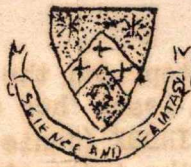


NFF

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M. Carr

COULD BE?

as it

SHOULD BE?

I thought I had a pretty good idea of what made NFF tick, of the opportunities it presented, and the benefits it gave; but when I took over the job of Secretary and began scrutinizing the various Committees and what they were there for, I was amazed at the intricacy of coverage. I found out that practically every phase of fanning activity is covered by a Committee that was set up for the purpose of providing the members with "short-cuts to fanning" -- information, assistance, sources of material, outlets for crifanac -- a regular Hobby Shop setup with all the tools free for the members' use.

Not only that, but these various committees tie in so closely with each other that they form an incredible network of crossindexing. All those little boxes on the Application Blanks have a meaning... Well, let me show you what I mean. Suppose we take Joe Neophan, Jr.

Joe Neophan just sent in his first letter to a prozine a couple of months ago, and is still thrilled because they printed it. Then he gets a letter from another fan commenting on his letter and enclosing an invitation to join the world's biggest fanclub -- NFFF. He notices that the letter is signed NFFF (CB). Joe happens to have a buck handy, so he fills the application out and sends it in to the Secretary. (That's me! And boy, do I start moving fast when I get it!)

When the mailman drops that application in my office, I send out, by return mail a big envelope full of "new member benefits" to Joe. There's a copy of the NFFF Constitution (calling his attention to the bargain rate for joining for 2 yrs), 5 application blanks (so he can get 5 new members and be paid up for another year), 10 sheets of NFFF letterhead notepaper and 10 envelopes, also 10 NFFF sticker seals. There is a letter explaining where Joe can get more of these if he likes the sample. It is a real bargain for quality notepaper, and if Joe has been buying his notepaper at 24 sheets for the dollar, he can appreciate what an opportunity it is to get good letterhead paper for \$3.50 per 500 sheets. He also gets his Membership card, showing the year he joined.

But the Secretary doesn't stop there! That same day Joe's name is entered in the NFFF files, a card is made out for him, and a notice is sent out in duplicate, notifying the Official Mailer that we have a new member to add to the Mailing List, and notifying the Welcommittee. The Official Mailer (that's Stuart Hoffman, in case anybody doesn't know) then makes up a package of whatever Leaflets happen to be current, and a copy of the current TNFF and sends it to Joe (both acknowledging his membership and checking on the correct address, because if Joe doesn't get that package it comes back to the Mailer, who contacts the Secretary to get busy for the correct address. If the Secretary gets the package she sent out back, too, she gets in touch with Joe's sponsor for the correct address. Oh yes, Joe's name is marked right on his sponsor's card, so the sponsor gets 1/5 of a year's dues for asking him to join.)

Then Joe's name reaches the Welcommittee (that's Nancy, in case she doesn't know), it is listed in the COMMITTEEZINE and certain of the slave-gang are notified to give him the works. They do. They bombard him with letters, inviting him to participate in the Welcommittee, in the Correspondence Bureau; they feel around to find out what hobbies he likes best, and tell him about NFFF.

THE COMMITTEEZINE doesn't stop with the Welcommittee and Correspondence Bureau (that's Honey Wood, can't leave her out!) -- a copy goes to every Committee Chairman. The FAN FILE INDEX (Janie Lamb) gets a copy and carefully makes a card on him, noting all the information he gave about himself. If the Welcomers discover any pertinent information that Joe forgot to mention on his application -- such as that his Dad owns a completely equipped Lithographers Shop and lets him use it whenever he wants !!! (Well, I can dream, can't I?) -- they drop Janie a card and tell her, so she can mark it in the file. Some day, somebody might write in to Janie, asking her "Know anybody that does Litho?" That's the kind of information the FAN FILE INDEX was set up to provide, I understand.

By this time the COMMITTEEZINE has reached all the various Committees. The Chairmen carefully note what Joe says about himself and his hobbies, so that they can drop a him a postcard or a form notice telling him about the service their Committee offers. The Librarian (that's Charles Ferguson -- he's a new appointee) sends him a list of the books available in the Library and tells him how he can use them. Since Joe has read everything in both school and public libraries (as well as everything on all the neighbors' bookshelves), he is pleased to see a couple of titles he never did get a crack at before. "Say, this is pretty good" says Joe.

