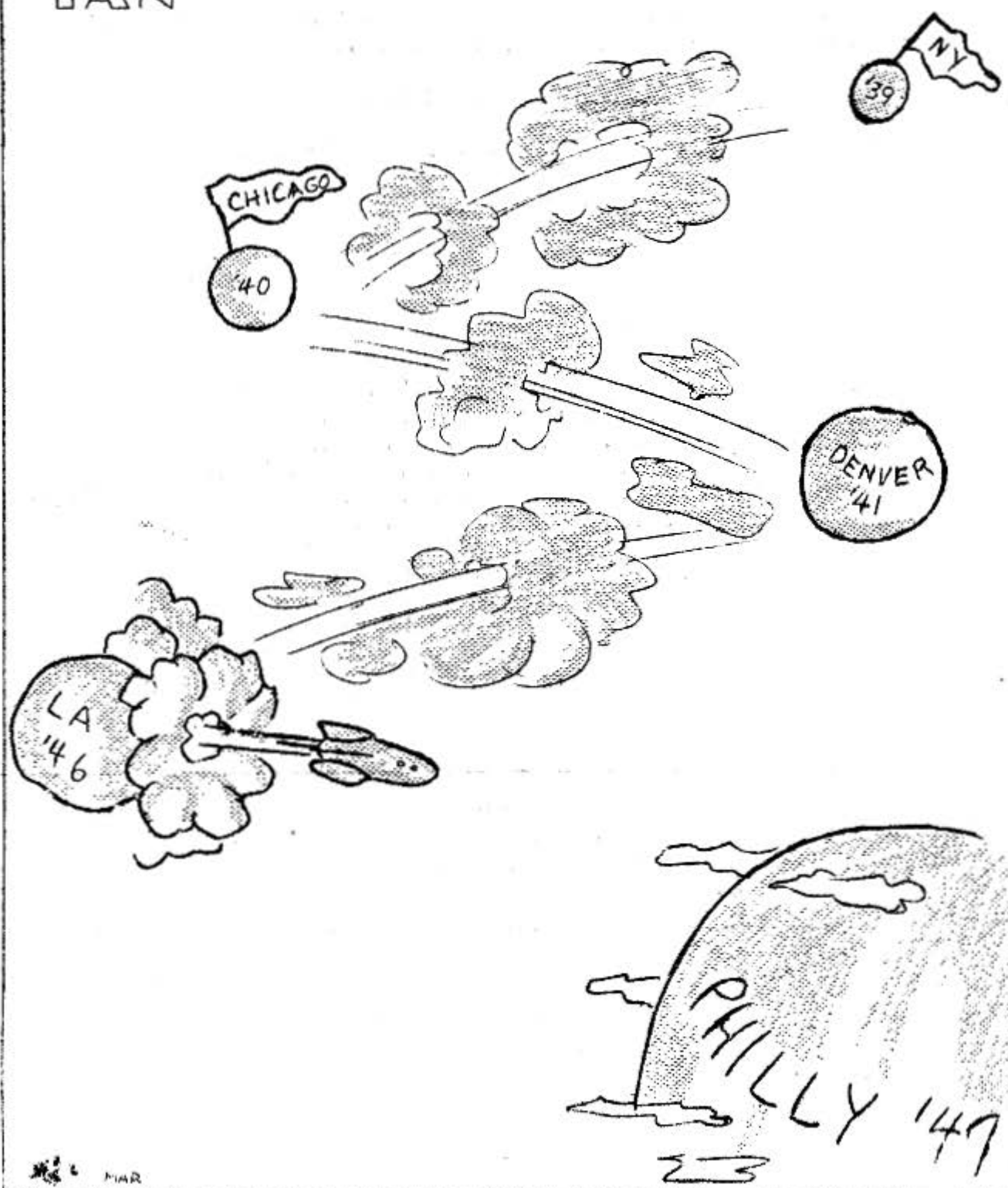


THE  
NATIONAL  
FANTASY  
FAN

AUG 46



# THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION

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Thanks to the following members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society for assistance in assembling and addressing the last issue of TNFF: Joe and Vivian Selinger, Charles Lucas, Bud Waldo, and Jay Kline.

