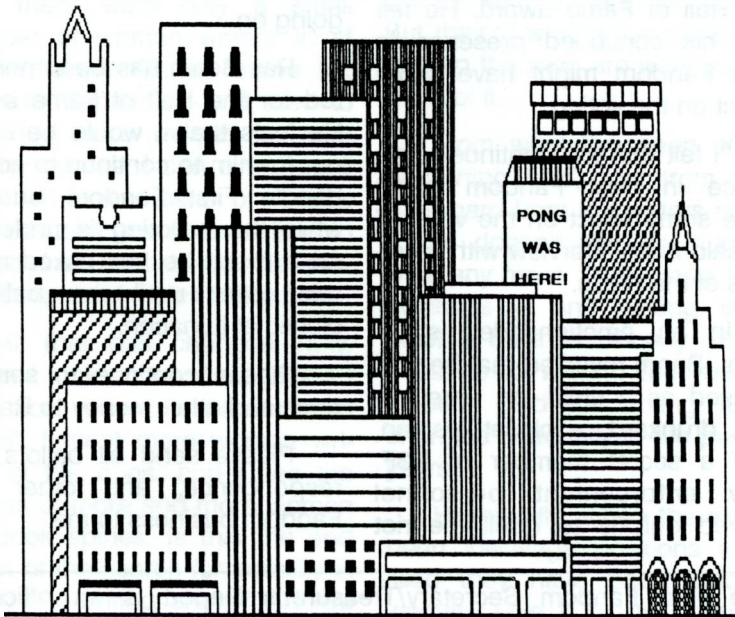


AUTUMN, 1992

FIRST FANDOM

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S

REPORT



CITY EDITION

PLEASE NOTE: We are going on a regular schedule beginning with the next issue. **DEADLINE** for all submissions for the **WINTER 1992** issue is November 28, 1992..

BEAM TO LEAVE

Ray Beam, Secretary/Treasurer of First Fandom, has announced that he is leaving his position -- until Lunacon. The leave of absence was forced on him by his being nominated for the Hall of Fame award. He felt that his continued presence in First Fandom might have some effect on the voting.

"I felt that my continued presence in First Fandom might have some effect on the voting," he said in an interview with members of the press.

In an emotion-laden statement, Beam revealed that he was abused as a child, an unrepentant drunkard, a closet lesbian, and a secret member of N3F. Law enforcement personnel moved quickly to quell the riot

that erupted upon this last announcement, and property damage was light.

THE REAL STORY

Now, with all of that silliness out of the way, here's what's going on.

Ray Beam has been nominated for the Hall of Fame award. He feels that it would be improper for him to continue to actively handle First Fandom business while the balloting is underway. As a result he has asked me to take over until the balloting closes at Lunacon.

Please continue to send all dues and other money to Ray.

Please send all ballots, correspondence, and other First Fandom business to me.

The First Fandom Secretary/Treasurer's Report is an official publication of First Fandom, and is published at least three times per year by Ray Beam, 2209 S. Webster, Kokomo, IN 46902. Subscriptions are \$4.00 per year. We regret that no copies can be sold individually. Subscriptions and First Fandom dues (which are \$5.00 per year) should be sent to Ray. The Editor is Mark Schulzinger, 528 Woodruff Bldg., Springfield, MO 65806. Comments can be sent to either Ray or Mark

Revenge of The Sci-Fan

Not too long ago I was reading a detective novel, one that my wife had recommended. When I finished it I looked through some of the other mystery fiction she had on the shelves, and I asked myself: where are all the men?

It wasn't that many years ago that there were only a small number of women writers in sf and detective fiction. Some felt this was deplorable and tried to convince more women to write for the genres. I can even recall when an entire issue of *Analog* was devoted to women writers in an attempt to balance the preponderance of males in the field.

All that has changed now. When I look at an sf magazine I see more women's names than men's, I meet more women writers at the cons, and I see the names of more and more women on book spines. Is this the end result of the search for equality in the genre-writing arena? Are we now seeing more women-written works in an attempt to balance out the years and years of male domination?

