

Comics filled a void then — and now

I WILL tell you a secret if you promise never to breathe a word of it to another living soul.

Late at night, when my family is in bed and most of the neighbors seem to be asleep, I read comic books.

I know, I know. Somebody who can remember when Sparkle Plenty was a baby should have long since grown bored with such "trivialities."

Well, I haven't.

Though there are a few of these pulp little publications I don't care for much, my persistently enthusiastic interest runs the gamut from things like *Casper*, the *Friendly Ghost*, to *The Amazing Spider-Man* and his ilk, to Archie Andrews and all the gangless gang at Riverdale High.

I guess you could say I'm serious about comic books.

OBVIOUSLY, THIS has been going on for awhile. When I was a kid, I simply couldn't get enough of comic books. I can remember many times after "lights out" at our house, pulling the covers over my head, flicking on a trusty little pen light I kept under my pillow for just such occasions and continuing to read and re-read the latest adventures of Sheena, Queen of the Jungle, even though my mother had threatened my life if she ever caught me "doing such a thing AGAIN!"

Retirement party calls for special colors

Q: A number of us are getting together to give a retirement party for a very dear friend. I'm in charge of decorations and would like to achieve a look that complements his sophistication and dignity, yet be festive enough for a party. The room we've rented for the occasion has a brass chandelier hanging from a high ceiling, but otherwise has no decorative features.

A: My suggestion is to use a blue, green, and gold accented color theme. Essentially, green signifies dynamic balance and growth; blue, calm and reason; and gold, hope and aspiration. In short, these colors represent ideally what a retirement is supposed to be. Something not mourned as an end, but as starting a new phase to a person's life.

In stores that sell party decorations you should be able to find table runners in 100 foot lengths, paper plates, napkins, streamers, and other decorations in the bright blue, green, and gold. Because of the more sophisticated imagery, I wouldn't use balloons, but the paper spheres in-



book break Victoria Diaz

"You've got to get out of the house more," she used to say to me, exasperated. As I sat around, lay around, stood around, with my nose in a comic book.

So, I'd gather up my reading material and take it outside to read.

Aside from school books, there were not a lot of "real" books in my home during a good part of my childhood. Until I entered my teens, no public library existed in the small town where I grew up, and the school library was off-limits to anyone below the sixth grade.

Bookstores, of course, were nonexistent there (they still are), but, had there been dozens of them, it would have made little difference in my life, since I could have rarely afforded to buy books, anyway.

COMICS WERE another thing, however. They only set me back 10 cents apiece, and dimes were not so terribly hard to come by as dollars.

So, longing to read, I bought comic books and eventually owned a pretty impressive collection of around 500 or so by the time I was 12 years old.

Then I fell in love and my collection got messed up a little. Not surprisingly, the object of my affection was an avid comics fan, too, and like me, his favorite pastime was reading comic books. I can remember spending an entire afternoon once, doing nothing but delving through our respective collections and negotiating serious trades.

Somewhat, I ended up with a lot of Roy Rogers and Gene Autry comics — things I cared for very little. And he ended up with some of my favorite issues of *Captain Marvel*, *Wonder Woman*, and the aforementioned *Sheena*. Love can make you pretty stupid, I guess.

ANYWAY, THAT, was then and this is now. And here I am, with this abiding predilection.

What to do?

I've decided to indulge it.

On Sunday, Oct. 1, I'm going to visit a comics convention for "comcon," as they say. After I pay my \$1.50 admission at the door of the American Legion Hall at 12 Mile and Rochester Roads in Royal Oak, I'm

going to step inside, and lose myself in all the magic of 100,000 comic books.

I'm also hoping to meet and talk with others who share my enthusiasm. Maybe I'll run into somebody who will be impressed by the fact that one of my dreads designs once appeared in an issue of *Heavy Metal Comics* (Believe me, this is not something that comes up often in normal, everyday conversation).

Maybe I'll run into somebody who remembers Red Lantern or Bucky Bug or maybe even *Bumazine*.

WHO KNOWS — I might even make a very modest investment or two, although I certainly won't be bringing home any mind-boggling financial treasure like the 1919 Detective Comics No. 27 (containing the first episode of "Batman") that sold somewhere last year in near-mint condition for a cool \$35,000. (If we think positively, by assuming that No. 27 was sold by its original owner, that's not a bad return on a dime.)

Really though, my reasons for taking in the concon will have nothing at all to do with money, of course. I'm just going for the pure pleasure of hanging out in close proximity to 100,000 copies of a unique form of literature that went a long way toward nurturing in a young, voracious reader a lifelong enchantment with books of every kind.

