

Winter

1998

SCIENTIFICTION



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APPLICATIONS:

For Associate membership:

Jon D. Swartz

Catherine Mintz

NEW MEMBERS:

Arthur O. Lewis

691 Westerly Parkway

State College, PA 16801-4225

T.M. Sherred

5693 N. Broadway

Indianapolis, IN 46220

Larry R. Card

444 N. Eaton Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46219

Robert O. Adair

328 N. Layman Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46219

New Sustaining Patrons:

Saundra Scheuer-Syfert

John Clute

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DINOSAUR DROPPINGS:

Terry Jeeves

Dear Paul,

Very many thanks, both for taking on the editorial chair of SCI-ENTIFCTION, and for producing such a striking issue. I really enjoyed the layout, the clear type, the capitalized headings and above all the illos. Mark had been doing a grand job, but this is terrific - please don't get overloaded by producing, what is it now?, three fanzines?? Anyway, as I gather one of 'em is devoted to the pulps, you may be interested in the enclosed copy of my own fanzine ERG, currently running a memory series on the early SF.

Loved the cover of SCF, certainly a dollop of Captain Future therein. Voting form, egad, I've been nominated for the Hall Of Fame. I don't have a cat in hell's chance of being voted in, but it's one heck of an egoboost to see my name proposed there along with the greats. Since I'm on the ballot, it wouldn't be ethical for me to vote, so please excuse my holding back the form - in any case it will be a wonderful souvenir.

I also enjoyed Bob Adair's 'Dream Vacation'. How have prices and things changed since then. I often have a dream in which I enter some second-hand book shop and find a dozen or so vintage pulps on the shelves. The

snag is that either I wake up, or more likely they somehow metamorphose into those current trashmags one sees on supermarket shelves.

Mark's column was also good and I quite understand his feeling on being able to set down the editorial burden. Fan pubbing is great fun, but it is also very demanding, especially when you have to please a lot of other people rather than just do your own thing, full speed ahead and damn the torpedoes. I sympathize and agree with his dislike of what SF has become. I used to enjoy Star Trek, but its follow ups just turn me off .. 'SCI-FI' (not SF and the same applies to most of the so called epic SF films. As for printed SF and its bastard offshoot, Heroic Fantasy — yecch! To be honest, the only SF I read nowadays has been sitting on my shelves for yonks and is still as reliable as ever. Modern slush turns me off.

Tickled to see the Lensman being reprinted yet again, I have and cherish the originals in First Editions, including the one pictured in SCF and a couple of my copies are dedicated to me by Doc Smith.

Can't say I agree with the idea of disbanding in 2000 or 2001, but since FF is virtually a 'last man out switch off the lights' affair, it is a thought to consider. Maybe

we could organize a tontine, each member put in a dollar and last man takes the kitty.

I go along with Moshe Fader on how fandom has changed. Partly because of changing tastes, but more because today's readers are not the naive, starry-eyed youngsters we all were in the early days. Let's face it, pulp sf was crude stuff, but exciting and thought stimulating. Its literary standards had to improve, but in the process the 'arty crafty' brigade imposed their standards and we have the modern, well-written dull trash. People who read such stuff must be different from we old farts. To be honest, I seem to have less and less in common with modern fan and their fanzines - I reckon I'm getting old (76 next October).

I gather Analog has changed sizes yet again - I recall the original pulp, then the small digest, then the large pulp, next the smaller digest, then the big glossy and finally (?) back to digest — and now it grows again. Pity the stories and artwork didn't improve at the same time. Know anybody wanting to buy a run Jan '35 to Dec '95?

ERG143 is well along, cover done, DMBL done, three pages of Aircars and a page of Penelope Fandergaste all print ready and three articles in the wait pile in case they are needed if LOCs and Fanzines don't come in. I worked out costing% for increasing the page size for the 40th annish, and

upping the page count to 24 would double the cost. Not really worth it.

Oh well, better sign off and get this in the mail. Thanks again for a great issue.

All the best,

Terry

Richard Kyle

Ray Beam, President

First Fandom

2209 S. Webster

Kokomo, IN 46902

Dear Ray,

I received the new SCIENTIFIC-TION today. A nice looking issue. Paul McCall has done a good job. (I wish he'd indent the paragraphs, though, with a standard indent.)

I believe I'm an Associate Member, although I am a Founding Member in spirit.

I began reading science fiction shortly after Campbell changed the magazine's name to ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, and I soon published a little hectographed magazine which circulated very briefly in school called "ASTOUNDING STORIES," believing that ASF's original title had been abandoned, or something. Most likely "something"-I was around ten. It was about sf in general, hand-printed, and mercifully has been lost in time. It was only briefly published because I was regarded as a lunatic, and although it was true, at that age I did not want the information to get out.

Although I was always a fan of

science fiction, I was never much of a science fiction fan. Occasionally, over the years, I attended fan club meetings-the Golden Gate Futurians of San Francisco, the Elves, Gnomes and Little Men, etc. of Berkeley. I followed the fan magazines with more interest. And in my teens I used to read most of the FAPA mailings, loaned to me by a member. So I knew a lot about fandom, even though I was not involved in it. My interests were really in the professional magazines, and in professional editing and publishing. I suspect that if I'd lived in New York I would've become a Futurian, and tried to get into pulp- and then paperback- editing.

I mention all this because I still retain an interest in the magazines of that original era - I suppose I read all the stories, good, truly bad, and completely indifferent-and I suspect my affection for them will never leave me. (I had a virtually complete collection that ran back through SCIENCE AND INVENTION, until a flood destroyed it a few years ago. I still have most of the ASTOUNDINGS through the '50s and all my UNKNOWNs.)

