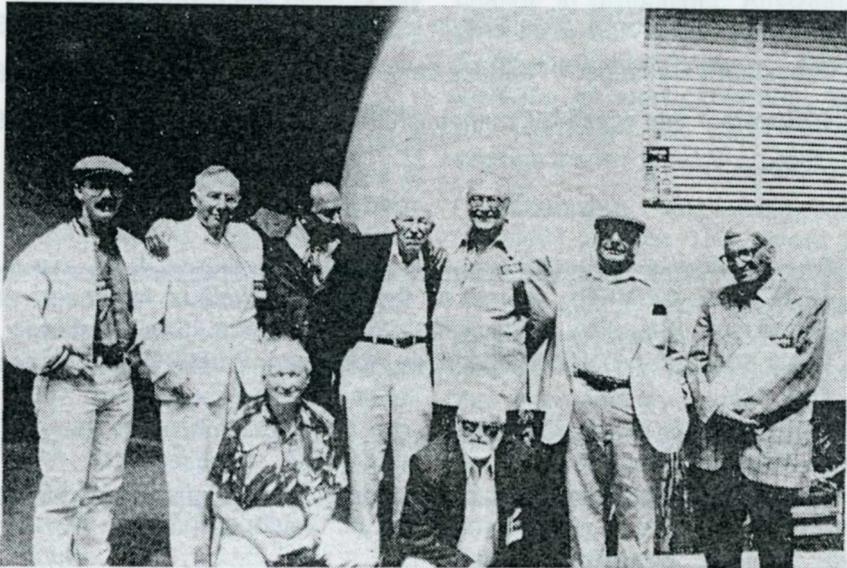


ScientiFiction

Spring, 1994



The First Fandom Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ackerman & Schwartz Guests at Rivercon	3
Is <i>Amazing</i> Dead?	3
NewMembers.....	4
Applications.....	4
First Fandom Services.....	4
Revenge of The Sci-Fan -- the editor's at it again.....	5
The Journey of The Vacuum Beetle, Terry Jeeves.....	7
Dinosaur Droppings -- the lettercol, and welcome it is.....	9
A Fan on The Rocks, Stan Skirvin -- Arizona High-Jinks.....	15
President's Message -- Fearless Leader socks it to us.....	18
Leftovers -- that which fills out the ish.....	19

ON THE COVER; some of the more notorious attendees at Worldcon. Standing, left to right: Gary Williamson, Sam Moskowitz, Erle Korshack, Jack Williamson, 4e Ackerman, Bruce Yerke, Charles Hornig.

Kneeling: Jack Speer and Ray Beam

SciFiFiction, the First Fandom report is an official publication of First Fandom, and is published four times per year by President Ray Beam, 2209 S. Webster, Kokomo, IN 46902. The Editor is Secretary/Treasurer Mark Schulzinger, 528 Woodruff Bldg., Springfield, MO 65806. Subscriptions are \$5.00 per year, and should be sent to Mark. Comments can be sent to either Ray or Mark.

ALL THAT NEWS

RIVERCON NEWS

ACKERMAN GoH SCHWARTZ TOASTMASTER

Rivercon continues to announce First Fandom guests for 1994. 4e Ackerman has been invited to be Guest of Honor. I don't think there's any need to say more than that he certainly deserves it.

The surprise of the programming was the naming of Julie Schwartz as toastmaster. Julie is well known for his shyness around women and fen. He can rarely bring himself to speak in a voice much above a whisper. Rumors are that he intends to take toastmaster lessons from Mark Schulzinger who was toastmaster at the previous First Fandom get-together at Soonercon. Julie was last seen at Brighton Beach stuffing pebbles in his mouth.

All attending members of First Fandom will receive complimentary memberships in the con.

AMAZING OUT, GALAXYIN?

The latest issue of *Amazing Stories* is dated "Autumn, 1993" instead of its usual month dating. Apparently this oldest of stf magazines is on "hiatus" until its owner, TSR, decides what to do with it. Despite a change in editors, an increase in payment rates, and a change in distributors, *Amazing's* circulation has only increased to 6,000. Granted that this is a 300% increase in total circulation, the old warhorse still isn't making enough money to show a profit.

