

# *From Sunday To Saturday*

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This issue of FSTS is intended for the 2058nd Distribution of APA-L, 4 November 2004, and is published by the usual Don Fitch, still at 3908 Frijo, Covina CA 91722 (though more often contacted, these days, via email to <fitchdons@aol.com>). Future Collectors or Catalogers are advised to use the number at the bottom of the pages for identification purposes -- i.e., this is issue # 04/03-04, indicating that it's the third & fourth pages I've published in 2004. (As far as I can figure out, the previous issue was # 97/11-14, also published for APA-L,, a few weeks less than ... gosh! .... seven years ago. And I don't even have the excuse of having a WebPage, or of having written more than two or three Letters of Comment during all that time..)

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## **Greg Shaw**

1949 -- 2004

Greg might have been a member of the LASFS, even though he lived in the BArea during most of his 10+ years in fandom. He attended -- during his c. 6-year peak of activity after he reached the age of about 16 -- a fair number of Conventions, including (I think) several LArea ones that included an official Thursday evening LASFS Meeting at which he'd have been encouraged to join. And he might have had contributions in APA-L; its founding in 1964 coincided with the beginning of his hyper-active involvement with many APAs. Or he might not. But the (handful of) long-time fanzine fans reading this will almost all remember him, and be sad that he died (of a heart-attack) at the age of 55, a few weeks ago.

Greg was young -- not yet a teen-ager -- when he published his first fanzine, and we had the pleasure -- then much less rare than it is now -- of watching (and maybe somewhat helping) a talented and promising young fan grow and flower before our eyes, in the course of just a few years. And Greg was so talented -- and enthusiastic, eager, well-read, thoughtful, curious, excited about discovering things, effusive (once his shyness wore off), and so strongly Good People (as we said back in those days) -- that I always pounced on a new zine from him eagerly, and read it with delight. Even the parts where he

wrote about popular music -- something that even he couldn't stimulate my interest in -- held my attention and provided enjoyable reading.

He left fandom rather suddenly, dropping out of my ken in his very early 20s, as he devoted all of his time and energy the independent record-publishing company -- Bomp Records -- he founded partly in order to stimulate and support what might be the pop-music/recording equivalent of fanzines; a Do It Yourself form of self-expression.

I was, of course, sorry when he left fandom and my life became, thereby, somewhat less rich and pleasurable, but he'd decided that it was time for him to climb some other mountain and, though we never again came into contact, I'm happy that he established himself in a microcosm that obviously gave him enormous pleasure and emotional rewards by enabling him to promote the kind of music he loved so deeply that it was part of his soul.

As one of his (more recent) friends put it, "However you choose to honor Greg's memory, do it with anything but a moment of silence." Yes! Greg is one of the few people I've known for whom that's perfect, even though 90+% of my association with him involved silently reading his fanzines (which included, if I remember correctly, the third one published in the U. S. devoted to the writings of J. R. R. Tolkien) and writing letters of comment on them.

Was Greg actually the paragon he might seem to be from the above ramblings? Certainly not. My memories -- especially those involving pleasant things -- become increasingly roseate over the years, and... I might have spent a total of ten hours in his (physical) company over the decade we were acquainted, and a bit more than twice as much time with his in-print personality; that's not nearly enough for a reasonable in-depth evaluation of anyone. But it will do, I think, because in matters like this strict accuracy isn't important. My memories of him are pleasant, and he's definitely in the top ten-percentile of Good People I've Known.

Of his influence on the Popular Music field I can say nothing except that a number of experts say it has been considerable, and generally beneficial. I believe the same can be said of his influence on the fanzines (or zines, or amateur publications) that have been closely-associated with Pop Music, especially Punk rock. There, he seems to have been at least as influential as Mike Gunderloy in spreading many fannish attitudes into a different microcosm. Sometimes when I read a particularly good and fannish zine, I think "That's where most of the good proto-fans have gone", and sigh, but that's the way the world goes.

[More about Greg Shaw, and some things by him, can be found at the URL <http://www.bomp.com/BOMPPress3.html> or via links from that site.]

## Distribution Comments

**Me (FSTS 04/01-02):** I seem to have been so excited over having actually Done Something after such a long hiatus -- and a day ahead of the delivery deadline at that -- that I didn't proofread it even though there was plenty of time; when I did get around to actually Looking at it, rectification was no longer practical. Maybe the worst thing about this is that it's exactly the kind of thing I grumble about when other people do it.

**John DeChancie:** You shared a house with Sam Konkin for four years? Ah, that explains much. (I liked Sam quite a lot ... in no more than two-hour doses, but figure that extended close association would require either being peculiarly crazy or preternaturally patient.) You do seem, at least in print, to be unusually patient with people.

Though not A Movie Person (that the last movie I saw was ET, the week after it was first released, because a friend was visiting from Toronto and wanted to see it, isn't strictly true, but it's accurate enough) I greatly enjoyed your review, a few weeks back, of the early/good version of The Time Machine. You make it sound like one of the (few) films in which the imposition of someone-else's visual imagination would not strike me as a drawback.

**Vanessa Van Wagner:** Of course I hope the guy at the bakery shop you & George told about the LASFS comes to a meeting or so, and likes them well enough to join & participate, but I doubt the odds are good. We have, over the years, gone through phases of trying for Outreach and of trying to consolidate & improve what we have. Neither seems, in my view, to have been remarkably successful. Or anything like disastrous. On the whole, I'm inclined to feel that random recruiting isn't nearly as good as selective recruiting, but the feeling isn't really strong, and certainly a number of our most important members (and of the most important people in fandom) have discovered the microcosm by accident or through some general Outreach activity.