

SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES

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Alojo, Editor

LATE NEWS FROM SHANGRI-LA

December 3, 1942
Thursday

Preoccupation with publications was the order of the evening, as Alojo, arriving somewhat before meeting time, completed running of Shangri-L'Affaires #7, and enlisted Sid Dean and Mel Brown to assist in assembling, stapling, folding, addressing, and stamping. Then Walt Daugherty arrived with the freshly lithoed New Year's cards, and began recruiting helpers to fold, stamp, and address them. Ce & Morojo also mimeoed several pages of the VoM Annish. Midway along in the evening, discovering a need of scotch tape & other trivia, Yerke, Mel Brown & Alojo volunteered to walk over to Morojo's and secure same. After blundering about her living room for some minutes in a vain endeavor to discover a light switch, Brown, who stands nearly six feet, discovered that the bulbs in the chandelier were loose, and provided necessary illumination by screwing them in. The three fans now wonder whether Morojo turns on the light this way all the time, and if so (remembering her diminutive stature) how does she ever reach them. Perhaps a convenient anti-gravity gadget does the trick?

To observe the birthday of new member Milty Rothman, money was bulldozed away from the Treasurer to procure the customary drinks & cookies. As the expenditure came to more than the amount allotted, members were forced to drink up before 10 o'clock, in order that the bottles could be returned and the deposit claimed before the store closed. Yerke, not being finished with a bottle of coke, was dragged across the street with the bottle still in his hand, said bottle being counted in the returned group after Yerke had emptied it.

December 10, 1942
Thursday

Visitor of the evening was Tom Daniels, who dropped in from Pomona to attend the meeting. The last page of the VoM Annish was run off and the issue was completed and distributed to those present. On motions by Walt Daugherty & Alojo, it was decided to clean up the clubroom on the following Sunday, as forthcoming publicity in local newspapers made the advent of visitors quite possible. Many bitter tears were shed as the emissaries to the grocery store returned with only pop and cookies—a newly enacted ordinance prohibiting sale of beer or other liquors after 8 p.m. However, the weepees managed to survive through copious draughts of root beer, ginger ale and cola of various species.

December 13, 1942
Sunday

Among those who dropped in during the afternoon were Ce, Morojo, Rothman, Helen Finn, Alojo, Sid Dean, Mel Brown, and Walt Daugherty. Oh yes, and Paul Freehafer, who toted in a pint-sized radio so that all interested could listen to the Seventh Symphony of Dmitri Szostakowicz. While the others were out for a bite of lunch, Brown, Dean & Daugherty by some means of teleportation transported the club bookcases from one side of the room to the other and engaged in other feats of furniture wrestling. The returning fans assisted in sweeping, dusting, and other domestic nonsense, while Alojo liberally sprinkled the walls with originals. Just when everyone had collapsed and started patting each other on the back for such a wonderful job done, the landlady looked in and commented that she could have done it in a fraction of the time.

Milty's Mag was run off in the evening, after which a small group of fans headed by Finn & Alojo conducted ESP experiments with the Duke University Parapsychology Cards. As few of the members had ever experimented with the cards before, results were not extraordinary, tho several encouraging scores were made. Plans were discussed for a regular meeting of such a group if enough people were interested.

In a scene reminiscent of the "good old days" at Clifton's, eighteen people arrived at the IASFS clubroom during the evening. These included Phil Bronson, Morrie Dollens, Jack Dowdle, Dorothy Ar-maling, Louisa O'Brien, Frances and Ross Rocklyne, Alojo and Marie Dwyer, Ed Chamberlain, Mrs Ada Charles, Forry and Morojo, T Bruce Yerke, Pogo, Russ and Curt Wood.

With a room full of milling and bellowing individuals, and with Director Freehafer absent, little order was achieved and even less accomplished. Walt Daugherty arrived to find that the membership cards, just back from the lithographers, were not to his liking, and was prepared to return them. However, members, expecting to receive their cards that evening, overrode his protests when the matter was put to a vote. Discovery was then made that the cards couldn't be given out anyway, as the Director was not present to sign them.

