

ScientiFiction

Summer, 1997



The First Fandom Report



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The Tibbetts Gang: Jim and John. Photograph courtesy of John L. Coker III.

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CLEMENT RECEIVES HoF AWARD

REINSBERG GETS POSTHUMOUS

At the 1997 First Fandom Reunion at NameThatCon in St. Louis, Hal Clement was presented with the First Fandom Hall of Fame award. Sam Moskowitz presented Hal with his token of First Fandom's appreciation.

At the same ceremony, the posthumous Hall of Fame award was presented, also by SaM, to Mark Reinsberg. Mark was the man who ran Chicon I, the Second World Science Fiction Convention. Bob Tucker accepted the award for Mark.

TIBBETTS RECEIVES AWARD

SURPRISE AT REUNION

James Tibbetts, long-time fan and sportswriter was awarded the First Fandom Achievement Award during the 1997 Reunion in St. Louis.

He has been a faithful attendee at reunions, and his

appearance has always been eagerly awaited by the fans. His love for the genre has long been obvious, and his appreciation of the work of Edgar Rice Burroughs, led him to name his son after one of the writer's famous heroes (no, not Tarzan).

James has recently been in ill health, and was unable to attend the reunion. A private presentation has been planned.

NECROLOGY

Sam Moskowitz

ROY WOOD: AN OBITUARY

by

Joseph P. Martino

Roy Wood and I never actually met, but we were pen pals for quite some time. It turned out that we had a lot in common, and we enjoyed the correspondence.

Roy was originally from North Carolina, where he was born on December 30, 1932. He joined the Army right out of high school, and served a 30-year career, mostly in radio communications. He started as a radio repairman, and was a microwave systems technician at the time of his retirement. His service included duty at White Sands Missile Range, and in the Republic of China (Taiwan). After retiring from the Army, he worked as an instructor in electronics at Western Technical Institute, a proprietary trade school in Texas. One of his sons is a retired Army Warrant Officer, the other is a private detective. His daughter is a CPA.

Like me, Roy joined the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) while still in high school. He had letters published in several science fiction magazines, and carried out an active correspondence with other fans. And just as my fannish activity pretty much came to a halt when I joined the Air Force, his came to a halt when he joined the Army.

Again like me, Roy rejoined N3F a few years ago, and when he found he was eligible for First Fandom, he joined that as well. Although Roy did not attend science fiction conventions, once back in N3F and FF he again carried on an active correspondence with other fans. It was through N3F that we became pen pals. We reminisced over such things as the Shaver

Mystery, whatever it was that happened at Roswell, and fans we knew "back then."

With the frequent moves that are part of a military career, Roy's collection of science fiction magazines gradually disappeared. As he put it in one of his letters, "things that go into the moving van don't always come out." I can confirm that from my own experience. Despite this, however, he did have a collection of over 700 science fiction books, mostly paperbacks. He didn't consider himself a "collector," just a reader.

In February of 1996, Roy was diagnosed with small cell carcinoma. He went on chemotherapy. He wrote me that he lost all his hair, and his senses of taste and smell had gotten all fouled up. However, in the last letter I received from him, in July of 1996, he reported that a CAT scan had shown the cancer had completely disappeared. He didn't answer my next several letters, but it was still a shock when I received a note from his daughter, Connie Gaddy, to tell me he had died on November 3rd, 1996. His lung cancer had returned, he had declined another course of chemotherapy, and went home, where he received Hospice care until his death.

Although Roy missed out on much of the "gold age" of fandom because of his military service, his daughter wrote me that "he truly

enjoyed corresponding with other science fiction buffs during the last couple of years of his life." Those of us who enjoyed receiving his letters will miss him.

APPLICATIONS

The following has applied for associate membership:

Robert Silverberg

NEW MEMBERS

The following have been made Associate Members:

Elliott Broderick
8351 Parkland
Detroit, MI 48239

Jim Broderick
11464 Garbor
Warren, MI 48093

Bill Clemente, Ph.D.
Dept. Of English
Peru State College
Peru, NE 68421

Yuri A. Mironets
Oktyabrskaya st. 2, apt. 15
Vladivostok, Russia 690000

Welcome Dinosaurs!