Meanwhile, E.J. Gold has "revived" *Galaxy*. The revival is newsprinted in 8 1/2" X 11" format. Its editorial information states that it is being published by the Institute for the Development of the Harmonious Human Being, Inc., a California not-for-profit corporation. It seems to come out bi-monthly. H.L. Gold is listed as a contributing editor, as is 4e Ackerman. Confidential sources say that 4e is the guiding light behind this venture.

Subscriptions are \$18 per year and should be sent to GALAXY Magazine, P.O. Box 370, Nevada City, CA 95959.

NEW MEMBERS

Norman Friedman, M.D.

27060 Cedar Road, #603

Beachwood, OH 44122

has become a Full Member.

Welcome Dinosaur!

APPLICATIONS

The following have applied for associate membership:

Les Cole, recommended by Ray Beam

Es Cole, recommended by Ray Beam

Gay Haldeman, recommended by Ray Beam

Joe Haldeman, recommended by Ray Beam

Sheldon Jaffery, recommended by Julie Schwartz

Mary Lu Lockhart, recommended by Howard DeVore

Andy Porter, recommended by Sam Moskowitz

FIRST FANDOM SERVICES

First Fandom makes a few things available to its members at a reasonable price. Here is a list:

Jacket Patches in full color, roughly 3.5 X 4.5 inches showing the First Fandom logo -- \$5.00

First Fandom Logos in black and white for reproduction on letterheads or in zines -- send a first class stamp for one.

The same in soft format on 5.25 inch floppy disk (specify image format) -- send 75 cents in postage.

Stationary samples -- send an SASE for one set.

Back issues of the *First Fandom Report* Winter 1992, Summer 1992, Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter 1993. -- \$1.25 each. Other back issues in such short supply I can't list them. Ask and I'll see what I can do.

Membership Applications in either letter size or half-letter size -- send an SASE for several of these.

Membership Rosters -- \$1.25

Send all requests to the secretary/treasurer.

REVENGE OF THE SCI-FAN

Time out from polemic, folks. Thish I have a number of matters to discuss which may make for some important changes in the way we handle a few matters.

First out of the gate is an observation concerning the posthumous Hall of Fame awards. As of now we've had some good responses on the creation of a Posthumous Award Committee, and it looks like it's time to ask for volunteers to inhabit this entity. This is your award, and it's only proper that you should be a part of the decision-making process. Write me and volunteer, or risk the rounding up of the usual suspects. Remember, the vitally deprived FFers need your help.

Next in the running is a suggestion Ray made which seems to have a lot of merit. With the creation of a posthumous Hall of Fame plaque we have an opportunity to create a new award ceremony. It's no secret that we've had nothing but trouble with Worldconcoms concerning the HoF award itself, and that we're limited to a paltry few minutes during the Hugo ceremonies. If, however, we move the Posthumous Plaque ceremony to a regional con we can probably have a much longer event, and

can spend more time properly eulogizing the discorporate recipient. What do you think of this idea? If you like it we'll plan the first ceremony for Rivercon.

On the outside position is a nag who carries the Hall of Fame balloting on her back, and who isn't running too well any more. Ray originally set the dates for balloting to take into account both his highly flexible publication schedule and the nominating procedure that was being used at the time. Now we have a streamlined nominating procedure and *SciFiction* comes out on a regular schedule. It seems that eight months is too long a time to hold open a balloting.

I propose a series of changes to the nomination and voting procedures which may things speed the processes up. Nominations are always in order, but no nominations for the voting year will be accepted after the first full week of July. The ballot will be published in the Summer ish, which is printed in July, and voting will continue until the end of the calendar year. The winner or winners will be informed privately early in January, and the public announcement will be made in the Spring ish, which is printed in the middle of that month.

This gives us six months in which to vote, and allows the winners time in which to make the

necessary arrangements to attend the award ceremony. Although I don't like that long a balloting period, I want to have a vote that's fair to all concerned. If you think of any possible modifications to this suggestion which might streamline the process even more I definitely want to hear about it.

I'm still accepting orders for that audio drama I mentioned in the last ish. So far I have only received three orders. I admit things don't look too bright for the project right now, but I want everyone who wants a tape the chance to order.