I think not. I don't think there's necessarily more gender-consciousness on the part of the editors, nor do I think there has

been much change in the development of women as good writers, the tendency of women to read more works written by women, and other pseudo-sociocultural factors involved mainly because what I've been reading *just isn't that good*.

Yes there are more women writers out there. There are more women writers than in previous decades, and there are more women writers than men writers. But they're writing the same kind of crap the men are writing. Only more of it.

From what I've seen of the publishing field, and from what I've heard from the writers is that it just doesn't pay as much to write any more. While costs to do business -- and writing is as much a business as any other -- continue to mount, the average amount paid for writing hasn't changed materially in the past 40 years!

Historically, when there have been low-wage positions to be filled they have been filled by women. Like it or not, equality-between-the-sexes fans, women have always been willing to work harder for less money than have their male counterparts. And, thus, they have come to predominance in the land of the printed word. The men, it seems, have gone on to sell shoes,

peddle vacuum cleaners from door to door, and perform similar more financially remunerative work.

Just as women tended the spinning jennies, the power looms, the sewing machines, so now they tend the computers, the typewriters, the word processors, and turn out verbiage by the volume. Just as men deserted the mills for the factories, men are deserting the word mills for harder but more lucrative work. And as the women follow the men, I suppose their place will be taken, as has been done many times before, by machines.

And Sturgeon's Law will still be as valid.

This is an exciting one for me. Now that Ray has acquired a computer that can communicate with mine we are able to send information back and forth as soft-copy. This means I can massage his peerless prose into English without having to transcribe from his usual crayon scrawl on a brown paper bag.

It also means that I can now get the Report out on some kind of schedule. As a result of my new-found resolve, the deadline for the **winter** ish will be **December 1**. This doesn't leave much time for a Soonercon report, if

there is to be one, but it should allow us to get the ish to you before years' end. This means we will have four reports in 1992 -- some sort of record I'm sure.

Many of you have noted that we are now accepting subs to this modest rag. That's because *you* (yes you, Joe Phann) have been interested enough to support your Report with letters, comments, and the occasional *missive plastique*. It is my determined plan to continue to write editorials that will strike chords in some of you. I also pledge to continue my policy of typos and mistakes so you can have something to gripe about. I have always believed that an army that complains is a contented army.

There have been a few complaints that we don't put "continued on..." notices on the bottom of each page in the Report. This is because we work very hard to make certain all items flow from column to column, and from page to page without forcing our readers to flip around to find the end of a piece. This may be poor layout policy, but it keeps us from losing the ends of articles and letters, and should make reading easier for all of you.

KYLE ACCEPTS CONCOM JOB

Dave Kyle has graciously agreed to serve as First Fandom's liaison with Worldcon committees to make certain the Hall of Fame award will be properly presented. Dave has always been active in science fiction, and has broad contacts. We are certain he will do an excellent job for First Fandom.

Thanks, Dave!

NEW MEMBERS

The following has been accepted for Full Membership:

Nelson Bond

The following applicant has been accepted as an Associate Member:

Sam J. Lundwall

Welcome dinosaurs!

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

As of now all nominations for the Hall of Fame award are closed. The nominees are:

Ray Beam

Andre Norton

Harry Warner, Jr.

Your ballot is in the center of

this. Please follow the instructions printed on it. Balloting will end at Lunacon.

RAY'S SIDE OF THE STORY

Dear Members,

By the time you get this you will have Magicon behind you. I hope those of you who attended enjoyed yourselves. I trust our arrangement with The Cincinnati Fantasy Group worked out well. I want to thank Ken Moore for his donation toward the cost of our use of the Suite. We sent out a one-time dues notice in order to collect back dues and determine if some of the members are still interested in the organization. As of this time two members, Joe Hensley and Betsy Curtis, have expressed a desire to drop out. I don't believe either one was caused by the dues notice. On the other hand several others have paid up.

I have received a nomination and second for the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award. Several years ago I would have thought myself ineligible but now I don't know. If some one wants to give me a nice plaque to hang on my wall I certainly will not turn it down. For that reason I am going to take this opportunity to drop

out for one issue and let Mark have all the glory (translation:work). So send all Ballots and Brick bats to him for this one. See you all next time.

