

THE HEINLEIN CALENDAR: 2013

There are a number of Heinlein anniversaries associated with 2013, not the least of which is the *twenty-fifth anniversary of Heinlein's death on May 8, 1988*. As of this writing, no commemorations are in planning, except a small program section at LosCon on Thanksgiving weekend.

IN SUMMARY

1913

(100 ann.) Heinlein learns to read in 1913, at age 6.

1918

In 1918, *aet.* 11, Heinlein read a POPULAR MECHANICS article about *Myasthenia gravis*, which material he would later use for

"Waldo." In 1918 also he first read Rudyard Kipling, as well as the Oz and Barsoom books as they came out. He earned money to support himself with a paper route. In school he was taught "Carcassone," which he would later take as an inspiration for "Requiem." He had a mild case of the Spanish Influenza that killed half a million people in the U.S., plus Typhoid Fever. World War I was over on Armistice Day, November 11, and Heinlein smoked his first cigarette. This is also the year from which Heinlein dates his obsession with "girls."

1923

(90 ann.) Heinlein's first writing is two verse items, "The Last Adventure" (which was entered in his school literary contest and

won honorable mention) and "Atlantis." Heinlein gets a job as a page at the Kansas City Public Library, where he reads unorthodox works in the closed stacks, including Jack London's more politically incendiary books. Began serving in the military as a volunteer for R.O.T.C. (*aet.* 16). In July he and a friend took a hiking trip to Colorado and on the way back used the last half-dollar he had to buy doughnuts and Hugo Gernsback's all-scientific issue of the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER — the first science fiction pulp magazine. In August he attends the Civilian Military Training Camp in Kansas and gets his head cut open in a fight with an Arkansas boy. That month, Heinlein begins applying for appointments to either of the military academies, West Point or Annapolis.

1928

1928 (85 ann.) is not a good year for Heinlein. Heinlein is in his third year at Annapolis. In January his *fiancée*, Alice McBee, dies

following injuries from an automobile accident that occur-

red in 1927, and he becomes briefly suicidal with grief. On the summer practice cruise he is unfairly awarded a large number of demerits for "Shirking" — malingering. He receives a Black N and confinement in the brig in September when he returns from his summer practice cruise.

1933

(80 ann.) Nominally in the San Diego Naval hospital for tuberculosis, Heinlein gets permission to treat with Dr. Pottenger in Monrovia, California. He was living in Arcadia during the magnitude 6.4 Long Beach Earthquake on March 10 — writing a letter to his brother Rex when it happened. In August he was ordered to Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado, where his brother Rex was also under Tuberculosis treatment, and Rex told him the anecdote on which "No Bands Playing —" is based.

The services have consolidated their tuberculosis cases at Fitzsimmons, but the neglect and poor medical treatment causes him to discharge himself to take private treatment for tuberculosis and bladder cysts.

While living in Denver with Leslyn, he became friends with the young Robert Cornog while judging a chess tournament. He helped found the Colorado Sunshine League (now the Mountain Air Ranch) nudist colony, but leaves before they become a newspaper scandal early the next year. Prohibition ended in December, but Heinlein was too sick to celebrate with the rest of the country.

1938

Heinlein campaigned for election in 1938 (75 ann.) to the California Assembly District 59 seat from April until August, when he was defeated in the Democratic Party Primary by his Republican opponent; the October 1938 issue of THRILLING WONDER STORIES prompted him to think about writing for money; from just after Thanksgiving until just before Christmas Heinlein wrote an experimental utopian novel, *FOR US, THE LIVING*.

1943

In 1943 (70 ann.) while at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Heinlein met Tony Damico, a blind machinist, who would be the model for Rhysling in "The Green Hills of Earth." The story had been outlined years before, but Heinlein did no fiction writing during the War.

1948

In the summer of 1948 (65 ann.) the story and first screenplay of *DESTINATION MOON* were created; in August of 1948, he relocated to Colorado Springs; in October of 1948 Heinlein and Ginny married; in November 1948, Heinlein submitted the outline for *RED PLANET* to his editor, Alice Dalgliesh, and continued collecting science data in correspondence with Astronomer Robert S. Richardson; in December 1948, both "Gulf" and *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND* were generated in story conferences with his new wife, Virginia Heinlein.