Since the dues notices went out we've had a 66% rate of return. This is an excellent response, and I suspect it's because we wrapped the dues notice around a copy of the roster. Next year look for more changes in the roster to make it even handier to use. Unfortunately some of those who didn't pay their dues were in arrears for well over five years. We always send those folks a very special letter because we hate to lose members just because they can't pay the dues. Those who fail to respond are dropped. This time we lost three. Sorry, but it happens.

Some of the members were confused when they received a dues notice that told them they owed "\$0.00". Blame it on me. I

created a merge file within my word processor to handle the notices, and it took so much time that I wasn't ready to create a second one to tell the paid up members that fact. So I took the easy way out and listed the balance as zero. A *stf* award to Arthur C. Clarke who sent us a check for zero dollars and zero cents.

I've had some queries about the change in name of the report. I was never happy with the old title, and I kept creating spoof covers both to try and convey the historical foundations of First Fandom and to poke some fun at recent *stf*. Then that great big Light Bulb lit up over Ray's head. He suggested using the current name, I grabbed it, and the rest is history. The fun will still be there. I refuse to be a complete grump as I grow older, but *stf* has found its real name at last.

Bill Beard has kindly taken over the thankless job of communicating with the Worldcon-coms to make sure we're not slighted when it comes to time for giving out the Hall of Fame awards. So far he's working three years in advance. I've seen his preliminary communiques. They look good. He also reports he's having good responses from the committees.

As part of the information

sharing mission of this zine, I'm going to institute an advertising section. Ads are *free* to all members and Sustaining Patrons of First Fandom on a space-available basis. Send me your ad copy and I'll format it as closely to your specifications as I can, and it will appear within the zine within two issues. If you want an ad to continue until you cancel it, I can do that as well. Don't ask me to accept anything larger than a 2 column-inch ad, though, large spaces are at a premium and will cost you money.

Bob Peterson told me he would like to see the new members write a short note about themselves for publication so we can all get to know them better. That might be nice. New members, why don't you do that?

THE JOURNEY OF THE VACUUM BEETLE

by

Terry Jeeves

The planet was lonely and dark as it swung on its path through space. Lonely because it was the only offspring of a dark

star, and dark, due to an absence of light. High on a rocky ridge sat Gei-Ga, one of the few remaining life forms on the planet. For many toks he has been trailing an odor emanating from a *gaym*. The *gaym* creatures were becoming increasingly scarce, and in consequence, so was the source of *bhul* which Gei-Ga's stomach craved. Well he remembered the days when he and his brethren would flock to the hunting grounds, pass through a turnstile to the accompanying click-click of the Gei-Ga counter...and then they would see the *gaym*. Those days were gone and Gei-Ga looked like following unless a new source of *bhul* appeared.

Then it happened. A roaring filled the air, there was a flash and as Gei-Ga's eyes readjusted he could see a huge spherical object settling to the ground. He fearlessly approached it in time to see a rectangle of light appear on the sphere, and out stepped four dumpy figures. Gei-Ga's tentacles stiffened...Here was *bhul*, bags of *bhul* in fact! If only he could get aboard this strange craft, both he and the precious contents of his crnum would be saved.

Molton, skipper of the *Vacuum Beetle*, gazed keenly around as he stepped from the ship. Suddenly he saw Gei-Ga. To Molton the creature looked like a large flower. Molton stepped forward to

pluck it, only to find it needed no plucking. Instead of roots it had coarse tendrils which were apparently a means of locomotion, possibly for movement as well. At the top two finer tendrils appeared, surmounted by a large ball.

"What do you make of it, Juanita" he asked.

The Russian grunted, "Harmless. Let's put it in the mess room."

One hour later a crew member was found smeared across the mess room ceiling. A search revealed three more crewmen, all treated with the same smear technique. Gophknew, as the only Neckist on board, examined the bodies and pronounced them dead. After X-raying their corpses with a multibranch Singloscope, he turned to the skipper.

"Molton, this is hot stuff. There isn't a trace of brain matter in either of their skulls. Not unusual perhaps, but I have two deductions. Either somebody slipped up in Recruiting, or else that little pansy we brought aboard has done it. I suggest we kill the thing immediately, if not sooner."

