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AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

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U.S. New Year stamp to have Year of the Rooster theme

By Gary Griffith

A previously announced addition to the United States 1992 stamp program will be a 29¢ New Year stamp. It will depict a rooster and Chinese characters that translate as "Year of the Roostet."

No first day has been set, although the U.S. Postal Service has said the stamp will be issued in December.

The design was unveiled to the Organization of Chinese Americans during its convention in San Jose, Calif., Aug.

Asked why such a stamp was being issued, Jeff Majtyka, a spokesman for the Postal Service, told Linn's, "The public suggested the

That is true, however, for thousands of stamp suggestions that are rejected each

The Postal Service's release says, "The stamp will be available for sending New Year's greetings."

Majtyka said the Postal Service was aware that Chi-

Chinese New Year is celebrated at the first new moon after the sun enters Aquarius — sometime between Jan. 21 and Feb. 19.

The next Chinese new year, the Year of the Rooster, will begin Jan. 23, 1993. Each Chinese year is named after one of 12 animals.

Although a rooster, the Rhode Island Red, was included on one of the 50 State Bird and Flower stamps of 1982, the fowl has not been the main design element of a nese New Year is not Jan. 1. stamp issue since the much-

maligned "chicken stamp" of 1948.

The chicken stamp, which actually showed a Brahma rooster, was issued for what was described as the "centennial of the American poultry industry." But the stamp was widely criticized as an unnecessary issue that was released only because of pressure applied on a few congressmen by a small interest group.

The 1948 design, showing the bird in profile and the 3e denomination in an egg. was also denounced, and is often mentioned as an example of the low point in U.S. stamp design. The illustration of the rooster had been provided by the editor of the trade lournal Cackle and Crow.

Postal Service spokesman Majtyka said he was not aware of the controversy or the reputation of the 1948 chicken stamp. He told Linn's, the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee chose the Chinese New Year for the New Year stamp "because it felt that it was the most colorful design and because Asian Americans have made significant contributions to our country."

No production details or first-day ordering instructions have been announced, Linn's will report them as they be-



The design of the United States 29¢ New Year stamp scheduled for release in December.come available.

Don't Be Chicken – Save Poultry on Postage



By Duane Koenig

have an idea for a thematic—poultry on postage. Why not? Everything else has been collected. They are now even suggesting mules and frogs. In fact I see justification. Old timers will remember the outcry, far more than the current fluttering over an Elvis Presley commemorative, when the Post Office with its 1948 brahma rooster 3¢ stamp, pulled its biggest joke ever on the philatelic faithful. A disingenuous public had to celebrate by buying No. 968, a hundred years of the Poultry Industry.

All I could think of at the time was that song from the Kaiser's War, "Would you rather be a colonel with an eagle on your shoulder or a private with a chicken at your knee?" We are inclined to call a poltroon "chicken", but elsewhere the bird has respect. France long used a rooster to symbolizes its Third and succeeding republics: try Nos. 477-495 of 1944, 10c-20fr for starters. Composer Rimsky-Korsakov who has enjoyed postal tribute from a couple countries did a 1909 opera Le Cog d'Or or Golden Cockerel, a take-off on royalty. Mainland China calls a popular train the "Iron Rooster" and Paul Theroux has a travel book about its service.

If you look around for more of the birds, Roumania will oblige with a set on







domestic poultry, Nos. 1546-1552, 25b-21, of which the 20 bani shows chicks and the 30 bani a hen. The German Democratic Republic did, in 1979, roosters on Nos. 1982-1987 at 10pf to 50pf and for good measure added a child's drawing of one on a 20pf stamp for the 6th year of kid drawings. While not doing chickens on postage, the Luxembourg grand duchy has a humane society postmark featuring a dog, cat and chicken.

he raising of fighting cocks and the wagering on pit victories is an ancient sport much favored in the Latin Caribbean and South Florida, albeit in the latter instance, presumably illegally. I witnessed a cock battle once in Portau-Prince. It was distinguished more by the frenzy of the audience waving small bank notes than by the energy of the birds supposed to attack each other. Silly, was my reaction. I prefer to view the creatures on a barbecue spit than in a bleachered pit. Our No. 1991, the Rhode Isl. Red at 20¢ in the State Bird set, does not raise my hackles either.