And yet I haven't the slightest idea of what direction First Fandom. should take. From time to time, in looking through my surviving magazines, I find something of interest. But would anyone else think so? In the last twenty years, science fiction has

changed into something very different than it was when I first came to it. New readers have no real interest in the past, but do golden age readers have much more?

For example, the other day, in looking through an AMAZING for '30 or '31 I noticed a letter from Charles Schneeman, who would later become one of ASFs premier illustrators. He talks about the idea of an inertialess drive, and at some length. Was Doc Smith's inertialess drive inspired by that? Were others talking about it at the time? Does anybody care anymore, in any event? Twenty or thirty years ago, it might have awakened interest. Today ... ?

I don't know. I'm too old for nostalgia. I recognize the past is over with- long over with, it seems- and yet my heart still resonates with that time and place of which I was a greater part than any subsequent world in which I've found myself, no matter how successfully. I would not go back to that world, any more than I'd want to be a child again. But part of me is still the child, and without him I would no longer be myself. I can't forget him or put him aside.

I think First Fandom's collective dilemma is the same as our individual dilemma- and probably the best policy for it is the one we follow for ourselves at this age.

Let's just see how things go,
Best
Richard

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FROM DOWN IN THE FOSSIL BEDS:

One would think that I, after making a career of the military, would run gibbering with fear at the mere mention of the word "volunteer". However, I suffered a mental lapse and "volunteered" to take over the FF Archives.

Upon being accepted, I met with our President, Ray Beam, and was presented with three rusty, dusty, dented file drawers full of FF-related documents. I inquired about the system of filing Ray had used and he responded, "Filing? Isn't that something you do to a ragged fingernail?". I will leave it up to your imagination as to the condition of the files.

A couple weeks of diligent work with the help of my very interested daughter, and I'm proud to say that the FF Archives are in workable shape. Files include Membership Applications, HOF Voting and Awards, FF Meetings,

back issues of the newsletter, and general correspondence.

Additional material is being contributed by FF members. We will soon have a complete collection of "Notes From Bob Peterson" on hand, John Coker III has contributed a beautiful copy of his memorial to Moskowitz and Ruppert. I'm corresponding with Ben Jason about transferring "The Hugo Files" to the Archives. In short, it is my intention to make the FF Archives an active depository and research facility for all materials related to First Fandom.

As more material comes in and the FF Archives become more organized, I will keep all posted through StF columns.

'Til next time, I'll keep digging
Don Dailey, Archivist

REVENGE OF THE SCI-FAN:



FIRST FANDOM IN CRISIS?

Dragon*Con has come and gone. Roses to John Coker who worked like a serf to keep the programming going. Roses, too, to the staff of the con who were extremely friendly and helpful. Roses again to the staff of the Hyatt Regency who were most professional.

An announcement now: David A. Kyle is no longer a member of First Fandom. For the third time he has not paid his dues, and for the third time his membership has been revoked. This is the final time. I want this to be made perfectly clear: his membership was not revoked because he is a prevaricator, nor because he continues to attempt to take internal First Fandom business public, but has been done in strict accordance with our bylaws which prohibit the revocation of membership for any reason other than nonpayment of dues.

The problem with Mr. Kyle's public behavior is not new. He attempted a coup at Rivercon, and was prolific in his publication of broadsides against both Ray Beam and myself. Most recently he, Bob Madle, and Jay Klein chose to present a public panel, "First Fandom In Crisis," at worldcon which was professionally recorded and which Ray and I had to pay to hear. It was such an admixture of lies, innuendo and flummery that I have decided to respond to it publicly. I will try to do so point by point.

I found myself giggling when Mr. Kyle complained that the 60 year old "upstarts" were taking over First Fandom. This gives the entire proceedings the flavor of an insurrection in a nursing home. Ray and I are 50 year vet-

erans of fandom, hardly children.

The entire panel was prompted by one event. Bob Madle had taken it upon himself to choose worldcon as the venue for the presentation of the Hall of Fame awards without consulting either Ray or myself. The first Ray knew of it was when Bob called him and told him that he had made these arrangements.

Worldcon is not interested in what First Fandom has to offer. This was made plain at con after con, and finally reached a climax at Anaheim where we actually found our award ceremony planted somewhere within the masquerade. Let's face it, times have changed and the map that Kyle, Madle, et al. use is no longer even an approximation of the territory. Worldcon is a large commercial event, the Hugo award ceremony represents the tolling of the cash register for those selected; the membership fee, which is now close to \$150 a head, is a major source of revenue for the con-com. Anaheim netted \$250,000 (source, Julie Schwartz)!

Ray and I decided that First Fandom had something to offer this commercialized world of cons, the presence of its members. Face it, Julie is a draw, Forry is a draw, Murphy Anderson is a draw, Jack Williamson is a draw. It matters not that Julie, Forry, Murphy and Jack might very well go to the con anyway, they represent a set of recognizable "names" that are of monetary

value to any convention.

So Ray and I decided to capitalize on the marketability of First Fandom's cachet. We requested that a convention provide each member of First Fandom free membership for himself and his companion (or herself and likewise). We requested that the convention provide a room where First Fans could get together. We requested physical assistance for those members who were unable to do all the walking needed.