And now for a very special

welcome for a very special Associate member.

As you know, once in a while we award membership status to someone who doesn't meet all the criteria for membership, but who has done so very much for First Fandom that he or she embodies the attributes that make us what we are.

Such a person is **Jonie Knappenberger, 1474 Summerhaven, St. Louis, MO 63146.**

Jonie was responsible for the marvelous Reunion at Archon two years ago where we were feted in a way to guarantee our becoming permanently spoiled. She was responsible for our being extended the privileges of permanent VIP membership at Archon, an advantage of which I availed myself last fall. She was ready and willing to assist wholeheartedly at this year's Reunion when neither Ray nor I were able to attend, and managed things excellently.

Jonie is in contact with most of First Fandom most of the time; she even calls me up every now and then just to see how I am doing. She has been responsible for some of the First Fandom activities which go on behind the scenes, and has been of invaluable assistance in helping us make plans for events.

Most of all, Jonie is one

grand fanne, a wonderful lady, a charming hostess. It gives me great pleasure to welcome her to our ranks.

SUSTAINING PATRONS

We have a new sustaining patron, to wit:

Judi Davidson

Welcome aboard!

DUES

Dues in First Fandom remain \$5.00 per year until the July mailing when they will increase to \$6.00. The number on your mailing label will tell you to the end of which year your dues are paid. Please keep your dues current if you possibly can.

DEADLINES

The deadlines for First Fandom events and StF are as follows:

First Fandom:

May 31, 1997 -- last date for nominations for 1998 Hall of Fame award.

July 19, 1997 -- Dues notices go out; Roster published.

ScientiFiction:

July 19, 1997 -- Closing date for Autumn, 1997 ish.

October 18, 1997 -- Closing date for Winter, 1997 ish.

January 17, 1998 -- Closing date for Spring, 1998 ish.

THE 1997 FIRST FANDOM REUNION

by

Joseph P. Martino

The 1997 reunion was held in conjunction with NameThatCon, in Earth City, MO. Somehow the name of the city was very appropriate. It gave the right touch to the 'con.

I drove from home, a trip which was longer than it should have been because of construction and bad weather. However, after an 8-hour drive, I arrived at the Harley Hotel in Earth City. After registering at the 'con, I headed for the First Fandom suite. The door was open, but no refreshments had been set up yet. Mel Schmidt was already there ahead of me. We went down

to the VIP suite to pick up some coffee and other goodies. Bob Tucker, Sam Moskowitz, and Nancy Tucker Shaw showed up later. After the opening ceremonies for the 'con, there was an Open House at the First Fandom suite, for all the fans.

Saturday was the big day for First Fandom. At 11:00 there was a panel including Moskowitz, Broughton, Shaw and Tucker, on "Would We Do It All Again?" I had to miss the panel because I was scheduled to do a reading from one of my novels at the same time. However, I wouldn't have missed science fiction or fandom for the world, and I don't think any of the panelists would have either.

Right after lunch, there was a panel on "What Is First Fandom?" We all gave our stories of how we found science fiction, found fandom, and got involved. The audience



Clement Receives Hof Award

seemed appreciative, and we got a round of applause at the end.

Immediately following the panel came the First Fandom Awards. Hal Clement received an award, with the citation read by Sam Moskowitz, and gave a nice acceptance speech afterwards. Bob



Tucker Accepts Posthumous Award For Reinsberg

Tucker accepted an award on behalf of Mark Reinsberg, deceased First Fandom member.

There was a reception in the First Fandom suite following the awards. This time the 'con committee did have food for us, and for the people who showed up. We had a nice crowd in the room, and everyone had a good time.

That was the end of the official activities for First Fandom, but not the end of the fun. Bob Tucker and I watched the masquerade, which was very good. Unfortunately, many of the people in costume chose not to enter the judging. There were some excellent costumes in the audience. Many of them should have been competitors.

