

Hal Foster Takes 'Day Off' in Armor Shop

'Prince Valiant' Creator Visits Musty Warehouse

By JOHN De LORENZI
for King Features Syndicate

Where does a hobby stop and work begin?

Don't ask Hal Foster, creator of "Prince Valiant," which appears in the Mail Tribune each Sunday, because they seem to be one and the same to him.

The white-haired, distinguished-looking artist, who recently was named "Cartoonist of the Year" by fellow-members of the National Cartoonists Society, was in New York recently for a rare day away from his drawing board.

What did he do? Why, he spent the time in a musty warehouse making notes and sketches of medieval armor and chatting with 60-year-old Scottish-born George Donald, one of the only two armorers actively engaged full-time at his trade in the United States. He has been practicing it here for more than 30 years.

Strange Contrast

The anachronistic atmosphere of the big workshop crowded with breast plates and helmets, its walls hung with pole arms, spears and grapples, its table strewn with partially-assembled armored suits contrasted strangely with the pounding sound of heavy traffic on the streets below.

"This examining of history at first hand is one of my hobbies," Foster explained while stoking his pipe, drawing on it hard and then triumphantly emitting a cloud of smoke, "and it's all because of 'Prince Valiant.'"

He pointed out that researching for the strip is difficult since the period in which it is set is roughly the decline of the Roman Empire and the rise of the mythical King Arthur and the Knights of the Round-Table.

Know Little History

"We really know little about the history of that time," Foster said, "since records were not only lost and destroyed but often, because of the illiteracy of the people, were not even kept."

Because of the legendary background of the strip, Foster, whose pinked, healthy face and slim waist line deny his 65 years, has more latitude in his use of history and is able to combine information from several centuries in his drawings. That was why he was in this dingy warehouse, finding out how armor is repaired, checking what weapons different countries used and other details.

"I hate to admit it," he said somewhat ruefully, "but all the things that many fictional characters have done with a sword just couldn't happen, but the movies have conditioned people into thinking that this is the way things were, so I have to double-check on what is and is not possible."

Takes Heavy Sword

He took a heavy sword down from the wall, hefted it and then said that until the 15th century the sword was of impractical design, so heavy and badly balanced that it was of little use for thrusting, even though pointed.

"That's why you find 'Prince Valiant' using his sword as a cutting not a dueling weapon," he commented, adding, "and it was not nearly as effective as people believe."

Donald, the armorer, explained to him with a slight burr, at the workbench where a template (a metal pattern) is used on flat metal to trace out a pattern for a piece of armor that is to be repaired. After cutting the pattern with shears, it is cold-formed—beaten with hammers of various weights and differently shaped heads—by the same hand-craft process that has been made. Here he brought out some shirts of chain-mail, introduced to Europe from the East. Foster lifted one and then said with a grin:

Too Expensive

"You'll notice that not too many characters in the strip use this type of armor. There are several reasons: One is that it's too heavy and the other is that it is too expensive."

He explained that when worn with a padded undergarment a shirt of mail could weigh up to 40 pounds and that the whole weight of it was borne on the shoulders.

To add to the difficulty, the action of the sword caused folds to collect in the bend of the arm, further hampering freedom of motion.

"Additionally," Foster said, "you had to be a rich man to

own one. A horse and saddle, sword, helmet, coat of mail and a shield could cost as much as 20 oxen or 120 sheep."

Gives Way to Fluted

"This type of armor," Donald further explained, "gradually gave way to fluted armor such as that full suit standing in the corner. It was better able to deflect blows because of the design of its surface and was much lighter."

He and Foster then discussed the development of armor from the days of the Greeks and Romans, when it was finely constructed and convenient to use, through its disappearance with the fall of Rome and how the evolution of practical defense had to begin all over again.

Finally, with a pocketfull of notes and full set of sketches, Foster went back to his "Connecticut home after his 'day off' from work."



