PORSFIS NEWSLETTER

PORTRAIT OF THE MRITER AS A YOUNG FAN

by John Raymond Lorentz

ECLIPSE DAY, STOWEHENGE (Washington)—We're all being followed by a moonshadow. Occasionally, this fanciful sprite catches us when it touches down somewhere on Earth. This most recently happened on February 26th, and we all trooped up to see it.

OK, so maybe you didn't. I did. My day started at 4:30AM. By five, I was on the road, heading up the Columbia River Gorge. Surprisingly, there wasn't much traffic on the road. I found out why when I arrived-everyone had gotten there the night before. There were about a thousand people milling around the Stonehenge structure-from the scientists (with their telescopes) to the Druids (with their white robes and headresses) and they were all having a splendid time.

(For those of you, like myself, who are incurable collectors of trivia-the Stonehenge structure was built in 1918, with the idea of being a memorial to the men of Klickitat County who died in the first World War. There are small plaques on several stones of the structure with the men's names.)

The weather was nice to us. When the sun came up, there were a few low clouds that soon burned off. When totality neared, the sky around the sun was perfectly clear-unlike a bit farther down the gorge, at the Maryhill Museum. The poor souls there had a low cloud creep up on them as the fateful moment neared, and they had to sprint towards us in order to stay in the clear.

The promontory where Stonehenge sits was a meeting place of the world. There were high school students and grandmothers, hippies and straights, television camera people and an occasional science fiction writer-for an event like this dwarfs any science fiction story ever invented. There were license plates from Illinois, Texas and Maryland. There were children of all ages (from 2 to 90) and the atmosphere was festive. The Eclipse drew them all together-with everyone cheering when the sun reappeared from the back of the moon.

The eclipse was perfect. The corona was highly visible, as were the bright beads of sunlight that shone through the valleys of the mountains of the moon. And the 'gravity waves', those wavy bands of shadow caused by the gravity of the moon distorting the light of the sun, were extremely clear against any light rock. I suppose the scientists were happy. For the rest of us, it was enough to soak up the festival of life and light, before dragging ourselves back to the so-called real world, somewhere down the Columbia River Gorge.

I don't know about anyone else, but I'm planning on being in Hawaii in 1991.

A NEW VOICE

"Destined to become a new major voice in Science Fiction . . ." says Robert Silverberg of John Shirley. PorSFi3 has the honor of including John Shirley among its members. He has spoken with his new voice, and lo! he hath brought forth a novel! Transmaniacon, \$1.95, Zebra books. Your editors have found it in Looking Glass bookstore and The Portland Bookstore. It's supposed to be in Dalton's, Fred Meyer's, Safeway (although it hadn't gotten to Dalton's yet when we looked.). John will be having an autograph party at Looking Glass, probably the last week in March (tentatively scheduled for the 27th, but it would be best to give them a coll and find out, first). This book is very good reading—easily worth Mr. Silverbern's comment. Congratulations, John!

We found it! An apartment, that is. Steve and Sue have moved in together. You see what editing the PorSFiS newsletter does to you? With firm faith in the motto "Great minds drool alike", we have decided to cohabit. In celebration of this bitaffé momentous occasion we are hosting the first annual PorSFiS New Year's Eve Party. PorSFiS' new year starts on April 1, as you know. March 31st is a Saturday, also a regular PorSFiS mating-day. March 31st, therefore, is the day of the New Year's Eve Party. PorSFiS members are invited to join us in wild celebration at our new abode, as we count the minutes till midnight. Gaze in awe at The Bed! Sit in the famous Rip Van Winkle chairs! There will be live music and Adad/control of the Padded Room, 2835 SE Division.

You don't want to miss this, so don't be bashful! Come as you are! (We have plenty of towels.) Watch your mailbox for further details.

ADVENTURES WITH ED

Few people are aware of the part Ed Foster played in the affairs of Middle Earth. When the weary party of Hobbits and Dwarves first approached the Elven city of Rivendell, it turned out that Gandalf had misplaced the address. Unable to get a phone number from directory service, they were on the verge of calling off the quest when Ed interceded. Cranking the old phone thrice, he was immediately connected to Elrond—an old friend from college days.

"By what miracle did you happen to know the correct number!" the old wizard exclaimed.

"I thought everyone knew," Ed replied modestly: "Three rings for the Elven Kings . . ."

The Lord works His will in strange ways; none could be stranger than the part Ed Foster played in reaching the Promised Land. After a wrong turn at the Red Sea and countless other pitfalls, the Israelites found themselves in what would someday be Europe. Ed, in exasperation, finally arranged river passage through Hamburg and Munich to Vienna. This was perhaps the most harrowing part of the journey, especially when they were almost seduced by the Lorelei. From Vienna, across the Balkans, and back to the Middle East was comparatively easy, but to this day it is with extreme frustration that Ed recalls the Days of Rhine and Moses.