In between panels and other activities, we hung out in either the First Fandom suite or the VIP suite, swapping stories about "the good old days." Sam Moskowitz and I had both spent some time in Brazil, and found that we both became fond of a local soft drink, guarana (accent on the last syllable). He's done better at finding it in the U.S. than I have.

Sunday there were no First Fandom activities other than shooting the breeze in the VIP suite. Again we had some interested listeners among the various guests of honor.

I skipped the dead dog party, since I had a long drive home. However, the weather was great, the construction activities shut down for the weekend, and I made it home with no problems. I'm already looking forward to next year's reunion.

BOOK REVIEW

"Hammer And Tongs" by Clyde F. Beck, Arcturus Press, 1996, \$5.00. Richard C. Newsome, 281 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217

Arcturus Press, the FAPA publishing arm of Sustaining Patron Richard Newsome, has previously published Jack Speer's "Up To Now." With the current volume it continues its tradition of reprinting fan material of the 1930s; the four

essays in this slim volume were originally published by Futile Press in 1937.

Clyde Beck writes succinctly and efficiently, he manages to deftly skewer his victims for poor science and poor writing. He bemoans the loss of science to science fiction, an observation made decades later by those researching the origins of the field, but he doesn't dwell on it.

Wells is his writer-hero, his example of what can be good in science fiction writing, but Leinster is also held up as one who occasionally transcends the mediocre. He isn't too specific in his examples, but there's enough there to let the reader know what he means.

Admittedly, many of the works to which Beck refers will not be familiar to younger readers, but the thrust of the essays are such as to be able to stand alone without reading the objects of the critiques.

Send Richard a fin; add a couple of bucks if you're out of the States. I think you'll enjoy the volume.

REVENGE OF THE SCIFAN

CHANGES...

Ray and I have been looking at the overall financial picture of First Fandom. No, don't worry, we're not broke, and the very reasonable acceptance of the modest \$1.00 dues/subscription increase by the members will go some way to help. Still, there are other ways in which we can save money, and we will implement them this year.

The first thing we intend to do is to eliminate all paid positions (aha, just wanted to see if you were reading this!).

The second thing we will do is combine the Autumn issue, dues notice, Hall of Fame ballot, and Roster into one mailing. It will cost us a bit more because we will have to use oversize envelopes, but it will save some money because we will save about 20 cents per name in mailing costs. We will cut down the number of member mailings by 20% from five per year to four.

There will be some changes as a result of this decision. First of all, the last date for accepting Hall of Fame nominations will be moved to June 30. This gives folks an extra month to cogitate on nominations and send them in.

Second will be the shortening of the time allocated for balloting. Since the ballot will appear a month later, there will be one less month in which to vote. This should prove no hardship; most

of the ballots come in by October anyway.

Third will be a delay of a month for the start of the dues/subscription increase. For those of you who like to pay early, this means you have an extra month in which to prepay your dues or subscriptions at the old rate of \$5.00 per year instead of the new \$6.00 per year rate. Face it, folks, in these days of ever-increasing costs (but without effect on the CPI), this delay is a Good Thing.

It is at this point where I have an overwhelming urge to quote Tennyson. Fortunately the urge has just passed. Aren't you pleased?

Yes, I admit it. Last ish was not one of my best. I made numerous factual misstatements, and I apologize for them. John Grisham did not, of course, write "The Lost World," it was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Lucy is not Loveless, but Lawless, a distinction which is certainly not lost on those of the male persuasion who gaze with awe on her proud, upthrust breasts, agleam with salad oil in the wan rays of the...

See, it was not the best of ishes.

Lucy Lawless's breasts and Kevin Sorbo's mighty thews notwithstanding, Sam Raimi has branched out into the arena of

Major Networks with "Spy Game." It's cute, but grand fantasy demands fantastic settings. The fans have responded to this until-now unwritten dictum and created the first Xena-con complete with three year olds wrapped in leather corsets. And we used to think that helicopter beanies were pretty heady stuff.

