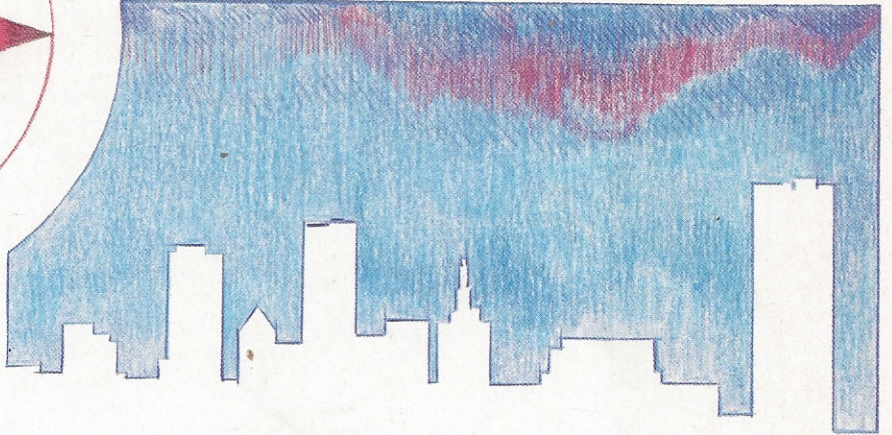
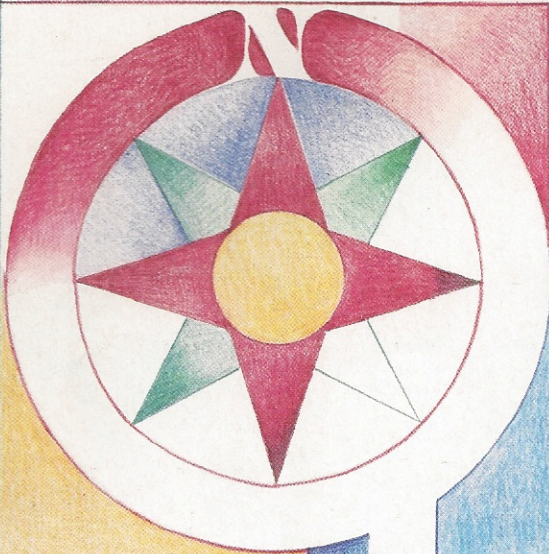


*Ganymede Jones stars in Tulsa radio drama.
Delta — a welcome southern airline carrier.
Flying to Green Country's best recreation spots.*

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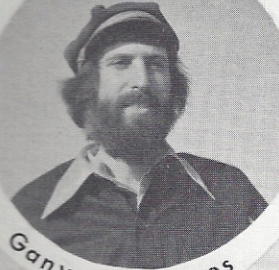
Cherokee



The
Cherokee
Project

**NEW
VIEW
FROM
THE
TOP**

Johnny blue star



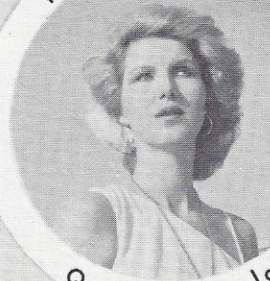
Ganymede Jones

leo chandler

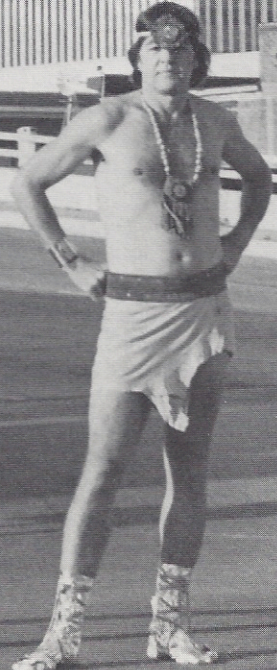
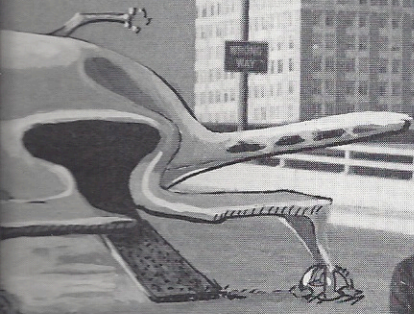


Rockethawk

mariellen smith



Queen Astrolon



ganymede jones is radio active

You probably have not noticed a certain unusual bearded figure with tattered clothes, an earth brown and gold leather cap sitting atop his head, looking much like a burned out tree stump, hitchhiking along Tulsa's streets.