Now it just so happens that when the COMMITTEEZINE reaches the Chairman of the MSS Bu., said Chairman found himself somewhat on a spot. He'd just been tipped off by the FANZINE NAMES Chairman (Art Levine) that NFFF member M. E. O'Graph has been inquiring whether "CESSPOOL" was ever used as a fanzine name, since he's planning on starting a new fanzine and wanted to use it. The MSS Bu. Chrnm, being on his toes and anxious to serve the members, had written and asked M.E. O'Graph if he could use any MSS Bu. material. He'd sent him a list of current offerings, but O'Graph had written back, "Sure and begorry I need some material, but I want a new author that hasn't been plastering his name across every fanzine that came out in the last six months! Also, I want an author that can illustrate his stuff!" The MSS Bu Charman spots instantly that Joe stated on his application that his hobbies are "Writing" and "Artist" -- that's just the ticket! He sends a letter off to Joe right away, asking him to submit some of his material for possible placement in a new fanzine coming up.

Well, by now Joe begins to feel like a real fan. He sends some of his stories in, and they aren't bad at all... at least, the reader reaction shows him what he can do to polish his style. The next stories and pix he sends in to the MSS Bu are readily snapped up, and Joe begins thinking about starting his own fanzine...

Joe starts leafing through those Welcommittee Leaflets he got that offered pointers on fanzines. He compares the prices of supplies listed under the "Discounts to Members" Leaflets. He writes in and asks a few questions about fanzines -- and about fanclubs, too, since he's got a couple of pals to help him out with his fanzine and they are thinking of making themselves into a fanclub. The Fanclubs Information Committee (that's Orville Mother, III -- he's a new appointee, too, and got a couple of slaves of his own, Hirschhorn & Ebel) for advice. He sure gets it, anything he needs to know about the care and feeding of infant fanclubs.

See what I mean? NFFF was evidently planned to give the members all the benefit and help that could be obtained from cooperation and experience. Like the story of the ancient Roman and the bundle of sticks, fandom gives a stronger tug to the imagination and interest when there's a lot of fans all pulling together. This is what NFFF could be... Why shouldn't it be? It's up to you Chairman if you want to make it so.

"Oh, NFFF is all right for a Neophan... But what does it offer and experienced fan?" you say... Well, let's carry on with Joe.

By the end of his first year with NFFF, Joe is an 'experienced' fan. By taking advantage of the knowledge and information made available to him through NFFF, Joe has learned in one year what it used to take many years of trial-and-error for a solitary fan to find out. He is well known among the ampubbing circles, he is even making a few tentative pro-nibbles....

Good old Planet Three in the Solar System has swung itself around its orbit once again -- and Joe gets a notice his NFFF dues are due. (He should have joined for two years while he had the chance, or maybe used those five application blanks to get himself a free year... but he didn't, even as you -- and you -- and you!). "Well!" thinks Joe, "why should I bother? I've got all there is to get out of NFFF. All the Welcommittee Leaflets, the free samples. I know my way around. I don't need NFFF any more. I yam a BIG NAME FAN!"

But that is just the point. He is a big name fan. He has absorbed the accumulated experience of hundreds of other fans who blazed out the pattern of fannish activities in the paths of the most fertile crifanac. To this accumulated experience of others, Joe has added the specialized experience of his own hobby. What's he going to do with it? Bury it?

Joe needs outlets for his crifanac now more than ever. So Joe finds out what the other old time NFFF members found out -- nobody but an experienced knows enough about fanning to really enjoy NFFF. Up to that time they are just playing around with NFFF, now comes the real fun!