Ray

P.S. I will still take dues money, but send everything else to Mark!!

FOR SALE

Terry Jeeves is clearing out some of his library of UK sf/fantasy paperbacks. He wants \$2.00 each, in bills, for each one (he will pay the postage). If you send him a letter he'll send you a list of what he has available.

B. Terry Jeeves

56 Red Scar Drive

Scarborough

E. Yorkshire

YO12 5RQ

England

WANTED

Hardcover copy of "The Mightiest Machine" by Campbell. Contact Terry Jeeves:

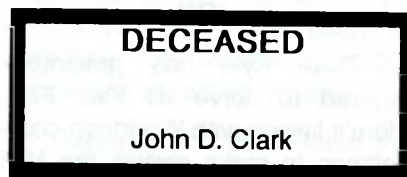
56 Red Scar Drive

Scarborough

E. Yorkshire

YO12 5RQ

England



DINOSAUR DROPPINGS

Ray:

You are doing a nice job. The last bulletin was exceptionally interesting.

Russ Chauvenet

{Now *this* is the kind of note I like to get -- Mark}

Dear Ray;

I'm hoping to hear more from Soonercon. I have talked my wife into going with me, and don't know if she will be allowed to attend any of the sessions.

A friend of mine who is an ex-Okie tells me that a big attraction in Oklahoma City is an active oil well beneath the capitol. That adds to my knowledge of the city, along with memories of watching the OCU basketball team at the NIAA tournaments in Kansas City.

I think you are doing a fine job of Secretary-Treasuring. That's a no-win thing. I was S-T of our

Typographical Union in Leavenworth for 25 years, and I never want to have to negotiate another contract -- especially in this far-right state.

Regards,

James Tibbetts

{Lots of nice things in Oklahoma City, Jim. In the center of town is a magnificent arboretum called The Myriad Gardens, which is a must-see. There are also a plethora of good oriental restaurants. A trip to OKC is a treat for us. -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

I see that Bob Madle and Dave Kyle are taking charge of the Hugo Ceremonies and First Fandom meeting/party. I am in touch with Bob a few times a year as I have been since the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society started way back. I haven't seen Dave in quite a number of years so maybe I'll drop him a note.

All the best,

John Newton

Dear Mary & Ray,

Was glad to see I made it in First Fandom. Guess you don't have to be good, just old.

I have taken a job and will be working at Boeing in Seattle very shortly. Believe they will have a new plane coming out, the 777, and I'll be helping to design the assembly tooling. We will be keeping our house in St. Charles, and will move back when this project is over. Hopefully McDonnell Douglas will have something going on their new plane, the MD-11, a larger version of the DC-10.

Was good to hear from Hal Shapiro. I rode from him to Kirksville, MO to Bellefontaine, Ohio to attend the MidWestCon at Beastley's on the lake in 1952. I believe Isaac Asimov was the guest pro. Attended the 1953 MidWestCon by train, and believe this was the one where Harlan Ellison's door got knocked off its hinges.

Yours truly,

Larry Touzinsky

{You got it, Larry -- no member of this group is chosen on the basis of his good looks. If they were this would be a pretty small group. -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

Sorry about Soonercon, but I'd already promised I'd be at Orycon in Portland that weekend. However, Aubrey MacDermott expects to go. He hadn't sent his

promise to Portland yet.

In the misprint category I note that A. B. Maloire, which was spelled correctly last issue, is this time spelled *Malorie* (P. 15). Mark also called me "Cliff." Just remember, there's only one "f" in Clifton. Cliff is for Clifford.

Clifton Amsbury

Dear Ray/Mark,

False alarm! The newsletter I told you was destroyed has surfaced from the under-seat realms of my (t)rusty Omni. So, if you haven't already sent a replacement, never mind.

This seems like Old Home Week: Harmon and Touzinsky joining; letters from Madle, Jeeves, Couch, Hickman, Klein, Rothman, *et al.* I've more than once been accused of living in the past (cheaper that way), and suppose I am, although my version of it is "lovingly fondling memories."

