

# THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN  
OF THE NATIONAL  
FANTASY FAN FEDERATION

VOLUME 18 N.F.F.F. NUMBER 1

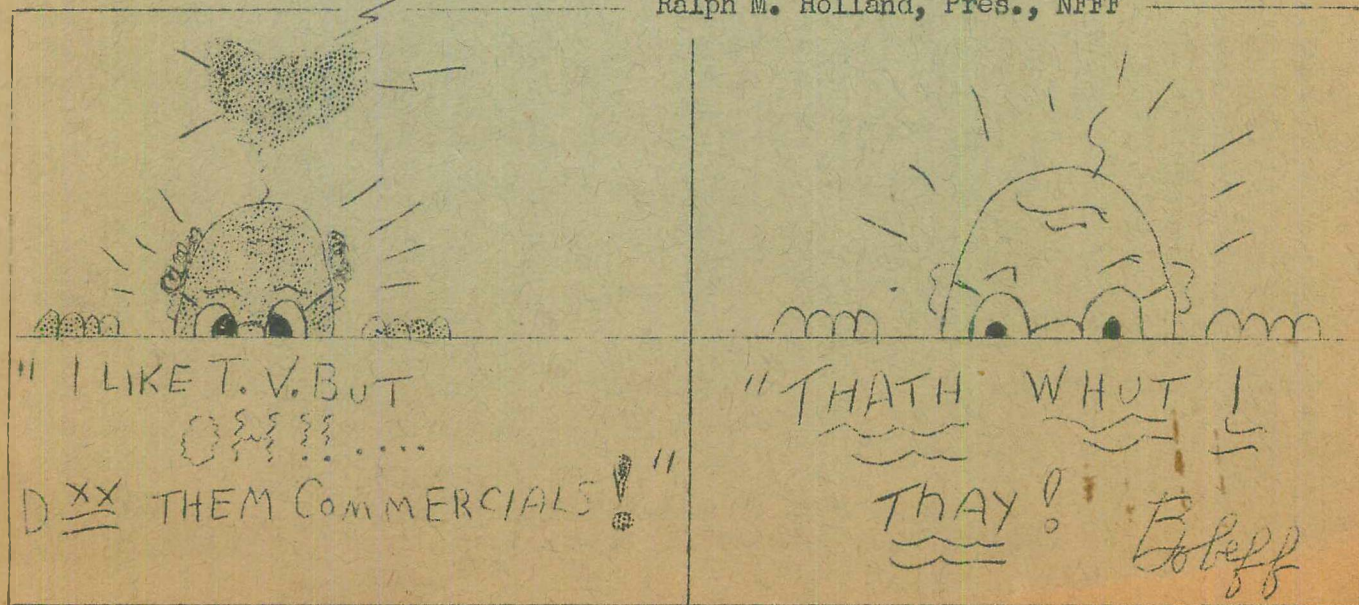
MARCH 1959

## PRESIDENTAL REPORT

The annual election is now history, and the officers and members seem to be gradually coming out of their post-holiday-winter snooze gafia. And so, we hope the club is again on its march upward. While we are gratified at the increase in our membership, mere members do not necessarily indicate true progress. Quality is more important than quantity, and the brutal fact is that some fans just don't have what it takes to be a Neffer, and we don't want to recruit them. What we want are new members who "fit in" with group activities, such as our club represents - fans who are capable of enjoying the friendly contacts which they will find in the N.F.F.F. Otherwise they will not enjoy their brief stay with us, and we will have made an enemy instead of a friend. The club has never found it necessary to have requirements for membership (at least, not since its earliest days) because of this self-selecting feature - namely: that if a member wasn't the right type, they wouldn't stay long. By and large, I think we have a membership now which is not only large in numbers (compared with a few years ago) but also high in quality. But, of course, we always want more of the same. So long as they will fit in with the group, the more the merrier. So if you know any fans who would make good Neffers, get after them. Also, make sure that your own dues are paid up for 1959. Janie says that renewals are coming in fine, but we want to make them 100%. And once again, please make all checks and money orders payable to: Janie Lamb, Heiskell, Tenn. She has trouble cashing them if they are made out to the NFFF, since we are not an incorporated organization.

