

AUGUST

THE NATIONAL
FANTASY FAN

1954

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The National Fantasy Fan is published bi-monthly by, and is the official organ of, the National Fantasy Fan Federation. It is free to members of this organization. The cost to others is ten cents per copy.

an EDITORIAL

There was going to be plenty of time to write an editorial we thought. Why, we had all the time in the world. But we didn't. Now we either get it down on paper or it will slowly become a figment of our imagination. So, we shall proceed.

We couldn't have gotten this issue out alone. Consequently, there are some people we would like to thank for making the August TN2F possible. First, our Dad. He gave freely of his time and knowledge of mimeography. He also backed us up financially. Wally Weber also helped us on the M-O-N-E-Y score, which helped improve the quality of this zine. Don Susan and Stan Woolston helped in many ways--so many that we haven't the space to mention them here. Stu Hoffman was kind enough to send the address stickers to us--we did the mailing ourselves saving time in transit. And, of course, thanks to everyone who contributed material.

Speaking of material, we think we've a good line up of same this issue. Richard Geis is back to "pass judgement" with his fanzine review column "SLAntasy". Joe Gibson is featured with "The Ridge", an article on astro-navigation. H. J. Campbell, the editor of AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION--a British promag, offers "British Science Fiction", somewhat of a follow-up to "Science Fiction in French" which appeared in this magazine in the June-July issue. As always, the reports are here, so that N3Fers may know what is happening in their club. "Tasfic in Retrospect" is a photo section compiled from pictures taken at the Chicon in 1952. There are many other interesting features this time too.

As you skim through this zine we hope you notice the colored headings and clear black print on white paper. We're proud of it and we think we're justified in being so.

Of special interest to convention goers is the article "San Francisco". It tells of some of the places to eat and things to see while in "The City by the Golden Gate". And speaking of SF and the SFCon, we hope to see those of you who attend.

We have enjoyed putting out this issue of TN2F and hope you enjoy looking at it and reading it. This was our way of saying "Hi" to you, the members of N3F.

--Merrill Malkerson

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WHY DOESN'T THE N3F PRESIDENT RESIGN?

NEWS

by PRESIDENT DONALD SUSAN

It did not occur to me that N3F elections were so close. Immersed in being president leaves little time to absorb oneself in the ticking of the diurnal clock. But the approach of elections suggest self-appraisal for the already elected. And if this self-appraisal dare not be public, I might as well resign.

When I became president, it was with misgivings. It would consume time all too often with a problem-ridden organization. Yet, I worked with Bill Venable on re-organizing N3F and was Treasurer and often general trouble-shooter. And I became obsessed with the N3F idea. It seemed to me that fans interested in that pursuit called fandom could collectively do much to enlarge and deepen that area of their lives...with proper management and implementation. Certainly history shows the virtue of organized group-action. Fans, which I generally rate as averaging higher in "good" traits than most people in general, would be as foolish as all too many people are--if they couldn't achieve this.

Of course, I knew, any group of certain fans could never collectively do anything. And, I knew, N3F had been on the down grade. So why not see what could be done with a good idea and good planning. Well, two others thought that role should be theirs. One had a fairly concrete plan; the other did not present one. Both lacked extensive knowledge of--or experience in--N3F. I suspect this decided the vote in my favor.

The first two major steps I took were to revise our financial basis and make explicit the details of procedure to the new officials. Even then the problem was not readily soluble: We were short on money and short of willing and able officials. Most of those we had and have are sterling but so far we have had five cases of N3F officials quitting their posts. I think one reason for this was necessary difficulty in spreading the work plus generally waning interest. One resource that I might have had: The members of seventh-or-so-fandom have surrendered their energy to things unfannish. Thus, any attempt to break the vicious circle of feedback by putting new, even if temporary, energy into N3F was enfeebled. This threw work on my shoulders and forced me to become a working crew rather than a coordinator. I've "managed" because I have a fairly high "fantabulism", a word coined by Stan Woolston indicating the work to time ratio.

So, what has happened: Charles Lee Riddle, my past opponent for the presidency, promised paper for one whole issue of TN2F, and Emsh cover, to print FANSPEAK for nothing, and to revise, prepare, and print ASTOUNDING STORY KEY as a gift to N3F. He has done nothing except give N3F the Emsh covers which we cannot use since the paper is an odd size. We have not heard a word from him. Most of the people who have said that they were willing to do mimeo work have not bothered to even reply to letters I have written. This is true of other fans also. I mention a little work and the silence is long and loud. Could it be that I just lack the touch? I think that N3F just has been depleted of the live-wire, high fantabolic fan; even EEEvans found inert active fans. With more inert fans in N3F, I've found some that are just numb.

Still, N3F bureaus are functioning quite smoothly for the most part and I think TN2F has become an official organ that one doesn't mind reading. The manuscripts for two pamphlets making clear almost every phase of N3F should be near completion when you read this. About four benefits should be completed soon, but we have little money to mail them. We have paper for them and should have some even at the end of this year. When the renewals come in at the revised rate, things will no longer be bogged down by lack of funds.

Considering everything, it seems to me no major phase-change in N3F can be started without losing most of its advance with the yearly transition threat. Though I began with the blessings of Bill Venable, still most of the officials we had were not the ones Bill had. The one-year term seems to promote yearly resignations...and, God knows, we have had enough during the year.

So, I am going to run for President in 1955. By the end of the year the changes Bill Venable initiated should become codified and standard. But just as Bill's idea took two years to reach completion, mine will have to wait that long. I wish there were someone who knew my plans, ideas, et cetera as clearly as I did Bill's, but there isn't. So if you re-elect me, I want to just continue (with all the officials we have now) and not lose pace. I feel there is a chance to do this; and for now, I definitely feel we should avoid getting someone quite new to N3F officialdom as President. That usually means a two month hubbub.

WELCOMMITTEE

REPORT by WARREN DUNN

New Policy

1. Every N3F member joining the Welcommittee will be given the assignment of writing to each new member.

2. If a member of the Welcommittee feels, at any time, that he cannot write to each new member, he will write to me explaining why. He is then put into one of the five sections (explained Paragraph 6.) of the United States. It will then be this member's job to write welcoming letters to each new member in his section. A Welcommittee member that is sectioned will usually find himself writing to people that live in the same section that he does, but that will not always hold true, for sometimes, in order to balance out the number of letters to be received by a new member (around 10), a person will find himself in another section. The reason behind that is clear enough. In this manner, a new member will receive the same amount of letters as another new member joining at the same time. I believe that too many letters say too much of the same thing. I want to encourage members of the Welcommittee to say something in their letters, not just say that they are glad to welcome the new member, and if they can help this new member, just let them know. Tell a new member about the N3F, about the advantages he will receive if he joins a committee, et cetera.

3. Each new member of the N3F will receive around 10 letters from the Welcommittee, with Welcommittee members that are now on the rolls.

4. Each Welcommittee member will receive a complete list of new members every three months.

5. Each Welcommittee member will be required to send a report of his progress in writing letters, at least four times yearly. If a member does not report at least three times yearly, his name is dropped from the roll. In this manner, I intend to weed out the "deadwood".

6. The United States will be divided into 5 sections.

Section 1: West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Washington D. C.

Section 2: Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Maryland.

Section 3: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota.

Section 4: California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas.

Section 5: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan.

As you can plainly see, the distribution of states depends upon the population of the current membership of the N3F.

7. The round robin is dissolved due to the fact that a committee-zine will be published so irregularly that a round robin would not be practical.

8. Complete records of each new member will be kept in the chairman's home. Therefore, all letters to new members requesting the new member to be on some committee, or anything in connection with the world of fandom, a copy of that letter should be sent in to the offices of the Welcommittee so that the record will be kept up to date.

9. If, at any time, a committee member feels that it is impossible for him to keep up his duties, he may resign.

I think that I covered all I need to. The committee members know who they are, so here is the list of new members to write to, so get busy. I shall expect reports from all committee members in at the least two months, then the above rules shall go into effect.

Warren Dunn, Chairman
1610 West Admiral Road
Stillwater, Oklahoma

New Members

Robert M. Fitch, 435 Massoit Road, Worcester, Massachusetts. No address last time. Age 16. Read StF 3 years. Interests: Writing, mag. collecting, correspondence, photography, ham radio. Will work--no preference. Sponsor: Maurice Lubin.

Kenneth Ray Andrews, Box 809, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Age 16. Read StF 1 year. Member of Stardust--is librarian for same. Interests: Book-mag. collecting, correspondence. Will work at anything. Sponsor: W. Dunn.

Rex Brooks, White Salmon, Washington. Age 27. Read StF 27 years (?!). Interests: Writing, mag. collecting, correspondence. Will work. Sponsor: Vieve Masterson.

John K. E. Hitchcock, 15 Arbutus Avenue, Baltimore 28, Maryland. Age 13. Student. Member of SRFCC, Star Rockets, International SF Correspondence Club. Interests: Publishing, writing, correspondence, reviewing. Will do clerical work. Sponsor: Sam Johnson.

Gary Labowitz, 7234 Baltimore, Kansas City 14, Missouri. Age 15. Student. Read StF 3 years. No clubs. Interests: Writing, art, book-mag. collecting, correspondence. Will work. Sponsor: James White.

Alan C. Elms, Box 105, Bandana, Kentucky. Age 15. Student. Read StF 5 years. Amateur writer, artist and poet. Will work--has typer. Sponsor: C. L. Riddle.

Morris Wauk, Box 18, Queenston, Ontario, Canada. No information.

James Tisdale, 848 3rd Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Age 18. Read StF 2 years. Student. Interests: Guns and hunting, StF, chemistry, dramatics.

Stephan Shanfield, 1645 Ferry Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. Age 19. No further information.

Renewals

Ralph Holland, 3520 4th Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. William Brown, Chippawa, Ontario, Canada. Don A. McGinnis, 123 West 5th Street, Dayton, Ohio.

Others are: Shirley Cotter, W. S. Houston, R. J. Witkowski, Alfredo Bruckner, Charles Lee Riddle, Claude Held, Paul H. Rehorst, James Holtel, Art Levine, Raleigh Evans Multog, Alastair Cameron, June Kaufman and Keith Brandon.

SECRETARIAL CHATTER by JANIE LAMB

Not much to report this issue. New members are at a premium, only one: Neil I. Blumenson, 1475 East 5th Street, Brooklyn 20, New York.

Change of address: Alastair Cameron, Deep River, Ontario, Canada.

Mail is being returned from: Lin Carter and Shirley Ann Cotter. Anyone having their current addresses please send them to the secretary.

Election time is just around the corner. If you are not interested enough in the club to run for an office, then try and arouse enough interest to vote for someone you think qualified for the offices. We need officers for the club who are willing to shoulder the responsibilities of their office and not resign when the sledding gets rough. This leaves a burden for the others to carry.

So if you aren't interested enough to run for an office, then be interested enough to vote.....and, above all, be interested enough to have a choice of who to vote for--not just any Tom, Dick or Harry. Our club next year will depend largely upon the officers elected in the forth-coming election. Let's band together and make it a big year for N3F.

SUPPLIES REPORT

by STAN WOOLSTON

WITH A LOOK TOWARD SAN FRANCISCO

Until the SFCon is over the picture of the NFFF's participation will remain unclear. Afterwards I will try to give a picture of the hour-long program, the table, and other things pertinent.

