



Cactus Needles

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Francis Ray Gish 1934-2005

Ray Gish died of cancer on Saturday, July 30, 2005. Ray was known to one and all in the Arizona SF and fantasy community as the man who ran the art shows for more than 20 years, as well as the chair of two LepreCons. Ray was a godsend to us masquerade directors, arranging to have prize ribbons printed, providing space to display prizes, or having a copy machine ready when you needed it.

Memorial services were held Wednesday, August 3 at the Melcher mortuary in east Mesa. The service was well attended by the fannish community. RayCon, a fannish wake, will be held Saturday, August 6 from 1PM onward at the Embassy Suites hotel. Cards or notes may be sent to Pinkie at 2527 N Silverado St, Mesa AZ 85215

Calendar

Know of an upcoming costumed event in Arizona? Please tell your editor. *Indicates an event organized by SWCG. Unless otherwise noted, SWCG meetings begin at 1 PM.

August 5, 2005, 7:30 onward – **Gavin's Vigil** at Shadowhaven, 8727 North 47th Avenue, Glendale). SWCG member Maestra Camilla's (Nola's) spouse, **Gavin McLaren** (known as **Shadowstalker** to the Dark Ones and as **Jeff Jennings** to the Motor Vehicles Department) will stand vigil for elevation to the Order of the Pelican (the SCA's peerage for service to the society) at the following day's Kingdom Arts & Sciences event. (10 AM, SEC Central & Palm Lane, Phoenix) Come congratulate and converse. Medieval garb is appropriate. Refreshments will be served.

August 6, 2005, 1PM to ? **RayCon** at the Embassy Suites Hotel at the Northeast Corner of I-17 and Greenway Road in Phoenix. This is a fannish wake in memory of Ray Gish, hosted by his sons. Look for a sign in the lobby giving the room assignment.

August 20, 2005, 6PM to ? - **Heaven and Hell: the War of Souls** Dark Ones costume party at Shadowhaven (Jeff and Nola's home – 8727 North 47th Avenue, Glendale). Wear medieval garb or a medievalish heaven/hell-themed costume.

August 28, 2005 - **Summer Swim*** SWCG social at Tasha's place. Our annual costume party in the pool. Theme to be announced. Calendar planning for the next several months.

September 9-11, 2005 – **Coppercon 25** at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North (SEC Greenway Road & I-17) Fan-run SF Con featuring guests of honor Robert J. Sawyer, Greg Keyes, Escape Key, and Larry Nemecek. www.coppercon.org. For masquerade info, go to <http://members.aol.com/coppermask25>.

September 18, 2005 – **SWCG Meeting*** in the Bookman's bookstore meeting room at the northwest corner of 19th and Northern Avenues in Phoenix, Arizona. Topic not yet decided, but you have to reserve the meeting room way in advance.

November 12, 2006 through April 2, 2006 – **The Fabric of Jazz** at the Mesa Southwest Museum, 53 North MacDonald, Mesa, Arizona. This exhibition features quilts, fabric wall hangings and poetry inspired by jazz musicians and their work. www.mesasouthwestmuseum.com

November 18-20, 2005 – **TusCon 32** at the Innsuites Hotel Tucson. Fan-run SF Con featuring guests of honor David

Brin, Theresa Mather, Edward Bryant, and Bill Winski.
<http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

New E-Mail for Paula

Paula has taken out a new e-mail address at
paulaslary@yahoo.com .

Costume College Pix

Bonnie has posted her photographs from the recent
Costume College to <http://www.robsv.com/cc2005> .

Coppercon 25 Masquerade Update by Randall Whitlock

Plans are shaping up for the Coppercon 25 Masquerade, to
be held September 10, 2005.

I'm pleased to announce that **Michael R. Mennenga** and
Evo Terra will be our masters of Ceremonies. Michael and
Evo are the pioneering podcasters who host "Dragon Page:
Cover to Cover" and "Dragon Page: Wingin' It" from their
page at www.dragonpage.com and the award-nominated
media SF podcast "Slice of SciFi" from
www.sliceofscifi.com. Locals remember their Dragon Page:
Live Fire radio show which ran on KFYI until some idiot
cancelled it this spring.

"Podcasts," sometimes called audio blogs, are an exciting
new media form that has popped up in the last year or so.
Essentially, you record your own radio show and post it to
the world wide web as an mp3 file. Special software
programs, called "podcatchers," can be used to
automatically download podcast feeds to your computer or
mp3 player.

SWCG has approved a grant for masquerade prizes and
supplies. I've obtained some good brown corduroy to build
cloaks for the traditional novice and experienced division
prizes. I'll be building hall costume ribbons and certificates
as soon as some badge art is available.

The sign up form is ready and can be downloaded from the
masquerade information page at [http://members.aol.com/
coppermask25](http://members.aol.com/coppermask25) . I've built these as Adobe Acrobat
interactive forms. You can fill them out on your computer
and print them out.

More details will be posted to the web page as they develop.

From the Mailbox

We received a new catalog from Smoke & Fire Company,
full of costume pieces, camp items, and publications for
the American Revolution and Mountain Man periods.

We received a postcard from Laughing Moon Patterns
advertising their new corset-making
DVD.



Product Plug

Frances recently discovered a cleaning
product called "Goof Off" that will
remove paint and other tough
substances from already-painted
surfaces.

The Propeller Beanie: An Historical Perspective

by Ladnar Lockwhite



Turkey: 1177
The Turbine Turban Italy: 1490



Holland: 1669 Prussia: 1890

Some Pictures from the July Photo Session

Photos contributed by John Autore, David Jeppesen, Edouard Mesert and Randall Whitlock; but I don't know which are which! Look for higher resolution versions of these photos on the CD, available from your editor.



A Visit to the Pendleton Woolen Mills

By Lyn Jeppesen

Growing up in the Southern Idaho town that hosted the first night rodeo (lights) in the 1920's, Pendleton Woolen Mills were part of our Northwest lore. The blankets are still frequently the first prizes in rodeo competitions, and champion rodeo cowboys, as well as the local Native tribes and us civilians, highly prize them.

The Pendleton Woolen Mills were established in 1909 to make goods to trade with the local Indian tribes. They still concentrate on blankets for that trade. The primary source of the wool is a ranch in the mountains northwest of Pendleton. Company buyers also search out flocks all over the world to find the right weight and type of wool for each Pendleton product. The showroom has a stock blanket display, as well as ready-made suits for both men and women, and shirts and blouses in cotton and silk (made elsewhere).

All the fabric made in the Pendleton Mill is 100% wool, sixty inches wide, and comes in five weights. For our purposes, suiting, "soft as a baby's bottom" is \$8 per yard; shirting (same softness) is \$3, blanket weight is \$30, and finished blankets start at \$199 each.

About 20 bolts are on racks for purchase of yardages of more than 3 yards. Color and pattern choices are difficult unless you make the trip (about 1500 miles, nearest airport is Boise, 200 miles away), but they will try to match swatches as closely as they can from the product on hand. Shipping, via UPS, and your local sales tax apply to the total purchase of each order.

The ladies graciously allowed us in the weaving mills for photos. I had way too much fun. My daughter-in-law in Tacoma is sending her kids to stay with their other grandmother for about 10 days in August and she and a friend are finally going to Pendleton after hearing me rave for two summer visits.



In Front of the Factory



Spinning



Weaving



Finished Blankets