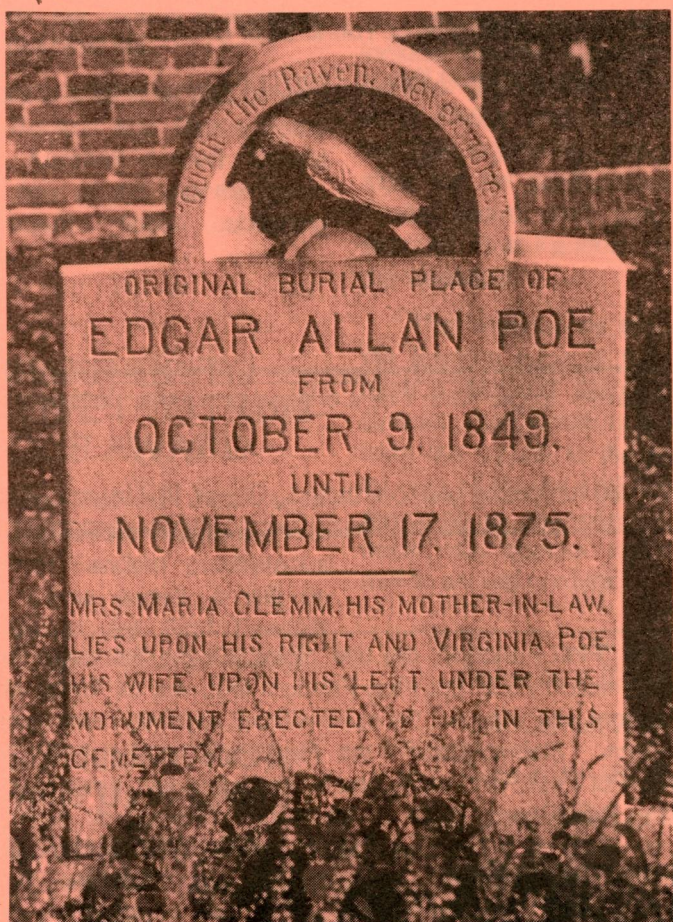


SciFiFiction

Spring, 1996



The First Fandom Report



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On the cover: Edgar Allan Poe's original gravesite, Baltimore, MD.

Photo by Associate Member John L. Coker, III, Orlando, Florida

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IT'S NEWS!

KELLY, KORSHAK WIN HALL OF FAME

Frank K. Kelly and Erle M. Korshak tied for the Hall of Fame award in balloting that ended on December 31, 1995. It is planned to present the awards at worldcon in Anaheim this fall.

Kelly is a founder and director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Korshak owned Shasta Press, one of the pioneer hard-back science fiction publishing houses.

reunion in Indianapolis this year. The con will be held on July 5, 6 and 7 at the Indianapolis Marriott Hotel, 7202 E. 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219. Phone 317-352-1231 for reservations. Rooms are \$67.00 plus tax for up to four people.

Amenities for First Fandom include free membership for each member and companion, a private suite Friday and Saturday night for get-togethers, programming slots for the posthumous Hall of Fame award and programming slots for First Fandom throughout the weekend.

The Indianapolis Marriott is on the Eastern edge of Indianapolis, quite a distance from the airport. Special transportation is available from the airport to the hotel both by way of shuttle and through the auspices of the concomm. Attendees with special transportation needs should contact:

KUTTNER TO RECEIVE POSTHUM- OUS AWARD

Henry Kuttner has been designated as the recipient of the 1996 First Fandom posthumous Hall of Fame award. It will be presented at the First Fandom Reunion at Inconjunction in July.

INCONJUNCTION FIRMS UP PLANS

FIRST FANDOM SPECIAL GUEST

Inconjunction XVI has firmed up its plans for the First Fandom

Rebecca J. Chike
649 Carmel Way
Carmel, IN 46032
(317)816-0142
chikester@aol.com

SIEGEL DIES AT 81

Jerry Siegel, the remaining co-creator of Superman, died late in January. The conditions of the sale of his creation were quite controversial and led to many acrimonious debates and at least one "Li'l Abner" story.

ARCHON ADOPTS FIRST FANDOM

WANTS FAMILY VISITATION

The folks at Archon stated that they enjoyed hosting First Fandom at the last Archon so much they have decided to adopt us.