Which brings me to the sad fate of our neighborhood rooster named Nelson. He and a hen were raised by a grade schooler for her science project. They wandered about our yard then and now, eating those palmetto bugs that might well dine on any mint postage on my desk. Alas, there were complaints and Nelson and his handmaid were retired to a children's petting zoo. The little girl is disconsolate.

Enough nonsense. Did not that Waterbury, Connecticut, Running Chicken cancel on a 3¢ 1869 locomotive cover lately bring six figures at auction? My wife will not hear of chickens off the table as she had to tend them as a land girl chore during Hitler's War. I, however, can contemplate with equanimity some album pages devoted to the topical of poultry on stamps.

After all, we do owe these animals a debt. If it had not been for Chicken Little shouting warning, how would we ever have known the sky was falling on us?











FROM THE OZARKS

Greetings to all from southern Missouri. After two months of cloudy days it is sure nice to see the sum shine again. Pecember had 21 cloudy days and January was close behind. We haven't had too much bad weather - some ice and a bit of snow, but mostly rain. I finally mudded my tulip bulbs in in Pecember. Crocus' are up, but not in bloom yet. Speaking of weather, I'm sure happy to see California get a break from their six year drought.

If anyone hasn't seen it, there is an excellent article by Dr. Charles Wabeck in the newest Fancy Feathers (APA Quarterly) on "to vaccinate or not to vaccinate." Laryngotracheitis seems to be the biggest bug-a-boo of the fall show circuit. Sooner or later it will get you if you exhibit birds. My experience was to get it in the fall of '86 - now I have to vaccinate every year. After talking to the state vets at Iowa, I now just vaccinate my young birds. It needs to be done before show season. I do mine in late July or early August. Most of the time they sail right through it with just a sore eye for a few days. There are people down here who have shown birds for years and never pick anything up at a show. They are just lucky - most of us aren't that fortunate. Another problem is Fowl Pox - it is much more prevalent in the south and mosquitoes seem to spread it. But like Laryngo, if you ever get it in your birds you have to vaccinate every year. Pox is a wing web stab and Laryngo is an eye drop. Mareks is another problem - baby chicks one day old are injected with the vaccine. But if you hatch under hens it is useless because feather dander has the organism in it.

Mareks vaccine is the most expensive of the lot and none of them can be saved for later use after they have been used. The vaccine and the sterile dilulent come in separate bottles and you mix them together. Most are 1000 dose vials. They are all under \$10.00.

Some states back east require exhibition birds to be vaccinated for Laryngo. I know Pennsyvania does.

It is just over seven months 'till our '93 National Meet. Let's make this one our best yet!! Think about those awards - I don't know of another club that can come close to our group. We all say thank you to those who donate awards or to the fund.

Happy Valentines - Good Luck and Good Hatching.

See you in September.

Mary Lou Phelps Central District Director



NOTES FROM N. MICHIGAN

Hi to all. Feb & winter so far not too bad. Great sunny day and warmish here almost 40°. Sure the groundhog saw his shadow, but then we knew 6 more weeks of winter anyway no matter what about the groundhog.

News. IF & BK called me at my house. I haven't had a phone in 15 years. I got a a cellular phone. Costs over \$800 to have a regular phone to come up these hills and trees. One does have to not abuse the cellular. I have a 100 min/mo plan, but it all counts in or out going calls. My 100 min. are used up for this month. less than a month actually. Sure is great to have a phone. (616) 590-2408. You may call..just talk fast.

IT did it again..big time. 12/18 on the way to work..just 5 miles fron home. Crashed my great Jeep truch and my body...four broken ribs and cast on my leg, broke my glasses. I was without glassed for 3 weeks. Finally have a great new truck, a Dodge Dakota. They don't make Jeep trucks anymore. This one is even better so I am all ready for poulty shows.

Leg cast came off today. Can't walk real well yet but it is off. Can't work for a couple more weeks but I'm on the mend. It had been a long seven weeks and I have a good case of cabin fever. Had no truck, no phone..totally at the mercy of whomever could or would stop by. Couldn't feed the chickens even. I decided I needed a phone. Hence the cellular one. At least I'm not totally stranded and can call 911 id Antrim County had such a thing. We do have Dial-A-Ride, however.

