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NUMBER THIRTEEN
8 May 1975

Your Editor
Dave Kyle

FINALLY IT'S THE THIRTEENTH...of FFNL, being published at an unusual time of year. But then this is an unusual year, what with the World Con in Australia ("The Aussiecon") and held not on Labor Day weekend, but on 14-17 August. If you haven't already made travel arrangements to Melbourne (aren't we all old enough to be affluent?), see if you can get on the group flight organized by Grace & Don Lundry of 18 Karen Drive, Cherry Hill, N.J. 08003. Don, incidentally, is the head of the Orlando in '77 Worldcon bidders, hoping to be picked at the Aussiecon business meeting. At the moment Orlando (Florida, as if you did not know) is the favorite. In 1976, of course, the site is Kansas City for the MidAmeriCon.

SPEAKING OF FLORIDA, There's a big launch on July 15th. Lots of fans will be there with a party the night before (LAUNCHCON 3) sponsored by the Baltimore SF Society. There will, of course, be the usual shenanigans at Joe Green's place. If you haven't received your invitation, just say you're from First Faaandom. (It's your last chance for the final Saturn 1-B launch.)

LOU TABAKOW. Before we write another word, we must mention the name to whom our group is most indebted. We sent in a quick request for mailing labels and before you could say Hawk Carse we had 'em from him.

"DISCON-2 EDITION" OF FFNL (issue 12) is included in this mailing because most members did not receive a copy.

THE FIRST FF MEETING OF 1975 took place at the Lunacon held on 19-20 April in the Hotel Commodore, NYC. Those attending were: Art Saha, Willis Conover, Kenneth Sterling, Jack Robins, Hal Clement Stubbs, George O. Smith, Dave Kyle, Julius Postal, Paul G. Herkert, Theodore R. Cogswell, Raymond Z. Gallun, Robert A. Madle (Rex Dinosaur), Jack Chalker, (guests George & Megan Cogswell), Bill Berg and his friend Peggy Hall whom we shall all remember, especially considering that practically all of us were disgusting sober. Shades of Cincinnati! Which might account for the fact that the following FFers were NOT present despite being at the convention: Fred Pohl, Isaac Asimov, Sam Moskowitz, Ossie Train, Michael Fogaris, Frank Belknap Long, L. Sprague de Camp & Catherine and Don Grant.....

At the meeting, the FF pamphlet which tells of our Hall of Fame Awards was described. (It will soon be published, s'help us Ghul!) Heavy cover, with a picture of the award on the front. All winners will have full page pictures with a biographical sketch of about 200 to 300 words. The FF emblem is on the back. Lou Tabakow and Jack Chalker are producing it, with Rusty Hevelin and Bob Madle doing the writing. As for progress, Jack says the writers are doing about "800 words a year, so that's pretty good going!"...

Art Saha is begging, BEGGING for lists of stories for inclusion in a FF Anthology of favorites. Help him! His address: 307 N. Eighth Street, Kenilworth, NJ 07033... He reported a beautiful letter from Don Franson....FLASH! SFVA NEBULA WINNERS: Novel: "The Dispossessed"-Le Guin; Novella: "Born With the Dead"-Silverberg; Novelette: "If the Stars Are Gods"-Eklund & Benford; Short Story: "The Day Before the Revolution"-Le Guin; Drama: (movie) "Sleeper". Bob Heinlein given "The Grand Master Award."

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LUNACON FF MEETING (cont'd): Willis Conover, in that fabulous Voice of America voice, fascinated us all with a lengthy, yet still all too short, account of the publication of his special book about H. P. Lovecraft entitled "Lovecraft At Last". He presents the material, which is his personal correspondence with HPL, in the context of that strange fannish world of 1936. The time span is only eight months, from July 1936 to March 1937 when he passed away. It's an expensive book, but very much a collector's item with great appeal to us FFers in particular. Requests for information or orders will be gladly passed along.

AND YET ANOTHER PASSING-- HANS STEFAN SANTESSON 1914-1975. Hal Clement writes: "His name doesn't fill columns in the magazine indexes, and his face wasn't seen at every convention from coast to coast, but Hans will still be missed; more, perhaps, than many of us realize yet... He helped people, with time, with advice, with work, with money when he could.... Hans was one of the Good Guys." At his funeral various persons spoke eulogies: Ike Asimov, Lester del Rey, and, intended as from all of us, Art Saha.

INCIDENTALLY, SOME ONE WHO would enjoy a Get-Well card from his FFriends is that other expatriate Sam Russell (from sun to rain) at "Maple Cottage", Oxford Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks, England.

OVERHEARD FROM ONE FF er TO ANOTHER: "So when I told my wife I'd been accepted into First Fandom she ran around the house shouting, 'I'm a dinosaur! I'm a dinosaur!'"... And it's also reported that when Gene Roddenberry got his First Fandom card he ran around the house waving it in the air. What would Mr. Spock think of that?!

FIRST FANDOM HALL OF FAME AWARD nominations for 1976 were considered at Lunacon. Among those suggested were L. Sprague de Camp, Raymond Z. Gallun, E. Hoffman Price, Frank Belknap Long, Manly Wade Wellman and Harry Bates. The voting was close, but the name being suggested as the frontrunner at the MidwestCon meeting is Frank.

CONFIDENTIAL: The name of this year's choice is (Oh, sorry, Someone said it's confidential)... which reminds us that we forgot to add to the list of FFers who were at the Lunacon but didn't get to the meeting, to wit, Donald A. Wollheim.

MORE ABOUT LOVECRAFT: Willis's book was personally supervised by him for quality control, "the way I wanted it done" by "doing production myself". Pre-publican price was \$12, but will be \$30 now, not so much considering paper costs went up 37% in the last 12 months (break even is about 3,000). There are details such as reproducing the exact special color of HPL's ink of his reproduced letter.

NEW MEMBERS: George O. Smith, Frank K. Kelly (at the Institute for Academic Studies), Virginia Kidd and Janie Lamb?... maybe Alfie Bester? THE WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION will be held on Hallowe'en weekend, 1975, in Providence, R.I., with Bob Bloch as GOTH, & Gahan Wilson as MC. The principal award will be a bust of HPL. Kudos go to Dan Grant.

FINALLY--Thanks to LOU TABAKOW AGAIN for having put out with his last mailing what was really an exxtra copy of First Fandom News Letter.

DAK

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8 May 1975

Dear First FANdomite--

Here's an interesting idea.

If each one of us anted up one hundred bucks apiece we could stand an excellent chance of buying AMAZING STORIES.

Does that appeal to you? It appeals so much to those I've mentioned: this possibility that the question was how many extra shares would one be allowed to have.

I don't feel I should name names, but some high powered pro talent from our ranks believe we can make a very successful go at it.

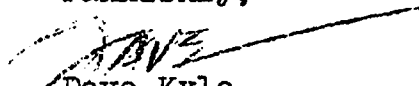
Our chance will come after the 50th anniversary exploitation, so the project is for late 1976. However, action needs to take place now.

If you're intrigued too, write me. Tell me how you can help.

THIS IS NOT AN OFFER, NOR A SOLICITATION NOR ANY KIND OF PROSPECTUS. This is an exploration of your sentiments. The necessary legal approach comes later.

Write me today! (An airmail letter to England is 26¢)

Fannishly,


Dave Kyle