PRINCE VALIANT—The creator of the adventure strip, "Prince Valiant," Hal Foster, spends his spare time doing research work for the strip. Since the period in which the strip is set is roughly the decline of the Roman Empire and the rise of the mythical King Arthur, the research work is difficult.



SHORT SKETCH—Artist Hal Foster, creator of "Prince Valiant," makes sketch for future reference of fluted Maximilian armor suit named after German Emperor credited with its invention. Fluting increases rigidity and strength of armor, but not its weight and provides "glancing" surface which deflects blows.



SHOP TALK—George Donald, left, one of two armorers in the United States plying his trade full time, discusses with another craftsman, Artist Hal Foster, creator of the "Prince Valiant" adventure strip, changes in armor styles. He's holding breastplate of German-Swiss armor of middle 16th century. Banded leg extensions were known as tassels.

JACKSONVILLE New Siren Installed

By BETTE HOSKINS

Jacksonville — Fire Chief Lewis Applebaker reported last week that a new 7½-horsepower fire siren has been installed and was tested last Wednesday about 7:30 p.m.

The chief also reported that four new volunteer firemen have been added to the department. They are Lew Peabody, Bob Gutches, Ray Driskell and Bill Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Apostol left last week for Seattle, Wash., where Apostol will rejoin his ship, the USS General A. E. Anderson. Mrs. Apostol's brother, Edward Milam, is on the same ship. After a six-day visit, Mrs. Apostol will return here. Previous to leaving for Seattle, Frank Apostol, received word of the death of his father in Port O'Connor, Tex.

House guests at the home of Mrs. Pearl Kitchen are her three granddaughters, Cheryl and Deborah, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kitchen of Whittier, Calif., and Gail Kitchen, daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. Max Kitchen of Myrtle Creek. Deborah and Cheryl also visited their aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stacey, of Medford.

Mrs. Sofia Sokolowski and children, Connie, Charlotte and Walter, of Medford, visited former neighbors here last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Noble returned this week from a week's vacation to Auburn, Calif. They also took a trip to San Francisco.

Dr. and Mrs. Rayniard R. Smith of Medford were recent Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Pearson and daughter, Anne.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hague and daughter, Janet, of Albany, Calif., were recent visitors at the Pearson home. The Hagues were en route home from a vacation in Spokane, Wash.

George Redhead is recovering from virus pneumonia. After receiving numerous complaints from residents of

GOLD HILL Well-Child Clinic Set

By MRS. CLYDE KELL

Gold Hill—A well-child clinic is scheduled for children of the Gold Hill area who are four months through six years old. It will be held in the health room at the Patrick school in Gold Hill Wednesday, Aug. 6, between 9 a.m. and noon.

Immunizations will be offered. Dr. A. Erin Merkel, Jackson county health officer, will be examining physician. He will be assisted by two Jackson county health nurses, Mrs. Nina Van de Walker and Miss Elizabeth McGalliard, both of Medford. Others assisting will include Mrs. Melvin Burnett, chairman of the well-child conferences in the Gold Hill area, and Mrs. Ted Schoenemann and Mrs. Thomas Gray, president and vice-president, respectively, of the local health unit.

Dusan Tasic who is attending Southern Oregon college, Ashland, was a recent visitor in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bozy Tepovac, Second ave., Gold Hill. The Tepovacs and the student became friends when the Gold Hill couple wrote to him after they read an article several months ago in the Mail Tribune concerning Tasic and his home Belgrade, Yugoslavia, which was their former home.

Mr. and Mrs. James T. Lee and children, Pamela, Donald and Gene, of Renton, Wash., were house guests several days recently in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bozy Tepovac. Mrs. Lee, a granddaughter of the Tepovacs, is the former Ruth Rosecrans. The Lees also visited in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. Jones, Medford, and in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Chamberlain and Mrs. Bonnie Bowman, Medford.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Kofahl had as their house guests recently Mr. and Mrs. A. B. McCain of Santa Cruz, Calif. Both men are retired and were co-workers of the Tide-

water Oil company when they were with the San Joaquin valley division of the company for many years.

