

PHANTASY
PRESS

Special  Edition

"MEMORY Book" series
— Number Three —



Commemorating

FAPA'S 25th
ANNIVERSARY
1937-1962

McGraw-Hill Book Co.
New York, N.Y.

PHANTASY
PRESS

Special Edition



Commemorating

1937-1992
ANNIVERSARY
FARAR'S BOOKS

July,
1962

Phantasy PRESS

Vol. 9,
No. 4

DANIEL McPHAIL
Editor

Mailing
No.
100

first issued in 1937 for the 2nd FAPA mailing

Whole
Number
37

THE ROCKET

Under this most science fictional of all titles, this publication made its initial appearance in the 2nd mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association in the fall of 1937.

That single page effort - and that first operation of my small Wards rotary duplicator was a real effort, believe me - contained only a gossip column, information concerning FAPA, and the announcement of my candidacy for office. Which, incidentally, resulted in my election as the first vice president of the new club.

Only ~~six~~ issues of The Press appeared, although I circulated other titles in early mailings. The present name was adopted with the fourth issue. While the publication was more in the form of a newspaper, it is interesting to note that I inaugurated what has become the dominant feature of all Fapazines, with the appearance of the first mailing comments in the 3rd mailing.

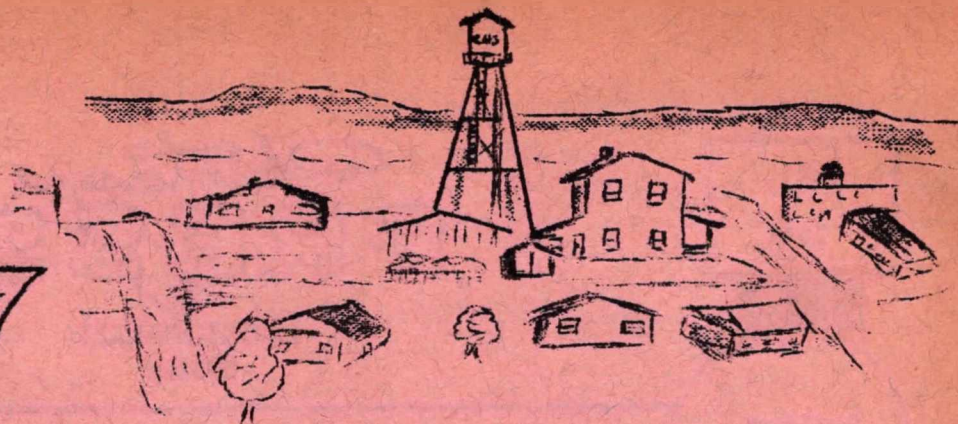
In 1940, I dropped out of FAPA and did not return until the 72nd mailing in 1955, at which time I circulated The Fantasy Chief, which I was then issuing as head of the Oklahoma fan club. The Press was resurrected in the 73rd quarter, and in the seven years since has not missed a single mailing, in addition to getting out special editions from time to time.

I regret very much that on the occasion of this 100th Mailing that "Choctaw Publications" is represented only by this small issue. I had planned an elaborate Memory Book edition, but circumstances arose that made it quite impossible to produce such a volume. Indeed, I feel lucky to be able to keep my publishing record intact, regardless of how small this issue is.

PHANTASY PRESS is issued quarterly for each mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association by Dan McPhail, from 1806 Dearborn in Lawton, Oklahoma. Production is by A.B. Dick 77 on Speed-O-Print 850 stencils & Twill-Tone paper stock. Ink is Sure-Rite 999.

It started
in

1937



IT WAS mid-summer of 1937, and the winds blew furnace-hot across the red sand hills of Comanche, Oklahoma, as day after day the temperature climbed above the hundred degree mark and adults watched their lawns and gardens wilt and shrivel. They turned anxious faces to the skies in search of rain and the mere sight of a distant thunderhead was cause for prayerful hope. Kids, in the manner of all children, made the most of their vacation time, although the mid-day sun would drive them to shade or to nap to the hypnotic song of the crickets.