Haven't seen or done anything in a long time..chicken-wise. I do have eleven Ameraucanas still. They look really great. Looked awful all summer but then we had such a wierd summer. Real cool, no eggs would hatch in the incubator or under hens. Chickens moulted all summer. They were naked. Now they look great. The THING hasn't been around so all are sofe. Heoping to get this body healed, chicks hatched and "on the road again" in my new red truck. Off to see my long neglected chicken friends. Hopefully I can see some of you at Centrevill on Mother's Day. Planning on the National in September.

Not much news to pass along but words of wisdom. Wear your seat belt. Had I been wearing my seat belt the Jeep probably still would have been wrecked but not me...with all the broken bones. I just bounced all over the Jeep and we were barely moving. Broken ribs are not fun at all. Been laid up seven weeks so far and two more to go....a lonning seven weeks.

I have a good base of Ameraucanas still. Poor things haven't had any real care given to them since before Christmas but they are doing great. With any luck at all I will be able to help large fowl folks.

Here it is 6:00 P.M. before it gets dark now. Time to start thinking of spring chicks and all that good stuff. Hopefully I'll see you at a show and without crutches.

Think Spring Think Champions Think National

Jeanne Trent

Hi Jeannette,

Received your letter and handbook, Thanks a lot. Very interesting reading. I will be contacting some folks to purchase some birds soon. We bought our pair of blue wheaten Ameraucana bantams at the paso Robles Show this past Oct. My oldest son, Mark, loved the cute birds and the fact they laid blue eggs. I can't remember the man's name we bought them from. We have been showing our pair around California although there has been no competition thus far. We did win Best All Other Clean legged Bantam at the Tracy, CA Show. My sons were <u>very</u> happy with the plaque they won. We will be showing next week at the Bakersfield Show and the Fresno, CA Show where we are members. I has sponsored a plaque for the best Ameraucana of the Show. Hope to meet fellow exhibitors of Ameraucanas to visit with.

About myself, I was born in Bakersfield, CA in 1957. At the age of 14, we moved to Cut Bank, MT to work in the oil fields. At age 17, I joined the Army and was sent to Berlin, Germany where I met my wife, Sabine. We have two boys, Mark age 10 and David age 8 - plus one on the way! I have always had chickens and other animals. We show Dairy goats and Limonsin and Brahma cattle. I confess, I take most interest in my poultry. I have had various waterfowl as well as Rhode Island Red large fowl, Black and Wheaten Old English and Buff Plymouth Rocks. I hope to soon have a good foundation in both Ameraucanas and Araucanas.

Thanks, Good luck to you and when I'm in Montana again I'll be sure to call.

Ken Duvall and family

Ken and his family are new members of ABC and when he mentioned he still has family in Cut Bank I told him to contact me if and when he comes to visit. And as a new member I wanted the club to get acquainted with Ken and his family. Thanks, Ken.)

1-23-93

Jeannette,

I stopped in at the 72nd annual Bay City Poultry Show today. There were three exhibitors showing large Ameraucanas, (some called Araucanas). No varieties were claimed. One Araucana was rumpless but had muffs. Another was tailed and clean faced so I won't say they should have been enteres as Ameraucanas or Araucanas. They were disqualified because of their combs anyway. Of the remaining 13 birds, they were basically of the AM type. Seven of these were disqualified due to nonstandard combs. There were some willow and yellow legs in the group. I think the judge did know what to loof for and picked the right birds for BB (hen) and RB (cock). Both were owned by a junior exhibitor. Please send him a complimentary newsletter.

No bantams were shown. Jeanne Trent, where are you? I didn't show any. As I wrote you last time my birds had had L.T. & after I hatch all I can this spring I'll depopulate all the old birds.

John W. Blehm

MORE NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

well it has been a long time since I wrote. Down to chicken business.

My big project was the buff color. I hatched about 200 chicks out of the buff mating. Culled to about 30 by eight weeks of age. About May the predators started hitting me hard. Lost some good ones. I have one good cockerel and about four pullets with slate legs. Plumage needs work but I am getting there. Hatched some in the other colors but no big projects. I have about given up on silvers. Now that they are looking like Ameraucanas again after adding Silver Duckwing Old English three years ago, I can't get good silver cockerels. It seems nature wants the red in there. Maybe I should leave it and forget about showing them. Oh, well.