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AUGUST 1946 VOL 5 NO 5

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear NFFFers:

The Pacificon has come and gone. At this writing I have nothing but conflicting reports and rumors to go on so I'm going to reserve my judgement and not make a statement until I have more facts at hand.

I would like to thank those of you who took the time to write me and expressed your thoughts on NFFF business. I appreciate your interest. Your ideas were and will be most helpful. One thing I would like to point out though is that all we had to go on was rumors and gossip. Such information is of dubious value and it is not well to convict anyone, even in one's own mind, without definite facts to support such an opinion.

I understand that everything was aired at the Pacificon and decisions were reached. I do not have a full report on them so will make no comments.

A fact that I definitely do know is: The Fantasy Foundation was formed at the convention and it is not the organization to which I had reference when speaking of the organization which desired to "break" the NFFF. The Fantasy Foundation has been the dream of Forrest J. Ackerman for many years. He has built his collections toward that end. He has willed those collections and a large insurance policy to the end that the Fantasy Foundation will succeed. The NFFF archives, with Forrest J. Ackerman in charge, are located in the Fantasy Foundation. The organization is worthy of every NFFF member and stfans support. I have written Ackerman, as your President, offering our best wishes and our full cooperation in the Foundation.

Word has been received from Mary Gnaedinger that an ad will be in the October issue of Famous Fantastic Mysteries advertising the reprint edition of the First Finlay Portfolio and the NFFF. It will be on the stands in August. The Portfolio has been delayed by my emergency order which froze the treasury, but during that time two new litho companies have asked for data so that they may bid on the job. Meanwhile orders are being received and approximately one fourth of the estimated cost has already been subscribed or pledged. Get your order in now.

The other projects are progressing as well as could be expected.

Our official editor has informed me of his plans to attend college in the fall, at which time he will be unable to devote enough time to putting out a high quality official organ, so a volunteer to fill the official editorship for October, November and December is being sought. Volunteers please write to me.

President's Message (continued)

I sincerely trust that by next time sufficient data will be available so that definite conclusions can be reached.

Respectfully yours

Dunk

Walter Dunkelberger  
President of the NFFF

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EDITORS MESSAGE

Naturally it will be impossible for me to continue my FAPA publishing, be a Foundation Board member, plan the Philadelphia Conference for October 27, plan the big convention for next year, pursue the toughest schedule of studies devised by that institution of torture, the University, and at the same time put out this publication. Therefore the next issue will be my last.

One of the problems that this organization is beginning to face is the unweildiness of a membership approaching 200. It's a lot of work for the small nucleus who does all the work, and especially for the poor jerk who publishes the official organ. The publishing work should be split.

Re the Pacificon and the NFFF controversy: Let's straighten things out. Most of the trouble has been apathy among the oldest fans in general due to the inability of the NFFF to get anywhere or do anything. Let us make no bones about it: in April and May there was a definite feeling among many fans that the NFFF was on the rocks and that we just ought to call the whole thing off instead of prolonging the agony. It so happens that three of the fans who had that feeling were NFFF Board members. They think it amusing that to express their feelings should be called "treason."

The membership list in the last TNFF showed that the club was unexpectedly strong, so that to minimize bad feeling the fans in question decided not to press any action at the Pacificon, aside from debating the question of dividing the convention profits.

The conclusions of the convention regarding the NFFF may be summed up: The Foundation will go its way and the NFFF will go its way, and the two will not conflict. The convention profits (about \$150) will be divided equally between the Foundation and the NFFF. This is an indirect vote of confidence in the future accomplishments of the NFFF.

