

"...MORE THAN 40 PEOPLE AND BRUCE HAS TO DO HIS MAORI WAR DANCE!"

# THE SKYRACK NEWSLETTER

This is SKYRACK 40, published on 6th December, 1961 by Ron Bennett, 13 West Cliffe Grove, Harrogate, Yorkshire, England. 6d per copy, 2/6d for six issues. 35¢ for 6 issues in USA (six issues sent by air for 65¢) where subscriptions should be sent to Bob Pavlat, 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Md. News of interest to sf fans, whether professional, faanish or just social, is always welcome. Heading and cartoon are this issue by Liverpool's Eddie Jones.

DECEMBER IN SIXTY-THREE

It's just ten years since the formation of the Liverpool Science Fiction Association, whose members have been so actively engaged in many social pursuits, whose members have been so prominent at so many national conventions and whose members gave us several excellent issues of SPACE DIVERSIONS. On 11th/12th November the Society, now known as the Liverpool Group, celebrated its entry into double figures with a party and slap-up beano. Some thirty fans representing the country's major groups gathered at the Higher Bobington home of Ina and Norman Shorrocks where coal tea was served before guests piled into cars and on to scooters for a rousing motorcade journey into the metropolis at the Lancashire end of the Mersey Tunnel. A Chinese restaurant was invaded and subjected to the full treatment. Hats and coats were exchanged as souvenirs and the party moved on to the Group's recently redecorated clubrooms. An auction was held, dances were danced and smooth, smooth drinks (Shorrocks 6pas) were served. More and more fans arrived and the pressure was relieved by frequent excursions to the nearby Jacaranda club. The party included sleep on its programme with a move back to Arnot Way, where a more energetic programme was continued on the Sunday morning. The Harrogate contingent returned east by the grace of Phil Rogers who returned to Scunthorpe via Harrogate, Manchester (with Eric Bonteliffe & Beryl) and a safari across the Wirral Peninsula.

ATTENDEES AT THE LIVERPOOL 10th ANNIVERSARY PARTY WERE: Norman & Ina Shorrocks, Bruce Burn, Ethel Lindsay, Eric & Margaret Jones, Archie Mercer, Jimmy Groves, Pat Kearney, Al Ajax Hoch, Mike Moorcock, Dave Barber, Geoff Winterman, John Humphreys, Peter Mabey, Wally & Joy Johnson, Audrey Eversfield, Ron Bennett, Elizabeth Humbooy, Eddie Jones, Norman Weedall, Bob Richardson, Joe Navin, John Roles, Eric Bentcliffe & Beryl, Phil Rogers, Pat & Frank Milnes, Stan & Marjorie Nuttall, Pat & Pogy Denton, John Owen, Les Johnson, Ted & Geoff Collins and a dozen sophisticated beatniks who gatecrashed early aye.

BUT IT WASN'T IN SKYRACK, they said when they saw the ring, so to put the records straight condolences are offered Miss Elizabeth Humbooy, one time guest attendee of the Washington Science Fiction Association, on the occasion of her engagement to one time guest attendee of Westminster Salvation Army Hostel, Ron Bennett.

