

SCIENCE

FICTION

# NEWSSCOPE

No. 19

Anniversary Issue

Vol. 2

## The Story of Conception

by the Editor

Despite a stimulating title to this literary effort, this is merely an editorial-type affair dedicated to describing the origin and development of this sterling newszine.

IT was conceived one bright and cheerful day in August in the year 1950. Fandom had been known to yours truly for about 3 months. The usual method of discovering fandom had been employed; namely, the reading of the fanzine reviews in AMAZING and the sending for sample copies. In a month I was hooked. So as is normal with fans I planned a fanzine of my own. However I went about a little differently than is more often the case, I decided on a newszine. Why you ask? Well for one thing, newszines tend to be thin and therefore less work than generalzines; also I wanted to do something a little different and I could see there were only a few newszines in the field and thirdly I wanted to be of service to fandom. Not just give a pile of fanwriters a regular quota of egoboo, but serve fandom in such a manner as to keep my subscribers well informed as to all fannish and pro doings.

A noble idea, eh wot? But I must admit I wasn't sold on the idea myself at first. The initial issue of SFN was carboned in a limited edition of 16 copies, most of which went to friends of the editor and to fanzine-review columns. Jimmy Taurasi gave SFN quite a nice writeup in the now defunct SUMMER SCIENCE STORIES which certainly made your editor proud. Jim hadn't seen many carbon zines in years as they seemed to have disappeared. So SFN was unusual to begin with.

Future plans after that first issue were up in the air and the situation was resolved by the intervention of one most honored Jim Taurasi. He subscribed to SFN after seeing my review copy at SSS. A newszine editor subscribing to a potential competitor and as it turned out, his subscription and his subscription only was the incentive for future SFN's to be issued. Without his 50¢ I probably would have dropped SFN, at least temporarily.

The second issue was also carboned and also was circulated in a 16 copy edition.

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE by the editor  
(Continued from the first page)

The first issue contained a news column covering world news in addition to stf. Jim Taurasi suggested the removal of this feature; I concurred. Issue no.3 was hecto'd and distributed to several fans. Total circulation:30

Issue No.4 marked Mr. Campbell's first contact with that almighty machine, ye mimeo. What a gadget! The initial results were depressing not to mention illedgible. However 75 copies of a 4 paged zine that looked like 4 pages of ink blots and shadow were distributed.

The new year brought about a change in mimeography. Yes the reproduction was now only miserable. Editorial content was rapidly improving as all reviewers were justifying. It seems editor Campbell was developing some sort of news writing technique. Assistance at the mimeo handle and morally was supplied by Dick Mystrom and Bill MacDonald, local passi-fans and some editorial aid was donated by Tom Springall. Robert Silverberg was covering stfdoings for me. Much of the news was pirated from fanzines of all types especially Fantasy-Times.

Looking back over those early issues I find the duplication very good especially when you consider the ancient machine that was doing the job. My duplication nowadays should be as good as the best of the old days. However on the whole the mimeoing left a lot to be desired.

No. 7 was one of the alltime best issues. Not much different but neater and bigger. A all around good effort.

The Eighth issue saw the editor getting ambitious and trying to get news subscribers, as the subs weren't exactly flowing in. In addition I had only a small allowance to work with and times were getting hard,

The Ninth issue was the do-or-die issue. My enthusiastic and ambitious plans for expansion were blown apart at the increase in price of almost all my materials. I was frustrated. This issue had an extra inserted yellow page (all issues before were white except #1 which was on yellow second-sheet manila) stating that if I didn't get an influx of subs I would have to call it quits. I received only a portion of the needed subs, but piles of good words from the handful of my closest fan friends. I became determined to continue.

Issue #10 revealed no changes, but it might be well to mention here that I was working on an enviable record. Every issue had followed each other by one month regularly. This extremely regular schedule was not lost until after the October issue, then there was a 5 month lapse.

July 1951 (#11) found newsscope in much the same rut as usual, only a little thicker and with a minor format change of an outer cover. All these issues were double columned and almost perfectly justified. Very neat in appearance.

Due to little effort to obtain new correspondents, to the back

The long and drawn out History continues much to the readers' surprise

of advertising and promotion, and a few other reasons including business the circulation was now only 100 plus instead of the 200-250 it could easily have had if I had wanted to lose so much each month. My newsscope costing five cents a copy (4 1/6 ¢ by sub) to buy was costing me over 7¢ a copy to produce. As circulation mounted the loss became greater, thus I was holding back as I still had only a small amount of money at my disposal.

The twelfth issue was very similar to the preceding one.