It is a canard that Ray and I asked anything for ourselves above and beyond that which we requested for First Fandom. It simply isn't true, and that for which we asked is documented in writing. Shame on you, Mr. Kyle, for the lie. For Baltimore we noted in our letter of request that we understood convention expenses were sizable, and were willing to forego the First Fandom room, but we requested that our members have access to the VIP lounge. It seemed quite fair to us to ask for a part of the con which was already provided to other guests as a venue for our getting together.

Our shock was pretty close to outrage when, rather than receive a letter from the con committee, we got a phone call from Bob Madle stating that our "demands" were ridiculous and not worthy of a reply. It was clear to both Ray and I that Baltimore wanted our awards but didn't want us. So we accepted

Dragon*Con's bid which included everything we requested!

Just in case you think this was an isolated instance, we dispatched a plea, yes a pleading, to Aussiecon, for a bid. You see, Aussiecon would have been Ray's 50th worldcon. Aussiecon informed us by letter that they had to turn our request over to the appropriate committee. We have still not heard from them.

Worldcon does not want First Fandom.

Yeah, unrequited love is hell, but why keep showing up on the doorstep when you're never invited into the parlor?

Mr. Kyle asserted that Ray Beam was made president at a small gathering of members. Bob Madle set him right when he told how it actually happened at a rather large gathering at Soonercon when Julie Schwartz nominated him as president and he was elected as such. Of course Bob conveniently forgot to mention that Julie also nominated me as secretary-treasurer, and that I was elected to that post on the same ballot. He also neglected to mention that this was the first time officers of First Fandom were elected rather than appointed or self-appointed.

Bob Madle also made mention of the advice Lou Tabakow gave him when he became president of First Fandom, never to call an open meeting because he might be voted out of office.

Bob, are we foolish enough to

do what Lou told you never to do?

Mr. Kyle made reference to a "constitution" in which it stipulated that everything not expressly permitted was illegal. Another lie. Naturally. First Fandom has a set of bylaws. They were adopted in November, 1992, and a copy was mailed to each member in June, 1993. It is clear. It is succinct. IT CAN BE AMENDED OR MODIFIED! It is not my fault that Mr. Kyle never bothered to read it, although he seems to have read into it any number of nonexistent things. It is available to any member upon request, and it was available in the First Fandom hospitality suite at Dragon*Con. I will not do another mass mailing, I have no desire to waste our money preparing and sending out a document most people are not interested in either reading or keeping around. Still it exists, and we abide by it.

Thanks, Mr. Kyle, for insinuating that I have mismanaged the treasury of the organization. Ray used to publish all the monetary data but was asked to stop because it took up too much room. I used to publish the data, but stopped at Ray's order because people kept complaining every time we purchased membership cards or suchlike. I have carefully kept the books since I took office. They exist on electronic media. I also have every last receipt submitted to me, for I do not issue a check except in

return for a receipt or upon authorizing a member to provide specified goods at a con. I keep a mail log wherein I record every item of postage I send out and its cost. Each filled log is signed by me and kept on file.

We spend more than we take in, we've been doing this for many years. The awards cost money, the printing and mailing of the magazine costs money. Ray and I are in constant communication by telephone; the organization is not charged for telephone bills. Ever. First Fandom is not charged for stationary or for letterheads. It is charged for envelopes for the one big mailing of the year, and for address labels; both those items are expensive.

In order to pay our bills, which amount to about \$1,300 a year, we must collect dues. Mr. Kyle was appalled to note that we revoked membership of someone who had not paid his dues. Mr. Kyle should have been the last one to complain about that, given his history of non-payment. We do everything we can to get our dues. We are patient, we beg, we cajole, we even offer to pay a member up to date if only we get some token payment. If all else fails we beg the member to tell us he's indigent so we can give him a membership. I even pay some dues out of my own pocket. But we must have dues! Even the CPUSA requires dues of its members. How can we provide our services without the funds with

which to pay for them?

Which brings up yet another matter. Mr. Kyle asserts we are not a service organization, but a social club. Does he know the difference between the two? There is one, but his antiquated map does not reveal it. A social club must pay taxes on its income, a service organization need not. As soon as I took office I discovered that Ray Beam had been paying taxes on First Fandom monies. I applied for a Federal identification number and ascertained that, as a service organization we incurred no tax liability.

In point of fact, we are a service organization. Our magazine keeps the members apprised of events which affect First Fandom, and we give out numerous awards. That is what a service organization does.

Mr. Kyle is aghast that we have trademarked the names "ScientiFiction," "First Fandom" and the design which he claims to have drawn. We took those steps for a reason. When Mr. Kyle first began to use the name of First Fandom and its logo for his own ends we foresaw that it was possible others might do likewise. Once a name or a logo falls into common use it is never again available for private use. We took the necessary step to retain it for private use. We took the proper steps provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office in the book, "Basic Facts about

Registering a Trademark," the revised edition of September 1993.

It was well that we did this. I have received a number of requests for membership applications from comic book collectors, and have determined that there are some collectors who call themselves "First Fandom." Since we are trademarked, we have a base from which to pursue any claims we might have against this other organization. We haven't found their address yet, but we're looking.

Horror of horrors, it was asserted that Ray and I don't go to worldcons. To that I plead guilty, most guilty. I am a working man with my own business. If I go somewhere I lose money I can ill afford to lose. My trip to Dragon*Con cost me business which I sorely needed. I flatly refuse to pay worldcon's inflated attendance fees, pay the outrageous hotel room fees (now about \$200 a night), and spend an entire day traveling from one airport to another just to put myself on display. I see no reason to spend several thousand dollars once a year to go to an event where I am not wanted.