The combination of speakers and discussions at the approximately hour-long "NFFF Program" is, naturally, not finally set. We don't know who all will attend, for one thing. Neal Reynolds is working to make it both informative and fun. All members are urged to attend the session if they can get to San Francisco, and we would appreciate it if you could tell us in advance that you are attending.

Throughout the convention, NFFF wants to make it easy for would-be members to become acquainted with the opportunities of this club. It is, of course, a multi-purpose club--for collectors, correspondents, and quite a few other kinds of fans. The writer and the project-fan will find that the club isn't a narrow group; enthusiastic co-operation is the watchword of the club, and if a fan wishes to participate it is at hand to make the participation easy.

Already Janie Lamb has envelopes with introductory kit material ready; those who wish to join this club can have the kit at once. I've bought myself a Speed-O-Print, and several forms will probably be run off on it (the revised Constitution, some membership blanks and an information list, among other things.)

Several printed items are on the Supply list for distribution at the convention, too, besides the regular stickers and membership cards that Kaymar Carlson has done for the introductory kit Janie Lamb has prepared. Some of these will be designed to keep the name of NFFF before the convention. It seems a logical thing to take advantage of the opportunity the convention provides to explain how the club can be of help to fans, and I hope it will mean many new members.

As I've said, if you are attending I would appreciate the news, especially if you would volunteer to help support the membership drive. With a large number of volunteers there would be a possibility of arranging this to best advantage. My address is 12832 West Avenue, Garden Grove, California.

I hope to see you at the convention. Please look me up---early in the con if possible. A face-to-face gabfest would be easier for explaining the final details of the program, for one thing. And, of course, I like fans and fandom.

TREASURER'S REPORT^{BY} *Marion Mallinger*

The N3F treasury is in a little better shape than it was at the time of the last report, but not by much. We have been spending almost as much as we have been receiving. I only hope that the members of N3F that go to the convention at San Francisco can do something in the way of recruiting new members. The money is certainly needed in the treasury.

We have to spend a lot of money that we don't have right about now. For one thing, we have to rent a table at the convention. We have to put an ad in the convention booklet, but we simply don't have the money to do it. We don't dare do it without a full pocketbook. Yet money must be spent to get money: The N3F table at the con is our necessary luxury.

Of course, the convention is not the only way that we can get new members. After all, look at the way that Rick Sneary gave the treasury a shot in the arm. Gentle hint....gentle hint....

\$ 10.86	Balance from last report
+ <u>21.48</u>	Received in dues from Rick Sneary for new members
\$ 32.34	Balance
+ <u>10.00</u>	Received from Secretary Janie Lamb
\$ 42.34	Balance
- <u>2.17</u>	Cost of postage and stencils for last TN2F
\$ 40.17	Balance
+ <u>1.60</u>	Dues received from Albert Lastovica
\$ 40.77	Balance
+ <u>7.20</u>	Received from Secretary Janie Lamb (10 July 1954)
\$ 47.97	Balance
- <u>15.00</u>	Paid to Stu Hoffman for postage
\$ 32.97	Balance
- <u>.63</u>	Paid to Stanley Crouch for paper postage
\$ 32.34	Balance to date

"ARE YOU FICTION AND ARTICLE WRITERS HAVING TROUBLES WITH THE MAIN, INTANGIBLE DETAILS OF WRITING? WOULD YOU LIKE HELP, BUT DON'T KNOW ANYONE WHO CAN HELP?

"YOU'RE NOT ALONE. THERE ARE MANY FANS WHO ARE HAVING THE SAME TROUBLE. I HAVE A PLAN TO HELP YOU HELP EACH OTHER. DROP ME A LETTER OR POST CARD FOR INFORMATION.

"I DON'T GUARANTEE THAT YOUR MATERIAL CAN BE SOLD TO A PROFESSIONAL MAGAZINE, OR THAT IT WILL BE ACCEPTED BY A FANMAG. THAT DEPENDS ON WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING OF MERIT IN YOUR EFFORTS. BUT THERE WILL BE RESULTS."

JAMES WHITE
462 $\frac{1}{2}$ NORTH OGDEN DRIVE
LOS ANGELES 36, CALIFORNIA

ODDITIES

CCC

ENTITIES

general consensus

by

HARLAN

ELLISON

All right, it's been bandied back and forth enough, what's the answer? Is fandom improving or degenerating?

My answer to the problem: To quote from one of those obnoxious but oft times searching blurbs the hucksters use on their motion pictures, "There ain't much, but what there is is cherce."

The last ten years have seen a metamorphosis striking in its enormity, which has taken fandom and turned it guts side out. Fandom. In the 1920's (late) and 1930's (early) it was a group of persons who gathered together to talk science-fiction, fantasy and/or science. Fandom now? A bunch of people, ranging from the younger set, typified by the youth who reads all the promags to the BBBBBNF, who casually throws at you, "I don't bother to read StF." Fandom is now a fairly well-knit organization resembling the United States in more than one respect. It is a group of rugged individualists (well, individualists anyhow) who say what they want and do what they want just the way they want and damn the slings and arrows of outrageous Watkins.

What holds them together is the umpteenth wonder of the modern world if we consider King Kong in there somewhere. Some say the love of SF, though you and I both know that's a hunka hokum. My boy Venabobble seems to think it's egoboo. I know several others that hold it's the free-and-easiness of fandom that allows a man to say and think what he wants, delve into old mysteries and traverse new channels, more than any other group. I choose not to comment upon that, myself.

But I do want to make several pointed queries as to whether fandom is climbing that ladder or slipping into the quagmire.

First of all let's try to rid ourselves of thinking of fandom as one separate unit that has passed through stages. Fandom is roughly divided in half. The pre-40 era when SF and science-hobbing held 'em together, and the post-40 age when they went off at God-knows-what-all tangents in the pursuance of their fan-ish ways.

Somehow or other fandom has bred the New Fan; a man of odd tastes, of odd thoughts, a man who reads very little, if any, StF, who publishes numerous fanzines, corresponds heavily, is well-liked, and is considered all around a gen-oo-wine 14 carat Big Name Fellow.

All right, let's admit Maxie Keasler typifies the New Fan. He's not alone. There are dozens of others. What are they doing to this institution known as fandom?

How can we say they are making it better or worse? We can't tell--seeing as how we have never gone through this stage. But suffice it to say that the Max Keasler of today would have absolutely no place in the fandom of pre-40. He would have been an oddity, something to be looked at and say, "Doesn't read SF? Then why is he a fan?"

Quite obviously, the answer is this: He isn't a fan.

Drop that Boa Constrictor, Max, till I elucidate upon the theme. Now I'm not saying my boy isn't a fan. This may sound like sheer contradiction at first when you read the sentence preceeding this paragraph, but here's what I mean, and I hope you and Max will forgive me for using him as the guinea pig, but he is an outstanding example of what I mean.

Max is that new species of fan that has been in the works for a decade or so. He is a mutant breed that is now coming in to prominence. Five years ago he couldn't have been BNF. Ten years ago he certainly would not have been at home in fandom. Only now, as with humanity itself, we are prepared for him.

In other words...Fandom is splitting. Now the theme of SF for the sake of SF is not the thing that will hold fen together. It will be the auras of their own personalities interlocking to provide companionship over great distance which will make them want to be called "fan".

Just as in the late 30's the science-hobbyist paled into insignificance, so the purist who is in fandom only for the reading (and conversing) of StF will go off to himself and be a science-fiction fan and the Keasler's et al will go off and be just..... fans.

But whether this is good or not is something which will have to be witnessed to be analysed. I'll be blamed if I'll commit myself on this point. But I will say this: There are some eye-openers on the way.

There's no holding back tomorrow...as who wants to.

ARTICLE III

1. ELECTIONS. The President and the five members of the directorate are to be decided by the membership in an annual election of those officers. Ballots for the elections are to be distributed before October 10th and the elected candidates take office on the following January 1st. Any member may seek office by complying with official requirements which are to be published in the Official Organ at least two months previous to the filing deadline.

2. NO PERSON may hold two elective offices at the same time.

3. EACH PERSON may cast one vote for each of the five candidates of his choice in the election of the directorate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes are elected. Ties are resolved by majority agreement of those elected candidates not included in the tie.

4. OF THE CANDIDATES for President, that one receiving the largest number of votes is elected. In case of a tie, the elected directorate choose a President from the tied candidates.

(The above is an excerpt from the National Fantasy Fan Federation constitution. The reason for its publication is self-explanatory. There should have been platforms of candidates for N3F offices in this issue of TNFF. However, we did not receive them. We do know that Orville Mosher is up for president. Also in this vein is the letter that follows and, of course, Donald Susan's report on pages seven and eight. --Ed.)

stan speaks

Dear N3F members:

About this time of year the question arises, should I seek re-election as a director in the National Fantasy Fan Federation? I like the idea of club work; I understand the many problems of time finances and planning that a director has to become acquainted with if he isn't at the start of the year.

So again I state my intention to try for the Directorate.

However, I feel in the mood to make a little speech on the subject of candidacies. There aren't enough. There are quite a few active N3F members who understand the workings of the group fairly well, and who would make good workers as Directors. In some past years there has been a bare minimum of five candidates for that position, and this gives the members no choice in the matter. I'd rather be voted down in a seven or eight way race than win with a bare majority. Aren't there more members of N3F who won't seek a place on the Directorate with me?

If elected or not, I'll continue to help out. This includes any advice to the new directors that I might give. It's easier to get "in the groove" when there's someone around to ask questions to, and I'm always as near as the nearest mail box.

Sincerely,

Stan Woolston
12832 West Avenue
Garden Grove, California

CONVENTION GOERS:

N3F WILL HAVE A CONVENTION TABLE AT THE CON BUT WE NEED PEOPLE TO WATCH THE TABLE. ABOVE ALL, WE NEED PEOPLE TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS AT THE CON...TO GET FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR N3F. EVERY NEW MEMBER YOU GET INTO N3F MEANS A BETTER N3F. REMEMBER NOW: THE DUES PAID TILL THE END OF '55 WILL BE \$2.00.

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND THE N3FCON MEETING, WHERE YOUR OFFICIALS WILL TALK TO YOU (BRIEFLY) EVEN BY TAPE AND YOU CAN MEET OTHER N3FERS. ALSO, REMEMBER IF YOU WANT TO MEET OTHER N3FERS EARLY, LIST YOURSELF IN THE N3F REGISTER AT THE N3F TABLE: GIVE YOUR NAME, ROOM NUMBER, AND PET SPECIALITIES SUCH AS COLLECTING, READING, ART WORK, ET CETERA.



TASFC IN RETROSPECT

PHOTO SECTION

THE PROGRAM

SPEAKERS, DEBATES, PANEL
DISCUSSIONS & AUCTIONS
HIGHLIGHT A VARIED AND
INTERESTING PROGRAM



Willy Ley



Ray Palmer

Flying saucers under debate



John W. Campbell, Jr.
takes the mike.



Hugo Gernsback, guest of honor, speaks at
banquet. Left to right, Mrs. Gernsback,
Bob Bloch, Gernsback, Judy May, Ted Dikty,
& L. Sprague de Camp.