The more rapt the mediafen become in their private fantasies, the more outré cons we will see. The trekkies, of course, have warped to the far side of middle age and have left the gestures of the priestly blessing to the priests who will wisely re-hide them from the common folks. Few, if any, remember "The Prisoner" and even the projected big screen version of "The Avengers" will have little to do with either John Steed or Emma Peel, whose proud leather-encased breasts...oh damn, there I go again. At any rate, expect to see Sinbad-cons, Robin Hood-cons, Tarzan-cons (oh, forgot, we have those already) and other mass tributes to the deity of the glowing phosphor screen.

Now in the Elder Days there were the Great Causes and Lo, there were Those who Followed Them. It wasn't like today when all we get are petty crooks and panhandlers who just happen to be officials in high elective offices. And Back Then a Cause was really worth something. Like one's life. This prologue brings me to mention of Clifton Amsbury who kindly sent me

an invitation card from The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade on the occasion of their 59th Anniversary celebration. The Brigade, of course, fought against the fascists in Spain during the civil war there. Clifton notes that he can boast membership in two groups, eligibility for which depended on activities prior to the end of the 1930s. Attaboy, Clifton!

And yet too few recall that such Great Causes were part and parcel of stf fandom through the 50s. I wonder if I can proceed syllogistically and demonstrate that fandom must be included in such Causes. Somehow it seems proper.

Sally and I spent a weekend in Payson, Arizona with Hank and Martha Beck. Martha has discovered an interesting way of feeding her houseguests, she doesn't. Well, that isn't strictly true, she reheats leftovers and makes an amazing salad, but I was told that the cooking was up to me. Fortunately I am a good cook and we all ate well.

The Beck's have acquired a beautiful Rottweiler puppy named Nikki who immediately adopted us. What a pleasure to have 70 lbs. of puppy in one's lap, on one's thorax, across one's neck, etc. Fortunately this is one friendly pup and, although Martha was not really pleased about it, we played, talked and even sang to one another all weekend. Rottweiler is a cognate of Doberman, so there were no

language problems.

We all went to the Payson Zoo one afternoon. This is a private zoo that came into being when the owner started keeping animals that were camera-trained. All that means is that they won't eat a camera. Once he got his operation going he discovered that he needed a zoo permit so he decided to open the gates to the public. It was fun, kind of like going to a con where the fen are judiciously separated from real people.

Payson is a lovely little community, a tourist trap where everyone is quite friendly. The locals have learned that happy tourists spend money, and they have many ways of keeping folks happy. The local casino was a case in point. I don't gamble, but I have never seen employees so intent on seeing that I enjoyed myself. I did, if only by investigating all the ways in which the gaming industry attempts to separate customers from their money. I enjoy playing poker, a game which many will inform you is actually an educational process rather than gambling. When I saw nine players at the Draw table and seven each at the two Stud tables, I decided that this particular educational institution was only going to teach me what I already knew: that an initial deal of 45 cards does not permit one to make a significant change in the odds.

So I left the casino with my

wallet intact. A trip to the local used book store, though, put a very slight crimp in it, and a later trip to a local jeweler cost more than I was anticipating. Women, of course, have this urge to indulge in the ancient oriental ritual of sha-ping and we males must be understanding of it.

On the way back to Gallup we stopped for lunch in Heber, a community so small that it doesn't even have a fast food restaurant. Instead we ate at a saloon called "The Red Onion" where the cholesterol content of the hamburgers and hand-made french fries would have caused the Surgeon General to declare it less safe than having sex without a condom. They were wonderful!

As we climbed the Mogollon Rim up to the Colorado Plateau, Sally made me stop the car every few hundred yards so she could pick up rocks. The geology of the area is spectacular with vast reefs overlaying upthrust formations. Atop the Rim the winter snows were melting, ponds were filling, and it looked like the start of a beautiful year in the Sitgreaves and Tonto National Forests.

It's nice to have friends who are both hospitable and live in such interesting places.