But I *have* been continuing to collect rejection slips. My current project is a book I call *The Further Adventures of Little Willis*. I was very fortunate in that, before his death, Tom Sherred wrote an introduction for me. But even that has yet to get me either a yea of nay response from any publisher. The agents I've tried

ignore me or ask a reading fee, which I will not pay.

Enough bitching. Youse (plural of you) is doing a damn fine job on the report/newsletter. I would offer help taking some of the strain off, but I shrink from compromising your quality of production. Also I'm lazy.

Hope to be at SoonerCon. It's the same weekend, however, that my multitalented, beautiful daughter will be one of the leads in her high school fall drama presentation, *The Skin of Our Teeth*. If I cannot arrange it have it taped for me, I'll be here instead of there.

"Zalwiz,

Hal Shapiro

{Lots of Old Home Week here, Hal. This may be one of the last fanzines left where all the contributors are faans. -- Mark}

Dear Ray --

Was surprised to see my letter to you and Mark in First Fandom mag -- but okay to print it. Why not?

It is my observation that late night First Fandom meetings at cons are not well attended anymore because there are conflicts with several professional parties. Therefore I think First Fandom

FIRST FANDOM

1992 HALL OF FAME

BALLOT

Instructions

1. Remove this sheet. It has been designed so you will not damage the Report.
2. Vote for no more than one of the below. Sign your ballot in the space provided.
3. Fold the ballot as shown on the other side. Seal with tape (no staples, please), stamp, and post.

Thank You!

☐

Ray Beam

☐

Andre Norton

☐

Harry Warner, Jr.

Signature

Post office
will not deli-
ver without
proper pos-
tage

Mark Schulzinger
333 Park Central East, Suite 528
Springfield, MO 65806

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Remove this sheet. Your Hall of Fame ballot is inside.

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meetings/parties ought best be scheduled at some other time(s).

If I were to have my wish list, I'd suggest an afternoon business meeting, and a *very* late evening party time. The rationale: a lot of the programming these days can well be skipped by First Fandom types -- so that timeout for meeting old friends and getting things settled business-wise for, say, two hours could bring everyone together.

And, those professional parties I mentioned tend to burn themselves out -- or get crowded out -- after a couple of hours. About that time lots of people want to bail out and go somewhere else. Might just as well be to a First Fandom Party -- *no business*. I do know that a number of persons have told me they don't want to spend prime party time arguing about, say, blazer patches or something else unimportant.

I suppose Mark was thinking of the lunatic in *Dracula* who ate flies, when writing his comment in the last issue. And no, I don't think Mark feels left out of things, but rather that he'd prefer to go to psychiatric conventions, say. There's only so much time and money after all.

Glad to see Ray isn't going to worldcon not because he's ill, but

his son starts school early. Seems unAmerican to me to have school start before Labor Day.

Cordially,

Jay Kay Klein

{No, Jay, I was not thinking of Renfield, but of your comment about frogs in puddles. By the way, I would *not* prefer psychiatric conventions. I am a psychologist, and have about as much love for psychiatrists as I have for Nazis. -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

Congratulations on the summer Report.

It's attractive and readable in the new format, and full of interesting stuff.

If anybody cares, the title of my new novel is *Beachhead*, not *Bonehead*. Inspired by a visit to Biosphere II, it's about an effort to establish the first human colony on Mars. Introduction by Arthur C. Clarke. I tried to make the science as hard as I could, and it is getting good reviews.

Sincerely,

Jack Williamson

{Were typos dollar bills I could maybe afford someone to proof-read things for me. -- Mark}

Hi,

I think some of you are missing something. I don't remember which was my first con, Mobile or Boskone. Until recently I staffed various cons around here, but I'm dropping out. Just not worth the travel time, and not many wimmin available, Jay Kay, at least not to me.

I have found other things. I work at renaissance faires and SCA, but may move more to other pursuits. Role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons are fine, but finding a good DM isn't easy. Most are -- well -- young and impatient, and want to kill the giant instantly with just a nasty look. Things just aren't that easy. Another RPG which might be just right for me is Twilight/Mercenary 2000 -- which is just what it sounds like. This is easy for me because it's near what I did. Then there is paintball -- all the "fun" of fighting with no injuries.