Almost the only other business accomplished under the gavel of Honorary Secretary Yerke was for the club to take over the publication of CATALYST, Ed Chamberlain's uncompleted magazine. After some other trivia, the meeting was concluded and refreshments were dished up as usual.

Only notable development of the day was the running of a number of pages of CATALYST by Alojo and Helen Finn. Paul Freehafer and Milt Rothman dropped in on their way from the ballet, and joined 4e and Morojo to go to see "Stolen Life." Alojo and Finn, having supper at Venusport (Yerke's name for Clifton's Olive Street Cafeteria) met Ray Bradbury, in from Venice, and discussed Ray's current story "Pied Piper" in TWS.

The evening really started when Yerke, Forry, Morojo, December 24, 1942 Rothman and Freehafer met at Chinatown and had supper, later arriving at the clubroom in the middle of a heavy downpour. Rain kept away a number of those expected to be present, and in addition to the above, the attendance was confined to Jack Dowdle and three of his friends, Harvey Gates, Irene Kertesz, and another girl, first name forgotten, last name Woetkz. Alojo and Helen Finn completed the roster.

After considerable discussion as to whether a fifth Thursday meeting was or was not a regular meeting, the matter was decided in the negative, and the annual election was held. Paul Freehafer, Alojo, Sid Dean, and Helen Finn were nominated, and Paul was elected to serve a second term.

Half-a-dozen pictures were taken during the evening by Alojo and Milty, and refreshments and presents were finally gotten around to, those present exchanging gifts via the grab-bag system.

As usual on Sunday, people came and went all day. December 27, 1942 Final list includes Paul, Alojo, Milty, Yerke, Finn, Sunday Morojo and possibly others. Main activity was the publishing of the new and revised Visitor's Pamphlet. After the conclusion of this momentous piece of activity, members went their various ways, a large group going downtown to Clifton's and an afterdinner show.

New Year's Eve being arriven, and the demise of the December 31, 1942 year in which Technocracy did not come to pass, Thursday enough people congregated in the clubroom to make an interesting evening for all concerned. Attendees included Dollens, Bronson, Helen Finn and Mary Hurley, Walt Daugherty, Yerke, Morojo, Alojo and Dorothea Bannerman, Paul, Sid Dean, Mel Brown, and Rothman.

The first part of the evening was largely spent in discussion of science fiction and other matters by individual groups. Eventually everyone was congregated in one spot long enough for Morrie to take three pictures, including himself by means of a long-distance cord release.

After more discussion and loud argumentation as to the further development of the evening, everyone except Morojo departed in the

Morojo (to Forry): Pogo & Russ have their baby downstairs. Don't you want to go down and see a slan?

Forry: Gosh, I see one every time I shave.

general direction of downtown, finally winding up at an Italian restaurant where all gorged on spaghetti and other starches. Yerke was in his usual form, sitting on the partition between the booths during part of the meal.

After this, the group separated, Alojo, Dorothea, Mary Hurley and Finn went to Finn's house and thence to their respective homes, while the remainder (or most of them) wound up in a lounge arcade on Main Street.

January 3, 1943 Sunday
 Uneventful during the day, except for the visit of John Williams and the running of a page of "Milty's Mag." Evening found Finn, Milty, Morojo and Alojo having dinner at Chinatown, returning to the club to conduct experiments in ESP. After much discussion between Alojo and Milty, revolving around the idea of compiling a universal "future history" from the best stories, a form was drawn up and mimeoed for the listing of events in any story so as to make a chronological comparison possible.