No news regarding new officers and committees this time because they will stay just about as they are. The 1958 committees and appointed officers seem to have done a fairly good job, so they will be kept on for 1959 except where they are unable to serve.

Ralph M. Holland, Pres., NFFF





# DON'T WORRY? . . . . by Joan Emerson

As the editor of this paper, I have taken the liberty of deviating from our policy and am going to comment on and publish a private letter that I received thru the mail from one of our readers.

Some of you may still remember the disappearance two years ago of Joan Jackson a housewife and citizen of this city. No clues were ever uncovered as to her whereabouts. Her husband, Eugene, and their two children, Russell and Wendy, received the letter I am about to print only yesterday. I wish to state that I am of the same opinion as that of Mr. Jackson in the matter. That is that no one, in my opinion, has any right to impose upon Mr. Jackson in his time of bereavement with such an inhumane gesture as this is. It appears that the person even went to the trouble of forging the entire note in Mr. Jackson's late wife's handwriting. Great an accomplishment as this may be, this still does in no way pardon this unjust act. Whoever this person may be it is expedient for him now to identify himself and a complete apology to Mr. Jackson would be sufficient as far as Mr. Jackson is concerned. The letter is as follows:

Dear Gene, Russ, and Wendy;

This may sound strange to you but have you ever woke up out of a deep sleep and felt something eerie was in the house with you? I have.

It jerked me awake with my heart pounding in my throat. I sat up slowly feeling half scared to death. My hands were cold and clammy and my mouth felt like I had been chewing on cotton balls.

I looked at you, Gene, sleeping next to me and you were snoring quietly to yourself as usual. Nothing had bothered you but then nothing did when you slept so that didn't help me.

Slowly I crawled out of bed and slipped my robe on. I went into the living room and after a minute of fumbling turned on a light. The sudden brightness hurt my eyes but everything looked okay so I turned the light off again. That same strange feeling came back to me again only more pronounced; something was in the house that just shouldn't be there. I'll admit it. I was just plain scared now.

Uncertain and shaking a little now, I walked to the window and looked out. The moon was bright as an arc light and there were a few grayish clouds drifting across the night sky. The sparkling stars were like diamonds against black velvet and they seemed much too close. The occasional rattle of cars going by on Lincoln Avenue told me not every one was asleep.

From the kids room a bed started squeaking and it raised the hair on the back of my neck. I walked into the bedroom slowly, hoping not to see anything unusual and I didn't. Just a window shade blowing back and forth and Wendy tossing herself around on her bed in deep sleep; Russ was just too tired to even move.

Everything seemed just as it should be so reluctantly I retreated back to the bedroom knowing I wouldn't immediately get back to sleep. I crawled into our bed and laid back against the pillow and squeezed my eyes shut hoping against hope that I could chase away the fear that kept coming back to me. A cold chill ran over me again and I pulled the covers over my head. Slowly I uncovered one eye and then the other looking around the room. Nothing there but in the far corner I noticed a strange whiteness that I had never seen before. Maybe it was just the reflection off the mirror or light coming in the room from the arclight. But in the next instant something told me it was not.

All of a sudden I felt as if I had been hit right between the eyes with a cold snowball. The icy feeling went right down my spine. As I looked at the strange whit-



eness in the corner it changed into the shape of a man but no features or details showing!

I found myself crawling out of bed once again and putting my robe on. I stood at the end of the bed frozen like a statue. I couldn't stop myself and when I tried to cry out to you, Gene, nothing came from my throat but a choked gasp. What was happening to me? The white mist glided in front of me and raised one of its extremities. It touched my shoulder and I felt a cold chill run up my arm and down my spine. If I could have fainted I would have done so but I was frozen to the spot. The chill working its way down my legs seemed to force them to move and I started walking out of the house. The whiteness was right beside me and when we reached the outside I saw another white mist on the other side of me. Wherever those things directed I was forced to walk. The dew on the grass was cold to my bare feet and the coolness of the night air didn't make me feel any warmer.