YOU'RE NOT LOSING A DAUGHTER BUT GAINING A FANCLUB, Jimmy Groves told Bill Temple when on 25th November, Bill's daughter Anne married BSFA Secretary Joe Patrizio. Fifty people attended the Congregational Church, Wembley. The bride was in white and the four bridesmaids in yellow. Fans present were Ted Forsyth, Jimmy Groves, Ethel Lindsay, Brian Burgess, Fred Parker, Bruce Burn, Alan Rispin, Diane Goulding, Pat Kearney, Betty & Ian Peters, Ken & Irene Potter, Don Geldart, Al Ajax Hoch and of course Joe Patrizio. From Edinburgh came Joe's parents, brother Michael (The Best Man at 16), brother Victor with wife and son, and Victor's mother-in-law. Gus Poll, a friend from Joe's work (Leo Computers) was there and has been inveigled into coming to the next SFCoL meeting. In Church the SFCoL choir was obviously out of practice and Ken Potter reluctantly decided not to overwhelm everyone with his basso profundo, though Victor's son spent most of the time tuning his voice. Outside the church the photographer spent so long taking pictures that the bride almost froze solid. After this ordeal guests made their way to a nearby hotel where the assembled multitude filed past the bride and groom to offer condolences and/or congratulations where appropriate. It was soon obvious which were Joe's friends - they filled the spots at the bar. When everyone was well lubricated the wedding breakfast was served. Champagne followed and Bill Temple began his speech, "Unaccustomed as I am to speaking in public..... however....." He said that he was under orders not to say anything as when he opened his mouth he put his foot in it. Disregarding this, however, he sailed gaily on, naturally. He said that Joe combined several of his own interests. Bill had served with an Edinburgh regiment, he liked Italy and hoped to go back again and thirdly there was science fiction. He liked selling science fiction and certainly he likes Scotch (a fact most of us know). In fact, he said, Joe is something like a combination of Robbie Burns, Michelangelo and William F. Temple. When someone asked further about SF, Bill turned to the SFCoL saying, "The Science Fiction Group is over there -- chained to the table, of course." In view of Joe's job, the best congratulatory telegram read, "May your future programme be well calculated." Joe made a short speech and then the fans drifted back to the bar. Joe and Anne circulated amongst the guests and Bruce Burn and Ken Potter started an impromptu glee club, helped at times by Fred Parker and Irene.

(Ted Forsyth)

Ethel Lindsay adds that after the departure of bride and groom for their secret honeymoon in Golder's Green, the majority of SFCoL members went off to see The Day The Earth Caught Fire.



THE 62 EASTERCON. A statement was promised for this issue of Skyrack, but unfortunately it is not the statement I had hoped to make. A month ago, at the time of the last issue, negotiations were pending with what was quoted as being "an excellent North Western Hotel." This was the Kendal Hotel in Kendal, Westmorland, on the edge of the Lake District. I had spent a day travelling up to the city and looking over the hotel and at that time only final terms had to be arranged. (Sad to relate, however, negotiations broke down dramatically and suddenly. We are currently without a convention site -- a sad state of affairs, but one which it is hoped will soon be changed.

LAP OF HONOUR. Last issue we left our wandering Orion Editrix on the last lap of her Stateside tour, all ready to leave New York on 10th November. Ella was eventually persuaded to extend her stay for a further fortnight in order to attend the Philcon (Philadelphia, 18/19 Nov) at which gathering she was looking forward to meeting Harry Warner once again. The only other news to hand about Ella return trip is that she sailed from New York 24th Nov., on Cunard's Sylvania and that she should be back in the U.K. by the time you read this.

THE AUCTION. The file of Lee Hoffman's EXCELSIOR went to Walter Breen for \$3. The two issues of PSYCHOTIC were taken by Darroll Pardoe for 8/-. Dick Schultz paid 6/- for THE SELECTED WRITINGS OF RICK SNEARY. The Three Tattooed Dragon booklets went to Lenny Kaye for \$2.50 per. And the 20 consecutive FAPA mailings are right now in the process of being parcelled off to Dick Bergeron who bid \$40 on as bulky an auction lot as has ever been sold in fandom. Bidding closes 1st Jan on the remaining items, g. cash to Bennett and p to the buyer's favourite fannish charity. Lot 12. Dick Schultz has bid 10/- on the first issue of Ray Bradbury's FUTURIA FANTASIA. Lot 13. The aforementioned Richard Schultz has also bid on the original TATTOOED DRAGON publication by Bill Rotsler, to the tune of 14/-. Lot 14. John Foyster has bid 25/- for the 100 page anthology THE INCOMPLEAT BURBEE. Lot 15. Vic Ryan is currently high with a bid of \$2 on DAG's GRUE 29.

All fans except creditors are asked to note that 7 Southway has now ceased to exist as an alternative address. My parents have moved and any mail sent to Southway will possibly not now be seen. Other news on the Harrogate scene - my, how the joint is jumping - is that since the last issue we've been visited by two fans. Keith Freeman, now stationed at nearby (sic) Dishforth but at present on a short leave, has dropped in for a couple of stencil and flat-minding sessions and Phil Rogers dropped Liz and me off after the Liverpool party, staying long enough to try to convince us to buy a caravan. I hope to see them again here soon, and I'll also take the opportunity of inviting any fan to drop in; If you have your own bedding (li-lo etc) or don't mind trying the armchairs, you can stay over any night. Er, no, despite the first paragraph on this page, the Easter Con will not be held at 13 West Cliffe Grove.....

