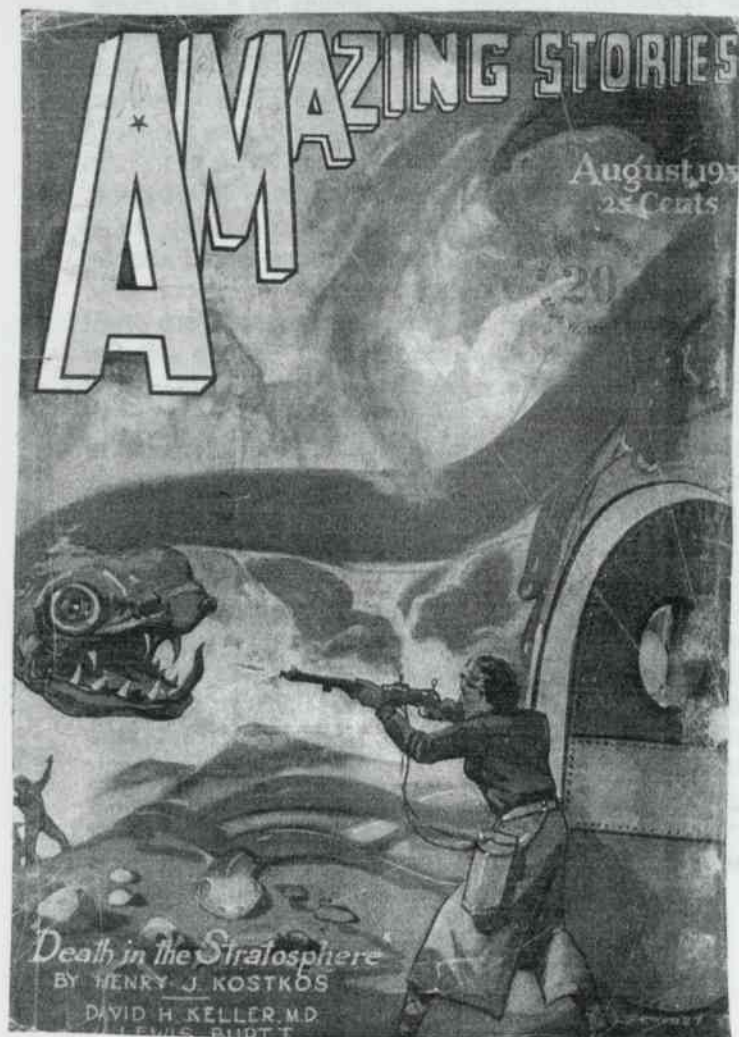


# SCIENTIFICTION

THE FIRST FANDOM REPORT

SUMMER  
2002



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

*I hope that everyone has had a great summer. I have. It was filled with time to enjoy my family and friends. In May I went to Conquest in Kansas City. They have a terrific small convention every Memorial Day. This year was an especially good convention as two of the GOH's were Frank Robinson and Frank Kelly Freas. We called Bob Tucker from Opening Ceremonies on a cell phone, and assorted people talked to him.*

*In August I attended the World con in San Jose CA. They did a good job of running such a big con. The convention facilities were monstrous to get around in. The dealers' room was filled with a lot of good book dealers and I visited with old friends along the way. The main hotel, the Fairmont, was very nice. The elevators as usual were a pain. I was very happy with the committee, as all the plans that I had made with them concerning First Fandom, right down to the ribbons for the badges, were done correctly. Dave Kyle's First Fandom and St. Fantony displays were great and had a prime spot. I spent some pleasant time talking with Pat and Roger Sims, Bob Peterson, Art Widner and others. I was surprised by Barbara and Jim Harmon, who came to San Jose just to have dinner with us. We got a few new members including one new dinosaur. First Fandom had a special interest group table in the fan area right next to the Kansas City in 2006 World con bid table. I urge you to support the KC in 2006 bid. They are great friends of FF and have good facilities and organization. On Sunday evening the Hugo Awards were held. I presented the Hall of Fame award to Sir Arthur C. Clarke. Hal Clement accepted for him. The Posthumous Hall of Fame award went to Martha Beck. Pat and Roger Sims accepted for Martha's family. The Sam Moskowitz Archive award was awarded to Robert Madle. Dave Kyle accepted for Robert Madle.*

*I have spoken with Forrey Ackerman, and he is selling most of his collection and has moved to a smaller home not too far from his Glendower Mansion. His phone number remains the same.*

(Continued on page 3)

*Keith Stokes, our treasurer, has designed a fabulous new First Fandom web site. It is very easy to navigate and has lots of interesting bios and other information on who and what FF is. I encourage you to go visit it at [www.firstfandom.org](http://www.firstfandom.org). Keith has lots of web experience, including serving as news master for SFWA.*

*The last piece of business is that we are raising the dues to \$10.00 per year. The major expenses of paper, postage and printing have gone up past cost of the membership dues. If you are one of the members that have paid your dues for several years in advance, this increase will not affect you until your dues run out. Dues notices will be going out in a few weeks.*

*Have a good fall.*

*Joan Marie*

## **MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

Seems Howard DeVore was doing a bit of "recruiting" during the recent PULPCON. He managed to turn up seven possible candidates for membership. So far two have submitted membership applications.

While attending both INCONJUNCTION (Indianapolis) and CONGLOMERATION (Clarksville, IN) I too did a bit of recruiting. Two candidates have submitted membership applications and I picked up a couple of membership renewals.

And I still have a good supply of the First Fandom Membership cards. New members are issued one with their membership packets, but there are many long time members who do not have one of these newer cards. If you would like a new card, please drop me a line or e-mail. You may choose from the wallet-sized card or a clip-on type to wear at cons. All are laminated for long life and, best of all, free!