E.E. "Doc" Smith
in impromptu address



Book Publishers Panel

Left to right: Lloyd Eshbach, Jim Williams,
Dave Kyle, August Derleth, Marty Greensberg
& Mel Korshak



Ted Dikty and Mel Korshak exhort bidders on Paul original cover painting from WONDER STORIES.



Left to right: Forrest Ackerman, Eva Gold, Mel Korshak and Mrs. Korshak supervise raffle of original black & white illos.

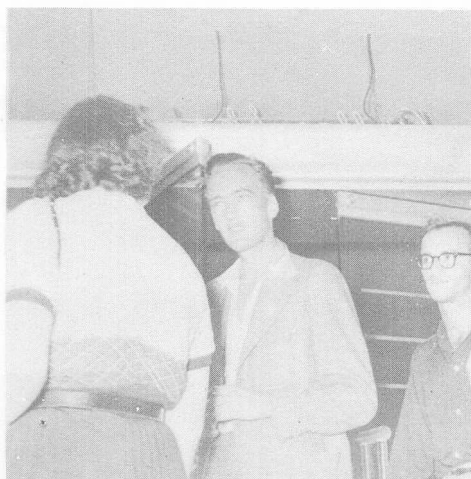
FANS AND PROS LIVE IT UP

PARTIES, OFF-THE-CUFF GET-TOGETHERS, DISCUSSIONS AND SMALL SCALE MEETINGS HELD BE INDEPENDENT GROUPS MADE UP THE REST OF THE CONVENTIONEER'S ACTIVITIES.



Panel of Editors

Left to right: James Quinn, John W. Campbell, Jr., Diane Reinsberg (Moderator) Wm. Hamling, Mrs. H.L. Gold, Howard Browne, Samuel Mines



Lee Hoffman (back to camera) talks to Walt Willis while Max Keasler looks on.



Gregg Calkins is reflected in door.

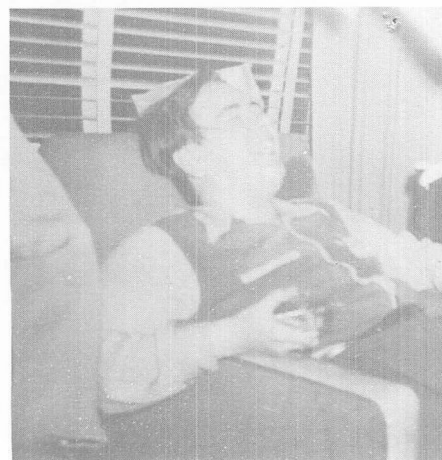


Roger Phillips Graham signs autograph while wife, Mari Wolf Graham, looks on.

...AND A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL



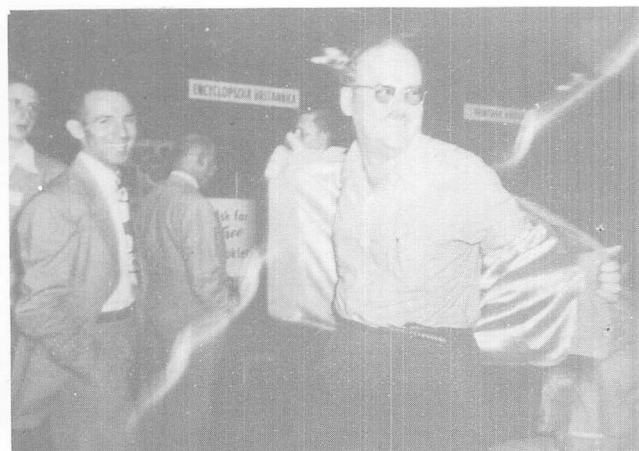
Judy May chats with unidentified Little Men



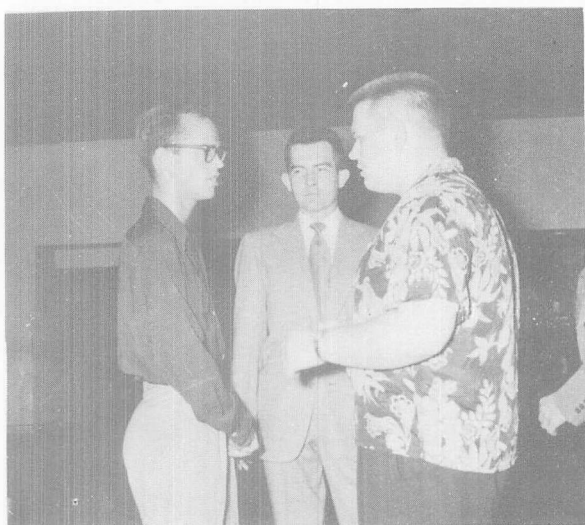
Jim Harmon laughs



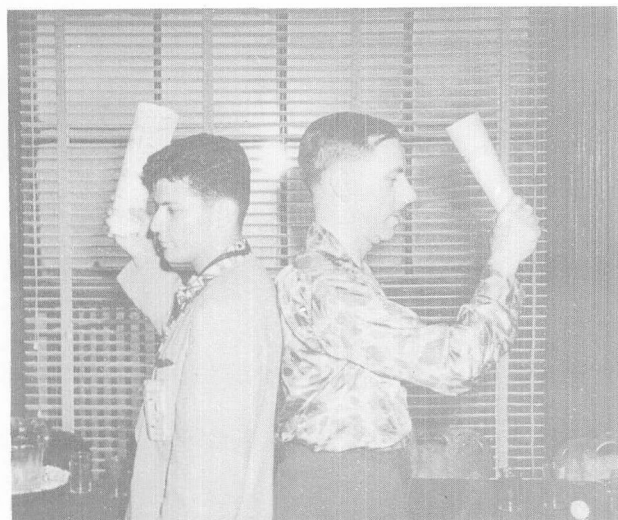
Dick Clarkson and Jack Harness (left) talk with Shelby Vick (facing camera) Dave van Arnam and Ian Macauley (backs to camera). Unidentified fan watches.



Mack Reynolds challenges fan to fight



Left to right: Max Keasler, Lee Jacobs and Rich Elsberry hold a serious discussion



Hal Shapiro (left) and Martin Alger square off to fight with fanzines

SAN FRANCISCO

Welcome to San Francisco, the city by the Golden Gate. We sometimes refer to it familiarly as "S.F.", or "The City" but we never never never call it 'Frisco!

The temperature is usually moderate to cool; be sure to take a light coat with you if you plan to be out in the evening, even if the day has been warm. Small hats, dark clothes and suits are most appropriate wear for the ladies; business suits, tweeds or conservative sports clothes for the men. Most hotels, dining rooms and bars require that the men wear ties and coats.

The fare on public buses is 15¢. For daytime shopping or downtown exploring use the "Shopper's Shuttle". You can identify these buses by their yellow flags. They run at five minute intervals from 10:30 A. M. to 3:30 P. M. The fare on this short line is only 5¢--the nickel is still a good coin in San Francisco!

Incidentally, the mint is located on a rocky cliff at Duboce and Market Streets. (It is well fortified.)

If you have time for sight seeing, the Gray Line has scheduled tours. You can also get around and see a lot of interesting things by way of Shank's Mare.

Take a walk through Chinatown. Grant Avenue is the main thoroughfare. The little shops which line the street are open until late at night, and they are filled with a fascinating variety of Oriental wares.

Most famous place to eat in Chinatown is the Cathay House. But if you are looking for an inexpensive place to dine there is Sun Hung Hueng, off the beaten track, address: 744 Washington. It's not fancy but the food is good, served family style. Their fried Won Ton is excellent. Incidentally, when dining Chinese style, it's a good idea to go in a group, as the more people you order for, the more dishes you get. You can sample a wide variety of tasty Chinese foods that will delight you.

Tao Yuan, also off the tourist trail caters to local Chinese family trade and is inexpensive. Ask for the Almond Duck dinner. It's at 823 Clay Street.

As a matter of fact, if you go hungry in San Francisco, it's your own fault. The list of restaurants runs from page 619 through page 629 in the yellow section of the S. F. phone book. You can dine in almost any language.

When you go to Fisherman's Wharf, plan to take the Powell Street Cable Car. It's a thrilling excursion, one you won't want to miss. You'll find a number of eating places there. They are all good, but we recommend Number 9, Fisherman's Grotto. Ask for the sea food plate. It's delicious and reasonably priced. Try to sit upstairs by the window so you can look out at the fishing boats.

As we noted before, these are only a few of the hundreds of restaurants for which San Francisco is famous. It took ten pages to list them in the phone book, and we leave it to you to look up any that you may have heard of from other sources.

If you are not sufficiently entertained by the antics of your fellow conventioners, there is a varied assortment of night clubs, providing entertainment and talent in kaleidoscopic variety.

If you get out to Golden Gate Park, some of you will want to visit the new Morrison Planetarium, as well as the Japanese Tea Garden and other points of interest.

We've tried, here, to show you a few of the places to eat and things to see while attending the SFCon. We couldn't list them all--for every page in this zine could be filled, as an introduction. Of course, we realize, you won't have time to go everywhere we've mentioned but it would be well worth your while to try and see a few of them. If possible, stay over in San Francisco a couple of days after the SFCon. Or get here early. You'll meet interesting and friendly people (even besides fans) and, as we've said before, see interesting things.

What are the Flying Saucers?
We all would like to know,
I really never saw one,
But as news, they steal the show.

Tonight the radio newscast
Said they came from planets far,
Scouting, perhaps curiously,
To find out what we are.

I'll tell you what they may be,
Those giddy little snoops,
The gremlins out globe trotting,
On huge fluorescent hoops.

Perhaps the Martians are the gremlins,
A different super race,
Who have learned to project themselves,
And have conquered time and space.

Gremlins made our airmen woozy
Now have they the world agog!
By rolling 'round our planet
On shining wheels of fog.

I'm sure the flying saucers
Could very likely be,
A bunch of jolly gremlins
Out upon a spree.

And if only they could land here
In dear old U. S. A.,
They'd like our friendly people,
And would always want to stay.

-- Ethel Dawson

A MIDWESTCON REPORT

or AN INNING WITH THE INGALLS by DONALD SUSAN

The Pittsburgh group was quite enthusiastic about going to the Midwestcon. But as the time grew near, dwindling funds made many shy away from the prospect. I was ready to go....if ...I had enough money. Then good fortune rolled my way...Mrs. Archer (remember, the woman who did the reviews on British SF for aSF's book review column) found her husband had to make a business trip to Columbus, which is not too far from Bellefontaine (pronounced "bell-fountain"), the site of this Midwestconthat very week-end. So, Mrs. Archer, her husband, Marion Mallinger and I were on our way.

When we got to Bellfontaine, we were rather abashed by the provincial appearance of the town; we are used to big, inspiring, dusty cities. We entered the lobby and found a bunch of fans had already arrived. Immediately we saw Jean Carrol, that blonde fan with the big smile (good enough for a tooth paste ad) and Robert Bloch dressed like a Limehouse yachtsman. Then Joe Gibson came up smiling pressed close (I could feel his hot breath....) and leered appreciatively at Marion. Then we ran into Marty Greenberg. Dirce leaned close and said, "Confidentially, Marty, how are the rooms?" Marty leaned close to her and replied, "Confidentially, they stink." Then approaching the hotel desk, I ran into Harlan Ellison and we were lost for a while deciding whether we should hate each other or like each other again (we're friends again.) Running back for the rest of the luggage, I literally ran into Lynn Hickman and met his beautiful wife, Carol. On the way back again I entered into another siege of introductions, as was to be expected. Among all these strange people, I saw a lank figure leaning indulgently and sinfully on the pinball machine. This was, wonder of wonders, Gerry Steward.