At the same time the convention exonerated Laney from suspicion of treason, following a complete discussion of the events leading up to the charge.. The vote on Laney was almost unanimous,



## Editor's Message (continued.)

while the vote on dividing the money was quite close, showing that the NFFF must begin to show some function if it is to retain the confidence of the fans.

Much as I would like to give a complete account of the convention here, time and space do not allow. I will merely say that in general the affair was most enjoyable. While the program could have been more integrated, there were several portions of it which were very excellent, and the pleasure of seeing all me old buddies and some new ones made up for the less interesting moments.

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One intriguing mystery remains: Dunk says he knows for a fact that the Foundation is not the organization which was being planned to put the NFFF out of business. Laney says the only organization he had in mind was the Foundation, although of course he or anybody never claimed that its purpose was to put the NFFF out of business.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO PACIFICON NFFF MEETING

Fellow NFFFers:

It is with great regret that I find it necessary to send this message to you rather than being present to deliver it in person. I would like nothing better than to be able to talk over personally each and every problem that confronts our great organization today. Circumstances making my appearance impossible, would you please take these problems to E. Everett Evans and place them before him. Tripoli and I feel much the same on N3F affairs. He has graciously consented to act as my personal representative and will relay any messages you may desire to convey.

You have read the reports of our accomplishments in the Official Organ. It would be a waste of your valuable time to repeat them here.

....but it might be well to tell you of the difficulty with which they were arrived at. Early last fall it was reported to me that one of the candidates for Director was bragging that when he was elected he would do one of three things: 1. Take over the NFFF; 2. Bust Dunkelberger; 3. Bust the NFFF. As the information that reached me was of a purely gossipy nature and not factually proveable I hesitated to believe it. A short time later this individual, in a personal letter, made an attack upon me that seemed to give credence to the previous gossip. This caused me to remove my endorsement for his candidacy and altho I didn't oppose him in any

## President's convention message (cont)

other manner he was almost defeated. Using this as an alibi he began to follow exactly the pattern that the previously reported gossip credited him with planning. Personalities have no place in business discussions, but I'm afraid that I fell into error by trying to win over his support by answering any questions he asked regardless of how personal in nature they were. I realize, now, that I should have ignored them instead. About 6 weeks ago I tried to salvage what I could from the situation by eliminating myself from all Board of Director discussions, believing that if I did so they could accomplish something instead of being subjected to continual bickering from this individual directed at myself. I was wrong. The bickering continued, only now at the NFFF.

Harry Warner, Chairman of the Board of Directors, got wind of the plot being developed and told me he was going to try to drag it out into the open by suggesting a reorganization or disbanding of the NFFF. This individual grabbed at the bait and announced that following the Pacificon "I can guarantee that there will be another and better organization springing up to take the place of the NFFF." To make such a statement shows that a certain amount of preparatory ground work has taken place, ground work that takes much time to complete. Hence, by his own words, this Director convicted himself, in my opinion, of treason to the organization to which he is an elected official in a position of high responsibility and trust. Evidently his personal sense of values does not include that measure of integrity that would move a normal individual to resign, if not when he first began the action, at least upon exposure.

The rumors and counter rumors running rife in fandom have it that he has sold at least one and possibly more of our directors the idea. I call upon each of the individuals involved to do the honorable thing and resign.

To prevent any possible sabotage I have issued an order declaring that an emergency exists. This in effect prevents any business, other than routine, from being transacted by any official of the organization. It freezes our treasury except for normal operating expenses or matters previously approved. As I see it this move was necessary. I don't know how many are involved in this fracas, but if enough of our directors were involved it is entirely possible for them to transfer our treasury to the coffers of the new organization. My emergency order has prevented this by any method short of sheer banditry.

There is plenty of room in fandom for another organization. The inception of another group should find high favor. It has always proven in life that when two or more organizations attempt to serve the approximately same ends all benefit from the competition. If the organizers of this second group feel that it is necessary to "break" the first group. They can not have much to offer that is healthy in nature.

