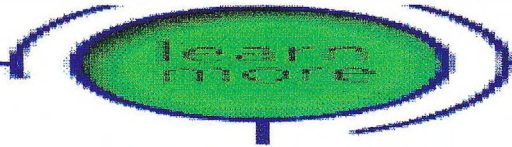

OFFLINE READER



Volume 1 Issue 5A

June - July 1998

From: Irv Koch,
1623 White Oak Rd.,
Chattanooga, TN 37415-6325.
423-267-7191 or BBS: 423-267-3789.
Internet: irvkoch@sprintmail.com --
There's no real web site but you can look at
www.fantek.org/merchant.irt.html

For SFPA 204

An alternate address for the "not a web site" is still: <http://www.tiac.net/users/fantek/merchant/irt.html> -- or you can visit "the store" at The SF & Mystery Book Shop, Ltd., 2000-F Cheshire Bridge Rd. NE, Atlanta, GA 30324; 404-634- 3226.
-/-

Mumble, mumble:

The stuff on Atlanta, Chattanooga, and Nashville fandom gets pushed back still yet another issue. Not only THAT, but the original version of this issue was in MS Works 4.0/4.5 format. The silly MS Office 6.0 that I have, won't read it when it was saved in MS Office format by Works <grumble>. I think MS Office 7.0 will read it or some such idiocy, but with the laptop shipped back to COMPAQ for an overhaul ... to Hades with it. I'll just start over. There wasn't much done anyway. I could give a long list of current woes but ... why bother. Suffice to say it's July 17, and I have part of today and part of July 20 to get this issue out. The rest belongs to Kay, travel between the three cities, or taking my dad to the other eye's cataract surgery and such.

Anyway, that means no work on the Stock Stuff. I was not going to update the spreadsheet but was going to finish explaining it. Later I will update it and explain the changes and their significance. The big news is I'm now \$219,500 or so into margin debt ... and Kay and I will be looking at a house this Saturday. Can we spell red ink <whine>.

Also note that when I'm done with Mailing 203, I'll give it to Kay. Who knows what that will cause <chortle>.

So, anyway, I'm going to do the minimum mailing comments I can, and "run the spreadsheet" and analysis thereof in a later issue.

-/-

MAILING COMMENTS ON SFPA 203

Liz C. in SOUTHERNER 203: Only three people without E-Mail addresses. SFPA may survive the

Internet version of itself after all. They're all three HARD hold outs against any change.

Ned B. in SHELF 18: A good formula for determining what to charge for advertisements in a fanzine, such as Matchmaking International wanted you to run, is: Figure your cost for one side of one sheet of paper for your print run, etc. Multiply that by four, then double THAT (for a total of eight times cost) for non-fan material. A third of a page would be charged at half the price of a full page; similar anti-discounts would follow for smaller chunks of space. They would, of course, have to send you something you could paste in like a regular picture/filler.

After various gyrations I managed to cut, paste, and print both the Densley Drive, Decatur, address and the one you sent me in email. Is your sister's address that where your parents used to be? It looks a bit familiar.

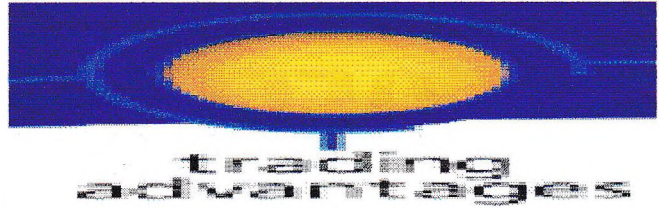
Anyway, Kay lives in the condo-complex at 1111 Clairmont Avenue (Road?), Decatur - just outside the city limits. The most likely scenario is that at some point I'll buy the unit under hers, we would then shift everything down there, except for her office (maybe). My stuff would be split between the two units as well, with office type stuff going upstairs and the majority remaining in Chattanooga as long as my father is alive and lives there. The second of the two bedrooms upstairs would become a guest room. (The second one downstairs is now an oversized laundry room and not likely to be changed.)

