



This zine is dedicated to the seven charter members of the SFPA--Ecb Jennings, Bill Plott, Ken Gentry, Dave Hulan, Al Andrews, Dick Ambrose and Mike Padgett--and all the ones who followed--for giving us a history worth writing about.

I'D LIKE TO THANK

BILL BRUCE and KENT MCDANIEL for parting with their old mailings, thus making it possible for me to gather an awful lot of the information herein.

LON ATKINS for putting up with my rooting through every fanzine he owns to ferret out extra SFPazines that have accumulated over the years, and for Xeroxing needed material from his own collection.

DAVE HULAN for writing his Personal History of the SFPA five years ago and giving me permission to quote from it.

JOE STATON for permission to reprint the cover (from *The Southerner* #21).

All of these gave conscious and deliberate aid to the creation of this History. For the names of those whose actions helped indirectly...a list of all SFPA members, past and present, will appear next mailing as part of the Index to the First 50 Mailings.

Timebinders I: The Compleat History of The Southern Fandom Press Alliance. Written and published by Donald D. Markstein (c/o The Times Picayune, New Orleans, La. 70140) for the 50th Mailing of the SFPA. Demented Turkish Dwarf Press publication #152. Copyright 1972 by Donald D. Markstein. Permission is granted to anyone to reprint the entire contents of this publication in any SFPA mailing divisible by 50, provided it is completely updated and credited. First in a series of three zines to celebrate the 50th Mailing. Coming in the 51st--*Timebinders II*: An Index to the First 50 Mailings.

DISCLAIMERS

I was not around at the beginning of SFPA--in fact, the apa was seven years old before I got around to joining it. Consequently, I don't know all there is to know about the early history. I have, however, read almost all of the mailings--I have in my possession what might be the most complete set of them in existence. And I'm fortunate in that Dave Hulan, one of the influential members of SFPA's early period, wrote a personal history of the group covering a few areas I can't research myself.

One problem facing anybody trying to write a history of a small organization like this is that much of the business was carried on in personal correspondence. If copies of those early letters still exist, I wouldn't have the slightest idea where to find them. On two occasions, the entire structure of SFPA seemed to be radically changed between one mailing and the next, and I have to trust the accounts of others and my own conjecture as to what happened in there. I can only guess at what the letters flying back and forth might have said.

Naturally, I haven't covered the entire history. The most complete possible version of that is a mass of paper 8.5 inches by 11 inches by 4 feet--a complete set of mailings. So if someone wants to fill in some of my gaps and/or correct any errors I might make, please feel free. I hereby guarantee to publish any letters relevant to the history of SFPA, no matter how long they may be, received between now and the beginning of March. All old (or current) members are invited--nay, begged--to contribute their personal reminiscences. Let's do this up *right*.

One more disclaimer: The Great State of Mississippi has a law that goes something like this: "In all state-supported schools, instruction concerning the War Between the States shall be fair, impartial and from the Southern point of view." I've made a great effort to be fair and impartial where I'm concerned in this history, but let's face it. I can't help its being from my point of view.

Republisher's note: I'm mimeoing this on account of the ancient hecto is impossible to reproduce by offset. I've made an effort to have everything except this note--even the rampant typos--exactly the same. For the 50th SFPA Mailing. 3M!34.

--Don Markstein

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTHERN FANDOM PRESS ALLIANCE #1 Sep. 1961

order arrival	title publication	member	no. pages.	pages credit
1.	SPORADIC	Plott	11	9
2.	BLOB	Gentry	7	8
3.	LOQUAMUR	Hulan	10	6
4.	ISCARIOT	Andrews & Ambrose	22	6½ & 5½
5.	ALABOK	Jennings	15	6
6.	BINGE	Padgett	7	1
7.	OFFICIAL ORGAN	Jennings	4	0
			<hr/> 76 pages in 1st mailing	

The first mailing of the SFPA seems to have gotten off to a good start. As of this date, September 14th, we have a total of seven members, and each member has a contribution in this first mailing. Which is most encouraging to say the least. Even more gratifying is the somewhat largish pagecount, considering our size. 76 pages from seven members is indeep something to be proud of. Now if we can keep up this phomonial record it will be only a short time before we rank as one of the Ultimate apas. We are very much understrength however. Please, each of you, go forth and recruit like mad. There will doubtless be a few more members trickling in the next few weeks. My last planning zine did not give many people time to get organized and suchlike. However it would be well if next mailing we had twenty members, so go ye forth and twist arms.

I want to put in a few words here. Mike Padgett's fanzine arrived on the 11th of September, one day past my "deadline". Article VI, Section 2, a, provides that all zines, to be included in the mailing, must arrive by the 10th of the appointed month and beginning with the second mailing I am going to enforce this. You zine must reach me on or before the tenth of the mailing month to be included in that mailing. Otherwise I will hold it until the next mailing.

My address will be changing in a few days. I will notify eacy of you individually by post card or letter. Please address all personal correspondence, questions, etc to me at my new address. However continue to send zine bundles to the 3819 Chambers Dr., Nashville 11, Tenn, address, as I probably will not have room for such things in college. So, continue sending your zines here at the old address, letters and the like to the new.

It's a bit early to worry about finances, as this mailing has not gone out and naturally, I don't know how much postage will be. However this O-O and most subsequent O-O's will be donated free to the apa. I've got some mailing envelopes around the place here also, and I will send out this mailing and possibly the next one in those envelopes so we won't have to bother with that expense just yet either.

A note here on pagecount. Plott actually had more running pages by himself, however half a page was quotes and running quotes and illos chopped down a bit, KEN Gentry actually had ten pages in the mailing, however the rules furbod using more than two pages of art as page credit, the additional pages were artwork in APABOK.

Also see page three of ALABOK for an announcement of importance/

Members Mike Padgett and Dick Ambrose need page credit in the next mailing to avoid a dollar fine. Padgett needs 5 pages, Ambrose needs ½ page.

Our next mailing deadline will be the 10th of December. Send twenty eight copies of your zine please.

Also would appreciate it if you members could put your name and address somewhere plainly in the zines (preferably on the cover or contents page), this is to help matters out all around.

That should cover it very briefly this time round.

Yours,
Robert Jennings

THE BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHERN FANDOM PRESS ALLIANCE

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Southern Fandom Press Alliance.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage and promote science fiction-fantasy fan activity among its members through amateur publishing.

Section 2. This organization shall be a branch division of the Southern Fandom Group, and shall be subject to the Constitution and the By-Laws of the parent body.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1. Active membership in this organization shall be open to any member in good standing of the Southern Fandom Group, subject only to the limitations set forth in other Sections of these By-Laws.

Section 2. Active membership in this organization shall be limited to twenty members.

Section 3: Active membership in this organization shall be open to any ~~XXXXXX~~ associate member of the Southern Fandom Group, providing that the total number of such members does not exceed 20% of the total membership, or five members, whichever number is the larger.

Section 4/ a. Non-participating memberships in this organization shall be open to persons who are not members of the Southern Fandom Group. Non-participating members shall receive all mailings and other publications of the organization, but shall not vote or hold office. They may submit letters of comment or other material of a non-participating nature to individual publications.

b. Material submitted to individual publications by non-participating members or other persons not members of this organization, which is considered by the Mailing Editor to be an attempt on the part of a non-participating or non-Alliance person to actively participate in the organization will not be circulated in its intended mailing, and the publication will be held until payment for those pages is forthcoming from either the editor or the individual writer.

c. Non-participating members or persons not a member of this organization may circulate publications through one or more mailings for a fee of twenty cents per printed page, for each mailing. All material circulated in this manner must be sent to the Mailing Editor in the required number of copies with payment before such material will be circulated.

Section 5. a. When the active membership reaches a total number of twenty, a Waiting List shall be established. Names of subsequent applicants for active membership shall be placed on the Waiting List in the order in which application is made, and as vacancies occur in the active membership roster, such applicants shall be invited to join in the order their names appear on the Waiting List.

b. Each person whose name appears on the Waiting List shall be sent a copy of the Official Organ each three months, and shall acknowledge receipt within one month. Failure to acknowledge receipt of the Official Organ save for reasons beyond the person's control, shall cause a person's name to be dropped from the Waiting List.

ARTICLE IV: Mailing Editor

Section 1. The only officer of this organization shall be a Mailing Editor.

Section 2. The Mailing Editor shall be elected by majority vote of the members to serve a term of one year.

Section 3. The duties of the Mailing Editor shall be to receive, handle and distribute the quarterly mailings to receive all funds and keep them in a repository approved by the officers of the Southern Fandom Group. The Mailing Editor shall pay out any funds, except those incurred in the normal expenses for the operation of this organization, only on an order signed by the President of the Southern Fandom Group. The Mailing Editor shall publish the Official Organ for this organization and shall report all transactions and business of the organization in the Official Organ. The Mailing Editor shall exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the organization, maintaining the Constitution and the By-Laws of the Southern Fandom Group and the By-Laws of The Southern Fandom Press Alliance at all times, and shall keep complete and accurate records of all transactions and activities of the organization.

ARTICLE V: Dues

Section 1. Annual dues for Active Members shall be one dollar.

Section 2. ~~Annual~~ dues for Non-participating Members shall be four dollars.

Section 3. Annual dues shall be payable in advance on the date a member joins the organization, and shall fall due on each succeeding anniversary of that date.

Section 4. Any member who fails to pay his dues within one month after receiving notice of ~~their~~ having fallen due shall be automatically dropped from the rolls.

Section 5. a. Any member who has been dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues, or for any other reason, shall be ineligible for membership for a six-month period, after which he may apply for membership in the usual manner.

b. No person who owes back dues or fines or other revenue to this organization may apply for membership until payment has been received by the Mailing Editor.

c. Any member who has been dropped from the rolls three times for any reason shall be ineligible for future membership.

Section 6. a. All money received from dues of active members shall be used solely for the operation of this organization.

b. Five-eighths (\$2.50 of each \$4.00) of moneys received from dues of non-participating members shall be used for the operation of this organization; the rest shall become the property of the Southern Fandom Group.

c. All money received from sources other than dues of non-participating members shall be used for the operation of this organization.

Section 7. No cancellation or refund of dues shall be made.

ARTICLE VI: Mailing Rules

Section 1. a/ At least once every six months of membership, each active member shall produce a publication consisting of at least six letter-sized (8½x11 inches), single-spaced pages or equivalent of his own previously unpublished material. No more than two of these pages may be artwork.

b. Publications shall be submitted in the required number of copies to the Mailing Editor at least one week before the mailing date.

c. Members who fail to produce the required six pages each six months will be fined the sum of one dollar, which must be paid within one month after the member is notified by the Mailing Editor. Failure to pay this fine within the allotted time will result in the expulsion of the member. Should the member fail to produce the required six pages each six months a second time, his name will be dropped from the rolls.

Section 2. a. the Mailing Editor shall designate the required number of copies for each mailing at least six weeks before the date of mailing.

b. The number of copies shall be sufficient to include one copy for each active and non-participating member, one copy for each mailing ordered by non-members three filing copies, one of which shall be placed in the Files of the Southern Fandom Group, plus five reserve copies which may later be sold to interested persons.

Section 3. The mailing dates shall be March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15.

Section 4. For each mailing the Mailing Editor shall produce an issue of the Official Organ, which shall contain a copy of the By-Laws of this organization and such announcements and reports as the Mailing Editor feels should be brought to the attention of the membership.

Section 5. Material considered objectionable to the postal regulations shall not be included in any mailing.

Section 6. Mailings may be sold for \$1.00 each to members of the Southern Fandom Group, or for \$2.00 each to other persons.

ARTICLE VII: Elections

Section 1. a/. Each year with the March 15 mailing, a ballot listing the names of all eligible candidates for the office of Mailing Editor shall be distributed. Ballots to be counted, must be returned to the current Mailing Editor within six weeks of the date mentioned.

b. The results of the election shall be announced in the June 15 mailing.

c. The Mailing Editor so elected shall begin his duties with the September 15 mailing.

Section 2. a. If it is felt that the Mailing Editor has failed properly to fulfil his duties, a petition containing the names of at least one-half of the active membership submitted to the President of the Southern Fandom Group shall be sufficient to empower the President to call a vote on the matter.

b. a three-fourths majority vote shall be sufficient and necessary to force the resignation of the Mailing Editor, and to call a special election for a Temporary Mailing Editor who will serve until the next annual election.

Section 3. In the event that the Mailing Editor cannot complete his term of office, the President of the Southern Fandom Group shall be empowered to call a special election for a Temporary Mailing Editor who will serve until the next annual election.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

Section 1. Any proposed amendment to the By-Laws may be submitted, providing it contains the signatures of five members or more, in the form in which the amended article or section is to appear in the By-Laws, to the Mailing Editor, who shall cause it to appear in the Official Organ. In the same mailing in which the proposed amendment ~~XXXXXX~~ appears in the Official Organ, a ballot shall be included. Such amendments shall become a part of the By-Laws only if approved by two-thirds majority of members voting.

b. This organization may not separate from its parent body, the Southern Fandom Group, nor may this rule be changed in any way, unless the Southern Fandom Group should cease to be an organization, by its current or a future title.

Republisher's note: With reference to VIII:1.b above: It did.

Gad, those were cumbersome by-laws--and worst thing about them is that they required themselves to be published in each mtg. SFPA would long since have folded for want of anybody to do that.

THE COMPLEAT
HISTORY OF
THE SOUTHERN FANDOM PRESS ALLIANCE

introduction

The Southern Fandom Press Alliance is an organized group of people. It has existed for eleven years. From those two statements, it can be inferred that it has a history laden with joys, hassles, triumphs and defeats. Strong friendships have been made through SFPA, and bitter enemies have fought through its pages--sometimes threatening to split the apa right down the middle.

But SFPA has survived--for 50 mailings. The years go by, and SFPA changes with them. But in the SFPA of 1972 there are echoes of the SFPA of 1961. You may not hear them clearly, but each of the dozens of people who have contributed to SFPA has left his mark by some small influence in the direction of all future discussion.

As Lon Atkins once pointed out, SFPA is an intricate tapestry, with threads of individual personalities winding in and out, reacting with one another to form a pattern that has proven viable.

And now, in the 50th Mailing, let's go back to the beginning and examine the weave.

I
PROTO-SFPA
up to Mailing I

The SFG as visualized by Jerry Burge, Bob Farnham and myself was not an attempt at regionalizing fandom. It was an attempt at injecting life into fans who lived in a region where there was little or no contact with the mainstream of fandom. Other than that, I could not--and cannot now--see any purpose or excuse for the SFG. I like to think that it is a significant sign of success that in the aftermath of SFG an apa such as SFPA was formed.

Jerry Page
Sudri #3

Any history of The Southern Fandom Press Alliance must begin with at least a brief mention of The Southern Fandom Group--the SFG mentioned above--a successor to the ancient Dixie Fan Federation and a predecessor to the current Southern Fandom Confederation. It became active somewhere around 1959. Active members of its early days included Bob Jennings, Al Andrews, the two Jerrys (Burge and Page), Norm Metcalf and several others, some of whom are virtually unknown in fandom today.

