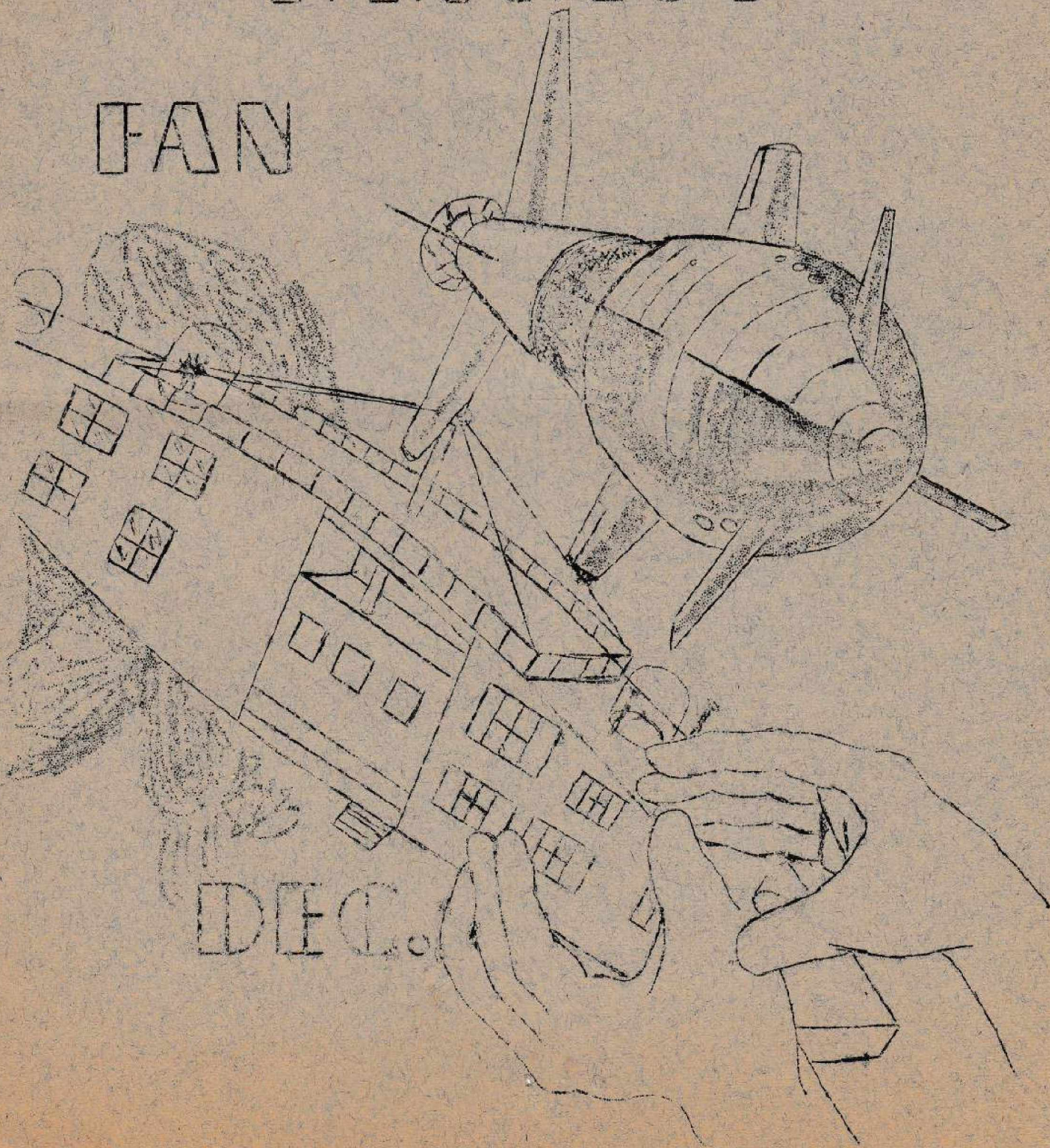


The  
"NATIONAL"  
FANTASY

FAN



DEC.



The front cover symbolizes the speculative spirit of man and its limitations. The odd little vessel in the lower left of the cover was first conceived by the Frenchman Albert Robida in 1882 as the space ship to reach the moon. The other is a standard, almost trite, concept of that same species of ship a la 1954.



# TNFF

the national fantasy fan

DECEMBER, 1954

Volume 13 Number 5

EDITOR: Donald Susan

PUBLISHER: Gary  
Labowitz

MAILER: Stuart Hoff-  
man  
Box 13  
Black Earth,  
Wisconsin.

## EDITORIAL:

This issue is a-  
gain edited by your  
president; I hope that  
it shows that I have  
been constructively in-

spired by the fine example of both John Magaus and Merrill Mal-  
kerson. As editor I may have taken unfair advantage of Orville  
Mosher in refuting his claims, etc. I trust though, that any pi-  
ty to be given him, however justified, will not override the  
logic of the arguments presented. And if I have been excessive,  
I apologize tho such excess was the product of my passion for a  
better NFFF ..or at least no worse. ... Donald Susan

COVER and headings conceived and executed by Donald Susan

TNFF is published bi- monthly and/or at convenient intervals by  
the National Fantasy Fan Federation, an organization for advan-  
cement of science-fiction, fantasy, and related fields and also  
their devotees.

This issue is dedicated to all the officials who have worked both  
patiently and passionately for the betterment of NFFF. They may  
justifiably feel proud of themselves.

Deadline for manuscripts, and reports, for the January issue of  
TNFF is two weeks after receipt of this issue:

All material, letters, etc go to.....

Donald Susan  
706 Grant Street  
Mc Keesport, Penn.

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# TREASURER'S REPORT

BY  
MARION MALLINGER

First of all, I should like to clear up something. The Treasurer's report is usually quite hurriedly demanded of me...and often the figures are totaled up by your president who usually has to garner the material for TNFF. Counting up the loose change, I find he can't add too well. Consequently the total of sums received and amounts spent has been run up on an adding machine: it coincides with the cash on hand but not with the previously listed total amount. A new member, a Mr. Ismad, wrote me telling my total was wrong (the previously published one) and inclosed his calculations. However, they were wrong also! Cybernetic computers, anyone?

Thanks to our check for the Convention tables not getting into proper hands by convention time, \$7.00 was again charged us for the table. The check sent has not been cashed and thus NFFF will have seven dollars coming that is not yet listed. It was taken out of money received at the con.

All in all, expenses are a little close..but not as much as in previous years. The new financial policy has done NFFF a great deal of good. I must thank Merrill Malkerson for his fine issue of TNFF, which doubtlessly helped gain new members for NFFF, and all those people who helped at the NFFF table and the NFFFcon.

\$ 32.46	Corrected Balance from last report in TNFF.
/ <u>8.20</u>	Sum rec'd from Sec'y, Janie Lamb (Sept.8)
\$ 40.66	Balance
/ <u>20.80</u>	Sum from the convention (\$7. more yet to come).
\$ 61.46	Balance
- <u>10.07</u>	Postage money for August TNFF.
\$ 51.39	Balance
- <u>7.00</u>	Paid for NFFF Convention Table.
\$ 44.39	Balance
- <u>1.25</u>	Paid to Bill Venable for stencils and postage on NFFF SERVICES HANDBOOK.
\$ 43.14	TOTAL BALANCE
- <u>17.60</u>	Sum reserved for 1954 expenses.
\$ 25.54	EFFECTIVE BALANCE



PROBLEMS.  
PROGRESS.  
PLATFORMS.  
AND  
POLL.