Molton scoffed and affirmed that no crewman was expected to have any brains. He blamed the spearing on an attempt by a secret faction to undermine his authority, and added that nothing

further need be done.

Gophknew acted immediately. Snatching a vogtometer from his pocket, he hypnotized the crew and set out after the pansy. He found it busily picking the navigator's brains. Snatching up a nearby bucket of weed-killer, he threw it over the creature. It had no effect. Gei-Ga sucked up the last few scraps of brain matter, deposited a crnum cell, and attacked Gophknew. Quick as a flash his Neckist-trained reflexes reacted. He grabbed a tommy-gun from a handy wall-bracket, and let Gei-Ga have it.

Not understanding its function, Gei-Ga handed it back and chased the Neckist down the corridor. Gophknew snatched a brick from his pocket, and hurled it at Gei-Ga without any effect. Dashing through the hydroponic garden, he scattered radioactive dust behind him. In quick succession he tried a hand grenade, a baseball bat, a pair of the cook's socks, hitherto considered an ultimate weapon -- all to no avail. The creature still came on.

In desperation, Gophknew energized the walls with a form of force. He energized the floors. He even energized the ceiling. All this after donning dry socks to avoid energizing himself. Get-Ga grabbed a spare pair of socks and did likewise. Gophknew was becoming desperate. He found himself

pressed back against a wall. Something stuck to his back. His hand reached for it, grabbed the object, and waved it ferociously before him.

It was a NEOFANZINE, complete with blotched ink, cruddy illos, multiple typos, mis-spellings and naughty words.

Gei-Ga took one look, screamed, shriveled up into a tiny ball, crumbled away and vanished. No wonder, thought Gophknew, as he slid to the floor in a dead faint and bashed his skull on the heavy pile of the carpet.

He never recovered -- and as far as I know, the crew of the *Vacuum Beetle* are still in a state of hypnosis.



DINOSAUR DROPPINGS

Dear RayMark --

Fund raising suggestion: how about selling lifetime memberships in FF? Most of us won't be around that much longer anyway, and you may as well get as much as you can before senility sets in. You could probably get fifty bucks from full members and about a hundred or hundred-fifty from associate members. Would be nice if present associates could get the fifty dollar rate if they did so within six months of creating the program.

Hal Shapiro

It's a possibility, Hal. Lifetime memberships are often set at ten times the one year rate. That presupposes the money can be deposited at five per cent. The current interest rates would only pay \$3 a year. What do you folks out there think of such a concept?
-- Markj

Dear Mark --

I was stationed at O'Reilly General Hospital, U.S. Army, in 1944 for a few months of lab tech training. It is surely long since gone, but I loved it. On rainy days I'd sit in my bunk reading "The Outsider," which I carried with me

in basic training. We'd go to a movie in Springfield, and I recall I once tore my khakis on someone's protruding jagged fender. Funny how one remembers an unhappy moment. I never did get to visit the Lake of The Ozarks -- in a few months I was back in Texas -- but more hip to the army! I did a little fanzine writing then, too -- but I've lost it all now, thrown out in the 50's during a worn-out-with-sf period.

Be well,

Ben Indick

[Ben, I think that car is still there, parked right in front of the Gillioz Theater! -- Mark]

Dear Mark,

I don't mind having younger members such as you in FF, bit I still would like to see them listed as associate members.

Don't know if I should write you or Ray, but I would like to nominate Frank K. Kelly for Hall of Fame award. He wrote several stories in old *Wonder* and *Astounding* in 1930's and in recent years has been vice president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation of Santa Barbara, CA. There was a big writeup of him in a *Fantasy Commentator* a couple of years ago.

Best,

Bob Peterson

[As Ray mentioned before, Bob, we don't like to discriminate among members, and we feel that noting which member possessed which class would do exactly this. Your nomination is noted and accepted. Thanks. -- Mark]

Dear Mark,

Re "Revenge of The Sci-Fan," p.5; Christian(?) Science Fiction? I am completely amazed! I had no idea such a thing existed, and I find it ridiculous.

I have had minor eye surgery (no, not a cataract). A membrane in my eye clouded & my eye doctor used a computerized laser to punch holes in it. No pain & all is well. I thought it was pretty sciencefictional.