Both of these may be good practice for the near future. Paintball for the physical, and 2000 for the imagination.

Enjoy,

Paul Doerr

Dear Ray:

First let me say how delighted I was to receive that FF roster...just reading through that list of names was like a time-trip back through my years in fandom, and finding the addresses was an additional thrill -- made me feel as close as from here to the nearest mail box to them. Not that I'm likely to burst out in a correspondence spree, but it sure is nice to know that I *could*, and especially nice to see how many are still alive.

I keep getting notices and invitations to Cons all over the country -- they seem to proliferate more every year. Klein is lucky that his only excuse for not attending is lack of funds. Just not being able to get away is worse, even when not compounded by a lack of strength to endure the stress if one could! Reading a well-written, gossipy report is the next best thing...sigh.

One last chortle: I see you've blurted out in public the answer to a long-time fannish mystery -- what the "G.M." stood for in GM Carr's name. I used to get so many queries about it that I wrote up a poem in FAPA with about a hundred possible combinations of female names beginning with "G" or "M", and suggested they choose the most applicable.

Ha...now they know!

Fannishly yours,

GM Carr

{As long as you just write to us, GM, we'll be very happy indeed! -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

GOSH AND GOLLY -- OH GEE WHIZ

ME...in a HALL OF FAME!!!

When I come down from PLANET NINE I'll tell you how delighted I have become through the generosity of FIRST FANDOM. Floating around up here in the LAND OF DINOSAURS I feel like a PTERODACTYL. By COSMOS...I've got *friends*! That makes me the happiest of all.

Yore fella Reptile,

J. Harvey Haggard

{Harvey, you've just got to do something to get over this depression. -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

Looking through the roster causes me to wonder if you could not make some designation as to who are regular members and who are associates.

Best,

Roy Tackett

{Roy, we've deliberately refrained from differentiating between full and associate members for a number of reasons. We didn't feel it was proper to make the associates feel that they were second class members, they are penalized enough by our requirement that a full member write a letter of recommendation for each aspiring associate member. Since the associate members have a full vote on all FF matters it seemed unnecessary to distinguish them from the full members. Finally, First Fandom is as much a state of mind as an age, and I hope that *all* the members are equally willing to recognize this. As this may well be the last bastion of what we used to call sf fandom, we've always felt it should be as cohesive as possible. -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

I find the discussions on the present reading of science fiction comparing the old days with present writings most interesting. However, no one seemed to cover any insight into the basic ideas of changing times as regards to Sci Fi availability and the age factor of the readership.

I was only 11 years old when that first full science fiction magazine hit the newsstands. It was

like a miracle happening. Although there were innumerable scatterings of science fiction and weird tales published in various magazines and books they were only obtainable in certain areas. We, as pioneer readers, had to search far and wide in hopes of finding one or two of these gems of our genre.

As kids we mainly got our start with our imaginations and love of adventure, having to be content with what we could find. There were the Victor Appleton books such as "Don Sturdy" and "Tom Swift," and rarities (at that time) such magazines as *Blue Book*, *Weird Tales*, and others, but you did not just walk into our local bookshop and find them on the shelves therein.

It is easy to understand our excitement at finding these minor treasures, being full of youthful enthusiasm, but I do not know, and have read nothing over the years, that fully explains why we got so wrapped up in science fiction and the gothic tales.

As we grow older that youthful enthusiasm erodes more and more so our interests wane in one way or another. So I am with those who are strongly attached to the older Sci Fi and Gothics. Our genre has been so thoroughly infiltrated with other subjects that it is very hard to

find what I would refer to as REAL SCI FI enthusiasts. I am sure that there is a goodly number of convention attendees who are not really "INTO SCI FI." They are there only for the movies or the games or mainly because it is a gathering of people that breeds conversations on every subject under the sun.

To condense the matter into a nutshell, modern Sci Fi has evolved into what I refer to as "psychological fiction in outer space and the future." I have found that 95% of it leaves me cold, and, like others that have written to you, I'll stick to the old Sci Fi material. I guess it's because I still like adventures and good story telling rather than the newer writing styles which permeate the field.