I shivered as one of the mist's extremities pointed again. I was forced to walk across the road and into the park just across the street from our house. I hoped the police patrol would come along just about now like they always did but it seemed my luck had just run out. We crossed the park until we came to a clearing in the trees. My eyes were met with a sight the likes of which would turn any man's hair grey. In the clearing was some sort of thing in the shape of an egg and was sparkling with a bright green luminescence. There appeared to be no windows and no visible form of locomotion other than some green, white, and yellow bolts of what looked like lightning coming from underneath the object, possibly holding it back from settling directly to the ground. The light from the thing seemed to be pulsating almost as if it were recording a heart beat, but still there was absolutely no sound to be heard. As we approached it a door appeared in its side where I saw another of the ghostly apparitions appear. I must have been mercifully put to sleep then because total blackness suddenly fell in on me.

We have been treated all right here, the other earth men and women and me but I surely miss you Gene. We are on exhibit from dawn to dark and it don't leave me with much time for myself but the caretaker promised me he would get this letter to you so that you and the kids would know I am all right. We will be released as soon as the Galactic Worlds Fair Exposition is closed in about five years. Please don't worry!

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"One Fan's Viewpoint (of NFFF)" by John Koning - An opinionated article.

It is brought up in every TNFF, POSTWARP, NFFF Publications, Welcomittee Letter, and many times in private letters to Neffers, that old spiel about how we are going to regain our place as fandom's number 1 fanclub.

This is silly, stupid. In the first place, we all ready are the fan club, for what other fanclub is there of our scope in fandom? So why shouldn't we be the best, we are the only one, there just isn't any competition.

The idea of reascending to our lost peak of glory and reminiscing about the "good old days", which seems to be a disease that grips most Neffers after any length of time in the club, is just as asinine. It is folly to try to make NFFF fit into the niche it held in the



40's, because the niche isn't there anymore. Fandom is just not the same place it was, and if NFFF wants to get "respectable", instead of being looked upon with disdain, it is going to have to change with fandom. N3F is not an immovable object, it has been rolling downhill for years. Now its rate of descent has slowed, perhaps stopped, but we are trying to move the mountain rather than pushing it back up the slope.

A cry has arisen over the fact that certain fans approve of NFFF only as "fandom's kindergarden"; that is, that its only worthwhile service is to introduce neo-fen into general fandom. This is partly true, and there is nothing against it. But face it, even as a kindergarden for fandom NFFF is not doing so well. How many Neffers are active in general fandom? Still more, how many Neffers even know what general fandom really is, or that it exists, except as a misty something outside of NFFF. And how many members will ever be acti-fans? The Welcomittee acquaints new members with NFFF, the Correspondence Bureau promotes relationship between members, but only the Fanzine Clearing House does very much to let members know what goes on outside NFFF, or even that anything much does go on. To many members NFFF looks pretty big, but in reality it is only a small segment of fandom. Besides the Fanzine Clearing House the only way new members can learn about general fandom is through personal correspondence with unexperienced members and the few fanzines they publish, which they could easily do outside NFFF.

Then there is the proposition that NFFF should be the "department store of fandom", being able to handle any type of fan and his interests, with the existing departments or by creating new ones. Well, it is an admirable thought, but if efficiently carried out the result would not be an improved fandom, but rather a big NFFF, there wouldn't be much else left. We would have a huge NFFF, but it would be the same fandom that exists today, with small internal circles, feuds, etc., but with NFFF exerting some feeble form of control. It would tend to try to tell the fans what to do in some cases "for their own good", instead of letting them do their own deciding. The little amount of good this might accomplish would be far outbalanced by the harm it would wreak. The end result would be fandom just as it is today, perhaps with NFFF only an embittered and disillusioned group, deserted by most of its members, perhaps disbanded. While it is now perhaps a bit bitter and somewhat disillusioned, it is certainly not disbanded, it is growing. I want to see NFFF grow, but certainly never to assume these monstrous proportions.