Then we saw our rooms. A sad disappointment.....for the girls. Especially since there was no closet! Then I followed the instructions to reach my room. Winding up around a precarious flight of stairs, I thought appreciatively of the atmosphere. Gads. How Lovecraft would have adored it. The next flight of stairs must surely lead to some horror-stricken garret laden with books by Prinn, Alhazred, Glanvil, et cetera. The room was, at least, clean and boasted a comfortable bed. I carefully unpacked my hoard of books to be autographed.

Then I returned to the girl's room and we went out to eat. Bill Grant who was down in the lobby told us to go to the Logan, the other hotel, because it was just about the only decent place to eat in the town. At the Logan we ran into John Magnus, Robert Madle, and Paul Mittelbuscher. John had lost weight which he could ill afford to do; he mistakenly believed he bulged in the wrong places, but now he sagged in the wrong places. I barely recognized Bob Madle because he looked ten years younger than at the Philcon. (And people actually beg to hold conventions...) Paul was quite a surprise in so far as he was about one-and-one-half times the size that I imagined him; I had to look up to him.

We returned to the hotel. The girls went to their rooms and I wandered off to my room but I never made it. I wandered into Room 30 where a bunch of New Yorkers and miscellaneous fans in various stages of repose guzzled liquor and made a hell of a lot of noise. A typical fannish gathering... typical but not yet tipsy-cal. I thrashed out with Magnus why he quit the editorship of TN2F and was generally dissatisfied with his paltry excuses. After discoursing on a variety of subjects with various people I finally left in mid-argument with Magnus about his lack of musical taste. Wandering around again I found that the girls had gone down to see the old Chaplin films that Bill (Old Wookchuck) Grant was showing. At the foot of the stairs I ran into Doc Barrett and he recognized me from the party that Dirce had at the Philcon. Still later, I was with Lynn exploring certain possibilities in methods of reproduction --the kind that has nothing to do with genetics. Rejoining the girls, I went with them to Doc Barrett's party to which we had been invited along with a horde of others; principally pros and fans.

There among other things I managed to get Dr. Smith to autograph his books to me. (It's quite interesting to note the different styles in autographing: Dr. Smith carefully signs each book with a special message while Isaac Asimov signs, when pressed, with speed more appropriate to one of his robots!) I managed to talk to Bob Madle and then with EEEvans, (Mr. NFFF, I should call him) and learned a great deal. He discussed his past problems constructing highly logical generalizations and I think that NFFF was quite lucky to have a man like Evans at its head. In addition he's an extremely likeable fellow.

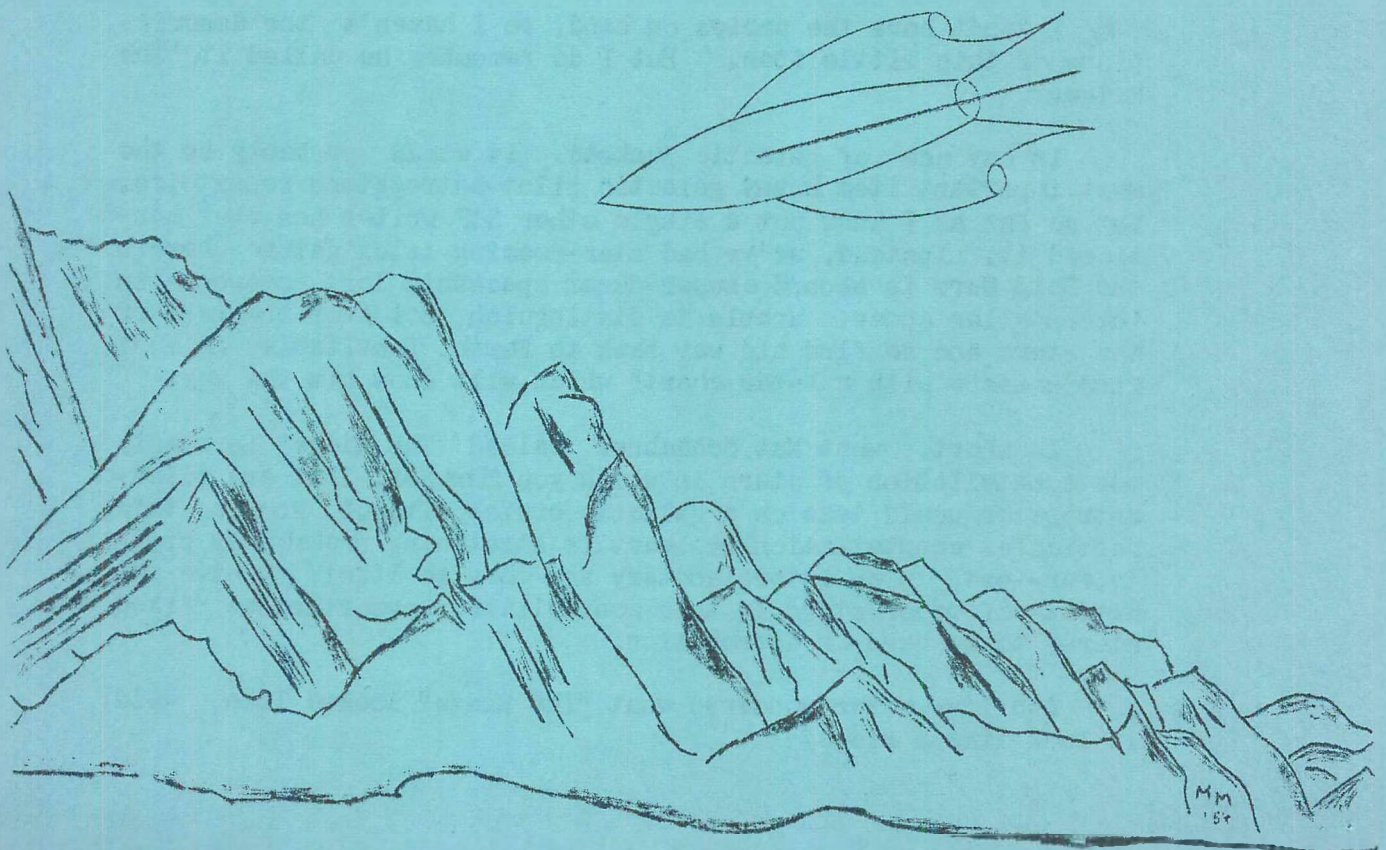
Wandering back to Dirce and Marion, I found a circle of people telling jokes; Evelyn Gold among them. It was a lively and humorous session until Mrs. Gold started a bloody reign of shaggy dog stories. Marion soon was in her glory telling the shaggiest of shaggy dog stories; I was in my agony. In between moments of agony I was telling feelthy jokes to Bill Dignin...

while Ellison aloofly listened to every word. Finally, the party had to break up, and the Lavenders, that famously sterling couple, drove Marion, Dirce, Mrs. Gold, and myself back to the hotel. We went to the girls room (more fun that way; besides a fan is curious...). Inspired by our surroundings the conversation lead to a discourse on how to find bedbugs by Evelyn Gold. She went on to tell us about the time that a woman went to meet her husband during the war while he was on leave and they registered for the night in the only hotel with a vacant room in the town. She, following the tested lore, turned up the sheet on the undisturbed mattress and discovered a host of unregistered guests. Then and there she decided that even though her husband had not seen her for the last eight months, they were going to spend the night in the hotel lobby. They did....poor soldier.

Later, Evelyn took us to see and bewail her room; she could have done worse. I did! We soon left her in closed session; I left the girls at their room and trudged up to mine...but I had found that the front stairs led to my room also. So, I didn't break my neck on the unlighted back stairs. I found quite thankfully that the bed was quite comfortable.

Thus ended the first night (plus early morning) of the Midwestcon...for me, at least.

--TO BE CONTINUED



by JOE GIBSON

THE RIDGE

'Way back in the dear, dead days of science-fiction--the 1930s, that is, and ASTOUNDING,--a guy named Nat Schachner was writing his Space Lawyer series, concerning various legal problems before the Bar (Name your choice) in a galactic civilization.

Now, there are galactic stories and there are galactic stories; but in these galactic tales, Schachner continually referred to a certain little item which no galactic tale should be without --but which they are! It usually cropped up whenever his lawyer was on a starship bound for Terra, or from Terra to somewhere else far, far away.

I don't have the series on hand, so I haven't the descriptions of this little item. But I do remember he called it "The Ridge."

In any age of galactic junkets, it would probably be the most important item in any galactic pilot-astrogator's repertoire. Yet so far as I know not a single other StF writer has ever mentioned it. Instead, we've had star-roaming tales galore wherein the Bold Hero is aboard a super-duper spaceship lost somewhere in interstellar space, unable to distinguish Sol from the rest of the stars and so find his way back to Earth. Inevitably, he must find someone with a "star-chart" which will show him the way.

In short, what Nat Schachner called "The Ridge" is simply the constellation of stars in which you find Sol. That any pilot-astrogator would take on a galactic cruise without knowing this particular constellation by heart is stretching probability pretty far--even in an interplanetary age they're likely to have positions of major stars in this constellation memorized as "fixed stars" to be used in astrogation.

And I've often wondered what "The Ridge" looked like. Did it look like a ridge?

The only way to find out was to dig in a few astronomical tomes. In doing so, I found out that Earthbound astronomers have absolutely no use for this particular constellation--for good reason: They can't see it. Instead, the "constellations" they use aren't constellations at all! For example, take the familiar example of finding Polaris, the Pole Star, by extending a straight line through the edge of Ursa Major, or the Big Dipper. The astronomers call Ursa Major a "constellation" and, seen from Earth, it looks like one. Actually, though, the stars "in" the Big Dipper are widely scattered across space, far from each other. We merely see them close together, in the same general direction from Earth, forming a pattern roughly similar to a dipper.

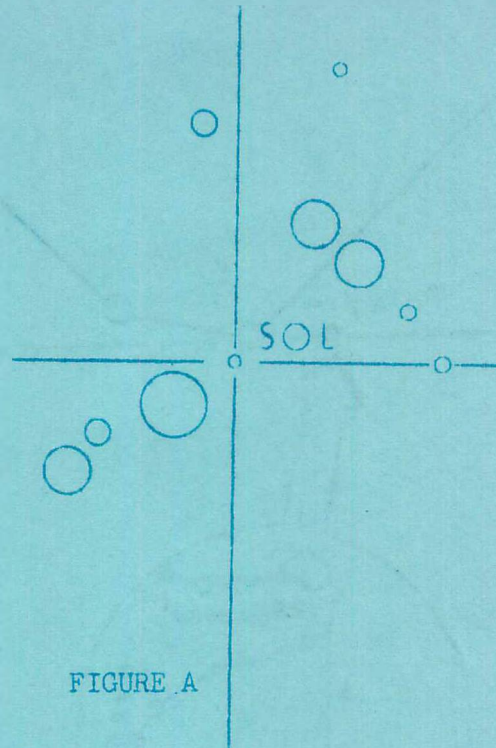


FIGURE A

This is true of all constellations as we see them--and as astronomers use them for reference. They aren't actual groups of stars at all.

