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THE CRY OF THE NAMELESS

June 1951
G. M. Carr
Corr. Sec.,
Seattle, Wn.



After that horrible CRY last month, Toskey rushed right over with a box of different stencils -- hope these work better. As most of you know, The CRY is financed by the University Branch NAMELESS ONES. The boys at the U send out their spys into the highways and byways (or should it be 'buyways'?) and nose around for bargains in paper and stencils. Sometimes the bargains are really bargains, and sometimes they turn out like last month's batch. But with the tremendous appetite for stencils our various fanzine editors have developed, no batch lasts very long around here....

I was mistaken about the last meeting of the year in the Hub... We meet again June 6, that's this coming Wednesday, at the usual time. The place I can't say for sure -- last meeting there were NAMELESS ONES wandering anxiously from room to room, from floor to floor... somebody switched the rooms on us and then the, ah, shall we say 'unnam-able ones' kept removing the directions we tried to put up. More fun (spelled 'C O N F U S I O N'). It was a very interesting meeting for all that - or maybe because of it. Buryl Payne gave a detailed review of Edgar Allan Poe, both as fantasy and stf writer as well as poet and detective story writer. It seems the Poe person was the father of the modern detective story and an early forerunner of the modern stf. Walthers was right there behind him with a stack of ASTOUNDINGS and traced the history of that publication back to the first BEM & Girlie cover. So far I haven't heard what is scheduled for next week. Finals are over that afternoon and probably the boys are so exhausted by that time that anything sounds good. Even an impromptu Fry arrangement. (Hah, could it be???)

Some interesting rumors have been floating around that Ye Olde Corresponding Sec. hasn't been able to check but the source is exceedingly reliable so here it is: You can expect to see a Bantam Pocketbook version of Bradbury's MARTIAN CHRONICLES for 25¢ almost any day now. If you haven't read it, keep your eyes peeled. By the way, I suppose you all know that Bradbury has another collection of stories coming out in hard covers. I believe it is to be titled "The Tattooed Man". Like the Martian Chronicles, it is a series of short stories held together by a thin thread of consecutive interest. I see that Francis, the Talking Horse is in pocketbook, too.

Note: Not a Bradbury story!

I don't know whether you folks will be interested in hearing this or not -- after all, Bill Austin may have something there when he says The CRY is becoming too much of a one woman's opinion sheet -- but Ye Olde Corr. Sec., has been walking around with her head in the clouds lately. She was recently voted 'The Best New Fan of 1950' in a nationwide poll. Considering the number of fans in these United States (to say nothing of those in England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada) this is quite an honor. Eighteen months ago the State of Washington was the hinterland of fandom -- only a few scattered fans here and there. Now we are forging ahead with one of the largest fanclubs in the US, sprouting fanzines all over the place, and winning national recognition as an up and coming group. The national organization which voted this honor (I think it's an honor and am proud of it) to Ye Cor. Sec. is The National Fantasy Fan Federation, better known as the N3F. It is perhaps the most active group in fandom. I belong to several fanclubs, but, aside from THE NAMELESS ONES, it is my opinion that you get more for your money from N3F than any other group. The dues cost \$1 per year. For this dollar, you get a subscr. to the quarterly 'zine The National Fantasy Fan (34 pages 8 1/2 x 11 this issue) containing letters, articles, membership list, notices of fanactivities, and various information. You get Welcommittee Leaflets, Fanzine checklist, fanclub checklist, list of writers' pseudonyms, notices of special rates on office supplies, portfolios, exchanges, lending library and various other conveniences that may arise from time to time. There is a letterzine, POSTWARP, which is available only to N3F. As though this weren't plenty for your dollar, they have what they call the Welcommittee who write letters to new members. I've met some very interesting friends this way. I particularly rec-

commend it to fans who live all by their fannish selves out in a wilderness of non-fen. It's fun to get letters in the mail (who would know better?), a sort of perpetual surprise package. You can be as active or as inactive as you like - which makes the N3F different from the APA groups, SAPS and FAPA, you can be just a reader who likes stf but doesn't feel called to jump up in the air 20 feet and burst into flame every time somebody waves a GALAXY in his face. You don't even have to answer the letters if you don't want to (heaven forbid!) - just fill out the accompanying application blank, send in your dollar, and the postman does the rest. (By the way, in case you hadn't noticed, I am also on the new members committee of N3F.....)