1953

The year 1953 (60 ann.) finds Heinlein in full spate as a commercial writer: in addition to publication of the books *STAR-MAN JONES*, *ASSIGNMENT IN ETERNITY*, and *REVOLT IN 2100*, he wrote *THE STAR BEAST* and a bit more of *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND*. His movie *PROJECT MOONBASE* was released (or more appropriately "escaped"), and tanked all the rest of his writing for the last year on the *WORLD BEYOND* television show. Short stories published in 1953 included "Project Nightmare," "Sky Lift," "Gentlemen, Be Seated," and "Ordeal in Space." This was also the year that he and Ginny took off on their first world cruise.

1958

Another good year, 1958 (55 ann.) found them midway into another round-the-world trip, this time including India. They returned to New York in February, where *HAVE SPACE SUIT – WILL TRAVEL* was in production. Although he pulled out the manuscript of *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND* to work on it, nothing apparently got done in 1958; instead he was derailed for the Patrick Henry campaign over the summer months. "Tenderfoot in Space" was published in three installments in *BOY'S LIFE*, while he was writing "All You Zombies." He wrote the first 100 manuscript pages of *PODKAYNE OF MARS*, but abandoned the project because it didn't seem funny enough or relevant enough. In November, a dreadful plagiarism of *THE PUPPET MASTERS* appeared in movie theatres: *THE BRAIN EATERS*, just as he started writing *STARSHIP TROOPERS*.

1963

PODKAYNE OF MARS was serialized at the start of 1963 (50 ann.), just as Heinlein started writing *FARNHAM'S FREEHOLD* and went on to cut *GLORY ROAD*. *PODKAYNE* and *GLORY ROAD* were published in hardcover in the fall of 1963, when Ginny got

involved in the Goldwater Presidential campaign in Colorado Springs. Robert was her arm candy until the following year. "All Aboard the Gemini" published in *POPULAR MECHANICS*. In September 1963 Heinlein met with Howie Horwitz about the *CENTURY XXII* TV show project for Screen Gems that occupied him in writing the script for the pilot, "The Adventure of the Man Who Wasn't There," based on "Gulf," for the rest of the year and into 1964. Late in the year (November or December) Alexei Panshin's "Heinlein By His Jockstrap" was published by Redd Boggs in *SHANGRI L'AFFAIRS*, originally titled "Sex in Heinlein's Fiction."

1968

Five years later, in 1968 (45 ann.), *HEINLEIN IN DIMENSION* was published by Advent: Publishers. Heinlein was busy building the Bonny Doon house. They took time off in March to visit with Lee Atwell and look over North American Rockwell facilities in southern California, which led, the next year, to an invitation with Atwell to be at the launch of Apollo 11. The paperback sales of *STRANGER* stopped growing explosively – because all stocks are exhausted, sold out, everywhere, and the publishers drag their feet about reissues. David Gerrold contacts Heinlein in May: he has been hired to do a screenplay of *STRANGER*. In November Heinlein begins preparing for an appraisal of his working papers by sending boxes of manuscript files to Special Collections and Archives, U.C. Santa Cruz, writing the first set of Accession Notes.

1973

The Heinleins were again on a cruise in January 1973 (40 ann.), transiting the Panama Canal on their way from New York to San Francisco. In April he delivered the Forrestal Lecture to the staff and midshipmen of his alma mater, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, a transcript of which was then printed in *ANALOG* and all the military service academies, seriatim. In June, Putnam's published *TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE*, his first novel since 1969 (in the interim – 1970 – he had nearly died of peritonitis and complications from a perforated diverticulum). Also in June 1973 *ANALOG* published "The Notebooks of Lazarus Long" as a special feature. Later that month he produced the first of two long critiques of the first draft of *THE MOTE IN GOD'S EYE* by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle. Still later he gave a very extended telephone interview to J. Neil Schulman. In the fall, Forrest J. Ackerman gave a new, glossy SF magazine, *VERTEX*, his transcript of Heinlein's 1941 Guest of Honor Speech, "The Discovery of the Future" for their first issue. The "fascinatingly terrible" television show *STARLOST*, derived from Heinlein's "Universe" (but without credit), began airing. Heinlein quashed Ackerman's piracy but did not pursue *STARLOST*, which was soon canceled, at any rate. In December that year, *VERTEX* published one of Heinlein's orphan children, "No Bands Playing." Heinlein began researching and writing his Dirac article

for the Encyclopedia Britannica in the winter months. They changed English agents from Farquarson to Bob Tanner.