Hope this finds you well & happy.

Leigh Couch

[Leigh, take a gander at Dave Rike's letter. Most of us have little idea of the extent to which our culture is fragmenting. -- Mark]

Mark --

If FF members are interested in audio drama that's more contemporary than old time radio shows there are a couple of sources that I know of One is ZBS Foundation, RR#1, Box 1201, Ft.

Edward, NY 12828. You can send for their free catalog. Second is the Book of The Month Club/Quality Paper Back Book Club. They have offered both "The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy" (which originated as a radio/audio series) and the radio drama version of the "Star Wars" series which was broadcast over NPR stations.

A local NPR/PBS station (KXPR, Sacramento, CA) has been playing a version of Asimov's "Foundation" stories, and they've had other sf in the past. One I particularly enjoyed was a dramatization of Kuttner & Moore's "Vintage Season."

There are Christian SF fans who take their sf and religious beliefs seriously, and attempt to discuss them in a real-world fashion instead of indulging themselves in wishful fundamentalist fantasies. Some of them put out a fanzine, "Radio Free..." (I can't find the copy I have and forget the rest of its name) which, tho I don't share their faith, makes for interesting reading and doesn't insult one's intelligence.

Dave Rike

[Dave, religious beliefs shouldn't be cause for isolationism. Is there something inimical about association with non-christian fen? I don't seek out jewish fan groups, and Ray doesn't seek out Afro-

American fan groups, but then maybe we're just not being tribally correct. I'm familiar with the offerings of the Zen Broadcasting System; they're delightfully offbeat. Another source of old broadcasts might be our fearless leader himself. Ray has quite a stash of old audio drama. -- Mark]

[We don't ordinarily print nomination letters, but this one was too good to go unpublished]

Dear Ray,

I'd like to nominate MaryLou Sherred-Lockhart as an associate member of First Fandom. She may appear to be too young to qualify, but I assure you she's several years older than she looks. I first met her at a convention in the mid sixties and she showed good taste even then. She ignored the comic fans present and spent part of her time with me. I think it was the following year that she was managing part of a seminar on sf backed by Professor Hoth at Wayne State University, and she had the background that she'd obviously acquired in previous years.

As many of you know it wasn't long before she married old time writer T.L. Sherred. Tom always had an eye for young women.

MaryLou assumed her wifely duties properly. I spent many con-

ventions sitting in Tom's room. When Tom noticed a deficiency he would call out "water boy," and MaryLou would take her little plastic bucket and go down the hall until she found what we needed. She had already arranged things so that we would not run out of the main ingredient.

MaryLou has always proved to be resourceful. I recall one time at Cincinnati when a group of us were standing on the sidewalk and she spotted a little old lady with a cane attempting to cross the street. MaryLou said, "Wait here. I have to help that lady". She returned a few minutes later saying, "She had thirty-two bucks in her purse. C'mon in the bar and I'll buy a drink."

She's also decorative. Despite her advanced age she wiggles instead of waddles when she walks.

I think she would make a fine addition to First Fandom, and if he behaves himself, she can even bring her husband Larry.

Howard DeVore

Dear Mark:

Re Larry Rothstein's letter: I don't know what he joined in 1946, but it wasn't the Hydra Club. That wasn't founded until late 1947, after the Philadelphia worldcon (which is what gave us

the idea). The deed took place in my apartment on Grove Street in Greenwich Village, and I know this for sure because Lester del Rey and I were the two guys who founded it.

I don't remember whether Larry was present at that first meeting or not; all I can testify to is that there were a total of nine fannish folk there, and so we named the club after that other nine-headed monster, the Hydra.

Bests,

Frederick Pohl

Dear Mark,

Re Ray Beam's call for members who have reached the 70 year mark, I was 71 last month, so put my name down. Incidentally, I still publish my quarterly fanzine ERG, now in its 35th year. Anyone wanting a copy, just send me a dollar bill.

Put me down as liking the new format. It's much more interesting than a single sheet. As for the letters, it's always nice to hear what other members think, and are doing. On the question of Posthumous Awards, as de Camp says, the dead couldn't care less, so why not stick to honoring more of those who would enjoy being remembered. No doubt Jules Verne deserves a Posthumous gong, but would it be more than a

publicity exercisr to award one?