Such an adoption means that First Fans are perpetually welcome at Archon without membership fee, and that they will have automatic access to the VIP suite as well as transportation to off-site con activities.

This year Archon will be held on October 4, 5, and 6. For more information please contact:

Jonie Knappenberger
1474 Summerhaven
St. Louis, MO 63146

NEW MEMBERS

The following associate member has been accepted:

On rare occasions First Fandom accords Associate membership on someone who has performed a singular service for the organization. For the past three years most of the photographs on the covers of *ScientiFiction* have been supplied by a young man who has been conspicuous by his presence at First Fandom reunions and his enthusiasm with which he chronicles our affairs. In recognition of his deep involvement with First Fandom, and his generous willingness to share his records with us, the officers of First Fandom hereby confer honorary Associate Membership on:

John L. Coker III
3701 Glen Garry Lane
Orlando, FL 32803

Welcome Dinosaur!

NECROLOGY

Aubrey MacDermott

REVENGE OF THE SCI-FAN

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

I know you think editors go out of their ways to invent reasons why the last ish was late, but this one is a dilly. I developed a case of severe constipation at Archon and it just wouldn't go away despite the ingestion of prune juice and bran muffins. Finally I went to my physician and he ordered a lower GI. The films showed a narrowing of the colon, a stenosis in medical terms, about 7 cm in length.

The radiologist ordered a biopsy. The pathology report was clear but the surgeon told me that the stenosis wasn't going to go away by itself and I opted for surgery.

When they cut me open they found a cancerous area. It was fairly well isolated and the surgeon excised it. Later pathology reports showed that there was no lymphatic involvement, but there had been some migration into the fat cells in the area.

The particular treatment for that involves bombarding my pelvic area with 18MeV of photons 33 times, a total of 6,100 RADs. Fortunately all that energy was poured into either the pelvic area or the area where my bowel was resected. It took seven weeks and

after the first five wasn't too much fun. The photons irritate both the small intestine and the rectum. As a result I spent two weeks fairly chained to the porcelain throne.

Since the nearest linear accelerator was in Albuquerque I had to spend five days at a time in the city, then return to Gallup for the weekend before returning again on the following Monday. The process was made more drawn-out because of several holidays and a day when the accelerator was down for a freon recharging. In the entire state of New Mexico there are only six linear accelerators, four in Albuquerque and two in Farmington. It would do me no good to go to Farmington since my surgeon and radiologist were both in Albuquerque.

The procedure takes a maximum of fifteen minutes; that includes positioning my body in the laser sights under the Varian Linac. If the quantum mechanics have to take positional films in a CYA maneuver it may take another five minutes. The rest of the time I sat on my hands, went slightly nuts, and tried to invent tasks that would get me out of the hostel where I was staying.

The hostel was specifically built for cancer patients, and it's a pretty depressing place; it's filled with sick people! They, like me, had to do something to fill the time during which they're not being

treated, and many of them were just too debilitated by the treatment, the disease process, or both, to do anything.

I went to the university library, to museums, searched out bookstores, foud tool emporia, looked for cheap clothes, hung out at the Elks Lodge, went to Masonic lodge meetings, and read a lot. In between times I laughed a lot, mainly because this whole process of sitting around for 23 plus hours at a time is so silly, and because the fact that I have cancer scares the bejesus out of more folks than you would imagine.

I discovered almost immediately post-surgery that there was no difference between me without cancer and me with cancer except the cancer itself. Other folks, though, perceived it entirely differently. To some I seem to be a pariah with some transmissible disease, to others I have a condition which cannot be mentioned by name; it's an "illness," or some other euphamism. I'm pretty up front about it, and I'm sure it shocks some. The truth is that I suspect I've just lived long enough to catch cancer. I successfully evaded those conditions which afflicted my parents: blocked arteries, heart murmur, and kidney stones. True, I am hypertensive and hypercholesterolemic, but I've kept the former under control for 22 years and I've been doing pretty well with the latter.

It may well be that my familial genes are such that I'm supposed to check out early and, by evading the other causes of death I placed myself in a prime position to catch cancer. That's not a fatalistic statement, a diagnosis, or even a belief, just a vague supposition.

At least it hasn't affected my sense of humor. There's been a lot to laugh at, albeit in retrospect, over my experience with modern medicine. There's also been a lot of concern on my part at finding that there actually is a health care crisis in this country, that it's significant, and severe, and that we are going to find ourselves serfs to the health care corporations if something isn't done Real Soon Now. Those of you who've been there know what I'm talking about.

