

Fall

1999

SCIENTIFICTION

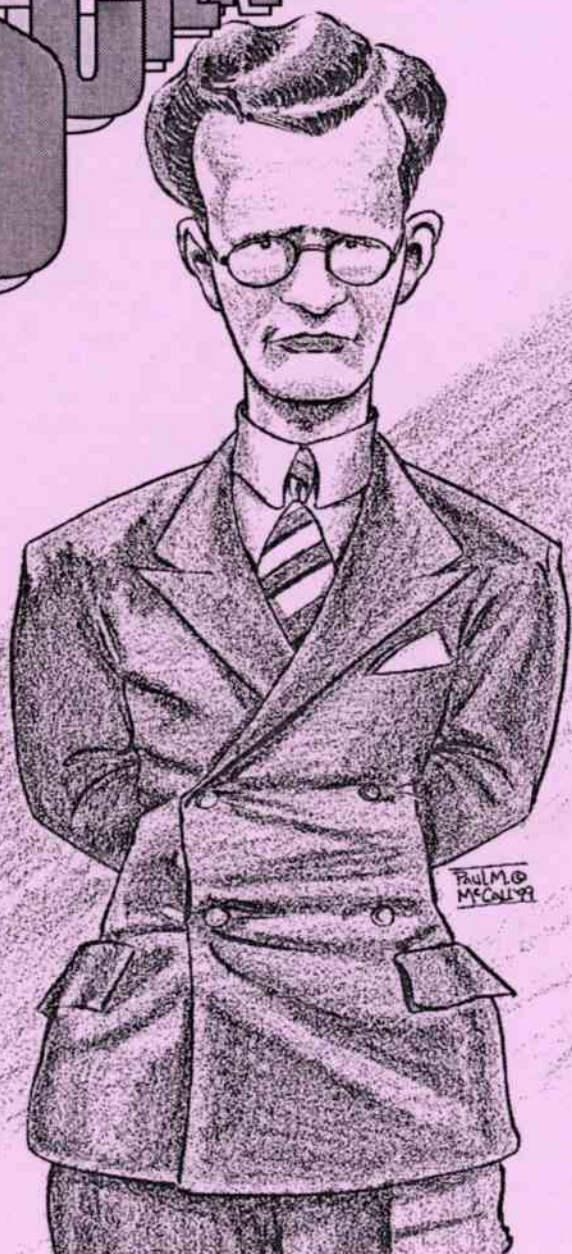


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FOR SALE:

An original illustration by John Schoenherr. It is 11" X 14", black and white illustrating The Railhead at Kysyl Khoto by Allen K. Lang from November 1957 Infinity. [\$100] Contact Ray Beam.

If you bought the book **PULP CULTURE** and noticed the lack of an index, now you can get one. See page 18 for information.

NEW MEMBERS:

Bill Brewer
1810 Sils Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205

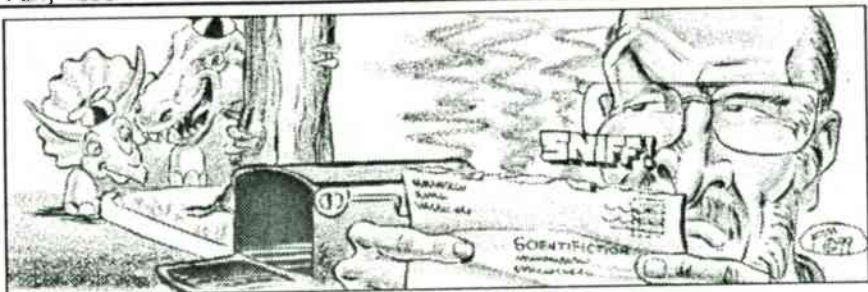
Phyllis Brewer
1810 Sils Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205

George F. Carmichael
2063-C Whipp Road
Kettering, OH 45440

Ben Bova
3951 Gulfshore Blvd, #PH1B
Naples, FL 34103

Old member, new address;
Larry R. Card
2953 N 500 W
Greenfield, IN 46140

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DINOSAUR DROPPINGS:

- Terry Jeeves -

Dear Paul,

Once again, many thanks for the issue of Stf. It's nice to see Dold getting another innings, I have always admired his work along with that of Wesso and (dare I say it), to a lesser degree, Paul. My all-time favourite is none of these though. I give that place to Charles Schneeman, a superb artist.

I enjoyed reading Mark's removal notes, but was surprised at the speed with which he had to move. Admittedly, he hadn't sold his old house so fast, but here in the UK house deals take ages and getting a removal firm likewise. We reversed his small town to large town shift; in '87 we moved from Sheffield (500,000) to Scarborough (50,000) and as Mark says, small towns lack the shopping facilities of the large ones. We had been here six years before we got computer shops.

Langley Searles' piece brought back memories - my first SF was either a Wonder with coloured spots all over the cover = Gernsback editorial, 'The Wanders of Color,' or a 1932 ASF with a woman in a translucent

gown on the cover. Langley's mention of the Lensman series reminded me of something, I may be teaching FF how to suck, eggs, but the information may be of news and interest to some. I have a Japanese videotape 'Lensman' based loosely on 'Galactic Patrol' it's a Manga Video, MANV 1012 and cost around £12.00.

Like Langley, I'm re-reading my old mags, the modern stuff leaves me cold I'm afraid. Somewhere we've swapped plot and interest for literary style. Heroes or heroines must be from some minority or ethnic group, preferably homosexual or lesbian and not averse to drug taking. If magic can be thrown in, plus a sword or two, so much the better. I expect to see the title 'Sword dancing spellbinding dragon riders of Misty windswept Pern' one of these days.

The piece on future New York was entertaining. Reading old stories which forecast our present day is often very amusing. Other forecasts can be likewise, I recall Campbell saying of TV, 'The widget that won't live up to its promise, I'm betting'. The funny thing is that many things don't

get predicted - old fiction still has future scientists using sliderules, electronics using valves (tubes to you) and computers using gears and levers.

Re Don Dailey's request for fan-related titles. EXPLORERS OF THE INFINITE by SaM deals with SF writers, ASTOUNDING DAYS by A.C. Clarke details his fannish life, THE CREATION OF TOMORROW by Paul A. Carter is mainly on SF and THE WORLD OF FANZINES by Fertham, all may be of interest.

Much enjoyed your fully professional illos which really perk up the issue. Keep 'em coming.