That the name NFFF, National Fantasy Fan Fereration, should be changed is something that is at the present time troubling a number of members. Our present name has a great meaning to our older members, but it is felt that changing in to International FFF would please foreign members. Myself, disregarding these reasons, I feel that changing the name would throw off some of the fannish stigma that clings to our present title. A namechanging coupled with an upswing in our attitudes toward NFFF and the rest of fandom could do a good deal toward changing their attitudes toward us.

I and others feel that NFFF has a large deadwood membership, and that it is nearly useless. Since our dues only defray the cost of membership, they are only a drag on the treasury. Today we have no membership requirements, we should, the original NFFF did. It has been said as a counter-argument that NFFF shouldn't be at all restrictive but that anyone willing should be permitted to join; later their worth as a member can be evaluated. But as far as I know no member is ever judged unless he commits some very greivous wrong. But this deadwood membership which so much is said against, continues to grow, dragging down the



club by sheer bulk of its kind. Certainly any membership who failed to meet the membership requirements, probably only a fairly elemental knowledge of stf and fandom, could be aided by the club to gain knowledge and experience in a few months at most. Any prospective member who didn't care to go to this small amount of trouble to join is quite surely one who would be a deadwood member.

All in all, instead of day dreaming about the past, how good the future could be, the only way NFFF is ever going to improve itself is to cast off some of its deadwood, face the facts, and let the members know them. I am perhaps biased by the fact that I feel the NFFF is an acti-fan's organization, and its members should know about active fandom, when perhaps there are many who like stf, but don't give a damn about fandom. But with them in mind, I ask, can you ever build a good club with such a passive membership?

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506 - 2nd Ave., Dalton, Ga.

Dear Mr. Editor:-

I'm in possession of my copy of TNFF. The reproduction job is as always way and above criticism, but I've got a beef to air in the pages of the next issue of the organ.

The Mid-Winter, 1958-1959 edition had almost-well, I can say it had NO CLUB INFORMATION WHATEVER..... WHY?

If our committees are slipping its time we got after them... The flimsy reports was a heluva big laugh-as such. There were no reports of importance to the WORKERS in NFFF.. and frankly, I'll be damned if I'm going to spend time, paper, postage and what with these pains I have now it isn't funny--if the rest of our folks are going to let things slide too.. in your case, the delay in TNFF is well excusable, and am wishing you both a full, speedy recovery.

I have just completed 18 letters for W/C work, but I'm not sending them out if there isn't any more doing in NFFF than is indicated in the current ish of TNFF...

What I think should be done is a good housecleaning in official circles... or a damned good jacking up. Somebody; NOT the official editor, is gafiato, or just plain lazy...

The contents of the current TNFF was good.. but why no CLUB NEWS? Are we expected to drag in new members and hold them with only a general fanzine.

-Bob Farnham

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PUBLIC RELATIONS AND NEWS SERVICE REPORT - by Stan Woolston  
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Keeping in touch is the "common ground" between the two jobs of Public Relations director and head of the Neffan News Service. For that reason the two activities work together.

Sture Sedolin, who represents the northern part of Europe and especially Sweden as Regional Correspondent & Representative of the Neffan News Service, publishes a news publication in Swedish for fans in his country, and so has already beaten a trail of news-gathering. Gavin Brown and Dave Cohen will glean the news from the British Island. Possibly there will be another reporter from the Continent--or a couple--who may appoint reporters to send news to them to transmit to what the Alaskans used to call "stateside".

Dennis Campbell of Ontario, Canada should make a good man to get the Canadian news, and possibly "scoop" some of the U.S. reporters if they aren't quick.