# FIRST FANDOM REPORT

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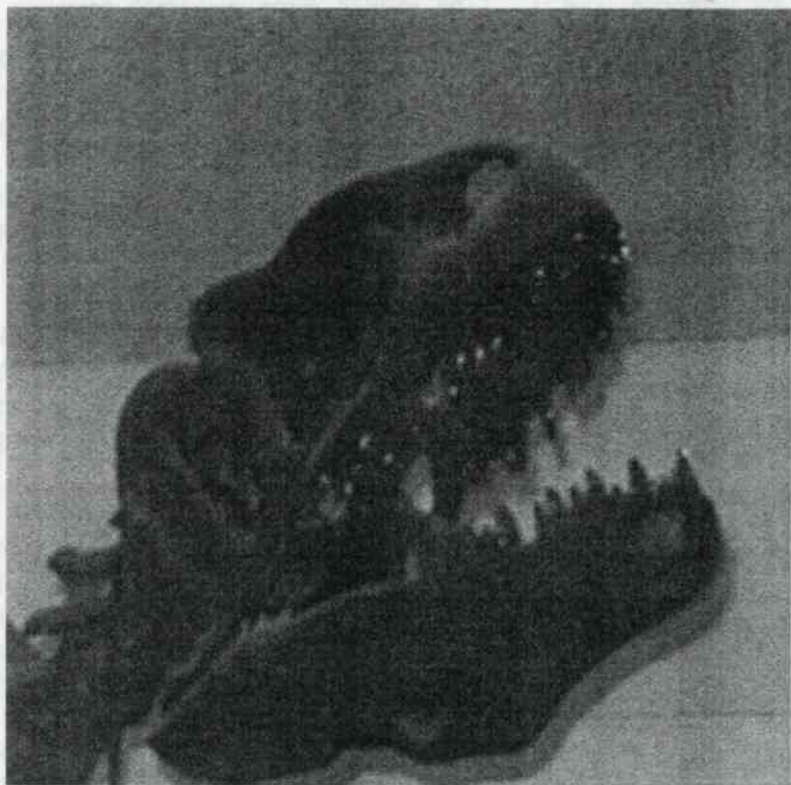
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*Allosaur, Pierce College Museum, photo courtesy W. Craig Meyer*

## DINOSAUR TRACKS

### HOWARD DEVORE

It appears I was wrong when I said I'd received STF #3. I thought I'd read it and put it on the one of the piles to do something with these' I'm sure I would have remembered my picture and the Godlwater poster and I don't. When was it mailed? If it doesn't

come in a reasonable time can I have another? I'll be happy to pay for it.

The picture must be of me standing at my table with the poster behind me on the wall. This was the '63 Worldcon in DC .....Did I tell you I was there for the famous Martin Luther King march? Well, I didn't go

to it, I was busy at the convention and had no time for nonsense. Yes, I partially printed the poster. The previous weekend I'd been to the Michigan State Fair in Detroit. His supporters were selling bumper stickers, posters and probably other stuff at the fair. I think they were asking \$1 for the posters. I told them I was going to Washington the following week and asked if they'd wholesale some posters so I could display them in Washington. They generously gave me six of them, they said GOLDWATER IN 1964. I took them home and using my large wood type managed to convert them into GOLDWATER IN 1984. I displayed them here and there around the hotel. I suppose I should have saved one but when the convention was over I gave them to people who admired them.

As long as I've done this I may as well tell my 'hero' story about the Michigan State Fair. Probably nobody has noticed but when I tell a tale I'm usually the hero. Look closely at the picture, you'll see I was a sleek 180 pounder at the time. I worked in a warehouse moving freezers and hide-a-beds.

Sybil wanted to take the kids to the State Fair and I was trying to keep her in a good mood because I had plans for the next weekend in Washington. We paid our fee and started down the side of the fair. There's a trailer along the way with a

pitchman and a drop down half door. The man is giving away ball point pens. They are the marvel of the age, soon they'll be on sale everywhere for \$3 apiece. They have a chain attached and you hook it over your telephone, you'll never have to hunt for a pan again but to introduce them the company is paying him to give away samples. Now if he just gives them away people will walk off, you have to put up a dollar 'ernest money' and listen to his pitch, then he'll give you the pen and your dollar back. I told Sybil let's get out of here, she wants to listen, she gives him a dollar and he continues with the pitch. He's not only going to give you this pen, he also have pens that will write on glass and he's going to give you two of them, but you've got to put up another \$2 bucks ... and he continues his spiel.

I'm getting very mad, Sybil now has 14 pens in her hand and she's invested \$14 of my money (I was making about \$100 a week). The crowd is hypnotized, they kept handing him money. Finally he say's "Thank you folks" and he slams the half door. The crowd is astounded he's gone. A couple of them rap on the door but he ignores them. He has to wait till they have dispersed, then he'll open up and start all over again.

Sybil is saying " But he said he was going to give the money back" and I'm saying "I told you he was a hustler". Everybody else is gone but

we're still standing there. Suddenly the door on the other side of the trailer opens and the man comes out, he walks to his car parked beside the trailer.

Sybil says "Well, just tell him you want the money back". I said "OK. I'll ask for it. Then I'll drag his ass out of the car and start on him. I oughta have at least five minutes before the police get here. You call someone to come get you and see if you can raise the bail money "

The man has rolled the car windows down. I step next to it and put my hand inside the car. I'm clutching the pens in my left hand and they're about 8 inches from his eyes. I said "She wants her money back". The guy says's sure. I told her she could get her TWO dollars back, he put his hand in his pocket and draws out two dollars bills, but his eyes are glued on the pens in my hand.

