Semper Sursum August 1988 Number 41

THE SFSFS SHUTTLE

The Official Newszine of the South Florida Science Fiction Society

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting will be held on Sept. 24, 7:00 pm, at Palm Beach Junior College. Author Tom Maddox will give a lecture on Thomas Pychon's work, entitled, "Gravity's Rainbow." Admission will be free for SFSFS members, $1.00 for guests.

JULY MEETING REVISITED

August's meeting was held at Imperial Point Library on the twentieth, after the program entitled, "Who Goes There?", a slide presentation of SF celebreties who may be spotted at a convention. Joe Siclari and Edie Stern made the presentation. A meeting of the Board of Directors was announced, set for Sept. 23, at Becky Peter's home. A motion was made to obtain to obtain discount movie tickets through a special offer by AMC theatres, which passed unanimously. Bill Wilson is persuing this matter. It was announced that proposals for changes in the by-laws would be published in the Shuttle, to be disscussed and voted on at the next business meeting.

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES

The Board of Directors has approved a motion for a change in the by-laws to be presented to the general membership. It is proposed that Article III, Section 1 of the SFSFS by-laws be amended to read: "at the annual meeting, the regular membership shall elect, in order, a chairman, vice-chairman, treasurer, and secretary."

It is also proposed that the by-laws be amended to reflect this amendment, and that Joe Siclari be appointed to prepare said text to be presented at the next meeting of the general membership.

The Board also proposed that Article IV, Section 1, be redefined to mean the next convention in any particular sequence.

MEETING OF THE B.O.D.

Aside from the aforementioned proposals, the Board also approved a motion to provide a one-year, complimentary General SFSFS Membership to professionals who give a presentation on a topic related to their field of expertise. Also approved was a motion for separate chapter organizations to be established in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. Discussion on membership requirements was tabled until the next meeting, to be held Sept. 23, 7:30 pm at Becky Peter's home.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

This is your guest editor speaking (in a manner of speaking). I was shanghied into (excuse me; agreed to) help Carol Porter while she was on vacation. Hope you had a great time, Carol! Glad you're back in time for the next issue. (Will someone please unlock the leg shackle now?)

FETE FEAT

Traveling Fete 2 will be held in Gainesville. The Guest of Honor will be Joe Haldeman. No dates have been set at the present time.

IN PRINT

We're still accepting material for Solstice 2x4. Articles, short stories, filk music, art, etc., will be welcomed with open arms. Send it to the SFSFS PO Box or hand it or hand it to Carol Gibson, Kat Max or Linda Hill at any meeting.

SMOFCON

Interest piqued? Hope so! Contact Joe Siclari at (407)392-6462 for details.

WE WANT YOU

Sign up for the Nominating Committee, and have a say in who gets endorsed for election. Call Joe Siclari at (407)392-6462 to sign on. to sign on.

READ ON

The SFSFS Library is seeking donations of all SF-related material, no matter what the medium. Bring your donations to the next business meeting.

GIVE Tropicon is looking for donations for the book drawing at this year's Tropicon. If you have any good, quality SF books you might possibly be able to force yourself to part with, please bring them to the next meeting, and give them into the tender, loving care of Edie Stern.

SING OUT Join the fun on Saturday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. The filkers will be meeting at Judy Bemis' and Tony Parker's place, in Boca Raton. Call Judy at (407)391-4380 for directions.

WANTED! All available pictures of past SFSFS and Tropicon events. Purpose: scrapbook.

IT CAME IN THE MAIL

FOSFAX #130, August, 1988 Hugo-nominated fanzine published by The Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. Contains mostly reviews, convention reports and an extensive, lively and entertaining "Letters" column.

THE INSIDER #142, August, 1988 - Newsletter of the Saint Louis Science Fiction Society.

THE NASFA SHUTTLE, August, 1988 - Newsletter of the North Alabama Science Fiction Association. It also contains a very respectable "Letters" column.

INSTANT MESSAGE #444, July 31, 1988 - Newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association. It includes flyers for both the Magicon/Orlando and Discon III WorldCon bids for 1992, and has an excerpt of an "Instant Message" of twenty years ago.