All the best,

Terry

I had a video tape of that Japanese Lensman film a long time ago. I don't recall it bearing much resemblance to Doc Smith's novels. My copy was in Japanese with no subtitles so I couldn't judge from the dialogue. I would be interested in hearing from any of the membership reading this if they know how the rights to Doc's characters ended up over there.

- Bill Beard -

Subject: "Bones" McCoy

From: Bill <wbeard@nltc.net>

DeForest Kelley died yesterday, age 79. He was eligible to join First Fandom. Perhaps a honorary membership?

Bill

Interesting idea Bill but with the current controversy over Associates and other membership categories I would hesitate to induct an actor posthumously. As far as I know Kelley had no other ties to SF other than his Star Trek

role which pretty much killed his career as an excellent character actor. If it was me I'd come closer to inducting him into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in recognition of his many western character roles. Fortunately neither choice is mine. But thanks for the thought.

- Justine Larbalestier -

Dear Paul McCall,

Joe Siclari gave me your address. I am researching a book about the New York Futurians and the Hydra Club and am attempting to contact anyone and everyone who might be able to help me with my research. I was wondering if you would run a notice about my research in your next newsletter.

Here's a blurb about the book:

The book will be an examination of the growth of science fiction during the period from the late 1930s to the late 1950s through a study of the New York Futurians and the Hydra Club. I strongly believe that it is impossible to understand the growth of science fiction generally without having some understanding of science fiction fandom. I will demonstrate this importance by looking at the futurians and the transition of some of their number from fan to pro. My research involves finding out as much as I can about the period by reading as many contemporary fanzines, prozines, letters, books and so forth and by talking to people who were active within the worlds of science fiction (both fan and pro). Most especially, of course, I'm trying to track down all surviving members of the Futurians and the

Hydra Club.

So far, of the Futurians, I have contacted Virginia Kidd, Damon Knight & Frederik Pohl. I am still trying to find contact addresses for Daniel Burford, Jack Robbins (Jack Robinson) and Noreen M. Shaw. If you can help me with these or know of other people I should be talking to I would very much appreciate it.

Justine

Dr. Justine Larbalestier

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NSW 2006

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If anyone can help Justine please use the above addresses, etc. to contact her.

- Sam J. Lundwall -

Dear Paul,

Just received the Summer Scientifiction; thanks a lot. A glimmer of light in the Swedish darkness. I particularly enjoyed Richard Kyle's Y2K article; entertaining and loaded with facts.

Regarding Terry Jeeves' comment about the lifting of various old US illustrations by European publishers, I don't think any of them has any international legal copyright protection, since the US steadfastly has refused to sign international copyright agreements. That is why US sf publishers could and did steal so many European works, including Tolkien's *Lords of the Rings*, without paying a cent.

All best,

Cheers!

Sam

Steal!, Americans! Perish the thought!

Forwarded from Mark by e-mail;

- Roy Lavender - wrote:

Mark

I just received a note from Dean Grennell that Jean died of a heart attack on May 29, 1999. She was cremated and her ashes will be scattered in Long Lake, near Waupaca, Wis.

He said he he would much rather have a note or letter than a sympathy card.

Damn

Roy

Duly noted, condolences extended.

- Richard Kyle -

Dear Paul,

What a pleasant surprise. I wasn't expecting it, and for a second I didn't recognize the cover of the new issue. It was a good change-of-pace -but your own covers are too good to miss very many of 'em. (You have a nice liquid black in your line-work that seems to compliment text.)

I enjoyed the whole issue. The Miracle piece looked better than I thought it would. The nice layouts surrounding it, really plused the story. So if it is not received well by the members I have only myself (and Burks, of course; especially Burks, needless to say) to blame.

Really enjoyed Willmorth's letter. I'd read the Himmel obituary in the L.A. Times but hadn't realized how close he was to fandom. (I was living in the San Francisco Bay Area at the time.) I guess the

whole obit would have been too long, however, and not quite fan-nish enough.

Yeh, I'd like to see a page or two devoted to ads for books and magazines-but with, say, 1950 as a cut-off date. Maybe even earlier, certainly not much later.

Searles' piece was a pleasure to read. What fine work he has done for science fiction over the years!

The heavier leading and lighter font works very well. I don't think the underlines worked with the bold subheads, however; the boldface is enough in itself. The layouts were especially smooth this time, You're really good at this stuff.

Thanks again for an issue that would have been good without my contribution-maybe, even better without it.

I've run out of black toner, so this is the result.

Best,

Richard

Richard's letter was printed in blue a fact that did not, fortunately stymie my OCR scanning program. Thanks for the kind words regarding my covers. I will continue to inflict them on the membership occasionally.

- Noreen Shaw -

Dear Paul,

Excellent job on Scientifiction. It's a professional piece of work. I'm enclosing a recent L.A. TIMES article on a reunion of L.A. Fans. Someone else may have sent it, but if not, here it is! On the second page Arthur Jean Cox is mentioned. I run into him around town & he really should be invited to join. I don't have his

address, but I'm sure 4E does. I was also pleased to see Ben Jason's for having sent Hugo material to the archives. He's the guy who did it.

I'm also delighted to see that "our" Marty Greenburg has surfaced. The Jan. 1999 issue SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN had not one, but two, mentions of old Chicago fan Sidney Coleman. He is at Harvard and the items were on *two different* fields. Top that, mundanes!

Best,

Noreen Shaw

You and Julie share the honors of sending StF the LA Times article which you will find reprinted or excerpted elsewhere in this issue (at this time I haven't worked out the ethics of reprinting it in toto), Julie just beat you to it a little.

- Lew Wolkoff -

Paul:

I understand from Joe Siclari that you publish the First Fandom newsletter.

The Millennium Philcon wants to honor all of the members of the 1947 Worldcon. We have the list from the Program Book, but we need two additional pieces of information:

1 - Was there anybody else there; any people who joined after the program book went to print, including walk-ins. If so, who were they.

2 - How many of those who were there are still alive.

If you need it, I'll be glad to send you a copy of the Program Book list. Just send me your snailmail address. My e-mail address is:

lwolkoff@hotmail.com

Thanks in advance for your help.
 Lew Wolkoff
 Secretary
 Millennium Philcon
*Again, if you can help contact the
 above. (Who is this Joe Siclari and
 why is he saying such things about
 me?) [Joke]*

- John L. Coker, III -

Paul,
 Sure enjoyed the latest issues of
 ACES and Scientifiction! High
 quality work. The tribute to
 George Evans and the 3 old-time
 SF fans (Julie, Ed and Jack) were
 delightful!