IT HAS BEEN A BLANK MONTH on the British zinescene but notable from the US have been CRY 154 (Box 92, 507 3rd Ave., Seattle 4, Washington) with lots of interesting chitchat, PANIC BUTTON 6 (Les Nirenberg, 1217 Weston Rd., Toronto 15, Ontario, Canada) with some snide comments on the world in which we live, and a very thick WARHOON 13 (Dick Bergeron, 110 Bank St., New York 14) with Walt Willis' Harp outstanding and well backed up by Lowndes, Berry and Blish. From the home fringe quarters comes another roaring SCRIBBLE from Colin Freeman, Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hospital, Knaresborough, Yorks., which is well worth a try for 6d.

Your subscription expires this issue \_\_\_\_\_; next issue \_\_\_\_\_

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TAFF - somewhere around you'll probably notice a TAFF voting form. Use it now, while you remember. It's not too much trouble to fill the form in and address an envelope, at the same time marking on your shopping list a reminder to buy a postal order. The TAFF Treasury is, as is well known, in a fairly healthy state, but the more votes (and cash) the better. The present campaign between Ethel and Eddie looks like being such a close one that EVERY VOTE WILL COUNT. Use yours! Now!

STOP PRESS!! Wandering Ella Parker is back with us. Ella docked early Saturday morning (2nd Dec) in Liverpool and rushed over to Arnot Way to drag the Shorrocks out of bed. She says that she had a restful but near boring voyage across the Pond home, that she wonders who arranged the bad spell of weather for her, that everything looks small and that she thinks our English policemen are wonderful. She'll back at 151 Canterbury Rd., West Kilburn, NW 6 very shortly and the suspended Friday BSFA meetings at the Penitentiary will be starting up again 15th December. Any BSFA members who live in London or who will be visiting will be welcome to drop in then.

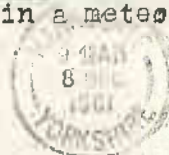
Congratulations are due to honorary Britifem Dave & Ruth Kyle who have just produced a near 9 lb matzoball in the shape of Arthur Chester Kyle III -- From Ken Slater: Rushed reprint of the Aldiss Penguin SF out tomorrow. Tolkein's "The Silmarillion" out by Allen & Unwin next autumn... Melbourne SF Club has had to move - may be reached by writing Mervyn Binns, 30 Spring St., Preston, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia... London summary: - Klaus Eylman spent a week in London recently. Visited SFCol members and Alan Dodd... Ian & Betty Peters held a well-attended party Hallowe'en... Don Geldart now back in Britain... Arthur Clarke visited Globe 2nd Nov::: Fan gathering 4/5th Nov at Stoubridge where Dave Hale and Ken Cheslin hosted Jim Linwood, Archie Mercer, Bruce Burn, Ajax and Al and Nell Rispin. Thanks for the card, people:: Rolf Gindorf was in London recently too. Attended the above-mentioned Hallowe'en party::: Ted White's NULL-F 23 retracts 'all "crude remarks" he may have at any time uttered in regard to Chris Moskowitz, thereby evidently saving New York fandom from another lawsuit. Hey ho. ::: BUG-EYE 9 in from Hel Klemm, 16 Uhland St., Uffort/Eick, (22a) Krs Moers Germany::: CoAs... Don Geldart, Sgt's Mess, 3rd Carbiniers (POWDG), Alwal Dks, Tidworth, Hants. --- Ivor Mayne, Anchorage Farm Camavan Site, Bronlyss, S. Wales::: HAVERINGS 8 in from Ethel Lindsay::: The Times of 18th Nov reported the discovery of fossilised organic matter in a meteorite, giving rise to another life on other planets theory.

SKYRACK 40  
Ron Bennett  
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- Rules.** 1. Entries may be on the above squares, or a reasonable facsimile thereof if you want to save your beautiful Erg.  
2. First British correct answer gets the Amazings  
3. First USA correct answer gets the H.G.Wells  
4. Regrettably, but to avoid arguments, I must (a) limit this to OMPA, and (b) exclude the Ompa Committee Editor, who will get this ages before anyone else.  
5. Not essential, but appreciated, would be your views on future crosswords...Easier ? Harder ?...The Same ? None..?

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