Anyway, surgery posponed the Winter ish, and radiation therapy will postpone the Spring ish. Bear with me and everything will straighten out. Eventually.

Putting the last ish together was fun. Ben Jason would let me pub his article only under the proviso that I printed the photos along with the prose. That necessitated laying out the photos as a centerpiece, there being no other way to assure complete registration using our current printing procedure. The physical layout of the centerpiece required the use of two DTP programs,

three printing passes, and the screening of the three photos. It was expensive, but worth it. Few folks realise that this mag is one of the few repositories of real fannish history.

I apologise for losing a portion of the first story in the last ish. My only excuse was that I was still hurting a mite from the surgery, was trying to rush the ish out, and just didn't pay enough attention to what I was doing.

Something funny happened while I was in Albuquerque: some of you First Fen were shocked to hear from Ray that I had cancer. This despite the fact that I printed a statement to that effect in the last ish. Well, such shocks will happen if you don't bother to read this rag. Don't say I didn't warn you.

DINOSAUR DROP-PINGS

Mark:

You're doing an excellent job -- more than I can say for some of the malcontents. I've been wanting to write concerning the Hugo/Madle letter but, frankly, I'm overwhelmed with work and problems, and I don't have time right now.

Noreen Shaw

Dear Mark:

New Line Cinema has taken an option on "Lancelot Biggs: Spaceman" for a TV series. Bob Weinberg wants "The Voice From The Curious Cube," which first appeared in 1937, for an anthology he is editing. Almost 60 years later? Remarkable!

Also, not one but *three* agents, producers, or wannabes have lately written for permission to market my stuff. I think all this must have to do with the TV sci-fi channel which, hungry (or even desperate) for material, is seeking to make new shows out of old stories.

In what is laughingly known as my "spare time" I am also belatedly trying to write a bibliography of my own written, aired and acted perpetrations on the good will of the long-suffering public. I understand several of my contemporaries have found publishers for such brag acts. Do you happen to know of one who might be interested in a fully annotated bibliography...complete with reminiscences...which I am planning to title "Out of My Mind?"

All thoughts and/or suggestions warmly welcomed by

Nelson Bond

/I don't know of anyone, Nelson, but perhaps some of the folks out there do. Let's face it, there just isn't that much new stuff being written that's worth reprinting, or

even printing in the first place. Hope you make tons of dough on this! -- Mark)

Mark:

Regarding the term "assault rifle," there are two definitions. According to the Defense Department, an "assault rifle" is a rifle which is capable of selective fire, either semi-automatic (one shot per trigger pull) or full automatic (continue firing as long as the trigger is held back and ammunition lasts). The M-2 carbine, a full-auto version of the M-14, and the M-16 satisfy this definition. This type of weapon is patterned after the WWII German rifle introduced in 1943, intended to give the German soldier firepower equivalent to the Russian "burp gun." Any weapon capable of full automatic fire has been controlled in the U.S. since 1934. Civilians wishing to own one must obtain a "class 3" license from the notorious Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and pay a hefty fee.

Since full-auto firearms were already controlled, the recent "assault rifle" law applies only to semi-auto firearms. It defined "assault rifles" as any rifle having any two of the following: pistol grip, folding stock, bayonet lug, and flash hider. Clearly these are cosmetic features only, and have nothing to do with the deadliness of the firearm (when did you last read of a drive-by bayonetting?).

Firearms fitting this definition are functionally equivalent to semi-automatic hunting and target rifles in wide use. Colt has come out with the "Colt Sporter" which is equivalent to a semi-auto M-16 except that it lacks the bayonet lug and the flash hider, thus escaping the "assault rifle" definition.

It's worth noting that an outfit called Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership has published a study of every case of genocide in this century (Jews under Hitler, Armenians in Turkey, Cambodians under Pol Pot, etc.). They found that in every case, the genocide was preceded by a gun ban which disarmed the victims. I can't help wondering what our politicians are planning to do to us, since they're so eager to disarm us.

Those interested can contact JPFO at 2872 S. Wentworth Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207. They do accept Gentile members.

Joseph Martino

Dear Mark:

Re the suggestion concerning making Hall of Fame award presentations at regional cons, sounds good to me. Let's do it.