He said, "Fourteen dollars!". He reaches in his pocket and counts out twelve more dollars. Neither of us says another word but the minute I pull my hand out of the window he cranks the window up and locks the door.

I think in the years that followed Sybil might have gone to a state fair again but she never asked me to go.

It always amazed me how co-

operative people are when you ask them politely.

## Big Hearted Howard

*I recall Kris Neville and his wife Lil did take part in the famous M.L. King march. Luckily no bull cop cracked the well-endowed skull of Kris and he gave us a few more years of outstanding SF before his untimely death..--JH*

## EV BLEILER

Dear Jim:

An interesting piece by Jon Swartz on Welch's old *Science Fiction Biography*. A couple of comments:

There was another issue of *Unusual Stories*, May-June 1935, Vol. 1 No. 1, published by *Fantasy Publications* (Crawford). It cost 10 cents and was supposed to be bimonthly, although, of course, it only lasted one issue. It contained stories by Robert A. Wait, Duane Rimel, R. H. Barlow, P. Schuyler Miller, and poetry by Forest J. Ackerman, Donald A. Wolheim, and Kenrad Leister (whose name, if not a pseudonym, means nothing to me). (Anagram: darken sterile?) No comment need be made about the

quality of this material. The booklet is 4 7/8 x 7 3/4, 48 pages, 2 signatures, side stapled, with a blank wrapper of heavy stock. Since no two copies of Crawford's publications at this time seem to have been the same, other copies may be different.

Gernsback's *Science Fiction Series*, mentioned by Jon Swartz, is thoroughly described in my *Science-Fiction: The Early Years*, the only place, to my knowledge, to do so.

Incidentally, I love Jon Swartz's expression "cognitive dissonance."

*Bill Crawford published my first SF story in SPACEWAY. He never paid for it but I understood it was chancey that I would ever be paid. Still he was a significant pioneer SF publisher and deserves more credit than is generally given him.*

NOTES: Noreen Shaw once again provides us with a useful newspaper clipping from the L.A. Times on one of the earliest active SF fans and much more, Forrest J. Ackerman. We have run out of space for the whole article. To synosize: :Forry had a recent serious illness involving a blood clot on the brain. He is recovering now, but has moved from the Ackermansion to a modest five room house below the Los Feliz hills in Los Angeles.

The contents of his old home constitute a major museum of science

*fiction, fantasy and horror entries – not only books and magazines, but objects from movies and TV, and the people who worked in those media. He has the ring and cape of Bela Lugosi, "Dracula", a life mask of Boris Karloff, "Frankenstein", a replica of the sensual female robot from the silent classic, "Metropolis". All items well suited for the collection of the former editor of Famous Monster of Filmland Magazine.*

It is a law suit over that magazine that is one more reason for him to sell his fabulous home, valued at \$1.3 million. Ray Fory, former publisher of the magazine Forry edited, lost in a suit over Fory's use of Fory's longtime pseudonym, Dr. Acula for a judgement of \$500,000. But Fory has never been able to collect due to some financial gymnastics of Fory, now ruled fraudulent by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. An appeal STILL prevents Ackerman from collection. Legal fees force the disillusion of the priceless historic fantasy collection. Ray Bradbury Steven Spielberg and many are saddened at this end of an era..

\* \* \*

JON D. SWARTZ, Ph. D joins the staff as Special Features Editor. He was before retirement a licensed psychologist specializing in developmental/personality areas, teaching at four different universities. He has also written extensively on the subject as well as on old time radio and popular culture. -- JH.

## **FAN PROFILE**

### **Erle Melvin Korshak**

ERLE MELVIN KORSHAK was born October 20, 1923, in Chicago and started reading SF in 1934 (*Astounding*, *Wonder*), attended his first Worldcon in 1939 (Nycon I) along with his friends and fellow-Chicagoans Mark Reinsberg and Jack Darrow, and was co-chair of Chicon I in 1940; he was also one of the Committee of Seven, the organizers and principals of Chicon II in 1952.

Saw service overseas in WW II (combat infantryman) in France (Battles of St. Lo and Metz), Germany (Saarbrücken and Saarlautern), Belgium and Luxembourg (Battle of the Ardennes Forest and Battle of the Bulge), was wounded and returned to the States in May, 1945.

In 1947, while attending the University of Chicago (with the late Mark Reinsberg and with Everett Bleiler) he co-founded (along with T. E. Ted Dikty) Shasta Publishers, one of the great Golden Age specialty book publishing firms. In 1957 was appointed Lecturer in the College, University of Chicago.

In 1972, at age 49, entered law school in San Francisco and in Berkeley, earning his JD (Juris Doctor) in January, 1976. He has lived continuously in California (Oakland and San Francisco) since 1966.

He is the only person to have attended every one of the first 13 World SF Cons (Nycon I thru NY Con II, 19560; he gaffiated for 26 years, from 1960 until 1986 then attended Con Federation in Atlanta, and has attended every World Con (11 of them) held in the United States since 1986.

He presently spends several months every year in Europe: April in Paris, London, and Ireland; July on the French Riviera; September and October in Paris, London, and Ireland.

Approaching his 79<sup>th</sup> year he enjoys excellent health; married twice, he has outlived both wives and has been a widower since 1992. He is still active in the practice of law.

He was elected to the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1996 and, in 2001, along with J. K. Rowling and Anne McCaffery, he was the recipient of the Barry R. Levin Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature Lifetime Collectors Award.

His older son, Robert, a Doctor of Internal Medicine, practices in upper New York State; his younger son, Stephen, also a practicing attorney, has joined his father in building the Erle Melvin and Stephen Dedalus Korshak collection of Science Fiction and Fantasy Art. It is one of the pre-eminent collections of its kind, comprising over sixty major pieces, mostly in color, by Paul, St. John, Brundage, Whelan, Freas, Emsh, Bok, Finlay, and Frazetta. Also Rogers, Meltzoff, Avati, and Wesso are represented.