In case any of you are wondering what I meant by an APA group - it means any amateur press association. The SAPS is the Spectator Amateur Press Society and FAPA is the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. The SAPS is the smaller and more active group. It is limited to 35 members and has a slightly higher activity requirement. To be a member it is necessary to publish at least 6 pages of material in every 2 mailings (6 months) Dues are 35¢ for 2 mailings for new members. FAPA has 65 members who must publish at least 8 pages of material per year. Both groups require proof of prior publishing activity, either by publishing a fanzine, or by contributing heavily to other fanzines. These groups, as you can readily see, would be of interest mostly to fans who like fanzines enough to try to put out their own, or contribute toward somebody else's. (Me, I'm a member of both of 'em...) And just in case you wonder why the heck anybody'd want to belong to that -- well, if you enjoy reading THE CRY once a month, multiply that by 50 and then double that -- and you begin to get an idea of the fun it is to get a great big, fat mailing of the tops in amateur 'zines.

Well, enough of that or Bill will be writing in and chewing my ear for pounding a tub again.... Had to omit quite a few really good letters last time because of the stencil situation. Guess I won't waste any more time, just plunge right into them:

26 Apr. 51
409 No. 'M'
Aberdeen, Wn.

Hi Kids;

Just had an attack of some kind of itis, on account of when I seat me before the keyboard monster all coherence has flew de coop (de coop, thats where I kip all my unthot thots).

About Time Travel - I'm agin it. Dont have time to do any kind of traveling. Don't recall having been asked about anything so I'm volunteering. To any person who is so fortunate as to add a couple hundred back numbers of various science-fiction magazines to their collection - DONT - Positively DO NOT try to read them if published before 1941. Circle that date in red. So many advances have been made and the taste of now is not the taste of then. There are exceptions, BUT taken entire it is a difficult job trying to enjoy stuff written in the early thirties. They might have been good then but not now.

P.S. That stuff sure looks good
on the shelf.

That's all,

Love and Exes.

P.P.S. - Seem to have lost the postcard - the answer is
'Yes, send THE CRY'

OK Jim, here it is. By the way, what happened to BABEL? Lots of NAMELESS
want to know besides me.

101 Wagner St.
Savannah, Ga.
Apr. 26, 1951

Dear Innominate Ones,

I pub a fmz titled QUANDRY which is known throughout Savannah fandom (both of them) as really outstanding. Strangely enough only two Washington fmz trade with me, IMP and CRY. Is it possible that other Nameless publishers have never heard of QUANDRY or is it that I should read the ads in Ladies Home Journal? Anyway I would appreciate it if you would make public the fact that Q is published monthly, sells for 10¢ per copy, and runs 30 pages per ish. It features Wilkie Conner, Walt Willis, Redd Boggs, plus fact and fiction by a lot of people. Wcn't you please trade with me?

Lee Hoffman

(It isn't only Savannah's fandom that rates QUANDRY as really outstanding. Q is now considered one of the 'better fanzines' by the cognoscenti...)

New Orleans, La.
May, 1951

Dear GM,

Another bulletin due out soon, but this won't wait--knowing how slow fans work: Sam Moskowitz has agreed to release me the MSS of his history of fandom, The Immortal Storm, perennially running in Fantasy Commentator, for incorporation into a giantzine to be sold at the NOLACON. I instantly remembered you among others as offering to do mimeoing. This will be a mighty great passel of it. But I don't mean the NAMELESS will have to do all of it. I'm just calling for volunteers.