January 10, 1943 Thursday
 Minutes of the previous meeting having been written by Sid Dean, who was not presently present, Bruce was forced to proceed with the reading. After omitting several passages, which promptly raised a howl from the members, Director Freehafer ordered the passages read, they turning out to be regarding Mr Yerke. After proceeding, interspersed with remarks such as "at this point Mr Dean lapses into Sanskrit," the ordeal was completed.

Visitors of the evening were Bob Bush, of El Monte, and Pvt. George Gerbracht of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Not much was accomplished and the meeting broke up early, last members out forgetting to turn off the gas heat, which burned for two days much to the annoyance of the landlady.

January 10, 1943 Sunday
 Only development this Sunday was the completion and running off of CATALYST. Possibly something else might have been recorded if sufficient people had shown up, but the evening tapered off with a discussion of Atlantis between Morojo and Alojo.

January 14, 1943 Thursday
 Members and guests drifted in slowly, but the meeting began with a sizable attendance present, including four or five guests, including Pvt Rodman Allen, Reva and Raleigh Baker, Mr. G T Channing, and Beverly Ann Bronson, sister of Phil Bronson, whose appearance was heralded by yells and shrill whistles from all males in the vicinity.

Meeting was finally convened, to be jounced occasionally as Morrie Dollens set off flash bulbs in various directions.

Walt Daugherty, having been to see the movie "The Cat People," was fairly quivering to tell all about it, but was squelched by members who didn't want the smash ending given away. Walt contented himself by telling the highlights, or at least the most spectacular ones, and concluded, as only Daugherty could—"if anyone wants to meet me in the hall after meeting—I'm just DYING to tell someone about it." Stating that he had a fifteen minute version and a forty-five minute version, he was asked if there was one that ran an hour and fifteen minutes. "Yes," was the answer, "and in that one I tell e-v-e-r-y detail."

Nothing else arising, the meeting was turned over to a talk by Arthur Louis Joquel, II, on "The Researches of Charles Fort." Joquel, a member of the Fortean Society, quoted from the books of Fort and the Fortean Society magazine in making his main point—that perhaps humans don't know everything, after all—perhaps they aren't even their own masters.

Discussion of this subject followed, with various members contributing incidents of "Fortean" interest. After the meeting was adjourned, various groups gathered to discuss such varying subjects as the forthcoming FANTASITE, Parapsychology and psychometrics, the poetry of George Sterling, while Dollens, Yorke, and Bronson snapped pictures of all present.

Walt Daugherty: It's getting so that now, you go to your draft board, someone puts their hand on your arm, and if you're warm, you're in.

Sid Dean: When did they put that restriction in?


Weekly Topics
PUBLISHED BY THE LOS ANGELES RAILWAY, BUREAU OF PUBLIC SERVICE 1060 SOUTH BROADWAY

December 14, 1942

Private Ack-Ack was in town from Fort MacArthur. He told us confidentially that the only way to have any fun on four gallons of gas is to drink it.

December 21, 1942

A HEH-HEH FROM ACK-ACK
 Private Ack-Ack reports that the "Share The Ride" plan worked swell while making all the New Years Eve parties—only one out of 2ve had to stay sober.

December 28, 1942

Blank space? Excuse it please. Will try to get more next time.

January 4, 1943

Private Ack-Ack—Bard-bird from Fort MacArthur fwas in to tell us that he knows a cafe which has the full sugar bowl on the table—but you have to dip the sugar with a fork.

Guy Gifford, LocalASFS member and cartoonist for Amazing Stories, also draws the cartoon character "Joe Woe" in the Los Angeles Railway "Weekly Topics." Recently Guy has been submitting these "Ack-Cracks" to the "Topics," using a sort of left-handed credit to Forry Ackerman. Herewith a few samples of the same. The LASFS Clubroom, incidentally, has several original Gifford's among it's originals.

CORRECTION, PLEASE

In the last issue of Shangri-L'Affaires, on page 2, end of "Newstories of the Year," appears the name "Paul Freehafer" in parentheses. This should have been "Paul Freehafer was elected Director."