## President's Pacificon Message (cont)

Oddly enough this dissatisfaction with the present NFFF, as expressed, has not taken the form which would allow for the necessary changes in the correct manner, as the machinery set up in our constitution allows for changes. No one has presented constitutional amendments in the proper manner and no one, outside of myself in this message, has suggested that any officer resign.

As soon as the exact nature of this plot is brought out into the open I shall bring the matter to the vote of the members of the NFFF. The NFFF is for all of its members and not just for a few. All should work for its success and should derive the benefits of it -- not just a few.

Definitely I shall ask the members what their attitude toward placing new and young fans on committees and in project work is. It is my belief that anyone willing to work should be given the opportunity.

I have been prevented from setting up several projects and services by the opposition of some to this idea.

In your discussions at this meeting I wish you would discuss just what you expect of the NFFF. What services do you desire? What projects would you like to see in operation? What do you expect of your official organ? We officers are your servants. You elected us to do what you want us to do. It is up to us to do those things, but for our best efficiency it is necessary that we know your desires.

In closing I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking E. Everett Evans for, what I am sure will be, an excellent job on NFFF relations with the Pacificon.

Respectfully yours

Dunk

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Editor's note: Most of the NFFF meeting at the convention was occupied with the controversy, leaving little time for concrete suggestions in the line of the penultimate paragraph above. However, one remark was acclaimed by the group: the younger fans who want to see the NFFF go ahead should see that it does by running for offices and doing some jobs themselves, instead of just complaining.

Being without group prejudice, I have no objection to the younger fans doing the organization's work -- in fact they'd damn well better, because the older fans are too busy with other things. However, the person making the appointments should take care, by watching the format, spelling, grammar, and coherency of the letters written by said younger fans, that the person he appoints is stable enough and competent enough to perform the given tasks.



## A STATEMENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NFFF

by

Francis T Laney

In the current issue of the National Fantasy Fan, Walter Dunkelberger and Dale Tarr made a very unfortunate mistake in going off half-cocked in a strong attack on me in which they apparently believed they were exposing some as yet unknown plot to destroy the NFFF.

I was accused specifically of being out to wreck the NFFF through my attacks on Dunkelberger (attacks which for the most part were kept carefully confined to presumably confidential communications to the board of directors), and of being involved in a plot to foist a new organization on fandom at the Pacificon, a new organization designed to supplant the NFFF.

At the special NFFF meeting at the Pacificon, after presenting my side of the case, I asked for a vote of confidence. The approximately fifty NFFF members present at the meeting gave me this vote with but one dissenting vote. Their vote was based on the consideration of all the facts in the case, including a great deal of hitherto unpublicised correspondence among members of the board of directors. Consequently, I do not feel that it is necessary to take up space with a minute discussion of details.

I shall state here, however, that the factual bases for my disapproval of Walter Dunkelberger are set forth in a mimeographed form letter which I sent to the officers and former officers of this organization in January of this year. This statement includes extremely damaging quotations, quotations indicating an unfitness to hold office, from Dunkelberger's own letters. I have a number of copies of this broadside left, and will be happy to send one to any NFFF member who wants it badly enough to send me a postcard.

The erroneous ideas of "treasonable" connection with a rival organization stemmed from an unfortunate use of words in my board letter of May 24. I was referring to the then-secret formation of the Fantasy Foundation and a number of unintended implications were read into this remark, particularly when it was quoted out of context.

I do not feel that it is in the best interests of the National Fantasy Fan Federation for the officers to rush into hysterical print every time there is a private difference of opinion among them. I have carefully refrained from doing so during my term of office, and feel that any officer who really considers the long-time good of fandom should do likewise. An active group of officers is certain to have differences of opinion, even in some cases perhaps leading to personal hard feelings, and it seems to me that this indicates a healthy administration, a willingness to study all sides of the various pieces of business brought before the group.