I have decided to cut back on the Ameraucanas and try a few other breeds that seem to be in demand around here. I have just about had it with people who only want to pay \$2 or \$3 for a chicken. This chicken project is going to have to start paying it's own way. Guineas bring about \$10 at the sale barn here. So now I have a few. I don't really like the noise but they are just as easy to raise as chickens and they are in demand. I now have a start of silver laced Polish lorge fowl. Same reason. They sell. Plus I am tinkering with silver Sebright. I like them but they are the poorest producers and die easy. Inbreeding depression?

I have a few Snowy Rouen ducks. Yes, I know they aren't in the Standard. But I like the snowy color in a duck big enough to make cleaning him worth the trouble. They don't pay their way but I like them.

I still keep a few pigeons and ringneck doves. Rats moved in and killed a few floor nesting fantails. Rats like squabs and docile adults. Lost about six before I got rid of the rats.

I also have a start of large fowl Old English Games. The cocks are beautiful when let run loose. One is the blackest I have ever seen. With no red. HMMMMMM...maybe black Ameraucana large fowl? We will see. The Old English are in demand here for free roaming chickens that take care of themselves. hard to find and bring a good price.

I was sorry to hear about Bruck Hutchinson. He will be missed. Glad I got to see him in September. I was glad I dropped in at the show and saw everyone.

I am impressed with John Blehm. But then he does think a lot like me when it comes to developing new colors. I enjoyed talking to him and finding out we come up with the same ideas separately. It was nice seeing Mary Lou, Mike Gilbert and all my friends, old and new. I really don't want to leave anyone out. So please don't be offended if I didn't mention you.

I have recently been hit by my version of the THING. At first I thought it was a fox or coyote as they took two guineas and one Polish rooster in one night. That is too much meat for one coon to eat at once and they did eat it all except a few feathers and wing parts. I saw them in the daylight the other day with a duck in it's mouth. It was three wild dogs or perhapd dog-coyote crosses. Short hair, long tails and a black brindle color. I am working on that problem now. Well I better stop now.

SHOW RESULTS MN STATE - 1992 CHAMP AMERAUCANA Bantam - White Pullet RESERVE CHAMP Bantam - White Pullet (both owned by Arne Schmidt) Bantams: Wheaten -BV Pullet...Marion Larson (MN) Cockerel.. Marion Larson RV Pullet..Arne Schmidt (MN) Rυ white. Pullet.. Arne Schmidt RV CHAMP AMERAUCANA Large Fowl Black Pullet Blue Pullet RESERVE CHAMP LF 1 Both owned by Arne Schmidt) <u>Large</u> Fowl Black BV Pullet..Arne Schmidt RV Pullet..Arne Schmidt Pullet..Arne Schmidt Blue Red BV RV Pullet. Arne Schmidt CHAMP AOV Black Pullet..Arne Schmidt ++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++ LAND OF THE BLACKHAWK SHOW WI 9/12/92 Bantam Ameraucana Black pullet- Res AOCCL, BV, BB (Mike Gilbert-WI) Blue pullet - E. Wilhelmi Wheaten - M. Gilbert 1K ru, 2k, 1p bu] Blue Wheaten - B. Kellogg 2 p rv E. Wilhelmi 2k C. Hoeft 1k, 3-4p M. Gilbert 1p bu, ru M. Gilbert 1p bu Buff Junior Show J. Stumpner 1h bu, rb Blue Wheaten B. Goodger 1k. bv.bb White OHIO NATIONAL - Columbus, OH 11/13-15 '92 Large Fowl Wheaten Themselkenberky, Cliff 1 hen RV 1 cockerel 1 pullet BV, BB Bantam

Blue Wheaten - Mary Lou Phelps (MO)

Cliff Ikenberry Mary Lou Phelps 2p

Wheaten -

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VIRGINIA POULTRY BREEDERS ASSN
Large Fowl - Black - 1 bu, bbc, 1ru, rbh
             Claude McAllister
Bantam - Wheaten - 1c. 1h
             Claude McAllister
    ++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA POULTRY ASSN
Oklahoma City, OK
Junior - Large Fowl, White
                     Johnny Pearce
WISCONSIN INT. POULTRY SHOW
Janesville, WI
                  9/26-27 192
Bantam Ameraucana
             Blue E. Wilhelmi 1bv rb p
             Blue Wheaten Stauffer
                                160, 66 k
                            E. Wilhelmi
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JOHN McGRATH Rt 1 Box 339 West, TX 76691

"Just got started in Ameraucanas. I'm interested in purchasing some good bantams."