As an organization, it was very much like the National Fantasy Fan Federation--in fact, it was pretty much patterned after the N3F. Its official organ, *The Southern Fan*, corresponded to that of the Neff, *The National Fantasy Fan*. And when N'APA came to be...

That was around 1959, too. It occurred to the active Neffers that it was impossible for a neofan to be a member of an apa. There were only four in fandom at the time even if you counted the Cult, and they all had healthy waitlists. This seemed to be discrimination of the rankest sort--why, by the time a guy could work his way up the waitlist of any of them, he wouldn't be a neofan anymore at all. And so N'APA, the Neffer Amateur Press Alliance (the apostrophe being put in to distinguish it from NAPA, the National Amateur Press Alliance, oldest apa extant) was born.

The purpose of N'APA was ostensibly to provide a place where neofans could dump their crud without bothering fandom as a whole. The Ancient and Experienced fans in N'APA would tear the crud apart and push said neofans along the road to trufannishness and light. It didn't work out that way because (a) not all the neofans joined and (b) most of the older fans got disgusted and quit. N'APA picked up--and retains to this very day--the reputation of being the first apa every fan joins and the *very* first one he drops.

However, N'APA did have some effect on fandom. It brought about a brief flurry in apas during the very early 60s. It provided a new forum wherein N3F business could be discussed. And, most important of all, it inspired N3F surrogates like the SFG to similar action. The result you see. SFPA.

Early in July, 1961, a letter appeared in mailboxes all over the South. It started out with an apology for not having the time for personal correspondence (it was hectographed) and went on to say "The purpose of this short note is to inform you of the possible formation of a Southern Fandom Amateur Press Association, and to enlist your aid for the project. The return address was that of Bob Jennings of Nashville, Tenn.

Jennings was an active member of the SFG. He'd had publishing experience--he'd been a member of N'APA during its first days, and even pubbed a genzine, *Fadaway*. He had, and knew how to use, both mimeo and hecto. He was part of the group that, a few months hence, would found Comics Fandom. An actifan by anybody's definition, one capable of giving a very valuable endorsement to the proposed apa.

The letter was followed closely by *Southern Apa Planning Zine #1*, in which a set of pro-

posed by-laws (under the SFG's Constitution) was published. This set of by-laws had been carefully worked out by correspondence between Jennings and Al Andrews, and was being presented for discussion. There was discussion, alright. About 3/4 of the recipients of that first planning zine responded with remarks, relevant and ir-

The most detailed response came from the two Jerrys, who proposed another, quite different set of by-laws. One of the provisions disputed was the one that required most of the activity to be writing. Burge wanted that taken out so he could have complete credit for a portfolio of his own (excellent) artwork. But Jennings had put it in because there was a guy in N'APA who had been claiming credit for six pages of his own terminal-arthritis-inspired doodles, calling them artwork. As you'll see from the by-laws published in the first OO (and republished here), the writing requirement was accepted. It's been with us ever since.

Each rule--and there were dozens of them--was voted on as an individual. By the time the third issue of SAPZ was published, on August 10, a coherent but none-too-short set had finally been agreed upon. The First Mailing was set at Sept. 10. At this point, there were 16 people left who were figured on to be charter members, and a copy requirement of 30 was set.

Only seven of the 16 showed up--Bill Plott, Ken Gentry, Dave Hulan, Al Andrews, Dick Ambrose, Bob Jennings and Mike Padgett. Jennings, of course, was the Mailing Editor--(that title having been chosen so as not to be confused with the Official Editor, who put out *The Southern Fan*). Those seven members produced 76 pages, which was judged by all later observers to be a phenomenal achievement for a N'APAn and six people who had never before seen any apa mailings at all.

You've seen the Official Organ; or at least a relatively legible rendering of same. The six other zines in that First Mailing were *Sporadic* #1, *Blob* #1, *Loquamur* #1, *Isca-riot* #1, *Alabok* #1 and *Binge* #1. Since it is the First Mailing, and since that's rather a large step in our history, a rundown:

Sporadic, subtitled "The fafiate's fanzine," was by Billyjoeplottopelikealabama, who went on to become SFPA's third OE under his other name, Bill Plott. That has the distinction of being the first fanzine ever to run through SFPA. It was more-or-less a letter substitute--an apazine--with a crudely drawn cover that was nonetheless funny, and a rambling account of the misadventures of its editor. It also had contributions of at least a sentence from a goodly number of people who would appear here and there throughout SFPA's next ten years. People like Al Andrews, Rick Norwood, Dick Ambrose and--the first hoax ever perpetrated on SFPA--Chuck White. Plott seemed confused about the name of the organization--he referred to it on the cover as the "SFG APA."

Blob was hectoed for Ken Gentry by Bob Jennings, and is virtually unreadable today. I've managed to make out that Gentry was a comics fan and would never have been a Hugo-contending writer. His position in SFPA probably rests on the fact that Jennings recruited him into fandom and the SFG. He produced one more zine, *Cutworm* #2, for the Third Mailing, then dropped permanently out of sight.

Dave Hulan's *Loquamur* was next. Dave was a non-apan at the time (tho he certainly made himself a reputation as an apan in the years to follow) and was trying to put out *Loq* (his own shortened form) together as something resembling a genzine. He had his fiancée, Katya Wheat, draw a cover--her first fanac. He wrote three pages of editorial-natter, put together another three of his reviews and sf-type poetry and padded the issue out with a short story by his brother (tylined "anonymous" in the issue). He had visions of turning it into a letter/discussion zine, but this was gradually turned aside. Dave, incidentally, went on to become the 2nd OE, has been President of SFPA on occasion and wrote the history on which much of this chapter and the next are based.

And then came the first issue of *IscaIoT*, the best zine in the mailing by almost anybody's standards, and best regular zine in SFFA for a long time to come. Al Andrews and Dick Ambrose were responsible. It didn't just attempt to be a genzine. It was a genzine, and a damn good one. For a first apa mailing, one doesn't expect ingroupishness. *IoT* developed that in short order, however.

Alabok, by Bob Jennings, was next. The first couple of pages were hectoed, but somehow seem to have survived to the present day. That was the editorial/natter part. There followed several bylined articles in mimeo--including one by D. Bruce Berry, about whom more later. The only one that could legitimately be called apa material was the one by Jennings himself, detailing his acquaintance with Ken Gentry.

And bringing up the rear was *Binge*, another Jennings-hectoed issue, this one by Mike Padgett. That, incidentally, was the only zine Padgett ever did for SFFA. It was mostly filled with fanzine reviews and articles that, since they weren't Padgett pseudonyms, cast some doubt on his claim to membership in SFFA.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, was the First Mailing. Dave Hulan, the charter member who kept up the longest continuous membership, remarked, "I was not unduly pleased with the mailing - I was new in fandom at the time, and I had expected something better, a little more like genzines... Since none of the other members, except Jennings, had even been in an apa before, my reaction was not atypical."

But if the first SFFA Mailing didn't quite come up to whatever might be construed as "par," at least it was pretty damn good for a production of seven people. Since I'm not going to have any qualms about throwing personal commentary into this history, I'll go ahead and say that I enjoyed it.

II UNDER THE LEADEN SFG Mailings 2-6

The First Mailing wasn't a disappointment, but it was closer to what might be expected than what might be hoped. The Second Mailing, now, was a disappointment...

Depending on whether or not you count a postmailing, it had either 24 or 42 pages. In either case, it's the smallest mailing SFFA has ever published or is ever likely to publish. Only Plott, Andrews, Ambrose and a new member, Mike Kurman, made it into the mailing proper. Hulan postmailed. There are several reasons for the comedown.

First was that Jennings was doing printing for four other members, and had failed to inform them that they'd best get the stuff in early so he'd have a chance to do it. Also, he was adjusting to college life for the first time and, at the very same time, working on the annish of *Fadaway*. Hence, no *Alabok*. No Jennings contrib but the 00.

Dave Hulan was a newlywed. One couldn't expect him to have his zine done on time. Hence, it was postmailed, giving him the dubious distinction of being the first to do so. (The title, incidentally, was changed to *Loki* and numbering started over from one. The reason was an inability to spell *Loquaxur* on the part of most people.) Hulan seems not to have been overly concerned with a copy of the zine being with each copy of the mailing--I've seen five copies of the rest, and only one copy of *Loki* #1. This is the reason postmailings today aren't counted as part of the mailing unless they go through the OE.

The rest of the members seem to have been somewhat disappointed in the type of zine they were seeing. They were used to genzines, as Hulan said, and only three of the

items in Mailing #1 could be called that--and even those weren't of the highest average quality.

Another disappointment in the Second Mailing--a much greater one--was that only one new member, Kurman, showed up. The general expectation was that SFG members like Jerry Burge, Jerry Page and Norm Metcalf would join then--the reason they didn't with the first was surmised to be the shortness of the deadline (one month after the last Planning Zine). But none did. The two Jerrys joined much later. Metcalf never did, although he bought a lot of surplus mailings.

As might be expected, the first mailing comments in SFPA's history were in the Second Mailing. Bill Plott ran a paragraph of likes and dislikes of the previous mailing; but the first true mc's were by Andrews and Ambrose. They published *Slaughter Row*, a one-shot in which each took a vertical column to give real comments on the mailing. The title was continued in the second issue of *Iscariot* (which showed up in the third) as a combination mailing-comment-fanzine-review column by Andrews. His were generally conceded to be the best and most complete mc's in SFPA.

And one little item in the Second Mailing that could have gone practically unnoticed was a paragraph in the Official Organ requesting that anyone interested in the MESHip file for it, as the election would be held in the Third Mailing with the results announced in the fourth and the winner taking office in the fifth. Nobody filed, leading Jennings to remark that very little spirit was being demonstrated. He resigned himself to being the only one running.

The Third Mailing was notable for several reasons. First, it gave Mike Padgett the dubious distinction of being the first person ever to be thrown out of SFPA. He contributed only once; the only charter member to do so.

Second, it almost, but not quite, had 100% participation. If it had, it would have been the only one between the 1st (which had 100% participation by definition) and the 34th to do so. But Jennings misplaced Kurman's zine temporarily, and didn't want to delay the mailing further while he searched for it. It was the first item in the fourth.

Yes, I said "further" back there. The third distinction was that it was the second mailing in a row to come out late.

Hulan was a bit upset at this turn of events. Not greatly upset, but enough to where he thought he could do a better job and wanted a chance to try. He was just out of neofannishness then, and, like many recent ex-neos, was collecting fannish offices. The MESHip of SFPA looked attractive to him, so he wrote Jennings after the Third Mailing was out and said he'd changed his mind and would like to run after all.

Jennings was still undergoing college pressure (which, more than likely, is why the mailings were late), so he was only too happy to have someone to resign in favor of. Letters quickly went out telling of the alteration in the election, and Hulan was elected unanimously (as most--but not all, as we shall see later--candidates in one-candidate elections are).

It was about that time, between the Third and Fourth Mailings, that no less than three SFPA members--Hulan, Jennings and Plott--all got together in Nashville. Says Hulan: "It was...the first of several little conclaves through the course of that summer which tended to bind the members of SFPA into a closer unity than is usual in an apa." That condition is with us today. It's one of the nice things about having a regional apa.

A special vote was held in the Fourth Mailing on something that might be unique in apa history--a special Christmas Gift Mailing. If passed, it would mean that the Sixth

Mailing, December, 1962, would be sent to every single member of the SFG, with the copy requirement adjusted accordingly. This might seem a huge thing to ask of an apa publisher, but there were fewer than 30 people in the SFG at that time--it was faltering badly. It could be sent to every member without undue hardship. And the treasury seemed to be in good enough shape to afford the extra postage.

In his Personal History of the SFPA, Hulan said the Xmas Gift proposal passed unanimously. In his first Official Organ, however, he noted that Ken Gentry had voted against it. But Gentry had been dropped in September, and apparently, his vote didn't count.

It seemed to be a fairly general attitude that the Xmas gift was something that certainly wouldn't hurt, and might actually help by coercing a SFG member or two to join. As a matter of fact, it did--but only one, L.D. Broyles.

And so, Hulan took over the MESHip in the Fifth Mailing. The format of his OO was considerably different from Jennings'. It was stolen directly from the format of Bruce Pelz' SAPS OO, and the swipe was even acknowledged. It was a format worthy of swiping and, with modifications due to changing conditions (longer rosters and contents, e.g., meaning that they couldn't go on the same page anymore) pretty much the one we use today.

One thing it called for that we didn't have at the time was a snappy title. SAPS had *The Spectator*. And, thanks to Hulan, we have *The Southerner* starting with the 5th.

First thing Hulan did was to propose an entire page of rule changes. Most were merely cosmetic, improving the wording or lowering the verbiage of the original set, but there were also such definite changes as altering the price of back mailings to something someone might reasonably want to pay, and adding a provision for married couples to share membership. As we shall soon see, first chance he got, he eliminated the need for such obviously beneficial changes to be delayed while a vote was taken.

It was during this period that the first discussions on whether genzines or apazines were better for an organization like SFPA took place. The discussion is still going on, as a quick perusal of Irvin Koch's zines will show. Bob Jennings and Tom Armistead (whom we'd picked up in the Third Mailing) said they preferred the small, ingroupish zines like their own *Alabok* and *Phallicy*, respectively. Al Andrews argued in favor of a balanced format--he figured SFPA was big enough to hold genzines, but didn't think a zine without *any* ingroup material would go well in it. It was hard to fault his reasoning, since *Iscariot* was undoubtedly a genzine; yet it contained what most members seemed to consider the best mailing comments in SFPA.

Meanwhile, Bill Plott announced the death of his apazine, *Sporadic*, as of the Sixth Mailing, and replaced it in SFPA with his genzine, *Maelstrom*. The very next quarter, *Spore* was back. Plott had read some of Hulan's SAPS and OMPA mailings in the meantime, and the bug got him good...

The Sixth Mailing was indeed the special Christmas Gift Mailing. The SFG members all found a 7-piece, 120-page apa mailing sitting in their mailboxes unexpectedly. But by the Seventh Mailing, there was no more SFG for something like that to happen to. Without warning, SFPA suddenly sported a brand new Constitution, replacing its by-laws under the SFG Constitution. Here's what happened in the meantime:

Lloyd Broyles was President of the SFG at the time he joined SFPA. It occurred to him, however, that he was President of an organization that had done nothing for a couple of years except found SFPA. All active SFG members, in fact, were in the apa. He engaged in correspondence with Al Andrews, SFG treasurer, concerning the situation. In January, 1963, Broyles and Andrews made a startling announcement.

As of that moment, the Southern Fandom Group no longer existed. All dues would be returned in due course. SFPA was declared a free and independent organization. Period.

Hulan suddenly found himself head of an organization with no rules whatsoever--nor any basis at all other than a roster and an acknowledged head. On the one hand, it was a nice boost that one no longer had to be a SFG member to be a SFPA member. On the other, a going concern had to be held together while its basic rules were worked out from scratch.