I in no way condemn the new writings, but they are just not my "bag." The days of the pulps have gone, practically everything is now in pocket books with fine art work on the covers and no interior black and white art. For interiors I can only ask where are the Krupas, L. Stern Stevens, Hannes Boks, and Finlays? Modern artists are good, but they just don't have the style and flair of the earlier illustrators.

Despite the overwhelming amount of Sci Fi today, the Golden Era of Sci Fi is gone forever.

Walt Daugherty

{As is the Silver Age, Walt. Mass marketing demands mass appeal, and a regression to the lowest common denominator. Unfortunately that L.C.D. lacks both the imagination and the sense of wonder that attracted us to the genre. -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

Many thanks for the FF Sec/Treas Report. I must say. I like the new computer/A5 format. Nice, clear, easy to hold and easy to file.

Erg continues, and is now in its 34th year!! The bit about Eternity/Malibu v. Verna Trestrail: Were they trying to sue *her*-- or vice versa? I'm baffled.

My autobiography, "Down Memory Bank Lane," which has a large section on sf, conventions, etc., is currently battling things out with an agent -- who hasn't replied to my last two letters despite having had the first two chapters and the illos since *January*! So I am now going to hunt up a new agent, hopefully with better luck.

Meanwhile, all the best,

Terry Jeeves

{Terry, the Eternity/Malibu-Trestrail matter hinges around a

Japanimation film called "Lensman." Japan does not adhere to the international copyright convention -- unless you try to make copies of *their* stuff--, so the story and title were stolen. Eternity/Malibu then licensed the rights to produce a comic book based on the film, but they signed the licensing agreement with the Japanese and left Verna out of it altogether. Verna is suing the comic book folks for copyright infringement. Meanwhile the "Lensman" title is no longer being published and the Japanese have dubbed an English language soundtrack on the film. The battle rages on. Hope this clears things up for you. -- Mark}

Dear Ray,

Hope your painting is wearing well. I copied four mag covers for Harry Stubbs after I did the Bergey for your dear wife. Then I copied a paperback cover for a friend in Los Angeles. Since then only commissions from my own wife. Our home is full of my pictures. Still, Vincent van Gogh never sold a painting while he was alive, and look what they think of him now!

I enjoyed the report, and the letters from other FFers. Wish I could write a sparkling letter like

your native correspondents. They are a treat to read. They are doing a fine job, Ray, and it's certainly appreciated.

Best,

Edward P. Hughes.

Ray:

Why does it cost you \$70 to mail? Is that just labels, or labels & postage? Is that a service that does it all? If so, that's not bad.

Christine Moskowitz

{Well, Christine, it's like this -- postage costs about \$58. Printing, labels, and fol-de-rol cost the remaining \$12. The greatest expense in *any* operation is the postage. -- Mark}

Dear Ray:

"Twas real great seeing you at the MidwestCon, along with all the other celebs, and getting a chance to indulge in some real sf-talk. Had a great time!

Subsequently took a trip to Wisconsin by car, and, on the way back, found that the Trestrails were close enough to my route to permit a slight detour to their "dacha." Had a great visit, and they are wonderful hosts as you undoubtedly know.

Have fun, keep those fans humming, and stay well.

Sincerely,

Ronald Small

FINAL OBSERVATIONS

Yes, it's the end of another ish of that wild and wacky funzine *The Cheap Hermit's Home Companion*. I hope all of you had as much fun reading it as I had putting it together.

I note that *Analog*, in its new Dell format, no longer proclaims *Astounding* as its original title. Maybe we oughta change our name. How about "Astounding Science Fiction/First Fandom Secretary Treasurer's Report?"

Naw, too wordy. Let's just leave it at "Astounding Science Fiction." That would cover a multitude of sins, eh?

See you all at SoonerCon, and latterly in the Winter ish!

Mark

FIRST FANDOM

Dinosaurs of Science Fiction

Ray E. Beam
2209 S. Webster St.
Kokomo, IN 46902