Tsktsk--when will you get the idea that I am not out to make any case for Hubbard? From his plots I have deduced him to be a paranoic for yars and yars...always: the poor downtrodden but upright and striving hero oppressed, (along with the rest of the world) by some Insidious Economic Octopus. I am told that he is not a clear because he was his own guinea-pig in the evolving of D...all the things that were found to be wrong were found to be wrong ON HIM. And are mighty hard to get out Dianetically. Manics denyers end hypnosos. Will send the MSS as soon as I get it, and I thank you. Payment, if any, after the con.

Sure, I realize what it looks like to a guy who has made up his mind untried on D., and I am perfectly intent on giving the con what IT WANTS. But What if I agreed NOW that D was irrevocably OUT? Then my neck learns how many WANT it! All to what end? It is the attendance that's pleased. And your bunch is not the quietest in their noises to the effect that the NOLACON is to be overbalanced with Dianetics. It is impossible to have moderation in anything a fan hates, is it? It's got to be NONE or it's a Dianeticon, Huh? Anyhoo, please point them out what seems obvious to anyone attending the NORWESCON, which rejected the Sneary plan. The Con committee proposes, the assembly disposes. Nothing CAN be either compulsory or forbidden--until the con.

HARRY MOORE

OK, Harry, we'll keep our little yaps shut. (Anybody out there want to help with the NOLACON typing? Contact Ye Olde Cor. Sec. if you do. I don't expect to be able to get to the NOLACON myself, but I'm all in favor of it so I'm trying to do what I can from where I'm at.... if you dig me.)

Vashon, Wn.
May 21, 1951

Dear G,

Yes, it was probably me that forgot to sign the card. I was in such a big fat hurry to get it and a few other things sent out so -- it musta been. My nails are practically chewed to my elbows trying to find a way to get to the NOLACON.

Clyed Bacon

Yup, mine too... but I doubt I'll make it, so I'm settling for some long-distance participation. Have an extra good time for me, willya?

Oak Harbor, Wn.
May 21, 1951

Dear Mrs. Carr,

Guess its about time for the lost nameless one to report. So far I've been an innocent and unknown bystander as far as the club was concerned.

Well, I hereby offer my services. What did every one think of "And Then There Were None" in the new ASTOUNDING? Maybe I'm kind of strange - I liked it. Everyone else I've talked to thinks it was lousy. Phooey and ie to them.

Thanks,

Grey Be'leck Smith

P.S. What's all this mail costing me?

Only the 3¢ stamp on your letter, Gray. Of course, if you wanna buy a sub to SINISTERRA...

Doggone these modest people that don't want their letters published - especially when they write such interesting ones that I'd like to share with the rest of the gang. This fanfriend has asked some very pertinent questions. I'm gonna take a chance and make some anonymous quotes and hope that I'm forgiven for the sake of the answers:

.....Was reading a letter in a column in AMAZING the other day which had a lot to say about sf pros having covers which make decent people ashamed to carry them. I think that is quite a problem--and something should be done about. Embarrassing to have people raise their eyebrows when you appear in public with one of those magazines! By the way, what is a BEM? How do pro writers get pen names? Don't many writers (like Anthony Boucher) get pen names for secret personal reasons, besides business reasons? Especially, don't a lot of women writers take men's names when they are competing in a field in which men predominate (such as sf)?

What is the N3F MSS Bureau?

How do I go about getting a copy of NEKROMANTIKON? How much does it cost? A friend of mine would like to know if subjects like mysticism and witchcraft come under science fiction? Would Dianetics be a kind of that?

Could the CRY have a few articles and stories? Maybe a continued story? Or is it just a newspaper? Is SINISTERRA stories or news? I'm interested in getting some amateur fiction publications, but except for the CRY I don't want just club news and letters-to-the-editor stuff. Why not a short column on amateur writing in the CRY? Maybe others are interested, too.

Anonymous NAMELESS ONE

1. The Cover question is a controversy that has been 'raging' for decades... I ran across a letter I'd written to WEIRD TALES way back in 1934 recommending a nice, modest Brundage cover because it had some clothes on for a change... However, the only answer seems to be just don't buy the ones with the lurid covers. ASTOUNDING, GALAXY, MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, OTHER WORLDS, and, to a lesser degree, IMAGINATION all have conservative, non-sexy covers, and the contents tend more toward Science Fiction instead of sf-sex. So long as people buy the mags with the Beautiful Babe & BEM covers, the publishers will keep on printing 'em. (A BEM, by the way, is a Bug-Eyed Monster.)