He didn't bother with planning zines, form letters or any of the aids Jennings had used successfully in the founding of SFPA. Jennings had a matrix around which an organization was to be formed. Hulan had an organization, but had to form the matrix inside of it. So he simply wrote a Constitution taking into account all the basic premises of the by-laws, but allowing considerably more flexibility. He sent it around to all members via carbon-letter asking for their approval. Nobody dissented, and it was the Law of the Land by the time SFPA had another mailing. It's the same Constitution in effect today, but with a few amendments passed in the meantime.

III OFF ON OUR OWN Mailings 7-12

With the SFG out of the way, and hence no more requirement of SFG membership before SFPA membership, it would seem as though SFPA could do nothing but grow. It did, but not immediately. It was more than six months before membership and pagecount reached a new high. In the meantime, a lot was happening.

In the Seventh Mailing, reaction to the new Constitution (which, although it was being printed for the first time there, all members had already seen) was favorable. In particular, Bill Plott approved of the broad powers granted to the OE, as he could see this making for a more smoothly-run organization. But no sooner was the Constitution accepted than an amendment was proposed:

ARTICLE II, Section 5. (Added) Individuals may become non-publishing members of the SFPA by fulfilling the following requirements:

- a. They must be residents of the Southern states as defined in Section I.
- b. They must pay annual dues of 50¢ more than active members.
- c. They must write letters of comment on three publications, or have a contribution other than a letter of comment in one publication, at least three out of every four mailings.

Section 6. Non-publishing members will receive all publications of the SFPA, but may not vote in elections nor hold office. They may vote in the Egoboo Poll, subject to limitations which the OE may choose to provide.

Section 7. The total number of non-publishing members shall not exceed 50% of the total number of active members.

Rick Norwood, who had joined with the Second Mailing (but whose first contribution was not received until the 3rd), had suggested this in a letter. Hulan agreed that it would be a good idea, and also noted that it was within the power of the OE to enact it by fiat. However, he didn't want to do so without knowing how it would be accepted by the membership, so he printed it and said he'd bring it up for a vote after some discussion. That is, unless the discussion showed clearly that it had no chance in the world of passing.

The reason Hulan supported the proposal was because he thought SFPA could stand to have

its base broadened to include non-publishers. But apparently, most members realized another possible consequence--that is, it might cause one or two minacking publishers to drop to non-publishing status. He didn't bring it up for vote.

It was right then, incidentally, that Norwood attained an odd distinction. He became the first person ever to rejoin SFPA. He'd been thrown out in the Sixth Mailing for failure to pay his dues. But he got a copy anyway as a SFG member, put up his buck and was back on the roster as of the seventh, with *Cliffhangers and Others* #3.

That *Cliffhangers* was notable in itself. Its entire length was taken up by a short story, "Goon with the Wind," which to my knowledge is the first piece of fiction containing SFPA members ever to run through SFPA. Also, it took place at NOLaCon II on an unspecified future date, making it to my knowledge the first mention in print of the possibility that New Orleans might host a second WorldCon.

SFPA's first oneshot, *ALARums and Excursions*, was also in that mailing. Ordinarily, this would deserve a sort of footnote in history, but there were one or two items in there that are still worth repeating, after all these years.

Bill Plott's two pages were just ordinary fannish chatter--fun, but pretty dated. But Dave Hulan's two pages compared SFPA and N'APA, the two newest apas in fandom (which today are two of the four oldest). SFPA, it seemed, had enormous enthusiasm and plenty of quality (seven members were regularly producing mailings over a hundred pages) but very few people, while N'APA's problem seemed just the reverse--32 members (many of whom looked about to drop out) weren't producing much more, and what they were turning out was largely neoish blathering. His suggested solution should strike terror into the hearts of current SFPAns and induce hearty sighs of gratitude that it was never enacted:

THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK, mostly between me and Ed Meskys and some of the other Califans in N'APA, of merging the two apas. At first I wasn't sure that it would be a good idea, but as time goes by it looks to me like at least a partial solution to the problems of both. SFPA would benefit by adding to its base, gaining members who might make it worthwhile to restrict the general circulation of some of the better SFPazines, which in turn would possibly cause some faneds who like these zines to join N'APA in order to continue to receive them. N'APA would benefit by the addition of 4 to 6 good members who might help stimulate other members to greater efforts.

Notice how N'APA seems to be spoken of as the surviving partner. At LACon, a couple of N'APAns tossed out the idea of merging SFPA and N'APA with SFPA being the surviving partner. Even if the suggestion had been made seriously, it would be done over my dead body. Times do change, don't they?

There was some more on this topic--mostly an ironing out of details, as though the decision had already been made to go ahead with the merger. Hulan concluded: "Otherwise it looks as if the alternative will be two dead apas in another year at most. What do the rest of you think?"

I don't know what the reaction to this was in the 17th N'APA Mailing. But astoundingly enough, hardly anybody commented on it in the 8th SFPA. No matter. It should be painfully clear that it was never done. More and more comments came in the 9th and 10th, and not one single person liked the idea.

Nobody filed for OE (the "new" title for the ME under the Constitution) in the election held in the Seventh Mailing, so Hulan didn't bother to put an OE blank on the ballot, figuring he'd just been reelected by acclaim. However, there was a ballot--the first

annual Egoboo Poll, which Hulan had written into the Constitution. There were some differences between that one and the present one, of course. Mainly, non-SFPAn Southern fans received points from the five voters--non-SFPAns like Robert E. Gilbert, Larry Montgomery (who joined later) and one Pontus Ramailian, of whom nobody seems to have heard before or since, who got five points as an article writer.

Hulan *walked* away with the prize for Editor of Best Fanzine. Other landslides were Joe Staton (a non-member at the time) for best fiction (tho he's much better known as an artist), Al Andrews for mailing comments and Dave Hulan for reviews. Bob Jennings won best humorist, Bill Plott natter, Dick Ambrose articles, Ken Gentry artist and Hulan "other" by somewhat smaller margins. Dave Hulan accumulated by far the most points, but he was the reelected OE, so he couldn't serve as President. And thus, Al Andrews, who narrowly beat out Bill Plott for second, became the First President of SFPA.

Jennings, by that time, was one of the non-members receiving points. He wasn't on the roster as of the Eighth Mailing. There's a long story behind that.

About a year earlier, there had occurred an incident that set fandom on its ear. Everybody chose sides, and curiously, almost everybody chose the same side. Its impact on SFPA was considerably greater than that outside, since one of its principals was Bob Jennings.

I was the rankest of neofans at that time. I'd never heard of SFPA. The storm washed over me, was noted, and was forgotten before I had a clear idea of what fandom was. My only real knowledge of the whole brouhaha comes from very dim memories of the time and written accounts later.

Let's discount my memory, because I don't trust it in a case like this--I didn't even connect memories of the incident with SFPA until I read old mailings. Of the written accounts I've seen, the only one that even tried to be objective was that of Dave Hulan in Chapter 3 of his Personal History of SFPA, which appeared in the 20th Mailing. That also happens to be the only one I know where to find right offhand.

Basically, what happened is that Jennings published a zine entitled *A Trip Through Hell*, containing an article written by D. Bruce Berry. Comic fans will recognize Berry as a sometimes illustrator in the fan field. Offhand, I recall his artwork on the Adam Link stories in Bill Spicer's *Fantasy Illustrated*. A highly competent artist and a fairly good writer.

The article alleged that Earl Kemp, who was much more prominent in fandom then than he is now, had robbed Berry on the streets of Chicago on Labor Day, 1958. Then Kemp had supposedly burglarized Berry's home. As the *coup d'etat*, Kemp was accused of having railroaded Berry into an insane asylum, where he languished for three weeks.

The prevailing opinion was that this was a crock of shit. The charges rested on evidence that could most charitably be described as flimsy. In the first instance, both assailants were masked, but Berry thought he recognized the builds of Kemp and his brother. In the second, Berry thought he recognized some of the loot (sf magazines and nude pictures) in Kemp's home. In the third...the true facts don't seem to be known.

In the first instance, at least, Kemp had what I think most people will agree is an ironclad alibi. He was at the World Science Fiction Convention in Los Angeles. Hundreds of people saw him there, and I think it's unlikely that they were *all* lying. This circumstance tends to cast even more doubt on the rest of the charges than would otherwise accrue to them. And that's what almost everyone in fandom said.

Since there was very little argument, the discussion raged just long enough for everyone

to have a quick say. Echoes of it appear from time to time to this very day, but for the most part it was quickly forgotten. Except in a few small corners of fandom. Like the N3F, where it exerted some influence on internal politics. Like SFFA.

Bob Jennings, who had the misfortune to be the publisher of Berry's article, was rather thoroughly discredited in fandom. Unfortunately for SFFA, Jennings was closely associated with the apa and, in the opinion of Hulan, we were guilty by association.

My own opinion of the principals, if you're interested, is as follows:

I've met Earl Kemp. He's only slightly screwball--certainly no more so than myself. He doesn't impress me as a guy who would commit armed robbery--at least not against someone who knew him. And railroading someone into a mental institution?

I've never met Jennings, but I know him by reputation. I think Hulan's summary of his part in the matter is likely correct--he was unwise to publish the article without checking it out considerably more closely than he must have. But he thought he had a hot scoop and he rushed into print with it. I praise his principals but damn his judgment.

I have no personal knowledge at all of Berry; and therefore I don't offer an opinion. It may have been malice or it may have been a joke that backfired or he may have been freaked-out paranoid. Who knows?

At any rate, having Jennings around didn't bode well for SFFA, Hulan thought, and as OE, turned very cold toward him. Finally, he says in his Personal History, "I accomplished at least one goal during my tenure as OE. I threw out Bob Jennings."

There was no malice in this, Hulan says. It was a simple matter of exorcising an impediment to growth. He added that if Jennings wanted to rejoin SFFA at that point, he had no objection. The reason for wanting him gone no longer existed. I'd like to add that there is even less reason today than there was in 1966, when that chapter of the Personal History appeared.

Also, from all I can see, there doesn't seem to have been any nefarious backbiting done to accomplish that goal, although the possibility of such was written into the Constitution--Article II, Section 3-D, the expulsion clause. Hulan might have had Jennings in mind when he wrote it, but if so, it wasn't necessary. Jennings was dropped for inactivity as of the 8th Mailing. He applied for readmission with payment of a fine, as provided by the pre-Constitution rules, but Hulan didn't even answer his letter.

The Seventh Mailing was late. Hulan's excuse seemed to be valid--it was an ungodly mishmash of trips to doctors by himself, Katya and Roy, the newer member of their family. This condition didn't improve greatly with time, and it led to the replacement in the 8th of *Pelf* for *Loki*, the former being a zine Hulan coedited with Dave Locke (and which I believe still sees an occasional issue published).

And that sort of paved the way for another sudden change in the organization. In the 8th Mailing, Hulan had been reelected OE by acclaim. In the 9th, Bill Plott was OE without warning. What happened in the meantime is very simple.

Hulan moved from Alabama to California. He no longer considered himself eligible for the OEsip under the Constitution he himself had written. In any event, he didn't think he'd have the time or energy to perform the duties. Therefore, he met with Al Andrews, who was just about the most influential member in the apa, to come up with a solution whereby SFFA might survive this crisis. No problem, apparently. Bill Plott suddenly took over the OEsip, and letters went out to that effect.

Hulan was in pretty dire financial straits--it took something pretty serious to make him move all the way across the country in search of his fortune--so the prospect of turning over the \$40-or-so SFPA treasury didn't appeal to him. He made Plott a deal--his mimeo and all his supplies for the contents of the treasury. The offer was readily accepted. Plott's mention in *The Southerner* #9, "It has taken a little liberal stretching of the by-laws to keep SFPA going through this crisis," was an understatement.

It was worthwhile keeping SFPA going through that crisis. It was during those three months that the greatest influx of new members in the apa's history suddenly came forth. Dave Locke (who was at least partly looking for reactions to *Pelf*), Jim Harkness, Kent McDaniel, Bill Gibson and Larry Montgomery were all new on the roster that time. L.D. Broyles was dropped, giving SFPA its longest roster to date--eleven members.

Although the method of OE succession in that case was a bit unorthodox, Plott didn't take over without any legal basis whatsoever. He held a special election in which he was the only candidate. Also on the ballot was a Constitutional amendment--the very same one Rick Norwood had proposed two mailings earlier. Plott and Andrews had discussed it at some length, and had come to the conclusion that it was worthwhile.

The membership seemed to disagree. In *The Southerner* #10, Plott gave the results of the special election:

The election returns were something short of phenomenal. Lynn Hickman [who had not yet made his first contribution] unanimously elected me OE and killed the proposed amendment. That's right, he was the only one voting. Even Andrews and myself forgot to vote. SFPA certainly has a lot of keen interest and enthusiasm among its members.

It was between the 8th and 9th Mailings that the first MidSouthCon (now known as Deep-SouthCon) was held. It was at Hulan's house just before he moved to California. Space was cleared for sleeping bags from living room to garage. A good half dozen fans showed up for it. Bill Gibson produced a bunch of cartoons, caricaturing various SFPA members, and they were published in *Sporadic* #8 (9th Mailing). The very first official SFPA get-together. The DeepSouthCon to this day is largely a SFPA con.

After years of contributing to most SFPA zines and being the closest to membership any non-member can be, Joe Staton finally joined with the 11th Mailing. The reason for this sudden burst of publishing enthusiasm was that he was then the proud owner of a typewriter, so all he needed was a printer.

Plott had already made it clear that he didn't intend to run for a second term if he could possibly avoid it. In the wake of this announcement, Dave Locke offered to serve for a year--but only if no other candidates were forthcoming, as he was a New Yorker and therefore ineligible under the Constitution. He also suggested an amendment to the Constitution to give SFPA a permanent treasurer--Plott, in particular--but this was never acted upon.

And neither was his offer to act as OE. Joe Staton and Jim Harkness offered to take it as a sort of CoE--they would alternate mailings, if it were decided that they could legally run that way. Since they were both under 21, however, a treasurer was needed and Al Andrews offered to take the job. There were no other offers, and so their names appeared jointly on the ballot.

Locke was doing more than offering and suggesting at that point. He'd been carrying on a religious discussion with Dave Hulan in the letter column of *Vandro*. That got carried into SFPA through a fanzine review by Al Andrews, and the two Daves started tearing each other to shreds in SFPA mailing comments. Other members joined in, but Hulan and Locke remained the principals in the fight for more than two years. It got pretty bloody,

too. To an outsider, it may have looked like a shouting match.

The Eleventh Mailing also contained first SFPA appearances of Arnie Katz and Len Bailes, both of whom were to become prominent members in years to come. Katz, in fact, was immediately vaulted to the forefront of SFPA discussion through publication of *Nemesis* #1. Basically, what he did was to downgrade every single item in the 10th Mailing in the most personally insulting terms possible. This would have been better received if his own zine had been of even minimal quality.

Quite likely, the utter lack of quality in his zine was intentional--a show of contempt. He did demonstrate himself eminently capable of better. As to content, the insulting terms he used cannot be exaggerated. I have several copies, and will shortly offer them to current members for a small donation to the treasury. The reaction was what one might expect.

