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BSFA NEWSLETTER No. 14

edited by Ella A Parker

AUGUST. 1962.

If you don't have to cut the stencils or do the duplicating for VECTOR it is surprising how easily you can forget you have an occasional Newsletter to publish for which you have to do all these things. Need I say realisation has just struck?

The first thing I have to report is a change of address for Archie Mercer. His new one(temporary) will be foundamong the odds and ends at the back. Archie has left his job with the Malleable Iron Works and I shudder to think of the trouble involved in his finding a new site on which to park the caravan in which he lives. I wish him well and a speedy success. Lincoln will never be the same again, Archie.

I recently mentioned an old idea of mine in which I am much interested. That of members letting me know if they would welcome correspondence with others. Well, we are off to a start. We have a young lady who will answer any letters sent to her. Write to:- Gillian Holloway, 81, Bevington Road, Aston, Birmingham,6. Now that Gill has set the ball rolling, I hope it won't be too long before more of you will take it up. Mind you, you have to like receiving and writing letters to be able to enjoy something like this to the full. Also, and practically in the same breath, I offered the negatives of film I took when Glenn's Space Capsule was in London, to any who would like to take copies. Considering how much interested in this subject I know a lot of you to be, only two have sent for them. Maybe you would rather have the Capsule? I had my eye on it as an ornament for my front room but they had it nailed down. Pity.

I sincerely hope we didn't have any late out-of-town visitors here last Friday? A few of us chose to go out and listen to a performance of Handel's Water and Firework music played by one of the military bands from a stage set out on the Thames. This was part of the Festival of the City of London which has just finished. Unfortunately too, it was the only item on the programme I was able to attend. They did a series of performances of Yoemen of the Guard in the Tower of London. I would have liked to see that, but tickets were unobtainable. I was really astonished at the number of people who had come, as I first thought,

to listen to the music. It was some time before I realised that the fireworks were the true attraction. Actually, apart from missing the colours of the firework show, which was splendid, I would have been better off staying home to watch and listen on the TV. The police hadn't diverted the traffic, so we had the roar of that at our backs, and, as if that wasn't bad enough, we had the generators for the TV. cameras droning away all the time. Still, it did make a change from the usual Friday night ending. We had an outing and, as I said, the fireworks were good. I don't honestly know if the show had ended or not, but just as the last banger had been let off, down came the rain. This may have been why it was the last banger, if you know what I mean.

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GOONHILLY DOWNS - ANDOVER, MAINE - RETURN.

I wonder how many of you have been watching the Telstar programmes on TV? Those of you who don't have TV.(you listening Brian, there in Oxford?) will have seen from the papers what kind of thing we've been getting. I have made a point of watching them all and I can't help but be enthusiastic about it. No, I'm not faunching for more and worse Westerns nor yet do I wish to see those awful slcik soap opera type shows they have in the States. What does fascinate me is the thought of being able to see important events no matter where they are happening at the very moment theyoccur. What would you like most to see? I was reading today in the paper that we might get 15 minutes live transmission of the big fight to be held in Chicago on Sept.25th. As we can only have Telstar for 18 minutes at a time, I can't help thinking the time could be put to better use, and yes, I too like to watch boxing, so it isn't sour grapes.

I was reading some facts and figures about this satellite and something struck me that seems so obvious I don't know why the leaders of the various Nations don't do something about it. They cost a fantastic amount of money and to be able to use them 24 hrs a day needs a series of them, I forget for the moment just how many. Why can't we all pitch in and make a couple and bung them up? With a chance to see Western folk at work and play would the Communist doctrine have any more chance of pulling the wool over the eyes of their people? Used properly this could be the biggest thing since Man found speech. What say you?

This next section will probably read more like a Social Diary to you than anything else. It just so happens that recently there has been a lot of visiting and socialising going on between members. To begin with, on Friday,July, 27th. Miss Jeam Graman came to one of the Friday meetings. I have reason to believe she enjoyed it too. The following week, it being the first Thursday in the month, we had a marvellous evening in the Globe, a pub in Hatton Gardens. People who haven't been seen there for years, turned up. Here is a partial listing, you might recognise some of the names. E.J.Carnell, of NOVA MAGAZINES, W.F.Temple, Arthur Sellings, Les Flood, Robert Presslie, Wally Gillings, Arthur (ATom) Thomson, & Mike Moorcock, to say nothing of a large selection of B.S.F.A. members as well. People like: Keith Otter, Ron Bennett,who was in London en route to a holiday on the Continent, Pat Kearney, and a host of others. I have long held the opinion that when among people of the same interest as yourself, it is possible to get,well, if not drunk, at least exhilerated, on sheer atmosphere alone. It was like that this particular evening. I can remember discussing the need for self-control and discipline on the part of those wanting to be writers, with Arthur Sellings and Les Flood; then I went on to talk about SF. and British Conventions with Teds Carnell and Ball among others. Bill Temple gave us the good news that he has had another book published by ACE.