## Laney's message (cont)

It certainly does not warrant any officer in breaking thoughtlessly into print with material which by no stretch of the imagination can conduce to the wellbeing of the group and which in most cases will definitely harm it. Such disagreements should be kept confined to the official family, where I have attempted to keep them.

Since the NFFF group at the Pacificon, in possession of the full facts, had no hesitation in voting the charges against me to be groundless, I believe I am justified in requesting President Walter Dunkelberger and Director Dale Tarr to tender me public apologies in the pages of this magazine.

Sincerely

Francis T. Laney.

### Ultimatum by Ye Editor:

It has been quite tedious for me to stencil all of this, and no doubt quite disconcerting to the members at large. In the next issue of this publication, all further discussion on this aspect of NFFF politics will be limited to fifty words per participant.

Better you become neurotic trying to condense your ponderous and voluminous thoughts, than for me to become section-8 material publishing it all.

### CONSTITUTION CONCLAVE

Following constitution suggestions by Jack Speer and Burton Crane in the last issue comes remarks by Don Bratton:

Shall we junk the present constitution? Speer's argument convinces me that we should. Dunkelberger's rebuttal to Speer was totally unconvincing -- merely a rehash of some of the nonsense thrown to the membership before.

Dunkelberger and Evans seem hep about 'checks and balances' within the organization. What good have they done us so far? The real and only effective 'checks and balances' are an alert membership. A long stuffy constitution tends to discourage rather than to stimulate such an attitude among the members. ....

I'm in favor of adapting the constitution suggested by Speer. It handles all the really necessary points, and adequately. Just think! A constitution that can be read at one sitting, without reference to the dictionary! Speer does not quibble about many detailed and ephemeral worries, as does the present Evans constitution.

After all, the constitution should be the backbone of our

organization. The present Evans constitution includes the entrails along with several ruptured appendices.

I think that sometimes we forget that the sole purpose of our organization is to sponsor committees, etc. These appointed but independent committees have been doing and will continue to do all the creative work of the NFFF. The board, the official organ, the presidency, etc., all are subordinate to the creative fantasy activities. A simple, clean constitution would go far in de-emphasizing these subordinate factors.

One can see the unhealthy attitude growing that the NFFF is simply an entity which spouts monthly doses of verbiage and provides a breeding ground for fan feuds. This neglect of the creative aspects of the group is evident even in the old constitution itself -- with its Judiciary Body, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

A letter from Bill Deutsch makes similar remarks approving parts of the Speer constitution and parts of the Crane opus.

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#### WELCOME REPORT

These unwary people who write letters to the prozines have been caught red-handed and deluged with NFFF propaganda by the following welcomers:

Elsie Janda, covering Astounding: Keith Buchanan, Amsterdam, Ohio; Douglas King, Hampton, Virginia; C.R. Wells, NYC; Roy V. Hughson, Brooklyn; R.R. Anger, Ottawa, Canada; John Buddhue, Pasadena, Cal; A.A. Smith, Kingston, Canada; William Bade, Lincoln, Nebr; Robert Griffin, Brooklyn; William H. Lawrence, Santa Fe, NM; Don Scott, Albena, Mich.

Norman Storer trails Startling: Ray Corley, Bayonne, NJ; Jacqueline Grenier, Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. A Schmidt, Los Angeles, Calif; Travis Willia, Daytona Beach, Fla; Harold Maxwell, Flint, Mich; Howard Gabriel, Brooklyn, NY; Patricia J. Bowling, San Antonio, Texas; Michael Cook, Toronto, Ont; Robert Davidson, Brooklyn; Leo Alexander, Hoboken, NJ.