Hope to see an article on the
 recent Reunion of First Fandom
 in a future issue . . .

Enclosed is a photo, submitted
 for publication, that may be
 newsworthy to the Dinosaurs at
 large . . .

Best wishes for continued suc-
 cess!

"Tip your pals to the TTT. . ." (Ask

Julie or Forry)
 John L. Coker, III

*In case you haven't heard I also
 publish a fanzine dedicated to
 pulp art and artists called **ACES**.
 John thoughtfully provided the
 'zine with some photocopies of
 Julie Schwartz' fanzine pieces
 from the thirties that Julie is allow-
 ing me to reproduce which earned
 him contributors copies.*

*Okay Julie - what is the deal with
 "TTT?"*

- John J. Newton -

Dear Paul:

I'm starting out by echoing the
 praises of all the others who com-
 mend you for the wonderful job
 you've done since taking over as
 editor of SCIENTIFUNCTION. The
 neatness as a whole, the illustra-
 tions, especially on the covers,
 and all the articles.

Richard Kyle's Y2K AND ALL
 THAT came at the proper time for
 me. I had been digging out some



Carol Emshwiller, 1999 Recipient of the Raymond Z. Gallun Award, David A. Kyle, 1999 Recipient of
 the Sam Moskowitz Fan Award. April 9-11, 1999 Stony Brook University, Long Island, NY I-Con 18.
 photo: John L. Coker III

oldies and was thinking of copying the covers of the two as he has done and send them in but just that, not the article. My other project is also from the thirties, I am saving Julius Schwartz's primitive Round Robin "COSMOS" that was published in the middle thirties in Fantasy (fanzine) Magazine, on a 3 1/2" floppy disk. This was a 17 part serial by 18 Science Fiction authors. I have finished it and now is the task of going over it to correct any mistakes. The thought that I had read this some sixty years ago and now twice in one year brings to mind all the stories I have read in between. I won't even try to compare the differences in style, format, and as for the language . . . That's enough from me for now. Sincerely,
John

I like that start up, even if it is repetitious for the readers, far be it from me to edit these letters!

- Joseph D. Siclari -

To: Members of First Fandom

I am writing about two things which I think members of First Fandom will be interested.

A new edition of ALL OUT YESTERDAYS

NESFA Press and I are working together with Harry Warner, Jr., to issue a new edition of All Our Yesterdays, Harry's history of 1940's fandom. This book is probably the best of all the fan histories. The old editions from Advent:Publishers have gone out of print. The new edition will be published by NESFA Press and we hope to make it an even better resource.

To enhance this new edition, I am looking for 1940's photos that can be used in the book and also from the 1930's and early 1950's. These will give readers some visual references for the text. While we are looking for photos of people and places that are mentioned in the text, I will also consider other photos that might be representative of fandom in the 1940's. For example, we'd consider photos at a convention or fan club meeting or of a writer, fan or artist. If you have any photos that you would allow us to use, please contact me. Do not send anything yet. I will make arrangements with you to get the material.

Please pass this request on to others who might not see it in Scientifiction. If you know of anyone who does have photos, please pass their name on to me and I will contact them directly. We want to make this the best publication possible. Thank you in advance for any assistance you are willing to lend.

For those of you who do not know who I am, let me introduce myself: I have been a fan since 1966, pubbed my first fanzine in 1970, have worked on too many conventions (including Chairman of MagiCon, the 50th Worldcon in 1992) and have been working on fanhistorical projects for about 25 years. THE FAN HISTORY PROJECT

Currently, I am the coordinator of the FANAC Fan History Project. This is a group effort to preserve our fannish history and artifacts and to disseminate information about fandom's past. FANAC is a

nonprofit corporation and was the sponsor of MagiCon. FANAC members have chaired three Worldcons, edited books, pubbed their ish and run many conventions. In the "real" world, we are librarians, engineers, secretaries, managers, computer programmers, lawyers and retirees.

Our most visible activity is the Fan History Project web site (<http://fanac.org>) where we have hundreds of fanzines, fannish references (including Fancyclopedia I and II and enormous bibliographies), and about 1,000 photos online for people to view. At the last two Worldcons, we have also provided mini-Fan History Museum exhibits. Our members have also coordinated several of the FanHistoricons that have been held around the United States.

We are also working on several other major projects by getting fen from around the world to combine their efforts and their information. These include a Master Checklist of Fanzines (upwards of 50,000 issues with more to be added), a library of old fanzines, indices of the complete contents of major fanzines, an archive of fan memorabilia (which is used for fanhistorical exhibits at conventions), fannish photo albums from around the world, and a new edition of Fancyclopedia III.

We are always looking for additions to our fanhistorical archives. If you have any fannish "stuff" that you no longer want, please consider a donation to the Fan History Project. It's even tax-

deductible!

Any help or suggestions you can give us would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joe Siclari Chairman, FANAC

Ditto the earlier, if you can help, yadda, yadda . . . Then this came in later;

FANAC Fan History Project

Information Update #1

For more information or to help, contact

Joe Siclari, jsiclari@gate.net

FANAC Fan History Project Coordinator

Periodically, we will issue an Update to tell you what is going on with the FANAC Fan History Project. These Updates will contain information about changes to our web site, publications we are issuing, our exhibits, and other related information. To keep current on what we are adding, you can sign up on our new Fanac-Updates list on our home page (<http://fanac.org>). We will not give any addresses out.

This being the first Update, I expect it will be longer than most.

We have added a lot of material to the Fan History Project web site (<http://fanac.org>) in the last few months. We now have nearly 200 fanzines on the site in text or graphic

format (<http://fanac.org/fanzines>) and links to hundreds more. We are closing on 1,000 photos from W o r l d c o n s (<http://fanac.org/worldcon>), other conventions (http://fanac.org/Other_Cons) and fan groups from around the

w o r l d
(http://fanac.org/Fan_Photo_Album). The material comes from the 1930's right up to 1999.

We are reorganizing the web site to make the information more accessible. In addition to the items listed above, we have over 100 meg of material for you to go through. From fannish references, fancyclopedias, fan histories, and enormous bibliographies

at http://fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works to a Cross Reference list of nearly 9,000 fen who are mentioned on the FANAC Fan History Project web site at <http://fanac.org/names.html>. It's a virtual Who's Who of Fandom. See if you are listed. If not, why not? Help us document your fandom.

