THE MONTHLY LETTER ZINE

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VOLUME I, NUMBER 5

EPISTLES FROM-

BILL VENABLE of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

F. NATHAN STINE of Bend, Oregon
SHELBY VICK of Lynn Haven, Florida
REDD BOGGS of Minneapolis, Minnesota
E. GREEN of London, England
EUGENE SEGER of Pontiac, Michigan
DALE TARR of Covington, Kentucky
RAY C. HIGGS of Connersville, Indiana
RONALD FRIEDMAN of Brooklyn, N.Y.

and spacefiller by r-tRAPP

FEBRUARY, 1950

A quickie for dear old POSTWARP and the NFFF, and to contine Dear Art: ue my sub. My Gosh, these subs of mine run out so fast... how can I keep up? At any rate, maybe I will take a sub for somebody else just to keep your circulation up so that PW doesn't fold, which I hope to Rosco it won't. # Regarding Eva Firestone's theory about the rings that supposedly encircled the earth in olden times, it sounds pretty fantastic to me, even the I am a fantasy fan. I never heard of it. However it is pretty plausible... but where do scientists get their evidence for this or did they just dream it up? # So Coswal doesn't like the title of POSTWARP? Personally, I should say that having struck good thing in the WARP series you had better stick to it. are so many zines now who can think up a new name for one without plagarizing? And anyway what's the matter with POSTWARP? # A LEE BROWNE COYE folio is something which I for one would welcome. He draws BEMs better than anybody else I know of who draws 'em. Also he has a good artistic sense... he puts expression into his pictures. So there is a red-hot suggestion from the fans down-under. Come on, all you hot-rod actifans. git out your epistles to WT about this thing. 'Twould make a very good NFFF project indeed,... or for that matter for any fanclub, no? # old NFFF seems to be in a state of expansion, turmoil, and growing pains. What with all this convention-site dither, activity party stuff, pros & cons. etc.etc.etc... Just frankly I can't see anything against the next convention site chosen by each crop of con goers ... Rick, think you're fighting a losing battle. As for the Activity Party, they got my vote... now come across, boys. Seriously, I begin to see a glowing future for the N3F. # Anybody who has followed the progress Palmer's OTHER WORLDS can surely see that it is on the road to becoming one of the top zines (pro, that is) in all stfdom. The 3rd ish certainly ranks among the top 5 promags by now ... and also I like Palmer's attitude. He has all my support. Yours till VIN5.

F NATHAN STINF

General Delivery Bend, Oregon

I suppose that, after the article in TRUE magazine. Dear Postwarp: there will be quite a few letters on this subject sent in. However, I'm not going to try to be different; in fact, I am going to follow the norm sometrongly that I have discarded another ter that I was going to write you. # The subject that brought this change is, of course, flying saucers. Just a few things about them that I'm wondering if other people have thought of. First let's take it for granted that they are from alien intelligences (hard to believe that our own army is that far advanced; that they could keep it from public even if they were. Equally hard to believe that any nation Earth could be that far along.) The next question is whether or onthey are inimical. (One thing is sure: they are not overly friendly. They could be just undecided.) Why do I believe that they aren't very friendly? Look at it this way: Would you be friendly to a group aliens that probably differed greatly from you, in thought processes and thus actions? (Probably not in form, but more on that later.) You'd probably treat them in much the same manner that we treat wild animals: wait and see if they showed indications of viciousness: sic, they attack you, you kill them. They leave you alone, you do

the same to them, as much as you can and still satisfy your curiosity. You surely wouldn't act friendly until you had established communication. # So far, there has been only one death involved with flying saucers: Lt.Mantell. Or -- have there been more? What about all those plane crashes; this sudden outbreak of 'accidents'. Could they be connected with the saucers? Isn't it possible that they got close, saw too much, concerning the aliens? Perhaps they saw thing that no one else has yet seen; that no one is supposed to see, until the aliens' plans are complete. Installations of weapons on Earth, or the landing of spies. Impossible? Why? # Of course, could be that there is another explanation. They might have seen saucer and flown too close. Perhaps whatever propels the ships is deadly to humans; something like an undetectable radiation, of a length beyond our range. It could be that it was a controlled but pilotless saucer that they came too close to, and from the wrong angle to be seen as they approached within the range of death. # Now, their form: why would they be interested in us, unless there is something rather unusual about us? You know that they wouldn't be interested in our science. They are centuries ahead of us. Nor would a monstrosity interest them overly much. But it would be strange for them to find others of their same kind. To begin with, they are probably not of our solar system. Likely, nowhere else in their own planetary system are there any beings built very much along their lines; not intelligent, at least. Now, light years away, they find beings built very much along their standards perhaps a difference in the coloring and texture of the skin, or maybe with too many fingers, but similar. Seems that they would want to know more about such a race, doesn't it? # Which covers most of it. I don't want my first letter to be too long.