Sorry to learn of the bout with colon cancer, but glad to hear that you are on the mend.

Am not too familiar with Gal-

lup, but if you can use any snow out there please advise.

Meantime, a happy holiday season to all hands.

Sincerely,

Ron Small

(Thanks for the offer of the white stuff, Ron. It snows here, but what falls doesn't hang around very long. At this altitude most of it passes from solid to vapor state fairly rapidly. Yes, I am on the mend if the quantum mechanics can keep the linear accelerator in operation long enough -- Mark)

Mark --

Shalom!

Thanks for another fine First Fandom Report. The Hugo article was especially interesting, and what a wind-up with the shabby treatment of Hugo Gernsback. How fortunate fans are so much more adult and sophisticated today, hmm?

Ben Indick

(Glad you liked the article, Ben. It was a difficult one to format, but well worth the trouble -- Mark)

Dear Mark,

I read your "Conventions of Discontent" and would like to add one point. Regional conventions are often where the people don't

yet know about fandom's past -- but who might well be interested if they did -- first make contact with fandom. Once appearances at regional conventions demonstrate that there is substantial interest in the Hall of Fame, future World-cons should be more eager to showcase, rather than tolerate, the event. So it might be possible, over the long run, to have one's cake and eat it, too.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mintz, Sustaining Patron

Dear Mark,

Quite an interesting Winter '95 ish, especially the essay on the Hugo awards. I like these history essays; lets me get caught up on what happened while I was in FAFIA status for so long. So Gernsback was refused a replica of the trophy named after him; I would deem that to be totally unconscionable. As for the production, wouldn't a bronze casting have been simpler and less expensive? I believe casting techniques were known in those days weren't they?

As for the award following the money, certainly it does; except when the money follows the award. Sometimes it's difficult to determine which way it works. I've noticed that lots of books, especially paperbacks, use the Hugo and the Nebula for advertising

purposes. I see front and back cover blurbs that read "Hugo Winner," or "Hugo Nominee" for such and such a year, same with the Nebula. I never buy a book based on its winning an award. I read the synopsis, if any, and look to see who wrote it. If it appeals to me I buy it.

Regarding the Hall of Fame awards, if they go over better at the regional conventions, then present them there. If the Worldcon doesn't care for them, then don't present them there. What's the problem?

Any significance to the pig kissing article on page three, or just a bit of humor? If it's of any interest to anyone, the American Diabetes Association sponsors pig kissing, annually I think. It's part of the fund raising for diabetes research.

Thanks for the info on the DC-X. According to local news media reports, it's actually a 1/3 scale prototype. Maybe one day the DC-Clipper will get off the ground, but I'm not holding my breath. I wish there were more funding for the various space projects, along with other scientific R&D.

Can't argue with your definition of a military assault weapon, but I don't think that's exactly what the politicians had in mind. Another friend of mine told me that any firearm with a bayonet stud is classified as a military

assault weapon. Can't argue with that either, but it seems a bit incomplete. My stepfather once had a muzzle loading double shot-gun with what looked like a bayonet stud. Does it qualify as an assault weapon? On the other hand, the B.A.R. (Browning Automatic Rifle) did not have a bayonet stud; at least the one I carried didn't. Does that make the B.A.R. legal for civilian ownership? I hope not. Actually, the B.A.R. is a magazine fed light machine gun. Believe it or not, I have had the B.A.R. described to me as "the ideal deer rifle." Anyone who believes it is, please contact me; I have a bridge for sale...

I'll still stand by what I said before. I believe ordinary citizens should have the privilege of owning firearms, but they have no business with military weaponry. And firearm ownership must be controlled. The Second Amendment does not guarantee the right of every felon and irresponsible kook to carry a gun. I like the new Texas law regarding concealed weapons; I believe it should apply to all firearms. To obtain a license for a concealed weapon, one must have a background check to ascertain no record of mental instability or criminal activity, and pass a formal course in weapons safety and marksmanship. Example of why: Just this morning local media reported a case of a 13 year old boy sniping at passing

traffic with a .22 rifle. Result: Several people injured and one truck driver in critical condition at the local county hospital. If that young lad had bought the rifle himself, he should never have been permitted to. If the weapon is the property of a parent or guardian, it was quite obviously not properly secured, and the parent or guardian should be doing some time on the inside.