Besides these there is plenty room for others; how about you volun-



teering? The method is simple: to systematically gather the news from your part of this world and send to me for "handling." It will go out, primarily to fan magazine publishers but also to fanclubs that ask for a copy, with the idea of reaching larger groups than a regular publication would. The publication is a sort of seed-publication, for reprinting in whole or part is encouraged. This is a service to fans, and frankly YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED. No, not money--words. Words about a fan project or something that interest fans--a marriage in the ranks, a birth (brainchild or otherwise)--a new magazine or book, etc. Reviews of new science fiction or fantasy in any media is welcome.

If you as an individual have any ideas how to better N3F, why not send them to me? Perhaps I can apply them thru the Public Relations department, or (incapacity as Chairman of Directorate) see that they are adapted as club policy. Like everything else in NFFF it depends on whether you want to help, of course. Nobody can force cooperation. But it's fun...

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SCIENCE FICTION CLUB DE PARIS

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Ray Nelson and Michel Boulet have founded the Science Fiction Club De Paris. They are interested in getting members from all over the world. If you are interested, write to: Ray Nelson, 56 rue Rennquin, Paris 17, France.

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MALCON IN SWEDEN '59

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The fourth Swedish SFcon is going to be in Malmo in June 1959. If you are interested in joining, write: Denis Lindbohm, Box 302, Malmo 1, Sweden. In 1958 Stockon I was held in Stockholm, and 1957 Luncon was held in Lund.

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MODERN MOTHER GOOSE by Jeanne B. Wilson

Sing a song of spaceships --  
- A rocket on the fly -  
Four and twenty spacemen  
Up in the sky.  
When the rocket opens  
The spacemen shall come out;  
And start in exploring  
To see what they can scout.  
The captain's in the cabin  
Reading all the dials.  
The mate is in the store room  
Checking on the vials.  
The crew is in the ruins  
To see what they can find;  
Along comes a Martian  
And makes them lose their mind.

\*\*\*\*\*

47 Causeyside St., Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland  
Since taking over the club's trading post I have only got two members going in for its use. I certainly got plenty of publicity thru the OO. But most members seem to think that if they mention their wants in the letter section of a pulp mag they will get better results. I have the contacts for nearly everything in the SF line, but why nobody seems to be interested is beyond me. To give you an idea I can go as far back to get Jules Verne's first editions and with one or two exceptions, I like to hear of any other source that can back track as far.



I am daddling with a new type of fan-mag. Namw? What Is N3F. This one is in aid of the recruiting bureau, another sideline of mine. The theme is to explain to the fan what actually is the N3F, but at present I'm only tossing the idea around.

Speaking of amateurs turning pro you may have another. Yes, me. At present I hold a contract to write scripts for The American Television library, but if I have success or not, time will tell. "If you folks have any spare SF mags or PB's that have been published within the past year that you can spare, I'd be pleased to receive them, as they are the greatest form of cash to exchange for information and club data, con news and such."

Gavin Brown

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# SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT by JANIE LAMB

Beginning the year of 1959 the treasury showed a balance of	\$86.07
Dues for January were - - - - -	17.60
	Total
	\$103.67
Paid Lewis for Postwarp - - - - -	14.82
	88.76
Dues for February - - - - -	33.00
	121.76
Refund for Paul Harold Rehorst's dues	1.60
	Total
	120.16

## Renewals for 1959

Fred G. Michel; Earl Downey; Alma Hill; Harry B. Moore for 3 years; Stan Woolston; Jack Cuthbert; Alan J. Lewis; Cleophas Benoit; Wallace West; W.Homer Bunge; H.E.Lathan; Mike Deckinger; Anders Freberg; Houston Smith; John Cach; F.W.Zwicky; Ralph Watts; James Chambers; Al Lopez; Marijane Johnson; Richard Minter; Esther Richardson; Rev.C.M.Moorhead. (Michel also paid for 3 years.)