Larry Montgomery called Katz a "damnyankee." And Montgomery was the type of unreconstructed superConfederate in whose presence one had to smile when one said "Yank."

Al Andrews castigated him in a mailing comment, but admitted the possibility that he was a hoax designed to induce an extreme reaction and then laugh uproariously at the fact that anybody could fall for such a transparent gimmick. In fact, the zine was so incredibly insulting that one might think it had to be contrived. If I didn't know for a fact that there's a fan named Arnie Katz, I'd sort of tend toward the belief that the guy who wrote *Nemesis* #1 was a hoax myself.

Dave Locke responded with more than two pages on why people join SFPA, what SFPA has to offer and why he himself considered SFPA such an enjoyable organization. He closed with several remarks to Katz that could best be interpreted as genteel sneers. In other words, he was willing to argue with any member of SFPA on the strongest terms, but when it came to direct insults, he was part of a united front with all the rest.

To be fair to Katz, I must point out that his second contribution, *Damnyankee* #2 (13th Mailing) was considerably more friendly in tone--in fact, he went so far as to apologize for his thoughtless remarks an issue earlier, an apology everyone seemed to agree was called for. It was a very humble, very manly apology. But that doesn't change the fact that the 12th Mailing was the first of what was to become something of a tradition--the annual-or-so "Down On Arnie" Mailing.

The other joiner, Len Bailes, didn't elicit such immediate response, but the historian can find that in his second contribution, *Zaje Zaculo* #2 (12th Mailing) to tickle his funnybone. I quote:

I realize that this zine could be bigger, but I just haven't got the time or cash. I still have the 38-page *Excalibur* [which he coedited with Katz--they'd known each other since childhood] to stencil and two apas to take care of. I don't really have to apologize, but I do feel slightly guilty... Maybe SFPA needs a few constructive minackers anyway, to give it the true apa flavor.

In years to come, he would regret the use of the word "minacker" with reference to himself. Meanwhile, there was an election and an Egoboo Poll going on.

Staton was elected unanimously--Harkness had had to drop out at the last minute, as explained in the last zine in the 12th Mailing, Staton's *And I, I Am Elected*. Plott held the treasury, with the note that he would shortly turn it over to Andrews.

In the Egoboo Poll, *Iscariot* won best regular zine and its 8th issue won best single

issue. Plott won for mailing comments, Harkness for new fan, Staton in both fiction and artwork, Bill Gibson for best cartoons, Dick Ambrose for article/review and Al Andrews for "Most Outstanding Fan." Andrews also accumulated the most points, and was reelected President.

And so ended Plott's OEsip. It was an important period in SFPA's history, notwithstanding the fact that he did no more than his bare duty as OE. Like, he forgot to put the title on *The Southerner* #11, and for #12, he forgot the title itself, and lettered in *The Southern*. And he's the only OE who has failed to publish either Constitution or rules, prompting Staton to remark, "Why doesn't somebody give me a copy of the by-laws so I can find out what is the minac in this apa?" in *Invader* #3.

But the treasury was so healthy under him that he was the first OE to suspend dues. When he started, SFPA had seven members. When he finished, it had 15. It had gone from a faltering bunch of plodding neos that could be wiped out if one OE failed to publish one mailing, to a strong organization that gave every sign of being able to last forever.

It was, in short...

IV A VIABLE ENTITY Mailings 13-15

The Staton OEsip started off well--it was SFPA's first 300-page mailing (339, to be exact). One member was dropped--that's George Proctor, who'd produced only one zine for SFPA. Four--David Mitchell, Rich Mann, Hank Luttrell and Dian Pelz, most of whom were to leave at least small marks in the history--were added, bringing SFPA closer to its maximum membership of 20 than it had ever been before. There were 18 members listed, although Dian Pelz hadn't contributed.

Staton's first official act was to make an Official Ruling: "If a person joins SFPA while a Southern resident, but later on moves away from the South, he retains nominal status as a Southern member, so as not to mess up this quota business too terribly." He asked Hulan to please suggest a legal way of wording it, and the latter wrote it up as a Constitutional amendment, the current Retained Status Clause, in the 14th. As we shall shortly see, those three lines caused more than their share of dissention.

With SFPA already three solid years old, Dick Ambrose wrote its first history--it appeared in Larry Montgomery's *Warlock* #5 under the title "Birth of a Whirlwind." Even then, more than half of SFPA's members hadn't even been in fandom when the early events of that history occurred.

But the 13th Mailing was mainly notable for two things. First, it contained many, many reports on the DeepSouthCon-2, which had been held in Anniston, Ala. Second, it contained *Endless Shadow* #1, first SFPA contribution by one David Mitchell.

The first page of *Endless Shadow* told how this Mitchell had joined fandom--he'd noticed that sf books regularly disappeared from the stands, so obviously he wasn't the only one buying them. A book store clerk had given him Montgomery's name, and Montgomery had sent him a copy of *Warlock*. The rest of the zine wasn't too badly neoish. Mostly, it called for more sf discussion in fanzines. Mitchell's main sin was to fault Lynn Hickman (who had joined in the 11th Mailing) for the harmless habit of filling his zines up with pictures of naked women.

Mitchell didn't have a zine in the 14th, but there were a few reactions to his earlier

one. Dian Pelz gave him a mild rebuke. Dave Hulan asked if he were a hoax. No particular furor, although it was fairly well agreed that he was a bit immature even for his professed 14 years. There were more interesting things going on, so we shall return to his story in a moment.

Hulan, from the time of his giving up the OEship, had been hanging onto membership by his thumbnails. He completely missed the 9th, 11th and 12th Mailings, and was in the 10th only with a quickie membership saver. The only thing that kept him from being thrown out in the 12th was that the roster wasn't nearly full. It slowly began to dawn on him that he didn't have time to publish *Loki* on SFPA's quarterly schedule.

And so, he began sending *Utgard* through instead. But the first *Utgard* SFPA saw was #2. You see, #1 had been intended to run through OMPA, but at the last minute he decided he couldn't possibly handle four apas (SFPA, SAPS, OMPA and N'APA) so he sent it through SAPS instead. SFPA didn't see it until years later, when it ran as an unofficial inclusion. So he decided to revive it and make it his SFPazine.

Curiously enough, though, he was just then getting into OMPA at last--the time-consuming problems that had made him give up the SFPAOEship were largely gone--so, since *Utgard* had become his SFPazine, he revived *Fennis*, his old N'APazine, for OMPA.

Confusing? Sure. Don't ask me to explain it, tho. I just report the facts.

Utgard #2 contained the first discussion on heraldry to run through SFPA. It was in reaction to similar discussion then running through SAPS at the instigation of Dick Eney. In it, Hulan proposed a coat of arms for SFPA--the first (but not last) such suggestion ever made. The proposal appears below. The explanation is fairly obvious--the 17 stars on the bars represent the 17 states then considered The South under the Constitution, and the bars themselves came from you-know-where. The skulls on the sides symbolized fantasy and the atom sf. The colors are hand-done in the SFPA copies and those going to contributors. If anybody else wants to see them, he's out of luck.

If you're interested, Hulan gave the description of this thing as follows: "Gules, on a chief argent, between two skulls a helium atom saltirewise of the field; in base on a saltire of the chief a saltire azure, on both seventeen mullets saltirewise of the chief."

What had theretofore been the steadiest zine in SFPA (curiously, entitled *Sporadic*) finally missed a mailing. Also, its publisher, who was holding the SFPA treasury, failed to forward the money. Fortunately, Treasurer Al Andrews still had the money that had been left over when the SFC dues were returned, and he decided that belonged to SFPA. Good thing, too. Plott eventually sent the funds along, but SFPA needed operating expenses met in the meantime. He'd gotten married and more-or-less gafiated, if you're interested in one cause of the delay.

Postmailed to the 13th was *Important Notice*, an OE publication. It seemed that Rick Norwood, Larry Montgomery, Dick Ambrose, Bill Gibson and Al Andrews weren't too happy with the defeat of the non-publishing member amendment, so they were proposing it yet a third time. Since more than 20% of the membership signed the petition, Staton had to put it up for vote--it's one of two Constitutional amendments in SFPA's history ever put up for vote against the opposition of the OE. The notice had been sent out in order to give people a chance to discuss it--the 14th Mailing would contain the ballot.

Not one single person championed it in mailing comments. Even Hulan, who had liked it when SFPA was smaller, had changed his mind. It went down in ignominious defeat, 7-4,

when the votes were published in *The Southerner* #15. On the same ballot, however, was the Retained Status Amendment, which today appears as Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution. That one passed unanimously.

In proposing the wording of the Retained Status Amendment (hereinafter referred to as the Retained Status Clause), Hulan noted that this would give retained-status members like himself the right to run for OE, which they'd previously not had. This statement elicited no immediate comment, despite the fact that he mentioned at the same time that he wouldn't mind running again, since he had enough time to do a good job once more.

And another candidate seemed to appear right then. *Endless Shadow* #2 appeared in the 15th Mailing, containing the first notice of the fact that Larry Montgomery had told Mitchell that he was planning to run for OE. It also contained the statement, in a comment to Hulan, "No, I am not a HOAX, by any stretch of the imagination...just ask Larry." Also the statement "I still disapprove of nudity because I am a Christian. I will admit that I like girls and consider myself normal, but I DON'T like nudes in sf magazines."

The 16th, to skip ahead, contained two more items of interest in The David Mitchell Saga. One was *A Portfolio for David Mitchell*, in which Dian Pelz illustrated nude scenes straight out of regular sf books with some of the raunchiest drawings I've ever seen illustrating non-pornographic sf. Hulan, who put out that mailing, was worried about its getting through the Post Office, so he sent it separate. (The thing seemed innocuous to him, of course, but then he wasn't an ulcer-laden P.O. official.)

And the other item was the revelation that David Mitchell was, indeed, a hoax for a stranger named Lamar Hollingsworth, who had decided to help Montgomery pull this off rather than enter fandom immediately under his real name. He apparently (from comments made by Montgomery upon the Revelation) planned on continuing *Endless Shadow* under his own name, but never did. To this day, nobody, with the possibly exception of Larry Montgomery, knows whether or not there is really a Lamar Hollingsworth.

Thus do all hoaxes pass. A moment of silence and the stage is set for...

V
THE FIRST CONTESTED ELECTION...
Mailings 16-19

Properly, this part of the story begins in the 15th Mailing, which really didn't look like that much of a history maker.

Oh, it did contain SFPA's first waitlist (Al Scott and Lon Atkins, in that order). And it did contain the first contribution from Lon Atkins--*Clarges* #1, which was also the first zine ever put through by a waitlister. And it did contain another interesting item...

On the inside backcover of *Utgard* #4, Hulan said, "One more page - what to do..." And when the reader turned the page, he found the first chapter of "The Fan of Bronze," first faan-fiction serial starring SFPA members in nauseatingly stereotyped roles. It ran seven rollicking chapters, with hardly a pause for breath or to wonder whether or not it should have a plot (Plott, it had).

And the mailing did contain the 3rd Egoboo Poll, the first where non-members were specifically excluded from getting points even if they were Southern fans. Best fanzine--*Iscaiot* (despite the fact that it hadn't appeared since the 13th Mailing). Best fiction or poetry--Joe Staton. Best mailing comments--Dave Hulan. Best articles or nat-

terings--Dick Ambrose. Best artist--Joe Staton. Best humorist--Al Andrews. Free points--Dian Pelz. Third President of SFPA--Joe Staton.

But even with all of that, the history-making part of the 15th Mailing was that it contained declarations of candidacy for OE from two different people, as mentioned in the last chapter. Both names appeared on the ballot--making it, as you'll note from the title of the chapter, the first contested election in SFPA's history.

The mailing proper hinted at this mostly in that both Hulan and Montgomery indulged in a few words of propaganda for themselves. Joe Staton supported Montgomery at first because of his residency in The South, but in a later oneshot (*Stop the Presses*, which actually appeared earlier in the mailing) reversed his stand in favor of Hulan's talent and experience. No, the mailing proper wasn't where history was made. It was in the six postmailings.

The first of them was quite innocuous. It was merely *Cliffhangers* #7, Rick Norwood's zine, which had missed the regular mailing.

The second, however, was Montgomery's *Wait a Minute!!*

As mentioned earlier, Montgomery gave the impression of being an unreconstructed super-Confederate. He didn't fault Hulan's qualifications. What he objected to was the fact that Hulan was then living in California. He pointed out Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution (it's still there, slightly modified) and said that his political science professor, "who is a member of the Ala. Bar Association," had declared Hulan ineligible to run. He said all this in very strong, quite opinionated and somewhat offensive terms. He also made vague references to the fact that he didn't want SFPA "to be a battleground for or against either integration or segregation."

Next pm was *Take-Over*, by Hulan, who apparently hadn't yet received the first. It contained OElection propaganda, but only as an afterthought. The main body of it was to tell of a run-in Staton had had with the Milan, Tenn. Post Office, the result of which was that SFPA couldn't be mailed book-rate from there. Therefore, he, Hulan, had been asked to act as Emergency Officer to publish the 16th Mailing for a reasonable cost in postage, and had agreed. And the 16th was, indeed, put out by Hulan. In the meantime...

There was another pm from Hulan--this one entitled *Conflicting Interpretations*, and clearly published after receipt of *Wait a Minute!!* It refuted the charges therein. First off, he pointed out that he was, indeed, a Southerner born and bred, and somewhat resented implications to the contrary. Second, he didn't want SFPA taking any official stands on outside issues any more than Montgomery did (and it's a bit unclear where Montgomery got the idea that this was a campaign issue). Third, the Retained Status Clause, which by this time was the Law of the Land in SFPA, made it clear that he did, indeed, have the right to run for OE. And it concluded with more propaganda to the effect that Dave Hulan was the only sane choice for OE.

Then came *Point of Order!*, this one from Staton. He gave the ruling as OE, *ex cathedra* as it were, that the Retained Status Amendment did make Hulan a legal candidate for OE, and explained quite patiently that what Article II, Section 5 did was to establish a legal fiction.

And finally, *Wait a Minute* #2 gave Montgomery's final thoughts on the matter. He had mellowed somewhat (tho he did slightly distort a postcard from Staton by quoting from it out of context) but still stood by his original stand. However, he admitted that the Power seemed to be against his interpretation of the Constitution and that there was nothing he could do about that; so he called on the membership to take a stand on the matter by voting him in as OE.

The membership took a stand, all right. Hulan was elected by the incredible margin of ten to two.

An interesting footnote to all of this is that there was a third candidate in that election, whom almost nobody remembers. When he read the first *Wait a Minute!!*, Al Scott threw his hat in the ring. It's true that he was only a waitlister at the time, but he'd happened to notice a curious little loophole in the Constitution--namely, it didn't specify that the OE had to be a member. So he wrote Staton informing him of that fact, and was assured that he'd be accepted as an opponent to Montgomery if Hulan were dropped--of which there was little chance.