Note to Les and Es Cole: Noticed your names on the roster. I seem to remember that you once wrote a novel concerning the "Philosophical Corps." Any idea where I could obtain a copy?

Mark, I sincerely hope therapy for your cancer is successful.

Regards,

Roy R. Wood

(Roy, the Congress is like Lewis Carroll's Humpty Dumpty. They redefine words to suit themselves. I firmly believe that gun ownership is a right rather than a privilege, and I fully intend to have one in my hand when my friends and neighbors come to try and take me and my wife to the gas chamber. On the lighter side, my quantum mechanics broke the Varian Linac with which I am treated. I guess I'll have to take a wristwatch with a luminous dial and place it where the sun don't shine for my next treatment -- Mark)

Mark --

I was very disturbed to hear of your encounter with the big C.

On Christmas day I lit a candle for you at my church. I didn't fool around, I lit the biggest one, so you are bound to recover!

Fondly,

Leigh Crouch

(Leigh, all prayers are gratefully accepted, as are candles. I am doing fine except for having to spend every week in Albuquerque and away from my family and practice -- Mark)

Dear Mark:

I was very sorry to hear about your illness, and I hope your recovery continues.

By the way, Ben Jason's article on Hugo trophies was fascinating.

Best wishes,

Ev Bleiler

(It continues, Ev. I keep asking the radiologist how I'm doing and he keeps asking me how I'm doing. He then bills me \$150. He seems to be doing very well -- Mark)

Mark --

Gee whiz -- sorry to hear you are not well. Hope you can make

it to LACON. Hey -- hope I can make it, too!

Jay Kay Klein

/Looks like we're both still vertical, Jay. At our ages that's a plus -- Mark/

Mark:

For the First Fandom Hall of Fame award I nominate Hal Clement!

Julius Schwartz

Dear Ray:

Aubrey Mac Dermott died Sunday afternoon, January 21, 1996. He was 85 last May.

Aubrey founded the first science fiction fan club in April 1928 in the East Bay cities of California. At least four other clubs were founded in other cities around the country during the following summer.

Since attending the first meeting of Westercon he has also been a frequent participant in science fiction conventions, including Worldcons in Europe.

In 1983 he organized two trips to the Soviet Union at which U.S. fans met Soviet authors and U.S. writers met Soviet publishers.

His bouts with various forms of cancer began in 1985, but he was fan guest of honor at the

Oakland XXXX Westercon. The doctors had warned that he might not live until the con in July, but they were wrong.

Clifton Amsbury

Dear Mark:

Reflecting on 1995 I had a few after thoughts on PHILCON 95. The attendance keeps getting larger and younger every year. On the other hand the old time members are younger and fewer. I missed Lloyd Eshbach, Sam Moskowitz and Bob Madle among others. I know John Baltadonis was there but our paths never crossed for one reason the fact that my wife was with me and she was breaking in a new pair of stainless steel total knees so I didn't want to stray too far.

I did get to talk with Julius Schwartz for a while and wife of old time member Ann McKnight. Returning to my wife I found her talking to an old friend I hadn't seen in years, Manny Staub. The article on the Hugo in the Winter 95 *SciFiction* mentions both Jack McKnight and Manny.

The highlight of the convention, as far as I was concerned, was my first meeting with Jack Williamson. There was a lull in the program so I asked the director what room Jack was in and gave him a call. Telling him who I was and that we had exchanged letters over the years he invited me

to come up. The next 30 to 40 minutes made the convention for me. Funny thing. I found out he was reading "The Body Farm" by Patricia Cornwell, a book I had finished the day before. A change of pace from my usual reading and, like Jack, I found it very good.

With the help of my son and grandson I'm hoping to master the Packard Bell and get on-line.

Keep up the good work,

John Newton

Greetings:

I just wanted to officially inform you of my recent move and new phone number (812) 951-3733.

Hope everything works out for the FF get together at INCON-JUNCTION in Indianapolis this year. Despite the move I'm still less than 2 hours away from Indy and will be involved with the convention for the 16th year.

'Til next time,

Donald Dailey

/Don sent me a "press release" for a book published by a vanity press. I get them infrequently and will only tell the members about them if a free copy of the book is included for me to read and review in these pages. I don't think it's fair to tell our members about these things unless they

have an unbiased review to go along with it. -- Mark/

Dear Ray:

I collect the FBI files of (deceased) science fiction/fantasy/horror writers.