# LIST OF NFFF PRESIDENTS

COMPILED BY EVA FIRESTONE,  
NFFF Historian

- 1941: Louis Russell Chauvenet  
1942: E. Everett Evans (Evans called into service: thus Al  
Ashley became acting president.)  
1943: E. Everett Evans (Acting president: Al Ashley)  
1944: E. Everett Evans  
1945: E. Everett Evans (for a time Wilson Tucker was acting  
president.)  
1946: Walter Dunkelberger  
1947: Arthur L. Widner  
1948: Dale Tarr  
1949: Dale Tarr  
1950: Rick Sneary  
1951: Rick Sneary  
1952: K. Martin Carlson  
1953: Bill Venable  
1954: Donald Susan

WELL?

Well, or well? The idea has been simmer-  
ing in my mind that it would be nice if  
TNFF turned litho. Now it is possible  
that this could be achieved. If you can  
have a 30 page, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 litho'd bi-monthly TNFF, would you  
be willing to also pay dues of \$2.00 a year with all other ben-  
efits such as checklists, etc. still standard. The litho process  
would be infinitely superior in reading quality and appearance.  
Also less time would be consumed in preparation. ...D.S.



# NFFF PRESIDENT:

BEING A GENERAL REPORT AND BARING OF SOUL BY

Donald Susan,  
NFFF President.

I always read my mail as soon as I get it.

At times, though, when I should be writing letters in reply I think to myself: "God, can't I leave it go and relax a little? Here's the latest ASF or there's that new book on statistical decisions by Bross." But half an hour later, at the most, I'm back at the typer writing NFFF officials.

But even though NFFF scurs my internal disposition sometimes, looking backward at NFFF, I'm beginning to be pleased with present prospedts. I'm far from satisfied with things as they are, yet, all in all, things are better than they were last year or even a few years earlier. In fact, members that NFFF lost during that period are now rejoining!

But I face this election with horror.

Why? Well, if I lost this election, I might get a little rest ...yet I could feel that I had not yet done the job that must be completed before NFFF gets onto a really even keel. And, worse yet, I'm positive that my opponent, Orville Mosher, could do the job... NOT AT ALL the way it must be done.

Now I ran for the presidency last year in order to continue the plans which Bill Venable had started to give efficiency and.. real co-ordination to NFFF. Now his plans were just a general adaption of ideas from both business and army; techniques that WORKED or else our country would have collapsed. It was a really fine plan and new to NFFF's sagging system. It was not all there was to renovating NFFF ...because a plan doesn't get into operation just by being thought about. People must learn the plan, the deadwood must be removed from office, and criticism accepted, digested and/or rejected. But, finally, most of this has been done and, best of all, are understood by me as general principles, adaptable to any situation, in a way that I can work them into detail. When I get this done and then prepare the system for others to maintain knowingly, I can rest and know that NFFF will never fall into the sad straits it has before.

And thus I'm rather disgusted with Orville Mosher as a presidential candidate. (Not as a person; I've met him and found him a likeable fellow.) He's been in NFFF for years and not yet held a post in NFFF. He figures because he has studied local fanclubs he need not study NFFF. (NFFF is an organization unique in fandom in distribution of members and function.) Instead of stating his intention to run for president quite early so that he might have gotten preparation for his task, he kept silent and volunteered for no posts even while NFFF was crying for volunteers. Now he wants to be president because he states he has ideas.



THE PRESIDENT: a resumé. and platform// 2 //

So what? I have ideas also...ones that I still have yet to put into action. Not only must one have ideas but one must know HOW and WHEN to use them. From his recent rash of pronouncements it would seem that he's great for creating committees. However, he doesn't know what to do with them after he's created them. In short, he threatens to revive the old rigamarole that ruined N3F by lack of coordination. Change for change's sake and confuse all ... He want's NFFF to fly before it learns to walk without staggering. And when all is confusion: NFFF will get the blackened name, not him.

Let's examine where he goes astray in the ideas he mentions to you:

He claims the dues raise was a mistake. This such an obvious error on his part that I am frankly amazed at his brashness and lack of insight. In 1953, we were spending money that some members had paid for their dues in 1954! WHY? Because in 1952, NFFF had spent money that was paid for dues in 1953! And we had to spend the money we did. No one can claim those years were prodigious in production of anything except headaches. Expenses were at rock bottom level. And TNFF went down to a small report sheet so boring that many did not renew. For once NFFF has a chance to save the dues for 1955 and spend it only in 1955. The dues of you new members will be safe.

Also Mosher claims I should have raised the dues to TWO dollars, if at all. WOULD YOU HAVE VOTED FOR A RAISE OF DUES TO \$2.00? I doubt it. And since the Sec'y returned the money for more to be sent, would the sum have much mattered if the dues were not what they expected. Most people are loathe to send money after they've received it back again. In any case, I'm not much concerned: for I want NFF to be run WELL..not have a large and dissatisfied membership. Every disgruntled NFFF member we gain is bad publicity for NFFF.

Now concerning Mosher's promises: Frankly I do not care to give you a step by step account of what NFFFer's do. If you want it, you'll pay for it by having things bogged down. The workers in NFFF are too busy to be newspaper reporters. Would you like to itemize what you're doing when what you're doing is taking all your time? Most of the people quitting NFFF expressed boredom at such reports. You know where and for what NFFF's money is going? IF you're using NFFF services, you know as I do that they're active. If you don't use them, of what interest are they to you? I WANT TO TELLYOU WHAT NFFF is doing..but IN AN ORDERLY WAY SO that you can see HOW NFFF works. The NFFF PROCEDURE HANDBOOK, now in preparation, will do that.

As to a wider voice in the club for the members, I have put forth amendment changes and collection posts for your complaints and suggestions. These will remain effectively functional regardless of NFFF's size. Thus I have tried to provide for



THE PRESIDENT: A resumé and platform // 3 //

both present and the future. As for offering new posts, I have done so this year and will continue to do so next year if elected. However, I will not create posts without a function or duplicating something already done by another post.

AS TO MOSHER'S "NEW" IDEAS:

The SUGGESTION BOX is not limited to a small group of people as is Mosher's Ideas Committee. Thus the committee is a clumsy revision of a present service. In practice, it is to be found that an idea is best modified by the directors and other officers that have to put it into operation thus more than negating the value of a clumsy committee.

His notification committee is best subdivided as to WHAT demands notification. This saves TIME AND POSTAGE. In practice, committees use up too much time in the mails to do things speedily and speed is of the essence in notification. Mosher would have the president notify the committee head to notify a committee member to notify a few post holders. Speedy, eh?

The Fan News Agency is a fine idea. It's a shame Mosher didn't originate it though implicitly you are lead to believe he did. No, Bill Venable in his schemes for FWF and FVE thought of it first... and Mosher, who was in these, got the idea thereby. However, in all events, this feature of NFFF is being incorporated in a series of posts, called Regional Agents, who will help the Secretary in her more-or-less unofficial but necessary work. Again Mosher has been anticipated.

As to publicity: one phase of that, reviews of TNFF and its features, has brought a better reputation to NFFF. But it is best not to publicize NFFF in too rah-rah a fashion until we can assuredly live up to it. AND have readily demonstrable proof that we have and will be a vital organization...instead of the dying thing it once was.

No, I feel that Mosher had best get experience in NFFF before he starts changing things and breeding confusion. I must confess I am amazed by his conceit in desiring to make changes when he is so obviously ignorant of NFFF. Moreover, there are many others in NFFF with more NFFF experience than he and with more experience in directing and managing various enterprises. All he has to his credit is that he has garnered information about local fanclubs and... put them into a notably confused list of clubs. As one member put it: he has achieved quite a stir without having achieved much of anything. Various officials, past and present (who I shall not name to avoid their receiving his possible enmity) have volunteered similar views.

...DONALD SUSAN



# PROJECTS

By the time you read this, FANSPEAK and the NFFF SERVICES HANDBOOK should be published. The first explains the jargon and abbreviations of fandom; the second tells you HOW to use NFFF's services, a pamphlet for complete and easy reference.