FOR ALL but two of the 1704 citizens of the sleepy town, the mail train on a certain day brought nothing more unusual than the normal volume of letters, bills & circulars; but to Jack Speer and Dan McPhail it was a red letter day with the arrival of a thin manila envelope from New York City. To these pioneer fans living in this isolated frontier outpost of fandom had come the very first mailing of the infant Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

AT A postage cost of only three cents, John B. Michel had sent out bundles to the 21 charter members who had managed to scrape together 50¢ to join, and also to a number of others that he and founder Don Wollheim felt to be prospects.

SEVEN MEMBERS contributed 13 separate items totaling 42 pages to fill this first mailing. These included an AMATEUR SCIENCE REVIEW of four pages, franked by William S. Sykora, three editions of the BULLETIN of the British Interplanetary Society by Ted Carnell, a page of OBSERVATIONS by Willis Conover, the first edition of SOLAR by Jimmy Taurasi, an attractive 12-page hectographed IMAGINATIVE FICTION by John Baltadonis plus the following items by Michel & Wollheim: FAPA FAN, two editions of PHANTAGRAPH, S.F. BARD, a Ghu calendar and the FAPA Constitution.

THUS BEGAN the long history of fandom's oldest national organization; a history filled with political wars, feuds, campaigns and projects of many kinds, and through it all, quarter after quarter, year after year, for two and a half decades fans of all ages and both sexes have dreamed and planned publications of all types, have cut thousands of stencils, poured tons of ink onto and into hungry mimeographs, and cranked out enough pages to stretch a good distance to the moon. Tempers and clothes have been sacrificed on the altar of the duplicator, but the friendships made and the egoboo gained has been reward enough for the long line of fans that stretch back through the mailings to the year 1937.

1937. Nineteen hundred and thirty-seven. 25 years ago. It sounds like a long time ago, and it was. That ~~era~~ of the Thirties was another world, another generation. Those of us greybeards who were in on the first yelps of the new-born FAPA were then either teenagers or not long out of highschool. Our outlooks, even as fans of a futuristic literature, were far different than now.

POLITICALLY, the country was in the firm hands of the Democrats, Franklin Delano Roosevelt having defeated Alf Landon to gain reelection in the biggest landslide in American political history. A very popular president, he nevertheless created enemies by actions such as his attempt to "pack" the Supreme Court, and as a result, the 1937 Congress adjourned in August with only one important administrat-

ive law enacted.

TO MOST persons with a good knowledge of the international situation at this time, it was clear that war was almost certain to come, and soon, as Hitler and Mussolini assumed the major villain roles on the European stage. A passionate desire to avoid foreign entanglements led Congress to override the president and pass the Neutrality Act that forbid the U.S. to furnish money or supplies to any country at war and prohibited the sale of munitions on credit. The terms of the law thus made it impossible for us to aid democracies opposing the dictators. Despite this factor, the president did his best to strengthen our armed forces, refused to recognize the puppet state of Manchukuo, and when Japan sank an American gunboat in China, he made his demands for payment so strong to Nippon that the terms were met at once.

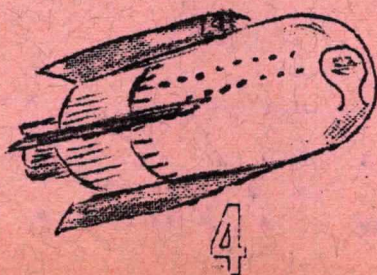
AT THIS TIME, the Age of the Automobile had not yet arrived for the American youth, and the kid with a car was the envy of all. Yet everyone seemed to manage to make it afoot, or by bumming a ride with those neighbors or relatives who had cars. And of course, trains and inter-city buses gave excellent schedules then. If you had a checkered sport coat to go with those grey flannels, you cut quite a figure dancing to the 78 rpm records of Guy Lombardo and Wayne King. The major sporting event of the year, listened to by millions on radio in this pre-TV era, was the crowning of a new heavyweight boxing king, one Joe Louis. Entertainment wise, radio's big hit was the new Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy show, while top movie was "Topper" starring Cary Grant and Constance Bennett. And - you could eat cheap then, too, what with steak being only 35¢ a pound.