## **FAN PROFILE**

### **Joseph P. Martino**

I began reading Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon comic strips and Big Little Books (remember those?) when I was in grade school back in the late 1930s. I moved up to the Roy Rockwood books some time in the 1940s. About 1948 I discovered *ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION* and started buying copies, until my parents forbade me to bring "that trash" into the house.

I left for college at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in the fall of 1949. This led to two things. First, I could buy *ASTOUNDING* on the news stands, and my parents wouldn't know about it. Second, I met George Earley, then a Junior, who founded the Miami University Science Fiction Association. He introduced me to fandom. A Cincinnati group had successfully held the CinCon a short time before, and used the profits to rent an apartment where they regularly held meetings. George and I would thumb our way from Oxford down to Cincy to attend. There I met Lou Tabakow, Nancy Black, and others whose names I've forgotten.

George assured the financial stability of MUSFA by arranging a showing

of *THINGS TO COME* on campus. We made enough profit to keep MUSFA going for quite some time.

George and I also thumbed our way to Bellefontaine, to attend the first MidWesCon, organized by Doc Barrett. There I met Bob Tucker, and heard him tell a story about "those funny Russian coins." (By reminding Bob of that incident I proved I had been at Bellefontaine, and he graciously sponsored my Associate Membership in First Fandom. As a token of my gratitude, after a recent trip to Russia, I sent him a 10-kopek piece.)

During the following summer I learned of a science fiction club in Cleveland. I would take the bus from my home in Warren to get there. Among others I met at the Cleveland club were Ben Jason and Harlan Ellison.

That year I attended my first WorldCon in New Orleans. I flew down there (my first airplane trip) and took a bus back. I had a real ball there. The non-SF novel *DINNER AT ANTOINES* had come out shortly before that. Somebody suggested we go to Antoinettes for dinner. A bunch of us piled into a cab and went there. It was a dimly lighted place down a narrow flight of steps. It was probably the first time I'd ever eaten in a restaurant, now that I think about it. I recall I had oysters Rockefeller. Delicious.

After George graduated I took over presidency of MUSFA. I think it disbanded after I graduated in 1953. There is a club at Miami now, but it has no connection with the one I was in some 50 years ago.

Following graduation from Miami I went into the Air Force, and essentially gaffiated. I did go to a couple of WorldCons, one in Philadelphia and one in New York. These were during the 1960s, when I was stationed in Washington, DC. The New York WorldCon was especially enjoyable. I had just sold a story to John Campbell at *ASTOUNDING*, and had the chance to meet him. I also met EE Smith and Robert Heinlein. I had just read Heinlein's *STARSHIP TROOPERS*, and knew it was up for a Hugo. I took along my copy "just in case." Campbell arranged for a table at the Hugo Awards banquet, and invited me to join

him. Heinlein was there also. When the book did indeed win the Hugo, I ran back to my room, grabbed the book, and got Heinlein's autograph on it. It's still one of my treasures.

Another "goodie" at the 'con was the chance to have a bull session with EE Smith, during which he outlined what would have been a new series of novels. The first was published in *ASTOUNDING*, but unfortunately he died before writing any more.

I also was part of a team that won second prize at the Masquerade. My costume was simply some GI coveralls with some lettering on the back. I think back on that when I see the elaborate costumes now worn at Masquerades. My prize-winning costume of back then wouldn't even get me in the door now.

After my first wife Mary died in 1988 I decided to get back into Fandom. I started going to regional 'cons near Dayton. It was at one of these I learned of First Fandom, and found I was eligible for Associate member. I now go to several regional 'cons a year, primarily Millennicon, Archon, Marcon, and Context. I used to attend Rivercon until it was discontinued. I've been going to WorldCons regularly now for about five years.

I still try to sell stories, but it's been a while since my last one. I've had several rejected in the last few years, and as of this writing have stories out to several magazines. Maybe I'll yet appear in print again.

In my mundate existence, I retired from the Air Force in 1975, and from the University of Dayton in 1993. I've had several technical books published, and the third edition of my engineering textbook has recently gone out of print. I'm working on the 4th edition. I've had over three dozen papers published in technical journals on the past 30 years.

I continue to reside in Sidney, OH, with my wife Nancy. I'm active in Republican politics (I lost my race for City Council last November by 6 votes). I'm on the Board of Governors of the Engineers Club of Dayton, and am chairman of the Technical Education Committee. I manage to keep busy.

# FANZINE RETROSPECTIVE

By Jon D. Swartz

In this occasional column my plan is to look at selected issues of fanzines from the past, principally ones published 50+ years ago. In doing so I hope to introduce new readers to these classic zines and also provide some nostalgic memories for those who read them when they first appeared. Each column will look back at an issue in my collection, discuss its format and contents, describe the people who contributed to its production, and make a few critical comments about this particular issue and the title in general. Primarily, the criticisms will be in terms of the time when the fanzine first appeared; secondarily, and where appropriate, comparisons with some of today's zines will be made.

## **AMATEUR CORRESPONDENT** **(Volume Two, Number One)**

The first fanzine to be examined in this manner is the May-June 1937 issue of *Amateur Correspondent*, formerly *Science Fantasy Correspondent*. Sub-titled "The Magazine for the Amateur Fantasy-Writer," this particular issue was the first to carry the new title, supposedly changing the zine from a general fan publication to one featuring amateur fiction. This particular issue was popular enough to have a facsimile edition of 525 numbered copies reprinted in 1977.

