Someday there will be a person or company who present legitimate animated adult stories--think of the science fiction, fantasy and mainstream stories that can't possibly be presented by live action that can be presented in animation. [*Lord of the Rings* springs to mind immediately. Unfortunately, the only studio that could do the animation would be Disney, and the only artist for the storyboards would be Walt Kelly. Kelly is dead, and as for Disney...well, picture if you will Seven Hobbits...Fangorn played by Baloo...Gandalf by Merlin...Smeagol by Si and Am...Strider by Prince Charming...bleah!]

Single File should be out soon--#2. I'll send you a copy in January or whenever I get it made up. Promise you'll send *Tandstikkerzeitung*? [Sure--soon as I get #5 out--Real Soon Now.]

JOHN ROBINSON, 1 - 101st St., Troy, N.Y. 12180

I need short stories, poems and artwork suitable for ditto to use in *Sensawonda*. Please notify all Neffers through the first Tb available. Stories should not exceed 2500 words. They should be sent, along with a SASE, to the address above. Note: you get a free copy of *Sensawonda* just for trying.

Sorry to hear you lost. It was a tight race. Too bad Joanne Burger sent me my ballot Dec. 4 or I'd have supported the Drinking Man's Candidate. You've got to try again, of course, and you should be successful in 1974. Will you be using a new batch of campaign literature or will new material be coming out soon? [Damned if I know, John. I'm not the one in charge of this ridiculous campaign. I'm only the ~~job~~ candidate. George Wells keeps promising a campaign biography of me, which I think I'd best repudiate in advance (lies! all lies!). If I see Kelly Freas this summer, I may ask him to do a new picture, since I've got a whole year's worth of new wrinkles and gray hairs--I look completely different, doncha know. Anything else is up to those weirdos running me.]

SHERYL BIRKHEAD, address unknown till I get a copy of the roster

I hope new editor-pubbers bodes well for the appearance of Tb throughout 1974.

I'm curious about what most Neffers would like to see (kept) in print. Such zines as *The Neofan's Guide*, *Filksinging*, *Enchanted Duplicator* seem logical candidates to me, but is that a representative listing? [I dunno. Personally, I would just love to be able to get hold of a copy of *Fancylopedia-II*. I've got the *Fancylopedigest*, of course, but that seems a poor substitute. But I notice all of these things mentioned are what those who enjoy categorizing things call "faanish." Most sercon stuff ages badly, but then so does most faanish. When I packed up to move, I couldn't resist rereading some old SFRs, even tho I didn't have the time to spare, and they were still good. The *Double Bill Symposium* would be nice. Worth thinking about. Other suggestions?]

Are Neffers interested in the Publications' Bureau and would there be any demand for zines put out by the Bureau?

There is a lot of room for active people. For instance, are there any of you willing to type stencils (even if you *don't* have a duplicator) for zines?

The News Bureau needs news, con reports and just plain information in general--any takers?

A lot can be received, but *someone* is going to have to help give.

DE-ELECT THE PRESIDENT!

It occurs to me that the epithet at the bottom of the previous page could be taken in either of two ways. It was intended to be directed toward the president whose slogan it most resembles, but you can apply it to another president if you like, tho I claim no responsibility for such foolishness.

KENNETH R. FROST, 64 Bedle Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2H 1K8

I am now home from the hospital (as of the 14th of November) and feeling extremely well both physically and mentally (this latter state can be attributed in a large part to the communications I have had with the Meffers who have written). I am now permitted to leave the house and have started on the "reconstruction" phase of my recovery. This entails the gradual increase of physical activity over the next thirty days until I'm walking about 5 miles a day. During the interval, there is no restriction on my mental or writing activities other than a decreasingly frequent need to take a break (about 1 hour's sleep). I also avoid working to "hard" deadlines (those that require more hours of work than are actually available), although this is avoided with reasonable planning. I should be back to work by mid-January '74, and will be involved in the "stress" game again to some degree, but to a much lesser degree than in the past. Part of the recovery process involved in my form of heart attack is learning to maintain a balance of activities, which is one of the reasons I will be making sure that I have time for writing, photography, art-work, and, among other things, fan activities. (For those who might be interested, my line is Computers, specifically problems and applications at the "state-of-the-art" level, which tends to draw one on 'till your whole world is focused on the job at hand, and you forget virtually everything else.) What my attacks consisted of was a two stage infarction. That is, a blood vessel and heart muscle pair partially failed the first time and completed the job the second. This is usually brought on by stress and, since it is localized to the one pair, does not indicate a high probability of future attacks in other areas, but does require therapy and a definite effort to avoid "loosing track" of the reak K.R. Frost under the press of work and family demands. Ergo, involvement with N3F is by definition "good," since it will let me put my head where it's really at, creative and interpersonal communications.

To round out the recovery picture, the next stage, after I'm back to the grind, involves a controlled physical-fitness program at one of the local clinics (controlled: they wire you up with remote sensors cum an astronaut and watch and record the effects). The assumption being made by both my own doctor and the specialist is that I should be able to undertake virtually any physical activity I wish by this time next year. While all this physical activity is going on, my own doctor, who has a background in hypnotherapy, will be training me in the use of auto-hypnosis to destress myself and also break some of my more revolting addicitons, such as smoking.