Many of you probably don't know about these gatherings, how about a teeny bit of fan history? Just after the last war, those most concerned with the writing and publishing of Science Fiction in England, used to meet every week in The White Horse - this is the "White Hart" of the A.C.Clarke stories - and talk about story lines and other business. This was long before my days, so I don't really know how the word got out to the reading faction that they could meet people interested in SF. here, but, get out it surely did. As time went on, the original group grew older, got themselves girl-friends who, in a lot of cases became their wives. They succumbed to the comforts of their own firesides and the Globe - to which they had then moved - saw them, first, less often, then, not at all. In their time all the 'Names' of the S.F. world have been to these gatherings. Arthur C.Clarke, John Christopher, John Wyndham, H.K.Bulmer & E.C.Tubb. You name him, and, if he's British, I've no doubt he'll have been one of them.

Gradually, over the years, attendance fell off until only a couple of regulars were the only ones to be found sitting around, hopefully,to no avail. Then, they too gave up and ceased to go. Then, suddenly, and quite unaccountably, and without reference to each other, everyone in London decided to go to the Globe on the Thursday before Xmas in 1959. This was too good a chance to miss, so Ted Tubb made the suggestion that once a month wasn't too often to give an evening to meeting other fans. Thus it was decided, the first Thursday of each month was chosen and so it has been ever since. Some months, like last, are really good, others, maybe not so good, but at least you know that <u>someone</u> will turn up. If you are ever in Town on the first of the month why don't you take the Underground to <u>Chancery Lane</u> and come to the <u>Globe in Hatton Gardens?</u>

You might think that the meeting on Thursday in the Globe was enough for any sane person, you could be right too, but here it was Friday with yet another group getting together. This week we had another out-of-town visitor in the person of Chris Holmes from Birmingham. I don't know if Chris can remember the names of all he met that night, but I'll bet he won't soon forget the evening itself. He was right in there where the discussions were hottest, and held his own right nobly.

Don't go away, we haven't finished yet. That same weekend I had been invited to a party at the house of our one-time Chairman, Ina Shorrocks, in Liverpool. I left home on Saturday and returned Monday night. In between is

a hazy mist of memories of the Saturday night party, much talk and laughter and mountains of food consumed. I must be honest and confess that for me the star-turn of the weekend was the new, well almost new, baby the Shorrocks have. He is just five months old and didn't turn a hair at being picked up by so many Aunts and Uncles. I can't remember when I've seen a happier child. I regretted having to return to London in time to go to work on Tuesday; I would have stayed on for a couple of days and played Nannie with pleasure.

Oh, I forgot to mention, somewhere along the way a young Swiss fan made an appearance. He had been living for a month practically on my doorstep and wasn't aware of it until an American fan wrote and gave him my address. Now he comes along each week and seems to enjoy himself. He's in England to take lessons in our language and he was telling me how difficult he found it to read The Demolished Man in English. Many of the terms used he was unable to translate into German, which is the language he speaks with most facility.

Things became a bit quieter after all this until last Friday, 10th. We had three out-of-town visitors that night! Joe Hirst from Sussex and Mike & Betty Rosenblum from Leeds. I may be wrong, but I have an idea Joe came up to town especially for the meeting. As he said, it's only an hour on the train. I do know he went back later that night, I hope he caught the train alright. Mike Rosenblum, as you know, is Co-Editor with me of your Publications. I've know of Mike for as long as I've been in fandom. I met him for the first time in Harrogate at the Convention this year. He has a long history behind him of amateur publishing and used to produce the only serious fanzine in this country. I only wish he'd resume publication. They, Mike and Betty, were on their way home with the children from a holiday in Switzerland. This delighted John, the young Swiss, and from all accounts, they had a fabulous time there. Another first timer that night was Robert (Bob) Presslie. I'd been talking to him in the Globe urging him to come along one week, and I'm delighted he took me up on it. He has also joined the Association, and I hope he stays with us a long time. You see? You never know who you'll meet. That is how we like it. This week I have my fingers crossed. Will it be you?

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Jimmy Groves, who used to edit VECTOR, and at present edits the letter column, has recently returned from a visit to the Shetland Isles which is the home of another of our members, Fred Hunter. Jimmy is something of a rock-hound as well as an S.F. enthusiast, and had been intending to visit Scotland some time soon. The fact that Fred lives there and has become a friend of ours through correspondence, helped him to make his mind up to the trip. From all reports a wonderful time was had by both. No, we don't encourage our members to descend on each other without an invitation - except here on Fridays -, but Fred is known to all of us and while Jimmy didn't live at Fred's house he was a frequent and welcome visitor there. Which reminds me. When Mike Rosenblum was here last Friday he asked me to tell you that he would welcome any of you who care to visit him providing you give him a little warning. If it isn't possible for you to write and advise him of your coming, a phone-call to the house will be sufficient. His address is:- 7, Grosvener Park, Leeds 7. Tel. 681704. Joe Lynn: this is one of those who live near you, why not accept his kind offer? I gave Mike your address when he was here so probably you'll be hearing from him anyway.

And that just about winds up the 'Social' section of this issue. It has all be tremendous fun. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Our Treasurer, Jill Adams, has asked me to remind you that when you move you should notify her of your Change of Address. It isn't always convenient for me to drop her a line when you write to me about something else, and mention by the way that you've moved. So please, do keep her up-to-date on your whereabouts.

Now we have some adverts for you. Here we go.

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