K. Martin forgot to note who covered these from FFM: Roy Hale, Mankato, Minn; Mrs. M. Dominick, New Brunswick, NJ; Arnold Wood, Cheshire, England; Peter Kos, Detroit, Mich; V.R. Heiner, California, Penn; A.F. Germeshauser, LA; RH Malone, Eureka, Cal; Banks H. Mebane, Wilson, NC; C. McNutt, Chicago, Ill; Paul C. Gunn, Kewanee, Ill; Bernard Sacks, Chicago Ill; Mrs. Earl Becker, Mayville, Wisc; Robert Stoker, Marion, Ind; James Ayers, Attalla, Ala; Albert A. Pepper, Phila, Pa; J. Herald, Waterbury, Conn; Mrs. Earnest Taylor, Arapahoe, NC; CH Mathews, Alpena, Mich; Jack Evans, Wallowa, Ore; R. Loucks, Rockaway Beach, NY, Eric Holmes, Honolulu, TH; Mrs. N. DeHart, Estacada, Ore.

## Welcome Report (cont)

Snagged by Boff Perry for Thrilling Wonder: F.W. English, Fort Worth, Texas; Ned McKeown, Toronto, Ont; Leon Birnbaum, Brooklyn; Ray Corley, Pascagoula, Miss; Ron Anger, Ottawa, Canada; Delbert Grant, Lewiston, Idaho.

Thanks to Henry Elsner, Jr, for his work in the past. Elsner, who has been covering Startling, must resign because of lack of time.

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## MISCELLANY

Here is the deadline, and no secy-treas report. Probably due to the fact that Art Widner moved this week. Well, as long as he didn't spend all the club's money on the California trip..

Address changes gleaned from hither, and some from thither:

Alger, Martin	Box 367, Mackinac City, Mich.
Bratton, D.W.	5650 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sunset Blvd, Hollywood 28, Calif.
Brazier, Donn	1329 N. 33rd St., Milwaukee 8, Wisc.
Cockroft, John	4 Winship Ave, San Anselmo, Calif.
Connor, Ed C	929 Butler St., Peoria 6, Ill
Lopez, A P	Pooh Corner, Bingham, Maine
Maddox, Ron	130 Summit Ave, Upper Montclair, N.J.
Moffatt, Leonard J	General Delivery, Bell Garden, Calif.
Skirvin, S.C.	Star Route, Licking Pike, Newport, Kentucky.
Wegemer, Norman	General Delivery, St. Mary's, Pa.
Widner, Art	121 Norton St., N. Weymouth, Mass.
Wilimczyk, Frank	44 Wyman St., Chicopee, Mass.
Pepper, Albert A	5652 Larchwood Ave, Phila 43, Pa
Burgess, Fred R, Jr	115 Aycock, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Two new members:

Bohn, John	Box 230, Jeffersonville, Indiana
Lank, Helen	Eureka, Pictou Co, Nova Scotia, Canada.

And Al Ashley jerned up again at the Pacificon. Any new members included on the report that I haven't received yet will get copies of this. I hope I made enough.

Apology: The appearance of this issue is not as good as it might have been, but I was rushed at the last minute, and had to omit the time-consuming operation of slip-sheeting. The results you see.

Agony column: Mail sent to the following individuals has been returned unclaimed. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these individuals will be so kindly as to let us in on it:

Fred Rowland,	A.A. Betts,	Joseph Pheiffer
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## CONCERNING THE NEXT CONVENTION

The next World Science Fiction Convention will be held in Philadelphia, probably on Labor Day weekend.

A program is being planned which should be of great interest to all who attend. The emphasis of this program will be on the creative side of fantasy fandom. We hope for ideas and participation of all fandom in discussions, debates, exhibits, and what have you.

To start the ball rolling, here are three things:

1. Write to me with your ideas for an interesting program. Let me know if you have any discussion you wish to bring up, any talk you wish to give on any subject concerning fantasy or science fiction, anything you have at all which will add to our program.

2. It has long been my ambition to give a program of fantasy music. A start was made in that direction at the Pacificon when Tigrina sang her own "Sabbath Summons," Walt Liebscher played his "Pacificoncerto" and I played the "Ritual Fire Dance."