ASTOUNDING STORY KEY is in preparation as is FANTASY PSEUDONYMS, a list of author's and artist's pen-names.

The Collector's checklist is being published section by section and should see completion early next year.

A Checklist of all SF and fantasy mags in English should appear late next year. It will be restricted to the more definitely weird and fantastic than the Brad Day Index and yet include items totally missed by Day, not even mentioned by him as existing. It will be in an easy to read format and contain space additions up to the year 1957.

Following that will be a checklist of all SF and Fantasy that has appeared in non-English tongues in magazine form. All people who have data on such please write: Donald Susan  
All will receive credits for 706 Grant Street  
their help. McKeesport, Penn., U.S.A.

\*\*\*\*\*

NFFF is starting a giant campaign to construct a quasi-symposium on THE VALUE OF IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE. This includes fantasy and SF and should not be restricted to avid fans. I want criticisms.. as to what it lacks and should not indulge in...just as much as a consideration of how it benefits. I want everyone's opinion; if.. you prefer, your name need be mentioned ever...but I want your view: WRITE...

Donald Susan  
706 Grant Street  
McKeesport, Penn., U.S.A.

---

## ORVILLE SAYS:

[Note: wherever , Sic..ed, occurs this indicates that a error in spelling has occurred but is not the fault of the typist ...but rather of the author.]

The last few years of the National Fantasy Fan Federation have seen it sinking in popularity and membership. Yet it is nearly as active as it ever was, and perhaps in some circumstances, even more active. IT ISN'T SO MUCH THAT THE MEMBERS HAVE LOST INTEREST IN THE CLUB, AS MUCH AS LOST TOUCH.

Yes, we seem to have lost touch with our membership. About the only time you know the NFF is around is when someone is running for an office. Nuts! Things have even got (Siv..ed;grammar) so dull that I haven't seen a write-up in the last year telling



ORVILLE SAYS: a platform// 2

what's wrong with the NFFF. [A "error" on Orville's part: The May, 1954 POSTIE, a part-time organ of NFFF, was essentially devoted to this...ed] When things get dull something must be wrong!

Those who work on the committees and the officers do see plenty of work and are doing an excellent job. The reader of the THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN (sic..ed) who does not work on these committees is missing something in the way of real activity; but he doesn't know that or the fact that committee work is going on--- oh sure, he may see an occasional mention, but that's all.

Many fans do not feel like taking the responsibility (sic..ed) or have the interest in some of the larger jobs. The outlet of activity is somewhat restricted to a few committees. The individual jobs are fairly well-taken.

Fresh ideas have a habit (sic..ed) of being passed around among (sic..ed) a few of the members, but seldom see print in the TNFF.

If I am elected President of the N3F, I will see to it that the membership will have a step by step account of what is going on in the N3F, that the membership will have a wider voice in the organization, and that a wider variety of jobs will be offered.

If I am not elected, I shall still work toward those aims.

My platform will include the formation of an ideas committee, a notification bureau, a fan news agency, and a number of improvement ideas.

All of these have been worked out and set to paper, but I will give you a brief description:

Ideas Committee: A group of volunteer N3F'ers who will offer ideas on anything concerning NFFF.

Notification Bureau: This would have several functions. A fan decides he may run for an office at election time, so writes a member of the bureau. A month or so before elections, the fan is reminded to send in his name to a certain address so it could be filed and to send his nomination speech to be published----- the addresses in each case would be given. Or, someone would like to write an article for the TNFF or MSS Bureau and would like to be reminded to do so before the deadline (in the case of the TNFF). Or, the president or one of the officers wish to contact several persons with a short personal message and a standard message for all. As you can see, a lot of the work can be spread out more, it will encourage more contacts, and improve the workings of the N3F a great deal.

The Fan News Agency: The main job here would be to collect news from fandom and distribute it in the TNFF and through other sources. It would also be a collecting station of information from various committees and officers. It would be very similar to a newspaper in that its members would do the job of reporting and writing stories. The OE would have control over this group although he may appoint an assistant editor.



## ORVILLE SAYS: A Platform// 3

Under ideas of improvement, I have already worked out an idea to save much of the paper work required in making out reports by individual committee members, and have notified the proper persons. [That is, all save the Suggestion Box or the President...ed] A publicity campaign is mapped (sic..ed) out and on paper-- this will, no doubt, see publication under the by-lines of Mosher and Stan Woolston. The MSS. Bureau has already seen adaptation of one of my suggestions, and in the near future I hope to see the acceptance of another.

I have many other ideas. Some of my ideas come from my work on PROJECT FAN CLUB and Fanclub Counselor. But many are original and have yet to be tested.

My work as N3F Fanclub Advisor has nothing to do with the running of the NFFF itself. My services have been offered to every SF organization and to those who wish to start one. I have not been contacted for advice by the NFFF itself and have had little to do with its policies. Having made a four year study of all types pf SF clubs and organizations, I feel that I could be of benefit to the NFFF if I had direct and up-to-date information at my fingertips. By now, Don Knows that the raise in dues was a bad mistake. The TNFF which is the biggest expense headache could have been made much smaller in the number of pages [except in the election issue..ed] in number of pages--it would have answered the problem of lack of material [Reducing the number of pages would actually restricted the amount of interesting material; Geis's PSYCHOTIC shows this quite definitively...ed] as well as promptness in delivery to some extent. And a shorter Q-Q would have been acceptable to the membership. Even if it was necessary to raise the dues, the dues should have been two dollars instead of that odd cents arrangement of \$1.60. Janie Lamb told me herself that she returned the one dallar (sic..ed) bill with the notice of the change of dues, yet no one has returned the buck with the 60 cents to gain their membership (my reference is to those few fen who sent in bucks after the membership price went up.). It is not psychologically wise to send loose change in the mails. [This criticism leveled at your president is most galling of all...since he has had quite a great deal of experience in selling and buying via the mail and dealing with groups and certainly more professional training in psychology than Mosher. It was psychologically unwise to return the dollar WITH the notice of dues raise. And a higher dues rate would probably not have passed membership vote.] I was well aware of this fact [which does not apply to people that send checks,etc...ed] and had learned of it before it was too late. I might have been able to do something about it.

I have in doubt about campaigning (sic...ed) for President of the NFFF. While I would like the job and feel that I could improve the activities of the NFFF, I believe that vDonald Susan would be just as good. Due to the snafu connected with the coming (sic..ed) election, it looks like their (sic..ed) is only one Director (Stan



ORVILLE SPEAKS: //4//

Woolston running for office if you read your last THFF. I thought that perhaps it would be better for all concerned for me to switch to a Directship in an effort (sic..ed) to fill out the other offices; however, I have word from several sources that at this last moment others are now competing for offices.

A good deal can be said in favor of Don Susan. I had some trouble deciding if I should run under the circumstances I outlined, so decided to talk it over. I shall quote from letters I have received:

Stan Woolston:

"You or Don preferred by me? I think you'd make a good prez; hope you run (not walk)...You are an active type fan, can dig for set ails, and are not afraid to use initiative. I think you will be less apt to do things that will rile others --- and still not be a soft prez. On side of retention of Don is that he knows job and his second year will prob ably be b etter than first (unless unexpected snafus occur.)"

R. Terry Beals:

"Dear Orville:

"At last I recovered! After the death of the stf organization here, I fell into a great lethargy. As of three days ago I have recovered. (sic..ed) After seeing the August National Fantasy Fan, I think I shall run for president of the N3F. My work is slacking off in the University this fall and thus I shall have time to give to the N3F.

"I see on page 19 of the aforementioned publication that you are in the race for president. You have a VERY GOOD chance of getting the said position. I wish you all the luck in the world; however, I shall give you a run.