All the best and keep up the good work.

Terry Jeeves

(I'll send your name to Don Fran-son so he can put you on his list, Terry. I think we finally have the posthumous award matter settled. -- Mark)

Dear Mark,

I must thank you and Ray Beam for the Membership Roster of FIRST FANDOM, for SCIENTIFUNCTION, Winter, 1993, and for the very attractive membership card you had mailed to me earlier.

For several years now, I have been renewing memberships in various organizations only on an annual basis. After all, at 81 years of age how long can I last? But your request that I renew for 1995 made me think. Why not be an optimist? If I renew, I shall have to live two years longer at least to enjoy the benefits of First Fandom.

Thanks again, and all good wishes,

Chester Cuthbert

(Chester, your optimism is a Good Thing. It's great to have you around! -- Mark)

Dear Mark:

Let me commend and congratulate you on the beautiful new format of the First Fandom report -- and the much classier title you used on the most recent issue (*ScientiFiction*), a great improvement over others like the self-denegrating *Futrid Stories*, or even *Angst Science Fiction*. But it would be convenient if you attached the writer's address to the letters to the editor when the roster does not appear in the same issue.

Speaking of the First Fandom roster: What happened to the membership of Jim Harmon whose eligibility I vouched for a couple of years ago? He should appear on the membership list, shouldn't he?

Yours,

redd boggs

(redd, the former sub-titles of the Report were created by the well-known members of the Poon family. I believe Lam came up with the "Futrid" idea, and Har was responsible for "Angst." The Report is now officially entitled Scientifiction, and there will be no sub-titles. I am acutely embarrassed by losing Jim Harmon. Somehow his name fell off the end of the database. I contacted Ray, and he confirmed Jim's membership. Needless to say he'll be receiving a letter of apo-

logy from me very shortly. Thanks for bringing this gaffe to my attention.. -- Mark}

Dear Ray,

As a recent member this is my first communication to the organization. Erle Korshak's nomination of both Harry Warner Jr. & Jeck Speer to receive the First Fandom Hall of Fame award *in the same year* is very ingenious, and I think his nomination should receive a second. This is that second. I hope it results in a sweeping movement towards the awards to these old and memorable members of the S-F community.

Yours sincerely,

Richard I. Meyer

{So be it, Richard, the nomination will go on the ballot as a duo. I think this is a dangerous precedent because there is nothing to keep twenty or so names from being grouped together, but we may as well try it and see what happens. -- Mark}

Dear Mark:

I want to nominate Aubrey MacDermott for the First Fandom Hall of Fame. He has been in the forefront of fandom since the middle 1920's, long before I knew what was going on.

Bob Tucker

Dear Mark,

I feel it necessary to write a letter of comment regarding my article "Universal Horrors." I stated in the article that I had heard nothing good about the final two entries in the Invisible Man series ("The Invisible Agent," 1942, and "The Invisible Man's Revenge", 1944). Recently Universal released "The Invisible Agent" and I got the chance to view it. I found it to be quite enjoyable despite some flaws. The cast was top rate with Jon Hall in the lead assisted by Ilona Massey, Peter Lorre, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, John Litel, and Keye Luke. You will find Milburn Stone, John Merton, James Craven, and Lane Chandler in bit parts. Eddie Parker, one of Hollywood's better stunt men at the time, handled the stunts. Hall is the Invisible Man, being a descendent of the original. Apparently they licked the bad side effect of the drug or completely ignored them because Hall kept his sanity through out the picture. He did tend to fall asleep at inopportune times. The portrayal of the Nazis as bumbling idiots is not reality but was par for the course of Hollywood's propaganda films of that period. The thing that grated on my nerves the most was Jon Hall's refusal to the bitter end to believe that Ilona Massey was an agent for the

Allies.

Jon Hall is also the star of "The Invisible Man's Revenge." He plays a character with the same last name of the one he portrays in "The Invisible Agent," but no relation. This time he is a phycopathic killer to start with so there is no worry about side effects. Maybe Universal will release it in the near future so we can see what we are or are not missing.