2. How do pro-writers get pen names? That's an essay in itself. I think perhaps the best answer is an article I ran across in the 54th FAPA mailing. It an excerpt from an article by Rog Phillips in SPACEWARP.

....."Fan mail is the answer to my being able to so consistently sell my work. I've had rejections from publishers, but I have never written a story I haven't sold. I hear that other authors have their sacred pile of rejected stories that have made the rounds and been given up, their current half-dozen hopefuls that might be sold yet in the expanding market. I don't have a single reject hanging around, nor do I have any stories out "making the rounds". When I write a story it's sold. Fan mail has done that. There are two ways in which it has done it, besides the fan mail that comes in on a Rog Phillips story.

" The first and most important way that fan mail has helped me is this: a great deal of my stuff is published under pen-names invented by the editors. The stories are apparently the work of brand new and unknown writers. Fan mail comes in giving the stories high rating, and often top rating, and asking for more of that new author's stuff. That's the type of thing that boosts my stock with editors. There have even been times when fan letters have placed the "new" author way above Rog Phillips--and by fans I know, who would be very surprised to learn I was this other author too!

" The second way in which fan mail has helped me follows the same pattern but with a different angle. As often as not Ziff-Davis and Clark buy my stories without reading them. They know they can do so safely because if a story were to prove too poor for publication, I would make it good with another story of the same wordage without protest. And when I say too poor for publication, I mean in the editor's opinion. There was one story bought without reading it, and when the magazine was being put together it was behind schedule. They took a chance and sent the manuscript to the typesetters without reading it until they got the page proofs to correct. Then they read it and were horrified. It violated every rule of writing. It was definitely no good. They got me on the phone. I rushed right down and read it myself. I had to agree with them. It was absolutely no good. But there was nothing that could be done.

"It was set in type; there wasn't time to replace it, let alone stand for a bawling out from the front office for wasted typesetting. I was set to work on the problem of "saving" the story in some way by minor cutting out and equally minor corrections that could be rushed through the typesetters. I couldn't find anything that could be cut out and improve the story. One of the editors and I cooked up a couple of paragraphs, one in the middle of the story and one at the end. Also the name of the author was changed. Fan mail rated the story excellent, and objected only to the two paragraphs we had inserted!

" Speaking of that, I got a big kick out of the fan mail published in TWS on my story "Quite Logical". That story had originally been 11,000 words. Sam sent it back saying he wanted it if I could cut it to 9000. I didn't see how it could be done, but did it and sent it back to him. I got it back with a note saying they would buy it if I cut it to 6500. I had already done all the cutting in the first half. I still refused to change a word in the last half, the descent on Washington and the White House. I cut the damn thing to 6500. Sam bought it. One of the fan letters published said it was cut too much in the first half!

" There are two more letters I think will amuse you. One came to Ziff-Davis from a large radio and TV production agency in New York. It said that this agency was desirous of entering into the stf field, and in surveying the market had settled on two authors they wanted to contact first and requested their addresses. The authors' names were Rog Phillips and Craig Browning. Howard Browne called me on the phone and read the letter, suggesting that I answer. My answer was very short: "Dear Sir: Inasmuch as I am both of these authors your task is much simplified. Yours truly,

R. P. Graham"

Speaking of that TV program, did anybody see that review in the New Yorker about stf TV? -- also Richard Frahm sent in a newspaper clipping as follows:

What
will
T.V.
think
up
next!

SCIENCE FICTION SERIES READIED AS ADULT TV FARE

New York, May 12, --Packagers Richard Gordon and George Foler this week came up with one of the first adult science fiction dramatic properties when they arranged a deal with the Science Fiction League of America to get first call on their 2000 short stories and 13 novels. Science Fiction is riding the crest of a wave of popularity with 24 magazines in existence. Forty-seven films on that subject have already been made.