Recent guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mace Freeland of Pacific Highway 99, north, were their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson, and daughters, Tracey and Nicky Jean, of Van Nuys, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Huntley had as their guests last week end their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Elkon Walker, and children of Klamath Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard White and family of Gresham were guests last week in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bozy Tepovac.

Mrs. Ray Davis left Saturday, July 26, for Boise, Ida. She returned to Gold Hill July 31, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Goddard and sons of Lyons, Colo. The Goddards are former residents of Medford and plan to make their home in southern Oregon, Mrs. Davis said.

Mrs. John Kalista was honored at a baby shower given by her aunt, Mrs. William Parrish, July 18, in the home of Mrs. William Voss on the Blackwell Hill rd. south of Gold Hill. Mrs. Kalista is the former Elaine Kelley and now makes her home in Springfield.

Guests included Mrs. Gene Holderness, Mrs. Allen Reed, Miss Sharon Kelley, Miss Maryann Loeffler, Mrs. W. L. Voss, Mrs. Louie Loeffler, Mrs. Lena Larriks, Mrs. Ruth Lindley, Mrs. Helen Bush, Mrs. Inez Armstrong, Mrs. W. A. Kelley, Mrs. Joan Voss, Mrs. Mitze Thumler, Mrs. Leona Jenks, Mrs. Ward Davis, Mrs. Ray Kalista, Mrs. Lawrence Loeffler, several youngsters, Rena and Paula Holderness, Buttons Parrish Bill and DeWayne Kalista, and the two hostesses, Mrs. Parrish and Mrs. Voss.

Coming from Springfield for the event with Mrs. John Kalista and her husband were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kalista and sons, Bill and DeWayne. The Ray Kalista family were guests in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Reed, until July 24, when they returned to Springfield. Another recent guest in the Reed home was his nephew, Jim Reed, of San Diego, Calif., who spent one week here.

Mrs. Allen Pettet and daughters, Debra and Janet, and son, Steven, of Corvallis, have been visiting in the home of Mrs. Pettet's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smith, on Sardine creek the past week.

Mrs. Smith returned to her home July 27 after being a patient in the Grants Pass hospital for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gregory of Pacific Highway 99, north, had as their house guests last week their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Gregory, and daughter, Linda, of Fullerton, Calif. Linda remained with her grandparents for an extended vacation, while her parents continued on to the northern part of the state and Washington.

Heavy Engineering Contracts Increase

Seattle — (UPI)—Heavy engineering contract awards in the Pacific Northwest last month again were ahead of the same month a year ago, the magazine Pacific Builder and Engineer said Saturday.

A total of 329 projects at \$91,569,743 were contracted for in July, compared to 283 projects at \$64,641,249 in July, 1957. Biggest increase for the month is in Alaska, up 24 million dollars from last July.

Paulina lake, Ore. In August they plan to make their annual trip together to Klamath, Calif., where they will salmon fish. In June Mr. and Mrs. Maddux took a trip to Bridgeport, Calif.

Mrs. Paul Godward with Mrs. Tom Burnfield as cohostess entertained Mrs. Albert Hackert and Mrs. Otto Hackert and Mrs. Rayniard R. Smith on July 31. Guests were Mrs. Donald Harris, Mrs. Louella Dunnington, Mrs. Verna Culy, Mrs. Riley Norris, Mrs. Leonard McKee, Mrs. Katherine O'Shea and Gayle and Curtis Offenbacher.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION—An article and two paintings in the August issue of Ford Times feature the Shakespearean Festival in Ashland. The pocket-sized magazine is published by the Ford Motor

company and is distributed from coast to coast. Pictured above is a painting of Ashland, one of the paintings by Robert Banister which illustrates the feature story.