2 ru k

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Any of our members who has some bantams to sell please drop

John a line and let him know what you have, etc., etc. (Ed)

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

I have sitting here on my dest a big fluffy hand puppet...a white hen. My son-in-law and daughter just brought it to me. They are always finding neat poultry things for me. This hen will set on my headboard next to the big stuffed rooster.

I hope you have some special eggs being produced by those special Ameraucanas for the incubator you have tested already. I guess I'll put my incubators up for sale since I am more or less out of the poultry hatching business. If you are going to have some champions for the shows you had better get going.

Is 1993 being good to you? I have received a smattering of membership dues. I hope more will be in by the end of February. If we haven't received yours by the 10th of March we will have to drop you from receiving the ABC newsletter.

So many of you had inquired about Jeanne T. When I hadn't received her article for the last newsletter I just assumed she had a busy schedule. Now I know what happened. She finally was able to write and let me know she had wrecked her Jeep and her body. Her Jeep was totalled. Luckily Jeanne was not but broken ribs and leg is no fun. She is still abit out of commission but at least on the mend. I'm sure she'd be glad to hear from you. Drop her a line: Jeanne Trent, RR 1 Box 196H, Central Lake, MI 49622.

Another valued member of our club has been out of commission since about Thanksgiving... BONNIE JEAN INNES. In case you don't know Bonnie Jean is Jeanne T's aunt in Florida. Aunt Jean has been very supportive of Jeanne and the ABC'ers. I'm sure she would appreciate a friendly card or note. Her address is: 3902 Fig St., Tampa, FL 33602.

I had asked some of the members for and article and a couple of you were good enough to send some items. Hopefully more of you will send items and articles for future newsletters. For those of you sending articles for the next newsletter the deadline is $\underline{\text{March}}$ $\underline{27th}$!

Beleive it or not September isn't that far away. Hope you have started planning to attend the ABC National in Mason City, Iowa. I understand that last year was great but 1993 is going to be better. There will be more on this in upcoming newsletters.

Mary Lou had asked me about the article on "to vaccinate or not to vaccinate". I'm pleased to see she mentioned it in her article. It is such a simple thing to do and alot of us forget how important it can be. I'm sure there isn't a poultry person that hasn't asked themselves that very question at one time or the other. I remember when my family was living in Tarpon Springs, FL and we were just getting into poultry. The neighbor lady and my children & I had between 300 and 400 chickens between us. We were introduced to Fowl Pox the hard way - when the combs of our single comb birds were suddenly covered with small blisters. The local feed store supplied me with the answer and the solution. In +90° with 95% humidity my kids & I were doing wing web innoculations on all those chickens. I said then I'd move to where Fowl Pox wasn't a major problem. (Now I do pullorum blood tests for the State Vet.) As for my personal thougths on vaccinations...none of my kids...human or feathered or fur have missed their innoculations. An ounce of prevention....!

I've added a new book to my collection..."THE BOOK OF CHICKENS" by Lowell Pavis. What a gorgeous collection of art work. Mr. Pavis has a special way of capturing the look and character of the animals. This will be a special treasure for me. I had tried to get some of my local book stores to order it for me but they couldn't so my trusted friend in MO ordered it for me. If you get a chance to pick up a copy I suggest you do so.

I've included an article about my son-in-law in this newsletter because I am very proud of Mike and Cynthia. They are special. Hope you don't mind me sharing this bit of my personal life with you. Thanks.

Hannette Jank

Montana Parade

Montana Album Sunday crossword Weddings Engagements 3E



Local artist blasts into comics scene Great Falls artist Mike Halbleib does ink work on a comic called "Arnazing Heroes."