Joe has been pursuing his hobby so hard he doesn't find a buck so easy to come buy as it was a year ago. The Treasurer has to send him a couple of reminders to pay up... After a mailing goes by and Joe didn't get his TNFF, he finds allusions to stuff in his correspondence that he doesn't know anything about. The traditional light bulb in the little balloon turns on above Joe's head, and he realizes that they're talking about TNFF -- and he didn't get one! Just about that time his new pamphlet on the various phases of photo offset reproduction is ready for distribution. He's put a lot of work on that, and he figures fans could get good use out of it. He sends a few copies to his friends, sends 40 to SAPS, 60 to FAPA -- what to do with the other 400 copies?

Joe may be a little slow on the uptake, but he isn't dumb. He sends in his renewal buck and writes a letter to the NZFORU asking if any of the other members are interested in photo-offset reproduction. Are they! He gets dozens of replies!

"Himmmmm" says Director #1 to Director #5, "Looks like here's a new field of fanning coming up."

"Yes," says Director #2, "Hadn't we better have Director #4 look into it?" So after the usual passage of time and umpty-leven C.L.s winging around while the details are discussed, Joe receives an offer of a Chairmanship to head a Committee on answering questions about photo-offset reproduction.

I don't need to tell you Chairmen the rest of this interesting tale about Joe Neophan, Jr..... You are already 'way ahead of me.

But it is a nice picture, isn't it? That's probably what they had in mind ten years ago when NFFF was started. Like an Archaeologist who reconstructs a Dinosaur from a tooth and a toenail, some of our Committees need a complete "re-do" to fit this picture. Could we? Shall we?

... you say... all, let's carry on with Joe.

By the end of his first year with WITF, Joe is an 'experienced' man. By the end of the second year, Joe has learned in one year what it used to take many years of trial-and-error for a military man to find out. He is well known among the engineering circles, he is even making a few tentative connections...

Good old Planet Three in the Solar System has swung itself around its orbit once again -- and Joe gets a notice his TV news was due. (He should have joined for two years while he had the chance, or maybe used those five vacation blanks he got at half a free year... but he didn't, even as you -- and you -- and you.) Well, think Joe, why should I bother? I've got all there is to get out of WITF. All the admitted leaders, the free samples, I know my way around. I don't need WITF any more. I was a big fish in WITF!

But that is just the point. He is a big name man. He has absorbed the accumulated experience of hundreds of other men who blazed out the pattern of technical activities in the past at the most fertile soil. To this accumulated experience of others, Joe has added the specialized experience of his own job. That's he going to do with it? Buy it?

Joe needs outlets for his talents now more than ever. So the links are what the other old time WITF members found out -- nobody but an experienced know enough about business to really enjoy WITF. Up to that time they are just playing around with WITF, now comes the real fun!

Joe has been pursuing his hobby so hard he doesn't find a hour so easy to come by as it was a year ago. The treasurer has to send him a couple of reminders to pay up. After a mailing cover up and Joe didn't get his WITF, he finds attention to study in his correspondence that he doesn't know anything about. The traditional light bulb in the little balloon turns on above Joe's head, and he realizes that there's nothing about WITF -- and he didn't get one! Just about that time his new paragraph on the various phases of photo offset reproduction is ready for distribution. He's got a lot of work on hand, and he knows how could get good use out of it. He sends a few copies to his friends, sends 50 to WITF, 50 to WITF -- what to do with the other 500 copies?

Joe may be a little slow on the uptake, but he isn't dumb. He needs in his research work and writes a letter to the WITF asking if any of the other members are interested in photo offset reproduction. To that, he gets dozens of replies.

"Joe," says Director of Director 45, "Looks like here's a new field of technical coming up."

"Yes," says Director 5, "Witold's a better name for Director 44 look into it!" So after the usual passage of time and fifty-seven O.D.'s being around while the details are discussed, Joe receives an offer of a Chairmanship to head a Committee on marketing questions about photo offset reproduction.

I don't need to tell you Chairman the rest of this interesting tale about Joe's progress. It... you are already very tired of me.

But it is a nice story, isn't it? That's probably what they had in mind too years ago when WITF was started. Like an archaeologist who reconstructs a civilization from a fossil and a fossil, some of our Committees need a complete "re-creation" of this story. Could you help?

THROUGH ONE of those fanish happenings your dearly beloved editor omitted a couple of items from the ballot issue of TNFF. This flyer is an attempt to put things straight.