The day-to-day affairs of First Fandom take up much of my time. Hardly a day goes by that I do not have to perform some activity involving First Fandom business. I have been quite content in the past to let Mr. Kyle attend the worldcon, posture and

preen, and tell everyone how he invented Hugo Gernsback in his basement laboratory. Even though he is no longer with us I am under no illusions that he will stop this behavior, I suspect it is now hard-wired in his system. Still, why should I now go to listen to him? His very presence at a con gives me even more reason to sit on my mountaintop and enjoy the Big Sky.

A few other matters were brought up at this public panel. Mr. Klein expressed his displeasure at the fact that there were Associate members of First Fandom. I gathered from what he said that he was delighted to be one, but he was sorry there were so many. Jay, I can't be responsible for the mistakes which brought you into the fold, only for the ones that brought me and others in. If you really feel so bad about Associate members I invite you to modify the bylaws. Or, alternatively, you could resign your membership. I would hate to lose you.

Mr. Kyle, in one of his prevarications, stated that there were three classes of membership in First Fandom. Again the lie. There are two classes of membership, Founding and Associate. There is a subscriber class which we call Sustaining Patron. Ray and I created this group because we tried and tried to sell subscriptions to the magazine without success. We reasoned that we might get subscribers if we gave them

some other connection to First Fandom beyond the subscription. The Sustaining Patron gets an identification card which provides membership to First Fandom events, but which does not grant voting rights, meeting attendance or convention membership. In addition Sustaining patrons cannot purchase First Fandom patches or other emblems which might erroneously identify them as members.

Roger Sims went so far as to publicly state that I shouldn't even be an Associate member of First Fandom because I gaffed for a number of years. Tough, Roger, Bob Tucker proposed me for membership. I didn't ask for the position I now hold, it was thrust upon me. I didn't refuse it because Ray and I work well together, and because both of us realize that in the real present an incontrovertible paper trail must be maintained. We maintain it, and it works quite well.

For those who have bothered to read what I wrote, I urge you to make your dislikes known to Ray and myself. Our addresses and phone numbers are not secret. We respond to those who contact us. I am certain that Paul McCall, the new editor of our magazine, will publish your letters or articles without hesitation or content editing.

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Ray's Reply:

Dear Richard,

I agree with your assessment of the situation. I rely on My magazine collection and re-read much from it. I collect original art work and just recently picked up a Schneeman. Unfortunately the field is now geared to the media. Reading for enjoyment may become a thing of the past.

As far as the Inertialess Drive is concerned Doc Smith states in an article published in Eshbach's 'Of Worlds Beyond' "Was there any mathematical or philosophical possibility, however slight, that matter could exist without inertia? There was — I finally found it in no less an authority than Bigelow (Theoretical Chemistry — Fundamentals)." The old writers relied on scientific publications.

Ray

Donald L. Franson

Dear Paul,

I enjoyed the Autumn 1998 issue of Scientifiction. Welcome to the club!

I liked best the article or story "A Dream Vacation," by Robert O. Adair. (I'd write to him directly but I don't see his address anywhere.)

It took-me back to my old Chicago days over fifty years ago, as it described the downtown pre-Christmas season there very accurately. I especially remember the big stores and their toy departments, with all the electric

trains buzzing — you could hear them as you came up in the elevator!

Yours,
Don

Don Dailey

Greetings Paul:

Congratulations on your first issue of SCIENTIFICTION!! You did a bang-up job. I particularly like the artwork and the clean crisp printing. Everything was well organized also. Overall a really professional looking publication. But (don't you hate it when a but pops up?) there were a couple of little things that "bothered" me.

When I get my issue of SCIENTIFICTION, I usually sit down and read it from cover to cover. With this issue the first thing that "jumped out and bit me" was the Necrology and the name of Jim Tibbetts. This news kind of took the glow off reading the rest of the newsletter. I'm not going to suggest that you hide such info, but if it was a bit later in the newsletter, it might help. In this last issue, the blank space after the President's Message might have been a better location. And on the "Applications" section, could you please include the applicant's address? Sometimes the name of An old friend pops up. It is much easier to have their address right there than trying to track down Mark, Ray, or you to get same. It's also better than waiting 3 months for the next issue or until a new Roster is published.

Please don't take any of the above personally. I just hope you view my comments as constructive.

Sorry I didn't get a column to you for this past issue, but you know how real life has a habit of getting in the way of one's hobby. Besides, I didn't really have much to write about. Question, if I write a regular column about the Archives for the newsletter, will you draw a "car-ickey-chur" of me too?

'Til Next Time,

Don

FADMdon@netpointe.com

Curt Phillips

Curt Phillips is a new Associate member (or he better have gotten his paperwork in by this time!) and a good friend of mine who I suspect is actually a member of the Howard Families, either that or he has a very old soul. In my e-mail correspondence with him I happened to mention some of the fan politics swirling within the group (see Revenge of the Sci-Fan) and Curt favored me with his opinions as he is wont to do occasionally.