Goodbye,

SHELBY VICK

Box 493 Lynn Haven, Florida

Dear Art, December Posie has arrived. Hey! Lookit the cover! Mighta known it! Here I am, one of those kind that writes in just to see his name in print, and the first thing, you reduce the size of the name on the cutside. 'Course, it's still the big, economy size at the head of the letter, but I wanted my name, in foot-high print, on the front where everyone could see it. Oh, well -- hafta hire a sky-writer, I guess ... But that costs money! # Things are now Straightoned Got VI, N3, shortly there the 15th of the correct month. Good. # Now, who should I fuss at fust? Sneary? Nahhh. He didn't mention the Activity Party. Rick Gould? Nope. Agree with him. Maybe fandom benefit EF in some way other than buying mass, but I'm afraid they won't. And one other thing he said: Why do actifen take themselves so seriously? In fact, fen in general. Fandom is unique. Fandom is wonderful. But fandom isn't very important. (That should get a nice, juicy argument.) # Alger seemed to have the right idea, too. And so on down the line until we come to Sneary -- again? Well, this time we disagree. The more fen at a con, the better, I say. Spread fandom, and all that. But there is a solution to that that should please even Rick: Why can't he do like fen in the south are planning on doing, and arrange a smaller con to be held ever so often? At this one would be the old fen, ones that are known and that he knows, etc. There wouldn't have to be any big, elaborate preparations for this to impress them -- it would be just a general get-together. There's a lot more to it than that, of course, but that should be good seed. Take it, and see what you can, grow from it. # Hope someone works up something from Len Moffatt's idea on selecting cities for cons. Sounds pretty good, but I'm too

lazy to do much about it. # Ncw. while the sound effects man that haunting melody, Beautiful Dreamer, for proper atmosphere, we come to the last letter: Mr. Harmon. Jim sounds too much like one who thinks along similar lines to me. It is a wonderful thing, the financing of a rocket ship, and even more wonderful because it is, theoretically, possible. In a few years, all of the money could be appropriated. Some active, influential little cuss could contact the proper technicians. hire them, etc., while others kept the money coming in, and took care of the raw materials. Some of those 'fools' that he speaks of would probably volunteer to pilot the ship -- having, most likely, a college education and all the math, physical attributes, and so forth that would be needed. Yeah, it's possible. But now, a moment's pause, while first record is taken off and Vivilization spins into the backgroung. Because we are property. Property of the civilized world. That's one bond that holds us awfully tight, keeps us close to this lump of sod called Earth. Somehow, few people will be able to take the idea seriously. "Rocket ship? Leave Earth. Oh, sure. Ha ha ha." "Go to another planet? Why? Nobody could live there. Waste of time." "The acceleration would kill you. If it didn't, cosmic rays or meteors would. You've been reading too much Flash Gordon, son." "Nothing to space travel. Never will be such a thing. Lot of bunk. Only reason the Army and Navy are experimenting is for the potential weapon a base on the moon, or an Earth satellite program would be." And even those that got enthused will, at times, question the futility of such a plan. There's more than gravity that holds us to Earth... But don't let me discourage you, Jim: work! Get the thing going! Hunt for enthusiastic people who will stay enthusiastic. Like I said, it is possible, even if only theoretically. Maybe I'm wrong; Maybe you could do something with it. All it takes is work ...

REDD BOG-GS

2215 Benjamin St., N.E. Minneapolis 18, Minnesota

Dear Art: I've been kicking myself ever since I sent you that letter printed in Postwarp #4. The day after I mailed it I lized what a terrific opportunity I missed for an anecdote regarding my contention that Ray Nelson is a fairly normal suy in person, despite the impression to the contrary that he gives loyal NFFFers, devout tians, and frenetic supporters of other weird causes through his ters to PW and Spacewarp. Most everyone is aware that Ray saltily harangues on behalf of a wacky cult he calls Sexocracy. Well, at the Cinvention, a party of us, including Nelson, visited the Cincy burles que show. Such a performance, which was more daring by far than Bible Belt burlesque, might seem to be a sacred rite of Sexocracy. But hearken! During the intermission, we fans gathered on a nearby straetcorner and began to pump Roger P. Graham (one of our number) about his writing career. Ray Nelson was the chief pumper, and he began operations we'd got halfway out of the theater. He was praising "So Shall Ye Reap" which he characterized as "a gem in a garbage heap" or something -- at any rate, implying that while Rog's yarn was tops Amazing generally was lousy. Rog submitted to the pumping gracefully and modestly, but goodnaturedly squelched Soxocracy's leading apostle by cracking, "Anyway, it's a tribute to Amazing that you could focus your mind on science fiction so soon after seeing a sexy show like that!" # I submit that if Ray was a "freak" (Martin Alger's term) like Ben Singer, this episode would not have occurred. Do you think a true advocate of the "maximum amount of sexual pleasure for every citizen" would have been thinking of any fantasy except Thorne Smith's or Alan Griffith's just then? # It seems to me Dot Keller takes the big prize (which, if there rea-