PRODUCER GREETED—An applauding audience greeted Producing Director Angus L. Bowmer when he announced that the Thursday night playgoers had just witnessed a theatrical milestone. With the Oregon Shakespearean Festival performance of "Troilus and Cressida" The

entire canon of 37 Shakespearean plays have been seen on the Ashland stage. The announcement ceremony consisted of a short announcement by Bowmer following the curtain call. Only five theaters in world history have completed the feat.—(Dwayne Smith photo)

Eight Girls to Represent County At Oregon Fair

Eight girls will represent Jackson county 4-H home economics members at the Oregon state fair in Salem, according to Marilou Garner, Jackson county 4-H agent.

Those representatives who gave championship demonstrations during the Jackson county 4-H home economics week last week are Carl Myers and Julie Ashton, Table Rock, home living senior team; Jean Rowden and Mary Herriott, Applegate, senior clothing team; Jo Anna Mallory, Applegate, dairy foods; Carolyn Ties, Talent, special breads; Helen Vickoren, Eagle Point, child care; and Mavis Strom, Southwest Medford club, wool sewing contest.

Other demonstration results were:

Junior team, clothing—Elaine Johnson and Donna Thompson, Central Point, champions. Blue ribbon, Joyce Sanders, Carol Straus, Kathleen Fredericks and Linda Johnson, all of Central Point, and Aletta Myers and Anita Pierce, both of Table Rock. Red ribbon, Elsen Fullman and Barbara Wheeler, Table Rock.

Individual clothing—Jeri Gardner, Central Point, champion. Red ribbon, Gloria Thompson, Central Point.

Senior team clothing—Red ribbon, Sally Herriott, Applegate; Larne Gueches, Applegate; Carolyn Siders and Alison Pinkham, both of Central Point.

Senior individual clothing—Red ribbon, Romel Fossen, Ruth; and Vernola Hutchison, Central Point. Senior team home living—Red ribbon, Brown and Pat Striplin, both of Table Rock.

Food senior team—Red ribbon, Dorothy James and Laura Griffith, both of Phoenix.

Senior individual foods—Red ribbon, Colleen Franek, Westside 4-H club; and Charlotte Bush, Applegate.

Four California Youths Arrested

Four California youths, one from Eagle Point and a 15-year-old from Medford were arrested by state police Thursday night on charges of petty larceny in the Applegate area, officers reported.

The 15-year-old was turned over to county juvenile authorities, the district attorney's office said.

Held in Jackson county jail on charges of petty larceny are Tommy W. Hanaker, 19, of Norwalk, Calif.; Phillip Dean Day, 21, of Maywood, Calif.; Ronald Giles, 20, of Downing, Calif.; Morris Lee Gunn, 19, of route 1, box 89, Eagle Point, and James Leno Razonie, 21, of San Jose, Calif.

The youths are charged with taking gas, food and tools from a cabin belonging to O. E. Hukill, route 2, Jacksonville, on the Little Applegate rd. and near Sterling creek.

Farm Credit Up Here Last Year

Farmers and ranchers in this area continued to use a sizeable volume of long-term credit during the last year, it was reported Saturday.

F. E. Bowman, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Oregon National Farm Loan Association, Medford, said farm and ranch operators used the services of the cooperatively-owned association for \$246,500 of credit during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1958, compared with \$118,100 during the previous fiscal year. This money was obtained by association members in Jackson and Josephine counties, the territory served by the NFILA.

"Refinancing of indebtedness, purchase of land and livestock, improvements to land and buildings, and general farm operations were the major purposes for which money was borrowed," said Bowman.

The association's loan account on June 30 stood at \$1,169,500.

Sergeant Named Head Of Pendleton District

Pendleton — (UPI)—Curt Bacon, 44-year-old state police sergeant attached to the Pendleton office has been appointed to head the Pendleton district of the state police effective Aug. 1.

Bacon replaces Lt. N. W. Smith who will head the state police Eastern Oregon district at Baker.

Bacon began his state police career in 1941 in Pendleton and has since served in several Eastern Oregon districts.

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