"If I win I shall seek your aid as one of my most trusted advisors. You probably know as much as anyone of the operation (sic..ed) of the N3F. [Disputable...D.S.]

"As you know, I can do a fair bit of work. If-- or should I say when -- you win as president of the N3F. (sic..ed) I shall place at your disposal my time and energy in whatever job you find for me. After all, it is for the N3F.

"ONCE AGAIN I WANT TO WISH YOU THE BEST LUCK AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION.

Yours truly,

R. Terry Beals"

Er, even if I say so myself, vote for Orville Mosher for President of the N3F.

...ORVILLE W. MOSHER III

~~~~~

SUPERMANCON SOUVENIR, PROGRAM & COMBOZINE booklets for 50 cents each. Send to: Orville W. Mosher III, 1728 Newfair, Emporia, Kansas.



# R. TERRY BEALS:

HEREIN MR. BEALS PRESENTS HIS PLANNING

[But, at this point, where various candidates will present themselves for your approval as NFFF directors, it is probably best to note that certain candidates have expressed preference for certain duties as directors. Now one actually only votes for a candidate as A director, the actual duties are assigned and apportioned by the relative merits and conveniences of certain directors. For example, a printer would probably get stuck with the Supplies Directorate even if he was as noted a letter hock as the man who was decided upon as Public Relations Director. (Or woman, for, indeed, women in NFFF have played a very active, important, and praise-worthy part in NFFF.) In these cases, the assigning of duties depends upon interest, time, & a host of factors .....D.S.]

## FANDOM AWAKEN!

Yes awaken, for quite some time fandom in general and NFFF in particular has been suffering from lethargy and inefficiency. (sic... ed.)

The NFFF is one of the better science fiction organizations in the nation but it can be best. The movement for efficient organization has been progressing for some time under the able organization of our present president.

However, it is not up to the president to do the whole job. The directorate must do a great deal of work. They must first work to carry out the president's program; second, they must improve their own departments; and third, they must work in co-operation with other members of the directorate.

On the first point, we must at all time work for the advancement of the president's program. If the person disagrees with the president on his program, he should run for the post in the next election. [Note, however, that if a director disagrees with the president and so does a few others, the president's program can be nullified by directorate vote. ...D.S.] This, however, does not mean that disagreement is not good for an organization. It is, but too much will destroy the NFFF.

The second point is, no doubt, one of the great problems of the NFFF. Organization is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Too many departments organize without use. [Note, a department that is little used may only be used a minority...which, however, may regard that department as the main reason for liking NFFF. So long as a department exerts no strain on NFFF and a few are happy with a department...it should be retained....D.S.]

The last problem is the least important of the three, but a problem none the less. The directorate should act as a whole. No department of the directorate in reality is an individual apart from the whole. All departments should work in close tie with each other.



R.TERRY BEALS: // 2 //

With the above facts in mind, I shall run for an office in the directorate. I shall try to follow all three of the above responsibilities. I have a knowledge of public relations, organization, and publication which will prove of value in the directorate.

I shall work for the advancement of NFFT through my office in the directorate. However, I can't do the job by myself. I NEED YOU! I need your vote; and your support, if I am elected.

Yours for the advancement of NFFT,

R. Terry Beals "

JIM WHITE :

"I'd like to announce officially my intention to run for the Membership Services directorate for the year 1955. At present (as a memory refresher only) I'm Manuscript Bureau head and Round Robin Writer's head, and since the latter part of August have held down the job of Membership Services Director -- all offices, you will notice, in the same directorate. These duties have been performed, with no complaints from any quarter that I have heard of. Therefore, I believe I am qualified for the office.

"As an added reference, I will quote a postcard from Donald Susan:

'Dear Jim:

'I want you for Membership Services Director next year...so IF YOU WILL, please send a platform notice saying that you're running and what you've done, and what posts you hold, and that I'm for you as director. AND I AM. You're TOP-RATE. And that Gary Labowitz that you got into NFFT is really live-wire, too. Send your platform to Honey Wood; she's collecting all platforms for publication.

'I trust you got that pack of mss. for the Bu.

That's it. Don

.....  
..... And that sums up the platforms received, but not the  
..... list of those who are running for the directorate. A  
..... complete list will appear on the ballot. I wish to  
point out that in my experience with these people as President  
I favor: Stan Woolston, Jim White, Ralph Holland, and Gary Labowitz.  
These people I KNOW and APPROVE. Due to the fact that I'm  
happy to have Orville as a PR director, tho not as a NFFT pres.  
yet, I nominate Orville as a director. ///This means that you  
may vote for him both as president and director if you like. If  
he wins both posts though, he must resign from one since he can  
not HOLD both posts (Cf. Constitution). If resign from the one  
post just after the race, the man with the next most votes can  
become the active director if Orville has won that post....D.S.



# IN GENERAL

AN ARTICLE SECTION AND WHAT NOT ELSE

..... CELESTIAL BLUES by Joe Gibson

..... Coming issues will feature: a couplet of articles relevant to quasi-pro endeavors, the continuation of the Midwestcon report, a Frisco report, etc.

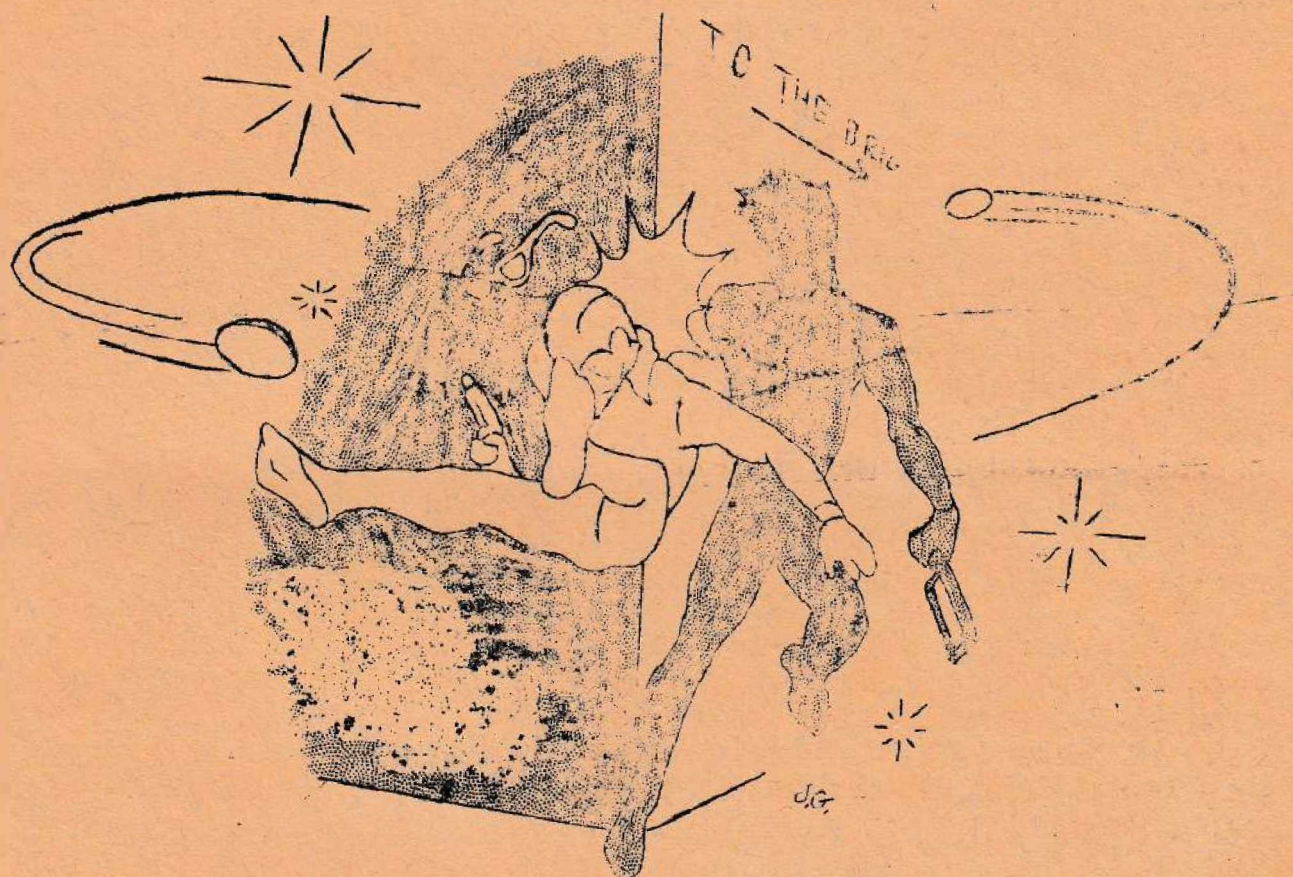
..... Due to the shifting of the Official Editorship, no letters have been sent in for publication...and thus NEFForum, our letter section has been missing. This cannot go on like this...SO..if you want a letter published in TNFF, send it to: Donald Susan, 706 Grant Street, McKeesport, Penn. Even missives with some rational complaint about Donald Susan will be accepted. Time bombs and guided missiles, however, will be viewed with a decidedly jaundiced eye. Please MARK the letter as one you desire for publication. Publication of same will adjudged as to general membership interest in the letter.

