

TO START THINGS OFF.....#1 For the 97th mailing of SFFA, Sept. 1980  
Published by Lynn Hickman at 413 Ortokee Street in Wauseon, Ohio 43567

This is my I'm glad to be back in SFFA issue. Actually I had started another fanzine, but I hadn't expected to get back in this soon --so the other fanzine cannot be finished in time to make the deadline. I will tell you that the title will be "HICKMAN'S SCRAPBOOK" and that it will feature things from the past. However, I can't finish it in time for the deadline, so this will be a six pager just to make sure I'm in and don't have to wait again.

I guess I should introduce myself again, although I've been in the apas before a couple of times. My name is Lynn Hickman. I'm one of those old type fans that have been around for almost ever. I'm a collector of pulp magazines, artwork from the magazines, etc. I've been pubbing fanzines for 30 years and going to cons, etc. for longer than that. I started my fanzine publishing in the south at Statesville, North Carolina when I was a salesman selling peanut pickers and other various and sundry pieces of farm equipment. At that time I started a club called The Little Monsters of America. I used to read the mags while sitting in a cafe having lunch and the waitress would look at the garish cover of the mag and look at me like I was a little monster. So I decided to be one in fact.

I was also a member of most of the clubs that were in existence at that time. Later on in 1959 I was one of the six that organized First Fandom and publish First Fandom Magazine when and if it gets done. I have been a member of FAPA, SAPS, ONPA, WHIMSY, & SFFA. And probably a couple of more that I have forgotten. I do like apas and I'm glad to be back. I hope you'll be glad to have me.

Other than that I am married with four children, two dogs and a cat. I have lived here in Wauseon for about 16 years. Before that time I moved around an awful lot when I was selling farm equipment.

I didn't really want to drop out of SFFA last year, but various things made it impossible for me to continue. The time wasn't there. So when the time came for the con in Brighton and knowing I would be out of the country for almost a month, I knew I would have to drop it. Since my return a number of things have happened. The plant where I have worked for the past 16 years closed its doors the 31st of January. I stayed on until April to help them phase the operation out, but since then I have been out of work. Now, I should begin a new job on Sept. 15th with a new company in town, so things should return more to normal.

Now to get back to the present, I am starting the typing on this August 24th, 1980. I should get a page or two typed tonight and then

I'll have to lay off for a couple of days. Tomorrow I have to drive to Detroit Metro Airport to pick up Terry Jeeves from England. He is our First Fandom Guest of Honor at the con in Boston. However, since I'm not going to the con this year, Terry will fly out from Boston to see me. I'll pick him up at the airport and bring him here. He wants to see my collection, especially of the old air-war pulps and my original artwork of artists such as Bok, Paul, Lawrence, Finlay, Fress, Fmsh, Cartier, Stevens, McCauley, Krupa, Morey, Vestel, Baumhofer, Rogers, etc., etc.

The following day I will take him to Wapakoneta, Ohio to the Armstrong Space Museum where we will be met by Mike Banks of Cincinnati. Mike will then take him to Dayton and the Air Force Museum (Terry was a radio man for the RAF) and then to Cincy to meet the Cincy group. From there Terry will drive to the convention with Mike and his wife. So it should be a couple of very fine days.

I really don't know how these pages will turn out. I just got a Dittu Combanatic II machine that the plant had. Since none of the other plants in the group had asked for it, I put in a bid of \$20.00 and it was accepted. I've never run a ditto before and I don't know how old these masters are, but I do know that the machine ran well at the plant. It is around 8-10 years old and was used once a week to put out production requirement sheets for the foremen. So I'll have to experiment with the pressures, etc., and see if the masters will still work. There are over 100 of them and I hate to buy new ones if these will still work and put out a decent 50 or 60 copies.

I have some purple ones in this size, plus a bunch of legal ones, plus a pack of the thermal ones. Frankly I'm not sure if I can get the thermal ones to work at all. They tried them a few times at the plant with a minimum of success. You are supposed to be able to put your copy in the bottom of the machine and have it transferred to the thermal master and then run it on the machine. Sort of a heat transfer method to the master. If I can't make it work, I'll forest that part of the machine and just use the regular Ditti part. I can't kick as I never expected to pick up a nice machine like this for only \$20.00.