BOOK STORE REVIEWS

EXCALIBUR BOOKS HOURS:

39th & SE Powell

231-9809

10-6 Mon-Sat
(Sometimes open later)
(Sometimes open Sundays)

5000 science fiction paperbacks
400 science fiction magazines
150 science fiction hardcover books

Science fiction is about 2% of the books in the store.

Excalibur has quite a varied selection of used books, including what may well be the cheapest used comics in the entire Willamette Valley. Their science fiction selection is also quite good, including several Harlan Ellisons, which rarely show up on used book store shelves. They have a few shelves devoted to science fiction series, such as Star Trek or Cap Kennedy, for those of you who have gaps in your collection. I also recommend the store for nostalgia buffs, such as collectors of the original Tom Swift series. They also give a discount on books bought there, usually around 10%. A 9 Powell bus will get you there from downtown, and a 75 goes by on 59th Ave.

TIE A STRING AROUND YOUR FINGER!

The next meeting of the Council of the High Cascades, Friends of Darkover will be held on April 19th, at the Council House, Portland. (Bryce Walden's house. 761-3768 for more info.)

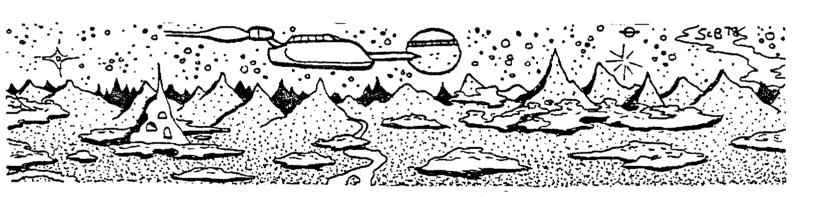
And don't forget the PorSFiS meetings! March 31st, April 14th and 28th, May 12th, etc. 2:00, Room E, Multnomah Public Library, downtown. Do come to the meetings. And if you want to keep getting the newsletter, don't forget—the new year starts on April 1. Are you paid up for '79? This is what you've been cramming those piggybanks for!

ELECTION RESULTS!!!!

I know you've been awaiting this news with bated breath. (You have been bating your breath, haven't you?) Marc Wells is surrendering the Presidency to the Velvet Touch (yours truly, Sue Renhard). He will be Vice President this year, giving Debbie Cross a well-earned rest. (Ho, ho, ho!) John Andrews was unanimously reelected Treasurer. Roger Wells handed the Secretary's quill to John Lorentz. We eagerly anticipate the new year. Onward and upward!

PLEASE FEED THE NEWSLETTER

Keep those cards and letters coming, folks! (You can, if you rub them the right way!) Send news to 2835 SE Division, Portland, OR 97202, or call 231-9677. (Steve and Sue have a recorder hooked up, so call anytime!)



...and then there was the water-covered planet named Aquariux. Ed Foster's ship shot through the atmosphere and splashed into the sea. Yes, then there was that giant squid, disturbed by the swirling water as the Gamma Ray changed from spaceship to underwater exploration vehicle. But at least the poor creature was spared Ed's parting words of advice as he rushed on, leaving a wake: "Don't sleep in the sub's way, darling."

Coné Calendéar///// May 25-27 -- V-CON -- GoH: Jack Vance -- Toastmaster: Frank Herbert -- Registration: 38.00 -- Gage Towers, U of Brit. Columbia, Vancouver BC -- Room Rates: \$12 single, \$21 double -- Write: V-Con 7, PO Box 48701, Bentall Station, Vancouver BC, Canada V7X 1A6.

///// June 29-July 2 -- WESTERCON 32 -- GoH Richard Lupoff -- Fan GoH: Bruce Pelz -- Sheraton Palace, San Francisco CA -- Write: WesterSon 32, 195 Alhambra St., #9, San Francisco CA 94123.

///// July 13-15 -- DARKOVER Grand Council Meeting -- GoH: Marion Zimmer Bradley -- Registration: \$10 till Jul 1, \$15 thereafter -- La Guardia Sheraton, Queens NY -- Vrite: Armida Council, PO Box 355, Brooklyn NY 11219.

/////September 29-October 1 -- MOSCON -- GoH: Verna Smith, Alex Schomburg -- Registration: \$6 till Sept 9, \$10 thereafter -- Best Western University Inn, Moscow ID -- Write: Beth Finkbiner, PO Box 9141, Moscow ID 33843.

??????November 9-11 -- ORYCOM -- GoH: John Varley -- np .an GoH: Richard Geis -- Registration: \$6.00 till Oct 1, \$8 thereafter -- Sherata: Portland Inn Illoyd Center, Portland OR -- Write: OryCon, PO Box 985, Beaverton OR 97005.

///// August 29-September 1, 1980 -- this is the 38th Morld Science Fiction Convention; start planning now -- GoH: Damon Knight, Kate Wilhelm -- Registration: \$20.00 till Jul 1 79 -- Sheraton-Boston Hotel, Boston MA -- Write: Noreascon 2, PO Box 46, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge MA 02139.