Version B of that is a swap, after purchase of the downstairs unit, with the lady who owns the other unit on Kay's floor. (The set up is that four units share a stair well, etc.) The people on the other unit downstairs are not approachable but the one upstairs is. (The lady directly underneath Kay wants to "sell to someone she knows and not advertise." Her doctor has told her to move to another climate. I think she wants to procrastinate.) We would then talk the complex's directors into allowing us to build some sort of wall and doorway across the top of the stairs to unify the two units.

Plans A and B are reasonably well located but not great. They're also cheap and easy to do. (She needs to be able to drive to her library but can be moved to any library in Dekalb County. I need to be able to get to Cheshire Bridge Road and the like.)

The "house" is next to her library in Lithonia. It's 4500 square feet built by the guy who built/founded Lithonia, and renovated. The city is now almost all black and property values are ... deflated.

The good part of the House plan is that it's "a steal," and next to "her library." Yes, we can also spell the words "tax break." The bad part is that Lithonia is a long way from anything.



Ned B. in NEWS 179: Oh, here it SAYS that Densley Drive is your mother's. She and your sister both live there?

Anyway, if you drop by the store, who knows what will happen. On June 9, Michael Bishop and his wife showed up, followed seconds later by Brad Linaweaver and his driver ... and then Mike Weber. There's been at least one similar incident since then while I was hanging about. Who needs conventions.

At least one of these incidents was Steve Hughes, who will likely have a report about it and Nova in his publication this, or next, mailing.

Anyway, I'll call sometimes in September and maybe see your collections in Lilburn.

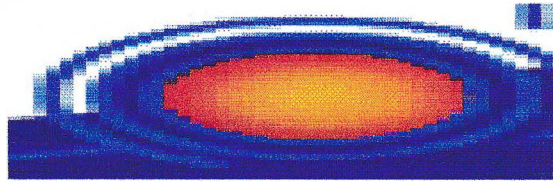
Me in READER 4: Add Eric Frank Russell in general to my "Subcollectables" project. I've put a batch of them in the store (not Russell, however) and have a couple boxes at "the room near Atlanta." (These are books that are out of print, in some demand, but "not collectable.")

Guy L. in MUNDI 165: Re me and my SFPA account. That was all about a lost check. (I finally found the entry and reversed it upon Liz, at DSC, agreeing it was probably overlooked in an envelope of a previous issue of this, and trashed.)

Re me and convention Hotels. The Read House in Chattanooga is owned by an "active owner" who dislikes fans. He wants it full of tennis players even in mid-winter.

The Winchester, VA, DSC hoax bid, however, was for a standard Holiday Inn or the like that I stopped at, on my way through there, some decade ago. There were enough fans in the area listed in THE FANDOM DIRECTORY to help Erwin Strauss and myself pull it off. There is now a fairly good sized SCA group there including C.S. Friedman (a lady author) or similar. It's also not massively far from metropolitan Washington, DC.

Re people who used to get their issues in first, each mailing. I surely wish I could do that kind of thing these days. More likely this and my next issue will miss the mailing entirely and be "first" in the next one <sigh>.



Richard D. in TREEHOUSE GAZETTE 51: Ah yes, the Tree of Life on the cover. You probably figured I'd notice <G>.

Re. Harold Ford, Jr.: Kay was on President Carter's campaign staff, among other stuff in her various careers. He might even remember her. I'm still a "rabid independent."

Re your being punished for teaching NetScape: In public libraries, unlike federal agencies, it's a standard JOB for librarians.

Re Steve Hughes and librarians: Good man! Well, I now have my very own pet librarian and vice versa. Oh, have you ever met and stood next to George Wells? It would also be interesting to listen to you two librarian SFPA members talk, for comparison. There are similarities.