Edited by teenage fan Corwin F. Stickey, this issue of the *Correspondent* featured a cover of H. P. Lovecraft by Virgil Finlay. According to Sam Moskowitz, this portrait of Lovecraft was a remarkable likeness despite the fact that Finlay had never seen his subject. The portrait showed HPL in a powdered wig with a quill pen in his hand. In the background were hazy outlines of some of HPL's horrors. In addition to the portrait, the cover carried the following dedication:

"This issue is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Howard Phillips Lovecraft, who died March 15, 1937, at the age of forty-six. Called by many the dean of modern writers of weird fiction, he will be mourned by every reader of fantasy, not only for the excellence of his writing but also for the fine caliber of mind typified therein."

### Format/Policies:

This issue, the first in a somewhat larger size from the previous issues, was approximately 5 by 8 inches. A good quality paper was used throughout, with a heavier

stock for the covers. Hand printed by editor Stickney himself, it consisted of 30 pages (counting covers). The publication schedule listed was bimonthly, but with plans to become monthly if finances permitted. The cost was 10 cents per copy, or 25 cents per year by subscription. A new editorial policy was announced in this issue, one that stressed the publishing of fiction by amateurs ("talented unknowns") in the future.

### Contributors/Contributions:

CORWIN F. STICKNEY, the editor, was a teenager who was later threatened by August Derleth over Stickney's publishing of HPL's poems (in a booklet advertised in this issue). Stickney replied that only 25 copies of this booklet were published, and these were given away. The last mention of Stickney I was able to find is in *The Immortal Storm* when it was stated that he had suspended publication of the *Correspondent*. He is also mentioned by Robert Madle (in his chapter for Joe Sander's *Science Fiction Fandom*) as follows: "Despite the fact that its only activity was the publication of *Tesseract*, the SFAA brought into fandom many new enthusiasts, including Willis Conover, Jr., and Corwin Stickney. Together they planned a fan magazine that would rival the leader of them all, *Fantasy Magazine* . . . Corwin Stickey, who had hand printed the magazine, dropped Conover as editor, changed the policy, and, with its fourth issue, changed the name to *Amateur Correspondent* . . . the change in editorial policy of the *Correspondent* marked the complete demise of *Fantasy Magazine* and one of the greatest eras in SF fandom." Moskowitz reported that Stickney later went into the printing business.

WILLIS CONOVER, JR., who had edited the first two issues of the fanzine (under its original title), later published *Lovecraft at Last* (1975), an autobiographical account of the 15-year-old Conover's correspondent with Lovecraft. The book included parts of HPL's famous essay "Supernatural Horror in Literature" that Conover had hoped to reprint in his fanzine. He contributed a poem, "The Spirits Mourn," to this issue. In *All Our Yesterdays* Harry Warner reported that Conover was a publisher in the fist bundle of FAPA mailings in 1937. In *The Immortal Storm* Moskowitz first mentioned Conover as a member of the SFAA; and he is last mentioned by Moskowitz (*op cit*) as helping with Madle's fanzine, *Fantascience Digest*. Conover later became a radio disc jockey, as well as a participant on "Voice of America" broadcasts.

E(DGAR) HOFFMAN PRICE (1898-1988), graduate of West Point in 1923, became a full-time writer in 1932. He authored many stories in *Weird Tales*, and published stories in other genres. Price was a friend of Robert E. Howard, and a collaborator with both HPL and Otis Adelbert Kline. Price quit writing in 1952, after selling 500+ stories and writing biographical sketches of REH, HPL, OAK, and Clark Ashton Smith. He later became a technician/cameraman for San Mateo County in California. His contribution to this issue was the article, "The Sage of College Street," his brief biography of HPL, written "before H. P. Lovecraft's untimely death." According to Price, Lovecraft loved ice cream but hated seafood!

VIRGIL FINLAY (1914-1971) was a prolific and popular AF/fantasy illustrator, contributing cover and interior art to *Weird Tales* and other genre pulp magazines from 1935 to 1973. He also did dust jackets and covers for many SF/fantasy hardcover and paperback books. Finlay won a Hugo Award (Interior Illustrator) in 1953.

H. P. LOVECRAFT (1890-1937) contributed the brief article, "Notes on Writing Weird Fiction." (This issue was the first to implement another or editor Stickney's new policies: including at least one article in each issue on 'the how and why of fantasy writing'). In his article HPL presented some of his ideas on how to write weird fiction, and suggested the following steps: 1) Prepare synopsis or scenario of events in order of occurrence; 2) Prepare a second synopsis and scenario of events—this one in order or narration; 3) Write out the story following the narrative-order synopsis; 4) Revise the entire text; and 5) Prepare a neatly typed final copy. It has been reported that, upon hearing of HPL's death, Stickney decided to publish a memorial to his greatness.

FRANK S. BOGERT, the fanzine's business manager, was an older businessman who published the fanzine gratis, on the condition that he be put in charge of advertising. Apparently Bogert knew what he was doing because the zine was financially stable for its entire run of six issues (November-December 1937 to November-December 1937). In the classified ad department of this issue, there is an announcement that Bogert had back issues of *Argosy* for sale ("Have almost 250 old Argosies, 1923 to 1927. Many fantastics."), suggesting that at one time he had had at least a reading interest in genre literature.

R(USSELL) R(OBERT) WINTERBOTHAM (1904-1971) had a LoC in this issue. At the time he had already published stories in *Astounding* and other SF magazines. He went on to write many other SF stories, by-lining his work "R. R.," "Russ," or "Russell" Winterbotham. He also used several pseudonyms, including J. Harvey Bond and Franklin Hadley. Winterbotham wrote scores of BLBs, many with SF content (including three featuring "Maximo," a Superman-like hero). Probably his most famous SF work is the novel *The Space Egg* (*Amazing Stories*, March 1958/Avalon, 1958).