This is only a partial list of the New Material:

1. Fan History For Sale (http://fanac.org/For_Sale.html): we have added a page where you can find fanhistorical publications available to purchase from a variety of sources. This is a free listing as a service for fans. If you have an appropriate publication, contact us.

2. Classic Fanzines on-line (http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html): among the fanzines we have recently added are issues of Cosmag, Cry of the Nameless, Fantasy Magazines, Helios, Hyphen, Novae Terrae, Science Fiction Digest (1950s), Slant, Spaceways, A Warning!, and Wastebasket.

3. Modern Fanzines on-line (http://fanac.org/fanzines/Modern_Fanzines.html) and Electronic

F a n z i n e s
(http://fanac.org/fanzines/Electronic_Fanzines.html): text copies and links to hundreds of fanzines are available here, ranging from Plotka to the Australian Science Fiction Bullsheat; from Ansible to Tommyworld.

4. Our Fan Photo Albums (http://fanac.org/Fan_Photo_Album) have increased dramatically with photos from Irish, English and Detroit fandoms, several fan fund trips and much more. Take a look.

5. Worldcon and Convention Photo Albums: we have added too much to list all the photos here. Entirely new sections include: Albacon, BucCONeer, Channelcon, Chococon, Clevention, Confluence, ConStellation, Corflu Nova, Eastercon, Faircon, the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, the International Science Fiction Convention, NorthAmeriCon, SFcon, Westercons and the World Fantasy Con. Literally hundreds of photos have also been added to: MagiCon, Intersection, Noreascon

III, LoneStarCon II, LAcon 3, Philcon, SMOFcon, Boskone, Tropicon, and XIIcon.

6. Fan References: added Fancyclopedia II, Lee Gold's Filk History and updated several of the Fanzine Bibliographies.

There is more being added all the time. We are working on a number of larger projects like the Master Fanzine Checklist and indices to major fanzines. So bookmark <http://fanac.org> and keep checking back.

— Joe Siclari
FANAC Fan History Project
Coordinator

- E. M. Korshak -

Dear Paul:

Over the past six weeks I've done some traveling: first, to New York to attend the Sotheby/Sam Moskowitz auction where I had the added pleasure of encountering other of our Founding members who had come to the Big Apple for this singular event, thence to the D.C. area and visits with still other Founding members and, finally Southern California with visits with still other old fan friends - friends of fifty years and more. A wonderful trip all-in-all but marred by a repeated sense of apprehension voiced by many of the old timers as to the future of this organization and the direction in which we are headed; in short, the general feeling that the Leadership have been acting more and more unilaterally, pulling away from the Founding members who are - let's face it - the very reason that this organization exists in the first place.

Before enumerating the most oft-repeated causes of discontent I should, at the outset, assure both Ray and Mark of my continued support and admiration for their having taken on the task of running an organization such as First Fandom on a day-to-day basis. And speaking for myself I have long enjoyed the friendship of both of these gentlemen, so I trust that they will understand that there is nothing personal in bringing these concerns to their

attention and to the attention of the membership; these are issues that should be addressed before they get out of hand.

1) Central to all other concerns is the future of First Fandom. Where are we going? And how should we get there? And so, while there are still a significant number of Founding members alive (although the ranks are thinning year by year) this is a question that must be answered now.

Should First Fandom be a "last man" association, that is should the organization end when the last of the Founding members passes away? Or should the organization be continued indefinitely by the Associate members? We need a vote here and, obviously, only the Founding members can vote on this issue. Such a separate ballot could be inserted in the same mailing as the Hall of Fame Award ballot but, because there is an obvious conflict of interest here (both Ray and Mark are Associate members) these ballots should be sent to and tabulated by a totally impartial person, say Forry Ackerman or Bob Tucker, whose impartiality is beyond reproach.

2) Choosing the venue for presenting the Hall of Fame Award. Should this award be presented at a Regional con or at a World con? The Leadership keep telling us that a Regional con is best - but the question is, best for whom? Generally not for the recipients for, experience has shown, they rarely get to Regional cons where the award is being presented yet, more often than not, they go to the World

con. The oft-repeated argument that World con committees are uncooperative is simply not true. Speaking for myself (and I believe for my co-recipient Frank K. Kelley) when we received the 1996 award at Anaheim we were treated like visiting royalty, as were our families. Thus at the World cons the awards are presented at the Hugo ceremonies, the high point of the convention, and we can thank Dave Kyle who made these excellent arrangements not only at Anaheim but also at every World con I have attended back to and including Atlanta in '89. And, as far as I know, every World con before that award has been given.

3) The matter of dues. Recently we were presented with a decision made without, as far as I am aware, any input from the membership, our dues simply increased from five to six dollars a year. And this is especially troubling when we get only a bare bones accounting - like covered be two or three sentences and even then given out reluctantly sometimes after several years have passed. What many of the Founding members have indicated to me is that this is far from adequate, that an accounting should be done annually and, at the very least, by a Certified Accountant (a C.P.A. is unnecessary). When you are dealing with money - other people's money - what the Leadership must understand is that they are fiduciaries. And our courts uniformly insist that a fiduciary must exercise the highest duty of care and full disclosure becomes a necessity

If one asks where the money will come from to hire a Certified Accountant for an annual audit, why the answer might partially come from cutting out this plethora ego-boo peripheral annual awards which we are adding to year after year, each of which require an expensive plaque or trophy which we keep paying for out of the treasury. Or, for such an important, necessary expense, we might consider adding an extra dollar or two to our annual dues. But only, of course, if the membership is agreeable - after having been polled.

4) The matter of dropping a Founding member for non-payment of dues. This has been a matter of concern among the Founding members for a number of years now. It succeeded in driving out (among others) first Lloyd Arthur Eshbach - a giant among first fans -and then, later, Ray Bradbury. The question might well be asked: How can we have an organization calling itself First Fandom without our most important and illustrious associates?

Most recently this sword has been used to sever David Kyle from our ranks. And so the question is now being asked, how can a Founding member (who, incidentally sent in his dues by Registered Mali, only to have his payment refused and returned by the Secretary-Treasurer) be stripped of his right to be in this organization? Because he may be a thorn in the side of the Leadership? Where is it written that everybody has to march to

the same drummer? But the most important question is how can anyone separate from this organization a Founding member? For the benefit of anyone among us who does not already know, a Founding member is one who was active in fandom on or before the first World Science*Fiction Convention, Nycon I in 1939. That's it. No more, no less. So, a by your length of fan activity, you are either a Founding member or you are not.