This is an area that I intend to Write About. I understand exactly where Dave is coming from on this but I see no sense in the Founding Members sinking the boat on their way out. It would be different if there were no true SF fans left in the world to take their place, but there are indeed a few of us. I am that sort of fan and maybe you are too. My fandom is that which was born in the 1930s

with the misfit kids who read that "crazy Buck Rogers stuff". Mine is the Fandom of ASTOUNDING, AMAZING, and SCIENCE WONDER STORIES. Mine is the Fandom of Doc Smith and Neil R. Jones, of Bob Tucker and Harry Warner, Jr., of fanzines and conventions where you either knew everybody when you arrived or you knew them all when you left. Most fans today are exactly what Dave Kyle fears: hedonistic consumers of the latest sci-fi flick who have no depth in the field and who wouldn't know Robert Heinlein from Robert Frost. I'm not like that. I've spent my entire fannish life searching out the true fandom and it's led me to meet and become friends with people like Bob Tucker, Lynn Hickman, Bob Madle, Harry Warner, Jr. and even Dave Kyle. I don't know if Dave would agree that I've earned a place at the First Fandom table or not, but it's what I've worked for all these years and I want it. Dave shouldn't cast us out just because we happened to be born in a later age; at heart we are the same kind of fan, he and I. When Dave made his Fan Guest of Honor speech in Baltimore in 1983, I was right there on the front row closest to him. And considering the lousy room they gave him for his speech, that took a bit of work to get there.

The bottom line is, someday all the founding members of First Fandom will be gone. The real

question is what do they want to leave behind them? A cadre of truefans who have learned Fandom from the example of their elders; who have been guided in their paths by the fans who invented fandom and who can then go on and keep the true spirit of original fandom into the new century and beyond?

Or would they rather leave behind nothing at all?

Well, the fact is that I at least (and I know I'm far from alone in this) will indeed continue to hold to the Truefannish path all my life whether as an Associate Member of First Fandom or as just Curt Phillips; Fan. Dave and the other Founding Members can make that path a lot smoother for me and those like me. I wonder if they'll choose to?

Wow, didn't intend to give a speech, but there one is. Want to use it in StF?

Best,

Curt

Bob Adair

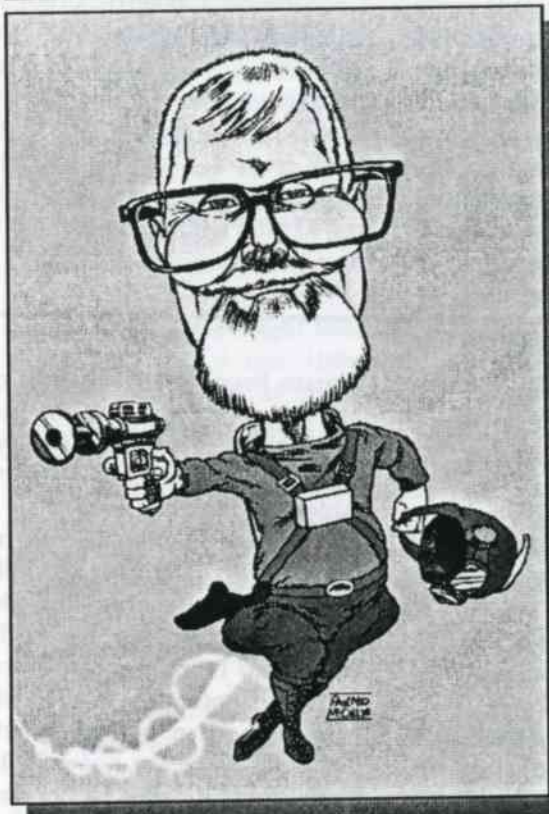
Dear Editor:

Congratulations on an outstanding issue. I am sure this is the best looking issue of this magazine ever published. It is one of the best looking fanzines I have ever seen.

Content-wise I must applaud the article "A Dream Vacation". Excellent! of course, some people may consider that my judgement lacks that olympian detachment which is the soul of criticism.

letters continued on pg.16

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:



Dragon Con was a pleasant surprise. It was not as media oriented as I was lead to believe. in fact, I have seen some world cons that were more media oriented. We only had about a dozen or so members in attendance. The First Fandom panels were not publicized so were not well attended. I think the highlight of our panels was Mark, who was billed to read from Kipling but choose to read Charlie Tanner, from Bawdy Songs and Backroom

Ballads. If any members are interested, John Coker recorded our panels.

Regarding Mark's answer to the panel at Baltimore World Con "FIRST FANDOM IN CRISIS". This comes from some members that are dissatisfied the way First Fandom is going. I fail to see the wisdom of presenting it to Fandom in general. They probably are not interested. Mark covers it well. I would like to stress two points from Mark's reply.

First, The fact that we have taken our awards away from World Con's Hugo ceremony. Every Year we send a proposal to the World Con Committee.

For the most part, we get no reply. We were informed that the Baltimore Committee did not have time to extend us the courtesy of a written reply. I can't understand how you can run a business like that. And it is a business, big business. We cannot conduct arrangements by word of mouth as was done years ago. I am afraid Mark is right. If we can't make them money, they are not interested.

Second, The inference that Mark may be mishandling. This simply is not true. Our treasury is in great shape, and it still costs you only \$6 a year. We quit giving Treasurer's Reports years ago because of comments that members were not interested and they took up too much space in the report. Under the circumstances I have ask Mark to give a 'short' Treasurers Report once a year in the ballot/roster mailing

In closing, If anyone is interested, a copy of the FIRST FANDOM IN CRISIS can be obtained from The Conference Cassette Company, P.O. Box 382, Chester MD. Order #98SCFI-370. It costs \$12, a high price for a 1 hour audio cassette. World Con probably gets a kick back from it. I see no copyright indicated, so anyone who sends me \$1.50, I will send them a copy. Ray

letters continued from pg.14

Whatever. It was an interesting issue.