September (No.13) was the first anniversary and far better than this anniversary number. The biggest and best issue (although the worst duplicated) of them all. 13 pages with colored cover, fan article, film report, 1950 in review and the regular features. I had finally decided to expand. Rich Elsberry, J.T.Oliver, and Alan Pesetsky had become domestic correspondent and Bert High was doing a swell job covering the United Kingdom. Also this issue marked the advent of colored paper (that ragpulp junk, 16 lb. and is famous by its usage in QUADRY).

October (No.14) was a fine issue. On colored paper and almost legible. Illustrated front cover and good interior material. Ken Beale added to the domestic correspondent corps and Chuck Harris ditto for U.K. Bob Silverberg dropped out due to lack of time.

In my desire to be able to afford SFN I procured a job (employment) which filled up my day after school until 6, Friday's until 9, and all day Saturday. Then the means to the end had killed the end - I no longer had time for SFN although I could afford it. I became determined to catch up during the Christmas holidays. The reason was narrated in detail in the first issue of my SALESZINE The Thing and I do not feel like repeating it here. Needless to say I didn't have a mimeo. Nuff said.

NewsScope again appeared in April this year. Larger than usual and somewhat better than that this issue was regarded by some as the best yet. Maybe. A few changes: No more headlines or feature stories; index, across the page columns and a well received editorial news column which was compared by some to Tuckerish news columns (although I feel the resemblance is slight and his style vastly superior to any style that I may have). R.J. Banks was present with the column SLURP initiated a while back. His juvenile rantings alienated several NewsScope regulars and Slurp was dropped. Graham B. Stone was now keeping me posted on Australian affairs. Oh, did I mention that my assistance had long flown the coop and all the work to issue SFN was done by me alone? I hadn't? Well I have now.

But damn it, still faintly duplicated. I must have a mime-o-jinx.

June saw a real newsy issue, somewhat better duplicated than for my glorious efforts ('tho not too much better). I really like that issue. Dick Clarkson, Jim Harman, Jeff Taylor, Noel Clark Reynolds added to the correspondents. My British reporters seemed to have disappeared. Tom White volunteered his services just in time.

(There is more of this if you care to turn the page....)

The July-August issue out last August appeared in a radically different format and was hardly the newszine of old. The issue was mainly a few news-articles and some chatter. It was edited in my absense (vacation) by one Phil Gordon. Now I know many of you like to know just who Phil Gordon is. Well now comes the revelation. It was all a mild hoax..nothin' more. There is no Phil Gordon 'cept me. Yep, I wrote the whole thing...fooled quite a few people too.Hah But see, I pull harmless hoaxes, not the other kind.

And this is the next issue after that one. This marks the nineteenth issue of science fiction NEWSSCOPE which is fair record. I had hoped to get to 25 or at least 20, but the fates weren't willing. I enjoy this so much, that if I had plenty of spare time NEWSSCOPE wpuld go semi-monthly.

But unfortunately I no longer have time for extensive ajay, so I must fold up my subzine. Therefore this is the last issue of SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE in the current series

I am now a member of SABS and EAPA and in the future all my stf-ajay will have to be confined to them.

NewsScope was a newsy little zine and fairly popular, and as I say, given the typical fanzine treatment it could have become a truly great newszine. But I'm not a typical fan and things didn't work that way. It is impossible for me to express the regret I feel in discontinuing SFN, these things sort of become a part of you after a couple years.

NOTICE: Subscription refund will be made on the unexpired portions of subscriptions at the rate of 4¢ a copy. U.S. postage stamps will be the means of reimbursal. Those who find nothing with this copy please be advised that this was your last issue.

LAST MINUTE COMMENTARY: IT seems that stf has been making some good progress of late. A new Fiction-House Crud magazine, another new one, and of course Avon's first decent promag. Then the LIFE article on the origin of the earth was fascinating. The films are coming too. CAPTIVE WOMEN and BREAKING THROUGH THE SOUND BARRIER leading the way. A new Heinlein book from Signet, a new anthology from Pocket Books. All in all looks like another healthy boom.

And the 1953 convention is shapping up good. The committee looks like it means business. All my best wishes to them.

Well I'm afraid I can't write anymore. The spelling is ~~messy~~ starting to get messy and this piece of junk that is laffingly called a typewriter is up to its old tricks.

so on this sad note I bid goodbye to subzine publishing and thanks to all of you who have supported newsScope in the past.

FANZINE EDITORS: Thanks for your efforts, sorry I didn't notify you before, but I just didn't have the time. Don't forget to remove us from your trade list. Thanks.....