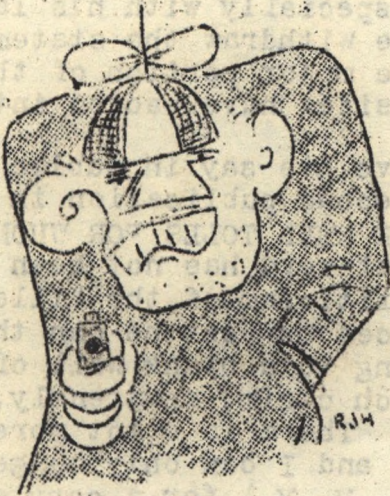


July 4, 1958

FANAC #19

A weekly news and chatterzine from Ron Ellik and Terry Carr, 2315 Dwight Way, Berkeley 4, Calif. Subs: 6 for 25¢ from Ellik & Carr, or 6 for two shillings sterling from British Agent Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd., No. Hykeham, Lincoln, England. News and comment happily received. Ron is back east conventioning, so this issue is again done solely by Carr. Heading this issue by Roger Horrocks.



RON BENNETT FOR TAFF!

F. T. LANEY DIES

Hard on the heels of Vernon McCain's death comes the news of the death recently of Francis Towner Laney. Laney died of bone cancer.

The news came to us extremely third-hand, originally from Laney's wife to Forry Ackerman, who told our informants, Alex Bratmon, Miriam Dyches, and Charles Burbee.

Though Laney hasn't been active in fandom for years, one can't help feeling that his death is a loss to us all. Publisher of such landmarks in fan-publishing as THE ACOLYTE, FAN DANGO, and AH, SWEET IDIOCY, Laney was undoubtedly one of the most influential fans in the

whole course of fandom's history. He was the driving force behind the LASFS-Insurgent philosophy that "Fandom is just a goddam hobby," and his often bitter comments on fandom and fans in SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES, FAN DANGO, and particularly in his fan-autobiography AH, SWEET IDIOCY have influenced fandom strongly. An often brilliant critic, a pungent humorist, a prolific publisher, and one of the finest natural writing talents in fandom's history (it is astounding to realize that AH, SWEET IDIOCY was composed on stencil), Laney's death will come as a shock to all who have read his fan writings.

WSFS INC. NEWS: Len Moffatt writes, "We have prepared a couple of amendments to the WSFS Inc. By-Laws which should make it clear exactly who is in charge of the WSFS and save the future con committees from the headaches we have suffered. Due to a lack of legitimate contest for power, we have become the heads of the WSFS and have been accepted as such. But it is something that should be clarified in the By-Laws, and we hope that the members present will vote in said amendments at the Solacon. ...This is the sort of thing I meant when I said some time ago that the By-Laws were not perfect (what set of By-Laws are?) and that instead of lambasting the WSFS, one should do something to make it a better organization."

Part of the "headaches" to which Len refers is the white-hot feud going on between Dave Kyle and the New York officers of WSFS, which has resulted in lawsuits and counter-lawsuits running to fantastic

(continued next page)

amounts of money. George W. Fields writes, "Belle (Dietz) has written and said she's sorry for her part in making it tough on us. Now, we wait--it has been over a month since Kyle said he'd account for the NYCon and Trip Fund. All the members of the committee who could, wrote to Kyle to urge response--it's not going to help him to delay any further. This 'Conspiracy' suit is absurd, especially with his lawyer father writing MacDonald and demanding that he withdraw the statements in METROFAN--MacDonald agreed. There goes the major portion of the case, as if it mattered. Right now, the two sides have backed into separate worlds and now it's Kyle's turn."

Indeed it is Kyle's turn--Kyle's turn to have his say in public print, which he does with BELL THE CAT, his second publication in public defense of himself. (The first was THE BELL TOLLS FOR WHOM.) Kyle does a nice job, though certainly the last word has not been said. The tenor of the defense is a strong criticism of the "illegal" actions of Raybin and the Dietzes, and he traces as best he can the instigation of court action against him, coming to a blank wall of buck-passing between Raybin and Dietz, who each claim, apparently, that the other made the decision to sue Kyle. There is a lot more here, far too much to be summarized in FANAC, and I can only suggest that you ask Kyle (Radio Station WPD, Potsdam, N. Y.) for a copy and read it yourself

OTHER PEOPLE'S MAIL DEPT.: A postcard received by Bob Tucker:

"Gaston:

In the Chinatown section of the San Francisco telephone book, there are approximately 400 Wong numbers.

{(.)}

Gaston"

It's postmarked Los Angeles. Why, of course: it's Walt Liebscher!

RICH ENEY has come out with another issue of STUPIFYING STORIES, this one carrying the news of Vernon McCain's death, and a brief resume of his life and fan career. It also mentions that McCain's fiancée, Miss Lillian Cartas (631 Douglas St., Wenatchee, Washington) "is particularly anxious to get in touch with an English correspondent of his, apparently a fan, whose name and address were unknown to her at last report."