Sincerely,
Bob Adair

The following are some letters that came in just beyond the deadline for last issue:

Catherine Mintz

May 20,1998

Dear Mark,

I tried sending you e-mail, but the lettering on my copy of ScientiFiction was a little blurry and apparently my best guess was not good enough. The returned mail message was that the host, netco.com, was not found. I'm cmintz@grip.cis.upenn.edu.

Although I hesitate to correct one who may be among the Great Old Ones who can dream the past into being, as the Great New Ones do the future, yet Lemuria, as a living place and not a legend, is not of this Earth but the home of our kind in an adjoining time

stream from which we split ourselves so long ago that the history of the era of joint reality is known to many only as myths, fables, and tales.

On a slightly more serious note I enclose my check for six dollars to renew my membership, along with the information that my first entry into fandom can be firmly dated to September of 1978 when I published my first fanzine, Illusions. Since I'm not sure how many years it takes to become a true Dinosaur - do I get to pick the kind? - I don't know if I qualify yet.

Sincerely,
Catherine Mintz

Gertrude M. Carr

Despite your disinclination for 'scienterrific' input, how can you avoid seeing that this planet is engulfed in a sci-fi plot of real importance? Can our human race protect itself from immanent chaos & possible extinction in

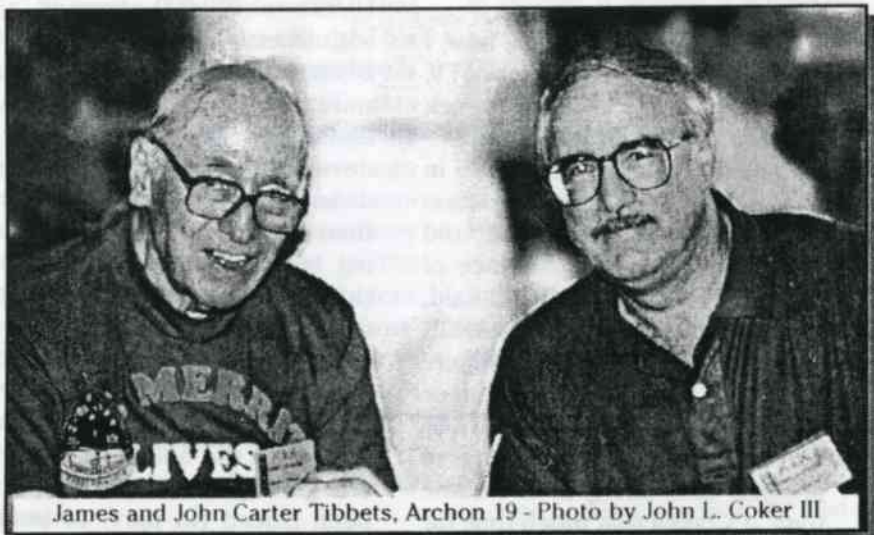
this next

Well, I guess it is official, now. I heard-it on radio, saw it on TV, and read an article in Newsweek on it, so I guess it's really true — we are not the only Universe in Space! "In the beginning" when earth was without form and void and darkness lay on the face of the deep"(space?) and God said, "Let there be light — "BIG BANG!" - there sure WAS light! ! So much. that it has taken twelve million or billion or whatever light years to reach us, and if our Universe popped into being at the same time, it's taken that much time for ours to reach whatever beings might now exist on the one just recently detected. Wow! Our God is certainly a lot bigger than we thought when we were in Sunday School and visualized Him as an old man with a long beard, wearing a nightgown.

And something else: we hear more and more about "the end of the world!". Even talk show hosts are holding airwave symposiums on "The Quickening" or "The end of the World". And it is becoming more and more evident why all the ancient calendars and prophecies end at about the year 2000. The world, as we know it, IS coming to an end. Certainly our civilizations and cultures are. Science has detected from examination of the ice cores at the north and south. poles, plus whatever other glaciers they had, that our planet has been subjected to many Ice Ages ranging from

50,000 to 100,000 years in age, with intervals between of maybe 20,000 to 50,000 years of climate warm enough to melt the ice caps and allow fauna and flora to develop. And there is the evidence of a very thin line of less than a century of quickly changing temperatures that switched them back again. This rapid warming came not from Al Gore's cow poop and hairsprays, but from increased volcano activity in the earth, and from increased heat from the Sun. Just what we are getting now! "El Nino" has been traced (in part) to boiling volcanos on the ocean bottoms as well as increased sunspot activity. But the good news is that it will take another 75 Years before the ice comes ... so all of us will have been long since gone! Ha, ha. And we will have to hope that our Technicians have managed to invent some subterranean living areas for our human race to survive in during the next 100,000 years of Ice Age. That is, if the comet, recently detected coming around the sun, does not emerge and make the point irrelevant, as far as human life is concerned. So, maybe, the end of the next Ice Age will find a nice, clean planet ready for the next race of beings to evolve.

Our culture, our civilization itself, is also under another threat of destruction at least a temporary one. This Computer Y2K problem is not by any means



Remembering James C. Tibbets:

Science Fiction and Fantasy First Fandom has lost one of its most gallant members with the passing of Jim Tibbets, 7 July 1998. He died peacefully in his sleep at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Leavenworth, Kansas in the early morning hours. Congestive heart failure finally claimed him. He was eighty years old.