Stories by RICHARD ECKE Tribune Staff Writer

OOM! KRUNG. RAAAAAR! ZZZRAK. It's Vortex the Wonder Mule! Ready to smash bad guys in the mouth with a single hoof. Willing to but marauding evil-doers in the stomach. "He's my baby," said his proud creator, 31-year-old hischael Haibleib of Great Falls. "He's a mule that's turned into a superhere." Vortex's superpowers, however, don't go to his nicely maned head. "He has more humanity than most people we know," said Haibleib. Readers seem to like Vortex too. The first three issues, teralling 9 000 mouth with a single

first three issues, totalling 9,000 copies, sold out. But Halbleib has copies, soid out, sur risitues o sus created an even bigger splash doing other work for Personality Comics, a New York-based, independent company. And be hes writen superher satires under the company's Person Personality. Spool Comics label.

Spoot Comics label.
One spoof, Spider-Femme, sold
14,000 copies in its first
black-and-white printing. The
company then cranked out another
50,000 copies in full color.
Spider-Femme, the most popular

Personality book so far, may even find its way onto some of the traditional drug and grocery-store racks across the country.

/arluk, en évil allen, battles ortex the Wonder Mule in comic book written and ustrated by Halbielb.

Halbleib does not illustrate the satires himself, although he wrote and illustrated his Vortex the Wonder Mule series, Halbleib once whipped out a comic-book script in a day: illustrating an entire issue can

take 20 days.
The spoofs of comics have created a stir.

For example Halbleib last fall spoofed Marvel's Daredevil, a blind man with amazing radar powers. Halbieib's distaff version is Daredame: The Woman Without a

Brassiere.
Daredame gains her superpowers when a radioactive isotope strikes her

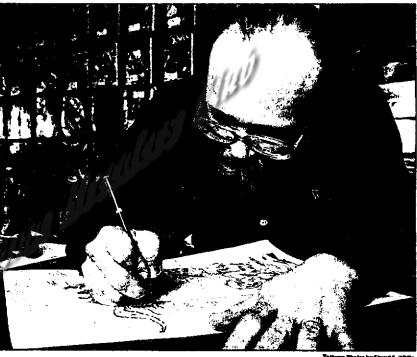
in the chest, greatly increasing her bust size. She becomes a "big-breasted, battling babe," out t avenge her mother's death.

The art for such spoofs as
Daredame, Spider-Femme and
Batbabe is suggestive. From the back,
the super-women's uniforms are thong

the super-women's uniforms are tho style; from the front, low-cut. The sexy drawings help draw in male readers. Halbleib admits some mate readers. Halbleib admits some feminists hate Spoof Comics, but maintains the underlying dialogue and best shows women in a positive way. "They're strong, powerful women who are in control of the situation," he said. In any event, Halbleib is drifting away from satires and into the superhard series of superhard series and series are of

superhero arena, the glory area of comics. The industry leaders are number one Marvel (Spider-Man, Punisher, X-Men, Hulk), and second-place D.C. (Superman, Bahman, Flash, Justice League).

Personality Comics plans a new superhero line called Triumphant, and



Halbielb does a little art work in his store, Paladin Comics, 600 15th St. S. The comics-shop owner and former KRTV engineer has written 24 comic books in about a year, mainly for New York-based Personality Comics.

Halblieb may be part of that. He also attended a comics convention in New York City last weekend, and received positive responses from Mirage Studios, which markets Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles; Dark Horse comics, an independent company; and D.C. Comics, which liked his inking style. Comic illustrations are drawn first in pencil, then later completed in ink to create a finished look.

Working for the major comics companies can be lucrative.

companies can be lucrative.

"Marvel pays up to \$3,000 a page for artwork," Halbleib said.

Working for a smaller, independent company like Personality provides Halbleib with what he calls a "comfortable living." He and his wife, Cynthia, also run the Paladin Comics shop at 600 15th St. S.

Halbleib is interest in comics types.

Halbleib's interest in comics traces back to his childhood in eastern

Pennsylvania.
"I remember being hooked on drawing dinosaurs when I was a kid," he said. He also read D.C. and Marvel comic books, and liked Marvel's Spider-Man.

"Spider-Man was the first superhero who had real troubles," Halbleib said. His favorite illustrator was Marvel's Gil Kane, who drew such Marvel mainstays as Spidey and the Hulk. "He could draw the human anstomy in the far halbleib seed."

in just a fantastic way." Halbleib said.
Two years ago, Halbleib began
trying to sell his work to any comics
company that would listen. Rejections
hurt, but he finally got his break
writing a biography of martial arts
hero Bruce Lee for Personality Comics.
Early last wear, the company oaid

Early last year, the company peid \$100 for the Lee script. And while the book was never published, he got his

foot in the door.