I know that there are a number of amateur composers among the fans. During the next six months I would like these composers to get to work and write music for a concert to be given at the Philcon. This music should be for the piano preferably, altho it can be a song if you have somebody to sing it. I expect to hear from Harry Warner, Jim Blish, Doc Lowndes, Art Joquel, Tigrina, and Bob Hoffman along this line.

3. All previous conventions have been decorated by original cover illustrations hung on the walls. Few of these have had much artistic value. For the Philcon we would like to have a real fan art exhibit. We would like every fan artist to prepare a magnum opus to be hung at this exhibit. We do not want illustrations. No BEM's or damsels in distress. Let yourselves go and paint that work of art you have dreamed of. You will be in competition with Philadelphia fan John Baltadonis, who is gaining recognition in a local art exhibit.

I am writing this for the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, which will sponsor the Philcon. Until a permanent convention staff is chosen, send all communications to me.

Also remember those dollars for the Convention Society memberships. Four are already in: EEEvans, Walt Daugherty, Tom Hadley, and Charles Lucas. We pay our expenses with those dollars.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

I took a hundred pictures at the Pacificon. Get a packet of 20 of the best ones for one dollar. Or write for a list of individual shots. Also Nycon & Danvention photos.

Milton A. Rothman  
2113 N. Franklin St.  
Philadelphia 22, Pa.

this page is not being charged to the nfff treasury.

Hey Hey: ten minutes after I ran off the page where the saey's message was supposed to be, in came the mail with that letter from Widner. And our boy says:

"So sorry, but with the uproar, chaos, & confusion occasioned by moving only just now abating, there wasn't much I could do.

"My sincere apologies to the publishers of subzines who have sent me their efforts expecting to see them reviewed in the near future in TNFF. I had hoped to have an installment of THE BLATANT BEAST in this issue, but my trip to the Pacificon & changing my abode shortly after i returned combined to make this impossible. BB will certainly appear next issue, & in addition will make its debut in Willmorth's FANTASY ADVERTISER, which boasts a circulation of 750. The subscriptions received from both sources will, I hope, make up for the 'wasted copies' sent me since last spring. Please continue to send me your fanzine for review, & i'll try to make it worth your while. Thanx again.....

Art Widner  
Ye Blatant Beast

Treasec Report:	Balance 12 June 46	\$114.27
	June TNFF expenses	13.00
	Postage	.27
Received:	New members, advance dues:	16.00
	On hand	<u>117.00</u>

Canadian fen please send money orders, as Canadian bills are only 90¢ here. All members please refrain from sending checks, as it gives Widner much trouble to go to the bank, the only place that will cash them. .... Latest membership list: 161 members

//\$//

There are now fourteen members of the Philcon Society!

E. Everett Evans ... Walter J. Daugherty ... Tom Hadley ...  
Charles Lucas ... Ted Dikty ... Armand E. Waldo ... Albert Pepper ...  
Robert G. Thompson ... Robert A. Madle ... T.J. Mead ...  
Jean Bogert ... James Williams ... Milton Moses ... Milton Rothman.

#### WILL YOU BE NEXT ?

Send that dirty old dollar bill to the official supreme high chief and keeper of the moneys, Milton A. Rothman.

What for do we want that money? Listne, bud -- it costs money to put on a convention, see? What do you get for your money? Well, even if you don't go to the convention, you get a copy of the printed program, and afterwards a copy of the convention proceedings.

PHOTOGRAPHS ---TWENTY OF THEM -- Took, developed, and enlarged by my own lily white hands. FOR ONE DOLLAR. The silver on the prints is worth almost that. See Ackerman, Tucker, Daugherty, Loney, A.B. van Vogt, and myriads of others, in all kinds interesting and suggestive poses .... NO! Not what you are thinking. (Not at 20 for a dollar, anyway.) Send the money right away to that grabber of the lucre, Rothman. A guy can't live just on the 52-20 club.

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

Milton A. Rothman,  
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