Jim Tibbets was born 27 August 1917 in La Cygne, Kansas. After knocking around Kansas City as a young jazz musician (where he saw Count Basie and others perform in their heyday), he served in the Army in the Philippines during World War II. His first job as a printer was for The Parkville Gazette in Parkville, Missouri. He moved the family to Leavenworth, Kansas in 1951,

where he spent the rest of his life. Although he worked for The Leavenworth Times from 1952 to the late 1970s, Jim was known in his community primarily for his sports writing. He covered sports and wrote a column ("The Bench Warmer") for 37 years.

Jim was an avid reader and collector of Fantasy and Science Fiction throughout his life. As a high school student in the Kansas City area, Jim joined a Science Fiction readers' club and sent several letters to *Amazing Stories*, which were published. He was nominated for First Fandom by Lloyd A. Eshbach and Wilson "Bob" Tucker in the early 1980s. Jim amassed a wonderful collection along the way, and his twin sons, James and John, were able to grow up in a home where

all the great Arkham House books, Burroughs adventures, etc., were literally within arm's reach.

Jim attended conventions whenever he could, including several reunions devoted to the 'Dinosaurs of Science Fiction', where he spent many happy hours chatting with Forry Ackerman, Sam Moskowitz, Rusty Hevelin, Jack Williamson, and others. It was while he was at the 1994 First Fandom Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky (Rivercon XIX) that Jim and John Tibbetts were able to take a curator's tour of the Burroughs Archives at the University of Louisville. One of the highlights for a number of people who attended the 1993 World Fantasy Convention in Minneapolis was the opportunity to listen to Jim Tibbetts and Poul Anderson give an impromptu recitation of long stanzas from several works by A. Merritt.

Some of the light went out of his life with the passing of Jim's wife, Dorothy, in 1993, with whom he had been married for 51 years. However, he kept the faith, corresponded with First Fandom members, went to a few more conventions, and even continued his sports column to the last.

His son John is happy to say that some of their last hours together were spent reading passages from Jim's two favorite books, Burroughs' *A Princess of Mars* and A. Merritt's *The Ship of Ishtar*.

Surely First Fandom has known few members who were more widely read and possessed more enthusiasm about the literature of Fantasy and Science Fiction than Jim Tibbetts. He always had a ready smile, an opera aria or swing tune on his lips, and was ready in an instant to quote a favorite passage from a poem or story. We will miss him.

(Prepared by John Carter Tibbetts and John L. Coker, III)

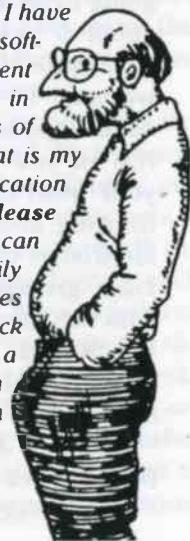
editors comments

My thanks to all the membership who have told me they liked my minor changes in StF. Mark is a hard act to follow.

I have noted the constructive suggestions put forth in letter and by other means and implemented those I thought appropriate. I hope they make for an even more enjoyable 'zine.

*Since taking on this, my third non-profit publication, I have upgraded my OCR software so I feel confident of being able to scan in typed letters/articles of variable quality. That is my bottomline qualification for submissions, **please send it in typed**. I can use e-mail quite easily and any computer files I can probably crack eventually. I use a Macintosh with some cross platform abilities. Thank you,*

pm



letters continued from pg. 17

solved yet, and might not be in time to prevent a wholesale breakdown in the food chain. What with the increasing tornadoes and windstorms tearing up whole cities at a time, plus the flooding of vast areas of arable land, there just isn't going to be enough food available. Plus the threat of water shortages - especially of potable water. Contaminated water sure, there's going to be floods of that! But unless you've got a well in your back yard, once the electricity is gone and the Water Departments are no longer working... Too bad!

This wild-eyed "Lucifer's Hammer" stuff made good reading back in the Good Old Days when Science Fiction was really science, fictionalized. But now that the human race is really facing it, is anybody listening?

In my opinion, El Nino isn't going to go away. We are already about 5 years into the 100,000 year cycle of brief, intense global warming to be followed by the sudden global freeze. Have all the rest of you aging dinosaurs got your head in the sand to avoid thinking about it, secure in the knowledge that it will be our possible great-great grandchildren who will have to tackle the problem. Not us.

Cheers for that, anyway
GM Carr

Jeff King

Dear Mr. Beam:

Lloyd Biggle suggested I con-

tact you about a project I have underway. I am collecting quotes from persons in Science Fiction in order to assemble a science fiction quote book. Though I have no illusions about producing anything as grand or comprehensive as a "Bartlett's of the SF Field," I do hope to put together a modest compendium that might be useful for writers, speakers, researchers, and others who have need for a resource of quotations from notable people in the SF field.

Witty aphorisms and quotes exhibiting sly humor are always well placed in such a work, but all evocative statements and useful observations about SF also belong in the collection. Given the long history of First Fandom, there may be members who know of quotes about SF made by those within it. I have to provide accurate attributions, of course, so full details concerning the publication in which the quote appeared would be necessary (or full information about the event at which the quote was spoken). Also included at the end of the collection will be a one-sentence description of each of the people who are quoted, so quotes from folks not widely known in the SF community, or at least who are not described in *The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* or similar accessible works, would need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how to characterize the individual with-

in SF.

Please realize that I'm not requesting any time-consuming searches. I'm interested only in learning of any quotes fitting the above parameters that First Fandom's members call to mind without spending time digging up sources and other details-such work would be too involved and presumptive for me to request.