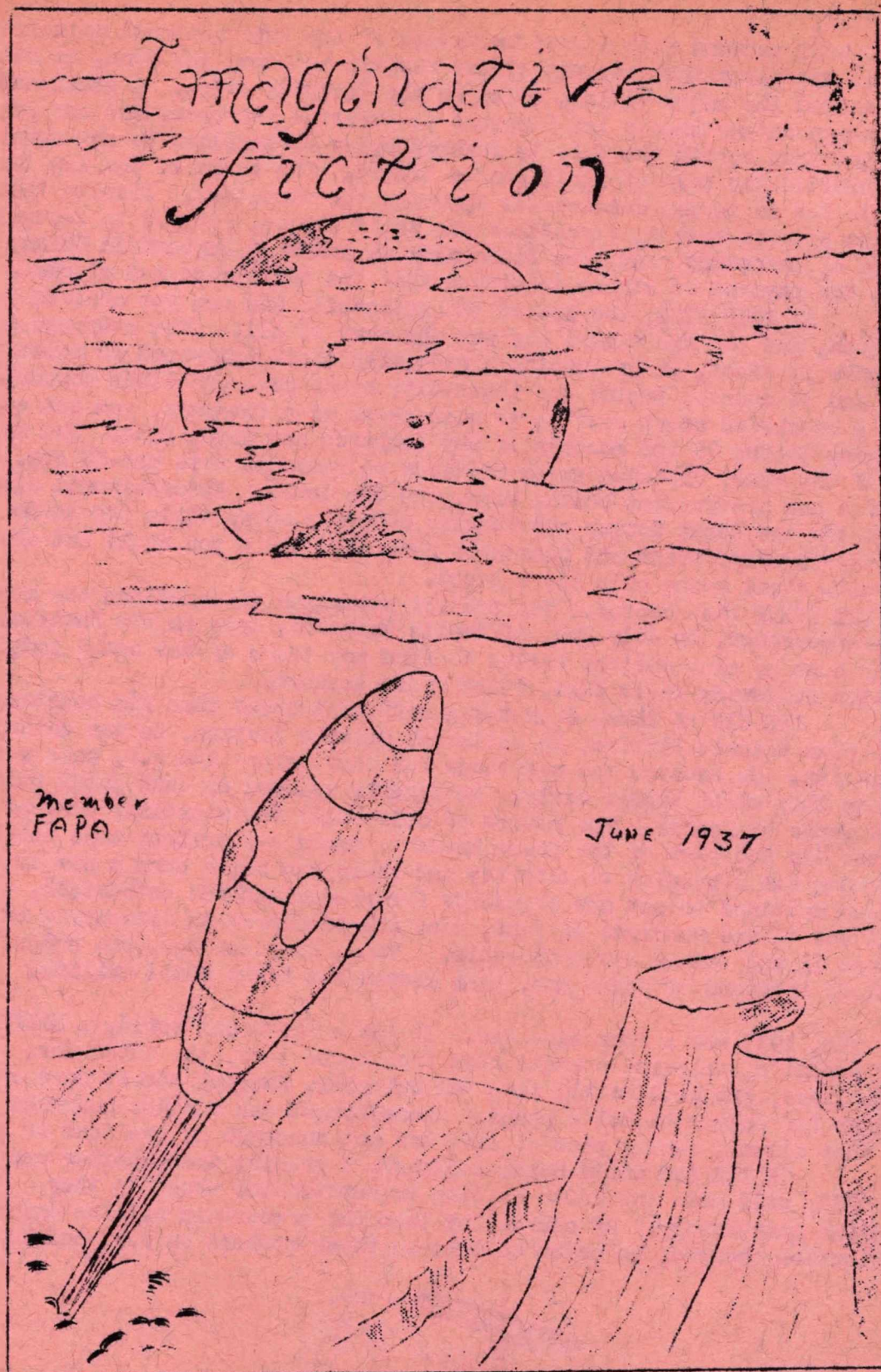
THE EVENT that captured the public's attention and emotions the most, however, was the disappearance, on July 2nd, of Amelia Earheart, deep in the Pacific. A vast sea and air hunt by many nations failed to find any trace of the noted lady pilot & her navigator following their last, faint radio message.