Sally and I have been watching comet Hale-Bopp as it swooped toward perihelion. Up

here on our mountain top it's easy to see, and absolutely spectacular. It has been frightening the Amerindian population because they have no concept of cosmology, but it has been providing us with many exciting hours of comet-gazing. Now it is on its 1,200 year trip back to the Oort cloud. I could care less about the loonies of the Heaven's Gate crowd, but I certainly hope that SaM is going with it on its journey. It's gonna be one hell of a Grand Tour.

We are much later than usual with this issue, but I refuse to take any of the blame. Whilst Ray was in Memphis on a recent outing he faw down and go boom. The result was a leg that was black and blue from top to bottom, and an order from the doctor not to go downstairs. Since that is precisely where he keeps his First Fandom materials he was unable to get the President's message out.

Then there was the Reunion. Ray was not there, I was not there. Joe Martino kindly did a report for us and sent along some photos which will probably not look very good, but which I will print anyway. That is not Joe's fault, changing a photo from JPEG to BMP to WPGII formats does little to enhance the quality of it.

Hopefully you will all have this in your hot little hands before too long.

DINOSAUR DROPPINGS

Dear Mark:

From NOTES FROM BOB PETERSON #63: "I thought that the con (LA Con III 1996 World Science Fiction Convention) treated First Fandom very well at this convention. They even had writeups on the two who received First Fandom Hall of Fame awards in the program book and each made a short speech at the Hugo awards program"

As one of those two recipients of the 1996 award, and speaking only for myself (although I am sure Frank K. Kelly, the other recipient, would concur) I think Patterson hit the nail right on the head: the World Con gave First Fandom stellar treatment and recognition. And at previous World Cons I have attended here in the States, I as well as any other First Fandom member who identified himself to the con committee were given priority seating (usually the first row, no less) at the Hugo ceremonies which is always heavily attended. Talk about deference -- in view of all this why should we, as First Fandom, settle for second banana when it comes to our Hall of Fame? What perverse sense of self-destruction would induce us to move the awards ceremony to Name-That-Con X in April when our winning nominee, Hal Clement,

could have been similarly honored in San Antonio instead? One keeps hearing the rubric that these World Con committees don't cooperate with First Fandom in the award ceremonies. Don't you believe it; we have been given presentation time at the Hugo awards in all of the World Cons I have attended over the past ten years.

I have nothing against Name-That-Con X (except, of course, the name). They are, no doubt, an amiable group and very possibly a splendid venue for a First Fandom Reunion. But to have the awards ceremony held there instead of at World Con? Talk about shooting oneself in the foot.

When it comes right down to it, there are two very cogent reasons that the Hall of Fame award should be given at World Con rather than at a regional con: 1) We get far wider recognition for the organization and for the award itself, more publicity, more identification at a World Con, and 2) There is a better chance, by and large, for those who receive the award to attend a World Con and thus receive their award in person.

I have heard through the grapevine that a trio of early Philly fans (Jack Agnew, John Baltadonis, and Milt Rothman) are being nominated as a triumvirate for our 1998 Hall of Fame award and I can't think of a more worthy group to share our most distinctive honor.

Allow me to be the first to second their nomination.

Erle Melvin Korshak

PS: Mark -- I have no quarrel with your disagreement with any part of this letter, but I ask you most specifically not to edit my letter but to run it exactly "as is."

Thanks,
Erle

{I hereby affirm, under penalty of perjury, that I have reproduced the above letter and attachment exactly as I received them. I am hurt by the chronic allegations that I edit letters to this mag. I do edit out references to enclosed checks, and racial slurs, but I have only once edited a letter for major content, and that with the concurrence of the writer.

{Erle, you seem to have forgotten that I called you on the telephone to request your aid in getting the Hugo committee on track for LACon, and that we were getting nowhere until you were gracious enough to help. You seem also to have forgotten that we are limited to a measly three (3) minutes in which to give our presentations and have them acknowledged. Wouldn't you agree that you and Frank Kelly are individually, if not together, worth more than three minutes of an audience's time? Wouldn't you agree that Hal Clement is worth more than three minutes on his own? This has been the thrust of Sam Moskowitz's

argument for so long: the folks we honor have worked many years carving out their places of honor in Science Fiction; they are worth time in which their achievements can be set forth like gems on a jeweler's cloth and examined for the beautiful things they are. Why must we sum up a life's work in three minutes?