The untitled half-hour stanza will be produced by Mort Abrahamson and scripted by Draper Lewis, Willie Gilbert and Jack Weinstock. The Science Fiction League is an organization of 13 of the top writers in the field, including Fletcher Pratt, Anthony Boucher, Theodore Sturgeon and Fritz Lieber. Altho there are numerous kid science fiction shows on TV, none has been created for adults.

(That sounds almost worth buying a TV set for, much as I dislike TV.)

3. Well, back to the questions -- or, maybe you NAMELESS out there would rather send in the answers to the rest... how about it, do women writers assume masculine pseudonyms?
4. About the N3F Mess Boo - the best way to find out about that is to fill out the enclosed application blank and send it in. You'll also get the lowdown on the best fanfiction, too.
5. I believe Manly Banister still has some copies of NEKROMANTIKON. You can buy them direct from him at 25¢ each - those that he has. Not all issues are complete. No. 5 is nearly ready, and he says it will probably be the last issue. He has now taken up oil painting and is working on a 34"x42" romantic fantasy, having recently finished a 30"x36" weirdscape. Talented man, that Banister. His address is: 1905 Spruce Avenue, Kansas City 1, Mo.
6. Are mysticism & witchcraft science fiction? -- Well, how about some opinions from you readers.. also, is Dianetics a form of occult science?
7. SINISTERRA is supposed to be a well-rounded fanzine, containing serious articles, humor, fiction, poetry, and assorted filler material to please and amuse the reader. (Plug. Have you completed Vol. 1 yet? Send your order direct to 3200 Harvard N., Seattle 2, Wn. By the way -- #3 issue has some excellent pictures of Rog Phillips, R.P. Graham to you!)

As to the policy of THE CRY, what do you NAMELESS want? Stories? Articles on writing or other subjects? Reviews of current events in fandom? Any suggestions gladly received -- in fact, any material gladly welcomed!

Now that summer vacations are coming up, there is the annual question as to whether or not to attempt to hold meetings. Of course, the Univ. Br. will probably be diminished because of the students who go home for the summer. But there will be many permanent Seattle residents left -- would you like to plan on meetings off-campus? We tried a picnic last year that fell on its little face because of illness on the part of the person who was supposed to see to the arrangements for eats and stuff. But that needn't happen again (Gosh, I hope it don't!) and we could make a tentative tour of the parks and beaches for Sunday and/or evening meetings. Those of you NAMELESS who live outside Seattle, will, of course, determine your own meetings as you have done all along. But why not send in a brief story or news note on your activities to share your fun with us? We like to know what's going on in the world, that's what makes the newspaper industry...

Just as I was about to put the final paragraph and wind up this issue of the CRY, in came the Postman with a letter:

Box 371
Anacortes, Wash.
May 20, 1951

Dear GMC,

I'm sorry I didn't answer that "do you want the CRY?" query earlier, but I've been sick recently, and have just got around to answering my most important correspondence. The answer is hardly necessary, tho; if you still feel like using up good paper and ink on non-paying customers, you've got one!

Keep those Sinisterrae piling up; I'm going to acquire some money this summer, and with the required amount of that annoyingly worldly substance will relieve you of a copy each of issues 2,3,4....n.

Could you please, for a fellow stfan who has the misfortune to dwell 'way out here in the sticks, and all that, please tell me if there is a dianetics group of any sort in Seattle or vicinity, and if so, what is the address, etc? O.K., so you think Dianetics, the Modern Science of Mental Health, would be a fit substitute for Sears and Roebuck catalogs in those rural areas not blest with plumbing; I'd still appreciate any information you have on organized groups around about.

Thanks.

By the way, I think that that idea concerning calling stfen some thing else is a good one...if, as has been mentioned, something else can be found. Using "fen" and, as suggested, "wofan" and "wofen", is sufficiently distinctive, but something really should be done about the masculine singular. "Aficionados" is too long for easy use...possibly it might be satisfactory to use the above three as they stand and replace the objectionable masculine singular with "stfan" pronounced "ste fan"; the feminine forms would be pronounced "woo fan" and "wi fan" in correspondence with the pronunciation of "woman" and "women"... Adios.