Re me: Yes, at your job, you MUST complain about lack of resources and who all is supposedly not able to do a great job of their mission because of that. Failure to do such is being held against you by the other bureaucrats. (You probably already know this.)

Re me again on page 11: FEDERAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES is a standard item in DC area libraries, Federal Government in-house or otherwise. They sell subscriptions, of course, at reasonable prices. Your personnel office may even get free copies in return for promptly sending them your openings like ours did at DTIC.

Also, you may be surprised at the number of times a selecting supervisor has NO cronies, or the ones he has, won't take any job the selector has. There is also the desire among selecting supervisors, often, to want to cover ones rear end by hiring someone who will get the job done that is being filled.

Re me, again, on page 19: The IRS rules have changed MANY times since the 1970s. They change somewhat every year or even more often, like bears s'ing in the woods.

Re Alexandria, VA, on page 21, and dumb land lords: You're darned right. It happens elsewhere as well that land lords cut their throats by raising rent too much. I was unhappier than you with that sort of thing in Alexandria as I lived nearer to the worst of it. They also ran the store out of its original location in Atlanta ... but ... that spot is one that there's no end of foolish people wanting to go into and lose every dime they have on a new business.

OFFLINE READER

Arthur H. in LIAR 66: Re Get Stuffed APA, Silly S. Panda says that's a cute idea and that Horn E. Coyote and friends must be scholars and gentlebeings. The other "stuffies" hereabouts had no comment.

Janice G. in PURSUITS 77: Re my commenting on female Rabbitsen being "optional:" Congregations hire whom they please so no matter if the seminaries ordain them, they may not be common or highly acceptable. The same situation occurs in the North GA Methodist Conference (supported by guess who's gal pal). They churn them out at Emory, but they have to go elsewhere to get GOOD positions. (They're guaranteed jobs for life once they "join the Conference," but WHAT those jobs are ... varies.)

The reason I wanted to deliberately blemish my credit record was to deter "credit identity thieves." I'm a good target for such computer slime. (They find data on you and proceed to use that identity to get lots of credit cards or the like, which they promptly charge lots of money to, and vanish.) A small blemish sends them to some other victim.

It did NOT, by the way, work. The card company only let me get two months behind, after eleven months of ignoring it entirely. Then they said "pay up, this moment, on the phone, via EFT, or we cancel the card with no further ado." I paid. Then the number three card company sent me ANOTHER unsolicited platinum card in the mail, causing me to cancel my existing account as well as refrain from future dealings with them (because I told them I would ... if they ever sent me another unsolicited platinum card). Therefore I kept the "almost blemished" card.

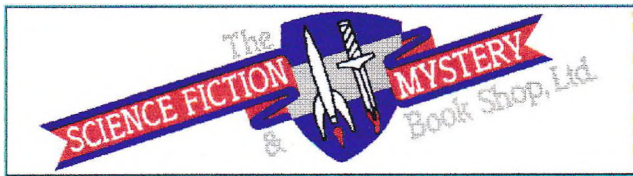
I'm down to a single Mastercard and a single Visa.

Re SF&F clubs in various cities: They die or never jell in smaller cities due to lack of potential members. Exceptions exist.

Re salaries: Your "shoot the money directly into mutual funds" strategy is a good one. What are the funds? Kay uses a variant of that with Vanguard Wellington and Morgan (I think).

Steve H. in CREEK GAZETTE 3: So you retired, effectively, after working 32 years. Great. I didn't realize that your leaving Nova was retirement; I thought you were going to freelance or similar, as many programmers do. I, on the other hand, never retired, just "quit." The stock stuff plus the store beats a "real job" but it's not "retired."

So how much (in general terms or as a percentage of your total holdings) WAS your Nova stock worth when you left? And ... what are you going to do when the ten years worth of money is gone?