{Oh, and thanks for the letter -- Mark}

Dear Mark

Many thanks for the latest SciEntiFiction. I still expect to see Wally Gillings' name on the contents page although it's some fifty years since his zine used that name.

Sad to lose Lynn Hickman. He visited with us only last year and was very frail even then. Each year more of the old guard drop away. Tempus continues to fugit.

On the writing front, my story EINSTEIN INSTANT finally appeared in *Tomorrow* and Algis Budrys kindly sent me £100.00. There's a follow up to that story sale. Two days after Xmas I got a letter from Algis Budrys asking me to do him some cartoons for the electronic edition of *Tomorrow* and to name my price. I buckled down, drew a batch and bunged 'em off to him with a suggestion of \$15.00 per cartoon. He accepted and paid me \$25.00 each for them and asked for a photo and personal notes to

accompany them. Hoo blooming rah. Fame at last. I gather the cartoons are on the net at www.tomorrowssf.com

On the health front I'm pleased to say that my ankle is functioning perfectly. The only reminder of my accident being a faint "queer" feeling in it once I get into bed. As for my back, well I'm mobile once again, but bending is difficult and a bit painful. I lay on the bed to don my socks and have to visit a chiropodist to have my toenails cut. Otherwise all goes well.

Gotta fly, so keep up the good work and all the best for '97.

Yours,
Terry Jeeves

Dear Mark

Enjoy every issue of your fanzine with news of the true old timers in our beloved field.

I was saddened by the news of the passing of Lynn Hickman and Robert D. Swisher. I only knew Swisher through a few letters (long ago) -- but I met Lynn at a few Pulpcons in the 1970s -- a fine man who edited excellent fanzines. Two more greats gone "into the infinite." They both will be remembered and missed.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Minter

{Agreed, Richard. Remember, though, this isn't my fanzine but your First Fandom magazine. If 'twere mine I would have gone gafia a loong time ago! -- Mark}

Mark --

I was very sorry to hear about Charles De Vet. I had been corresponding with him for about a year and found him a friendly, interesting person. I sent him a Christmas card but did not hear back from him and was wondering if something had happened.

Regards,
Larry Hallock, Sustaining Patron

Dear Mark:

I haven't tried "Hercules" and "Xena" seemed pretty camp the few times I've glanced at it on my way to another channel, but I have looked at "Tarzan," and for those who enjoy ERB, it is a fair rendition of the original and not overly burdened with updating. There is an ERB web site at www.tarzan.com, and others at www.wowdesign.com/erb and at www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs.cmu.edu/We b/People/rgs/literature. Your reward for typing in all of the last is that they have the complete texts of four of Burroughs' Mars novels.

Sincerely,
Catherine Mints, Sustaining Patron

{I tried "Tarzan," but was not held by it. I'm sure, though, that it is better than "Sinbad," and "Robin Hood." "Xena seems to have found her way back to the land of the silly and the pleasant while Herc wandered off into what could only have been a DC-inspired fugue. But then Salmonias discovered a group of antediluvian hippies and a giant with a thing for leather developed a taste for Xena and all is pleasant again. Sam Raimi is one of my very favorite producers. -- Mark}

Dear Mark:

Thanks for the typically nice issue of *SF*, even with those two old farts on the cover.

In re Hall of Fame nominations, congratulations to Hal Clement. I renew my nomination of famed Planeteer and good guy Basil E. Welles.

All best wishes,
Ben P. Indick

DeaRay/Mark/Whoever --

Spring SciEntiFiction got here yesterday causing more emotional tears in what passes for my memories. Recently it was Nancy Moore's death making me wish again that I could have persuaded her, Bea Mahaffey and

others to forego the cancer of tobacco.