Cutting stencils at two o'clock in the morning is not guaranteed to produce absolute accuracy, we regret to state.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The LASFS wishes to acknowledge Christmas cards from Barbara E Bovard, Jack Speer, Walt Liebscher, Bob Tucker, D B Thompson, Jim-e Laney, and Walt Daugherty.

Also received was a letter from Elmer Perdue, noting the fact that he did not send Christmas cards. Photographicard was also received from Ralph Milne Farley.

CLUBROOM NOTES

After the rearrangement of the clubroom, originals from various collections were tacked on the walls. Items are: Morey, interior from "Mochanica;" Paul, interior from "Taa the Terrible;" Forto, interior from "Touching Point;" Paul, "Man from Saturn" bacover from Fantastic Adventures; Morey, black-and-white "Mechanica" cover; Cartier, interior from "The Exalted;" Paul, cover from June 1940 SCIENCE FICTION; Fuqua, cover, "The Man from Hell;" Paul, interior, "Beyond the Great Oblivion;" Wexler, interior, "Bon Voyage!"; Cover-Photo from June 1938 Amazing Stories; an original, "Witchfinder," by Roy Hunt, and two original cartoons by Guy Gifford.

EX-DIRECTOR WRITES

Recently received from Gus Willmorth was a picture of the ex-Director in his army uniform. Also received was a letter from Gus, somewhere in South Dakota, in which he says:

"Right now the wind is blowing with devilish persistancy and it snows. And bes cold. (See Barrier for conjugation of the verb to be.) It was never like this in LA, unless during the late ice age tho I doubt if the ice ever got that far south that far west. Or was that part of the continent under water at the time? I'm a little hazy concerning the geology,

paleontology, and other isms in the near past... There is no accounting for the vagaries of the United States Army. The only place that they have no intentions of sending me is apparently SSC...

Science fiction is fairly easy to secure in the army as wat mags are not selling in the PX may be picked up at the nearest town by the simple method of securing a pass...

Thanx to the cooperation of Jack Dowdle, LASFS member and editor of the LA local newspaper WESTLAKE POST, the LASFS has been receiving excellent publicity in a wide area around the meeting-room. An editoress friend of Jack's, Dorothy Denny of the NORTHWEST LEADER, has also given the club publicity in an adjoining territory. Following are the headlines of newstories to date:

POST, 11/26/42: LA Science Fantasy
Society Invites

POST & LEADER
12/17/42: LA Science Fiction
Group Studys Future
World to Come

POST, 12/24/42: Early Authors
Predict Accurately

POST & LEADER,
1/14/43: Science Fantasy Society
Meets January 14

(With cut of
Arthur Louis Joquel, II)

POST, 1/14/43: LASFS HOLDS
UNUSUAL TESTS

Duplication of stories is due to the convenient fact that the same type is often used by both newspapers, one being printed immediately before the other. The story of January 14 was a full half-column, with a cut of Joquel in the center of the story. Other story of that date mentioned ESP and telepathy tests being conducted on Sunday evenings by Finn & Alojo.

All stories are written with what might be called the sober side forward--names such as Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, Lovecraft and Merritt being foremost in the items. Scientific and technical advances which will play a part in building the world of the future are also stressed. A number of visitors have come to meetings as a result of this publicity.

VODORO IN NEWSPIC Vodoro, artist of IMAGINATION! and SUN TRAILS, appeared in one of two pictures taken at a military ball at Phoenix (Arizona) Union High School and published in a Phoenix paper. Pictures shows him resplendent in an ROTC uniform loaded with cords and brass nienacs, and escorting a blode damsel designated as Betty Eliot.

BOOKS WANTED Slightly unclassified advertising: WANTED: #1 Futuria Fantasia; #1 Unusual; #1 Frontier; #1 Fantasia; almost any of George Sterling's poetry or plays; "Lost Continent" by Cutcliffe Hyne; "Origin of Continents and Oceans" by Alfred Wegener. Send postcard specifying item, postpaid price and condition to Arthur Louis Joquel, II, 1129 North La Madera, El Monte, California.