BSCFAZINE #183, August, 1988 - Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association. In this issue, Garth Spencer reviews 'zines received, and has some complaints about the content (or lack thereof) of certain ones. BUT...he didn't mention ours. (I wonder, should we relieved, or insulted????)

GALACTIC DISPATCH, August, 1988 - Newsletter of the Science Fiction Association of Colorado Springs. An announcement appears notifying their intention to temporarily suspend their zine-trading policy while undergoing a revitalization within the Association.

SHUTTLE CREDITS
Editor: Carol Porter
Guest Editor: Linda Hill
Press Gang: Carol Gibson, Linda Hill, Rich Klein, Kat Max

Walt Willis writes interestingly on all subjects, and especially on subjects on which he is best informed, such as himself. Here we have a fast coverage of the time which passed between the incidents related in 'The Subcutaneous Fan' and now...

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AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

(CANFAN #25 JUNE '55)

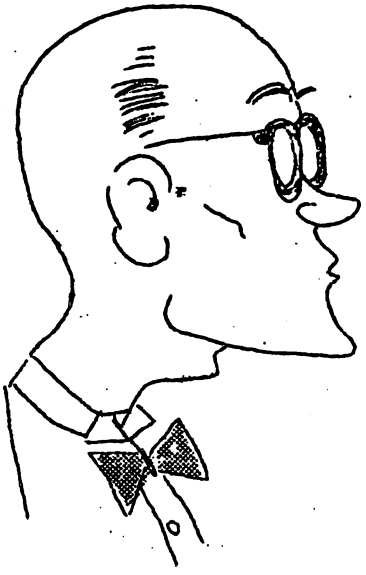
If some enterprising hobbyist manufacturer ever starts marketing 'Fandom Kits', he can come to me for a testimonial. I can recommend the hobby to anyone with a surplus of mental energy, a sense of humor and and interest in people. (A liking for science fiction is no handicap.) It seems to me one of the few hobbies that give and actual and continual return commensurate with the energy expended. Admittedly if I had diverted the same amount of energy into dull mundane channels I should no doubt be earning a few pounds more a month and people would be able to find their way through my front garden without a compass, but then look at what I would have missed. As a result of having become involved in fandom I have learned to type; I have acquired an intimate knowledge of the reproductive processes (printing and duplicating I mean, not sex -- though I could have learned about that too at some conventions): I have acquired a rudimentary facility for stringing words together: I have been to Oshkosh, Cheyenne and Tallahassie: I have introduced Lee Hoffman to Forry Ackerman, watched the latter sneer at the Grand Canyon as mere terrestrial scenery and taken the former to the Okefenokee Swamp: I have learned to drive a car: I have been offered the Associate Editorship of a leading promag: I have fixed the lock on the bathroom door (it would never have been done if Bea Mahaffey hadn't been coming to stay with us): and I have met some of the most likeable and interesting people in the world.

Thinking of all this, I sometimes wish it had occurred to me to write to the letter column pf those Astoundings I used to read in the early Thirties; I might so easily have entered fandom along with Bob Tucker. But for some reason I didn't, and in the late Thirties I stopped collection promags and turned my attention to women. Fortunately I wasn't a completist. After a while I started going steady with one Madeleine Bryan. We'd been going together for quite a while when one day she darted into a newsagent's shop. I followed her because I'd noticed a copy of Astounding in the window, and found she'd just bought it. She had, it turned out, been reading science fiction for years. It didn't seem so important or surprising at the time but as the newer Campbell authors, mainly Van Vogt, made their appearance our interest began to increase. By the time we were married (1945) we knew to the day when the next British Edition of Astounding was due out, and sometimes we used to read it together.

Then one day in early 1947 I came across in a secondhand bookshop a copy of the American Edition of ASF for January of that year. I was shocked to the core.