Personally, I think that the Leadership have allowed their emotions to rule their actions and have put themselves in an untenable position if they insist on enforcing this. They made a mistake here, and it is the consensus of the other members with whom I spoke that they should back off before they do irreparable harm to this organization that we all care for so much.

5) Two final matters: Most of these problems would not exist at all if the Leadership had not discouraged open, biannual meetings of the membership, which have been the norm at World cons for many years - until recently. And, additionally, now that we have annual reunions, a second open meeting each year. The last meeting of this type that I can recall was at SoonerCon in Oklahoma City some years ago at which time we voted the present Leadership into office. Speaking for myself, I asked the Leadership to call an open meeting (a business meeting) in the First Fandom suite at DragonCon in Atlanta where we had enough Founding members present to

make it meaningful, yet my request was treated as though I had told an obscene joke at a church social.

Finally, there is the matter of succession. None of us is immortal; we could lose our President or our Secretary-Treasurer by death or disinterest at any time. And while there is in effect the possibility of the surviving officer appointing a replacement, this should be no more than a temporary stopgap. Also, there should be a mechanism for our membership to vote our officers in or out of office, should they care to do so once every year if any of the membership wants to run against them and can gather enough votes to do so. This is what is known as democracy.

I would hope that this letter will initiate a lively debate among other members who have heretofore remained silent for, after all, in a democracy, a multiplicity of voices is essential.

Respectfully submitted,
Earl Korshak

That's it for this issue's letter column, ending on a serious note. Please read and think about the points Earl has put forth in his letter. If you have an opinion please type it up (I'm serious, type it!) and send it in and we can get a consensus of the members thoughts for next issue and work from there. Every group has it's political aspect, personality clashes and infighting but with sober discussion it can all be worked out to most everyone's satisfaction. (Well, except for the personality clashes.)

pm

REVENGE OF THE SCI-FAN:

by mark schulzinger



INTIMATIONS OF URBANITY

My settling in this nation's sixth largest city has been an experience of no mean magnitude. As most of you know, I am amazed at the sheer quantity of goods and services available in the 21st cen-

tury city. I am most astonished by the services available for which a purpose has to be created.

Now that it is possible to clean ductwork in houses, a number of ductwork cleaning services ply their trade here in the Valley of The Sun. Nemmine that ductwork only has to be cleaned if it's ancient, incredibly filthy or rusted to the point of uselessness, these eager cleaners display immensely magnified photomicrographs of dust mites to show what's living in your ductwork.

It reminds me of the telephone sanitizers of Great Britain. Long before anyone knew that the influenza pandemic of 1918 was transmitted by troops returning from the Great War, it was hypothesized that the disease had been spread by dirty telephones. Thus, the trade of telephone sanitizer was developed to forestall another such infectious outbreak.

Of course, now that we know how the disease was transmitted, there is no further use for such a trade. So how come the sanitizers are still sanitizing? Sometimes I think that eventually we all arrive at the shoe event horizon.

BACK TO THE CAVE — AND EAT FRUIT

Another interesting set of

observations I've been making indicate that the majority of genus homo, and that includes both homo sapiens and what a friend of mine likes to call homo dorkus, is incapable of living in communities of larger than about 2,000 individuals. I have seen more enraged people in Phoenix than I have ever seen anywhere else, and by that I mean people who seem to spend every waking moment in a state of barely controlled fury that emerges at the slightest provocation.

Given the fact that I have lived about half my life in cities of no more than 150,000 population, I anticipated that living in a city of 2.6 million would be significantly more crowded. Well, it is, but not in the microcosm formed by one or two individuals. When I get on the politically-incorrectly-named Squaw Peak Highway I travel at the posted speed of 55 MPH. The other creatures (I assume they're genus homo), however, find this to be a snail's crawl and routinely pass me. This puzzles me, since I allow plenty of time to get to my destination and can't quite understand why they don't.

In shopping malls, of which there are many, there are crowds of these creatures hurrying from store to store. Many of them wear perpetual frowns. Accidentally jostle one and you are liable to have a stream of invective hurled at you which does not abate upon apology. Yet I find that the shopping malls are no more crowded than was the Wal-Mart store in Gallup, and no one hollered at anyone else there.

This is not to say that there

aren't a lot of good-natured creatures in this megalopolis, in fact they seem to be in the majority. Still, I get the distinct impression that there is a large segment of the Phoenician population that would be quite happy if it lived like the paranoids in Golden Valley where each nut has his own mobile home in the center of bare acres of land from which vantage point he can watch Black Helicopters to his heart's content.

REUNION 2000

The nice folks at Archon have re-invited First Fandom to hold its millennial reunion at their con. Those who attended the first one were probably overwhelmed by their hospitality. Expect to be bowled over once again!

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOPHOBIA

Our esteemed editor made a comment in last ish concerning how Ray Beam would telephone me, and I would then e-mail Paul to relay the information. Seems strange, huh?

Ray will not use e-mail. He doesn't like the sequence of actions needed to get onto the Internet, and he really doesn't like to type. If this seems like some bizarre technophobic behavior, just remember that like Asimov refused to travel by air. Strange to imagine that fans have phobias, but tis true.

I do a lot of e-mailing, but I prefer to send a letter. A letter has heft, is portable and can be wadded into a ball and tossed into a garbage can. E-mail can't even be taken into the john for sanitary purposes. Now who's

gonna come up with the wise-crack about wiping one's butt with bits and bytes?

THE Y2K BUSINESS

Or should that be monkey business? By now you're probably sick and tired of hearing about how, on January 1, 2000, your phone will stop working, your car won't start, your daughter will get knocked up and your wife will run away with Bill Gates. I went to the trouble of resetting my various clocks aboard my computer, and discovered that it rolls right over from 12/31/99 to 1/1/00 without any problem.

Well, there are problems. My word processor, at the moment the venerable Word Perfect 6.1 for DOS, doesn't recognize the new year and won't automatically stamp my letters with the correct date. My spreadsheet, an even older copy of Quattro Pro, not only doesn't recognize the year but won't even save files with a year stamp once the new year rolls in.