I can't wait.



all about color Helen Diane Vincent

stead.

Use the table runner also as swags, anchored from the chandelier, and attached to each of the four corners of the room, thereby creating a tent-like effect. Alternate your tables with blue or green covers, using the blue napkins on the green, and green napkins on the blue table cover. Yellow chrysanthemums would make appropriate centerpieces, and each table should be strewn with yellow, blue and green confetti. If your budget allows, use sequins instead at the guest of honor's table. And have fun.

Q: Our 10-year-old son loves to ride his bicycle with his friends in the neighborhood. Even though he's not permitted to go out on any major road, I'm still concerned about his

safety riding on local streets. Aside from the reflectors on his bicycle, are there any other precautions we could take that involve color?

A: Wearing a bright yellow jacket or shirt will help to make your son much more visible than any other color, especially if the garment incorporates a black, red, or navy stripe on the back. With brilliant colors so popular among the very young today, this coloration should be too difficult to locate, or make him feel out of place.

The high visibility of yellow is one of the reasons it serves in so many products where safety is a key consideration, such as school buses and life jackets.

Also be aware the time for great-

est precaution is around sunset, when all color contrasts tend to blur, or are minimized to varying degrees.

Q: As a younger woman, I had a strong attraction to bright orange and I used it a lot in my decorating and clothing. Over the years my color preferences shifted to browns, and now my favorite color is dark red. I think of myself as having a fairly happy life, raising a family with the help of a devoted husband. Only recently have the children left home for jobs out of state. Is there something significant in this shift in color preferences?

A: What you are experiencing, in part, is very normal and should be welcomed as inherent symbols of psychological maturation. However, you should not discount the influence of highly popular color trends in fashion and home furnishings that feature certain colors. It sounds to me as if your preferences were shaped by both elements.

Gala start for arts festival

The third annual Detroit Festival of the Arts will open with a Friday Festival Preview Day, Sept. 22, and conclude Sunday with a free concert by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra heralding the triumphant return to their home in Orchestra Hall.

Fifth square blocks in and around the Detroit Cultural Center will be the setting for a celebration of the performing visual and literary arts. The festival will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with a special 7:30 p.m. concert Saturday night.

More than 250,000 people attended the event last year and even more are expected this year.

Sponsored by the University Cultural Center Association, Wayne State University and generous corporate support, the festival will showcase the work of over 100 local and nationally acclaimed artists and craftspeople. In addition to the DSO concert, musical performances by gospel, folk, jazz, blues and rock artists will be presented on the festi-

val's outdoor stages.

Street performers, the WJBK-TV2 Children's Fair, the Detroit Recreation Center's "Art on the Move" and nationally recognized poets will be part of this year's event.

FOOD VENDORS AND local restaurants will be on hand to provide refreshments.

Festival performance highlights include a Saturday evening performance by legendary Detroit rocker Mitch Ryder, a recital by the Kaurung Miao National Dance Company of New Zealand and "A Night of Chinese Opera."

Admission to the festival and most of the performances is free of charge, however, some of the performances require the purchase of a DFA discount button. The discount button is available at various locations throughout the city and on the festival grounds and entitles the bearer to substantial discounts on festival keepsakes. Children under 12 are not required to purchase a button.

Lebadang exhibit opens

"East Meets West," an exhibition and sale of 84 works by Lebadang, widely recognized as one of the world's most accomplished printmakers, opens Friday and continues through the month of October at Park West Gallery, 29469 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

The current Park West exhibition presents a comparative view of the

works of 88-year-old modernist Lebadang in contrast with rare 19th-century Japanese Ukiyo-E woodcuts.

The exhibition is open to the public and may be seen from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

DOWNTOWN FARMINGTON PINEWOODS CONDOMINIUMS

Ranches and Townhouses available

FEATURING

- Private Court Yards
- Natural Fireplaces
- Central Air
- Full Basements
- 1st Floor Laundry
- 2 Car Attached Garage
- Wooded Setting, Close to Conveniences

Model located on the West Side of Farmington Rd., S. of Grand River and N. of 9 Mile

473-8131

OPEN DAILY (EXCEPT THURS.) 12 - 5 P.M.

BROKERS PROTECTED Price From **\$152,000-\$175,900**

In-House Financing Available - At Excellent Rates

HEPPARD & ASSOCIATES • 855-6570

30004 W. 12 Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48038

Real Estate One

For forty (40) consecutive years, without missing a single month, we have sold more homes than any other Michigan firm.