As EO (as opposed to OE), however, Hulan took over a mailing early. In the 16th, he instituted a drastically modified copy requirement: Instead of six pages every two mailings, it was a flat 12 pages a year with penalties for missing mailings without an excuse. There was rampant confusion and great indignation for a very short time. He rescinded it by popular demand in the 17th.

Also in the OO for the 16th were two Constitutional amendments, both cosmetic in nature. One merely changed one word for a slightly clearer one ("member" for "candidate" thus eliminating the Scott loophole) and the other added "Or Section 5" to the end of Article IV, Section II, so as not to allow that particular misinterpretation again. Of this, Hulan said, "I don't think this one is necessary, but Larry isn't going to be happy as long as things are as they are, and I'm an obliging cuss." Both passed by a vote of 3-0. No hassle, no controversy and damn little interest.

Larry Montgomery was much milder and more graceful in his acceptance of defeat than he'd been as a campaigner. Rifts were quickly mended, and nobody mentioned the incident again directly, except to regret its vehemence. However, it left its mark on the story progression of "The Fan of Bronze" and provided the basic situation for a delightful comic book, *The Amazing SFPA-Fen*, written by Len Bailes and illustrated by Joe Staton.

About this time, another charter member left fandom on the heels of Plott. Dick Ambrose's gafiation was announced in the 16th Mailing. It came as no particular surprise. *IscaRioT* had missed the past two mailings, and Andrews was kept on the roster only out of kindness and the fact that the waitlist was almost negligible. Billy Pettit was the new publisher. He put out an *IscaRioT* very different in form and content from that of his predecessor, but the Andrews touch gave it a strong continuity with the old. This left only Andrews and Hulan from the original SFPA roster.

The first SFPA pagecount war was proposed by Rich Mann, a member since the 13th. In the 16th Mailing, he swore he'd bury every member in sight with page after page of witty remarks and thought-provoking discussions. Unfortunately, he only had 15 pages in that mailing and was totally outclassed by Hulan, Staton, Pelz, Atkins, Montgomery and Luttrell. The war lingered for a few mailings and finally died a natural death. With mailings hovering in the 300-page range, there was no need for it.

At the same time, the second SFPA Box Scores began. The first, those of Dave Hulan, dated back to the *Loki* era, and had been transferred to *Utgard* upon the semi-demise of the former. The new set began in *Melikaphkhaz* #1, and corrected what Atkins saw as a couple of omissions in the earlier set--notably, the "Batting Average" and the average pages per mailing. Both ran for awhile. Lon's runs to this very day, with only a few mailings missed here and there.

Then came the 3rd DeepSouthCon, hosted by Larry Montgomery. More con reports resulted, including several in *CONglomeration* #2, the second official DSC oneshot. The one thing that appeared in every single report was astonishment that Montgomery really wasn't such a bad guy in person.

A couple of proposals were made by the CE in the 17th Mailing. One of them was that the earlier coat of arms be adopted officially by SFPA, with only a couple of slight changes--like the fact that the skulls were profiled instead of front-viewed and like the addition of a motto, "Ad Australis ab Mundum" (which, I suppose, could be translated something like "Today The South--tomorrow the world!"). The only real objection in the 18th was Joe Staton's. He protested that his own beanie-chicken-mimeo symbol was better than Hulan's skull-atom-skull, and that he was truly appalled that his dearest buddy would try to railroad through an inferior coat of arms. This being the case, we can assume that the proposal was adopted. In fact, that seems to be our coat of arms even today, tho practically nobody knew it till now.

The other proposal was ever so slightly controversial. It was that certificates be given to egobco poll winners. On the pro side was the argument that it would be a cool thing for someone to have, and may be an incentive to the production of better material (as if SFPA needed it at that point--most multiapan members agreed that our quality was as good as you'd find in any apa anywhere; and in fact, Atkins ran his first Crud Index there--it gave N'APA a 20 [20% crud] and SFPA only 3). On the con side was the argument that this was just a tiny bit mickeymouse, and could easily be interpreted by people outside as a sort of narcissism. It wasn't adopted.

A few of the zines in the 17th are worth noting even now, like the first index to SFPA, the four-year one published by Dave Hulan. And the Rebel-English Dictionary, put out by Pettit and Andrews (and which just might be reprinted as a giveaway at the next DSC). And the third chapter of "The Fan of Bronze"--people were begging to become characters in it, even if they had to be villains. And a questionnaire circulated by Montgomery for facts to be published in his "Who's Who of Southern Fandom" (the completed version of which ran through the 19th Mailing). And notification of the existence of two unrelated new apas named MAPA--the Monster Amateur Press Alliance and the Marvel Amateur Press Alliance (both defunct). And *Stamp* #2.

Stamp was the official organ of CALATSOUSPO, which stood for Conservatives And Liberals Allied To Stamp Out Uncle Sam's Post Office. It was published by Joe Staton, Propaganda Coordinator for CALATSOUSPO (Rich Mann was Bomb Squad Director). The rationale behind the name was that liberals were harassed by the HUAC, conservatives were harassed by the IRS, but *everybody* was harassed by the USPOD.

It lasted four delightful issues, most of which recounted true horror stories about the treatment of fans under the heel of Uncle Sam's Post Office and advised on the formation of local resistance cells (with the overthrow of the USPOD and its replacement with a fan postal service the ultimate aim). Reactions ranged from the usual "you might as well kiss their ass, because they're bigger than you" to Atkins' story about how he was part of an espionage squad entering a post office, and his description of all their defenses--like poison gas jets disguised as a sprinkler system and machine gun slits disguised as mail drops. Lon later described an animal that metabolized fanzines and disguised itself as a mailbox, which could explain how a lot of fmz never came to be delivered.

Handwork, especially in the production of covers, was fairly common then. In the 14th and 15th Mailings, Dian Pelz had put through indescribably beautiful covers by cutting out figures and having contrasting paper behind them. In the 17th, Joe Staton described the process by which he got a lively stipple effect on his own. This prompted Dian to out-cover him. In the 18th, she put through what might be the greatest job of handwork ever to appear in SFPA. Her cover was a magnificent b&w drawing of a "common Martian canalwort." To it, she added very careful red and green watercolors and a sprinkle of glitter on two outlined areas. Thanks to a protective cover, my copy of it still has the glitter. This cover has to be seen to be believed. Handwork declined after that. It never really died, but it may be that Dian Pelz' "common Martian canalwort" convinced everybody that they'd been outclassed.

The first consecutive-mailings-hit race was on right then. Len Bailes, who had a reputation for minacking in every single apa he belonged to (an awesome number), noted with astonishment that was tied for second place in consecutive SPPA mailings hit. Of this, Staton said:

...and if I don't hurry and get these stencils off to good ol' Dave Hulan sometime soon, he'll never get them run off in time for the 18th mailing, and I would Miss A Mailing, thereby forfeiting the Mailings Hit Race to Len Bailes, who can't even pronounce his own name correctly. [In case you're wondering, Bailes pronounces his name "Bay-less."]

But the concept of The Coffin Scores hadn't yet developed. Rich Mann became the third member to start rating his fellow members--he, the guy who had proposed the pagecount war in which he came out 7th, set up a complicated set of rules whereby he turned out to have contributed the 2nd-most pages in the previous mailing. He tried valiantly, but couldn't think of any way of reducing Hulan's lead over him.

Mann also put through another form of rating, one I haven't seen applied to fan writers before or since--the Flesch Formula. This is a little item only journalism students seem to know. It's a rather complicated means of quantifying the ease with which a piece of writing can be read. He applied it to the various members and discovered that Len Atkins is about as easy to read as a comic book and that Al Andrews can be understood only by those capable of reading Alfred Bester.

The Southerner #19 contained a fairly simple statement that was to have fairly profound consequences: "Former Wler Barry Gold is removed from the WL on the grounds that he is personally objectionable to the OE, who must approve all non-Southern applicants for membership." It was the first time the OE blackball had been applied.

Discussion on this subject had gone back to the 16th Mailing, when Gold had first gotten on the waitlist. In *Errata* #1, a rider with *Utgard* #5, Hulan had made some deprecating noises about Gold, saying that those who knew the guy would understand all. In the course of the next couple of mailings, the point was argued, mostly by Hulan--it seemed to elicit very little feeling elsewhere. Finally, Hulan's indecision was conquered. It was the very last minute. The guy had to be either invited or blackballed, and he was blackballed.

And that's where the discussion began.

Response was such that Hulan issued a postmailing, *Self-Defense*, wherein he outlined his reasons for the Gold blackball. His legal basis was fairly clear. The Constitution stated (and still states) clearly that the OE has to approve of applicants for membership from outside of The South. But in the particular case, he outlined seven points. The first five led up to the last two, which were: "(6) There is no reason why a non-Southerner who can't write coherently should be allowed into SPPA. (7) Barry Gold cannot write coherently."

He admitted that there was personal dislike involved, but that that wasn't the deciding factor--he cited people whom he liked less, but whom he would accept as valid SPPA applicants. And he asked for comments, pro and con, from all members. On the basis of those, he just might reconsider.

At the time, he was publishing a letterzine for Southern fans, entitled *Sudri* (named after the dwarf in Norse mythology who held up the Southern portion of the world). The discussion was continued in its pages.

In #3, Len Bailes expressed his objection to the very existence of the blackball clause

of the Constitution. Lon Atkins expressed his support. Along with postcards not worth publishing, the matter stood at 7-3 in favor of the OE at publication time. But by the publication of *Sudri* #4 (it only lasted four issues that I know of) the gap had closed, and by the time the 20th Mailing came out, it stood at 7-6, with the six antis being by far the more vehement. He was reinstated to the vl and invited to membership in the 20th Mailing, but quite understandably, didn't feel exactly welcome enough to join.

There was also another Constitutional amendment to vote on right then--they seemed to be popular around that time. Lon Atkins, Larry Montgomery, Jerry Page and Al Andrews all cosigned the second amendment ever proposed against the opposition of the OE. In effect, it provided that Southerners who were not members could receive points in the egoboo poll, and that certificates would be given for winners in the various categories. It was soundly defeated, 10-4. A simultaneous referendum as to whether or not its provisions would be put into effect that one year only was defeated 8-6.

And there was an Egoboo Poll on the same ballot. And another item best described in the next chapter.

VI ...AND THE SECOND Mailings 20-22

Yes, the ballot for the 19th Mailing contained the names of two candidates for OE. One was incumbent Dave Hulan, running for reelection and hoping to be the first SFPAOE to succeed himself. The other was a relative newcomer, Lon Atkins.

Of course, the thought of anyone--especially someone who had been in fandom only a year--defeating an incumbent OE was ludicrous. But in that 19th Mailing, there was considerable support evidenced for Lon. Al Andrews and Larry Montgomery both came out strongly for him. His platform called mainly for the OEsip to return to physical location in The South (tho, of course, he didn't argue the legality of its location elsewhere--he just stated, quite truly, that it was desirable to have it here). And he had a curious--and very effective--method of campaigning. In *Mel* #4, he told of a visit he'd had with Joe Staton, Official Teller for the election:

...then I pulled the car off the, well call it road. What was that strange flower?, I asked. Joe and I got out and walked over to a patch of blossoms. A quick glance up and down the road assured me that no traffic was coming. I took the ice-pick out of my coat pocket and stabbed it into the base of Joe's brain; it killed him instantly. I went to the trunk of my car and opened it. Inside was a crumpled body--Joe's. In a few minutes I had the android in perfect working condition, and it was helping me bury the real Joe Staton. Then we got back into the car and drove back to 469 Ennis St.

In the early part of Sunday afternoon I told the Statons that it was time for me to leave. I certainly appreciated their hospitality. Joe made a joking reference to the SFPA election, saying that I had no worries since he was teller. We both smiled; we both knew I had no worries...now.

Not surprisingly, Lon Atkins was the new OE, by a vote of 8-4. Hulan's final statement as OE was "And you can sigh with relief, now, since Lon doesn't have a ditto to do any more Fabulous Ditto'd O-O's. You'll miss them some day, mark my words - you'll miss my ditto'd O-O's...when they're faded and gone..."

In the egoboo poll, *Utgard* came out best regular fanzine; *The Amazing SFPA-Fen* won best single issue; Hulan won best mailing comments, best articles and best reviews; Staton won best artist, best cartoonist and free points, Page won best fiction and Atkins won

best humorist. Atkins had the most points, but being the newly-elected OE, he couldn't be President, and Hulan was declared Fourth President of SFPA.

A bunch of Constitutional amendments came up in *The Southerner* #20. One proposed to limit membership to 20 as part of the Constitution (as opposed to its being a rule that could be changed at the whim of the OE). That one was soundly defeated as making SFPA too inflexible. A second proposed to remove six areas from the Defined Area of SFPA and a third, a modified form of that, proposed to remove only four of them. The latter passed, and the two states it declined to remove are being voted on right now, along with four others.

Hulan also finally got around to running *Utgard* #1 through SFPA in the 20th Mailing--only he didn't have enough copies to go around. So he declared it an "unofficial inclusion" and sent it to members only. He did the same with Ed Cox's *Maine-lac* #23. The reason he did that with *Utgard* was to keep things neat--all the other issues had gone through SFPA. Why he sent *Maine-lac* that way is unclear. In any case, SFPA completists may justly curse him--and I'm still trying to find *Utgard* #1.

(SFPA completists may also justly curse Dian Pelz for stapling a piece of bubble gum to the last page of her zine that mailing. It eventually dried and crumbled, but I've managed to salvage most of the pieces.)

Arnie Katz, sick of all the various scores that were running through the mailings, started his very own Box Scores based on a principal I don't believe I've seen elsewhere. He took each member's name, as it appeared on the roster, and rated it according to how many letters it had in common with "Arnold Katz." He came out the winner (surprise!) with a score of 10. Several people had 6. He suggested ways people might better their scores--like Lon Atkins, with a 6, could list himself on the roster as Alonzo Atkins Jr., thus giving himself a score of 9. Believe it or not, this thing ran no less than twice.

It was also in the 20th Mailing that kidding Len Bailes (who was tied for the second-longest string of mailings hit then running, unless you didn't count postmailings in which case he was tied for longest) about his minacking culminated in a delightful oneshot entitled *Lenity*, which was produced on the aforementioned trip of Lon Atkins to Joe Staton's home in Milan, Tenn. To describe this lovely little publication would be to destroy it for the future reader, but anyone willing to make a pilgrimage to my house is welcome to read it. This is one oneshot that has stood the test of time.

Another barrage of ingroup kidding reached a high point in the 20th Mailing. Lon Atkins and Jerry Page both ran unmerciful diatribes against Hank Reinhardt right then, something one doesn't do lightly. The waitlist was short, so Hank vaulted its length in one mailing to get at his tormentors. Suddenly, without warning, he was on the roster for the 21st with *Falchion* #1. He stayed on throughout the Atkins OEs.

The Southerner #21 was the second and thus far last SFPAOO to sport a cover. You can see it as the cover of this zine. It also was the first to list two new officers on the masthead--the Official Minacker (Len Bailes) and the Vice-President (Joe Staton, who had come in a very close third on the egoboo poll). The office of Our Lady of SFPA, which had previously been held by Dian Pelz, seemed not to be filled. Two interesting names (aside from those of Ron Bounds, Creath Thorne and others who are known in fandom but have no bearing on the SFPA history) appeared on the waitlist--those of Bill Plott and Ned Brooks. Plott was a charter member who was all set to rejoin; he never did. Brooks, as we all know, joined and is a member to this very day.