In plotting "The Ridge" on even a crude scale--enough to give an idea of its shape--I had to use the Pole Star/Ursa Major reference to plot the angle in which the stars are seen from Earth. Then I had to consult a table giving the distances of the stars. And, of course, the stars' magnitudes were important. Barreling in from Betelgeuse, 300 light-years away, you're going to spot a constellation by its brightest, 1st magnitude stars and then pick out any dimmer stars among them. The 1st magnitude stars would be the reference-points, giving "shape" to a constellation.

I found that there are nine 1st magnitude stars near Earth (and of course, Sol), from 4.4 to 67 light-years distant, and strung out roughly on a line running from Sol to Polaris--both of which are 2nd magnitude stars. The next-nearest (1st magnitude) is Achernor, some 70 light-years away, but it's beyond the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, with a considerable gap in between. There is quite probably a thin stream of dimmer stars connecting Achernor with the rest of "The Ridge" and if so it would form a "dim slope" out on the end of "The Ridge."

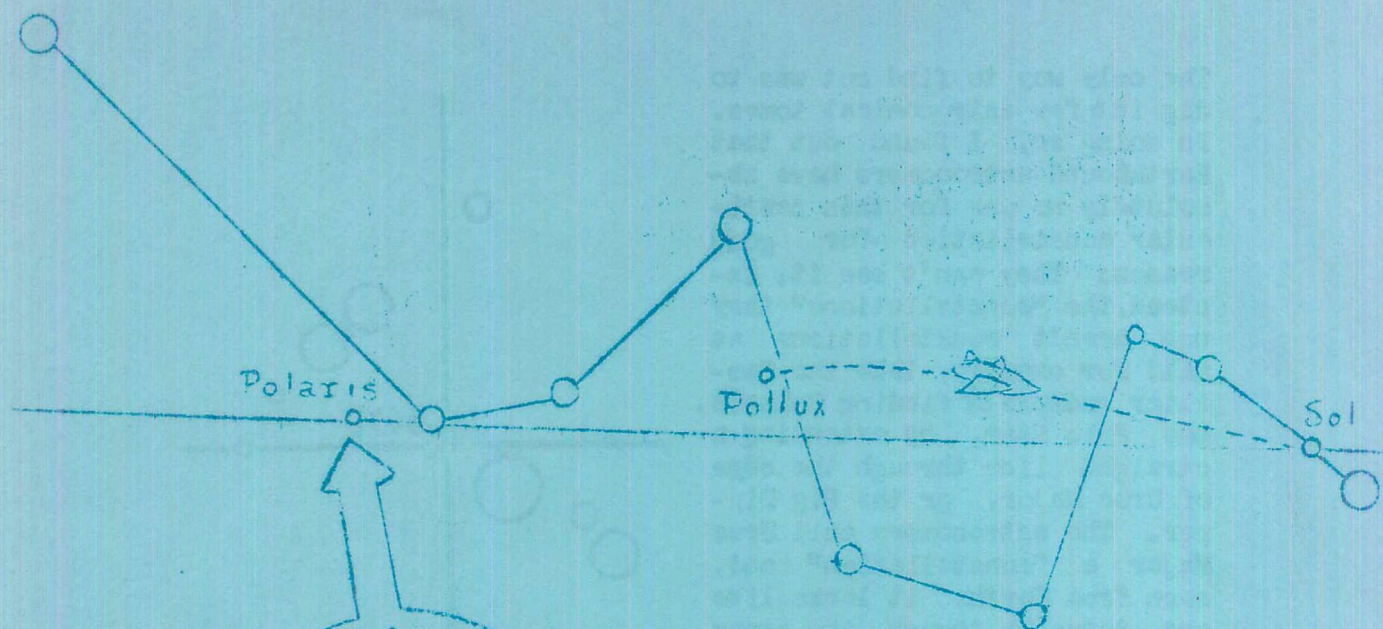


Figure I

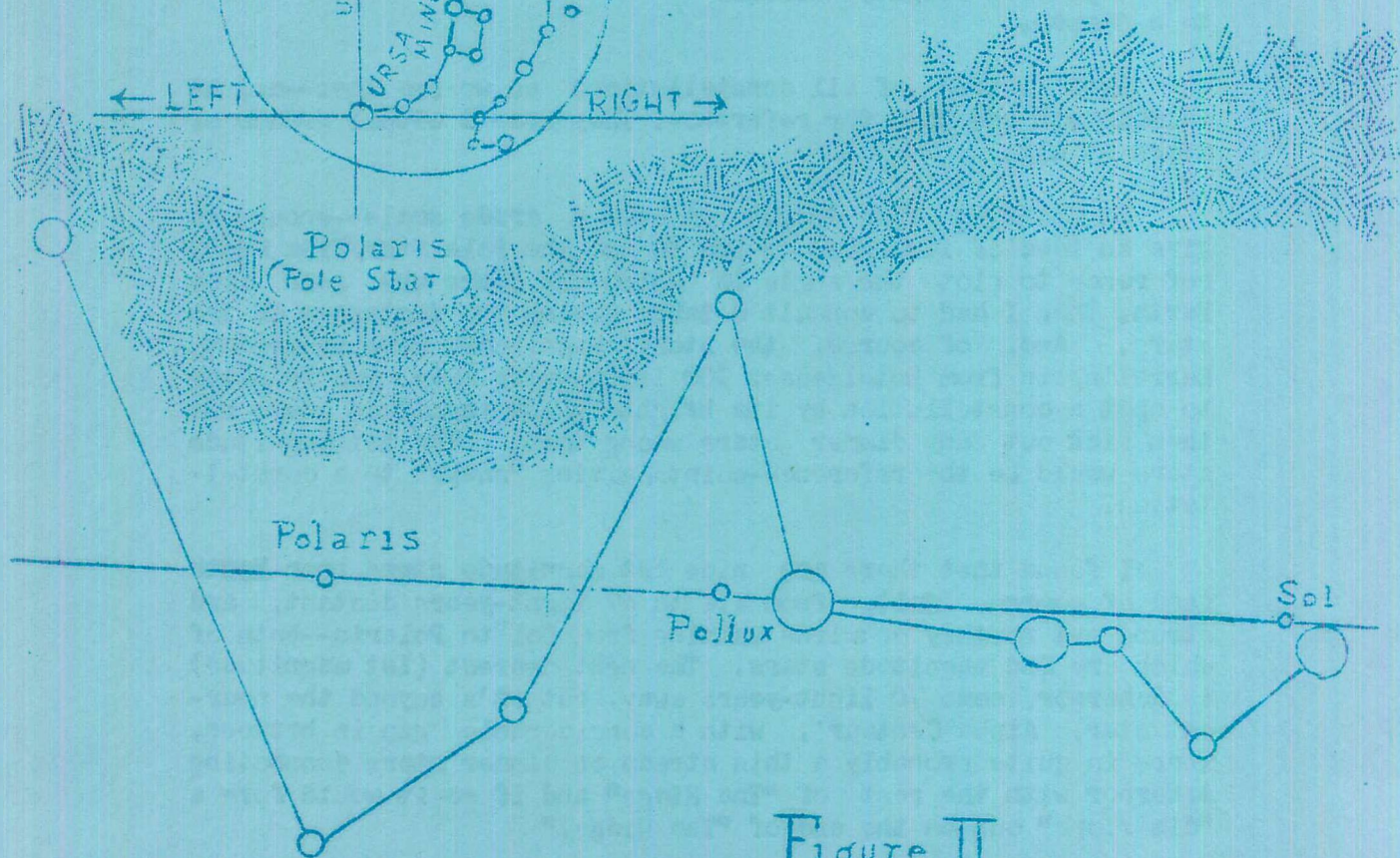
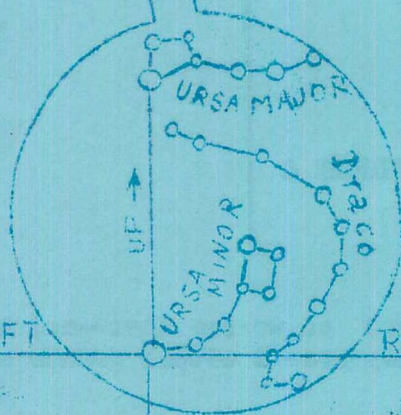