Sincerely,

Jeff King

jkingedu@aol.com

Milton Rothman

To the members of First Fandom:

My thanks to all of you for including me in the First Fandom Hall of Fame. My thanks, in particular, to Bob Madle for nominating me, together with John Baltadonis and Jack Agnew. I am sorry that I cannot be present today, but the state of my health is not as good as it was in 1936 when I found myself chairman of the very first science fiction convention. This is one case where fame was thrust upon me — by Donald Wollheim and Frederik Pohl, who nominated me to be chairman because the meeting was being held in my house.

I am sorry to say that John Baltadonis is no longer with us, and so will not be here to receive his award. He died on July 19, of lung cancer, and was interred in Arlington National Cemetery. I have fond memories of the early Philcons we used to have in the back room of his father's saloon. But our generation is dying out.

Too bad John did not see the year 2000..

So drink a cup of kindness, boys. Totter about and beat each other insensible with your canes. If I sound senile, perhaps it is because I am.

Milton Rothman

Marjii Miers

Wednesday, May 13, 1998

Dear Mark;

Last year has been an interesting one for me. Most of my time was spent undergoing therapy for cancer of unknown origin and trying to recover from a crippling fall. Now I am working to redecorate some property to sell. Some day I may find out what "Leisure time" is.

Meanwhile, we are taking a week off to celebrate my remission and our wedding anniversary at Leprecon and the Grand Canyon, just as we celebrated our Golden Wedding nine years ago. Nine years ago we brought a ten-pound bar of chocolate- this year calls for two of them. Leprecon has grown.

John Coker is to be congratulated on his award; Rick Sneary would declare him a Trufan: one who does things for other fans.

Have you heard about all the banks in California buying each other? You may have wondered what the effects might be for the depositors. One is that checks are delayed until new ones are printed with your names, another is that changing your account to the branch nearer your home

means new checks a second time, and so forth. One delay after another.

You have been very patient—may your reward be a welcome end to your successful career as editor, and a new interest You will be missed.

Love,

Marjii Miers

Roy Tackett

Dear Mark,

Just want to let you and First Fandom know that my book "The least horrible of Roy Tackett," is available for \$10.00 from Richard Brandt. 4740 N Mesa, #108, El Paso, TX 70912.

Thanks,

Roy

James Rogers

Dear Mark -

This is to notify you guys of the death of one of your members, namely my Dad, James M. Rogers. He died on September 11th of a stroke.

James, naturally, became introduced to fandom through the letter columns in the magazines and soon struck up a correspondence with fellow Oklahomans Dan McPhail and Jack Speer. He (along with his surviving sister, Mary Rogers) was a prolific illustrator for several fanzines in the 1930's, notably The Science Fiction Fan and others associated with Olon F. Wiggins. After WW2, he fell away from fandom though he continued to read SF and supernatural stories with a passion.

In the late 1970s and 80s, when I became active in fandom, he again began drawing for Dan McPhail's FAPA zine.....the stuff still looked pretty much as it had in the 1930's, full of baroque Frank R. Paul and Virgil Finlay stylings. As far as Dad was concerned, SF pretty well expired with Gernsback's sale of WONDER STORIES, and his art reflected that.

He leaves behind a legacy of love and a heck of a lot of pulps. James

The following is one of the many updates Mark has forwarded via e-mail of the condition of Nancy Shaw Tucker who recently suffered a stroke. Publishing quarterly, StF cannot stay on top of such events but for those who have not heard I am including the latest update received before going to press:

October 22 update:

More news already? Yep! Hang on to your hats, folks!
Nancy's WALKING!

Well, ok, she's not going to be auditioning for the Zeigfield Follies right away - but she's able to lift both her feet and push a walker down the hall with an exotic little wriggle to her hips. (She's got motion mainly from the hip on the left side.) She needs a little help with her balance in getting in and out of her wheelchair, but once she's on her feet, she's pretty much independent and surprised everyone

with what she was able to do. It was far more than even her staunchest supporters on the therapy team expected this fast. She still needs a lot of help getting in and out of bed - but I suspect that will come.

Her next goal...getting that arm moving! When she had me help with her arm exercises last night, I felt a tiny bit of movement. So far it's probably reflex - but she's working very hard; practicing her exercises all day and half the night. ;)

Her biggest problem right now is that the major exertions of moving under her own steam contrasted with the rest of the day on her back has made it tricky to control her blood pressure and blood sugar. She gets too high a reading, so the nurses treat it, then she gets moving and has a low blood sugar or low blood pressure attack. She says they're mighty uncomfortable —

but she pushed past 'em as best she can.

Because of her astonishing rally, the therapist in charge of her case says that she won't be moved right away after all. They can't move her without his signature, and he assures us that they won't be getting it for some time yet. ;)

Things are looking better and better!

Hope all of you are having a terrific week, too!

Misti

Misti Anslin Tucker Technical and Marketing Communication Consultant (734) 434-0599
mta@cyberspace.org

NECROLOGY:

James M. Rogers
Leigh Crouch
John Baltadonis
Robert Lowndes

Theodore B. Yerke
Paul G. Herkart
Wallace S. Gonser

Winter, 1999 issue

DEADLINES:

Scientifiction:

January 16, 1999 - Closing date for
Spring, 1999 issue

April 18, 1999 - Closing date for
Summer, 1999 issue

July 18, 1999 - Closing date for
Autumn, 1999 issue

October 17, 1999 - Closing date for

First Fandom:

December 31, 1998 - Last date for balloting for the various First Fandom awards

May 31, 1999 - Last date for nominations for 2000 Sam Moskowitz award

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