Now it's Lynn Hickman who, although he probably was never aware of it, I regard as a dear friend. Party in Wauseon with Dick Schultz at one end and I at the other of his living room, we regaled those present with what was described to me as "stereo snoring." And about forty-four or five years ago I was an Air Force NCO at a radar station in Kirksville, MO. Lynn said he would be in St. Louis selling something to somebody, and would host a get-together in his hotel room. So there we were: Lynn, me Max Keasler, Van Splawn, John Shay and (I think) Larry Touzinsky and two other St. Louis fans telling jokes and limericks (very few of the family variety) for thirteen or so hours with no repetition. A Swedish fan, whose name escapes me, George Young, Donna Young (no relation), myself and wife of the moment returning from some convention breaking down on the Ohio Turnpike. Lynn Hickman to the rescue escorting us off the Turnpike through gas station rear entry, thus avoiding toll payment.

Most of the above fans and people, except for George, are gone and/or forgotten.

But we go on. I see applications from brothers Jim & Elliott Broderick. There was a third MISFIT member in the forties and fifties who did much to confuse. So

the always trite question of whatever happened to Jim Elliott should, I suppose, be asked. Yes, we were proud to be called the Michigan Instigators of Science Fantasy for Intellectual Thinkers Society.

Re reunions: It looks as if I will not be at NameThatCon. Unmentionable personal things interfere. Like having to be somewhere else to augment my undeveloped wealth. Am looking forward to our next local election. My fans may recall that on April 2, 1996, following an election at which I performed civic duty as judge, I required a quintuple bypass. By the way, Mark, 'twasn't a heart attack. Anyway, the election this year is, very appropriately, on the first of April. Footnote: last April 3 one of the MDs said, "You should have this surgery." Hal: "What if I don't have it done?" Doc: "Well, I wouldn't make any long range plans; like going home."

So another letter comes to an end. Feel free to bore the readers with as little or as much as you believe they can endure.

'Salwiz,
Hal Shapiro

{I think they can endure all of it, Hal, it isn't nearly as long as one of your jokes. BTW, I don't think Larry Touzinsky, who now resides in Tucson, would think of himself as either gone or forgotten. He and his charming

wife spent some time with us when last they passed through these parts. Some things have changed, though. Your former station in Kirksville is now a prison. I spent a few happy hours there plying my trade. Nu, you didn't have a heart attack, perhaps it was just a case of incipient sudden death?
-- Mark}

Dear Ray:

I am nominating the following three veteran fans for the 1998 First Fandom Hall of Fame award: Milton A. Rothman, John V. Baltadonis and Jack Agnew. They are being nominated as a group: vote for one, vote for all. This group nomination is based on the unusual connecting relationship all three had with science fiction fandom. All three were founding members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society in 1935, which is one of the two oldest s-f clubs.

Milton A. Rothman, the 1998 Worldcon Guest of Honor, was the organizer of the Philadelphia group (PSFS). He attempted to form the club in early 1935, but it wasn't until October that it got underway with Baltadonis, Agnew and Madle joining with him. Milt was the first president and was chairman of the two Philadelphia worldcons in 1947 and 1953. For many years he was active in all phases of s-f: fanmag writing and publishing, corresponding and even became a professional writer,

appearing in *Astounding* and other magazines. He was active until the mid-50's. He has retained his interest in s-f until the present time.

John V. Baltadonis, an original member of the PSFS, was one of the most active fans of the late 30's and early 40's. He was listed among the top fans of that period, actually number 1 in 1938 or 1939. He was a fan mag publisher, writer and artist. It was the latter field that he was most active in; so active and competent that he was known as "The Paul of the Fan Artists." His fan illustrations, mostly during the hektographed era of fan mag publishing, were outstanding and it is unfortunate he never attempted to become a professional s-f artist, even though his professional life has been devoted to teaching art. He, too, has retained his interest in s-f to the present.