Figure II

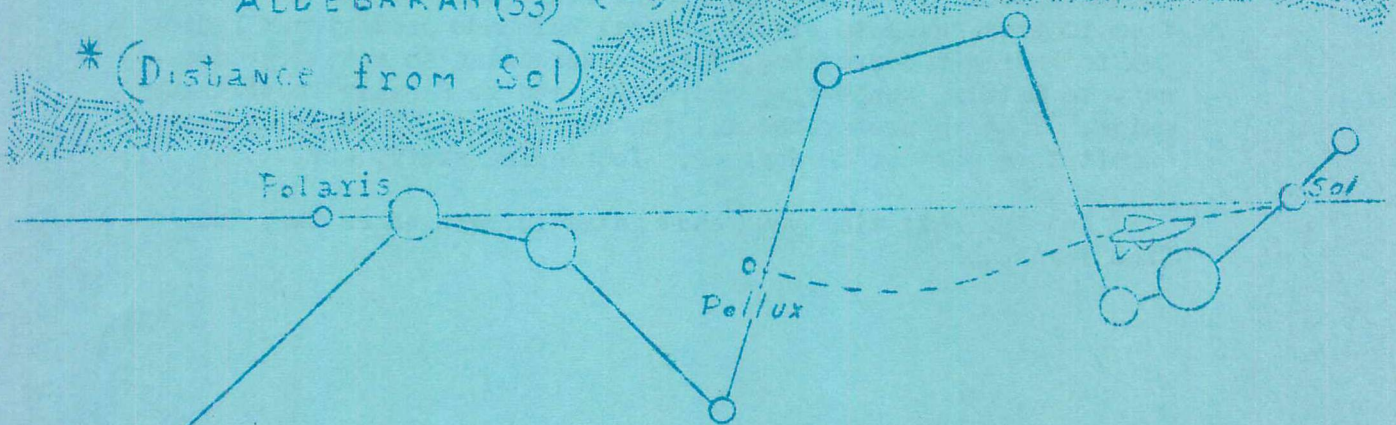
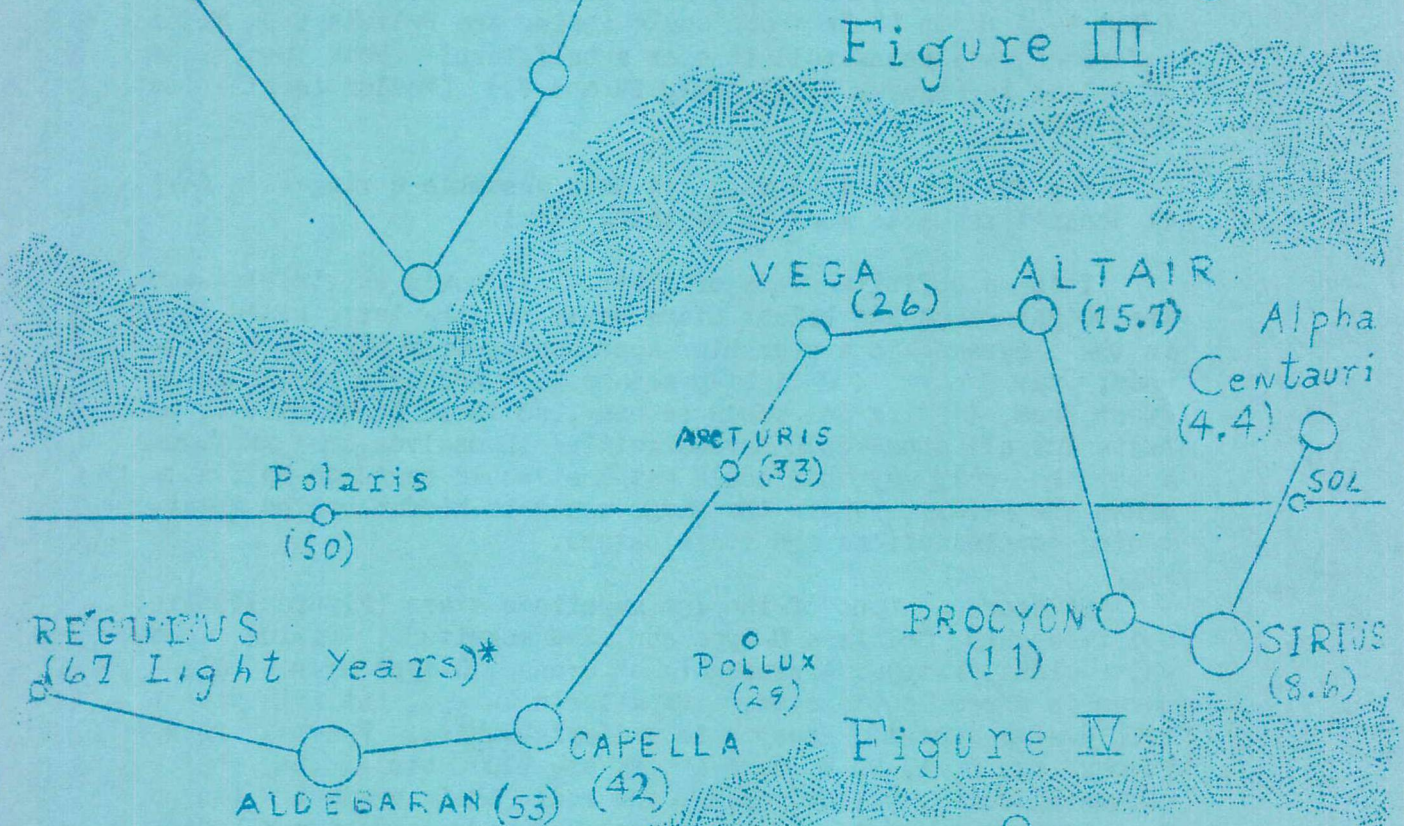
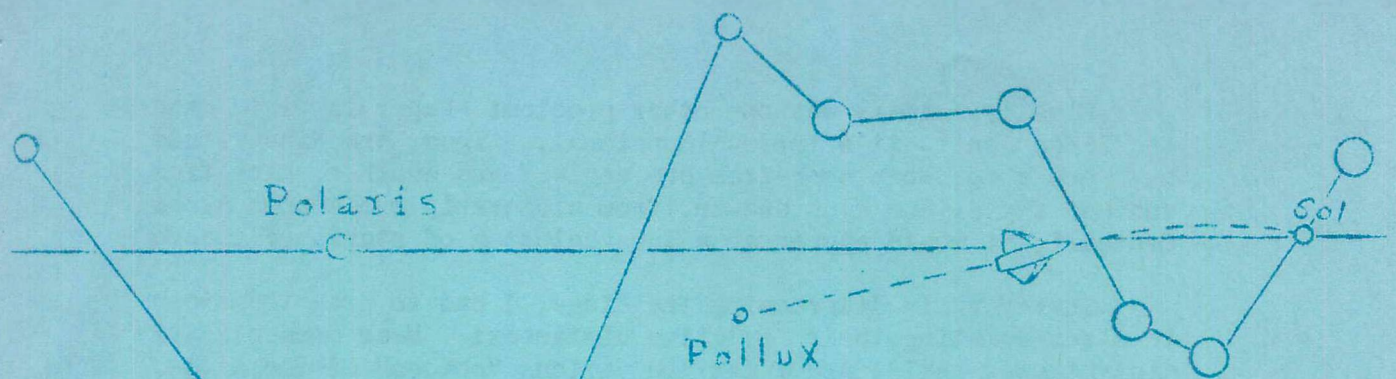


Figure V
(Figure I-UPSIDE DOWN)

Finally, there was one other problem: Paper is flat, and the Ridge isn't--it's three-dimensional. Thus, the Ridge would have one shape when seen from one angle, and another shape from another angle. And seen end-on, from a starship out beyond Alpha Centauri, it would appear as a loose cluster of stars. (Figure A)

Therefore in diagramming the Ridge, I had to draw the stars in sizes denoting their relative distances: Near ones big and distant ones small. And to get the various "shapes" of the Ridge, I had to diagram it from one angle (using the Polaris/Ursa Major reference) and then--roll it over a half-turn! (Note positions of Pollux in Figures I, II, III, IV and V.) (Pollux is also 2nd Magnitude.)

Any way you look at it, it does resemble a ridge--in fact it doesn't resemble much of anything else!

It's a definite group of stars. It would be visible--and the brightest of its bright stars would be the large-sized ones in the diagrams--to a starship approaching from any great distance; say Deneb, 400 light-years away. And with the Ridge to start from, finding Sol would be easy, so there is absolutely no basis for all those Bold Heroes getting themselves lost out there. About the only way they could get lost would be to go halfway across the galaxy, where the Ridge would be hidden behind intervening constellations and starclusters.

Of course, none of the 1st magnitude stars (Figure IV) are Sol type suns. Sol is a G-type sun, 2nd magnitude. Sirius is a white giant, A-type, Arcturus is an orange, K-type star. Aldebaran is a red double-star. Capellar's G-type, but it's also a triple-star system. Procyon is yellowish-white, F-type. These "types" run O, A, B, F, G, K and M; are blue, blue-white, white, yellowish-white, yellow, orange and red; their content ranges from ionized gases to strong neutral helium to predominant hydrogen to hydrogen decreasing, metals increasing to metals predominant to metals surpassing hydrogen, and so finally to titanium oxide. Temperatures range all the way from 55,000 degrees fahrenheit to a mere 5,500 degrees. Intriguing stuff, eh?

And the next time you read a galactic yarn where they "can't find Earth..."

BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION

An illustration in red ink showing a book on the left and a rocket ship on the right, with a trail of motion lines connecting them. The rocket ship is pointing towards the right, and a small flag is attached to its tail.

by the editor of
AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION---

H.J. CAMPBELL

The history of this genre in Britain is chequered, and mostly black cheques. A long way back, of course, people read Verne and seemed to like it, with the traditional apathy that Englishmen accord to their likes. But anything new soon died a quick, painful death. Scoops, a kiddish mag that came out in February 1934, died abruptly in June 1934. A short life, but not a gay one.

Walter Gillings pushed the boat out to sea in 1937 with Tales of Wonder. That came out quarterly until 1942 when paper had to be used for more serious things. It was the first British mag that really tried to do justice to SF. We all deplored its passing. The fact that Wally continued to get it out when things were not too pleasant in the bottom of England is a tribute to his sincerity and determination. There was never another like him.

Round about 1938 there was a host of magazines that blossomed for a single issue, or sometimes two, and then quietly departed. Several of them are not mourned. In 1946 Walter Gillings came back fighting with Fantasy, a magazine he edited for the Temple Bar Pub. Co. after they bought it from George Newnes, who had put out three issues in 1938-1939. Fantasy died in August of 1947.

1946 also saw what was to become a milestone in British science-fiction--the establishment of Nova Publications and their magazine New Worlds. The story of how Nova came into being is intriguing, but I feel Ted Carnell could tell it better; so much of it depended on him. Anyway, New Worlds has never looked back. For long it has represented the height of British SF and was for five weary years, the only magazine that presented true science-fiction. In 1950, Nova brought out a second magazine, Science-Fantasy, edited by Walter Gellings. Wally put out two issues and then circumstances got in the way again. Editorship of Science-Fantasy passed to Ted Carnell, who now runs both Novas mags with a flair and efficiency that are little short of remarkable.

In January 1951 Authentic Science Fiction appeared. For a time, it was fortnightly, then became, and stayed, monthly. It is the longest-lived British SF magazine. Its merits and demerits are things I should not speak about here. But I'd like you to know that I'm doing all I can to raise the standard and to make Authentic into a world-respected mag. There are obstacles.

Now let's go beyond the mags and take a look at SF in the large. The first thing about it is that there is a strong prejudice about it, among publishers and the public. Happily, this is growing less. Indeed, over the last year or two, people have actually been asking for SF. Often, though, on analysis, they don't want it enough. For example, I did an SF strip for our Daily Herald. The fans liked it. But so few people put their approval in writing that the strip folded. There are other instances of this comatose condition, among fens and in the public.

The mags sell well enough; the reprints are doing remarkably well. SF films get good box-offices. Radio programs get good listenership. Here and there a slick magazine takes a chance and publishes an SF story. Book publishers are leading the field, but even they are inclined to be reserved and cautious.

One could fairly say that over here SF doesn't yet compare in popularity with crime, romance, and westerns. But it's a good deal more popular than it was. No doubt this is due to the dearth of good science-fiction and the plethora of juvenile muck. SF has become linked with the gaudy, the sexy, and the downright stupid. Slowly we are putting this right. But slowly.

You see, British mags can't pay the fees that yours can. Authors cannot be blamed for sending their stuff to you and getting about ten times as much as they'd get over here. It's not easy to be altruistic when the grocery bill needs paying. All in all, we do very well considering these facts. New authors are springing up, such as Ted Tubb and Bryan Berry. And the old ones like Bill Temple and John Wyndham keep up as much of a supply as they can commercially afford.

Finally, I would like to say that all of us here are grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from your shore. Practical interest and spontaneous regard play no small part in the continued existence of British Science-Fiction. Someday, maybe, you will have to say the same about us!

You see, we are very optimistic.

SF via OF by DONALD SUSAN

Here are reviews of a batch of British mags or "PB"'s that Ken Slater of Operation Fantast sent me.

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION MONTHLY. This is a British magazine of 158 pages, neatly printed on fine paper with trimmed edges. The genteel and handsome editor with the piratical black beard enlivens the magazine with reviews of movies, of SF and science books, of fanmags, with articles and a letter column. The stories feature authors from both sides of the Atlantic: U. S.....EEEvans, Frank Quatterocchi, and Richard de Mille, son of Cecil B. de Mille!.... Canada.....Katherine Marcuse.....Britain.....J. F. Burke, Chas. Eric Maine. The American and Canadian authors are well represented by stories that center heavily on just the emotion evoked in a "SF" situation. The closest parallel on this side is perhaps Galaxy, although different enough and yet enjoyable. The British authors suffer from a lack of real human closeness and thus seem a bit artificial.....perhaps, even "old-fashioned". Interesting is the recurrence of a theme in British SF: The correlation of atonal, avante-garde music with a sterile society. (I fear Britain is a bit behind the times, for even Schönberg turned somewhat classical in later works.) The cover is an astronomical scene, while the interior art is not too bad, perhaps a bit related to the work of Kinstler in Avon Fantasy and Science Fiction Reader. All in all, highly recommended.