(The usual meaningless duckspeak:)

Yours truly,

Fred MacLean

(I'd rather be a 'fanne' see LIFE, May 21?-27? issue, plural 'fannes' pronounced 'fannies?') Well, anyway, somebody tell Fred where, when, how, what and why about any local Dianetics groups you know of. I don't know of any myself. There was a professional group established in Seattle with headquarters in the Edmond Meany Hotel, but when I checked with that hotel, they said the Clinic had been discontinued -- or at least they moved out and left no forwarding address. I have since heard advertisements for Dianetics on the radio, but didn't notice any address in connection with it. Any of you NAMELESS who do know more about it, why not drop Fred a line... As to non-professional groups, I know Mark Walsted, 3933 - 15th NE and Jack Speer, North Bend, Wn., were interested but to what extent I do not know. Anyway, there's no use asking Jack, he's getting married this Saturday.

Those of us NAMELESS who attended the Costume Party at the China Pheasant last fall were lucky enough to have met the bride, Miss Annis White, of Seattle. She was the very pretty dark-haired damsel in the white dutch girl costume. Come to think of it, our official photographer, Ed Wiman, caught a couple of very good snaps of Merlin dancing with the Dutch Girl. Maybe it will turn up in a SINISTERPA some day.....

Also in the same mail was an interesting advertisement. I'll take a chance and brave Bill's wrath by reproducing it just in case Buryl Payne's talk on Poe may have stirred up some interest:

We have the complete works of Edgar Allan Poe in an eight volume illustrated set. Bound in a luxurious green library cloth, gilt-stamped and decorated; published by Arcadia House; each volume measuring $7\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick, the entire set containing approximately 2,500 pages. The set sells for \$20, postpaid, which averages \$2.50 per volume. Other sets of equal size and equal price may be obtained of Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, Rudyard Kipling, Victor Hugo, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Guy De Maupassant and an assortment of Children's Classics. Order from...

George David Mills

BOOKSELLER

Box 481

Ridgway, Illinois.

Say, if I had \$20 to spare for books I'd not waste them on Poe -Buryl Payne or anybody else to the contrary! I'd suddenly develop a fiendish gleam in my eye and descend on those stacks of back issues Walter Coslet is hiding over there in Montana... Maybe I'd even descend on Bill's collection, but he won't let go, even for dough:...

Just saw the July issue of OTHER WORLDS with a beauuuuutiful cover by McCauley illustrating Ray Palmer's story Mr. Yellow Jacket! -- Well, maybe on second look, it's only just very pretty. All that red and yellow color dazzled me for a minute.

This was a very prolific mail -- (even a letter with $2\frac{1}{2}\phi$ postage due on it!) I also received something new in the line of advertisements new for me anyway. Are there any of you NAMELESS who collect fantasy movie 'stills'? It seems that there is a cove in fandom whose completist mania includes a representation of fantasy and science fiction movies, too. Or maybe that is a wrong interpretation of the circular. At any rate, if there are any of you NAMELESS who would enjoy owning an 8 x 10 inch glossy print of 'Dinosaurs fighting as hero and heroine watch' or 'Spectacle scene showing the revolt of the robots in a weird setting' etc., you can send to HISTORIC CINEMA SERVICE, 272 Hyland Street, Cresskill, N.J. for a mimeographed catalog. Prints 75¢ each.

One last bit of news. We regret to announce that Jerry Frahm and Ed Walthers will not be with us next year. They left yesterday as special guests of Uncle Sam. In fact, he honored them so highly he is reported to have hired a special car to rush them to the Army Air Service in time for the May quota. Yup, they enlisted in the Air Force. Good luck, boys. We're sorry to lose you, but proud of you for going!

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, FOLKS.
WRITE SOON...

THE CRY OF THE NAMELESS
Newsletter #15
Published by
THE NAMELESS ONES
3200 Harvard Ave. N.
Seattle 2, Wash.



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Mimeographed matter only

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Savannah, GA