Neither of these "bugs" will have any real effect on my life, I'm accustomed to dealing with such matters just from every day computer use. After all, from time to time I'll turn on the machine and discover that the CMOS has somehow forgotten the date. A reboot takes care of that little problem. Of course I usually only discover the problem after I have saved a file only to discover that I last worked on it in 1753.

Y2K problem? Nope. Just a bit more spice to life.

DEPARTMENT OF LOST FRIENDS

I was saddened to hear of the

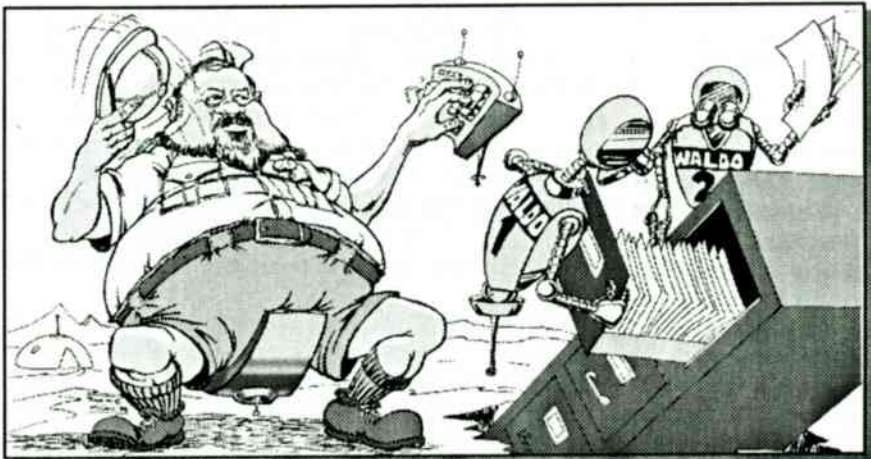
death of Hal Shapiro the other week. I was even more saddened to discover he died, not from an attack of a jealous husband, but from a damnably prosaic auto accident.

Hal was one of my early fannish acquaintances. He was a member of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, but was originally a Misfit (no snickers, please). He was in the Air Force for a spell, and was stationed in the Aleutians. Using his tremendous skills at midnight requisitioning he managed to produce several APazines, including "Halcyon," "Halberd" and "Ice: The Frigid Fanzine." He was mustered out, wound up in Cincinnati and married Nancy Moore, although not necessarily in that order.

He was addicted to outrageous jokes and wordplay, the longer he could prolong a punchline the better he liked it. His store of jokes was so large that it was difficult to tell him one he had never heard before. I managed to do that. Once. It got a laugh from Hal, the first one I ever heard in response to someone else's joke.

Hal had a fatal problem, he was a sociopath. One never loaned Hal anything. I mean anything. He would never take something from your home, but he seemed to consider a loan a gift. He once told me that he was certain there was some way in which he could make money without working. He tried it once, and wound up doing seven years in Federal prison in Florida.

But that was part of his charm. Ray once described Hal as "a real-



FROM DOWN IN THE FOSSIL BEDS:

by don dailey

Although I hate to use the phrase, "it's been like Christmas in July". John Coker III had the opportunity to visit with BEN JASON in Cleveland earlier this month. Together they packed up three more boxes of material for the Archives. This batch of "stuff" contained items like the Hugo voting ballots from the Worldcon Ben chaired, assorted fanzines about First Fandom members, and correspondence files with names like Isaac Asimov, Hal Clement, Donald Ford, Morris Scott Dollens and L. Sprague DeCamp on the folders. I know this material has great sentimental value for Ben. I greatly appreciate his confidence in me, and assure him all will be well cared for. Many thanks to Ben for parting with this material and thanks to John for taking the time to sort, pack and ship it all. John hopes to visit with Ben later this

year, perhaps more treasures will be uncovered.

Also received a packet of material from Mark Hickman, LYNN HICKMAN's son. There were some fanzines Lynn had published many years ago, a few letters, and even an old photograph. Lynn's file is now well established. Thanks to you Mark for sharing with us.

Received a letter from NOREEN SHAW. In her own words she "has escaped from the Los Angeles Library into retirement". She plans to sort through all her old fanzines, photographs and so forth. If there is material suitable for the FF Archives, she will let me know. Many thanks to you Noreen for your generous offer.

And, before I forget, I saw Ray Beam at INCONJUNCTION in Indianapolis over the 4th of July weekend. He had another box of material for me, an interesting

mix of treasures and trash. Thanks to you too Ray.

For those who wonder what I do with all this material as it comes in, my procedure is simple. Everything is given an initial sorting and weeding out of trash that goes to the shredder. Everything is then taken from the shipping cartons and placed in air-tight, waterproof plastic storage bins. Then a second sorting is done and the material moved to the permanent storage/file cabinets. At this point, my living room resembles a loading dock of some sort. Yet I know where just about every piece of paper is! Several years experience as a file clerk in the US Army has come in handy.

As a last note, I read an interesting item the other day. If you have the opportunity, check out the July 12th issue of Newsweek (page 47, to be precise). The item is titled "History: We're Losing It" and concerns the problem of lost "electronic" information. For example, the JPL has lost 20 percent of the data collected by the 1976 Mars landers. The US Census has 4,000 reels of data they may not be able to recover because the equipment has become obsolete. Even the highly touted "permanent" CD storage system has run into problems. I find it a bit ironic that I am sorting through well-preserved paper documents dating back to the 1930s while the techno-buffs are losing material less than 10 years old. Maybe "technology" is the way of the future, but can it be used to preserve the past?

'Til Next Time

Don Dailey, Archivist

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

by ray beam



It has been a busy month with three convention week ends in a row. Starting with Midwestcon, followed by Inconjunction and Pulpcon. The variety of the three dealers rooms was interesting. Midwestcon only had 6 or 8 dealers. It was small but they were all book dealers. Inconjunction's was large and crammed full of dealers, but only two were selling books. Pulpcon, of course was limited to Pulp related material. There were dealers to fill almost

all the tables. However the variety and selection of Pulp has been dwindling in the past years. The number of Pulp collectors is dwindling also.

I managed to pick up an original Hannes Bok. Art work is my only weakness these days since my SF magazine is complete.

My convention attendance is probably done for this year. I have decided not to make the Australia Trip. Those long flights are not as much fun as they used to be. I have two attending memberships I will let go at a pretty good discount. Any one interested can make me an offer.