1978

On January 4, 1978 (35 ann.), in Tahiti while evaluating blood services in Papeete, Heinlein experienced a major Transient Ischemic Attack — a precursor to a stroke. He has had a few TIA's before but has paid no attention. There is another in Hawaii on the way home. On April 28, 1978, he undergoes a carotid bypass operation.

A collection of Heinlein essays was published in 1978 by Taplinger Press, edited by Ohlander and Greenberg. Gregg Press reissues *DOUBLE STAR* with an introduction by Joe Haldeman and *I WILL FEAR NO EVIL* with introduction by CRAWDADDY founder Paul Williams. In August Robert has a day-long interview with H. Bruce Franklin.

Lurton Blassingame medically retired in 1978, and the Heinleins took on Kirby McCauley as an agent; replacing him in September with Eleanor Wood. Eleanor's first project will be an expansion of the old Ace collection *WORLDS OF ROBERT A. HEINLEIN*, and to implement the SFWA Model Contract.

In October he began rewriting the manuscript he wrote in 1977 but suppressed as "worse than bad; it is mediocre." Don Vassallo's illuminated *NOTEBOOKS OF LAZARUS LONG* came out just before Christmas 1978.

1983

Traveling again at the first of 1983 (30 ann.), Robert and Ginny Heinlein were in the Antarctic, back in time for the Space Development Conference in Houston in April, when he got his first wordprocessor. He taped promotional material for The High Frontier organization in July, shortly before finalizing the writing of *JOB: A COMEDY OF MANNERS* on the new wordprocessor. In November he started his next book, *THE CAT WHO WALKS THROUGH WALLS*.

1988

ROBERT A. HEINLEIN by Leon Stover was published in January 1988 (25 ann.), a watershed critical work. That same month, Heinlein went to Los Angeles for an operation to relieve emphysema. His breathing did improve, but he never recovered from this operation, dying on May 8, 1988.

In October, NASA held a ceremony in Washington, D.C., for presentation to Ginny of the Distinguished Public Service Medal to Robert posthumously. For this ceremony, Ginny unearthed and had transcribed Heinlein's "This I Believe" from 1952. On November 21, Heinlein's Archivist, Rita Bottoms formally acknowledged Ginny Heinlein's instructions and extended to Leon Stover permission to access the sealed letters at the Robert A. Heinlein Archive at U.C. Santa Cruz Special Collections and Archives.

IN DETAIL

JANUARY 1943 (70th) — Virginia Gerstenfeld reports to active duty as a WAVE for a two-month training course at Mt. Holyoke and later went to D.C.

JANUARY 1963 (50th) — 2nd installment of *PODKAYNE OF MARS* serialized in *WORLDS OF IF*; Heinlein begins writing *FARNHAM'S FREEHOLD*

JANUARY 4, 1978 (35th) — Heinlein experiences a TIA on the beach at Moorea, Tahiti, the precursor to a stroke, for which he must make immediate lifestyle changes, including quitting cigarettes after sixty years.

JANUARY 5, 1988 (25th) — Heinlein has carotid body removal operation to help his emphysema.

JANUARY 10, 1948 (65th) — "The Black Pits of Luna" published in the *SATURDAY EVENING POST*.

JANUARY 18, 2003 (10th) — Virginia Heinlein passes away.

JANUARY 26, 1953 (60th) — Heinlein's introduction for *THE BEST FROM STARTLING STORIES* mailed to editor.

FEBRUARY 2 - 28, 1953 (60th) — *STARMAN JONES* written

FEBRUARY 8, 1948 (65th) — Heinlein and Ginny leave Ft. Worth to be at Mardi Gras in New Orleans on February 10. They go on to Pass Christian, Mississippi where Heinlein does the preliminary cutting on *SPACE CADET*, written in November 1947.

FEBRUARY 16, 1958 (55th) — Heinleins return to New York from trip to India and southern Europe.

MARCH 1953 (60th) — *THE WORLD BEYOND* lineup finalized and scripts paid for.

MARCH 1963 (50th) — *PODKAYNE OF MARS*, third installment and conclusion published in *WORLDS OF IF*.