Ray Beam

A FAN ON THE ROCKS

Part 1: Life in another microculture

by

Stan Skirvin

When I moved with my family to Scottsdale, Arizona in the summer of 1969 it was because of a job opportunity. Joan and I selected a home in Scottsdale in a non-irrigated area for the express purposes of living in a good school district and experiencing life in a different, unfamiliar ecology: that of the Upper Sonoran desert.

We visited quite a few places

in Arizona, primarily in the mountains, during the summer of 1969. We also made an attempt to get involved in local science-fiction fandom through a group which met once a month at the Phoenix Central Library. In addition to the affiliations which Joan and I had had in Cincinnati, we thought it might be a social opportunity for our two older children. It didn't work out; the major interest of the locals, who tended to be rather young, was in the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) and we lost interest in the group. As it turned out our younger son was deeply involved in the SCA by the mid-70's, ultimately becoming an armor maker and combatant.

At the end of summer 1969 I saw a poster at work about a basic mountaineering course. It looked sort of interesting, and I was urged to take it by a friend at work. During the family's fossil collecting days in Cincinnati we had visited a number of quarries. It seemed to me that it would be worthwhile if at least one member of the family understood how to use ropes to protect people in steep places. Joan agreed.

In October I began a four-week course which was offered by the Arizona mountaineering Club (AMC). It met one evening and one weekend day a week, and taught technical rock climbing. In technical climbing the risk

of serious injury from a fall is sufficient to dictate the use of ropes and the placement of protection by the lead climber in order to limit the length of a potential fall. (The lead climber is said to be on the pointy end of the rope.)

One week later my older son, who was a Boy Scout, had the opportunity to take a scuba diving course and I took it with him. We warmed up for each lesson by swimming four laps in an Olympic-sized pool. I was one tired puppy with two physically demanding courses stacked on top of a full time job.

The day I completed the basic climbing course by participating in a graduation climb my older son was thrown by a horse and broke his wrist. During the graduation climbs a student acted wise by climbing unprotected when the climb leader was watching the current climber and fell. Joan met the injured student at the hospital while she was there waiting for older son to have his wrist set. Older son had to drop out of the scuba course and so did I.

Due to the urgings of the workplace friend, who had been an instructor during the basic climbing course, I went on several AMC-sponsored climbs and, at some point, realized to my surprise that I was really enjoying it. I bought a good, but too comfor-

table, pair of climbing boots and climbed ever more difficult routes. (I say too comfortable because climbing really difficult routes requires climbing boots which are so tight as to be quite uncomfortable. I could hike in mine.)

During the winter of 1969-70 I was serving as the Committee Chairman of my younger son's Webelos Troop which forced me to miss the meetings of the AMC. As a consequence when I completed the last session of a special AMC course entitled Self-Rescue Techniques I had managed to miss the AMC meeting where it was stated that a Team Rescue Techniques course would start immediately after Self-Rescue. I took the entire Team Rescue Techniques course without realizing until after it was completed that I had taken the course given for folks who wanted to join the AMC Mountain Rescue Team (AMC-MRT).

I felt badly about not being with the Rescue Team during subsequent months, but my Webelos Committee Chairman duties simply did not allow time. In the spring of 1971 younger son decided that he didn't want to go on into Boy Scouts. Older son had already decided that he wasn't going into Explorer Scouts so I immediately joined the AMC-MRT.

In subsequent years I became an Outings Leader in the AMC

and eventually worked my way up to the Operations Leader section of the AMC-MRT callout roster. I also became an Outings Leader in the Grand Canyon Section of the sierra Club where I led hikes with and without backpacks, and easy climbs.

Technical rock climbing and backpacking were major leisure time activities from about 1970 to 1978. Mountain rescue practice was carried out in leisure time; rescues were carried out whenever needed. I have described a few of my mountain rescue experiences in Part 2 of this biographical essay.

Technical rock climbing is one of the "risk" sports. Climbers depend on each other to check knots and equipment. They literally hold each other's lives in their hands by giving belays, the technique for feeding slack to a climber to whose harness a rope is tied while being prepared at any instant to "lock" the rope if the moving climber should fall. So what is it about technical rock climbing that could turn a previously staid, conservative individual into a practitioner of this risk sport?