## Address Changes

Fred G. Michel, Vet Hospital, P.O.Box 6, Bath, N.Y.  
 Cleophas Bendit, P.O.Box 172, Nome, Texas  
 Bernard M.Cook, 2702 1/2 E.58th St., Huntington Park, California

## Now Members

Steve Tolliver, 209 S.Madison, Pasadena, California  
 Timothy Dumont, 30 Munchausen Ave., Bristol, Conn.  
 Robert K.Kvanbeck, ET3, Communications, USNS #103, FPO New York, N.Y.  
 George Meyer Johnson, 4544-24th Ave.N., St. Petersburg 13, Fla.  
 Warren Scott, 2175 Terry Lake, Palm Springs, Calif.  
 Jane Douglas Shanahan, Crosby St., Great Barrington, Mass.  
 Walter R.Manka, 526 W.Riverside Dr., Jeffersonville, Indiana  
 Erikson R.Ingemar, Viaduktgatan 20, Mellerud, Sweden

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## DIRECTORATE REPORT.....by Stan Woolston

In the midst of lining up 'things to do' for 1959, the Directors have voted to put the Neffer amateur press group into effect. This means that everyone interested in joining in this new activity for the National Fantasy Fan Federation should write to LARRY SOKOL, 4131 Lafayette Ave., Omaha 3, Nebraska, who is the director in charge of Internal Affairs. Or you might write Guy Terwilleger, 1412 Albright St., Boise, Idaho who will be the first editor of a publication to coordinate the mailings.

The word "coordination" is a good one to think of this time of year especially. Of course, at the end of any year during elections there might be some stewing and fretting, but with this over, it's time to work together--and at least the "official family" is doing their bit toward this.

Honey Wood served on her second World Science Fiction Convention



committee in 1958, as well as being Chairman of the Directorate. It was quite a job- or quite two jobs, rather. She reports that after a small time of GAFLA, but now that it's out of her system she is getting ready for a full year of activity. The pressure of the SOLACON, and the holiday season, are now over--so she has made fresh contact with Ernie Wheatley to see about renewals, and with Art Hayes who is in charge of the Welcommittee.

Ralph Holland has appointed Raleigh E. Multog, 7 Greenwood Rd., Pikesville 8, Md. to head the Manuscript Bureau, and the directors approve. John K. King, 318 South Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown 9, Ohio was appointed by Ralph to organize the Fzine Title Clearance Bureau, and the directors approve. ALL acting appointive officers are continuing with the same activities they had last year.

This year there is only one new director over last year, Frances Light of Chicago, Ill. This should mean we will be able to work together well from the start, because the procedure we are using is similar to in the past. The rules are few and utilitarian; for purposes of efficiency the call for a vote goes out from the Chairman.

Incidentally, activities the directors can do includes the right or duty, by a vote of all directors, to remove anyone from membership. This is a drastic move, and it takes a very big reason to bring about a call for such a vote, let alone having the vote expel anyone. We would rather have a member--any member but especially an active one that works to further the science fiction hobby in one or more areas that the National Fantasy Fan Federation encourages.

One of the member's rights is to pay their \$1.60 annual dues to renew their membership. Janie Lamb, Route One, Heiskell, Tenn., is waiting in her counting-house to get yours. If you haven't paid in advance, it's time again..and it is time to volunteer for any of the activities in publication or special bureau that you would like. There's no restriction on this except enthusiasm.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF NFFF FROM S/SGT JOE FARRIS, BOX 1261, INDIANAPOLIS 6, INDIANA.

(Joe asked me to write to ya'll for him cause he is so busy. Joe, this is not maybe the way you would say it, but I'll do my best. n.mason

As you know, I was in the hospital for sometime with a brain injury resulting from an automobile accident. I was really quite blue, and would have been more so if it were not for your cards and letters. I am sorry that I did not have the chance to write to each of you personally and thank you for them, but studying to be a doctor can be a full time job!

You will never know how much your kind thoughts helped me to get well sooner! I can only say a simple, "thank you" and wish for each of you the best of everything that life has to offer.

Joe Farris

(ya'll write to him again if you want to. I know that he would be glad to hear from you. - n.mason

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SISTER OF RACY HIGGS PASSES AWAY

Versa V. Hiner of Newcastle, Indiana passed away February 21. The cause of death was an heart attack. She was an ex-newspaper woman, and her deceased husband was part owner of a daily in Newcastle.