Right after the OO, an Andrews-edited, Atkins-published *IscaIoT* did more to end the religious discussion that had been going through SFPA for more than two years than any other factor. It presented more than 20 pages on religion by one Stephen Pickering,

who, to use the *au courant* expression, "couldn't write on a shithouse wall." It's one of the few things ever to go through SFPA that I've found myself absolutely incapable of reading to the end, tho I've tried twice.

And other items of still-current interest in the 21st Mailing were the second edition of Hulan's SFPA Index (last, too, as a matter of fact), *Sporadic* #13, which was intended for the 14th Mailing but somehow never got distributed until almost two years later, and *Warlock* #13, which contained photos of a whole bunch of members and reviews by Dave Hulan of the first two ALA-apa mailings.

This was a SFPA surrogate that was set up to represent only Alabama fandom. The reviews weren't particularly favorable, but ALA-apa never made a great impression on fandom anyway. It lasted exactly four mailings. The 21st SFPA Mailing broke the all-time page-count record--it numbered 416--but there was remarkably little going on then. Except the DeepSouthCon-4, at which it was collated.

This held true in the 22nd, as well. The only item in the OO that might have had any effect on the course of events in SFPA was Atkins' discussion on possible modification of the OE blackball rule. Obviously, this was inspired by the Barry Gold affair of the past few mailings. Most people agreed it should stay, except one or two who called for further discussion.

IscaRioT had another new publisher. It was Dave Hulan this time. Pettit had quit and started his column, "Amphipoxi," as a separate zine. It gradually grew over the next couple of years until it was a full-fledged fanzine devoted mainly to fan history. Pettit exhibited all the signs even from the beginning of terminal fanzine collecting mania.

And another of the classic oneshots appeared then--*Hank at the Earth's Core*. This was a Little Brazen Book by Werton Barfer, published digest-size and bound with tape by Lon Atkins. Lovely story. Jerry Page was cast as David Innes, Billy Pettit as Jason Gridley and the mighty-thewed Hank of the Apes as Guess Who. The best mailing comment to it was Lon's own. I quote:

Several complaints about the red plastic tape have been registered. My last word on the subject: "That's tough!" I think the tape gives a bit of *class* to Little Brazen Books. A complaint is in from Billy Pettit, who binds his mailings, about the size of the zine. My last word on the subject: "Rough cob!" I think the half-size adds a bit of *class*. One hundred complaints about the quality of writing have been received from Jerry Page, but that's just jealousy showing--great authors like Werton Barfer are accustomed to this type of thing from those unable to sell to Little Brazen Books.

Other than that, an apology from Dian Pelz for missing the 21st, a bunch of con reports on the DSC-4 and the fact that it was the first mailing Hank missed as a member, there wasn't much going on in the 22nd Mailing. It took the 23rd to produce the next Earth-shattering event.

VII CALIFORNIA AND BUST Mailings 23-25

In *DamnYankee* #13, 23rd Mailing, Arnie Katz observed, "You know, I've just noticed a Strange Coincidence. Lon is the second LA OE in a row....."

The coincidence was stranger than he realized. With that mailing, Lon moved to Los

Angeles, becoming an LA OE in more ways than one. Katz prophesied this Startling Event again a couple of paragraphs later, when he said:

One thing you can say about SFPA members, they sure live up to the const. Take Article One for example. To establish contact with the rest of fandom, many members have even gone so far as to move to the North and West. A full half of the current membership now lives outside of the South.

It was true. The Roster for the 23rd showed nine Southern addresses and ten others. The Retained Status Clause was being tested to the limit--eight of the ten were Retained Status members. Seven were in California, including the OE. The California Era of SFPA's history had begun in earnest.

In addition, there was a marked comedown in participation that mailing. It passed the 200-page mark, to be sure, but that was only because of the addition of a 96-page *Quin* (which was actually a 102-page zine, but the 6-page cover was postmailed). Eleven people missed the mailing entirely, prompting the OE to ask "What was it: sudden collapse of interest in the apa or massive coincidence in picking a mailing to miss?" At least for the time being, it seemed to be the latter--only two of the eleven, Bill Bruce and Jerry Page, were dropped in the 24th.

Meanwhile, for the first time, the possibility of raising the maximum membership of SFPA was discussed in the OO. Atkins let it be known that he wouldn't be greatly opposed to a hike to 24 (so as to keep the 25% Yankee Quota an integer, something I've never thought of as particularly important), but would like to see how the roster and wl held out first. The possibility was kept open for awhile, but turnover soon made such a move unnecessary.

The OE blackball was again discussed, with the same general result. A couple of members suggested candidates for blackball from the waitlist, and, in that mailing, the second proposed blackball in SFPA's history was made--Steve Patt's article in *The New Newport News News*, Ned Brooks' first SFPA contribution, had been stolen from an old *Astounding* SF article, and Atkins asked if this might be considered grounds.

The consensus was that plagiarism was not to be condoned, but that it might not have been conscious plagiarism. The possibility of personal animosity was brought up and disposed of, as was the morality of the blackball mechanism itself--again. And in the absence of even a word in his own defense, which he could easily have given, Steve Patt was removed from the waitlist.

Rally!'s First Incarnation was going strong at the time. In keeping with its policy of making fun of everybody in sight, it issued its own poll as a parody of the various polls being put out by practically everybody in fandom (like the Eleven Foot Poll, for things you wouldn't touch with a ten foot pole). Categories included "Least Coherent Writer," "Most Promising Young Fugghead" and "Best News&Chatter Zine With A Southern Accent Co-Edited By Fans Having A Last Initial of 'A'" (and the winner of that last one wasn't hard to figure out).

After the results had been announced, Hank Reinhardt published a commentary on them in *Falchion* #2, which appeared in the 23rd Mailing. He spent two pages telling how he'd gone over to see Lon and Al, and they seemed to be hiding something from him. It turned out to be the results of the *Rally!* Poll. He did, however, get a peek at it before it had been doctored beyond recognition, and it showed Lon Atkins and Al Andrews tied in the categories of "Most Incomprehensible Writer," "Fans We'd Most Like To See Gafiate" and "The Fans Whose Throat We'd Most Enjoy Cutting;" while Hank came out tops in "Most Beloved, Gentle, Kind, Wonderful, Debonair and Witty Fan." Much as I'd like to believe this, however, I must point out that at the same time, Hank was claiming that he could play hearts, making any statement of his suspect.

Larry Montgomery was present with a *Warlock* far below his usual standards, but it contained something of more than passing interest. He'd happened to run into Dick Ambrose, who had gaffiated and dropped out of SFPA a year and a half earlier, in the local university cafeteria. He sat down at that table to eat lunch and discovered that the two of them had absolutely nothing in common anymore. Indeed, all they'd ever had in common was fandom--he'd never realized that--and for Ambrose, that was gone. The old order had changed somewhat. And that was the last SFPA ever heard from Dick Ambrose.

Due to an Official Ruling made by Hulan a year earlier, there was no ballot with that mailing. That was because the mailing dates had been changed so as not to conflict with other apas, and the "Spring" Mailing was being put out in February. Hulan ruled that the next OE would serve five mailings so as to put the SFPA elections, which the Constitution said had to be held in Spring, more in line with the calendar. So it was announced that ballots would circulate with the 24th Mailing, and Lon Atkins announced his candidacy for reelection.

This may seem strange, since he'd originally campaigned on a "Bring the OEShip Back to The South" ticket, but there was a rationale behind his running from L.A. He saw fandom in The South as nearing the end of an upswing, as evidenced by the abundance of non-Southern addresses on the Roster. He figured that what was important at that point was just to have someone carry the torch--from anywhere--until the cycle of low fanac ran its course and there was once again an active Southern fandom. He closed his campaign speech "I think I am qualified to be a good SFPA OE during such a period. If enough of you agree with me, I will be. Those disagreeing please have notice of your candidacy filed with me by the deadline of the next mailing. Thanks."

Nobody filed, and Lon was reelected unanimously. An OE had finally succeeded himself.

In the Egoboo Poll, Atkins won best mailing comments, fiction, humor and regular zine. Dave Hulan won best editor and Katya Hulan won for free points. Joe Staton won for best artist. Hank Reinhardt for general articles and Ed Cox for critical articles. Ned Brooks came in as favorite waitlister--he was the only wler who was contributing regularly. Atkins had the most points total, but being OE, declared Dave Hulan, a fairly close second, Fifth President.

Just as Atkins had won the race to see who would be first to put out an undersize zine (smaller than 8.5 X 11, which he'd done with *Hank at the Earth's Core*) through SFPA, Lee Jacobs was first to put through a larger one. His *A Fanzine for Lon Atkins and A Fanzine for Dave Hulan* ran 8.5 X 14, making the 24th a bit taller and harder to store than any had been before.

By the Sword was running about this time. The derivation of the title is a bit obscure, unless it has to do with the fact that one of its main topics was Hank Reinhardt. It was published by Lon Atkins as propaganda for the alleged hearts-playing abilities of its editor. It lasted four one-sheet issues, one funnier than the last, from the 23rd to the 26th Mailings. There was a brief revival years later, when all those hearts games had been forgotten, but the spirit couldn't be recaptured.

Between the 23rd and 24th Mailings, there was a tiny event that went almost totally unnoticed in SFPA, but was destined to have profound consequences later on. Rick Norwood was the only member who even noticed, and he published a cover to his *Cliffhangers* #12 in commemoration of the event. It depicted a fan writing over and over on a blackboard, "I will *not* publish a hand written fanzine!" It was dedicated "To Bill Bruce and John Guidry, who know why."

Yes, *Ignite* #1 was published during that period. To this date, very few SFPA members have seen that atrocity...but they've seen its progeny. Yes indeed, they've seen its progeny...

In the 24th, Lon first admitted "SFPA may be in the doldrums." It was becoming apparent that there was a general slump in apa activity. O'PA folded right about then--and it had been active longer than SFPA. It was later revived, but the impact of an established apa just going under was rather sobering. Throughout the remainder of the 20s mailings, SFPA didn't once break 300 pages. It would alternate, in fact--one would be a hefty 250 or so and the next would fall well below 200. The doldrums indeed. Even *Mel* had fallen below the 20-page mark.

But even then, there was a faan-fiction piece that has to rank as one of SFPA's all-time classics--even alongside "The Fan of Bronze," "The Circus of Dr. LAOE" and "Goon with the Wind." In *Loki* #10, Hulan ran "Jerry and the Pirates," a parody on "The Pirates of Penzance" set in a SFPA matrix. For a Gilbert & Sullivan freak who also happens to be into SFPA, it's sheer delight. Just as a sample, I reproduce one verse--a solo by Hank Reinhardt:

When Jerry was a little lad, he had such erudition,
His father thought he'd 'prentice him to some well-known physician.
I was his father's bodyguard, and so to earn my wages,
I took him to a doctor who was in the yellow pages.

A life not bad for a clever lad who has a sense of mission,
Though I may curse, you could do worse than be a good physician.

The "physician" turns out to be Dr. Fu Manchu, giving rise to all the events that befell Frederick in the original. I've read it three times and howled with glee every time.

Everything #1 appeared in the 24th, replacing *Kabumpo*. That is to say, Bruce Pelz got himself on the roster as an instant member, joint member with Dian, then took over the membership spot all by himself when she dropped. Rather a sneaky way of getting past a waitlist, but a perfectly legal one and not one just anybody can take advantage of.

The 25th Mailing contained several points of interest. One of them was the first statement from Atkins that SFPA was definitely in a slump, but would emerge soon as a new ingroup formed in The South--but there was no telling how long that would take. Second was the first contribution by Milt Stevens, *Crypt of Ennui* #1. Third was a Pettit invention, *SFPA newsletter* #1, a sort of replacement for the almost-defunct *Rally!* Fourth was an ancient zine by Ed Cox, resurrected from a FAPA mailing of many years gone by, *Esdacyos* #3. Apparently, it wasn't easy to come up with enough copies of the latter for SFPA. My copy is folded over and addressed to one D.B. Thompson.

And finally, it's worth noting that Al Andrews, one of the last two surviving charter members (there were originally seven, you will recall), missed the mailing.

He wasn't in the next one, either. Meaning he was out. An era in SFPA ended as his gaffiation was publicized, leaving Hulan...

VIII THE LAST CHARTER MEMBER Mailings 26-32

As became apparent to even the most casual observer toward the end of the period covered by this chapter, there was bad blood between Hulan and Atkins. Fixing blame at this point would be silly. But since it was discussed openly in SFPA and in fandom as a whole at the time, and since it affected the apa beyond the mere existence of bad feelings, it's worth going into ever so slightly.

I've neither the knowledge nor the inclination to speculate on who might have been at

fault, or if, indeed, either side could be faulted. But briefly, Katya Hulan left Dave, changed her first name to Kathy and started going with Lon Atkins. Kathy and Lon were later married.

Just before these events transpired, Kathy had joined Dave on the roster with the publication of *Patchwork* #1 in the 24th Mailing. In the 25th, Dave expressed himself as being somewhat put out with the fact that he seemed to be stuck in the position of having to share a spot on the roster with an estranged wife. Lon, of course, was eager to keep the private battles out of print and keep harmony in SFPA. As OE, then, he declared that Dave and Kathy would each be entitled to a spot on the roster; and the dues would stay with Dave. He summed up his actions in *The Southerner* #25: "Dave hasn't been consulted, but the decision answers his 'mild protest.' If he has creebs about this, then I'll gladly listen to them. Despite my own involvement, I want to be as fair as I can to both parties." And that was the last official word on the subject.

In *The Southerner* #26 was official recognition of the fact that most members seemed to be living in California. Lon threw out a proposal to graft California onto the Confederacy by Constitutional amendment. It was discussed facetiously in the next mailing (Ned Brooks accused Lon of having been brainwashed, for example), but he finally decided not to because "While there are undoubtedly benefits, I had to balance them against Ronald Reagan, smog, Sam Yorty, brush fires, the freeways, landslides, the LA Dept. of Public Works, earthquakes, the high cost of living, and Orange County. No, ne'er the twain shall meet." Whew!

SFPA's first trivia contest ran in *Melikaphkhaz* #12, 27th Mailing. Members were asked to identify the publishers of *Shiva Kali*, *Loŕgeornost* and *Texzine*, and to name the alter egos of The Purple Flash and The Traveling Fan. In case you weren't paying attention when not one of these answers was revealed earlier in this zine, the answers are Jerry Burge, Fred Lerner, Lloyd Broyles, Al Scott and Billyjoeplottofofelikaalabama, in that order.