OPEN HOUSES

DETROIT	508-2300
21422 Arden, \$37,900	
FARMINGTON	477-1111
34523 Elm St., \$109,500	
33760 Edinboro, \$95,800	
25361 Glenview Ct., \$184,900	851-1900
FARMINGTON HILLS	477-1111
34320 Farmington Rd., \$168,900	
25140 Fox Creek, \$200,900	477-1111
37830 River Bend, \$222,900	477-1111
35250 Glenview, \$99,900	851-1900
38545 Lowell, \$217,200	851-1900
25219 Stacy Lane, \$218,900	851-1900
25811 Harten, \$165,900	851-1900
FRANCOIS	664-4700
26000 W. 11 Mile, \$224,900	
LIVONIA	251-1900
26709 Marlow, \$129,900	
REDFORD	477-1111
14113 Carlotta, \$53,000	
ROYAL OAK	528-1300
605 S. Copeland, \$67,000	
ROXBOROUGH	508-2300
12511 Pennsylvania, \$54,900	
16553 Pennsylvania, \$54,900	508-2300
19001 Elmer Spring, \$104,000	631-1900
32250 McArthur, \$119,000	
WESTLAND	226-2000
50533 Grandview, \$35,900	
GOVERNMENTAL	477-1111
21133 Farmington Rd., \$117,900	851-1900
21177 Farmington Rd., \$139,900	
20206	477-1111
21124 Glen Haven, \$84,900	

LUXURIOUS HOME on magnificent lot complete with willow and stream. Spacious rooms, island kitchen, master suite has a fashion bath. Finished basement, lovely dock. \$209,900. 477-1111.

LOVELY HOME, BIG LOT! Enjoy the beautiful parklike setting, nearly one acre. Builder's own home. Well maintained three bedroom ranch has two full baths, three car garage, basement and shed. \$169,900. 477-1111.

VERY DESIRABLE THREE BEDROOM one and a half story home with basement, and Florida room connecting house and garage. Close to downtown Farmington, library, shopping, theatre. For starter or retiree. Fantastic location. \$100,500. 477-1111.

NEWER STARTER HOME. Set deep on half acre lot, this three bedroom 2 bath ranch offers quality and room to grow. Carpet and ceiling fans throughout. Only \$103,500. 477-1111.

OLD WORLD CHARM in this 1910 updated farm house. Large country side lot, three porches, oak foyer, crown moldings, many custom window treatments. Walk-in pantry and much, much more!! \$110,900. 348-6430.

CAREFREE LIVING. A dip in the pool, strolls on the grill. It gets better! 2 bedroom townhouse with Lanai. Large rooms, finished basement, private patio, attached garage. \$69,500. 681-5700.

GREAT FAMILY SUB! Very nice L-shaped brick and aluminum ranch. 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. Oak parquet flooring in family room. 2 car attached garage on lovely lot with mature trees!! \$110,900. 348-6430.

SELLER'S TRANSFER FORCES sale of this spacious, mini condition, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhouse Condo in charming Northville. Recently redecorated in neutral, move-in condition. Rec. room, fireplace in living room, central air, large dock and 2 1/2 car attached garage. \$124,500. 851-1900. (NOR)

OVER TWO HUNDRED TREES! Beautiful tall black hill spruce outline this private 2.4 acre Southfield homestead. Three bedroom brick ranch, 3 1/2+ car attached garage. \$110,000 \$51-1900. (MAC)

COLONY PARK COLONIAL. Stunning 4 bedroom colonial with everything done. Just turn the key and move in. Completely updated neutral decor, 2 1/2 baths, central air and immediate occupancy. \$109,500. 851-1900. (OAK)

4 or 5 BEDROOM Colonial. Immediate 4 bedroom Colonial with first floor library or fifth bedroom. Beautiful Oak-De-Stac setting, circular drive, central air and deck. Move-in condition. Immediate occupancy. \$184,900. 851-1900. (STO)

FABULOUS INDOOR POOL. Attached Jacuzzi, westside and sauna. Gourmet kitchen with island. Family room with marble wet fireplace. 29' game room with wet bar. 33' bedroom with sunrise Jacuzzi. \$272,500. 528-2300.

FOUR BEDROOM with DEN ON PREMIER lot. Gorgeous four bedroom with first floor den and gathering room, formal dining room, island kitchen. Loaded with extras. \$220,000. 477-1111.