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#### JOYCE ANN HIGGS ARRIVES

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Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. Higgs, 813 Eastern Ave., Connersville, Ind. Feb. 9, '59 a daughter Joyce Ann. This is the third girl for the Hoosier couple.

Racy sez: Narry a boy yet!!!



SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT by Lamb

New Members

Robert Stewart, P.O.Box 121, Larchmont, N.Y.  
S/Sgt Richard C. Keyes, 6123rd AC/W Sqdn Det#6, APO 455, C/O FM, San Francisco, Calif.  
Michael Phillip Barnes, Rt 10, Box 429A, Tyler, Texas  
Ron Ellik, 2444 Virginia, Berkeley 4, Calif.  
Martha Beck, 624 E. 47th Place, Gary, Indiana  
Bill Mallard, 214 Mackinaw Ave., Akron 13, Ohio  
Roi Mox, 712 W. Franklin St., Richmond 20, Va.  
Grosvenor C. Snow, Sierra Frio Range, P.O. Box 445, Roswell, New Mexico  
Edmund Moskys, 723-45th St., Brooklyn 20, N.Y.  
James MacLean, Box 401, Anacortes, Washington  
Lt. Ray Moses, c/o American Express Co., 11 Rue Scribe, Paris 9E, France  
Klaus Eylmann, Hamburg 39, Maria-Louisen Stieg 23, West-Germany

Renewals

Kukulski, J. Trimble, E. Demontion, Art Hayes (2 years)

Change of Addresses

Zdzislaw Kukulski, c/o Dredge Davison, P.O. Box 308, Sausalite, Calif.  
Bernard Cook, 264 1/2 Pine Place, South Gate, Calif.  
G.M. Carr, 5319 Ballard Ave., Seattle 7, Washington  
Ann Chamberlain, 2548 W. 12th St., Los Angeles 6, Calif.  
Nell Collins, 1104 W. 11 St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.  
Loubel Wood, 211 S.W. 2nd Terrace, Dania, Florida  
William Murray, 18 Poplar St., Newburgh, N.Y.  
Judith Rogers, same as above and congratulations to both.  
John Trimble, 2444 Virginia, Berkeley 4, Calif.

Janie Lamb

Change the address of \*\*\*\*\*  
CORAL SMITH to Box 226, Encinitas, California.

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REQUESTS RELIEF OF O.E. JOB

Due to being very unfortunate for the past 8 months- seriously injured..being in hospital along with being unemployed caused by a strike at the shop where he was employed- Racy Higgs has ask to be releaved of the official editorship of TNFF. "It's just too big of a job right now, and I do not want to hold back the club as we need an official organ regulary". Racy's resignation has been sent to President Ralph Holland and Stan Woolston, Chairman of Directors.

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Will sell to highest bidder: 30 almost new SF mags & novels. THEY MUST GO AT ONCE! All good condition-some '50! Write Nan Mason, 1712-21st St., N.W., Washington, DC.  
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1959 OFFICERS SF N. F. F. F. -

Pres.- Ralph M. Holland, 2520-4th Street; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
Janie Lamb, Sec-Treas.- Route One, Heiskell, Tenn.  
Directors:- Stan Woolston, 12832 Westlake, Garden Grove, California  
Honey Wood, 1412 Acton, Berkely, California  
Frances Light, 3715 N. Marshfield Ave., Chicago 13, Illinois  
Larry Sokol, 4131 Lafayette Ave., Omaha 31, Nebraska  
R.C. Higgs, 813 Eastern Ave., Connorsville, Indiana  
-----

THANK YOU! - I wish to thank those few of you who send me cards and  
\*\*\*\*\* letters containg such encourging words, also many, many  
thanks to those who send me \$\$'s to help tide me along. Bless you for  
helping me keep faith!

Racy Higgs



A R E Y O U . . .

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