Roger Sims had bypass surgery on July 10. I hear he is on the way to recovery. He

would probably appreciate cards from the members. Finally I end this on a sad note. My old and good friend Hal Shapiro passed away about a month ago.

Until next Time——

Ray

SOME NEWS

ARCHON HOSTS REUNION — AGAIN

ARCHON, the wonderful convention that hosted the First Fandom reunion in 1995, will be the venue of our millennial reunion.

The con will be held September 29 to October 1, 2000 at its usual venue somewhere in and around St. Louis/Chesterfield, Missouri.

For those who attended the previous reunion, we have been assured that the same amenities will be offered to us this time. These include free membership for the member and partner, special activities and, of course, the wonderful hospitality for which the ARCHON folks are so well known.

For those who have forgotten, all members of First Fandom had been granted perpetual membership in ARCHON ever since the 1995 reunion.

First Fandom member Joanie Knappenberger is the First Fandom liaison for the con. You will find her address in your roster. She can also be reached by e-mail at kamp@netscad.com.

SAN MARINO ISSUES STF STAMPS

The tiny Republic of San Marino issued, in 1998, a sheet of stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of science fiction. Although most agree that science fiction has been around longer than that, San Marino decided to date the onset of the genre with the appearance of the novels of Jules Verne.

The sheet consists of 20 stamps, each one devoted to a different novel. They include Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea," Welles's "War of the Worlds," Huxley's "Brave New World" and Orwell's "1984." Modern writers include Isaac Asimov (the "Foundation" series), Clifford Simak ("City"), Ray Bradbury ("Fahrenheit 451"), Robert Sheckley ("The Seventh Victim"), Frederick Pohl and Cyril Kornbluth ("The Space Merchants"), Roberto Vacca ("Medioevo Prossimo Venturo"), Robert Heinlein ("Stranger In A Strange Land"), Anthony Burgess ("A Clockwork Orange"), James Ballard ("The Drowned World"), Frank Herbert ("Dune"), Sir Arthur Clarke ("2001: A Space Odyssey") and Phillip Dick ("Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?").

These stamps have been difficult to acquire, but we have made arrangements to make them available to members of First Fandom. For \$19.95 a sheet we will ship them postpaid and insured anywhere in the world (sorry, extraterrestrial shipments are not available at this time).

If you're interested, please send your check or money order to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mark Schulzinger, 4131 N. 18th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

Sci-Fan Continued from page 16

ly nice guy who just happened to do time every now and then."

Sociopaths have the ability to be completely charming when it's to their advantage, and Hal had his charm in spades. Years might go by without one word from him and then, BAM!, there was a phone call in the middle of the night with Hal on the other end wanting to borrow a couple of thousand dollars, hire a hit man or with some other outrageous proposition.

That was part of the charm, too. You just knew that, no matter how long it had been, Hal would call sometime in the middle of the night, lay some bit of cockamamie on you and leave you shaking your head and grinning all the time you were cussing him out.

Hal's second marriage lasted longer than his first, but it too went south. His last marriage was to another Nancy. He had two children, a boy and a girl. I met the boy when Hal came to a con a few years back. Bright lad. Handsome too. Ray and I ragged Hal about having mistakenly siring a decent person. Hell, at least you could kid with him.

I'm gonna miss Hal, he was one fixed star in my universe. Now that star is gone and the sky is just a little bit less bright.

ms

65 YEARS OF AMAZING STORIES

by bob pool L.A. Times staff writer

(Julie Schwartz and Noreen Shaw sent this to me for inclusion or a mention and I chose to reproduce the text for this article which speaks so well to the membership. My thinking was that a lot of members might not be able to get a copy of it. If this is wrong let me know and I won't do it again. No copyright infringement is meant from this reprinting, all text copyright 1999, L.A. Times.)

THURSDAY JUNE 3, 1999

Authors: Early members of the Science Fantasy Society take stock of their predictions at the end of the 20th century.

They've lived in the 21st century most of their lives.

No wonder there was such little nostalgia Wednesday as founders of the world's oldest science fantasy club said goodbye to the 20th century in Los Angeles.

Visions of atomic power, Earth-circling satellites, Martian exploration, genetic cloning and hydroponic food production began dancing in fertile imaginations at the Los Angeles Science Fiction League in 1934 - long before scientists followed with the real thing.

"A lot of what we wrote came true sooner than we thought," said writer Len Mofatt, 75, of Downey. "But a lot of it hasn't come fast enough. We should be much farther in space than we are, for example."

Wearing a dress shirt imprinted with the images of planets and stars, Moffatt was among nearly two dozen pioneering members of the club who gathered for a reunion lunch at Clifton's Cafeteria on Broadway at 7th Street.

The downtown cafeteria served for years as the club's first home offering free meals to fledgling science fiction writers like 17-year-old Ray Bradbury, who sometimes showed up for meetings without enough cash for food.

An upstairs dining room was where farfetched sounding plot lines were argued over and movie special effects were analyzed and criticized. It was also where club members picked the brains of visiting experts such as the youthful experimenters from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory who would drop by to discuss rocket thrust levels and payloads.

The cafeteria meeting room was a sanctuary for teenagers viewed by others as the geeks of the 1930s.

"We were outcasts. So we grabbed on to one another," said club co-founder Walt Daugherty, an 82-year-old retired electronics consultant who now lives in Santa Maria.

"Other kids would say to us, 'Oh, you think little green men are coming for you.' The average person, the ordinary everyday person, would see you reading a science fiction magazine on the streetcar And think you were not only crazy, but dangerous."

The public's attitude about science fiction changed only slight-

ly after the atomic bomb helped end World War II. By then, the club was known by its current name, the Science Fantasy Society.

"There was still contempt. Some didn't care for that Buck Rogers stuff," said Hollywood Writer Arthur Jean Cox, who joined the club in 1945.

Cox, 70, pulled out a snapshot taken at a 1945 club meeting and handed it to Russ Hodgkins, another co-founder of the society. "I haven't seen Russ in 40 years!" he exclaimed.

Hodgkins, 89, of Oceanside, said nuclear warfare was a disappointment to science fiction writers, whose vision of the Atomic Age had been one of benign, limitless nuclear power that would propel man into space and toward exciting new worlds.

"What's missing from today's world is peace, and the opportunity to really explore the solar system," said Hodgkins, a retired aerospace planner.