THE FAN of those days was a different breed than his counterpart of today. He read science fiction, he collected science fiction, he was enthusiastic and he sure had fun. He haunted the newsstands for days before the s.f. mags were due on faint chance they might appear early. He eagerly grabbed up each gaudy pulp with a breathless Sense of Wonder. For covers of bold color and startling concept were the order of the day and many of the great names among s-f writers were still in full bloom. Fandom was a beehive of activity and there was being born a new amateur journalism group destined to set new standards for production and enthusiasm, an organization that was to see hundreds of fans, many now prominent in literary & editorial fields, pass in and out of its membership. Thus, 25 years ago, one hundred mailings and countless thousand of pages ago, FAPA issued its first small mailing.

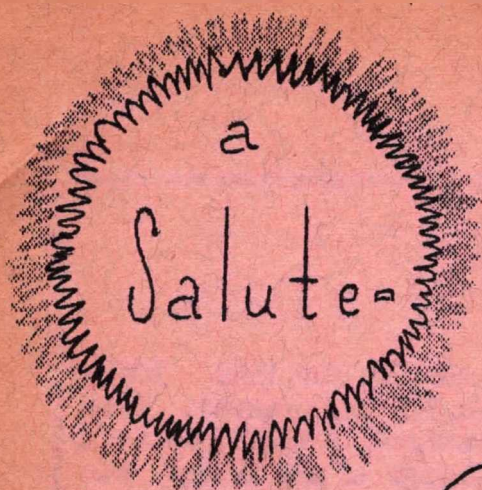
YES, 1937 was a long time ago. It was a different world, a different time then. No forest of television masts rose from house tops, the autos were of sturdy and simple lines, one could still ride the swinging, swaying street cars and trolleys, or buy sugar for only a nickel a pound. Unemployment was a major headache then, but at least that slower, easier pace of life was not shadowed by the fear of the Bomb.

IF THE old world holds together, I predict that another generation of fans, in 1987, will make the 200th Mailing an outstanding event as they celebrate FAPA's Golden Anniversary. Of course, by then the membership will be enlarged and the constitution changed, in order to take in those members on Mars and Venus.





A zine from the First mailing. This is Johnny Saltadonis' **IMAGINATIVE FICTION**. The largest item in the bundle, it numbered 12 pages, hectographed in red, green and purple.



to the
CHARTER MEMBERS
of FAPA

this is the first official membership list, dated Dec. 15, 1937:

DONALD A. WOLLHEIM
New York

JOHN V. BALTADONIS
Philadelphia

EDWARD J. CARNELL
London

H. C. KOENIG
New York

DAVID A. KYLE
New York

ROBERT W. LOWNDES
Connecticut

ROBERT A. MADLE
Philadelphia

JOHN B. MICHEL
New York

DANIEL McPHAIL
Oklahoma

SAM MOSKOWITZ
New Jersey

ALEX OSHEROFF
New Jersey

FREDERICK POHL
New York

J. M. ROSENBLUM
England

JULIUS SCHWARTZ
New York

JACK SPEER
Oklahoma

JAMES V. TAURASI
New York

ROBERT G. THOMPSON
New York

"VODOSO"
California

THOMAS WHITESIDE
Philadelphia

OLON F. WIGGINS
Colorado

RICHARD WILSON
New York

Tribute

TO FAPA...