If you by chance have seen Johnny Blue Star, he's most likely on his way to a meeting with ITTI recording studio expert Sonny Gray, or Roy Clark's agent/partner Jim Halsey, or KMOD Radio chief Travis Reeves, all in the name of producing a radio serial.

A radio serial? Today? In Tulsa?

On the other hand, if Mel Brooks can get by with producing Silent Movie . . .

According to Blue Star's gentle sidekick, Tulsa artist Leo Darrell Chandler, "these starhiking exploits are for the purpose of bringing together a meeting of the minds and talents to produce the most original, epic-making science fiction adventure to come along since Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon."

Beginning this month, on KMOD FM Radio, folks, you can hear the original, authenticated, silver-space-ship-plated version of "The Adventures of Ganymede Jones on the Outskirts of Space."

According to Chandler, this rather zany but serious plan to put on the Tulsa airwaves a science fiction program is pure "cosmic radio . . . or, if you like, the radio of the future."

TULSA Magazine asked Leo if he would explain how all of this craziness developed, and he complied, not only with the story but with "actual, authenticated photographs" of space people landing in the downtown area.

Move over Star Trek. Tulsa now has its own space odyssey. As Leo Chandler would tell it . . .

story/Leo Chandler

To borrow a phrase from the past, *Ganymede Jones* blends futurism with 'golden days of yesteryear' when radio commanded the attention and imagination of millions throughout the world. It is more than a radio drama set in the 31st century. It is potentially part of a

multi-media package which flows quite naturally into movie making and music production.

Ganymede Jones was conceived by Johnny Blue Star, who then became Ganymede Jones, the star of his own creation. Blue Star was born in Oklahoma and though he lived in New York, Annapolis and the French Quarters of New Orleans

and San Francisco, it was something of a homing instinct that brought him here to Tulsa in 1975 to designate this city, 'Starbase One.'

The name Ganymede (GANA-MEED), a military hero who fights for order and justice, originated more than five years ago as a musical novel. According to Blue Star, Ganymede is one of the many moons of Jupiter and he picked the name because it sounded good. It was later to be discovered that Ganymede had more philosophical and symbolic meaning.

At any rate, in 1975 Ganymede Jones landed his star ship, the silver Phoenix, in Tulsa and began the long and tedious task of rounding up the necessary talent to pull off such an undertaking. He could not possibly see all the obstacles ahead, but with stubborn ferocity he began clearing a trail through this jungle of unknowns with a machete called 'New Age Prosperity.'

Blue Star felt it would be a great waste of time to concentrate too heavily looking for financing. Anyway, who would gamble on such a long shot as bringing back radio drama in these days where everything is visual and in color. Consequently, after one feeble attempt, very little time was wasted looking for this pot of gold.

Instead, after writing the script and finding people to play the parts, Johnny Blue Star began designing a company where each facet of its operation belonged to the individual who created that particular part of its overall unity. In other words, the company would belong to the people who created it.

Corporately speaking, however loose this structure may seem, the company was methodically organized so that Blue Star would maintain control of its policy and 'cosmic destination'. One after another, people would come into ►

the company and then leave because they were not in accord with these particular policies.

The first to join the company was Greg Matloff, who is a professor of physics and a research scientist at New York University. Matloff, the show's scientific consultant, began immediately to formulate a technology manual which Blue Star would use extensively in writing. The first adventure of Ganymede Jones would be designed for daily episodes of seven minutes each, serialized for 65 programs. After this an entirely new adventure would begin. But first, a pilot program had to be made, and since Matloff was in New York, this still left Blue Star with the total organizational problem.

Next to join was myself, as art director, since that was where most of my experience lay. It would be my job to translate the scientific chicken-scratches sent to us by Matloff, into visual space ships and ray guns and that sort of thing. When I was asked to do this article purely on the basis that I knew the step by step development, I was a little apprehensive about writing of such things as starhiking across galaxies and outer-planetary wars with Hydrakins. After all, when I met Johnny, the Milky Way was just another candy bar. But I am beginning to use such terms as 'black holes' and 'solar winds' with more and more frequency.