..... A symposium styled article section in TNFF is being initiated. The subject will be THE VALUE OF SPECULATIVE FICTION. We want to know WHY one should read SF and/or fantasy or why one should not. We want this discussed by fans and pro's, by "nors", i.e., non-fans, by any one acquainted with it. Letters need NOT be signed or named, etc. will be withheld if requested. Is there a value to SF and/or fantasy beyond enjoyment? Send letters to: Donald Susan, 706 Grant St., McKeesport, Penn.

..... We should like to gather together information on how to collect books and KEEP them. What about taping, mildew, dust, warping of cellophane d/w's, what to use to tape cellophane covers onto books, how to avoid the "leaking" of adhesive from tape, etc. Credits will be given for information received. Send information to: Donald Susan, 706 Grant Street, McKeesport, Penn.



JOE GIBSON:

CELESTIAL  
BLUES

"Science fiction... is my addiction...da-da lumme-dum-dee...  
dummy-lummy-tum-tah..."

Wish t'hell I could forget that damned thing!

Awell...the SS PENDULUM is skimmin' through the stars like a  
fingernail lost in the mimeo ink, and I am left to glumly review my  
sinful past...

(Skree-skronk! Whup---need a drop of oil there.)

But it was at that Crater Jumpers' convention at the MorrisSun  
(awright, you do better) that they caught me. The PENDULUM and her  
venerable skipper, Mr. William, arrived at Chicagoport with her cargo  
sold out, so she was merely chartering new subs, shanghaiing new  
crewmembers, and looking for Gibson with a hard gleam in that Ven-  
erable eye. Seems the Chief Astrogator, Mr. Gibson, had jumped ship  
back in Hoboken (uncharted) just after having delivered some rather



curt but constructively intended criticism. Needless to say, the skipper was a bit cool...

(Kronk-skree! Hmhmhm. Cheap oil.)

But what happened in Hoboken was a sort of spur-of-the-moment thing. I'd signed on as guide with the Willis safari, threw some old manuscripts into a suitcase, and headed West through some perilous adventures which you may read elsewhere if I know Walt Willis. The upshot was that I hit Chicagoport a day or so before the PENDULUM set down, turned Willis over to Hoffman, and vanished into the dim alleys and murky passages where one finds editors. Then I had to spend three nites apologizing to Southern fandom for turning Willis over to Hoffman---'twas the last anyone saw of the lad...

But he looked happy.

(Twang! Ah---now, the next one...)

One really intriguing thing came up during that clambake, tho. I mean, aside from all those cute young things I saw bouncing around the place. And most of the fen who attended probably don't know any more about this than those who couldn't attend! -- this intriguing thing, I mean...

(Wait'll I put some more oil on this file. Awf'ly quiet in this part of the ship.)

One item on the program was a debate between Willy Ley and Ray Palmer concerning "What are the Flying Saucers?" It turned out to be quite an interesting affair, as might be expected, but there was one important factor that even Sam Moskowitz overlooked. Some weeks before, an Army scientist had created certain atmospheric conditions inside a bell jar.

Now, he didn't create an "inversion layer" of warm air and shine lights on it to prove the reflection theory. Instead, he squirted some highly-charged, ionized particles into the bell-jar the electronic flow between thermal air-layers took effect, and the particles suddenly became glowing discs and globes of fire that went jumping around inside the bell-jar! In short, he successfully created his own "flying saucers!"

My recollection is a bit hazy, what with one thing and another, and I don't recall just where I buttonholed Willy Ley after that debate--- he's not only a wonderful guy, but he's nice to characters like me. 'Twas either in the cafeteria across the street (where you should've eaten, if you were there) or an open-all-night up in the pent-house where I shared an easy-chair with the sweetest lil' blond this side of Where All Good Blondes Go. Anyway, we talked about flying saucers.

And someone mentioned to Mr. Ley, in a sort of off-hand remark, something which jangled bells in the technical department. Of course it's indefinite. If anything comes of it, we'll hear about in GALAXY. The key word is "condensation."

But this peculiar phenomenon of ionized particles forming disc-shapes and what-not seems a highly probable answer. For one thing, storms exploding on the sun's surface occasionally send spurts of highly charged particles hurtling into space, during the sunspot



cycles, it shines up Earth's aurora borealis and plays merry hell with our electronic equipment. Now, if some phenomenon occurs in Earth's magnetic field that forms these particles into discs, that solar bombardment of particles could account for the earlier, rare sightings of saucers throughout history.

But since '45, we've been seeing saucers all over the place! Well-l-l-l, it just so happens that an atomic blast releases a considerable dose of highly charged particles, ions, into our atmosphere...

And there's another thing, too. Astronomers have reported time and again that they thought they saw "dancing lights" moving around in lunar craters. Now, unhampered sunlight blazing down on the Moon's surface dust---and within the rings of those craters, a thin ghost of atmosphere, an ionosphere, would be trapped...

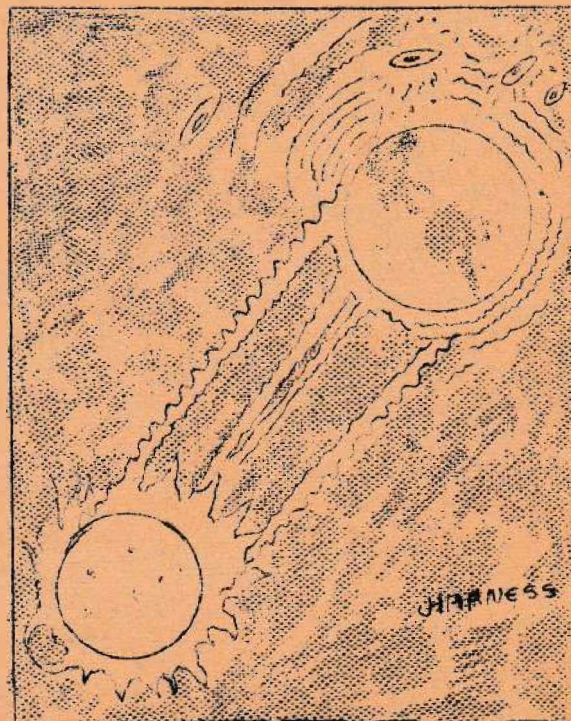
If charged particles could be caught in a sort of magnetic vortex to form a disc, it might well assume a reflective, solid-looking outer surface. It would bounce radar signals---highly charged thunderheads bounce radar, too. It would probably have various stages of development during which it built up its charge. At some stages, it might well approach a metallic object, such as an airliner, and ease up to a wingtip. The wingtip, as a protruding point, makes an effective magnetic pole; the plane's magnetic deflectors are mounted at the wingtips, too. In a more advanced stage, the saucer would probably do every trick possible to keep as far away as possible from any metallic object --- like charges repel! A plane plowing through air friction builds up quite a charge, too...

