

PAUL V. ALLEN

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After a quiet couple of months following my previous newsletter, I was beginning to think this edition was going to be a bit of a snooze. Then came an eventful end-of-October!

THE HOPEFULS

The Hopefuls: Chasing a Rock 'n' Roll Dream in the Minnesota Music Scene – just a few days past its first birthday - has won a Certificate of Merit in the 2019 ARSC Awards for Best Historical Research in Recorded Rock or Popular Music. The Association of Recorded Sound Collections is a nonprofit organization "dedicated to the preservation and study of sound recordings, in all genres of music and speech." Read more about their awards at <http://www.arsc-audio.org/awards/awards2019.html>

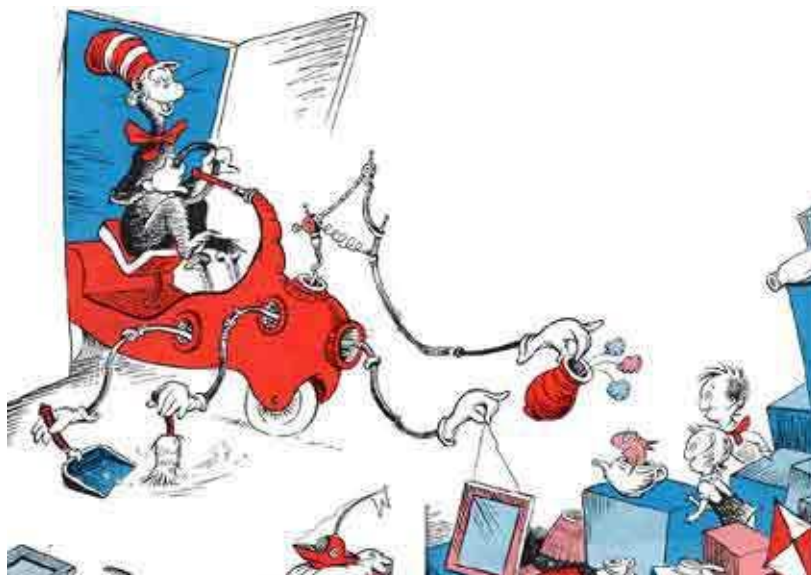
This was a total surprise to me, and I'm very honored.



BEGINNER BOOKS

My comprehensive history of Random House's Beginner Books line of early readers has passed the second hurdle at University Press of Mississippi. The press has offered a contract to publish contingent on board approval next month!

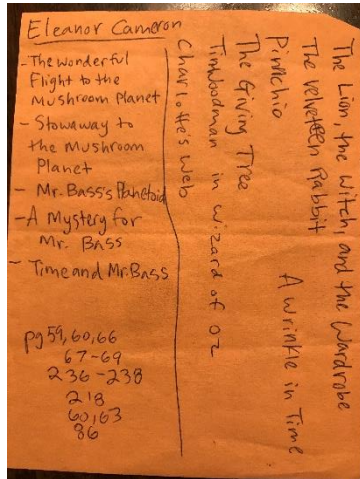
I had a ton of fun researching this project, so I'm excited about returning to the manuscript to clean everything up for publication.



ELEANOR CAMERON: DIMENSIONS OF AMAZEMENT

While going through some old personal files, I found an artifact that played a crucial role in my nonfiction writing career, something I didn't even know I'd saved. It's from the very moment I rediscovered Eleanor Cameron's name and the titles of all the Mushroom Planet books in a children's literature reference book I'd picked up in a free box outside the English department offices. I was working at the front desk of my dorm at the time, which is why I wrote the titles on the back of a Desk Assistant Substitute Request Form.

I wish I could tell you the significance of those other books listed on the right side. I might have just been listing stories I enjoyed as a child, but I weirdly noticed that all of those titles concern death and/or sacrifice.



D.A. Substitute Request

I am unable to work a desk shift.

My Name: _____

Date of the shift: _____

The shift starts: _____ am pm

The shift ends: _____ am pm

I, _____, will work the shift listed above.

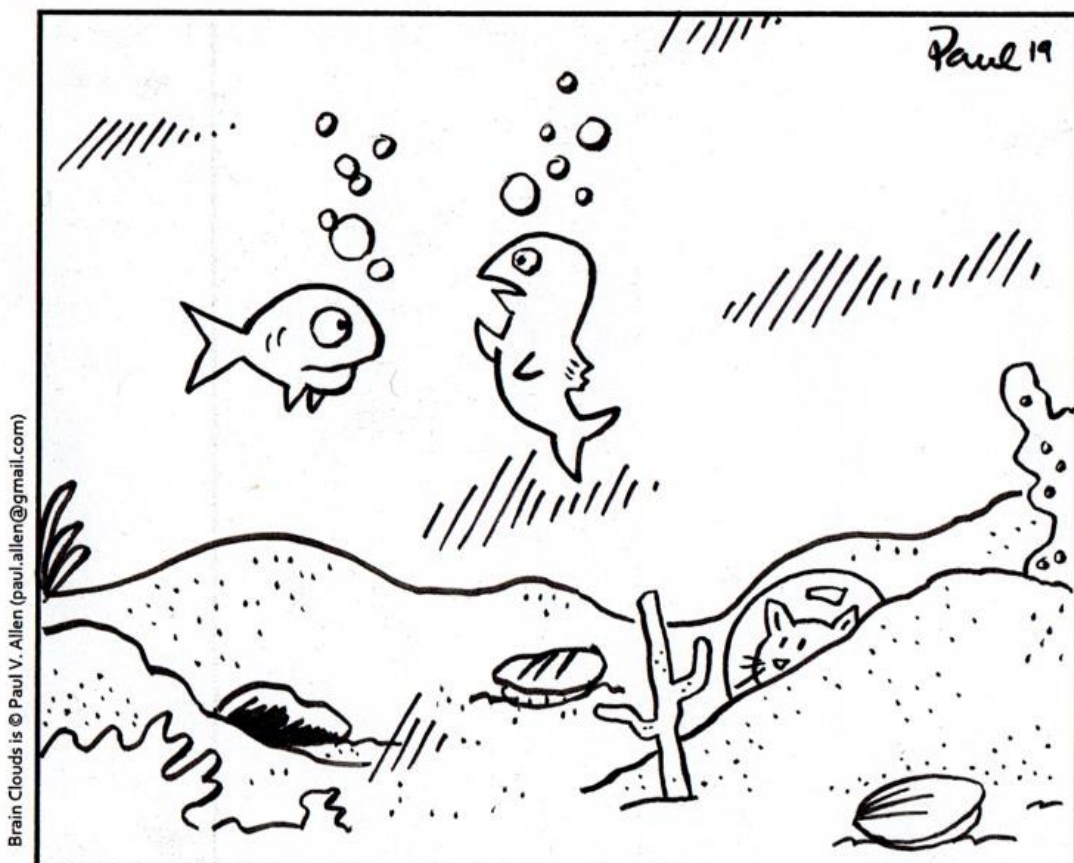
BOOK #4

I received some entertaining guesses about my hint in September's newsletter. The "4" symbol belongs to the Fantastic Four, one of my favorite Marvel Comics teams. If all goes well, my fourth book will be a history of Marvel and DC superhero comics in the 1990s.

I started reading comics in late 1989, so this will be a good excuse to spend a lot of time on memory lane rereading the books that started me on the hobby in the first place.

BRAIN CLOUDS

I hope you enjoy the debut of *New Yorker* style Brain Clouds.



"Wait! Something doesn't smell fishy here."

Until January: Much love to you all, and great thanks for your continued interest and support.

Paul

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