### Other Features/Contents:

Despite the fanzine's sub-title, only one piece of fiction was included in this issue: "The Jest of Tianne" by Robert F. Ennis. This story was advertised as being suggested by "Princess of the Stars," a story in the previous issue.

Regular features were an editorial ("Metamorphosis") and several departments: "Hobbyana" (articles on stamp and coin collecting), "Hit 'N' Run" (a LoC column), and "Odds and Ends." The last contained "various communications and acknowledgements which are either too late for insertion in Hit 'N' Run or which 'defy any classification' other than the above." This column included the communication from Winterbotham: "I find your mag quite interesting. Keep it up!"

Magazines received by the *Correspondent* during the month were listed. These included the May 1937 issue of *The Science Fiction Critic* (that included Moskowitz' article "Was Weinbaum Great?"), the first issue of *Fantasmagoria* (with Robert Bloch's "A Bard in the Hand" and illustrations by John V. Baltadonis), the May 1937 issue of the monthly mail order newspaper *Hollywood Trade News*, and the first issue of Moskowitz' *Helios* (that included a biography of James Blish and an article by Donald A. Wollheim). With the lone exception of *Fantasmagoria*, all of these publications had ads in this issue of the *Correspondent*, perhaps accounting in part of Stickney's unqualified praise of each.

Ads for other semi-professional and professional publications were featured: *The Greater Show World* (a circus publication), *The White Elephant* (a "joumalette" on hobbies), *Christian Spiritualist Quarterly* ("George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, Spiritualists"), and *Visions Magazine of Verse* ("Send your poems to its bimonthly contests"). Moreover, ads for the two SF fanzines previously mentioned were prominent. Moskowitz later wrote that he became friends with Stickney when he paid him to print *Helios* and heard his side of the argument with Conover, namely that Conover failed to contribute material on time. Moskowitz said his sympathies were with Stickney because, unlike other fanzines, the *Correspondent* was supported by ads that needed to appear in a timely manner.

Many mundane advertisements were carried in this issue. These included printing, insurance, and real estate establishments; groceries/delis; a notary; a novelty shop; a bakery; a realtor; personals; stamps/coins; mail-order professional degrees; Indian relics; a "beautiful motto" suitable for framing; and even an ad to "Learn Fire Eating, sword swallowing, and other acts by Professions"!

## Conclusions

At the time it was published, the *Correspondent* was viewed by critics of the day as a leader in the field, second only to *Fantasy Magazine*. Madle wrote: "In the Fall of 1936, the fan world was stunned by the initial issue of *Science Fantasy Correspondent*, a beautifully printed magazine, featuring material by the greatest fantasy writers in the field." Such a fanzine was an outstanding accomplishment for two teenagers. Even today, an objective reading of this particular issue shows it was ahead of its time. Why was this so? The outstanding printing and contributors, noted by Madle, certainly were factors. Stickney (and Conover before him) certainly knew some of the most influential people in the field. Related reasons were the business experience of Bogert (resulting in financial support from advertising) and the fact that Stickney was able to handprint the fanzine himself. Perhaps it was a combination of all these factors that accounted for the *Correspondent's* instant popularity.

In conclusion, this fanzine – important in its time and remarkable even by today's standards – was the product of two precociously talented SF fans. While neither of them went on to achieve much more in fandom (or in genre literature), they deserve to be remembered for their work on this excellent example of early amateur publishing.

Note: John V. Baltadonis, Robert Bloch, Virgil Finlay, Robert A. Madle, Sam Moskowitz, E. Hoffmann Price, Harry Warner Jr., and Donald A. Wollheim all are First Freedom Hall of Fame Recipients.

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## HARMONY

By Jim Harmon

We went on a route to the San Jose Science Fiction con, stopping at Moro Bay where Barbara hoped to climb Moro Rock, a small mountain on the sea coast as she had thirty years ago. She said it had steps carved into it, and any idiot could climb it -- why didn't I try it? I told her I would watch her do it. But when we got there we found a large sign warning us that it was now illegal to climb Moro Rock. The place has become a bird sanctuary and you can't scare the birds by climbing up.

Next Barbara wanted to visit a place in the guide books, the Moro Aquarium. It did not seem a great site of culture and learning. It resembled the kind of sideshow attraction that used to travel with carnivals. After you went through an anteroom where they sold cheap plastic junk having something to do with fish, sometimes, you went into a back room that had three seals that begged for cheap food they sold you by the bag. Then there was a room with seven or eight tanks containing familiar fish one could catch a few hundred feet away in the sea all by yourself, a tiny octopus, and a puny shark. Two bucks a head for this spectacle.

We went on Salinas, the one time home of John Steinbeck. We stopped at the Steinbeck Museum, and paid \$8 ea., senior rate to go in. Inside they had almost nothing that really belonged to Steinbeck except a few framed letters. Everything else was a re-creation, such as the bunkhouse from "Of Mice and Men" showing the hats and some of the other clothes belonging to George, Lenny, Slim, and others, and their cots, and some of their meager possessions like playing cards, a shotgun, pocket knife, etc. There were other exhibits like a 1913 Ford, a World War I artillery pieces, etc., which all were featured in various Steinbeck novels. There were TV and rear projection film screens everywhere showing clips from movies, stage plays, interviews, etc. It was expensively produced, but it struck me as not very authentic and I don't think Steinbeck would have liked it. I did like one letter of his in answer to a suggestion a Salinas school would be named after him. "So far only my first name has been applied to an institution, a sanitary necessity. Better than a school, I suggest you name after me a pool hall, a dog track, or a brothel." (Not his exact wording, but pretty accurate.) It was not entirely worthless, but only a fancier type of exhibit as the aquarium -- good for a carnival.