The real turning point for sci-fi came in 1969, when the United States sent a man to the moon, the veterans agreed.

"I cried. Science fiction writers were the ones who dreamed it," said author Terri Pinckard, 69, of Santa Maria.

"The first step on the moon was vindication," said 82-year-old club co-founder Forest J. Ackerman, a literary agent who published Bradbury's first short story in 1938.

Before saying their farewells for what they acknowledged may be the last time, the old-timers reminisced about the time club mem-

ber L. Ron Hubbard, later the founder of Scientology, hypnotized everyone at one meeting. And there was plenty of fretting about today's genre of sci-fi films.

"Today there's a lot of virtual reality with no thinking to it," said Stuart J. Byrne, 85, of Winnetka, whose published work ranges from magazine pieces written in 1935 to a book published on the internet last year. "Today, the love for science and knowledge often isn't there."

Bradbury, a 78-year-old West Los Angeles resident whose classics include "Fahrenheit 451" and "The Martian Chronicles," agreed.

"They they kick you in the stomach and blow your brains out and that's called being creative," he

said.

Bradbury sat next to legendary sci-fi filmmaker Ray Harryhausen ("Jason and the Argonauts") at the luncheon. Harryhausen, also 78, lives in London.

"We promised to grow old together. But to never grow up," Bradbury said.

NECROLOGY:

Hal Shapiro
Marjii Ellers

Mr. Claire Beck, a long time member of First Fandom, died on March 20, 1999 at the age of 79. In the mid-1930's Claire and his brother Clyde purchased a small hand-operated press and began one of the first journals of science fiction fandom, "The Science Fiction Critic," published

in Lakeport, California by "The Futile Press" as they called their small operation. Claire travelled across the U.S. visiting several of the founders of science fiction, and was known to many more. He was a lifetime devotee of a good science fiction read and indeed possessed an astounding knowledge of English literature in general.

DEADLINES:

Scientifiction:

October 17, 1999 - Closing date for **Winter, 1999 issue**

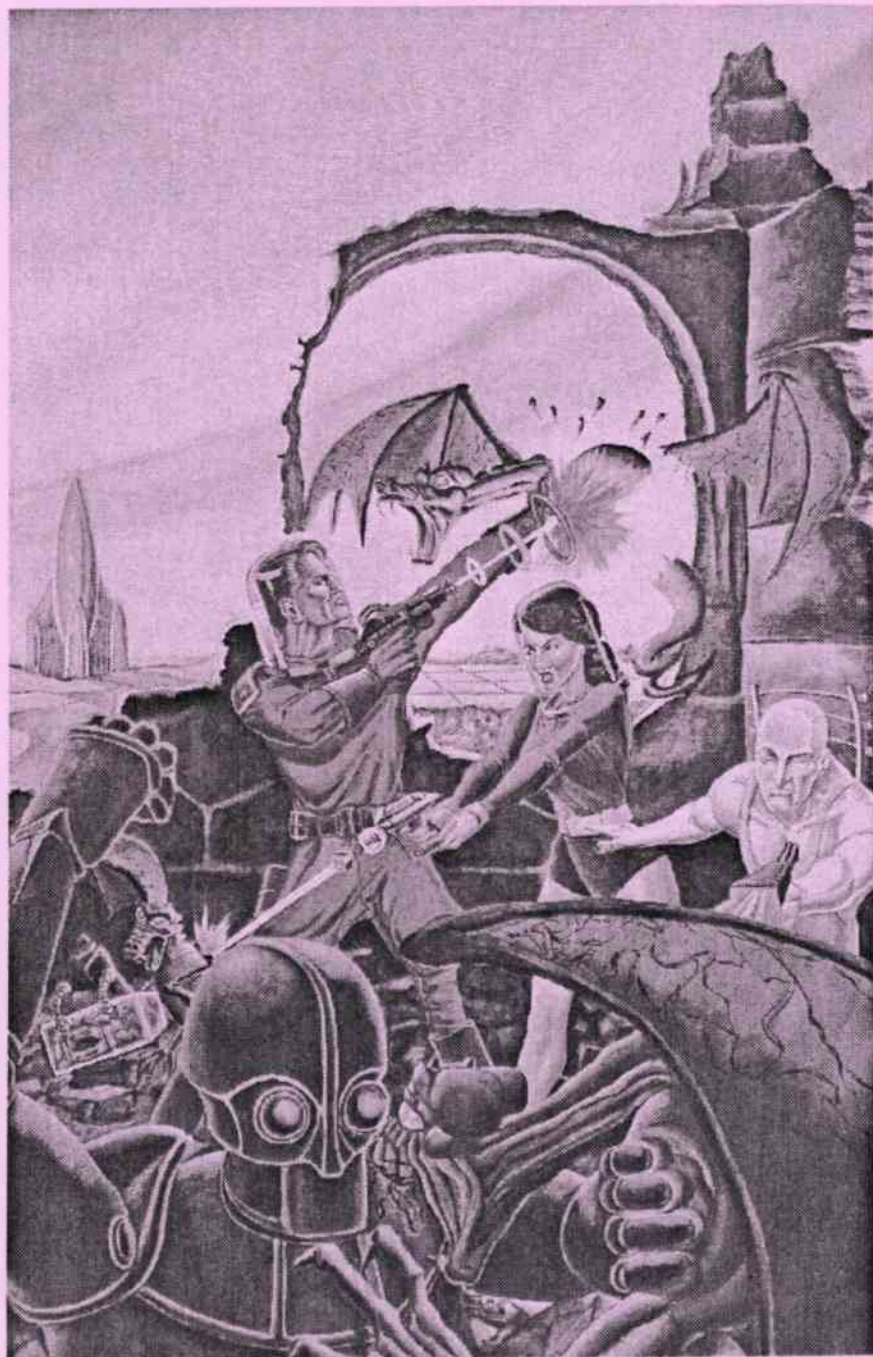
January 16, 2000 - Closing date for **Spring, 2000 issue**

April 18, 2000 - Closing date for **Summer 2000 issue**

July 18, 2000 - Closing date for **Fall, 2000 issue**

First Fandom:

May 31, 1999 - last day for nominations for the 2000 Hall of Fame and Sam Moskowitz awards.
Dec 31, 1999 - Last day for balloting for the various First Fandom Awards.



"Captain Future and the Hell-Drakes" © 1998, Paul McCall
(In the collection of Chuck Juzek)