WORLD AT BAY by E. C. Tubb. A 159 page novel. This book is published by Hamilton and Company (as is Authentic SFM) in their Panther Book series and shares Authentic SFM's superior quality in format and material. The theme of the novel is an old one, rather similar to that in the film, The Magnetic Monster, save in this case the menace provides power while hungrily menacing the world and England. The treatment of the creation of and the response to the menace is realistic enough being a more "cultured" version of American realism. However, the social premise seems considerably more fallacious than the treatment of the scientific extrapolations. All in all, a superior SF novel of suspense.

THE METAL MONSTERS by Roy Sheldon. Length: 169 pages. A Panther Book. In some ways this book is rather similar to the Tubb opus. However, on the whole it strikes a theme and tone between the usual trader-in-a-corrupt-colony-world and the Legion of Space. It builds up tension toward the middle and interestingly combines some old SF gimmicks. All in all, a good adventure novel that might have been better for some sub-plotting.

THE LIE DESTROYER by Vargo Statten. Length: 127 pages, average paper, smaller print. Here we have the ubiquitous John Russell Fearn hiding behind one of his pseudonyms. Again we face the old, not-too-socially conscious inventive genius. The invention, the lie destroyer, has its entertaining highlights, as one might imagine. The story becomes quite detective-ish and concludes with a touch of the deus ex machina, but is an enjoyable work if you don't mind insulting your intelligence to indulge yourself.

FUTURISTIC SCIENCE STORIES. Length: 128 pages, average quality paper. Evidently the editor is afraid to confess that he exists while the bashful authors seem to be hiding under pseudonyms: or why else the name Ray Cosmic! Agh! Not even anagrams. The cover looks as if it were done by Milton Luros, except for the two scaly anthropoid or ape-shaped artichokes waving at each other. The interior art is as crude as anything in the '30's in the U. S. A. All in all, the stories place as Planet Stories did at higher levels....but minus Bradbury. I could forgive so much....for a Bradbury story.

BEYOND THE FOURTH DOOR by Jon J. Deegan. Another one of the Panther Book series, but literally of a different species novel-wise: a detective SF novel. The object: to track down a stolen jewel of unknown appearance through various "time-lines". The various times visited provide thrills, glories, "gories", and confusion detection-wise. The miraculous escapes via the deus ex machina, of shifting time-lines rather strains the credulity but.....the real point besides escape reading is the gambit the reader may or may not accept: The solution of the crime. You can solve the problem of the missing jewel before the author does if you do not accept his deliberate misinterpretation of facts. You may be exasperated at the true solution, but isn't that typical?

These and other British mags and "PB"'s may be bought through the NFFF Book Club in co-operation with Operation Fantast. The price: 25¢ each, postpaid. The standard dealer's sale price is 35¢, often not including postage. Send your orders to:

Donald Susan

706 Grant Street

McKeesport, Pennsylvania

31 AN]TASY by RICHARD GEIS

This issue, I am dividing the mags into two main groups. One group will consist of the best fanzines I have received for reviewing, and which I recommend to you as worthy of your time and money. The second group might be compared to the "B" list that Sam Merwin used to run when he reviewed fanzines in SS. I should add that the order in which these zines are reviewed has no significance: I grab the top fanmag on the pile...and that's it.

GRUE #20. Fifty mimeographed pages and all excellently done on a new Gestetner. I couldn't properly describe the material in this issue without raving on and on for pages. I'll have to mention that the contents lists McCain, Willis, Tucker, Bloch, Y. Y. Flertch, and many many others. But even so, the best parts of the mag are the long editorial sections in which Grennell wanders from subject to subject in an ever-interesting manner. Top all that with a (gasp) TWENTY PAGE letter section, and you have a fanzine that is unquestionably in the first five in national rank. (There's a pun there, but...)

GRUE is a quarterly effort and is not a sub-zine. As Dean himself puts it in a card received recently: "...as for TNFF, I would say that you can tell readers to put their names on the waiting list and I'll send copies if any are left and they can pay after receiving (or go clear to the top of my blacklist)."

Admittedly, this doesn't sound encouraging but believe me, GRUE is worth trying for. Dean A. Grennell, 402 Maple Avenue, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

GREY. One to two pages of well mimeographed material, GREY is a...what? There isn't a word that covers all that GREY is; one is left pounding one's brain for a good short description. At any rate, GREY presents news of the latest developments in fandom, presents a remarkably good fanzine review, serves as a personal news and views column for the editor, Charles Wells, and, as a whole is virtually indispensable to all fans who want to be "in the know".

Published frequently but irregularly, GREY is available by trade or by subscription at the rate of \$1.00 per year. Charles Wells, 405 East 62nd Street, Savannah, Georgia.

DIMENSIONS #14. Sixty-four pages of mimeographed top-grade material in this first issue of Harlan Ellison's much publicized new fanzine are impressive, but, after the glowing plans and promises of the advertising, leave one slightly disappointed. For, despite the name change from SCIENCE FANTASY BULLETIN to DIMENSIONS, Harlan has presented essentially the same magazine to his readers as before. True, there is more fiction, but the "commercial" bits-of-business still abound in the pages, and this is surprising when it is remembered that the sub-list is said to be closed. Why Harlan should continue to huckster so hard when apparently he has nothing to sell is a question hard to answer. I expected to get a zine with a radically changed layout slant, format, and approach; what I did get was another issue of SFB with more fiction and a changed name.

BUT..all the above in no way should be construed as a panning. The material in this new DIMENSIONS is all very good to excellent, and (despite my complaining on editorial policy) is well worth trying for. Like GRUE, this zine is almost a closed door to new subbers and fans who want to take-a-look, but it is worth sending a questioning card to Harlan Ellison, 41 East 17th Avenue, Columbus 1, Ohio. DIMENSIONS costs 20¢ and a dollar a year. It is published quarterly. That may sound a bit odd but that's what it say.

SPACESHIP #25. Mimeographed, the fifteen pages of SSHIP this issue features a long review of the Skylark novels of Dr. E. E. Smith by Redd Boggs. The review is excellently and almost exhaustively done, which means that it is interesting from start to finish and has the effect of making the reader want to rush down to the nearest book store and buy a copy of the three stories treated; The Skylark of Space, Skylark Three, and Skylark of Valeron.

This issue of SSHIP also is noteworthy in that it is no longer a straight subzine, but is being issued quarterly as a FAPA-zine. Subscriptions, however, are still accepted at 3 for 25¢. I suggest, though, that you send 10¢ for a sample copy before deciding to sub; it is possible that the research-type articles Bob Silverberg uses might not appeal to all. Send to Bob Silverberg, 760 Montgomery Street, Brooklyn 13, New York.

STARLANES #15. Poems, professionally printed in a 24-page quarterly of science-fiction poetry, in this issue run from an excellent mood piece by John D. Engle, Jr., titled To Pleasant Run to a two line humor-type thing by myself, which, if I do say so myself, wasn't much. A little bit clever, maybe. Other poems of note were Oh Mother As I Rode Today by Genevieve K. Stephens, Starsick by Orma McCormick, What Shadows Bring Me by Marion Schoeberlein, The Warning by Lilith Lorraine, and a fascinating five lines by Rena Elysberry titled Quintessence of History.

If you like poetry, STARLANES is your dish for it presents the best poetry in the field, in a professional format. Forty cents a copy, \$1.50 a year. Send your money to Orma McCormick, 1558 West Hazelhurst Street, Ferndale 20, Michigan.

HYPHEN #8. Mimeographed competently, this issue presents 30 pages of top-notch fanwriting. Most enjoyable, in my opinion, were Grunch, "A column that's so serious it will break your heart" by Vincent Clarke, Random by Chuck Harris (another column), and the letter column Post Scripts. Running down the edges of most pages are the best interlineations in fandom. As for instance:

"Thank you for your joke, but I used it in our last issue."

"I think of female fans as beneath me."

And when you add a half-page of hilarious quotes on the back page, there is no wonder that the zine is so good.

Walt Willis is the editor, and his personality is responsible for the quality of the publication. HYPHEN is recommended unconditionally. So what more can I say? "-" can be had 2 for 25¢. Send money to Walt Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, North Ireland.

Also from Walt Willis, this time in collaboration with Bob Shaw, is..as Vernon McCain says, "An absolutely delightful production!....A fannish takeoff on Pilgrim's Progress, it has to be read to be believed...This appears in the third month of the year but you needn't wait to pass out the Laureate Award. This is, without a doubt, the finest ajay publication of the year."

Yes, it's that good, and the fan who doesn't get a copy will be sorry to his dying day. There were originally only 200 copies of this run off, but Walt assures me that--but I'll let him speak for himself:

"Yes, I think it'd be all right to review THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR. I still have some copies left, mainly because I've rationed them one to a person.... If I get sold out as a result of the TNFF advert I can always send back the money and offer to lend them a copy, and it'll give me an idea as to whether to do a second printing or not. If only there was some way to sort out who was potential Trufan material and who it would just be wasted on..."

Copies of THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR can be had for 15¢. Send now. Do it...today!

VAMP #9. Twenty-one pages of mimeographed material that, while it is a bit dated, is nevertheless of top caliber. Editor John Magnus, feeling he was getting nowhere but fast with his zine SF, changed format from $\frac{1}{2}$ -size to the regular $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 and seems now to be on the road to great things. The small size was definitely hampering him editorially, calling as it did for very careful technical editing. This larger format allows John's enjoyable personality to come to the fore.

Incidentally, this issue is the first one of VAMP. The #9 is simply a continuation of the SF number total. The second issue of VAMP should see it really flower into the type zine Magnus can do best.

VAMP sells for 10¢. Send to John Magnus, 9612 Second Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. This is his original home address. I won't give his last college address because he probably won't live in the same place....or will he? At any rate, the address given will be valid enough, I think.

PEON #31. From the cover to the last page of the editorial at the end of the zine, PEON's 39 excellently mimeographed pages attest to the care and editorial talent lavished on it by the editor, Charles Lee Riddle; it is a finished product of near perfection.

The cover, an actual bit of art in mimeographed format, shows that (contrary to the usual sloppy job one sees in mimeography) it CAN be done on a stencil; the cover is done by D. Young, and is very well done....an object lesson to those who won't take pains and who loudly complain that a mimeo is murder when it comes to reproducing artwork. Apparently it is all in who does the job. The same thing is true of the interior of PEON; the pages are all justified, and the layout work is nothing short of professional. There may have been typos in this issue, but I couldn't find any....and it has struck me that the number of typos in a zine is a good indication of the responsibility and conscientiousness of the editor. I realize, of course that I am particularly vulnerable on this score myself, but I am working to remedy that particular failing in myself and my own zine.

Just by thumbing through an issue of PEON is enough to convince one that it is a superior fanzine; there is an aura of quality about it which cannot be denied. The heading for departments, columns and features particularly bear this out.

If there are any aspiring faneds among the readers who want to see something of what to aim at as a standard of neatness, presentation, and reproduction, then I enthusiastically recommend PEON as the zine to see.

PEON is published bi-monthly by Charles Lee Riddle. 108 Dunham Street, Norwich, Connecticut. Ten cents, 12 issues for a dollar. Unquestionably a bargain!