We finally reached San Jose and the convention hall, our goal to find two people out of many thousands in attendance -- Dick Lupoff and Joanie Knappenberger, president of First Fandom. I was walking with my stick by this time, after several museums, et al. I sat down and Barbara went to check with

con officials. I sat in the great hall and watched hundreds of people pass by. Science fiction fans looked different to me than perhaps when I was more actively a part of them. I did not think of it at the time, until a later conversation with Dick Lupoff but they were older than when I was more active. Then most of us were in our twenties, or even teens. It was the pros like Isaac Asimov, Bob Bloch, Bob Tucker, and certainly E. E. "Doc" Smith who were older. Today's fans are in their thirties, forties, and beyond. Maybe that is one reason why so many of them have had time to gain weight. Many of them were fat -- some ENORMOUSLY FAT. I was one of the thinner people there, and I don't claim to be a lightweight. One woman was shaped like a pyramid, and her butt was three to four feet across -- not an exaggeration.

A few were dressed in strange costumes, most of which had something to do with Star Trek. But did not have to be in costume to look really strange. In half an hour, I saw only one pretty girl go by. Where were the Groupies to be hit upon by MCPs as in days of yore? They must have all gone to rock festivals.

As I was sitting there, watching the fantasy world go by, Dick Lupoff walked up and said "Jim!"

Dick had had a part in the opening program, delivering a gag routine about an old SF joke too complicated to go into here. He was through with his part and was going home soon, driving back to Berkeley about fifty miles away. I had thought he was through with the convention, not realizing he was going to drive back the next day to talk to the many editors and publishers interested in his work. I talked him into having dinner with us, but he said he would have to leave not too late.

Barbara came on us and announced that she had located Joanie through some convention officials and had talked to her by phone. She wanted Barbara and me to go over three blocks to their hotel and have dinner with them. But I said I was walked out and couldn't walk three blocks with my troubled legs. (Our car was parked for ten dollars, and it would be ten more dollars to move and return it.) Barbara had anticipated this and Joanie had offered to let me ride her power scooter, a "Mobie". (There were many around -- I must have seen a dozen go by.) I said I had never ridden one, and was not sure I could. Anyway, Barbara had to meet Joanie who would be riding her scooter and wearing a red cowboy hat. "She will be hard to spot," I ventured.

Before long, Barbara returned with Joanie. Actually, she was wearing a red shirt and a white cowboy hat. Joanie would be glad to have Dick join us, an old friend. She talked me into getting on her "Mobie". I pressed the "Go" button and rode the thing as it crashed through the glass railing and fell two levels to the concrete floor below. Not really. Only in my imagination, as I pictured the worse possible case.

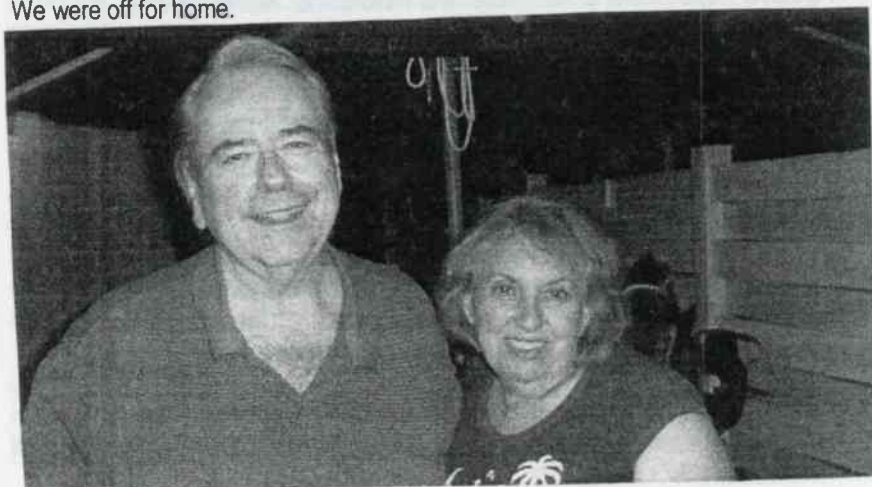
In reality, I learned to operate and steer it in only a minute or two. I took it to the elevator, down to the floor level, and outside. It was a little scary as it went down an incline a bit faster than I liked. I'm not sure the exact M.P.H. but it went faster than a healthy man could walk fast. I noticed people just automatically got out of your way. Joanie warned me I had to turn up the speed to get across streets before the light changed.

I got to the hotel, only to find I had to travel another two blocks to the restaurant. I had assumed we were going to eat in the hotel. I walked about a block and a half but gave out, and Joanie turned the "Mobie" over to me again. Barbara and I got to talk a little bit more to Dick as we sat, waiting for a table. The Italian restaurant was noisy, crowded and expensive. We finally got seated, with maybe a dozen people Joanie had got together. I didn't get seated with Dick, but on a chair at the head of the table. Barbara and I talked to a handsome young couple of SF fans from Nebraska. I had half and half Spaghetti and Ravioli, plus a sausage, and Barbara had her usual eggplant dish. Finally, the bill came for the whole huge table and the waiter presented it to me out of the more than dozen people at the table.

Naturally, the bill was split up and the cost for the three of us (including our guest, Dick) came to sixty bucks.

Dick had to leave, before he got too tired for his long drive. He promised we would be in touch for "future projects" soon, and he would be with us at the Paperback Show again in March.

We said our goodbyes. Joanie asked if we were not staying for the rest of the convention. No, too many of the friends I used to go to conventions with were dead. The great speakers I used to go to hear like John Campbell, Robert Block, Isaac Asimov were gone. It was time for a new generation of convention goers. We were off for home.



