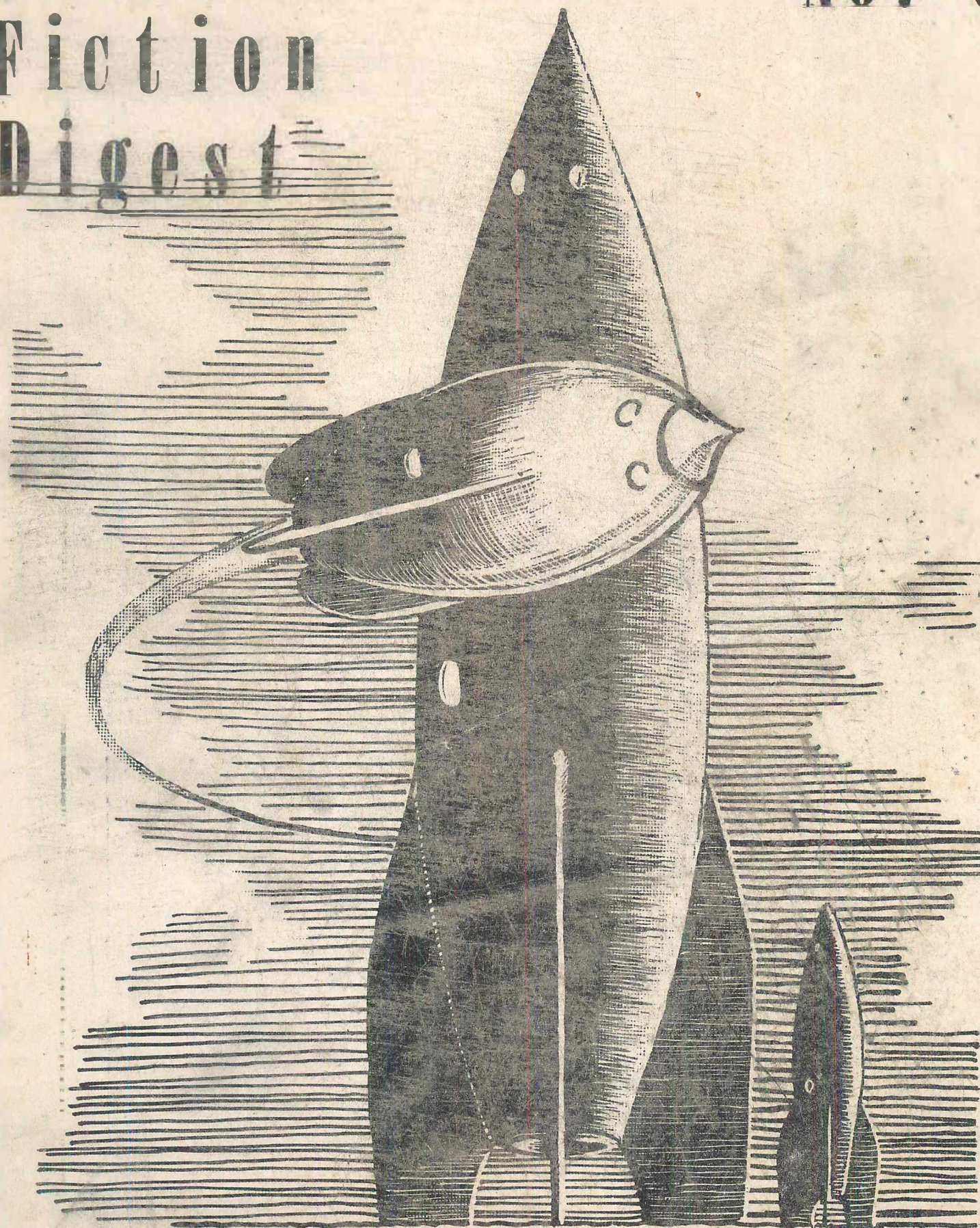


Science Fiction Digest

No. 6



JEEVES

Greetings, all you nice people, who have been waiting so patiently for this issue of SFD. Now, after all your patience, I must disappoint you again. This 1 page will be the entirety of SFD, for this issue. It's a long story, but maybe you'd like to hear it.

To begin with, the cost of putting out an offset fmz like the last C/SFD is something more than terrific. Several members of ASFO, myself included, felt that the bi-monthly expenditure we were making in having the mag lithographed was too much, and that we could better justify the purchase of some equipment of our own. So, it was decided that we would look around and see what we could obtain in the way of a press, type, etc. A few weeks later, we found a retired Marine who had virtually a small print shop for sale. Eager beavers that we were, we wrote him a check for about 20 times the amount the treasury contained, and gleefully began to haul the several tons of type, cuts, leads, rule, type-cases, ink, press, etc, to my basement. We obtained a 19" paper cutter in the deal (all ASFO members pulp mag collections now have trimmed edges) and to handle it, you would think the dham thing was made of lead, instead of steel. Moving it into the basement, Guthrie and Streinz ruptured themselves, Guthrie amputated half a finger, I smashed an ankle, and I forget what happened to Rose. A jolly time was had by all...the neighbors swore the dialogue overheard must have been written by Hemingway. All the gang loaded my car before I arrived, driving a borrowed truck, and looking out for me, they only put all the type in the rear seat and trunk of my car. Oh, joy. When I got there, my Plymouth looked like a rocket aimed at the Moon, the front end was 18 inches higher than the rear, and the springs were reversed. The chassis rode on the axles the entire trip home, and the next day I bought two new rear springs.