(Kree-e-e---damn! Ellison stomping past along the corridor out there, too. Wait'll he's past...)

But there are a couple or three interesting sidelights to this. Ray Palmer mentioned in the debate that these might be some form of living creature that inhabited our stratosphere. Be darned intriguing if they were! They'd be an electromagnetic life-form, made up of energy patterns and feeding on charged particles, rather than an organic life-form...and with an increased supply of particle-food, the li'l devils have started multiplying---hmmmm?

As for the technical end of it, this may be just the phenomenon in nature that could give us a starting point for some serious research on force-fields! That's the way with some of our inventions---Nature does it, but then we do it better! Consider a boulder rolling down a mountain, and the wheel.

And you've heard about force-fields.





But I have no personal objection about the way people like Willy Ley and Ray Palmer have been considering these things. In their debate, they both concluded that the saucers weren't man-made objects because they've been sighted occasionally over several hundred years, and not just recently. But they also concluded, for the same reason, that the saucers couldn't be ships of some visitors from outer space.

Now, this falls in the same category with suppositions like: (a) if these are space visitors, they must have a base somewhere on Earth, and by checking these saucer reports we could detect the paths their ships were following to and from such a base ---the Air Force is full of jokers who love to do this sort of thing, but they have had no success; saucers can't be tracked. And (b) if these are aliens from outer space, this is obviously the build-up for an invasion, and our Doomsday is here, and the authorities won't tell us the truth, and we're all gonna die, etc., etc., etc., etc.

I do wish you Earthmen would stop judging others by yourselves. Tch tch. (And "What is JOE GIBSON?")

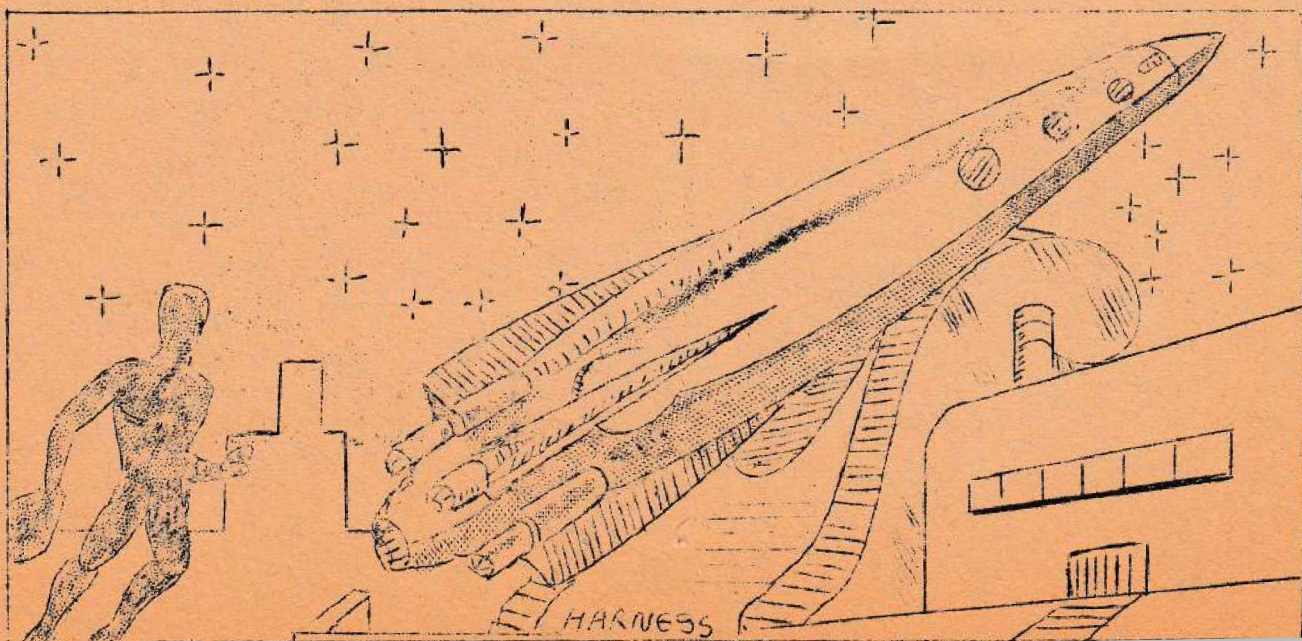
(Twing! Ah---finished. And Ellison is at the other end of the corridor. Everything's set. Now, if I can just b-e-n-d these bars back and s-q-u-e-e-z-e out...)

But the title of this nonsense doesn't mean I dote on platters, even if CELESTIAL BLUES is one of Woody Herman's recent mostest. It makes me dream of Bea Venable, for some reason---probably because it puts new rhythm in a beautiful tune from 'way back when I was young ---But if you would dissertate on things musical, contact the skipper. William is the only guy in the galaxy, so far as I know, who specifies 88 push-buttons on his control-bank; while my musical tastes, if you could call 'em that, never got past LeRoy Anderson...

(Alas, poor Harlan. I hated to do it, chum, really I did! Blazes, such a bump 'e has!

But now, to the spaceboats---

---JOE GIBSON





# REVIEWS AND NEWS

FANZINE REVIEWS

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST

LIST OF NFFF OFFICIALS



# SLANIAS

FANZINE REVIEWS

by Donald Susan

Send mags for review  
to: Donald Susan, 706  
Grant Street, McKees-  
port, Penn.

A BAS. Listed as Vol.3, No.3..but I doubt it. 18 pages of neatly mimeo'd material with a cover and heading done in multi-graph. Oddly enough, two pages are devoted to jazz music....but the major opus is a little drama that pokes fun rather tellingly at certain fans. Other points of interest are items that they cull to demonstrate weird thinking...a sort of poor man's NEW YORKER thereby. This is a pazzine; you pay what you think this mag is worth. Boyd Raeburn, 14, Lynd Avenue, Toronto 3, Ontario, CANADA.

ABSTRACT # 7. This 24 page ditto'd mag features an amusing cover and a rather interesting column by Terry Carr. The rest of it is dominated by ramblings about what the editor, Peter Vorzimer, is planning and what he and everyone else thinks about the ranking of fanmags. This current monomania rather depresses the value of a fairly good fanmag. Grennell and Boggs ARE the letter column for all practical purposes. 10 cents a copy. Peter Vorzimer, 1311 North Laurel Avenue, West Hollywood 45, California.

BLOODSHOT Subtitled "the one shot that is bloodshot". I'd say... this esoteric publication not available to you readers was all shot...except for the column wherein John Magnus, the... "instigator" of it all, reviews fanmags and tells the bitter, sad truth about their major faults...but in such a way that you have to guess whose mag he means. It's not too difficult! I'd have us reprint it except NFFF has enough trouble without libel suits. Ah, some of you fanmag editors in the audience wondering if it mentioned you?....

CHIGGER PATCH OF FANDOM #4. This 34 page mimeo'd mag features the same litho cover, a spaceship-against-the-stars opus by Jack Harness, on both back and front. Both the litho and mimeo work is fine. The contents are varied: there is good poetry by Garth Bentley and by Orma McCormick, a list of the current fanmags, a mood piece by Ed Cox (quite good), one article by ye reviewer "panning" Gold and another (by Ellison) panning... Campbell!, an article on fan politics by pro author Joe Gibson, a satire on Spillane combined with whacky fantasy (done up by Ed Cox, etc. All in all, one of the top mags. This present ish will cost you 25 cents, but later issues will cost you only 15 cents. Size will be cut down and publication stepped up. Send your money to: Bob Farnham, 204 Mountain View Drive, Dalton, Georgia.



SLANTasy: fanzine reviews//2//

DAMN # 3. This fifty page, finely mimeo'd mag is a rather strange entity. It is designed to go to both regular subscribers and to members of FAPA. Moreover, non-FAPAn subscribers sub by either sending him material and/or a letter of comment and/or trading fanzines; money will be accepted in addition to this but there is no fixed price. Consequently he calls this strange mixture of procedure a "hashzine".

This issue includes an interesting Midwestcon report on the.. 1953 con? There is weird bit of wainy by Tod Cavanaugh and true confessions style article telling how he was finally caught stealing. (No, not a birdbath...). There is a large section devoted to murmurings and analyses of underscores for movies and of non-stif hardbounds. All interesting to some tastes. Still with the system outlined, it's obviously worth a try. So write: Norman Browne, 33 Lyonsgate Drive, Wilson Heights, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA.