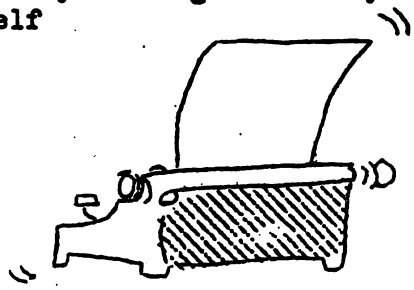
The last time I had seen the American Edition of a science fiction magazine was in 1939, and I had innocently assumed that the miserable little British quarterly reprint was all there was of it. It hadn't occurred to me that there could exist any fiend so black-hearted as to suppress any of it, no matter how great the wartime paper shortage. But here was the evidence of the crime. This magazine was monthly, had twice the wordage of the BRE, and had contained serials. Moreover this had been going on for years! Filled with a burning sense of injustice we embarked on a determined investigation of all the secondhand bookshops in Belfast. We didn't find any more ASFs, but we did find a copy of FANTASY, a short lived British promag, containing a letter from a James White of Belfast. I wrote inviting him to come and see us, mentioning casually my large collection of British Editions. We soon found that James was the reason we had never found any other American ones in the secondhand bookshops. James had been camping on their doorsteps for years and had acquired almost a dozen. We regarded with awe and envy this wealth beyond the dreams of avarice.

James and I at once joined forces, and for months our only interest was in furthering our collections. We wrote to all the dealers we could find, and joined Ken Slater's Operation Fantast. At that time Ken was enclosing with his mailings various one-page fanzines by various fans. By now James and I had read each other's collections, had want lists written in blood with all the dealers, and had nothing left to do but gnaw our fingers. We got the idea of producing on of these fan magazines as part of our collecting drive. But we hadn't access to a typewriter or publishing equipment and after making enquiries from professional duplicators we rather lost interest in the idea. Then one day I happened to be in the loft of a shop where one of my friends worked. There, lying in a heap of junk, was a curious looking machine. I asked what it was and was told it was a printing press the boss had got to print letterheads on and later thrown away. I smuggled it out under my coat and we started right away. We had only enough type to print about a third of a page, so we spread it out with em spaces between the words and James made woodcuts with plywood and a razor blade to fill the rest of the space. We called the magazine SLANT. We sent out the first three issues free.

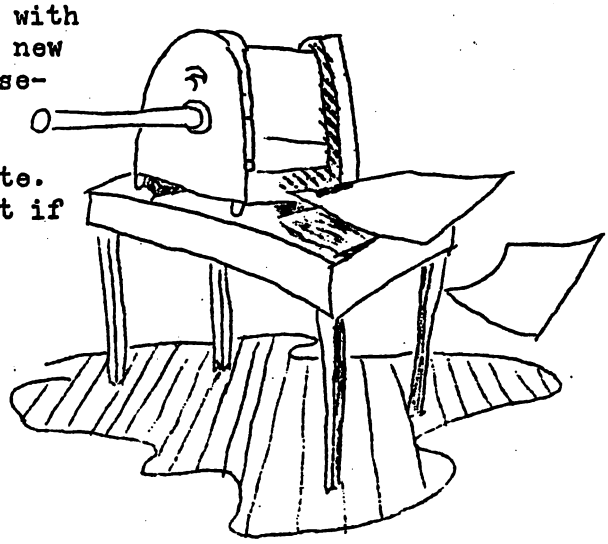


By the fourth issue, however, we had progressed to 42 pages, a subscription rate, and linocuts. James' work in this medium has never been surpassed in the history of fanmag art. Manly Banister, editor of Nekromantikon, was so impressed that he crated up his old press, a massive brute of a thing, and shipped it off to us. When this arrived we really went to town, with photo-engravings and multicoloured linocuts. But by now each issue was getting so ambitious that the intervals between them we getting to be something like six months. Slant 6 was probably the most ambitious handset magazine