Ray Beam and his wife should also be coming in tomorrow night on their way to the con. Last saw Ray at the Midwestcon in Cincy at the end of June. Ray lives in Indiana and has been a friend of mine for more years than I care to remember. While Ray hadn't been in fandom prior to 1938 and couldn't be a member of First Fandom, we felt that he had done enough good things for fandom for over 30 years so he was made an associate member.

While I know a number of the members, there are many that I don't, and I hope that each of you will give me a short introduction so that I can know you better and perhaps be able to picture you in my mind.

Next, I hope that you will let me know if you like the idea of a fanzine such as "HICKMAN'S SCRAPBOOK". I had planned to feature things that were in the fannish past, plus some reviews of the old stories and/or magazines. Sometime back I had promised Guy that I would reprint a conreport of the the Nolacon (the World Science Fiction Convention held in New Orleans in 1951) that I had published in one of my fanzines in 1952. This will be in the first issue. But I want to be sure that the whole membership will want to read such things.

Went up to Toronto, Canada a couple of weekends ago. While I've always been a small town person, Toronto is one city that I really enjoy. Brought back a case of Canadian ale. In my estimation, Canada brews better ale than anywhere else in the world, with the exception of one. When I was in Tasmania visiting Don Tuck, I had one brewed in Hobart, Tasmania called Cascade Bitter Ale that was undoubtably the best ale I have ever drank. But, I'm sure Terry & Ray will like the Canadian brew.

Any other ale drinkers in the group?

England also has some fine ales. Bass, Charington, The Bishops Tipple. I tried as many as I could while there. In a pub in Wales, I saw a bottle of imported booze by the name of Jim Beam. So I left one of Tucker's cards that the bartender attached to the bottle.

I really enjoyed the English trip and the con in Brighton, saw many old friends at the con and we drove all over the island. But I won't bore you with all the details since I'm sure Ned Brooks filled you all in on the con.

Was sorry to see Andy Whitehead drop out of the apa, but am glad to note that he is #6 on the waitinglist again. Andy is one of my favorite young people. He's also a good beer drinker and a good story teller. We've been to some cons together and he's been a visitor at the Hickman homestead.

I've corresponded a bit with Deb Hammer-Johnson and found that she was interested in the Popular Culture movement (as I am). In reading Resolution 5, published by Jackie Causgrove, Dave Locke had the following in a column. I quote. "Jackie interrupted me to read an Ann Landers column. The column contained the results of a poll wherein one-third of the women tabulated wore panties to bed.

Imagine that.

Apparently there were individuals who thought it strange that women did or did not wear panties to bed (regardless of whether or not the women were tabulated), and many readers took their own polls

or wrote in individually to state their preference. So now we know. One-third to two-thirds. Another contribution to Popular Culture." Deb, would you like to take a poll among our female members so that Dave will know what goes on in an apa?

George Wells...Since no one in their right mind could vote for Carter again, perhaps this would be a good time to resume publication of Elephant Ears.

Ned Brooks...Sorry I didn't make it in time for the Jerry Todd books, but I did find a couple more in the basement that I had forgotten I had. In fact I found quite a number of old boy's books that I didn't remember having. And I'm still looking through piles of stuff down there. It is even surprising me some of the stuff that I'm coming up with that I thought was lost.

Guy Lillian III...Am doing the Nolacon report as promised and it will be in my new zine either the next mailing or the one after, according to the amount of time I have. But regardless, if I get this Ditto running right I should be able to have at least a little zine in each mailing. It will be a lot different running off short run stuff on this than it is setting up an offset press for a big zine. I'm really pleased at getting this machine and as soon as I learn to run it properly I'll have at least something in every mailing. In the above to Ned Brooks I mentioned finding stuff in the basement that I thought was lost. One of the things was a small booklet put out with Big Thrill Chewing Gum. Buck Rogers! Perhaps I'll do a review of it in the future. I doubt if there are many left. It was issued in 1934.

I also still have one of the Buck Rogers space ships put out by Tootsie toys about that same time. And if anyone is interested in baseball, I still have my baseball cards from 1933, 34, 35, 36. I have a double set of the 1933 ones. I also have many of the old toys that my older brother and I had when we were little tads. I also found a set of Alger books my dad had when he was a boy.

A lot of this stuff was found at my Mom's place when she was getting ready to move to Texas. She had several storerooms in the house and hadn't thrown away many things. She even had a copy of a letter I had written to Eddie Cantor when I was 9 years old. The worst thing she ever did was make my brother and I throw away a whole barn full of pulp magazines when we were kids and we were moving.