FAN TO SEE # 4. This 20 page mimeo'd mag has its good points despite a slightly crowded, but neat, format and dated material. Editor Touzinsky tells his readers that only one(1) more issue of FAN TO SEE will come out, one with material that is not datable...in which case it may be a definitely superior issue ....but only regular subscribers will get it! Frustrating?...

KAY-MAR TRADER # 86. This 22 page mimeo'd mag features scores of adverts of books and mags wanted, for sale, for trade. It is one of two fanmags in the States devoted to this.... and therefore, a must for all collectors. K.Martin Carlson is damning a regular article section of interest to avid readers and to collectors of fantasy and SF. One feature is a column on the BASIC FANTASY LIBRARY, with listings and notes by Robert Bloch and Ray Bradbury. Carlson will also include a Friscon report in a forthcoming issue. NFFF members get 5 issues for 25 cents....otherwise 10 cents a copy. K. Martin Carlson, 1028 Third Avenue South, Moorhead, Minnesota.

LYRIC # 3. This sixteen page bit of dittography is not what you'd guess it to be from its title. It's true that it does feature serious verse, but it's extempore madness makes it a mag in a class by itself. Though the verse is often grim, most of the illos are effectively humorous. The front cover features a really gone jam session and the back cover, an illo of how LYRIC is published. Considering Lyric I can believe it. The feature item of the issue is a comic strip style version of Robert Service's HOW MACPHERSON HELD THE FLOOR. A mag not to everyone's taste but one that MUST be tried. 10 cents a copy; 6 for 50 cents. James S. Bradley, 545 N.E. San Rafael, Portland 12, Oregon.

PSYCHOTIC # 15. This 23 page ditto'd mag has fallen down a little



SLANTasy: fanzine reviews//a//

this issue. The editorial is...well...useless, while the Harlan Ellison article on Seventh Fandom is sophomorically sentimental. However, reports on the 1984 Midwestcon by Jim Harmon and Bob Tucker quite make up for it. Editor Geis herein takes up again the reviews which he once had published in TNFF...thus...leaving you reading this driven by Donald Susan. The rest of the mag is interesting but not fantastically so. Geis hereby gives notice that PSYCHOTIC will go bi-monthly, double in size and cost 20 cents a copy. A must from Richard Geis, 2631 North Mississippi, Apt. 616, Portland 12, Oregon.

SPIRAL # 8. This 32 pages bit of mimeography has developed a rather pleasing format; clean cut, compact and not too fussy. In addition to SPIRAL's interesting columns and letter section, the editor has gotten Mari Wolf to explain how she selects and judges fanmags for her review column in IMAGINATION. Denis Moreen, the editor proves more entertaining than any other part of the mag and is so in an organized editorial section! All totaled: a sterling line-up...his own editorial, a pro with an article, a column by bitter-tongued Geis and one by vehement Claude Hall, a superior bit of fan fiction by Dennis Murphy, a sterling letter column, and a rehash by Ed Cox of a rash view by Geis. 10 cents a copy; 3 for 25 cents. Dennis Moreen, 214 Ninth Street, Wilmette, Illinois.

STARLANES # 16. This 24 page printed booklet is pleasure to see and read and might almost be disgraced by being called a fanmag; it resembles more a "little magazine". It's sub-title is "The International Quarterly of Science Fiction Poetry," although due to lack of proper material it includes some fantastic verse and the like. The editor prefers traditionally styled material in order to obviate the mass of modernist stuff she gets but does not always print. The poems trail from whimsy to deadly serious verse, and, all in all, has little but praise to be said for it. Another thing to note is that this magazine has steadily improved in quality; now it's just excellent...later?... For all poetry addicts and all who thirst for something new, I suggest sending your 40 cents for one issue or \$1.50 for a year's worth to: Orma McCormick, 1558 West Hazelhurst Street, Ferndale 20, Michigan.

TENTACLE # 6. This ditto'd and mimeo'd what-not of five pages is free to fen in the northeastern U.S. It has a letter on Dutch SF by Nic Costerban, a movie "column" by Dennis Murphy and a mish-mash. The editor says that he's going to put out a REAL fanzine soon...for only 5 cents a copy. If the editor drops his sickly-cute dialect mumblings and the like, it might become good. So?...Maurice Lubin, 14 Jones Street, Worcester, Mass.



SLANTasy: fanzine reviews////

UMBRA # 4. This 25 page ditto'd mag is rising in quality. It now seems to sloppily feature PB book reviews (or critical essays) by Noah M. [unclear] this issue on CONJURE WIFE and has an article on what horrors are sometimes found in plumbing, etc.... said article and research done by George Wetzel, the fantasiste. The mag is completed by a letter column and an even better fan mag review column. This mag is getting better. The editor WILL send you a free copy but promises nothing about the ditto work on free stuff. Otherwise: 10 cents a copy, 3 for 25 cents. From John Hitchcock, 15 Arbutus Avenue, Baltimore 28, Maryland. Australian agent: Ian J. Crozier, 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield, S.E.8, Victoria, Australia.

VARIOSO # 2. This 18 page mimeo'd mag is the latest development of "SF", John's old mag. Enjoyable whimsy has replaced the former, likewise enjoyable, serious tone. This features a 1954 Midwestern report, a serious and rather constructive editorial with some rambling, an "article" by Dean Grinnell and Bob Bloch, a column by Shelby Vick, and a letter from Grinnell. 10 cents a copy. John Magnus, Jr., 9312 Second Avenue, Silver Springs, Maryland.

## FORTHCOMING BOOKS

### ANTHOLOGIES:

GATEWAY TO THE STARS. edited by John Carnell. To be published in November. \$2.75

### NOVELS:

THE BROKEN SWORD by Poul Anderson. A never-before-published novel...expected in late October. \$2.75

### NON-FICTION:

THE IMMORTAL STORM by Sam Moskowitz. A large size volume of about 300 pages with 14 pages of photographs plus an index to the subject matter, etc. This history of science fiction fandom (over 150,000 words) will probably out when you read this. It sports a cover Frank R. Paul, the old master of SF art. \$5.00

En passant: There is no indication that there exists a hardbound version of the fairly recent release by Ballantine.. of a collection of short stories by Cyril Kornbluth.