MARCH 1968 (45th) — Advent: Publishers issues Alexei Panshin's *HEINLEIN IN DIMENSION*, the first long work about any science fiction writer.

MARCH 25, 1948 (65th) — Heinlein to Washington D.C., to write "System in the Sky"/"Billion Dollar Eye" with Cal Laning; Ginny Gerstenfeld to New York.

MARCH 11, 1943 (70th) — Heinlein promoted from Assistant Mechanical Engineer at the Naval Aircraft Factory, Engineering Division, to Associate Mechanical Engineer.

APRIL-MAY 1953 (60th) — "Project Nightmare" published in April-May issue of *AMAZING STORIES*

APRIL 5, 1973 (40th) — Heinlein delivers the third James Forrestal Lecture at the U.S. Naval Academy.

APRIL 7, 1958 (55th) — "Who Are the Heirs of Patrick Henry?" kicks off the Patrick Henry campaign in the Colorado Springs *GAZETTE-TELEGRAPH*.

APRIL 9 1938 (75th) — Heinlein announces candidacy for California State Assembly District 59

APRIL 22, 1948 (65th) — RAH arrives in Los Angeles to work with Fritz Lang on a movie project

- APRIL 28, 1978** (35th) – RAH receives a carotid bypass operation, restoring his declining health.
- MAY 1948** – "Gentlemen, Be Seated" published in *ARGOSY* magazine; "Ordeal in Space" published in *TOWN & COUNTRY* magazine.
- MAY 1948** (65th) – "The Man Who Traveled in Elephants" written.
- MAY 1963** (50th) – "Appointment in Space" published in *POPULAR MECHANICS*
- MAY 8, 1988** (25th) – Heinlein's Death
- MAY 29, 1953** (60th) – Heinlein writing on *THE MARTIAN NAMED SMITH*. Reports 15,000 words in.
- JUNE 1943** (70th) – Donald A. Wollheim's *POCKET BOOK OF SCIENCE FICTION* comes out, the first science fiction anthology, with "And He Built a Crooked House." That month also, Heinlein is detached to Pittsburgh to recruit "junior engineers," and the Heinleins move to 311 South Hicks, Philadelphia
- JUNE 1973** (40th) – Publication of *TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE*; first publication of *THE NOTEBOOKS OF LAZARUS LONG* (in *ANALOG*).
- JUNE-MID-AUGUST 1948** (65th) – Screenplay for *OPERATION MOON* (*DESTINATION MOON*) co-written with Alford "Rip" van Ronkel. Gnome Press edition of *BEYOND THIS HORIZON* issued.
- JUNE 20, 1973** (40th) – Heinlein writes his first critique of Niven and Pournelle's *THE MOTE IN GOD'S EYE*
- JUNE 29, 1973** (40th) – Heinlein and Neil Schulman conduct an extended interview by telephone, later published as "The Robert A. Heinlein Interview."
- JUNE-JULY 1958** (55th) – "Tenderfoot in Space" published in 2 parts in *BOY'S LIFE*.
- JULY 1953** (60th) – "Ray Guns and Rocket Ships" published in *LIBRARY JOURNAL*.
- JULY 1983** (40th) – Heinlein videotapes an interview-endorsement for the High Frontier Foundation. This short endorsement is available in the Heinlein Archive, U.C. Santa Cruz.
- AUGUST 1958** (55th) – *HAVE SPACE SUIT – WILL TRAVEL* begins three-part serialization in *THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION* (through October)
- AUGUST 5(?), 1948** (65th) – Heinlein nearly dies in suit-diving accident off Santa Catalina.
- LATE AUGUST 1948** (65th) – *SPACE CADET* published by Charles Scribner's Sons
- LATE AUGUST 1953** (60th) – *PROJECT MOONBASE* released. *DAILY VARIETY* called it on August 8 a "plot to chase patrons back to their television screens."
- AUGUST 21, 1978** (35th) – Day-long interview with H. Bruce Franklin at Bonny Doon house.
- AUGUST 30, 1938** (75th) – Democratic Party Primary for Assembly District 59. The final tally was reported as: Murray M. Cloitner (R) 4265, Chas. W. Lyon (R) 6244, James C. Redditt (R) 169, Kurt A. Voight (R) 716 Robt A. Heinlein (D) 5190, Chas W. Lyon (D) 5618. Heinlein's Republican opponent, Charles W. Lyon, took more votes from Democrats than Heinlein.