Those of you who have had any experience with printing can imagine the state of utter chaos that all the stuff was in...those who've never experienced it, there is no use attempting to describe it to you. Howsomever, after only 50-60 hours work by all hands, most of the type was in the proper cases, and you only had to search 45 minutes to find the composing sticks. Two or three of the members had taken Print Shop in school, and were not completely ignorant of the processes involved, but me, I didn't know a slug from a pica. I should mention here that the press was the most insignificant portion of the equipment involved. A Kelsey 5 x 8, table model, I think it was intended primarily for a child's toy, wonderful for running not more than 25 copies of a simple Christmas card or similar work. None of us had ever attempted to print a full 5 x 8 page of text, how did we know? So, off we went. I began setting type for The Teacup, and after setting the same paragraph three times, finally learned that you had to hold the type TIGHTLY when removing it from the stick. The first page was almost half finished when I discovered that I was running out of vowels (a common complaint, I find). Oh, well, I shrugged, I'll just use another face in the 8 point size. Ha ! One paragraph exhausted the e's from that font, too. But, undismayed, I thought if McCain can use three and four colors of ink, I can surely use five type faces. I struggled silently on and after only three days work, the first page was ready to run. I applied only four times too much ink, and began merrily feeding paper. I only ruined four gauge pins ere I discovered that the grippers had to clear the type, and only 9 pieces of type fell out of the chase. Well, to make a long, and infuriating experience short, after setting the page three more times, I gave up distributed the type, went down town and purchased \$30 dollars worth of new type. Jerry Burge had cut a beautiful teacup on a lino block to use for a heading, and then came the lesson that type & lino blocks are not necessarily the same height. But, by leaping into the air, and applying my whole 120 lbs to the lever as I came down, I managed to run 200 copies. We later found that approximately 175 lb pressure was required to secure a satisfactory impression, when running a full page of type text. Still not completely discouraged, we struggled onward. Six or seven weeks later, I think we had managed to set and run approximately 10 pages. Then, one night as Ian was preparing to lock up a page of Cosmag, he exerted a little too much pressure, and the chase

snapped, and that did it. I was out of town, so Kay bore the brunt of the tirade telling in great deal exactly what could be done to all printing equipment, where to apply it to Mr. Gutenberg, etc on into the night. Meanwhile, I had reached the same conclusions independently, and privately decided that mimeography was the format for me. Hence, I squandered another \$25 on a Sears (ahem) duplicator. Ha. Better you should use Keasler's method, set the type on the floor, smear ink on it, place the paper atop the type, and then jump on it barefooted. The results would look the same in any event. Soooo, then I went out and spent \$100 on a Model 90 Mimeograph. Please note the capitalization. ABDick forever. We had made a very good buy in some enameled paper, Hudson Gloss, if you're interested, and we decided that we would attempt mimeographing on it. Well, Contac-dri ink CAN be used in an open cylinder machine, ask us, we know. Thish of Cosmag is run entirely in Contac-dri on the enamel paper. You will note Ian's comments at the end of the editorial, that thish represents the results of six months wasted labor....and I'm kinda inclined to go along with them sentiments. Tho we surely gained one helluva lot of experience that has to acquired the hard way.

Net results to date: For Sale, one small print shop, complete with built-in headaches, cheap. For Sale, 1 ABDick Model 90 mimeograph, cheap. Wanted: Angel to finance the next issue of C/SFD, which will be OFFSET, courtesy John S, Swift Co., of St. Louis Mo. To make up for all this lost time and to get back on schedule, we will run a huge anniversary issue, 60-70-80 pages, depending on the amount of material available. Back to our former size of 5 x 8, with a heavy cover, maybe in color, who knows. This issue will cost you 50¢, except to subscribers, and will be distributed at the Tasfic. Full page illos by Jeeves, Stone, Keasler, etc, articles by Ed Wood, Vernon McCain, Max Keasler, Walt Willis, Bob Tucker, EESmith, and many others. Still time for YOU to have a part in it...get it in by August 5th, cause the issue leaves for St. Louis on the 10th and I have to retype all of it twice.

Oh, and before I forget, all SFD subscriptions will be extended one issue in view of the missing issue this time.

I am so far behind in my correspondence that I'm ashamed to think about it, but please bear with me, and I'll catch up as soon as possible. My father lost his left hand in an accident in May which has caused me to do a great deal more traveling than would normall be required, and I am going to have to cut down somewhat on letter writing for a few months. On top of that, the summer heat induces the same degree of GAFIA in me, as in anyone, soooo.

Ian, Paul Cox, Shelby Vick and myself will be driving to Chicago, possibly Walter Guthrie and Carson Jacks also. Be looking forward to meeting those of you that weren't at Indian Lake.

Til then,