It was then that, for the first time, a member was lost other than by inactivity, dues or resignation. Le Jacobs died shortly before the 27th Mailing came out. The mailing was delayed while Lon gathered stencils for a memorial zine, *leeJ*, to appear in that mailing. Contributions from Cox, Hulan, Reinhardt, Pettit, Katz, Pelz and, of course, Atkins, all appeared in it. In the OO was the note: "I knew there had to be a fanzine for Lee. His funeral was for his old aunts, not for Lee. It was a bunch of bombastic platitudes about Christian piety. This memorial zine is for the real Lee. We knew him."

The OElection was coming up in the 28th and, after two years, Lon didn't care to keep it any longer. He announced, "I myself do not plan to run again unless I feel that the apa would not be in adequate hands otherwise." But the only person filing was Hulan, who'd been a good OE in anybody's book, but who obviously wasn't interested in doing that good a job again. He even said as much in *Utgard* #s 15-16--that all he'd do as OE would be to get the mailings out within a week or so of the deadline. Lon ran against him and won, 9-1 (the one being not for Hulan, but for "either").

In the Egoboo Poll, Atkins won best fanzine editor and best mailing comments, Jacobs won best fiction and best humor, Staton won best artist, Reinhardt won best general articles and natter, Cox won best critical articles and reviews and Hulan won "other." Atkins had the highest total, by far, but couldn't be President. Jacobs was second, and was declared "President in absentia" ("All the honor and egoboo of the post shall be encompassed in this title"). Staton was third, but he'd missed the past two mailings and was as good as out. And so Hank Reinhardt, Fourth Place Winner, became the Acting President of SFPA.

Suggestions for revitalizing SFPA occasionally appeared. In the 27th Mailing, Arnie

Katz announced a membership drive for a new SFFA in-group, this one to be focused on Alan Shaw. But that was the only time anybody ever heard of it. In the 28th, Rick Norwood suggested another Christmas Gift Mailing, this one to be sent to five prominent Southern fans as inducement to get them on the waitlist. Nobody commented, although, by a strange quirk of fate, the suggestion was copied from there and acted upon in a much newer apa, *Muriad*.

And Hank Luttrell, who had hitherto done less to influence the course of events in SFFA than any other long-term member, got Lesleigh and Chris Couch on the waitlist. They began putting their genzine, *Quark*, through in addition to Luttrell's *Starling*. There were mailings near the end of this period of which more than half came from St. Louis fandom. Lots and lots of bulk, but it was all directed toward Apa-45 and didn't do too much to increase interest in SFFA. They even sent Apa-45 mailing comment zines through regularly.

As a point of at least personal interest, I think it worth mentioning that my first mailing as a member was the 30th. My peripheral association with SFFA had gone back a year earlier, to the 26th Mailing, when my first fanzine--*Nolazine* 1--was sent through by Rick Norwood. I was also mentioned prominently in *Cliffhangers* that time as a boon companion to the DeepSouthCon-5, first to get out of Alabama, and NYCon. It was good to be a member even if Lon *did* misspell my name when inviting me.

The first mailing comment I read by Atkins was to *The Southerner* #29. It noted the fact that mailings had seemed unstable since about the 21st--no one was much like the one before it. He closed it: "Now is the interregnum between gestalts, which is a difficult time for any personality-based group, as small apas are. SFFA seems to be surviving well. I suppose the next 'golden-age' will come with the emergence of a new, talented tru-Southern fandom." Such a thing didn't seem to be in the offing.

The only notable thing in the 31st Mailing, aside from an admonition to send activity to Bruce Pelz, Emergency Officer, and a cutback in copy requirement to 22 (SFFA had shrunk that much) was an Atlanta oneshot entitled *Pure Vomit* ("a vile oneshot devoted to bubbly regurgitation"). Everyone who has seen it has (aside from being thoroughly disgusted) realized that it was Glen Brock's initial SFFA activity. However, not everyone realizes that it has a sequel, *Son of Pure Vomit* ("a new wave of bubbly regurgitation"). The reason the sequel was never run off is because Joe Celko vomited on the masters. The only end to a oneshot that would strike me as more fitting would be if someone burned a set of *Ignite* masters.

And so, the 32nd Mailing was the second to be put out by an emergency officer. Lon had made a forced trip to Texas, where it was obvious that he wouldn't be able to handle the SFFA mailing, so he appointed a competent replacement. I should bitch? His having done so means that I, not he, have the longest string of consecutive SFFA mailings published by an OE.

That was supposed to be the mailing in which egoboo poll and OElection ballots circulated. But a great apathy had gripped SFFA. Nobody cared a whole lot that they weren't there owing to the switch to an alternate mailer. And so the same OE and the same President continued for another year unopposed.

Old members dropped left and right during this period. Joe Staton, Arnie Katz, Jerry Page, Len Bailes, Ed Cox and Billy Pettit were all gone before it was over. Page was reinvited, as was Bailes. Neither accepted, although Page was eventually offered an installment plan--three pages in the 32nd and three in the 33rd. New members, however, were Stven Carlberg, John Guidry and myself, all long-termers.

But the 32nd was Dave Hulan's last mailing as a member. In the 33rd, for the first time in our history, we had no charter members at all.

IX
SFPA'S LAST STAND
Mailings 33-37

Even as the last charter member was dropping out, events were conspiring to bring back the second-last. During the summer of 1969--between the 32nd and 33rd Mailings, that is--a letter appeared in mailboxes all over fandom. It was signed by Hank Reinhardt, but not all copies of it originated with him--it was picked up by many faneds and carried as riders to their zines.

Basically, it related how Hank had gone to visit the long-gafiated Al Andrews, just to talk about old times. Hank said:

In my opinion Al never suffered from gafia. Al dropped because he had to. Al suffers from muscular dystrophy, and for several years lived with his family. Now he is staying in a nursing home, and no longer has access to a typewriter. Handwriting is slow and tedious, and the operation of a manual typewriter is impossible.

What Hank proposed was to surprise him with a brand-new typer--an electric, one with a touch light enough for him to handle with ease. That was all he needed to rejoin fandom. He called on everyone reading the letter to donate a buck or two to bring this about.

Almost every fan worthy of the name got a copy of the Typerfund Letter within the next couple of months. A typerfund table was set up at St. LouisCon and run by Mike Dobson. Money was collected at the 7th DeepSouthCon, the one in Knoxville. Over \$250 came in, all told.

And the first the central figure knew about it was when he was presented with a brand-new electric typewriter and a list of contributors. He was back in SFPA with the 34th Mailing, bubbling over with gratitude and spewing forth large doses of the famous Andrews wit. His zine title was *As I Was Saying...*

Lon Atkins used the OEship to be the first to welcome him back. He did so in *The Southerner* with the words "Al Andrews, who gives SFPA a sure-fire Charter Member again." Many more welcomes would have followed, but the glory was short-lived.

By the time the 35th Mailing came out, Al Andrews was dead. He'd slipped and fallen down a staircase of the nursing home in which he lived. Instead of enthusiastic welcomes, the mailing contained sorrowful obituaries. An era had ended for the second time, and this time it was for good.

Back to the 33rd. It was the second-smallest mailing in SFPA's history, numbering a mere 46 pages. With Hulan and the entire St. Louis crowd all gone, the roster was down to 11, with not even ~~an~~ invitee to dull the pain. Even Stven Carlberg was gone on a technicality (tho he had a zine in the mailing). Stven was back nextime, but for the rest of the apa, it looked like a long, slow haul.

Atkins was acting as though SFPA were ready for the grave--as well it might be, with a showing like that. All of fandom was in the middle of an apa bust, and many of the flourishing apas of the mid-60s had died. It didn't seem that unlikely that SFPA would join them, tho it had gone a full eight years at that point. In an effort to save it, Lon came up with a Constitutional amendment:

Article VIII: Time-Base. A year shall be defined as a period of four consecutive mailings, which shall be issued by the

Official Editor on a frequency of no higher than every three months and no lower than every six months, calendar time.

This was supposed to allow an ailing apa to envelope itself in a cocoon until fans once again discovered the joys of publishing just for a small ingroup. No matter. It was defeated even with a majority vote, because it didn't get the necessary 2/3 majority. The vote was 5-4. Lon Atkins himself voted against it, thus sinking it--it would have been 6-3 otherwise, a winning margin. But a non-voting member had indicated opposition, and one member whose vote was counted "for"--Bruce Pelz--was dropped for inactivity in the 34th. Obviously, the members didn't want it.

Globber snatch #1, by Kent McDaniel (who was a member once more after a long gaffiation) was issued as an illegal postmailing to the 33rd. This zine called for SFFPA members who published genzines to run them through the apa so as to boost the pagecount. It received few comments and almost no action at all--except that Stven Carlberg started sending *Sec* through, and there's little indication that one circumstance had to do with the other.

Stven's reaction to the fiasco (aside from indignation at having been thus ousted) was to suggest that, far from encystment in a flexible-but-long schedule, the apa might consider increasing its frequency--say, for example, to bimonthly. I had no conscious memory of having read that until I happened to run across it again months later, but it very likely made a subconscious impression. I thought about it and decided it would probably be a good idea.

And my own reaction was to file for the OEship. Very few copies of that filing are around, since the copy requirement for the 34th was only 13 (so reduced to dramatize the Dire Straits SFFPA was in--and its being so low made it impossible for Meade Friereson to join when he first got activity in). But I called for an election and touted myself as an excellent OE candidate in *The Sphere*, vol. 5 #1.

And the reaction of SFFPA as a whole was to bounce back with a 184-page mailing, biggest thus far in the 30s. A postmailing brought it up to 261, in fact. Atkins had a 26-page *Mel*, containing "A Serial for DON MARKSTEIN," which gave a fanciful account of my filing for the OEship and was the first SFFPA faan-fiction in a couple of years. In *The Southerner*, he started the practice of giving each new member a two-line introduction instead of just a cold note--a practice we still follow. And a line at the bottom of the first page of the OO proclaimed "This mailing represents 100% participation by the membership!!!!" It was the first such 100%-participation mailing since #1.

Aside from the aforementioned Al Andrews and Stven Carlberg (who, everyone seemed to agree, should never have been dropped), yet another familiar face was welcomed back into membership. Larry Montgomery was back with *Warlock* #21, and was wondering what had happened to all the people he'd known a year and a half earlier, when he was a member for the first time.

A tiny bit of my motivation for filing for the OEship should be gone into. I was rooming with Rick Norwood at the time--he'd completed his studies in California and had come back home to Louisiana. I would likely have filed for the OEship sooner or later in any case--I'm that type--but probably wouldn't have just then, since I was still a fairly new member. However, Norwood assured me that this was no obstacle and urged me to do so. It didn't seem as though anybody else would, and somebody had to.

And that brings us to a part of the history that's very, very difficult for me to write objectively. Please bear with me; I'm trying.

My name appeared alone on the ballot for the 35th Mailing. Lon urged all members to

vote and thus give me a good sendoff:

Write-in space has been provided opposite Don Markstein's name. This is not to encourage spurious votes for Pogo, Pat Paulsen and Spiro Agnew. It is to allow space for any write-in candidate who may appear, tho this seems extremely unlikely. Before you write "Batman" in the extra space, however, remember that Don ~~is~~ a serious candidate for the office.

And on the ballot itself, he added, "Write-ins for the current OE will be disallowed."

About two months after the mailing went out, Norwood and I had what I referred to later as a "serious disagreement." What it was, basically, was the beginning of a feud that characterizes my relations with him even now, much as both of us try to keep it hidden. Within a week, I'd relocated to 7919 St. Charles Ave. and felt better than I had in months. I think that fight had been coming for awhile, although I didn't realize it. Once it was over, I was happier. However, that's neither here nor there.

About six weeks later, I was eagerly awaiting arrival of the 36th Mailing. Stven Carlberg dropped by for about five days while he looked over recording studios in the New Orleans area. Needless to say, while he was staying at my apartment we put out a one-shot. In it, we happened to mention that I was the OE of SFPA. Naturally. In a one-candidate election, how could I lose?

It wasn't until a couple of weeks later that the mailing arrived. On the first page of *The Southerner* was the message: "Ballotting results: In the OElection a write-in campaign has seen me [Atkins] win a 7-4 victory."

A one-candidate election, and I lost. I was astounded. And when I read on and found out why, I became incensed. Let's backtrack a little.

The fight with Norwood took place on April 26, 1970. On May 1, I moved into the new apartment. Meanwhile, on April 29, while I stayed with my parents, he made a phone call to Lon. I can fix the date because I later wound up getting the bill for that call. It was, after all, made on my phone.

The bill was easy to straighten out. The message wasn't. I still don't know exactly what was said, but the effect became apparent as I read through the 36th Mailing.

I was accused of having an "unstable personality" that would destroy SFPA if the apa were foolish enough to place itself in my hands. Lon heard what must have been a very convincing story--he was talked into running a last-minute write-in campaign for himself. He won with ease.

Norwood promised to follow up the phone call with written material that could be used to explain the rather drastic steps that had been taken. John Guidry backed up his story. Lon hadn't even heard from me. Naturally; I had no idea what was going on until I saw the mailing.

However, things were not quite as bad as they looked. The only written material that had been provided by the time the mailing came out was a statement in *Cliffhangers* that "After a lot of soul searching, I think the apa needs continuity during the current membership crisis." Guidry didn't even mention it.

Lon wanted to phone Norwood for a bit of clarification, but had no idea where to get in touch with him. There was a good bit of turmoil concerning addresses right then. He tried Guidry and, from the description he gave in *Mel*, apparently talked with John's grandmother--who is not the best person to leave a message with.

So when the mailing came out, he found himself holding the bag all by himself. And he didn't like it one damn bit. He felt like he was being used as a pawn in a personality war--which, of course, he was. He urged all the principals, especially myself, to get in touch with him.

I did. Not quite immediately, but a couple of hours later. I had to have a few drinks and calm down before I was fit to talk. I don't admit to an "unstable personality," but I do have quite a temper. Lon's first statement was a very non-committal surprise that it had taken the Post Office that long to get the mailing to me.

We talked for about 45 minutes at trans-continental rates. I communicated my feelings of the time, which are kind of difficult to describe at this late date, and he promised to take whatever action he considered just. At the end, I told him I'd send a complete written account of the entire fight.

I did. That letter, seven pages long, is the only complete account I know of. Someday, when all parties can look back on this part of our lives and laugh, I may publish that letter. But right now, I can't even stand to read it myself, as I had to do for this history. Fortunately, nothing in it is relevant here except my asking Lon to enforce his ruling about write-ins for himself.

Lon replied to all three principals that unless new evidence was produced, he was going to put out a postmailing voiding the election and declaring me OElect. Meanwhile, I'd sent out a form letter to all SFPA members asking them to disregard these ridiculous charges against me.

Replies to Lon's letter: A note from me to Norwood and Guidry--very perfunctory--telling them I'd forget it if they would, and a phone call from Norwood to Lon telling the latter he had no legal right to void the election. That was ignored.

Replies to my letter: A postcard from Ned Brooks (who had said "sounds fishy" to the original write-in candidacy) saying that he had no idea in the world what was going on and would abide Lon's decision.

No postmailing was issued. Dawn Emerald Atkins made her appearance right about then, making it a bit difficult for Lon to get any fanac done. But *The Southerner* #37 contained a two-page statement of my policies, and I was OE in the 38th.