Jack Agnew, also an original member of the PSFS, was active in most all facets of s-f fandom from 1935 until 1953. He was an officer of the PSFS, on the editorial staff of such fanmags as *Fantascience Digest* and the *Science Fiction Collector*, and was editor of a couple of his own. He did most of the artwork for *Fantascience Digest* plus much of the publishing. He was an early member of FAPA and an officer. He was also an officer on the staffs of both Philadelphia worldcons and the annual Philadelphia Science Fiction Conferences. Along with Baltadonis, Madle and Oswald Train he was a

member of *Comet Publications*, the super-production fan mag group of the late 30's. Like JVB and MAR he retains his interest in s-f until the present.

As mentioned, because of the unusual s-f relationship of Rothman, Baltadonis and Agnew, all three are being nominated as a group. When voting, cast your one vote for these three active First Fandom members. Rothman is the Fan Guest of Honor at the Baltimore worldcon and Baltadonis and Agnew reside in nearby Philadelphia, so it is quite probably that all three will be there to receive the awards.

Sincerely,
Robert A. Madle

President's Message

Everything is running behind this issue including me. I fell and banged my right leg a good one while we were on vacation in Memphis. I couldn't get down the stairs easily to the computer. Saint Mark was good to bless me and extend the deadline.

I am sorry that I could not make the Reunion in St. Louis. I never thought that, at my age, my travel would depend on whether or not school was in session. Mary Ann travels extensively for General Motors, so someone has to stay home with our son.

We should keep an eye on New Castle Indiana. Our own Hand Picked Minion, Bill Beard hails from there. In January one of New Castles' own was selected as centerfold decoration in *Playboy*. Now, unlike most others, I do not buy *Playboy* for the articles. I must say that New Castles' honey had a nice spread in that issue. Bill grabbed my copy and I haven't seen it since. There is more to the New Castle story; recently I found that Claude Degler used it as a home base.

I hope to see some of you at Midwestcon this year. I plan to make it and probably Inconjunction. I have no plans beyond that except Pulpcon, which is not an SF con.

Till next time-----

Ray

GIVE-AWAYS

by

Everett F. Bleiler

Have any of you ever browsed through the older mags, early 1930s, and seen the various give-away ads, like those below?

What do you think happened when you wrote in solving the problem -- on the supposition that you really didn't win the

automobile concerned?

Did any of you FF dinosaurs or coelocanths write in? Could you tell us exactly what followed -- what you had to buy, what you had to give, etc.?

I would be very curious.
I've never seen comment on it.

Fifty years from now someone may ask me what happened when I answered the persistent offers to give me \$11,000,000. I never bother with anything much less. Do you think I'll be able to answer?

Please write and let me know.

[illegible]

Win a New Studebaker

\$2,800⁰⁰
in cash

[illegible][illegible]

Win a Buick

OR

\$1500.00
in cash



If you prefer to give away a brand new, latest model Buick Wildcat to someone who deserves this award, we have already given away more than a dozen cars like this to other lucky winners. If you prefer to win this car, you need only fill out your name and send it to the Buick Wildcat Contest, Buick Division, General Motors Corp., 300 North Dearborn Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48201. We will select the winner and will be glad to send you the money (\$1500.00) or the car, whichever you prefer. We have the full list of the Buick Wildcat Contest (25¢) and the rules.

SEND ANSWER TODAY

SAVE THIS PUZZLE

2|2|193|1|7|9|225|14

Now, you may not see the words ending in the numbers. But the numbers in themselves are a puzzle. What are the two words? Send your answer to:

\$305.00 Cash Extra For Promptness

It's all yours. Send a "Thank You" card to the Buick Wildcat Contest, Buick Division, General Motors Corp., 300 North Dearborn Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48201. We will send you the money (\$305.00) or the car, whichever you prefer. We have the full list of the Buick Wildcat Contest (25¢) and the rules. We will select the winner and will be glad to send you the money (\$305.00) or the car, whichever you prefer. We have the full list of the Buick Wildcat Contest (25¢) and the rules.

WILLIAM L. BROWN, Dept. 107, 775 N. Pearl St., Chicago, Ill.

[illegible]

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Dinosaurs of Science Fiction

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