

PAUL V. ALLEN

NONFICTION AUTHOR



Follow me on

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Amazon](#)

www.paulvallen.com

September 2020 Newsletter

JACK KENT

In late July I interviewed Jack Kent, Jr., who provided a ton of fascinating insight and detail about his father's life and work. Jack Jr. worked as an architect for many years before becoming a research scientist specializing in genetics. He also inherited his father's artistic talent, as evidenced by the illustrations he did for Jack Sr.'s short story "Puppies," when he was only 12 years old! It was published in *Humpty Dumpty Magazine* in 1967.



I CAN READ IT ALL BY MYSELF

My history of Beginner Books is in production at the publisher on track for 2021 release! The manuscript is now with a copy editor, I've just seen the top-secret cover design, and the marketing department recently sent me the catalog description for approval. Here's a preview of the first paragraph:

I Can Read It All By Myself: The Beginner Books Story

Paul V. Allen

A first-of-its-kind history of Ted Geisel and the beloved children's book series he created

In the late 1950s, Ted Geisel took on the challenge of creating a book using only 250 unique first-grade words, something that aspiring readers would have both the *ability* and the *desire* to read. The result was an unlikely children's classic, *The Cat in the Hat*. But Ted didn't stop there. Using *The Cat in the Hat* as a template, he teamed with Helen Geisel and Phyllis Cerf to create Beginner Books, a whole new category of readers that combined research-based literacy practices with the logical insanity of Dr. Seuss.

HEROES FOR THE '90s!

I'm just about ready to start sharing my next writing project, which I'm calling *Heroes for the '90s!: The Comics, Creators, and Characters that Defined a Decade*. In the July newsletter, I mentioned an ambitious plan to write 120 essays (one for each month of the decade). I've since realized that was insane, so I've scaled it back by half. I hope to have posts to share by the November newsletter.

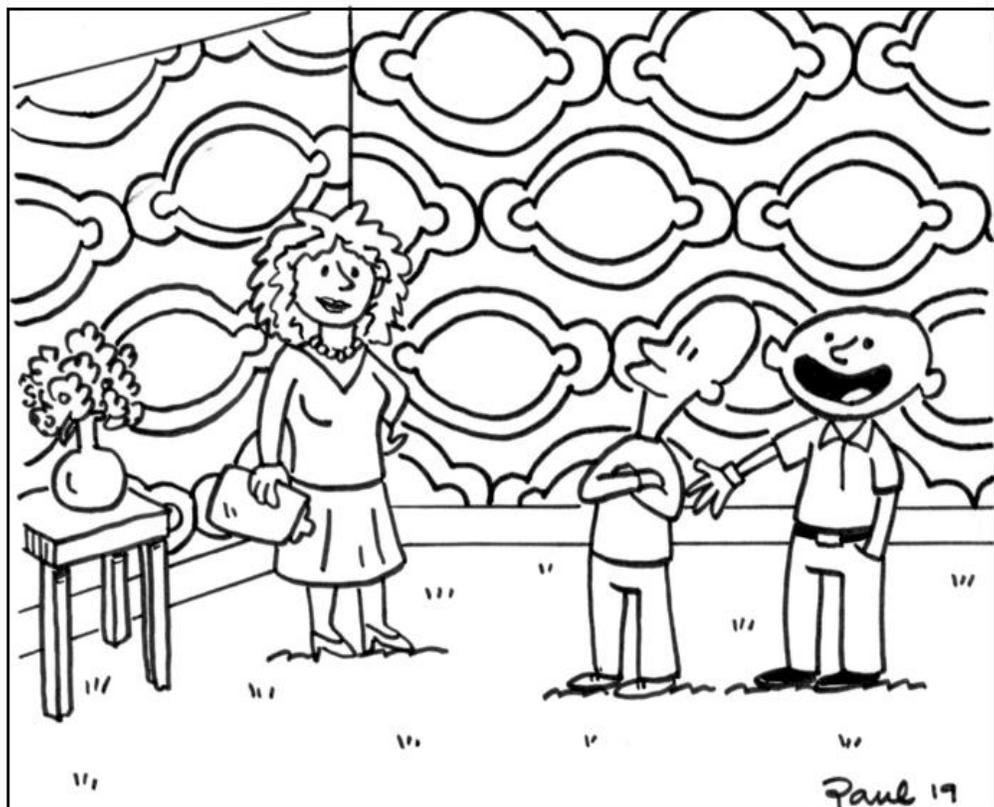
THE HOPEFULS

As I promised last time, I have two updates about *The Hopefuls*, one reaching back to the mid-1990s and one that catches us up to the present.

In the middle of June, I heard from Jay Krasnow, a multi-instrumentalist and composer who served the first manager of Reno, the band that would become Spymob. Jay lives in Cleveland now, and he came across *The Hopefuls* in his public library there, which led him to get in touch! We chatted and I wrote up an addition to the book that fills in his part of the story. [Check it out here](#).

I also decided that since the book's four main "characters" continue to make music, I should continue to write their stories. So [here's an update](#) that details what the guys have been up to in the two years since the book was published.

BRAIN CLOUDS



"Now I can really see myself in this room."

As always, thank you for reading. Love and peace to you all.