SPIRAL #7. Twenty-seven pages of nicely mimeographed text in this issue, and as usual, the long editorials by Denis Moreen take top honors. Denis has a relaxed style that make his writings very enjoyable reading. He just sits down and bats away at the keys at 50-75 w.p.m. and that's that; sounds easy, but getting the resulting wordage to make coherent sense is another thing. Denis has the happy faculty of doing just that.

Also in the issue is a column by me. Entitled The Violent Ward, this column is pretty sure to cause a storm because of the subject matter: The psychological "why" of a fan. Dennis Murphy is present with a story titled Those Good Old Days, which was, I suppose, a professionally slanted story, but not good by those standards. In fact, not too good by any standards. Who Goes There, the letter section, is very good as usual.

Published bi-monthly "or thereabouts" by Denis Moreen.. SPIRAL costs 10¢ or 3 for 25¢. Rush, do not walk, to the nearest mailbox and deposit a letter (with money, of course) addressed 214 Wilmette, Illinois.

SKYHOOK #21. Mimeographed excellently, this 27 page fanzine can claim the title "The Quality Fanzine" with all modesty and few objectors, at least it can in my opinion. Few, I think, will oppose this view. The contents include five pages of top-notch editorials by the editor, Redd Boggs, a review of F&SF by Dean Grennell, "Father, Son, and Unholy Ghost" by Robert Bloch, the always controversial column "The Issue at Hand" by William Atheling, Jr., and "The Captured Cross-Section", a letter column that usually has letters from many of the professionals in the field.

SKYHOOK is a quarterly issued for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association by Redd Boggs, who lives at 2215 Benjamin Street North East, Minneapolis 18, Minnesota, but which is available for general circulation at 15¢ per copy. This zine is highly recommended. It is one of the few zines that can be considered a "must" for any self-respecting fan, young or old.

And that ends the list of highly recommended fanzines available for review at this time. Below are listed the rest of the current crop which are conditionally recommended. You might describe these as "...it's a good fanzine, but--" type of publications; the ones that almost made the "A" list.

DEVIANT #2. Thirty-two pages of excellent mimeography and pretty good material. The same fault that plagues FIE and MIMI is apparent here; the material varies in quality from very good to lousy. There is, too, the feminine editorial slant which is vaguely repellant to males. DEVIANT costs 20¢ per issue, and is a bit too much for value received. Carol McKinney, Station 1, Box 514, Provo, Utah.

BEM #2. Put out by two crazy editors, BEM is easily the best up-and-coming zine in the world, bar none. Mal Ashworth and Tom White deserve the credit for this effort, and I only hope they can keep up the good work. The only thing which keeps this from the top list is none too good reproduction and (again) a spotty line-up of material. I disagree, also, on their policy of printing material ratings in the letter column; it would be better to delete them and save the reader a good deal of boring reading. Highlights are two editorials that were actually funny, and an excellent column by Vincent Clarke. BEMS are available to Americans from Tom White, 3 Vine Street, Cutler Heights, Bradford 4, Yorks, England. They cost a copy of any good prozine. Send an ASTOUNDING or GALAXY or F&SF and get a BEM.

THE NEW FUTURIAN #1. After a break in publishing of some eight years, THE NEW FUTURIAN takes up the cloak of something or other and resumes the serious discussions of science-fiction and such that was started by "the Leeds mob" way back in 1937, 1938-40. There are 23 pages of mimeographed viewing-the-past articles and such which prove quite interesting. Some of the more absorbing were "What Has Happened to Them" by Harry Warner, Jr., "The Pre-historic Bradbury" by Ron Bennett, and a book column titled "But It Still Goes On" conducted by R. G. Medhurst.

Published quarterly, THE NEW FUTURIAN is available from Michael Rosenblum, 7 Grosvenor Park, Leeds 7, England. Exchanges are welcomed, but no information is given about stateside subs. Might send some prozines to them though.

DAWN #22. This zine is very nicely ditto'd, but loses much of its quality with the use of 16-pound paper. Editor Russell K. Watkins, 110 Brady Street, Savannah, Georgia, does do a pretty good job of editing, though. His listing of all current fanzines with names and addresses of editors is invaluable to anyone who might be interested in starting a new zine and wants a trade list. DAWN usually features a fiction piece that is fair to good, and this issue is no exception, with "The Line" by B. G. Warner. DAWN costs 10¢.

A BAS #2. Fifteen pages of good to excellent material in a light vein. This is the 00 of The Derelicts of Toronto. It is sold on the pay-after-receiving basis. You pay what you think it's worth. This zine is well worth getting, so send a card to Boyd Raeburn, 14 Lynd Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

COSMIC FRONTIER #9. Twenty-seven pages of nicely ditto'd half-size pages. This zine is still climbing in quality and quantity, but doesn't as yet boast the maturity which seems essential to a top-notch zine. Ten cents. Stuart K. Nock, R. F. D. #3, Castleton, New York.

LYRIC #2. Jim Bradley puts this poetry-zine out from 545 North East San Rafael, Portland 12, Oregon, but the better items in the issue (as in #1, and the forthcoming #3) are the very good to superb drawings in color by both Jim Bradley and Bob Kellogg. The zine is ditto'd and features blue print instead of the usual purple. The poetry is about like other fantasy and SF poetry but the art....! Ten cents per issue.

FIE #2. This 36 page mimeographed zine is slanted toward the humorous and satirical. On the whole, I'd say that the material does come up to expectations. There are one or two which are excellent. The trouble lies in a lot of second rate material which drags down the over all quality of the issue. Still, the zine has improved a lot since the first issue, and #3 might see it graduate to the highly recommended list. Fifteen cents per copy. Harry Calnek, Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia.

MIMI #1. Twenty-eight pages of very nicely mimeoed medium to low grade material. Georgina Ellis is the editor and lives at 1428 15th Street East, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Fifteen cents per issue. An extremely spotty zine, this, but I imagine future issues will see material to compare with the excellent reproduction of this first issue.

ABSTRACT #4. A huge total of 38 very well ditto'd pages make this zine long, and by virtue of the many articles and columns and features, an interesting one as well. There is, however, the one jarring note that is Editor Peter Vorzimer's militant immaturity; his opinions, expressed with vigor and little thought, are sometimes incredible, sometimes silly, but always worth reading for the fireworks. Each issue gets better, though, so it would be a good idea to try a copy soon. Fifteen cents should be speeded to Peter J. Vorzimer, 1311 Laurel Avenue, West Hollywood 46, California.

CANADIAN FANDOM #21. Edited and published by Gerald Steward, 166 McRoberts Avenue, Toronto 10, Ontario, Canada, this zine is one more of those that suffers from material schizophrenia; there is very good stuff by Leslie A. Crouch, Howard Lyons, and the editor as opposed to the corniest cartoons this side of DEVIANT, an article called "How to Identify" which wasted space on a supposedly humorous flying saucer item complete with bad illos.

CANADIAN FANDOM is a bit too stuffy and costs 20¢.

REVIEW #10. Put out by Vernon L. McCain from Box 876, Kellogg, Idaho, this zine is just what its title suggests. Adequately mimeo'd, it presents reviews of current fanzines, prozines, plus a very interesting letter column that never fails to provoke reader reaction in the next issue. The one drawback is that it is available by trade only. You will have to start a fanzine to get this one, I think.

HAEMOGoblin #1. Clever name, eh? This zine is printed in booklet format, has linoleum block cuts as illustrations, and generally good material. In a letter recently, however, the editor, Frederick L. Smith of 613 Great Western Road, Glasgow, W. 2., Scotland, said that he may have to mimeo his next issue. This issue, though, contained some exceptionally good fiction, book reviews and articles. Single copies are 20¢ or one current prozine. Quarterly.

And now to list the zines that don't quite measure up.

FOG #3. Don Wegars, 2444 Valley Street, Berkeley 2, California. Five cents. Irregular.

SCINTILLA #12. Larry Anderson, 2716 Smoky Lane, Billings, Montana. Ten cents. Bi-monthly.

SFzine #5. Samuel Johnson, 1517 Penny Drive, Edgewood, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Fifteen cents. Irregular.

E. C. FAN JOURNAL #4. Mike May, 9428 Hobart Street, Dallas 18, Texas. Ten cents. Quarterly.

XENERN INDEX LETTER #2. W. D. Knapheide, 220-A, Sierra Point Road, Brisbane, California. Six cents.

NITE CRY #4. Don Chappell, 5921 East 4th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Ten cents. Bi-monthly.

SPACEWAYS #4. Ralph Stapenhorst, 409 West Lexington Drive, Glendale 3, California. Fifteen cents. Quarterly.

ZIP #4. Ted E. White, 1014 North Tuckahoe Street, Falls Church, Virginia. Five cents. Irregular.

ANDROMEDA #4. Peter Campbell, 60 Calgarth Road, Windermere, England. Thirty cents. Quarterly.

FANTASTIC STORY MAG #4. Ron Ellick, 232 Santa Ana, Long Beach 3, California. Ten cents. Irregular.

SWARM #2. Frances Gann, 462 South 5th Street East, Salt Lake City, Utah. Ten cents. Irregular.

SCIENTIFICTION STORIES #2. John Walston, 1044-88th North East, Bellevue, Washington. Five cents. Bi-monthly.

STAR ROCKETS #10. Raleigh Multog, 7 Greenwood Road, Pikesville 8, Maryland. Twenty cents. Irregular.

POTRZEBIE #1. Larry Stark, Route 9, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Five cents. Irregular.

ECLIPSE #9. Ray Thompson, 410 South 4th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska. Ten cents. Irregular.

UMBRA #3. John Hitchcock, 15 Arbutus Avenue, Baltimore 28, Maryland. Ten cents. Irregular.

FIENDETTA #7. Charles Wells, 405 East 62nd Street, Savannah, Georgia. By trade only.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

News: STAR SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS, edited by Frederick Pohl has been delayed indefinitely, and the publishers (Ballantine Books) of BRAIN WAVE by Poul Anderson have decided not to print it in a hardbound edition but rather only in a paperbound edition.

Anthologies and Single Author Collections

ASSIGNMENT IN TOMORROW. Edited by Frederick Pohl. Ready on September 7th. Cost: \$3.50.

THE BEST SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES OF 1954. Edited by Bleiler and Diky. Ready on September 15th. Cost: \$3.50.

ANGELS AND SPACESHIPS by Fredric Brown. Collection of short stories and novelettes. Ready on December 15th. Cost: \$2.75.

Novels

ONE IN THREE HUNDRED by J. T. McIntosh. Novel of world doom from nova-ing Sol and reaction. Ready in July. Cost: \$2.95.

THE SCIENCE-FICTION SUB-TREASURY by Wilson Tucker. Collection of shorts....presumably Tucker's. Ready in September. Laundry bill: \$2.75.

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STUART S. HOFFMAN

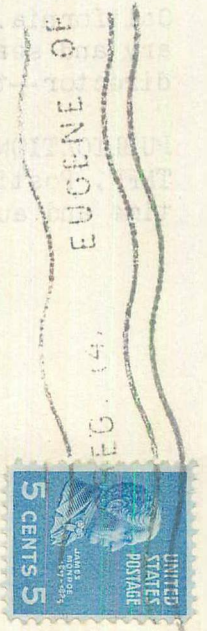
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