She also gave me a Sellers kitchen cabinet she had bought when she got married, a 1929 Philco highboy radio, (it is beautiful, looks like a liquor cabinet, with doors and everything) and then I bought her Queen Anne dining room set. It is something you would have to see to appreciate. I think she bought it in 1926, the year that I was born.



Paul Flores...I'm sorry I didn't get a zine into you for the Shadow-apa. Good intentions don't always pay off. But I did appreciate your writing and your sending me the zines. I'm glad we are both getting in with this mailing and I hope to get to know you better. There were a number of good fanzines put out of Columbus, Ga. in the late 40s and early 50s by Paul Cox and Van Splawn. I think Van Splawn moved to Missouri. Paul Cox was at the Nolscon in 1951 and then a few years later I lost contact with him.

Lon Atkins and Dave Julian...Its been a long time since we've written or talked in zines so we'll just have to start over. I've always enjoyed reading your stuff though.

Bob Jennings...The above applies. I'm trying to think of the name of the kid from Anniston, Ala. who was in the apa the first time I was. Was it Montgomery? I always enjoyed his zines and then he seemed to have disappeared. Do you remember him?

Tis now August 27th and I'll try to get this zine finished up. Received a letter from George Wells threatening to reprint from THE SICK ELEPHANT and send them to me if I dropped out again, so I must get this in before deadline. How rotten can a guy get?

He also asked some questions, but rather than bore you all with the answers, I'll send him a postcard.

Just received VERTIGO #43 from Ed Murray. This is the last issue and I really hate to see it go as it kept me up to date on everything around the Carolina area. Hopefully someone else in the area will do something similar. Good work, Ed, wish you could have kept it up. Why don't you get on the waiting list for SEPA? You would really make a fine addition.

Monday morning I packed a model 80 Multilith in the back of the station wagon and took off for Detroit. This was one that Howard DeVore had brought down a number of years back, but now needed. It seems he has 4 of them and he felt by using parts from each, perhaps he could get at least one of them running. Good luck, Howard.

After unloading the multilith, we went to the airport to get Terry Jeeves. Also at the airport were Tom and Mary Lou Sherred, two of my favorite people. It was grand to see Terry. We had corresponded for 30 years or more but this was the first time we had met face to face. We had missed each other in England, as Terry couldn't get to the con and I couldn't get up to his house.

After seeing Howard DeVore and the Sherreds in Detroit we drove back to Mauseon where I showed Terry our favorite pub, introduced him to my wife at the newspaper and then back to my house where he looked over parts of my collection of mags and artwork. A little later Ray Beam and wife Mary Ann came through on their way to the con and stayed over for the night. Then Gary Zachrich and wife Patty came down from Michigan to meet Terry and we had a fine evening. The beer and good conversation flowed equally. A little later my wife Carolyn came home from the paper along with some of the girls she works with -- and it was a fine evening.

Even though we were up till the wee hours, we woke early in the morning as Terry wanted to see the Armstrong Space Museum and the Air Force Museum. Ideally the absolute fan, Terry did a cartoon for my son Mark, plus a cartoon and a nice note to Mark's best friend Tim Brewer, who had never met an Englishman. I had kept telling Tim to study up on his english, as I was sure that Terry couldn't talk american very well. And being a young boy, Tim was really worried that Terry wouldn't be able to understand him.

We took off in the morning after Ray Beam cooked breakfast. Ray just didn't like the way I started the bacon out. We went to the space museum where Mike Banks met us. I hadn't planned on driving all the way to Dayton to the Air Force Museum, but I enjoyed Terry so much and was having so much fun that I decided to. So Terry, Mike, Mike Jr. and myself took off for Dayton. It was a wonderful day and about 5:00 in the afternoon I had to part with Terry, but with the feeling that although we had been really fine friends all those years through the mails, that we were now something even more. To me, in person, Terry leaves is even more the fine person I thought he was. He is someone very special, the complete fan, the complete gentleman, the complete friend. Terry, I hope we have the opportunity of meeting again in this life span.

It is now Sept. 2nd and I'm getting ready to leave on a trip to Maryland, so I must finish this off and get it in the mails. Hopefully I will have mastered this machine a little better by next mailing and will have a more presentible zine with artwork and such.

Lynn Hickman  
413 Octokee Street  
Mauseon, Ohio 43967

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL