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FANAC #58

This is a news and flyer-distributing zine published by Terry Carr and Ron Ellick, 1818 Grove Street (note new address), Berkeley 9, California, twice a month. Subscriptions available at 4/25¢, 9/50¢, from our new circulation manager, Miriam Carr (above address), or, in other-than-\$-areas, for two shillings per four issues from Archie Mercer, 434/4 Newark Rd, N Hykeham, Lincoln, England. News and comment requested and always appreciated. Cartoon on the left drawn & stencilled by Nelson.

HUGO BALLOTS OUT

That extra sheet enclosed with this issue is not Gyre or Hobgoblin--that's your personal copy of the final ballot on which you are to vote for your choices of authors, movies, and fanzines to receive the International Fantasy Awards for 1959 at the 18th Annual World SF Convention in Pittsburgh this Labor Day.

Check those spaces, sign your name, and send it immediately to the address given. There are two copies enclosed--one for your files, if you must, and one to send in. Send \$2, if you want to join the con at the same time. The address on the ballot is the correct address to use for all correspondence with the Fbgh Con Committee.

NELSON LATE FOR PARTY

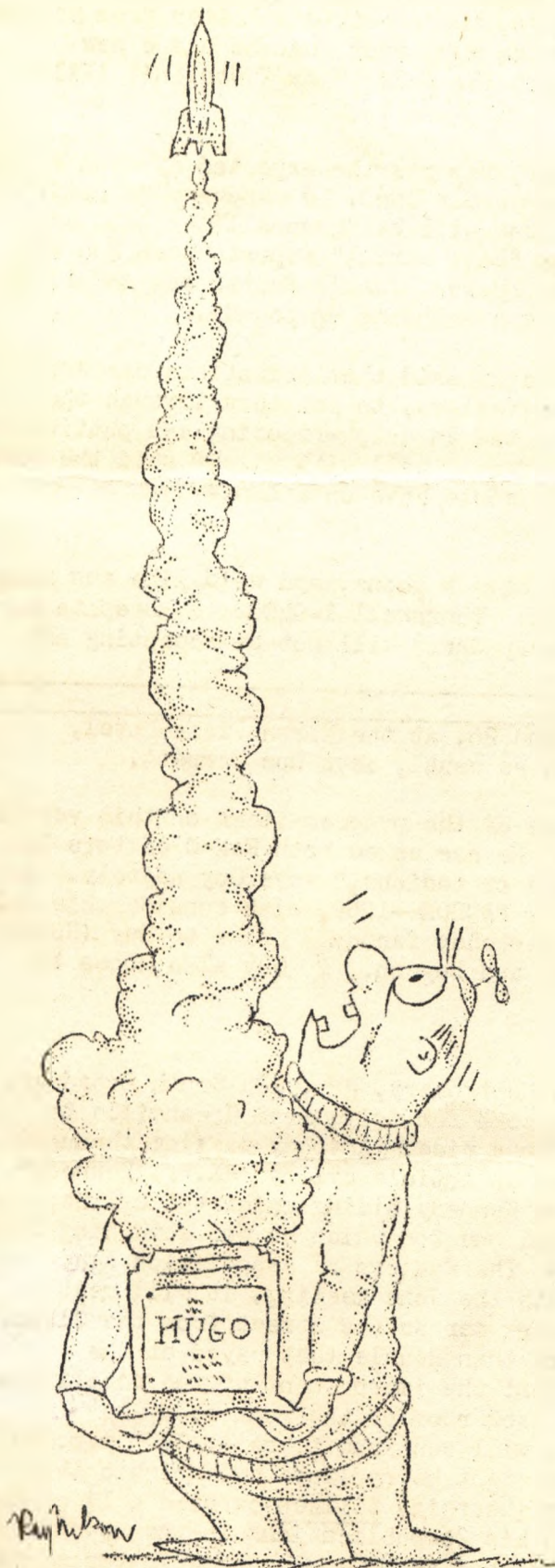
We threw a party to Welcome Ray Nelson to the Bay Area along about...oh, 23 April. It was a blast--a tri-level explosion. Almost a brawl, lots of people, lots of alky, lots of talk. But no Nelson(s). Ray had trouble with the red-tape involved in getting back into this country, and finally arrived in Berkeley 4 May, just in time for us to tell him all about it. Bill Donaho says he is going to throw a party for him at his (Bill's) place on 20 May.

Ray was welcomed to Berkeley by FANAC's art editor who convinced him to draw the cartoon to the left and dozens of others, and by a letter from agent 4s,j who says Damon Knight is considering his (Ray's) story, TURN OFF THE SKY, for an anthology of original sci-fi pieces.

WILLIS COLUMN RETURNS TO FANDOM

On page three you'll find the first revival installment of Walt Willis' column, PLINTH, of Confusion fame, which will grace each issue of FANAC from now on.

--rde.



"Ghu's gills! I didn't know it was loaded!"

THAT BEN SINGER STORY we quoted last issue (the fellow whose garbage can was stolen) wasn't about fandom's Ben Singer, it turns out. Bob Lichtman says Singer is still in Detroit, not Toledo, and Ray Nelson, who received a letter from Singer just yesterday, confirms this. Lichtman, by the way, adds that he has a new article by Singer which he'll print in the next PSI PHI: "Why I Wouldn't 'Kill' Bob Tucker Again".

NEW FACES DEPT.: Spy "Y," our new Detroit spy, reports the expected arrival of child #4 to George and Mary Young in early September 1960. # And spy "Y not?," our new New York spy, says Larry and Noreen Shaw will be "grennelling" late in June. They're hoping for a girl. # And spy "Bill Sarill" reports that Bob and Fern Tucker have had a new son: Bruce Wesley Tucker, Tuck's fourth son and fifth child, was born on April 16, and weighed in at a whopping 9½ pounds.

A NEWS ITEM we heard on the radio the other night said that scientists are experimenting with suspended animation for space travellers, to get them through the rigors of blastoff and such. Method being tested is quick-freezing and putting them in a briny solution. "It has worked perfectly well with mice," said the news release, "but no one knows yet the effects it would have on a man."

Pickle Bloch For Posterity, anyone?

TERRY AND MIRIAM CARR DEPT.: Miri and I now have a phone, and we'd like any fans who might be visiting the Bay Area to note it: THornwall 1-0400. # Despite any rumors which you may hear circulating, I (Terry Carr) will not be accepting any nominations for TAFF this year.

SOUTH GATE

THE MIDWESCON will be held on June 24, 25, and 26, at the North Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio. There will be no program, as usual, says Doc Barrett.

GUY TERWILLEGER DEPT.: Guy mentions that one of the program-items on this year's Westercon, the Boycon, will be a fan panel. He has asked both FANAC editors to participate, and we've agreed. "Nothing long or tedious," says Guy naively. # Terwilleger will be doing this year's BEST OF FANDOM--1959, with considerable help in both editing and artwork-mastering from Berkeley fandom. Write to Guy (Route #4, Boise, Idaho) for information on both BoF and Boycon. # Guy also hopes to have the next TWIG out in June.

A MESS O' POTPOURRI:

Attention all Southern fans: Dr. D. C. Montgomery, Jr., 124 South Broadway, Greenville, Mississippi, would like to have some fan drive from Greenville to Cincinnati for the MidWesCon. Is looking for a ride. Anybody passing through? # The Spring 1960 issue of Dissent contains an article bylined "X. J. Kennedy" entitled "Who Killed King Kong?" That's Joe Kennedy hiding under the byline, and the article, if we remember correctly, is the one for which he won something like \$1,000 bucks in a competition last year. # The Eastern SF Association again has a new home, reports Ed Meskys. Starting with the June meeting, it will meet in a room provided by the YMCA in downtown Newark across the street from the Cities Service Bus Terminal. The rent will be more than double that payed at the previous establishment, but it is figured that the improvement of the facilities will be worth it. (The last place was the back room of the most seedy bar imaginable, according to Meskys.) Meetings will continue to be at 3:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month, although one might be replaced by a picnic this summer. # The May 1 edition of the Dalton (Georgia) Citizen carried a 1½ column writeup of Bob Farnham's four pro sales and his 26 publications in the newspaper. # Robert Heinlein has just (late March) finished an 800-pg. manuscript, reports Gregg Calkins, and around the middle of April the Heinleins left for a trip to Europe; will be back in August. # Forthcoming Ace pb editions: #4 "Best of F&SF" due in August; Andre Norton's "The Time Traders" in Sept.; probably John Taine's "Greatest Adventure" in October; all in addition to Ace's standard doubles. # Robert W. Lowndes is concentrating on free-lance writing as a rest from his vacationless years at Columbia Publications.

Walt Willis
P*L*I*N*T*H

SHUTE THE LIQUOR TO ME, VICAR: Inspired by the Ashworth article in the current HYPHEN, a wellknown Pro-fan intends to put together a collection of fan humour and peddle it to a book publisher. Further details are DNU at present because "it is a noodle-headed idea". I suppose it is, but I wonder. I've read as much mundane humour as anyone, from Perelman to Patrick Campbell, and I think fan humour is just as good, if not better...all along the line from puns to bellylaughs. Take Rotsler's QUOTEBOOK, for instance: I'm damned if there's not more wit and even profundity in it than in many an anthology of mundane aphorisms. The usual snag of course is the difficulty of putting over the fannish background to the public; they wouldn't stand still while you explained what it was all about. Wouldn't they? Nevil Shute's last book, "Trustee From The Toolroom," is already a best-seller. It deals with a nondescript suburbanite who finds himself under the necessity of making a long and expensive journey. The gimmick is that he is a keen model engineer, in correspondence with a hundred or so other enthusiastic hobbyists all over the world. To them he is a Big Name and with their help he makes his journey. The book has page after solid page of explanation of model engineering and its fandom, and the public laps it up. Maybe there's a fortune for the first of us to dig out a pile of conreports and TAFFtrip accounts and blend them into a picaresque novel, sharing the proceeds with the original writers?

"I'M NOT GOING TO THE BRITISH CONVENTION: I'M GOING TO WAIT FOR IT TO PASS BY."

Three other cities having been mooted for the 1960 British Convention, the lot finally fell on

London. It struck merely a glancing blow however, for the first choice of con hotel was rejected by an uprising of the fannish proletariat as too expensive. It was at this point that Arthur Thomson drew a rowboat marked 'Britcon Search Party' under the HYPHEN lighthouse and I rushed to get the issue out before the gag lost its topicality. I needn't have bothered--the curse that haunted this Flying Dutchman of a convention was still in operation. Three days before the Con it struck again. This must be the first time on record that a convention has been thrown out of a hotel before anyone arrived. Superficially conflicting accounts of the disaster ascribe it to (1) superior over-ruling of manager who made initial arrangements, (2) the management having been supplied with a mimeographed leaflet for attendees in which unguarded references were made to booze and zagguns. However the Committee deserves all credit for booking another hotel (albeit even more expensive than the first one rejected) and by preliminary accounts all ended well, Don Ford being a great hit with his magic lantern.

EN GARDE! Recently I made a few remarks in OOPSLA about Dave Prosser's artwork, disagreeing with an assessment of it by Alan Dodd. Now I'm interested to see that Robert Coulson is publicly wondering why I didn't disagree with him instead. "Of course," he mutters darkly, "Dodd is less likely to answer back." Well, of course, as Bob implies, all fandom is so terrified of the renowned Coulson rapier-like wit and breathtaking command of language that nobody dares to cross him, and it was probably some subconscious survival of mechanism that made me forget his review of Prosser. The fact remains however that all trace of it had vanished from my memory along with no doubt countless other masterpieces of great literature which were too profound for my poor little brain to comprehend. However, now that he has leaped so flamboyantly into the arena, brandishing his weapons and spraying chips from both shoulders like a mechanical chisel, I can't continue to ignore him, craven though I am. So everyone take cover, the Great Feud is about to commence. Whitefaced and trembling, but desperate as a cornered rat, I am about to repeat to the redoubtable Coulson the vicious and hurtful epithets I hurled at the inoffensive Dodd. Mr. Coulson, Sir, you are COSMOPOLITAN! You are a CONNOISSEUR! YOU LIKE PROSSER'S ART!!

Farewell cruel fandom! Merituri te salutat!

---WAW

CHANGES OF ADDRESS (we can't keep these things on page three, it seems):

Art & Trina Castillo, 507 $\frac{1}{2}$ Greenwich Street, San Francisco, California

Don Thompson, R D #1, Grand Valley, Pennsylvania (after June 1)

Ron Ellik, 127 Bennett Avenue, Long Beach 3, California (after June 1)

William Rickhardt, Canyon, Contra Costa County, California

Larry & Noreen Shaw, 16 Grant Place, Grant City, Staten Island 6, New York (aft Jun 1)

Bill Collins, c/o American Express, via Monte di Pieta 11, Milan, Italy (until August)

Joe & Roberta Gibson, 5380 Sobrante Avenue, El Sobrante, California (long time already)

USE THOSE BALLOTS! The enclosed Hugo Final Ballot is for your immediate use. Fill it out now, send it in! Act without thinking! Hurry! Note that anybody can vote, whether or not they are members of the convention--but the committee very strongly urges you to send \$2 with the ballot; to help pay for ~~FANAC's~~ the Hugos, among other convention expenses. ##Richard Eney, Official Editor of SAPS, says that waiting-listers who wish to contribute magazines to the SAPS bundles are now required to pay 25¢ per sheet to offset extra postage; further, all surplus copies of the bundles are sold out to next January, so don't ask. If you want to join the SAPS waiting list, write Eney at 417 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, Va. ##The Washington SF Assn, who owe the Golden Gate Futurian Society a tape, have elected their officers to reign from June 60 to June 61: Prexy Bob Madle, veep Eney, treasurer Phil Bridges, sec'y Elizabeth O. Cullen, trustess Chick Derry, Bob Pavlat, Bill Evans. They also changed their meeting dates to the first, third and fifth FRIDAYS of each month, 8 pm. First meeting under this system will be 3 Jun 60. ##Peter Francis Skeberdis (POBox 21, Big Rapids, Michigan) will pay cash for FANAC #55--the real one, with the news of Bjo getting engaged (to somebody whose name we forgot), not the mimeographed fake issue. ##Fan Hill Mob held a birthday party for Ernie Wheatley--he's 28 or 29, I guess--last 4 May 60, at which the main event was a gigantic food-o-rama after which Ernie looked well-fed but as lean as ever. Cooks were Bjo, Ingrid Fritszch, and Isabel Burbee. ##One of the Gibsons' cat's kittens, who were four when we published last, has been smothered, and three of them are still doing well. Nice kittens--they're being raised on peanut butter. ##Howard DeVore (4705 Weddell St, Dearborn, Mich) will haggle with you for a copy of FANAC #53, the Fannish II. His copy got lost in the mails & we have no more. ##Earl Kemp (2019 No Whipple, Chicago, Ill) will pay one dollar, one full American paper dollar (not play money like pounds sterling) for copies of his recently-published omnivolume, Who Killed S-F? He needs copies before July 4, p-l-e-a-s-e. ## Notice: There is approximately \$200 in the kitty for TAFF right now. Robert Madle, 4500 Aspen Hill Rd, Rockville, Maryland, is the man to send money to; contribute soon, or a delegate can't come to Pittsburgh. ##Ray Nelson, who stencilled the suggestive design below, will be the victim of a surprise party tomorrow night--we couldn't print this until he left. You see how topical FANAC is? The party will be held at Bill Donaho's, at 8 pm. You're all invited.

--rde.



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Ray Nelson



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77

WILLIS COLUMN BEGINS THIS ISSUE