MAIL RATES will be changing, effective August 1. These are the new rates:

first class: 4¢ an ounce

postcards: 3¢ (postcards 6¢, with 3¢ discount for fans)

air mail: 7¢ an ounce

third class: 3¢ for the first two ounces, 1½¢ each additional ounce...the weight-limit for third class will be increased up to but not including 16 ounces.

I trust that faneds will note the raise in third-class matter which is coming up, so that toward the end of July we'll be flooded with fanzines sneaking in under the wire and FANAC early in August will have to spend so much space reviewing fanzines that it'll go over the two-ounce weight, thereby costing us gobs of cash. Fout on you all.

AS I'VE MENTIONED, Ronel is off conventioning, all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, and no doubt leering at passing femmes and saying, "Hello there, I'm Ron Ellik of Berkeley fandom." Anyway, he sends along the following postcard from pre-Midwescon Cincinnati: "Steve Schultheis married Virginia Roycroft two weeks ago. Bloch will not be at Midwescon--Doc Barrett has postcard from him which definitely says so. Arrived as of Thursday night: Barrett, Steve Schultheis, Doc Smith, Lou Tabakow, Dale Tarr, Jake Schulzinger (Mark will be here later), Moomaw, Christenberry, Ford and me. Drum majorettes' con in same motel. Yum."

LESLIE GERBER says, "...after one final gasp, READER'S DIGESTED will expire until the fall, but I will try to put out an all-fiction fanzine, large-size and about 15 pages, from Camp. It will be called UNGLUCK." An all-fiction fanzine? Sigh...

THE MILLENIUM COMETH DEPT.: Will J. Jenkins writes, "The Philadelphia club is going to bid for the 1960 Worldcon. I believe this is the first time in fandom that a club has been asked by the City to hold an SF convention. A man from the Convention Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce got in touch with Hal Lynch some 3 or 4 months ago and arranged a meeting with the top brass of our club. The idea is really starting to catch fire in the grass roots of our Faire Citie. Incidentally, Hal, George Heap, and myself have already got three free dinners on the deal. One from the C. of C., and one each from the Convention Managers of the Ben Franklin and Sheraton Hotels. We have decided on the Sheraton, which is the newest and most modern in Philly --just built about a year ago. We are also going to hold our November conference there, so the fans attending can get a look at our (we hope!) convention hotel." Those poor, mad fools in Philly.

MISCELLANIA: Dan McPhail took a jaunt through Texas last week, getting in touch briefly with the Dallas group on the way. # Miriam Dyches in in the Bay Area for a few days. # Both Joe Gibson and Dave Rike have recently landed jobs. Selah! I told Dave that he should quit making cracks about our filthy capitalistic system of government now that even he can get a job, but he just shrugged and said he figured that it only signified that all the able-bodied workers had died of starvation during the recession. # Fabulous Seattle Fandom recently held its second Nullcon, complete with Lars Bourne strumming on Wally Weber's guitar while imagining it to be a banjo.

THE INCOMPLETE BURBEE, remember, is for sale from Ellik/Carr at 75¢. 100 pages of Burbee stuff. You want a testimonial? Here's Harry Warner: "...I have looked at the contents page already to make sure that you didn't miss any of the things that I remember with particular glee, and so far I haven't caught you lapsing in any respect. There's the item that practically saved my life one gloomy day when I came home with such a splitting headache and depression that I didn't think I'd ever smile again, and the articles that I remember from FAPA mailings whose contents are otherwise forgotten, and apparently all of the legendary material about Al Ashley and F. Towner Laney. You Berkeley people should be remembered when the name of the person who compiled the Oxford Book of Verse is forgotten. Come to think of it, I've forgotten his name already, but my sentiment is there."

TEMPORARY CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Fritz Leiber
c/o Bob O'Reilly
5202 S. Dorchester
Chicago, Illinois

S O L A C O N A C : by George W. Fields

Pre-con rioting seems to be building up as we hear from fans who are coming out as much as a week early. Several parties before the con in a hmmm-stage, with LASFS meeting on Thursday night and a Disneyland jaunt on Wednesday. Anyone coming out early please notify Rick, myself or the Solacon Secretary, Len Moffatt (respective addresses: 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif; 3607 Pomona Blvd., Montebello, Calif.; 10202 Belcher, Downey, Calif.).

Hoping the Detroit and Chicago fans can make it by Wednesday as well as the TAFF candidate. The Disneyland jaunt has no chairman, no affiliations, no incorporation, no money, no suits, but is an informal party of those who will be here early enough along with the possibility of a picnic within the park and discounts if we get enough people. Disneyland would cost you about \$5.00 for a whole day if you buy the special ticket books and eat wisely (or not at all?).

Say, and with all this, I hear there's going to be a convention shortly after, from August 29th to September 1, 1958, and you should send your \$1.00 membership to Sneary's address above and another \$1.00 if you plan to attend. Also, banquet and hotel reservations are needed.

--gwf

This issue typed July 4, 1958, 182nd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. (Hi, Dave Rike.)

FANAC, from
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RON BENNETT FOR TAFF
SOUTH GATE IN '58