Primarily: DONALD MILLER (which name you should recognize as a past editor of TNFF) had filed as a candidate for the directorate very early. His name did not appear on the ballot. Below you will find a supplementary ballot with his name on it. If you wish to vote for Donald Miller, WHETHER YOU HAVE SENT IN THE OTHER BALLOT OR NOT, mark the box beside his name on the supplementary ballot and send it, alone or with your other ballot, to the election teller

Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Ave.
Hagerstown, Md. 21740

The deadline established is as follows: the ballot(s) must reach Harry by November 15. I would advise mailing them by the 10th at the latest.

Secondarily: A platform, sent to me by Mike Zaharakis, was lost amid the general confusion around here and discovered after the October TNFF was mailed. With a public apology I present his platform message here for the record and for those who may not have sent in their ballots yet.

VOTE!!! Write to TB!!! And
Keep smiling,
Gary.

NB: Completists may send facsimile of ballot. ghl

I wish to add one vote for Donald Miller. for directorate.



Donald Miller

(Signature of voter)

Sign your ballot and send to:
Harry Warner, Jr.
423 Summit Ave.
Hagerstown, Md. 21740

Ballots must reach
Harry Warner by
November 15, 1969.

PLATFORM of Mike (Raki) Zaharakis.

As I write this platform there is a current motion before the Directorate which would give NFFF a Director Representative to Overseas Fandom. This motion may or may not pass but the purpose is to show World Fandom that NFFF is always ready to cooperate in any project that would benefit fandom. This, then, would be a prime concern on my part if re-elected to the Directorate...Overseas Fandom and our mutual benefit. It is my belief that fandom will enter a stage of the dropping of national boundries soon and that NFFF should be prepared for this.

Another problem currently facing NFFF is the lack of communication due to the fact that the whole club will be disrupted by the failure to publish TNFF. With Welcommittee, Collector's Bureau, and other aspects of nefferactivity functioning we need news. This can be, in part, solved by separate news sections in TNFF and TB but could be wholly solved by the publication of a monthly, dependable news-letter sent to members of NFFF. The newsletter would run about 4-6 pages and would be a function of the NFFF News Services. The cost would run about 7¢ per member or \$21 per issue. The letter would not come out separate from TNFF unless there was a failure to publish in which case it would be mailed out as soon as TNFF was considered late (about 4 days after deadline). The cost per annum would be \$121.00 with an average of about 300 members. I would work to have this passed by next year's Directorate only after having published two or three issues to prove it could be done.

I also feel that it is possible to revive the prozine checklist that used to be published by NFFF. The initial cost would be canceled out by charging a modest sum which would give NFFF a few cents above production costs. This would negate the need to raise dues at a future date and would provide a service which could prove of value to all of fandom.

Time & Space will continue as an independent publication until it is proved that NFFF can support a genzine. At such point I would request that NFFF provide token payments (perhaps prozine subs or small cash sums) for material used. Production costs and such would still have to be borne by the editors although after two years of publication this policy could be eliminated.

Generally I would say that my first year as a director has provided about a 75% completion of my initial platform. Much that didn't get through was because of impracticality caused by the status quo. I have before the Directors currently, motions to provide Fanzine Clearing House with Funds to get it off the ground.

I also favor the idea of the members having an open line to the Directors in that petitions are not necessary. I will, in the coming year, if elected, place a motion before the Directors, no matter whether I agree with it or not, if it is presented in a manner which will not require rewriting. Although I do not favor the dues raise to \$3 as I feel that it might place a burden on student members of NFFF, I feel it should go before the membership. Therefore, as soon as the question of a raise to \$2 is settled, I'll present the motion to be placed on the ballot if it is worded correctly.

I would like to continue serving on the Directorate as a voice for the members and that is why I seek re-election. My pledge is to serve with all my resources and remain open to suggestion and new ideas. My goal is the betterment of the club to serve the members in the manner they wish ... a full partnership in the direction of the federation toward tomorrow.

FROM: Gary H. Labowitz
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FIRST CLASS

TO: Joseph D. Siclari
3012-14 Boardwalk
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