# NEWS

Pocket Books, Inc. will issue in the Spring an anthology tentatively titled, SCIENCE FICTION TERROR TALES, edited by Groff Conklin; it will include a short novel by Chad Oliver; it appeared previously in FANTASTIC UNIVERSE.//.....// James White and Merrill Malkerson (who published the exquisitely done August issue of TNFF) will put out in January the first issue of their fanzine, RADIATION. //.....// Ballantine Books is rumored to be having trouble with the distributors handling their PB editions; Doubtless, many of you have not seen the new collection of short stories by Cyril Kornbluth recently published..... for this very same reason. One is puzzled though by their decision not to publish STAR SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS especially since it had gotten into the galley proof stage; also, one wonders why Brain Wave by Poul Anderson was not put out in hard bound form. Could it be that someone is pressuring Ballantine?//..... // The Guild of Science Fiction Recordists will publish Donald Susan's CHECKLIST OF FANTASY IN MUSIC in February. //.....// August Derleth is the proud father of a baby girl, born in August and named April! Congratulations. //.....// Harmon-Crawford Publications has plans for a science fiction magazine. One wonders if those people who never got their subscription's worth from FANTASY BOOK will see anything of it. Or is FPCI, started by Crawford, separate from this co? Did FPCI fold like Prime Press?//.....// Francois Bordes, French fan and scientist, has gotten his first novel (SF, of course) published: CEUX DE NULLE PART, under the pen-name of Francis Carsac. It's good.

## OFFICIALS:

PRESIDENT: Donald Susan, 706 Grant Street, McKeesport, Penn.

SECRETARY: Janie Lamb, Route # 1, Heiskell, Tennessee.

TREASURER: Marion Mallinger, 734 Mellon St., Pittsburgh, Penn.

OFFICIAL MAILER: Stuart Hoffman, Box 13, Black Earth, Wisconsin.

OFFICIAL EDITOR: For the present: the president. He will receive all reports for next TNFF..unless countermanded.

EDITOR-IN\*CHIEF: Gary Labowitz, 7234 Baltimore, Kansas City, Mo.

FORMAT EDITOR: Merrill Malkerson, 2301 Damuth, Oakland 2, Calif.



NFFF OFFICIALS LIST// 2 //

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SUGGESTION BOX: Marion Mallinger (see previous page: Treasurer.)

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MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: James White, 1237 North Evergreen, Angeles 63, California. Domain: Trading Bureau, MSS. Bureau, FTGB, Library, Fanzine Advisor, and Round Robin Writers.

PUBLICATIONS: Ralph Holland, 2520 Fourth Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Domain: TNFF, Postie, Editor-in-Chief, Format Editor, compilers, stencil cutters, and publishing nets: full-time and auxiliary.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Orville Mosher, 1729 Mayfair, Emporia, Kansas. Domain: Publicity committee, sponsorship committee, and overseas directors.

SUPPLIES: Stan Woolston, 12832 West Avenue, Garden Grove, California. Domain: Club supplies, office supplies, stationary and seals.

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MSS. BUREAU: James White, 1237 North Evergreen, Los Angeles 63, California.

FANZINE TITLE CLEARANCE BUREAU: Chris Gillotti, 7806 Kelly St., Pittsburgh 21, Penn. (covers with completeness titles in A, B, C, & D.)



NEFF OFFICIALS LIST // 3 //

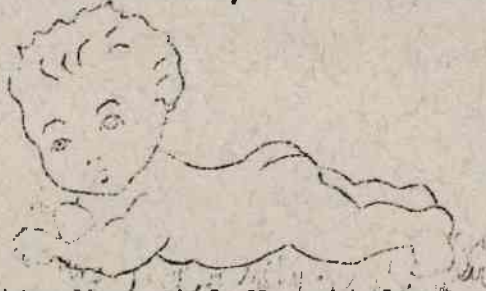
ROUND ROBIN WRITERS: Stan Woolston, 12832 West Avenue, Garden Grove, California

FANZINE ADVISOR: Tom Reamy, Box 158, McMurray Station, Abilene, Texas.

LIBRARY: Charles Ferguson, 258 Home Avenue, Graham, North Carolina.

CHECKLIST CO-ORDINATOR: Robert Troetschel, 1201 Carson Street, Pittsburgh 3, Penn.

# NEWS:

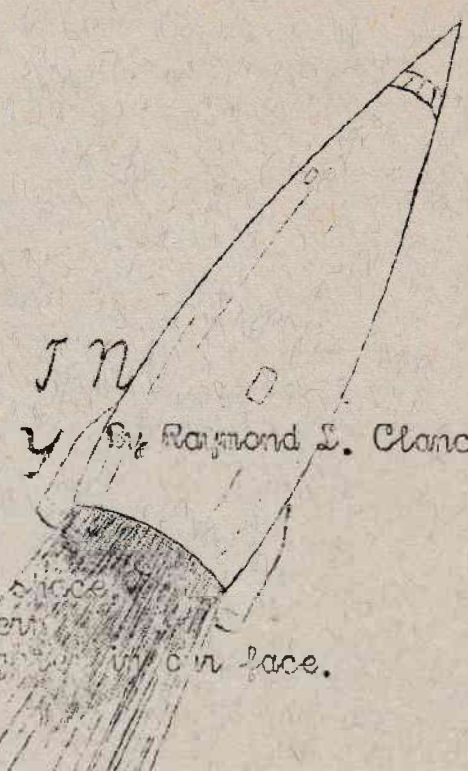


A baby girl was born to Ray C. Higgs and Carolyn H. Higgs on June 4, 1954 at Fayette Memorial Hospital, Connersville, Indiana. Baby was named Joetta Rae Higgs. // ... /// BEYOND FANTASY FICTION, H.L.Gold's counterpart to the old UNKNOWN, may fold. One of those seeking an ad in BEYOND was told this and thus this means, at best, one or two issues may come forth before they close shop. Of course, THEY MAY NOT... // ... // In Atlanta, on April 2 and 3, 1955, the "Agacon", or first Annual Southeastern SF conference, will be held. A registration fee of \$1. is announced. A fair attendance is already reasonably assured. // .. // Also the Midwestcon is being planned for June 3-5 this coming year the exact place not yet announced. // .. // THE 13th WORLD SF Con, Labor Day Weekend, is starting to shape up. The registration fee, to be mailed in advanced (please) is \$2., in keeping with the rising cost of everything else. The address is:

|                               |       |                          |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 13 th World SF Convention     | ..... |                          |
| P.O.Box 508- Edgewater Branch | ..... | Robert Troetschel and    |
| Cleveland 7, Ohio.            | ..... | Donald Susan have start- |
|                               | ..... | ed work on a file of     |
|                               |       | all SF, fantasy, etc.    |

titles, both hardbound and paperbound. Language is not a limiting factor. Foreign titles and pertinent information is especially desired. They are also starting a checklist and file of fantasy and SF films not limited by language. Interested and informed parties please write Robert Troetschel. Address: see Checklist Coordinator, page.25, above. // .. // Books published by the time you read this: ALL ABOUT THE FUTURE -ed. by Martin Greenberg ..\$3.50; GATEWAY TO THE STARS- ed. John Carnell; THE BROKEN SWORD by Poul Anderson..novel..\$2.75; UNDERSEA QUEST by Frederick Pohl and Jack Williamson..sf novel..\$2.50; OPERATION: OUTER SPACE by Murray Leinster..novel..\$3.00.





# FIRST STEP IN A LONG JOURNEY

By Raymond S. Clancy

Set us be off to see the stars  
And make the farthest hole in space,  
Lightnings playing from our stern  
And all the world's bright light in our face.

Men have bathed volcanoes,  
And the very depths of the sea,  
Over wide plains have carried their canoes,  
And in a great jungle climbed the tallest trees.

There is no need to make this great delay  
That keeps us bound to the near and glaring sun,  
When the first small shed the steaming waters  
For land, this great and noble work was well begun.



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