Soon the art director's job description expanded from doing the visuals such as bumper stickers, billboards, t-shirts, posters, pendants and magazines, to photographer, script rewriter, pilot director, taxi driver and a character in the scripts called 'Rockethawk,' an Indian medicine traveler of the 31st century.

It would be Johnny and I who would do most of the leg work over the next year or more to weave the concept into a corporation and then, to produce a pilot program that would be accepted by KMOD, our target station.

Mariellen Smith was the next member to join allegiance with what was to become known as GANJO. She would be the only one of our group who had any real experience in the entertainment world. Mariellen would become our 'cosmic' narrator and because of her spiritual closeness with the infinite, would play the part of Queen Astralon who ruled the mysterious planet of the pyramids in the complex world of the 31st century. Mariellen would also become assistant director.

The first tapes were made at KAKC on rented time and were engineered by Bobby Davis. The good quality gave the company encouragement but they proved to be of limited use other than experience.



The company needed its own original music created by its own original band.

After a cast had been assimilated, arrangements were made with a radio station in Norman to use its recording facilities. We drove the 136 miles one weekend, and seven hours later we had about 12 mediocre minutes of voice-over tape. It soon became clear this arrangement would not work out either. Facilities closer to Starbase One were imperative. So after weeks of looking and making new contacts, ITTI Studios and Sonny Gray became the point of origin for Ganymede Jones' 'cosmic' flight.

The scripts were ready, the cast was ready, and most of the production crew was ready. But we still needed music. Dennis McDonald began "materializing on the Video Chart." Dennis was born in Calgary, but has lived seven years in Tulsa. He attended OSU; he also plays piano and creates music that will make your insides move in whatever direction he chooses.

Dennis McDonald has one unusual credit, aside from being young enough to do anything he wants. Dennis has the stage production rights to do the music for J.R.R. Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' and he has written a rock opera based on this story. He says in his music; "We will never cease to explore, and at the end of all quests, we will arrive at the beginning and know this place for the first time."

All the music on the pilot program was improvised in the studio by the "Ganymede Jones Band." However, the music will be scored to the scripts for the taping of the 65 episodes scheduled for release in January.

The object was still to produce a product, that is, a science fiction radio program complete with music . . . and sound effects. The budget was in the high two figure bracket; nevertheless a good portion of that was used to run an ad in the paper for an engineer.

Five people responded; but only Tim

Rogers was willing to work around the clock for no salary. This willingness proved him to be just nutty enough to be part of the company. For the next two months, Tim Rogers would edit tape, record voices, record music and isolate sound effects of the most unusual origin.

The company was growing with the addition of Warren Brown, a science fiction writer who had just graduated from the University of Tulsa's Masters program in modern letters.

Phil LaGreca, a product of the TU law school, gave energy and sound advise in forming the kind of company Blue Star visualized.

The first time the tapes were played to KMOD, they put them to sleep. A month later, after everything was redone, they told us we were getting closer. We thanked them and went back to the recording studio. The program was accepted.

The cast in the pilot series, scheduled for airing July 15 includes, Mariellen Smith as the narrator and Johnny Blue Star as Ganymede Jones. George Addison plays Jo-Jo Krocker, Ganymede's temperamental engineer. The part of Mick West is played by Steve Smallwood, a 17-year-old radio engineer on the space-battle ship 'Dog-Star.'

Ty Stewart plays two ethnic parts and is an adviser on Indian culture. Others in the cast include; Jim Runyan, Tom Curren, Lynn Holt, Gene Mullen and James Davis. A special thanks to Carol Crump, Dick Wheeler, and Dan Fuhrman. If anybody has been left out, I apologize and will be sure to include you in the book we will undoubtedly write someday, 'The Making of Ganymede Jones'.

The pilot program will air one episode per week for the test period of thirteen weeks.

Join us now on July 15 as The New Atlantis Theater Company, in cooperation with KMOD Radio, presents 'The Adventures Of Ganymede Jones — On The Outskirts Of Space.'