# ARCHIVAL MATTERS

By Don Dailey

The FF Archives just keep growing and growing and growing.....

And I sure help matters a lot when I decide to add some items. Among those things I would like to see added to the FF Archives are some fanzines. MIMOSA was one that impressed me with the amount of material they publish about and by FF members. There were several back issues in the latest batch of "stuff" Ray Beam passed on to me, so I'm going to take a shot at rounding every issue. Nikki and Richard Lynch, MIMOSA's publishers, were kind enough to send along a few back issues. Many thanks. At this point we are missing issues #1 thru #7 and issues #11 & #12. If any of you out there have a few odd issues gathering dust and want to give them a good home.....need I say more? And after MIMOSA, dare I take on the challenge of gathering copies of FANTASY COMMENTATOR?

Noreen Shaw has once again found items of interest for the FF Archives. She volunteers her time at a library and has found "good stuff" amongst the materials the library was going to dispose of. This time a magazine article celebrating 50 years of science fiction writing by Harry Harrison. Along with that item were more newspaper articles from her personal collection. Thanks Noreen, and keep on looking.

While participating in panels on fandom at a couple of recent cons, attendees expressed interest seeing some of the items I have been adding to the archives. I am attempting to assemble a "traveling exhibit" of some items to take along to future conventions for their viewing pleasure. Any time I can stir up interest in the history of science fiction, I'll sure try to do so.

By the way, back on July 3<sup>rd</sup> Bob Peterson passed thru New Albany and he was kind enough to spend a couple of hours with me. Hopefully I was able to make a good impression on him with my efforts for the FF Archives.

'Til next time.....

## TRANSITIONS

We have lost another of the old dinosaurs. Dr. Lloyd Biggle, Jr., Ph. D., musician, author, and internationally known oral historian died on September 12, 2002, after a twenty-year battle with leukemia and cancer. He was born April 17, 1923 in Waterloo, Iowa. During WWII he served as Communications Sergeant in a rifle company of the 102nd Infantry Division, and was wounded in action, twice. He received a shrapnel wound in his leg, near the Elbe River at the end of the war, which left him disabled for life. After the war, Dr. Biggle resumed his education. He received an A.B. Degree with High Distinction from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan and M.M. and Ph. D. Degrees from the University of Michigan. Dr Biggle taught at the University of Michigan and at Eastern Michigan University in the 1950's. He began writing professionally in 1955, and became a full-time writer with the publication of his novel, *All the Colors of Darkness*, in 1963, a profession that he followed until his death. Both Dr. Biggle's science fiction and mystery stories have received international acclaim. He was celebrated in science fiction circles as the author who introduced aesthetics into a literature known for its scientific and technological complications. His stories frequently used musical and artistic themes. Such notables as song writer Jimmy Webb and novelist Orson Scott Card have written of the tremendous impact that his early story, *The Tunesmith*, had on them in their youths. It literally changed the course of their lives. *The Tunesmith* was recently chosen for an anthology of stories to be entitled, *Masterpiece: The Century's Best Science Fiction*. Among his enduring science fiction creations were the Interplanetary Relations Bureau and the Cultural Survey both featured in novels and magazine stories. In the mystery field, his Grandfather Rastin stories appeared for many years in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*. He loved writing historical fiction set in late Victorian and Edwardian England. He began the new Sherlock Holmes novels, *The Quallsford Inheritance* and *The Glendower Conspiracy* which were researched on long visits to England. These were followed by a series of stories featured in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine* starring his Victorian sleuth, Lady Sara Varnley. He also wrote the Pletcher and Lambert mystery novels. He published two-dozen books as well as magazine stories and articles beyond count. His most recent

novel was *The Chronocide Mission*. He was writing almost to the moment of his death. I can write them faster than the magazines can publish them, he once said, with the result that even though his writing has been stilled, his publications will continue until his backlog of stories is exhausted. Dr. Biggle was the founding Secretary Treasurer of Science Fiction Writers of America and served as Chairman of its trustees for many years. In the 1970's, he founded the Science Fiction Oral History Association, which built archives containing hundreds of cassette tapes of science fiction notables making speeches and discussing aspects of their craft. He numbered many of these science fiction notables among his friends, and his article in the July/August 2002 *Analog Magazine*, *Isaac Asimov Remembered*, was based in part on his personal recollections of that towering celebrity. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Dr. Biggle is survived by his wife of 55 years, Hedwig (Janiszewski) Biggle daughter Donna Emerson of Caro, MI, son Kenneth Biggle and devoted daughter-in-law, Deanna Biggle of Adrian, MI. His family will cherish many memories, including the special vacations he planned for them to enjoy together. He was an example for his family on how to live each day with courage and hope. Dr. Biggle is also survived by his sister, Donna Otteson, of Cedar Falls, IA; sister-in-law Helene Hirvela of St. Petersburg, FL and dear family friends Doris Maleski and Harry Maleski, Jr. of Willis, MI.

Cremation has taken place. Friends may visit the family, September 15th, from 2pm to 8pm at the Janowiak Funeral Home, 320 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti, Michigan. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of White Plains, NY, or Arbor Hospice, of Ann Arbor.

Cordially, Sheldon Jaffery





Photos by ANNE CUSACK / Los Angeles Times

Surrounded by some of his ghoulish wares, Forrest Ackerman sits in the Los Feliz hills mansion that he's reluctantly selling.

# Moving Time at a House of Horrors

**Film:** To pay legal fees, Forrest Ackerman is selling his Los Feliz mansion and a vast collection of monster and sci-fi memorabilia.



Forrest Ackerman's friend Joe Moe inspects a Boris Karloff mask during the dismantling of the agent's wide collection.