To my regret, plans for a 40 to 50 page special edition for this 100th mailing of FAPA had to be cancelled - or at least postponed for the present. Perhaps if some of my early requests for material had been answered, I might have made an effort to produce it, but when the whole thing depended on me, I just was not able to get going, and for awhile gave up completely any hopes of being represented in this mailing.

However, others did inspire me to make with the old college try, and such was the case of our out-going president. Marion Bradley came through Lawton on her way Back East and informed me in no uncertain terms that a mailing with out Phantasy Press was unheard of, and Would Not Be Tolerated.

Then too, a few close mundane friends who, believe it or not, like to read the zine, took special pains to inspire me to Get Going. That helped, too... a little egoboo goes a long ways, you know!

The climatic point in these efforts by the Society of Friends of Dan McPhail was a late phone call on Thursday, August 2nd from Ron Parker and Sam Martinez of Tulsa. They wanted me to come up to the Oil Capitol and help 'em bang out "100 pages for the 100th." Well, as it was, I couldn't go, but it did crystalize a determination to be represented in this mailing, no matter how small. Certainly, if a person is going to miss a mailing, or drop out, the 100th is not the one to do it in.

I know that last-minute preparation has been the sad symbol of The Press but this time I approach the ridiculous, if not the impossible, as this is Saturday Aug. 4th, and in order to get to Burbee on time, this must be mailed Monday. Hence, time is of the essence. I'm starting from scratch, hoping to get a few pages out of my scattered notes, but most will be ad lib. I will set a deadline on Sunday and whatever I have at that cut-off point will be put together. Problem is my cover.

But, be it what it may, this small Memory Book is my humble tribute to the past glories of FAPA, my appreciation for the pleasures of the present and my best wishes for its future.

It was my priveledge to be a charter member of FAPA, with the added bonus of living in the same town with fellow-member Jack Speer. I can't recall if we ever wondered how long we would stay in the club, or how long it would last, but we had great enthusiasm for it and felt that FAPA was destined to become a vital part of fandom. I know we had a lot of fun.

Thinking back, I recall those names that were pen pals more than others. Ted Carnell, one of my dearest friends...a friendship that began before FAPA; Jimmy Taurasi and Morris Dollens and Jack Baltadonis and, despite conflicting opinions, Don Wollheim. He and I discussed the ayjay idea prior to his launching FAPA.

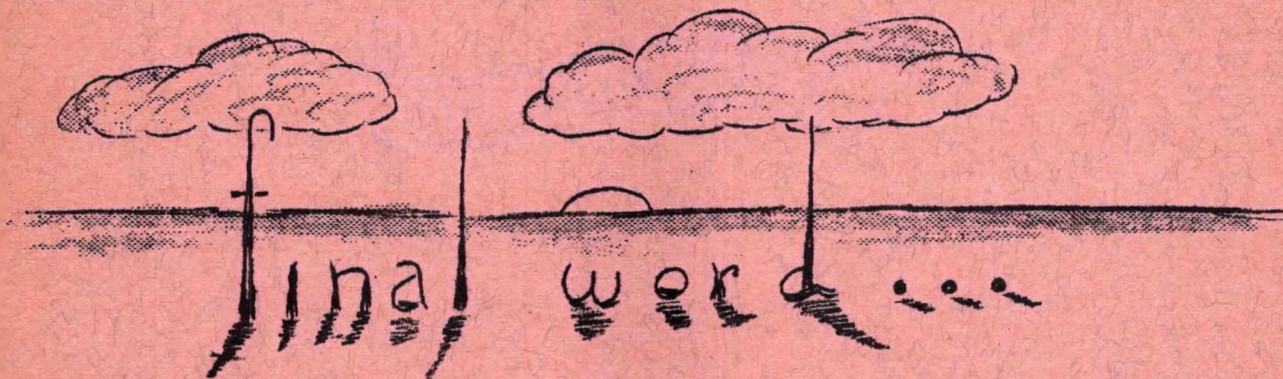
That was the past and I treasure the memory. Fandom, for me, was itself a part of the joys of my teenage, right along with picnics and football and parties and girls. Yes, especially girls. I recall a certain dark haired, dark eyed beauty with a soft voice --- pardon, I stray from the subject at hand --- but, I repeat, I treasure the memories of those times.