Steve H. in COMMENTS: Re me: SOME of your investing plans were FINE, not what would drive me crazy. On the other hand, projecting 15% annual inflation at any time in the next 30 years is very unlikely; that happens, in the USA or the like, only once in two or three hundred years. You don't have to get fixated on managing investments either. I suspect you have enough to just set them up and forget about them except for, at most, a yearly review. (I'd like to see what they are ... and will even keep my mouth shut <G>.)

Once your COBRA runs out, you'll find there really is no good health insurance available at reasonable prices. That's why Steve Pagel is working at the store, however, he COULD have his Meisha Merlin Publishing company join the American Book Sellers Association and get in on the deal we did. Maybe you could work a deal with Glen Brock.

Otherwise, one of the better deals is AARP, which anyone can join for less than \$8 a year at age 50.

I gather there are no delayed retirement benefits from Noya?

You may also run into the Medicare problem. One must have a certain number of credits in the last several years before going on it at age 65 or whatever. There are also tax advantages in creating your own business, of some sort, and paying yourself for whatever ... just enough "work" to make it look like a real business.

Oh, speaking of Glen Brock, we (Kay and I) almost dropped in last Sunday. She's a member of The Wren's Nest Society ... the Joel Chandler Harris deal down the street from Glen's store. Check it out some day if you get the chance.

Richard B. in SOUFWAW 7: I now have 6meg of web space coming from Earthlink as a result of their deal with Sprintmail. All I need is to claim it and set up SOME thing.

The First Fandom awards will be at DragonCon this year. They're not the first major old time SF&F organization to leave the WorldCon as their annual whatever.

Gary B. in OBLIO 116: You can, of course, speak to Hank Davis by calling BAEN BOOKS

OFFLINE READER

Re Richard Dengrove: Your trick on getting to the supervisor at Credit Card companies is EVIAL ... and effective.

The museum, that you ran a floor plan of, looks like a lot of dollars and effort were put into it. Who put it up? I presume it's some kind of nonprofit group? Did you volunteer? (At some point I suspect I'm going to work on preserving "Uncle Remus's" personal book collection or giving a second opinion on plans for dealing with the structural repair of the house.)

Eve A. in PLEASURES #?: I still have (re Romance Writing) the outline of my novel set at an SF&F con hotel. (This isn't unique, by the way, as Sue Francis once loaned me a copy of a book in her collection on somewhat similar theme ... a committee member being the hero.) There are also a few other shreds of my long dead (1987) Romance And Cook Book Bookstore lurking in closets. The cross over to SF&F keeps growing <G>. I guess I COULD rejoin RWA ... and if you want to, collaborate on your novel <big grin> ... as 40k words of formula is a LOT easier to do than SF or Mysteries and I could hide my identity as part author. (This is a semi-serious offer, by the way.)

Re CHASING AMY: I usually hope that lesbians will be at least partially "bi" and the male will get "two for the price of one."

mike w. in PILLOW: John Whatley was/is married to Jeanne Corbin??? I thought she was married to a guy who repaired Mercedes cars. Of course that was in 1987 but

Binker H. in SEASONS 32: Re your social life: Kay (my pet librarian) sings and plays guitar on the Praise Team at the Casual Services at Grace UMC right off Ponce de Leon. Normally she just sings but they lost their guitar player <shrug>.

On the old DSC booklets ... you will have to pay people to take them off your hands. Sorry. However, sending them through SFPA was a GOOD idea.

Jeff C. in PIPE 30: You found Romanch speakers outside Switzerland? Neat. I never knew they were elsewhere (and not bordering Italy either, as far as I knew).

Thanks for the explanation of my "Cache Problem" to others. Maybe they'll believe YOU If my COMPAQ hadn't turned to excrement and been hauled off by their Airborne Express agent for overhaul, I'd have used MS Works Clip Art, for this issue, instead of my usual. (Of course the SF&M logo is part of my standard promotional files for the store, not from the cache at random.) -oOo-