- AUGUST 31, 1948** (65th) – Heinlein leaves Los Angeles, driving to Colorado Springs; on the day he leaves he receives his six author copies of *SPACE CADET*.
- SEPTEMBER 1953** (60th) – *THE STAR BEAST* written; *ASSIGNMENT IN ETERNITY* and *STARMAN JONES* published.
- SEPTEMBER 1973** (40th) – "Discovery of the Future," Heinlein's 1941 Guest of Honor Speech for Denvention, published in *VERTEX*.
- SEPTEMBER 11, 1948** (65th) – Ginny Gerstenfeld flies to Denver, Colorado; Heinlein drives up from Colorado Springs to meet her and take her to their new home, a rental on Cheyenne Boulevard, for which he has already acquired a cat and a piano.
- OCTOBER 1938** (75th) – editorial in *THRILLING WONDER STORIES* that eventually prompted Heinlein getting into pulp science fiction writing.
- OCTOBER 1943** (70th) – Heinlein operated on for hemorrhoids in preparation for application for Merchant Marine; operation is botched, and he is *hors de combat* for about 2 months.
- OCTOBER 1948** (65th) – "Nothing Ever Happens on the Moon," scouting story, written.
- OCTOBER 1958** (55th) – *HAVE SPACE SUIT – WILL TRAVEL* published by G. Putnam's Sons.
- OCTOBER 1973** (40th) – *STARLOST* television series premieres, a clear plagiarism of Heinlein's "Universe" (Ginny called it "fascinatingly terrible"). The series' Canadian producer has offended developer Harlan Ellison so badly (partly over the plagiarism he had alerted them to) that he removed his name from the credits, substituting "Cordwainer Bird."
- OCTOBER 6, 1988** (25th) – NASA posthumous presentation of the Distinguished Public Service Medal; Ginny reads her newly created transcript of "This I Believe."
- OCTOBER 19, 1948** (65th) – *Decree absolute* finalizing Heinlein's divorce from Leslyn MacDonald Heinlein issued by the Los Angeles Superior Court.
- OCTOBER 21, 1948** (65th) – Robert Heinlein and Virginia Doris Gerstenfeld marry in Raton, NM.
- NOVEMBER 1948** (65th) – "Delilah and the Space Rigger" and "The Long Watch" written. *SIXTH COLUMN* revised for hardcover publication by Gnome Press
- NOVEMBER 1953** (60th) – "SkyLift" appears in *IMAGINATION*.
- NOVEMBER 3, 1943** (70th) – Heinlein was in a car accident in Skylark IV in Philadelphia, returning from work when a truck merged into his lane and did not stop; no one was hurt, but *Skylark IV* was towed.
- NOVEMBER 5, 1968** (45th) – Heinlein begins the first set of his "Accession Notes" for working files being sent to the Heinlein Archive at U.C. Santa Cruz.
- NOVEMBER 8, 1958** (55th) – Heinlein begins writing *STARSHIP TROOPERS*
- NOVEMBER 8, 1983** (40th) – Heinlein begins writing *THE CAT WHO WALKS THROUGH WALLS*
- NOVEMBER 20, 1953** (60th) – Heinleins leave Colorado Springs on their first round-the-world tour.

NOVEMBER 21, 1988 (25th) – Ginny Heinlein allows Leon Stover to access sealed documents in the Robert A. Heinlein Archive at U.C. Santa Cruz.

NOVEMBER 22, 1958 (55th) – Heinlein finishes first draft of *STARSHIP TROOPERS*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1938 (75th) – Heinlein wrote his first long fiction, *FOR US, THE LIVING*, between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1963 (50th) – "Heinlein by his Jockstrap" by Alexei Panshin published by Red Boggs in SHANGRIL' AFFAIRS fanzine.

DECEMBER 1953 (60th) – *REVOLT IN 2100* published by Shasta.

DECEMBER 1973 (40th) – "No Bands Playing" published in VERTEX

DECEMBER 5, 1948 (65th) – Heinlein has a ham radio conference with John W. Campbell, Jr., that results in both "Gulf" (1949, 1953) and *STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND* (1961)

DECEMBER 14, 1948 (65th) – Erle Korshak proposes a series of five books containing the entire Future History, to be published by Shasta Press.