ever printed and after it we felt we needed a rest. Besides James' eyesight was going and I'd found a new type of fanactivity. So far I'd only written what I had to write to fill up blank pages in SLANT, but recently I found I was tending to have several hundred words left over. It seemed to me it might be a good idea to foist them off on some other editor, so when a new mag called Quandry arrived I offered to do a column for it. Freed from the inhibitory feeling that every word I wrote would have to be set up in type I let myself go and spread myself over page after page of Quandry. Nevertheless the column turned out to be popular. So much so that within a year Shelby Vick of Florida had started a campaign to bring me over to the Chicon. By the middle of 1952 it had succeeded. I travelled about the States -- New York, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Panama City, Savannah -- for a hektic four weeks. When I got home I was in a state of complete mental exhaustion, partly from the strain of the journey, and partly from the effort of all the fan writing I'd done in the previous months. But even during a long bout with pneumonia in the following Spring, I never really lost touch with fandom. For one thing it would have seemed ungrateful after all fandom had done for me. I soon became active again.... but in a different way. It no longer seemed sensible to devote most of my spare time to pure drudgery like setting type. In the old days James and I had been quite happy to sit working all evening listening to symphony concerts on the radio, but now we had a third fan, Bob Shaw, and we kept putting down our composing sticks to talk. We did produce one more issue of Slant, Number 7, but it was mostly mimeographed and we didn't feel happy about it. And yet once having known the comparative luxury of duplicating, we could never go back to typesetting. So Slant fell into suspended animation. I egged James into starting his pro-writing career and in collaboration with my friend Chuck Harris of England started a new mimeoed mag called Hyphen, strictly for amusement only.

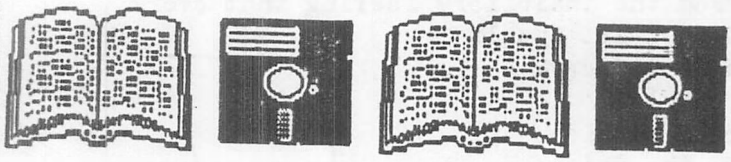


Which brings you more or less up to date. We have so much fun with Hyphen that I doubt if SLANT will ever appear again, and yet I hate to proclaim it officially dead. I shall have to make up my mind about it one of these days. One thing I'm sure of, and that is that I'll stay in fandom. I have met more fans than probably anyone else in the world except Forry Ackerman, and I'm still not disenchanted with them. They can be infuriating at times, but at least they're never dull.



DISCOUNT CORNER

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS MEMBERS PROVIDE DISCOUNTS AND OTHER BENEFITS TO SFSFS MEMBERS:



Carriage Craft

BOOK SHOPS

SFSFS Members get 20% off on books (used and new) and software.

480 N.E. 125th Street
N. Miami Beach, FL

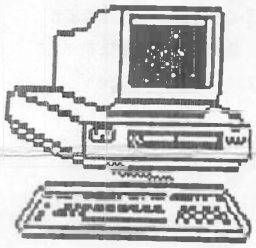
(305) 895-2904

Broward Game Players Club

SFSFS Members get a 10% discount off annual club dues (regularly $30.00). Contact Bill Crane for information about parties and special events sponsored by the BGPC.

7619 N. Davie Rd. Extension
Hollywood, FL 33020

(305) 435-2832

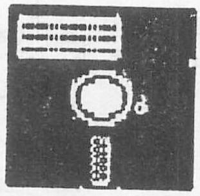


SOFTWARE CELLAR

SFSFS Members get 25% off list price on software!

50 E. Oakland Park Blvd.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33322

(305) 563-0333



Paperback Exchange

SFSFS Members get 20% off total used book purchases. New Owner Carol Leigh has a good selection of SF and other books.

1659 N. E. 163rd Street
N. Miami Beach, FL 33162

(305) 940-0819

Support our Business Members!

AT-A-GLANCE
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Sept. 11 - Video Production, 1:30 pm
Call 344-4841 for directions

Sept. 17 - Literary Discussion, 7:30 pm
"Humorous SF"
Joe's & Edie's
Call (407)392-6462 for directions

Sept. 18 - Creative Writing, 2 pm
Doug & Kathy Wu's
Call (407)737-8028 for directions

Sept. 23 - BOD meeting, 7:30 pm
Becky Peter's

Sept. 24 - SFSFS General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Palm Beach Jr. College
Admission: free for members
$1.00 for guests

Oct. 1 - Filksing, 7:30 pm
Judy's and Tony's
Call (407)391-4380

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