~~In any event, enough about medicine and my state of health.~~ It will certainly be adequate to undertake any fannish activities and efforts in the creative area. The question at issue is "what specifically" and "how much." You [Stan] have suggested that I act as a "backup" for Beth and as a local focal point. The former is a very good idea, if agreeable to Beth, although it will probably be a couple of months before I have a "press" of any form immediately accessible. (My wife and I are looking but haven't settled on anything yet). The latter approach is also quite acceptable, if you keep in mind that I'm just getting back into fandom and all the linkages are far from complete. I do intend to contribute to various fanzines in some form (story, poem, column, graphics) as I generate material and find takers. Ultimately, I'd like to have a crack at full-fledged publishing in the fan field, but I still have a lot to learn. I'm currently Assoc. Ed and production Mgr. for Mensa Canada's monthly journal MC², and that's teaching me a lot, plus providing one other outlet for writing, in the non-speculative area. One of my problems in the fanworld is tracking down the various zines that might want material. Which brings me to the next topic.

You mentioned the Manuscript Bureau in your letter, with a rough summary of its intent. From this, I have arrived at the following impression of how it all would work. Essentially it would be a repository and dispersal point for materials that are available to the various editors of fanzines, issuing a monthly

bulletin or catalogue to all zines that register and distributing material on behalf of the originators, subject to any conditions they may feel should apply (for example, the author of a mss may feel a certain zine is of such poor quality that he or she wouldn't wish to give access). If this is essentially correct (and feel free to say so if it isn't), I have the time, the filing space (a 5-level, 2300 sq. ft. back-split), and, hopefully, will have built a network of correspondence soon that will make it work.

Well, that about sums up the working me. My personal sf areas I'll leave for another letter. I think I've run off at the fingertips sufficiently for this epistle. I'm willing and available. Have at me! [Let me know when you're sorry you opened your big mouth.]

GARY S. MATTINGLY, 7529 Grandview Lane, Overland Park, Ks. 66204 sent in a full-page directorate report and a promise of a report on the Club Bureau and the Publication Bureau in the moderately near future, but I think such material is better published in TNFF. Beth may disagree, in which case she can publish it.

G.H. WELLS, 24 River Avenue, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901

I've heard you lost the NSF election by 5 votes, more or less. I'll have to put all my "impeach the president" propaganda in storage. Well, now we have another year free for campaigning [I can hardly wait]--maybe I'll get that campaign biography written...

Been reading *The Crystal Man*, by Edward Page Mitchell, stories published in newspapers, anonymously in the 1870s. Pretty good stuff. Also just read the March issue of *Shazam*. [If anybody's interested, *Shazam*, featuring the one-and-only-genuine-original Captain Marvel Himself, is one of my favorite current comic books, tho how long it will remain so now that C.C. Beck is no longer doing the artwork is anybody's guess.]

Have been drinking to your health--but I may go on the wagon. [I can see the headlines--"Wells On Wagon! Seventeen breweries dry up!" Anywho, I've been drinking to your health too--but only when the only thing available is Tree Frog Beer. You're weird, Wells, you know that? Wee-ee-eird!]

MURRAY MOORE, Box 400, Norwich, Ontario, Canada NOJ 1P0

For some reason I feel moved to comment that I was recently criticized by a former Canadian for leaving only one space after the period at the end of a sentence and the first letter in the first word of the next sentence, this being evidence, if more was needed, of my being a liberal with perhaps radical tendencies. [If you split your infinitives, like Dave Shank did in his third paragraph, that would be virtual proof. Pinko!]

It was Friday the 12th or Saturday the 13th that I heard, at the 9th Detroit Triple Fan Fair, of the death of Walt Kelly. There was a time when I became annoyed at his seemingly endless, perennial (actually it seemed weekly) [actually it was monthly] Friday the 13th comes on a ___ day gag. I got used to it though and it became an acceptable day filler, a piece of Kellyism that was intrinsic, one of his identifiable characteristics that you would miss if it were to disappear, in the same way as if a close friend of many years shaved off the beard he'd worn ever since you'd first met. [Sort of like the perennial--really perennial, this time--argument between Beauregard and the rest over whether the proper words to "The Carol" were "Deck us all with Boston Charlie" or "Bark us all bow wows of folly."] The right and proper thing to do, of course, is to drop the strip, as was done with *Krazy Kat*.

An era has passed in comic strips: *Doonesbury* will never be the same.

I shouldn't have said of course *Pogo* should be dropped. If you don't happen to agree it probably seems very pompous. [On the contrary, I think any other attitude would be an admission that The Hall Syndicate's interest in the strip was greater than Kelly's own--when Kelly is only the creator and the sole reason it was great. But the strip will continue under a syndicate hack, just as *Bringing Up Father* continued after George McManus died, just as *Thimble Theater* continued after the death of E.C. Segar, just as dozens of strips have been mutilated and degraded by inferior treatment after their creators were no longer in control (Hal Foster is still alive, but *Prince Valiant* under John

