(July, 1957)

Fanzine Editors: Please Copy!/

Walt Willis has asked us to publish the following statement in the next issue of Science Fiction Parade. As the next issue of SFP will not be out until September, we are bringing out this special one-shot in an attempt to give fandom-wide distribution to Walt's statement—and our reaction to it. What we want to know, of course, is your reaction...

Dear Len, Rick and fellow South-Gaters:

After a lot of thought I've come to what is to me a very sad decision—that I should ask you to stop the "WAW & Madeleine To The Gate Fund".

The main reason is TAFF. It seems to me that there is room in fandom for only one scheme of this sort, and any public money-collecting to bring someone else over would inevitably mean less for TAFF itself. Next year a British fan (not me) will presumably be nominated to go to South Gate and TAFF will be appealing for money for him. I don't want to be a competitor. It would be an unhappy thing if I, who am associated with the beginnings of the Transatlantic Fan Fund, were to seem to be sabotaging it for my own ends. The other reason is the British Government's recent decision to allow private individuals to buy 100 Pounds worth of dollars for trips to the States; this makes it possible for a visitor to pay at least part of his own way. I can't see us raising all the money ourselves for the trip, but it would make it more difficult for us to impose on American fandom and keep our self respect.

I'm sorry I didn't come to this decision before, when you first mentioned the idea, and save you the trouble you've had. All I can say is that we wanted so much to go that we weren't thinking straight. I'm more sorry than I can say to wake up from this dream, but we've talked it over and we feel this is the only thing to do.

-Walt

NOW ... what are you gonna do with a guy like that? Well, let's discuss the two major points in his statement. First of all, we South-Gaters believe that there IS room in fandom for both the TAFF and the WAW & WIFE TO THE GATE Fund, for this one year, at least. Otherwise, we wouldn't have started the WAW Fund drive in the first place; we have supported the TAFF and will continue to do so. We feel that the WAW/GATE dream is part and parcel of the SOUTH GATE IN '58 dream. The latter dream is coming true -- so why not the former? Why can't fandom continue to support TAFF as much as ever, and still contribute to the WAW Fund? We certainly do not want to jeopardise TAFF--the more overseas fans we have at the '58 WorldCon the merrier! BUT WE DO 'ANT WAW AND MPS. WAW AND-IF AT ALL POSSIBLE-THE LIL' WAWS. Who else is better equipped to write the Report on the Convention that became a living fannish legend before it convened? Walter A. Willis, of course. And we want to see a sequel to FIT HARP STATESIDE, and to have the pleasure of the Willis Family's company, during and after the Convention. This brings us to Walt's second point. Our reasons for anting them here for the '58 get-to-gether are purely selfish. We have never conidered the WAW Fund some kind of a charity. If WAW was a millionaire but still meeded stateside money to get him to the Gate, we would still want to continue the WAW Fund drive. For instance, we supported Ackerman for TAFF this year, not because ne might not be able to raise the trip money himself, but because we wanted him as one of our '58 representatives at the LONCON-and we wanted to be sure he would have enough to make the trip. Of course, WAW has refused to run for TAFF again, so the only other way to get him over here was to start the special fund--which is in no av connected with (or in competition with) TAFF. ((continued, over))

Them's our sentiments, folks. The Big Question is: What does fandom think? We feel that if an overwhelming majority of science-fictionists (fan and pro) respond to this one-shot by writing in and saying, in effect: "We want WAW & WIFE TO THE GATE IN '58 and are willing to contribute to the WAW Fund drive, as well as continuing our financial support of TAFF.", perhaps Walt and Madeleine will reconsider the matter and let us go ahead with the WAW/GATE drive. (It might be well to send a carbon of your letter to Walt, at 170 Upper New townards Road, Belfast, N. IRELAND...)

On the other hand, if we are proven wrong in our opinion of what fandon thinks and what fandom will do, we will of course stop the WAW Fund drive, and hope that the Willis Family will find a way to get over/the convention anyway.

We would turn over the donations collected up/the time of the stopping of the WAW Fund (such as those collected through the distribution of Selected Writings of Rick Sneary) to TAFF (Walt's suggestion), and would hold on to the money that came in thereafter. We would hold the latter portion for WAW's use--just in case they can make it on their own. If not, we would probably find use for it on the Convention itself.

So, please, fellow-fans, don't delay. Write right now to Rick Sneary, 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, California (and, if possible, send a carbon to WAW), and tell us your opinions and feelings on the subject. Walt, of course, will be asked to make the Final Decision, and whatever he says, we'll go along with...

Thank you.

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-The South Gate in 158 Planning Committee

FROM: Rick Sneary & The Fifty-Eighters 2962 Santa Ana St. South Gate, California, U. S. A.



TO:	G. M. Carr
-	5319 Ballard Ave.
	Seattle 7, Washington