But modern day fandom has brought me a host of new friends. To name them would be difficult indeed, but in FAPA I especially remember kind words and deeds &

helping hands from Marion, from the Busbies and the Coulsons (Juanita, like Lee Hoffman, won my gratitude for the nice letters, drawings and photos sent to my daughter, Danaline), Terry Carr for the wonderful covers he stenciled for me, Ron Ellik (who I met at Oklacon 5), Phyllis Economou, Dick Eney and Bill Evans, Sam Moskowitz, Nancy Rapp, Bill Rotsler and old friends Jimmy Taurasi and Harry Warner. I recall with pleasure visiting the fabulous basement den & workshop of Ted White, where I also met Bob Pavlat. And, of course, my fellow Sooners, Ron Parker and my sponsor, Sam Martinez. Last, but certainly not least, is my boyhood friend, Jack Speer, who knows the genuine affection I have for him.

So, to all of you, as representative of FAPA past and present, may I say "Happy Birthday" and best wishes for many pleasant years ahead.

Dan McPhail



The sun is slowly sinking in the west, and I'm about in the same shape, but the job is done! Whew! It appears that I have managed only about nine pages, but guess that's not bad for a two day project and from scratch at that, too. It won't compare with some of the great productions that this 100th Mailing will have, but I am a part of it, and that is what I wanted. I have a feeling that there will be very few members to miss this special mailing.

And for this special occasion, I felt a Memory Book should have a cover appropriate to its theme, so I cranked up my private Time Machine and journeyed back to the very year that FAPA was formed and picked up a special drawing by Mary Rogers. This unpublished work on the subject of "fashions of the future" was an special assignment that Mary did for me then and I think it shows to fine advantage her distinctive light and airy style. Considering the dress styles in vogue a quarter of a century ago, I'd say Mary did a pretty good job of future design.

To illustrate the feature story, I lifted a drawing of my own that was to be used (and will be used later) on an article I have written. It is, as Jack Speer will recognize, a view of the old home town, showing my aunt's two-story house where I stayed, in the shadow of the old rusty water tower.

James Rogers, brother of Mary, did the small cut used on page 4.

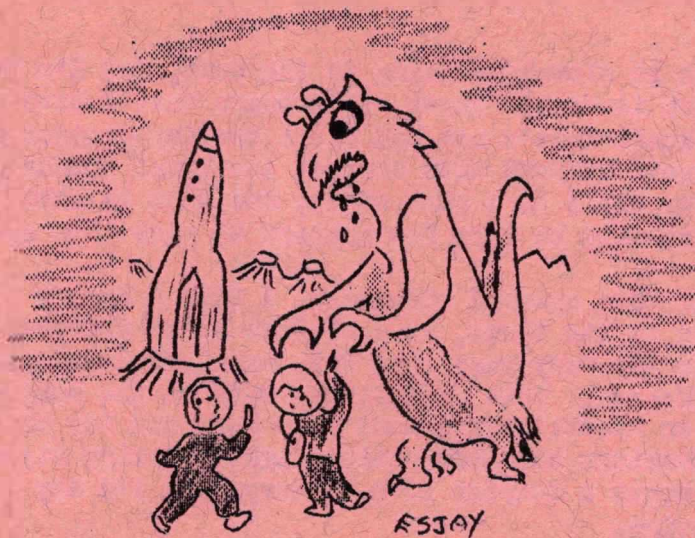
The reproduction of Imaginative Fiction shows a cover by Baltadonis.

As for the humorous cut on the back cover, it is adapted from the British weekly, the ROCKET, and is from their second issue, dated April 28, 1956.

Your comments and mild criticism are invited. There will be a complete change of program for the next show. Thank you for your very kind attention.

Phantasy Press

100th MAILING



"Don't shoot — it may be friendly!"