Halbleib credits his wife with keeping his feet to the fire when he was ready to give up late in 1991. He has since become a star for Personality, but he wants to stay in Great Falls. Great Falls

"I already told 'em I won't (move)," Haibleib said. "Now they've gotten used to it.

Overnight mail services, phones and fax machines have brought Montana closer to New York, and be was written

closer to New York, and he was written two-dozen comics within a year. "Twe never missed a deadline," he said. Habbieb hopes to make it big in the comics world, although it could be with a different company than Personality. Whatever the label, Habbieb is creating a new team of female superheroes. This group will be striver and not a trunch be set in.

serious, and not a spoof, he said.
"There's never been a team of
super-females," he said. "I thought it's about time,"

And he promises more issues of Vortex will come out this summer. Halbleib dreamed up Vortex in a Great Falls area tavern in 1986, after a friend, Tim Luinstra, jokingly urged him to create a superhero for Montana. Later, KRTV weatherman Joe Lawson helped Halbleib refine Vortex's nemesic, a foul green alien who looks like a werewolf.

Vortex appeared in print last summer, published in black and white "because the company can't afford" color, Halbleib said.

But a different company may print future issues of Vortex in color.

And adults may want to sink their teeth into a new Habbleb project, set to come out in March. It's a vampire comic book called hyght School.

"It has some nudity in it and it's

Michael Halbleib

E Acc: 31

EL Career: U.S. Air Force; engineer for KRTV-3 in Great Falls; owner of Mervel-Us, and later Paladin, comic shops in Great Falls; writer-illustrator for Personality Comics, Melville, N.Y.

Education: High school in Elizabethtown, Pa

cazacerrown, Pa.

E Family: Wife, Cynthia

Cornica written, drawn and/
or laked by Halibleits: Vortex the
Wonder Mule; The Story of Jesue;
Spider-Fernme; Bathate;
Daredame; Hell, the Princess of Darkness; Wolverbroad; Superbabe; OX, Cow of War; Imp-Unity; Cyberlemmes; WildC.H.I.C.K.S; SPOON; Youngspud; and Wolverbroad Vs. Hobo. Nyght School, for adults, is set for March release.

pretty violent." he said pretty violent," ne said.

Despite his forey into
blood-spattering comics, Haibleib
disdalns violence in such comics as
Marvel's popular, The Punisher, wt
first appeared in 1973.

"It's a terrible book," he said. "He

"It's a terrible book," he said. "He kills anybody, practically."
He blames the violence on young writers who grew up with "Rambo" movies. Haibleib prefers characters such as his mule, Vortex, who has "a lot of heart and feeling."
Maybe in some future edition, Haibleib will have Vortex give
Punisher a swift kick.
BOOT THWACTE A B BOHLER

BOOT! THWACK! AARGHHH!

1993 AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB MENRERSHIP FORM

<u>DUES</u> : Family \$10.00 Individual	\$7.50 Junior \$	5.00 (All dues are due Jan. 1.)
NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
сту:	STATE:	ZIP:
PHONE NUMBER: ()	•	
If you are paying for a family would	you please list fam	ily member names and ages:
(Use additional paper if necessary.)		
I (ME) raise and breed the following LARGE FOOL: BANTAM: I (WE) will sell: Hatching Eggs	AMERAUCANAS:	1110
BANTAM:	115	
I (WE) will sell: Hatching Eggs	Chicks Started	Stock Adult Birds
Will you ship any of the above?	350	
Will you deliver to shows any of the	April 1	. What shows?
Please list other breeds of poultry y large fowl or bantams, variety, beard	you raise or breed. ded or non bearded.	Be sure to state if they are (Use additional paper if necessary.
Please use the space below for your c you or your family. Any suggestions	comments, thoughts, . for future newslett	ideas or general information about ers would be appreciated.
Please return this qu estionaire and m	nembership dues to:	JEANNETTE FRANK P. O. BOX 824 GREAT FALLS, MT 59403-0824
If you have a question or need immed	liate help call: (4)	06) 761-5853.
Remember <u>All</u> memberships are renewabl	le on January 1 of ea	ach year.