There is a purity of scenario where there is nothing involved beyond your skills, the rock, and gravity (with an occasional concern about weather). It clears the mind marvelously of all other con-

cerns when you're moving over high-angle rock faces. There is a real adrenaline high when you complete a climb which you feel was difficult.

Unfortunately, by late 1978, accumulated work-related frustrations and disappointments contributed to putting me into a major period of depression of almost clinical severity. I found myself unable to lead rock climbs any more and resigned from the AMC-MRT.

I was completely back in control of myself by 1980-81, but my life had become filled with other things (photography and succulent plants) and I never did any more climbing except occasionally after 1980 (as recently as 1989) with my son-in-law, a much more skilful climber than I ever was. I feel regrets about "losing" climbing, but my body and mind have aged and so it goes.

What did I get out of climbing?
(1) Some very stirring memories of doing exciting things that I had never dreamed I would ever do. (2) A certain disdain, almost contempt, for the mind games that I associate with some fandom activities as compared to the action sport of technical rock climbing where one puts one's skill and life on the line.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Due to the response we had from the membership, Mark and I have decided to set up a committee to implement the Posthumous Hall of Fame Award. As I said last time both the number of awards in any one year and the recipients will be set by the committee. Any member can make written suggestions to the Chair or to any member of the committee, but it will be ultimately their choice.

I have written to several members to see if they are interested in serving on the Posthumous committee. If there are any members whom I have not contacted who are interested in serving in this capacity, please write to me.

This award WILL NOT be given at the Worldcon. In 1994 we have selected Rivercon in Louisville as the place for the posthumous ceremony. We felt this was appropriate since Rivercon is hosting a First Fandom Reunion. The Award could remain with Rivercon as an annual event or it could be rotated, East Coast, West Coast and Midwest. This decision will be made at a later date according to the availability of conventions willing and able to handle it. Steve Francis has expressed a willingness to retain it

at Rivercon if necessary. At any rate I feel that Rivercon is the logical convention to handle the Midwest portion. Any of the members who have influence with established conventions in the East and West may write a proposal to either Mark or myself.

The award itself will consist of a name and date added to a plaque each year, and it will be retained by First Fandom. If there is a surviving spouse or children they will be provided with a trophy.

Mary Ann, Wesley and I are going to attend the annual New Year's parties sponsored by The Cincinnati Fantasy Group. We will welcome in 1994 at Roger and Pat Sims's home along with other members and friends of the CFG. Even though you will receive this later in January, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all First Fandom members and their families a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I hope to do a better job for the organization in the coming year!

Ray

DUES

Dues in First Fandom remain \$5.00 per year. The number on your mailing label will tell you to the end of which year your dues are paid. Please keep your dues current if you possibly can.

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the end of 1993 we had taken in a total of \$1,131.70 in dues, subscriptions, and miscellaneous. As you might expect the greatest amount received came from dues.

Our expenses for the year amounted to \$1,445.76. Of this amount \$896.85 went for printing four issues of *SciFiction*, and the roster. \$474.11 went for postage. \$43.00 went for advertising, \$25.65 went for sales taxes. The remaining \$5.15 was probably spent foolishly.

Our cash balance at the end of 1993 was \$2,162.53. This is \$269.80 less than we had at the start of the year, but I don't see it as being a significant decrease.

We "lost" five members dur-

ing the last year. This means that their mail was returned for various reasons, and we have been unable to locate them. Ten members left the fold, either at their request, or because they had both not paid dues for at least ten years and failed to respond to a query letter. Four of our members died. On the plus side we gained nine new dinosaurs, and two Sustaining Patrons.

We also have an angel, a charming lady who donates good money to this group of fallen fans. She's Elsie Wollheim, and I don't think any of us can say enough nice things about her. Here's to you, Elsie. You're one of the smallest of us dinosaurs, but you've got a heart bigger than all of us combined!

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

FIRST FANDOM

Dinosaurs of Science Fiction

Mark Schulzinger

601 F. Delmar

Springfield, MO 65807

FIRST CLASS

Donald H. Dailey
3842 Marseille Road
Indianapolis IN 46226

1993