Most of that statement of policy was advocacy of an amendment to the Constitution--one that would provide for mailings to be issued six times a year instead of four. I was rather hot on the idea, but even so, I realized that it could possibly lead to disaster. Much of my early policy came from Ned Brooks at the 8th DeepSouthCon--Ned seemed level-headed enough in all the time I'd known him, and was kind enough to let his thoughts be known. He opposed the bimonthly amendment vehemently, and was also opposed to a stated policy of mine to ignore the 25% rule until we'd built ourselves back up to the point where we had a waitlist.

His opposition to the bimonthly amendment led me to support an Atkins-inspired watering-down of same, whereby a year's trial would be effected before SFPA went whole-hog into a permanent change. And his opposition to my ruling on admitting Northerners resulted in my enforcing the 25% rule--which didn't really need to be enforced, since no more than five ever joined all at once anyway.

And so, with 13 members, three invitees (two former members who had just dropped, and one invitee whose invitation was being held over) and 170 pages (not including that Carlberg-Markstein oneshot, which was illegally postmailed), SFPA entered a new OEs hip--for the first time in four solid years.

X
THE ROAD BACK
Mailings 38-42

The bimonthly amendment as originally proposed--to switch permanently to bimonthly right away--failed, 4-4. However, the amendment to give it a year's trial and then vote on whether or not to make it permanent passed 7-1. Two members were lost and three were gained. Six people were invited to membership, which would give us a full roster. Many people expressed confusion at the swiftness of events in the election. The mailing had 100% participation.

Rick Norwood accepted the situation with very little in-print rancor, and Guidry, true to form, didn't even mention it. There were a couple of over-defensive statements on the part of Lynne Norwood, who, under the name of Nelson, was one of the three members picked up. And so the first mailing of my OEShip passed into history.

Only two of the six invitees joined, but so did three others. The roster stood at 19, not bad for a 20-member maximum, and there was an invitee to boot. Guy Lillian and the Hugheses made their first appearances that time. The mailing was characterized by small introductory issues and oneshots, each of which made up about 20% of it. Its pagecount was a slight comedown from the previous--it was 145--but enthusiasm seemed to be building.

One of the five new members was one Paul Doerr, who performed the almost (but not quite) unprecedented act of appearing on the SFPA roster without once, ever, contributing. He accomplished this remarkable feat by sending in 21 copies of a genzine, *Unknown*, just before he found out that the copy requirement for the 39th Mailing had been raised to 23. I wrote him immediately to tell him that he needed two more copies, so he sent them along--but they didn't arrive until after the deadline, when the mailing was already out. Meanwhile, the roster had filled and I'd upped the copy requirement to its old level, 25. He dutifully sent two more, but meanwhile, I found out that the zine had had distribution long before the deadline for the 39th, so I couldn't accept it as required activity. And I told him so. He wrote back irately that it had been new when he sent it, even tho it was distributed before the deadline, and that I should have asked the members to vote on the matter. I didn't bother to answer. I don't think he ever caught on that not all apas are as incredibly lax about activity requirements as FAPA. I threw him out as of the 40th Mailing and just kept the 25 zines around. About a year later, I gave away as many copies as I could (not bloody many) and threw the rest away.

With membership full and even the rudiments of a waitlist again, it wasn't too surprising that the 40th Mailing contained a new suggestion (this time by Irvin Koch) that maximum membership be raised. This time, the number suggested was 30. The first time the subject was brought up, the waitlist didn't last long enough to make it worthwhile. This second time, the waitlist wasn't long enough in the first place. I ruled against the notion, but suggested that I could be made to change my mind if (a) I thought most members favored the move and (b) we had that many people interested in joining in the first place. We'd just regained equilibrium. I didn't see any point in throwing us off again.

Koch also suggested that SFPA advertise itself and the fledgling Southern Fandom Confederation in places like *DallasCon Bulletin* and convention progress reports. I figured that was worth calling a referendum to quell it to his satisfaction, and I was right. the vote against it was enormous.

And Guy Lillian proposed that SFPA buy membership in NorEasCon, so it could vote on the Hugos. That passed. Since then, it's become something of a regular thing for SFPA to

join the WorldCon and make a sort of game of running its own Hugo ballot for the purpose of deciding where the one vote goes. Guv Lillian, award freak extraordinaire, counts the ballots.

Also in the 40th Mailing was something by myself, a mailing comment that said, in effect, that we should be able to do 200-page mailings as a regular thing. It came to ten pages per member from 20 members, but "I think the day is coming when they'll be routine again." Interestingly, we've had no mailings under 200 pages since that time, and only two under 300. SFPA had suddenly returned to its former greatness.

With the 41st Mailing, membership stood pat at 19. But the waitlist suddenly jumped to 11. I issued the first penalty pages in more than five years to Mike Raub for having gotten a zine in after the deadline, with only stencils for me to run instead of a finished product, and with postage due to boot. Nobody claimed that it was unreasonable to require four extra pages from him for that performance, but the legality of penalty pages was questioned very soon thereafter.

Also in that mailing was cause for issuing far, far more than four penalty pages. John Guidry ran *Ignite* #2 through. This time, his partner was Norman Elfer. That was the beginning of the unholy horror that was unleashed on SFPA in times to come. And tho John is no longer a member, I'm afraid *Ignite* lives.

"The Sheriff of Safpa Gulch" was thriving about that time too. Stven Carlberg started it as SFPA's first (and thus far, excepting one serial that split into a couple of alternate worlds) only round-robin ingroup piece of fiction. Various members did chapters over the coming year or so, and the entire thrust of the story was completely altered several times. Finally, Carlberg took one last chapter and wrote an ending, which didn't exactly tie up all the loose ends people had left untangled, but did make it impossible to continue.

It was in the 42nd Mailing that Ken Budka started a brand-new method of rating members, becoming the first person in almost five years to do so. Lon had revived The Box Scores a couple of mailings earlier, after a couple of hiatus. And so Budka worked out a fairly complex method of figuring out who was doing the most mailing comments. It worked out badly for him--he never approached the top by less than a couple of spaces the entire time he did it.

And the same could be said of my Coffin Scores, which started at the same time. I began them as a listing of who's hit how many consecutive mailings shortly after I realized I was third in that category. I haven't advanced since then, I'm sorry to say. All the old champs in that category are gone, but the new ones are disgustingly tenacious.

In *Mel* #27, which also appeared in that mailing, Lon said nice words about how my OEShip had gone thus far, and said "Why, we may even hit a 300-page mailing!" The joke was on him. That mailing ran 451 pages, a record-breaker, and had a bunch of postmailings to boot. There's a story behind them.

At the very end of the 42nd Mailing was a series of zines by the Norwoods that had arrived on the day of the deadline. Circumstances surrounding them gave rise to a re-erupton of the feud that had marred the 1970 election.

This is recent enough to where almost anyone interested can just go back and read the mailings to find out the details. Suffice to say that I pounced on them for what I interpreted as lactivity, but what they insisted was very, very marginal minac. It was rather complex, and I don't care to go into it again.

The thrust of it, tho, was that I combined their memberships (I didn't see enough ac-

tivity to support two) and gave them six penalty pages apiece, partly for baiting the OE--they'd been exploring the depths of the meaning of the word "minac" throughout my OEsip, and I was getting a little bit sick of keeping them on the roster when I'd have thrown anybody else out.

Their reaction was to fight, as I expected it would be. They issued letters to all members denouncing me in rather purple-prosaic terms (Lynne even hinted that I shouldn't throw her out because she was pregnant--yes, the letters pushed a lot of buttons) and demanded that the members unite behind them and force me to rescind the ruling. They enclosed two airmail postcards with each copy of the letter--one addressed to them and the other to me.

I began getting postcards before the week was out--before most members had even gotten their mailings to see what the hell was going on. They ran about 50-50, with most people not caring a whole lot either way. After all, the Norwoods were never what one may consider prominent members. Then came the other postmailings.

Meade Frierson's didn't express too much support for either side, but pointed out the Expulsion Clause in the Constitution and said he was in favor of due process of the law. Georg Inzer was very much on my side, and pointed out that this was the second time in a row that the Norwoods were raising hell in an election mailing. Steve and Binker Hughes also expressed themselves in my favor, very strongly.

But don't get the idea it was unanimous. After many critical letters and much thought, I finally decided on a compromise--keeping the penalty pages, but restoring the dual memberships. But whether the dual memberships would remain would depend on whether or not the penalty pages were done. Eminently fair, I thought; but since the penalty pages weren't done, they were both gone a mailing later.

Thus it would seem that the whole thing would blow over. And so it did, but not without leaving a couple of residual fights.

As I said back there, it was an election mailing. I was running unopposed, and was therefore reelected--but not unanimously. Meade Frierson got a write-in vote. Events seem to indicate that it was in protest against the Norwood affair. Also on the ballot were the final vote on the Bimonthly Amendment (which passed 15-1), a referendum on whether or not the membership should be increased in the light of our now-enormous waitlist (the vote was 8-8--more on this later) and the Ego-boo Poll.

I came out first in best regular zine, single issue, mailing comments, article/review, natter and all-round good guy. Atkins came out first in visual effects. Carlberg came out first in best fiction. I had the most total points, but being the reelected OE, I couldn't be President and the office went to 2nd-placer Lon Atkins.

All the while this was going on, however, a curious little circumstance was waiting to be discovered by me. In *The Sphere*, vol. 13 #1, I realized and noted that the election was being held in the wrong mailing. The Bimonthly Amendment had provided for ballots to be circulated in the September Mailing, and here it was only July. It was a silly mistake, but then I hadn't thought hard on the subject. I just waited a half dozen mailings after ascending to the OEsip, then held an election.

I didn't expect any particular protest for having mentioned it, of course. SFPA had held elections in the wrong mailing before, and had even skipped one election entirely. But Ned Brooks objected that if it had been held at the right time, there would have been a chance for someone to get up a protest candidacy over the Norwood issue. I noted the objection and said if anyone wanted to run that way I'd rerun the election. Ned offered himself as a candidate, I reran the election and was elected for the second time in one year.

That final unresolved item on the election ballot--the question of whether or not SFPA would expand its membership--was resolved by OE fiat. I simply stated that, in the light of a large and still growing waitlist, we'd add one member-spot to the roster in each mailing until we got to 25, but that there would be absolutely no expansion past 25 during my OEsip under any circumstances. I later amended the expansion to where a membership spot would be created only in mailings where we stood at maximum membership. I didn't like the idea of having such a long, stationary waitlist, but I also didn't want any sudden influxes of new members like we'd had in the 39th.

And so, in one single year, we went from a paucity to a plethora of pages, and from a half-dozen open spots on the roster to a situation where we had to expand the roster to make room for all the people who wanted to be members.

In one single year.

XI
THE GOOD NEW DAYS
Mailings 43-49

As we've progressed from the very beginning to the near-current era, it's become increasingly difficult to get an historical perspective on SFPA. This circumstance becomes an even greater factor as the History enters its final year. But briefly...

Mailing 43 was 100% participation, the fifth such SFPA had ever seen and the most recent to date.

In the 44th Mailing, I made an Official Ruling that anyone who missed a mailing would be Drawn and Quartered--drawn in an uncomplimentary caricature by Ken Hafer and quartered at my apartment and chained to the typer until he produced a SFPazine.

In the 45th Mailing, Ned Brooks missed for the first time, making himself eligible for Drawing and Quartering. If anybody thinks that ruling was made lightly, take note of the fact that Ned hasn't set foot in New Orleans since. However, owing to a Post Offal horror story (which I'm always ready to believe) I postmailed and counted him as having hit the mailing in The Coffin Scores. (The 45th Mailing also saw publication of *Burned*, a oneshot by the six *Ignite* veterans calling for fannish condemnation of John Guidry.)

In the 46th Mailing, Ken Budka and Gary Steele missed and asked for the same treatment Ned had been given (Gary did Ken's printing then). I noted that the package was postmarked after the deadline and refused the special treatment. (The 46th also saw publication of *Line Static* #1, a oneshot by Lon Atkins dictated to me by telephone from Los Angeles to Save His Membership.)

In the 47th Mailing, for the first time, the Contents went over the 1-page mark.

In the 48th Mailing, names started pouring in as candidates for the OElection of the 49th. Most were bogus, inspired by Cecil Hutto's *Screw Markstein Monthly*, an illegal postmailing-of-sorts which I have not yet seen. Votes are being counted as of this writing.

In the 49th, I noted the special event that would occur in a couple of months--and is occurring right now.

And as for the 50th...read it yourself.

XII
QUO VADIS?
The Future

Quien Sabe? Long-range prediction is always a hard thing to engage in, but I think it can reasonably be expected that SFPA will continue to exist and evolve for a long time to come. The first eleven years are the hardest for most organizations. Once those are past, it's likely to continue forever.

Over the short range--pagecounts are definitely on the upswing. The last mailing under 300 pages was more than a year ago, and it's been a good six months since we had one under 400. This will likely be the second in a row to go over 500. Things like this are cyclic, but this cycle seems to be taking us higher than the last one. The four biggest SFPA mailings of all time are the 49th, 43rd, 47th and 42nd, in that order. I also think this cycle will last longer than the last one. That one was about a year and a half in duration, and this one has been going almost that long now.

I also think it's safe to say that the race to the 1000-page mark on *The Box Scores* will be decided in the near future. There are three major contenders, as I see it, and the race may not go to the swiftest but to the slowest and steadiest.

In fact, I think just about everything about SFPA is on the upswing--and this isn't just public-relations pap. The waitlist, God help us, doesn't seem to be getting any shorter. Participation isn't up over the past few months, and neither is the stability of the roster. But I think both of those conditions are due to a little evolutionary development of the SFPA Gestalt. I expect three or four of the current members to drop out in the near future. After that, there should be stability for a few mailings, with the ingroup spirit growing ever stronger.

But speculation never did anything for anybody. Let's just sit back and watch it as it unfolds. It's been fun going through the first 50 mailings. Let's hope the next 50 are just as eventful and just as much fun.

APPENDIX
THE MAKING OF THE HISTORY

If anything ever went right with any major zine I've planned for months, I'd gaffate on the spot. There would be nothing left to fan for. Putting this zine together has been a regular comedy of errors.

Not least among my problems is the fact that I'm currently in the process of moving. Stencils have been cut in four different locations, and running off done in three. In the melee, I never did stencil the Coat of Arms, and didn't discover the gaffe until the stencil was on the machine and copies were coming out. At that time, I said to hell with it. I'll say it again, because it just isn't worth digging through 70 boxes of books, fanzines and what-have-you to find my copy of it.

And the repro isn't of the best--partially another result of moving around. The cover, especially, deserves mention. It was Verifaxed onto an offset master from the first printing (on yellow paper) using an obsolete machine. Then it was printed on mimeo paper (much too absorbent) in too great a hurry. The result you see.

But I'm sure this is as boring to you as it's been frustrating to me. Please try to understand technical failings and take the zine on its literary merits, if any. I hope you've enjoyed it as much as I would if I could only read it for the first time again.