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NONFICTION AUTHOR



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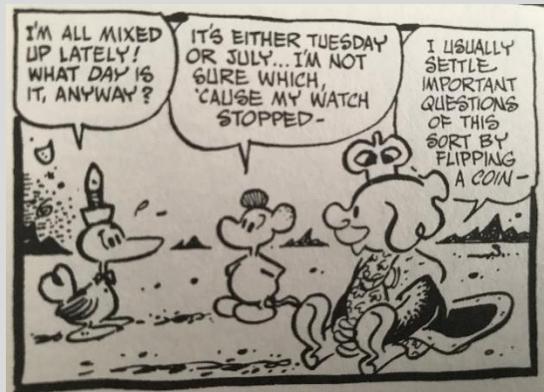
Well, it certainly is a different world than it was when I sent out the March newsletter. I hope this finds you and yours staying safe, strong, and sane.

Here's an update about what I've been doing while sheltering-in-place.

JACK KENT

Though I've been managing Peter and Theo's e-learning and attending trainings and meetings for work, not going in for 8 plus hours a day has given me a ton more free time.

I've been using a lot of that time to work on my biography of cartoonist Jack Kent. Having reached the limit of research I can do from home, I've already started a first draft, and am currently in the midst of writing the fifth chapter. I've never had a project move this quickly!



Once it's safe to be out in the world I plan to make a couple of research trips, including one to the Kerlan Collection where I researched most of my Eleanor Cameron book. Jack has a bunch of items there that I can't wait to get a look at.

(The timely illustration is from Jack Kent's *King Aroo* comic strip circa 1953.)

THE HOPEFULS

McFarland is having Performing Arts and Pop Culture Sale through May 17, meaning you can get ***The Hopefuls*** and many other titles for 40% off with the code POP40.

Also, here are some updates on the Hopefuls guys themselves:

- Darren Jackson is promising the sixth Kid Dakota album this fall. It's called ***Age of Roaches***, and he's already released a bunch of the songs via his [Bandcamp](#) page.
- Erik Appelwick is always good for surprises, so here's one: He's brought Vicious Vicious back after an 8-year hiatus. There'll be a new album – ***Gravity*** – in June. The first song, the hypnotic “This is a Burning House,” is on [YouTube](#) and Spotify.
- Storyhill released a recording of a 30th anniversary concert they did last summer in Bozeman. It's available on their [Bandcamp](#) page.
- Communist Daughter are doing an Indiegogo campaign for their third album. If you're interested, help them out [here](#).

I CAN READ IT ALL BY MYSELF

University Press of Mississippi have tentatively set a spring/summer 2021 release date for my Beginner Books history. I'm really excited for all of the stories behind the books and their creators to get out there into the world.

ADDITIONAL WRITINGS

Here are a couple of pieces I recently published on my blogs:

[Adam Schlesinger, Fountains of Wayne, and Me](#)

A personal tribute to the late songwriter, who succumbed to complications from COVID-19 at the beginning of April.

[Criminal Energy](#)

A look at how three recent superhero comic book storylines have addressed our current political atmosphere.

A FAVOR

If you've read *Eleanor Cameron: Dimensions of Amazement* and/or *The Hopefuls: Chasing a Rock 'n' Roll Dream in the Minnesota Music Scene* and enjoyed them, would you consider leaving a review on Goodreads, Amazon, or Barnes & Noble? Ratings move algorithms that increase visibility, or so I've been told.

BRAIN CLOUDS



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