All you need to do to get them is to send a letter of request to the FBI.

(Unsigned)

Dear Ray:

The First Fandom Hall of Fame trophy arrived in perfect condition, no scratches or indentations at all. Thank you very much for it. Dick Lynch had sent along with the latest issue of "Mimosa" a sheet of paper proclaiming this honor for me and I had assumed that this was the only concrete evidence of the award I would receive. So the plaque was a major surprise when the mailman brought it. At first, before opening the mailing bag, I assumed that you had gone mad and published a 400-page issue of a fanzine and had sent me a copy.

I hope you and yours have a fine time during the holidays and ever after those coming occasions.

Yrs., &c.,

Harry Warner, Jr.

(See, Harry, we do something with the exorbitant dues payments we ask from our members each year. Each HoF recipient, both living and posthumous, receives a nice plaque. Each posthumous recipient also has his name engraved on a master plaque which Ray polishes at least once a week. A plaque, a four-color membership card, a wonderful magazine -- is there no end of the wonders we can produce on a measly \$5.00 per year? Mark)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This issue I would like to touch on something that has been of importance to all the S-F people who are writers, artists, editors, and publishers, namely the copyright laws. Several years ago I believe the law was that a property could be copyrighted for a period of 26 years and renewed for another 26 years.

I have learned that recently the law has been changed to a straight 75 years. I have also learned that there is a move afoot to make some additional changes. First, they want to make the time period covered 95 years. Second, they want to make it retroactive to cover existing properties. That would mean that anything less than 95 years old that had ever

been copyrighted would automatically fall under the law's protection.

I have seen several rationales for this move. It would cover the work for the life of the creator, etc. Well, it would certainly do that, and then some in most cases. It would put us on a par with some other countries that have similar laws. Not being familiar with the laws of these other unnamed countries I cannot address this point.

The way I understand the situation under the initial law is that anything that has had its copyright renewed and is over 52 years old belongs in the public domain. Also anything that has not been renewed and is over 26 years old is in the public domain. Over the years there have been a lot of things which, for one reason or another, were not renewed. I can remember that Edmond Hamilton was upset when several of the Captain Future Novels were reprinted in paperback. It was not the fact that he received no money from them, which he probably would have accepted, but the fact that the stories were so bad that the copyrights on them had been allowed to expire and they were now reprinted for everyone to read. This was a case where the property was not considered worth renewing. At any rate the way I understand this law is that I could publish Hamilton's "The Universe Wreckers,"

which appeared in Amazing Stories in 1930, with impunity since it exists in the public domain. I don't believe it was ever re-published. At any rate I am merely using this as an example. For anything published under the 75 year law, I will have to wait the 75 years.

Now I want to get to the real reason for the push to change the law. It is not to help you, the purveyor of the written word, but to serve the visual media. There were many movies made in the 30's, 40's, 50's, and 60's that were not considered worth having their copyrights renewed. At the time, the people who made the decision not to renew did not envision communication satellites providing us with hundreds of TV channels. At the present time there are so many channels that they are digging everything out of the vaults and the demand for material is still growing. People who had control, or their descendants, are lamenting the fact that these films are being used without royalty payments and that there is no way that they can collect on them. Hence the 95 years and retroactive movement. Hindsight is a great thing.

As many of you know I have a small video business. Passage of the retroactive copyright law would put an end to it. This has only been a hobby. It does supplement my Social Security a bit and has allowed me to buy some

nice toys but passage would not change my lifestyle that much. I would have about 1300 westerns, 1000 mysteries, horror, etc. and 200 serials to watch in my leisure time. Time that I do not have now. I would have to sell about ten VCR's which would give me a lot of money for my drinking habit. Mary Ann would be more concerned because she feels that the business keeps me off the street and out of the bars.

I receive a lot of mail from other dealers who are against this. I have also received one letter from Authors Services for passage. I would like to hear what the membership has to say about it. I would be happy if every one of you will write Mark or myself on the subject.

Until next time-----

Ray

Final Notes

In case you didn't notice, I lost my e-mail address. The local BBS closed down and I just can't afford Internet access right now.

I also apologise to John Coker for not printing his con report thish; I just ran out of room.

FIRST FANDOM
Dinosaurs of Science Fiction

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Gallup, NM 87301

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