ACK-ITEM Ten years ago a young English actor named Bramwell Fletcher gave a memorable performance in Karloffilm "The Mummy." Isolated or very-young fans may have forgotten him but the LASFS has served to keep his memory alive thru frequent playings of the soundiscs from 4c's collection. And recipients of the Shangri-LA Record Album, routed by Daugherty, are familiar with the falsetto peals of manicalafter coming after the discovery that the 3000 year dead Mummy was alive. Well, a decade later, Bramwell Fletcher was inducted into the Army. At Ft MacArthur your correspondent had an opportunity to see Bram, and tell him how famous he was with our group. He was reported to be flatteringly impressed.

ACK-CRACKS

PFC 493

Sid Dean, speaking on behalf of Ludowitz the Terrible, of Everett, Wash, put forth the proposition that the LASFS treasury should subsidize this guy's fanmag to the extent of \$5 per issue. Considering the dent this would mean to the treasury, our own Ack-Ack seconded the motion, but framed it in this manner: "That \$5 should be extended Ludowitz for the purpose of producing a printed fm; that the LASFS should extend this sum from its treasury—extend but not let go of it!" Doesn't anybody love Ludowitz? We wonder why.

Death comes to Mr Yerke. On pg 193, the new sf novel "Rocket to the Morgue," when a "plump figure" falls into the path of the rocket car Aspera IX, followed by screams and other sounds, thus does Anthony Boucher, alias HK Holmes, dispose of fan Runcible, whose prototype is to be found in the multiple personality of Yerke, Fassbeinder, Penguin, Berk et menage.

PFC FJA spotted the brother dogface as he boarded the Pedro-bound Pacific-Electricar in front of him. A thick mag was folded under his arm. Seated, the soldier opened the item, suspected to be a Ziff-Davis pub, and sure 'nuf, 'twas the current Fantastic Adventures. "Read that regularly?" we can imagine Forry asking as he sidles into the seat next to the prospective fan. But the man glances up, says, "Oh no; just when I want to relax. It's the only kind of pulp fiction I can stand. It's so simple to read," and closes the conversation by returning to the mag. During the hour and 8 min. ride, Forry reported, starting at the first story the fellow read thru one right after the other and was in the middle of "Talu's Fan" when the end of the line was reached.

While dunking donuts & daydreaming at the USO before leaving for LASFS mtg it penetrates my mind the background of popular piano playing has changed to something smashing & classic sounding. Could that possibly be—the Great Yngvi pounding? I investigate. U guesst it, gate: War brot Milty Rothman to the shore of Shangri-LA & there sat one the top 10 fans tickling the ivories in a USO so Jay Fan could tiptoe up behind him and applaud loudly when he completed & demand encore. 'Twas an amazed Milty who turned to face an amused Forry.

Jan 1, 1943: Pvt Russ Hodgkins today lost to Lt Fred Shroyer, according to the terms of a bet made long ago as civilians (circa 1938), his original copy of the bound Munsey serial "After a Million Years" by Garret Smith. Had Shroyer lost he would have sacrificed his entire fabulous book collection. And what was the winner so confident of? That we would not see the Coming of Technocracy in '42.

Just as I was finishing noon chow it struck me the Casual sitting across from me was possibly familiar. I surveyed him more closely. Yes, wasn't he a onetime mem the LASFS name of—name of—what was it, anyway? began with a D, didn't it? Couldn't think of the darname so eventually I askt him outryt. "Doenke," he replyd. "Herman! Dont U noe me? It's Ackerman...the science fiction club...remember Yerke, Clifton's, Morojo?" Sudden recognition...exclamation...handclasp. He'd been in camp 11 days. And 10 mins after I ran across him he shipt out.

SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES
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