lly was a contest, would be that legendary good-condition Planet Summer of last year that neofen always offer as a prize) for her ter this time. Her letter is as fine an expression of the "brotherhood of stf" (pretentious Evansian phrase!) as I've read in months. seen little evidence of any discrimination against neophytes by the old guard in fandom. As Laney once pointed out, there's good reason discrimination -- most newcomers develop early in a one-sided way, a la Degler -- but having entered fandom twice myself (once before the and once afterward) I can say that, in my experience at least, the "famous fans" afe just as helpful and encouraging as lesser known ones. Fans like Harry Warner and Phil Bronson and L.R. Chauvenet were helpful when I first entered fandom at the end of 1940, and in 1946 such people as Elsner, Coslet, Splawn and Carlson made me feel as if I were back home again. As for the esoteric language of fandom, as Dot says that's part of the fun, and there aren't too many terms that are necessary for communication between fans. You don't have to memorize the Fancyclopedia to correspond with another fantasite. # Dot is right again when she sees a descending pall of sameness over Postwarp. The reason for it, as far as I'm concerned, is that there's been too much about the in your pages. Threshing out N3F problems is good, of course, but has contained too much stuff like Eva Firestone's dewy-eyed defense the poor old maligned NFFFFFFF. Such magnificently naive utterances as "It is FUN to be an actifan," and Kay-Mar's "While I am a member the NF FF will never die!" are unquestionably well-intentioned, but are just the sort of misplaced enthusiasm that has caused many a fan to retch at the name of the NFFF. If the members like the NFFF, fine! -- that's the only justification needed for its existence, but for the ghod's this utter silliness about criticism of "our Fan Club NFFF"! These 102% NFFFers seem to think it is treason or heresy or both to utter a critical work about the club! You'd think the NFFF was Christianity itself (and some fans work for the NFFF like some people work for Christianity -- as if it were an end in itself, rather than a means to an end). The NFFF terribly needs a sense of humor or a much tougher hide. It well use both. # But, as I said, there's too much aimless and mauling over of NFFF affairs. There are other aspects of fandom and stf, and of the world in general, that I'd rather see discussed in PW. Eva Firestone (and I'm not picking on her deliberately, FooFoo forbid -- after all, I do have some chivalry:) suggests discussion of scientific theory and then comes up with a query about howcome space is dark and cold "if the Sun radiates heat and light for Earth". Maybe is some doubt in Eva's mind that the Eun is the source of Earth's light and heat? And then she goes on to mention the "Vailian theory" (which frankly I've never heard of and find no mention of in several scientific books concerning the origin of the solar system); which seems to be based on such indisputable scientific data as "The Flood of Noah's day". Since she seems to consider this event one of cosmic stature equal the formation of Saturn's rings, I wonder if Eva read L. Sprague de Camp's "The Great Floods" in the October aSF? # If she didn't, I wonder why she didn't? After all, she is in the NFFF, and all NFFF members are active fans, and all active fans read aSF, don't they? Is Eva a fake fan? # Just call me "the Westbrook Pegler of fandom". At least this is less nauseating than "fandom's Louella Parsons". A-a-a-agh!

A sincere fan,

- Redd-

SOUTHERN FANDOM, bi-monthly, mimeo'd, offers a 50% discount to NFFF members! NFFFen can get it for 5¢ a copy from Lionel Inman, Ripley, Tennessee, or Harry B. Moore, 2703 Camp St., New Orleans 13, Louisiana.

f. GAFFI

Dear Sir, Please excuse the liberty I have taken in writing to you.

I hope, however, that we may be of mutual advantage to each other. # I have been a reader of S.F. Mags. for years, but they are very hard to come by here. I wonder if you have any back nos. of these Mags. which you can spare. I cannot pay for them due to currency restrictions, but would be only too glad to send you any English books of art, ballet, drama, fiction, etc. We could work on an exchange basis. # If you are interested could you possibly reply and we could work out the details. Hoping to hear from you. # I remain, Sincerely yours,

EUG-ENE SEGER

12 Thorpe Street Pontiac, Michigan

/This is the sterling character who disbanded the Michigan Science-Fantasy Society by means of a bomb. The letter is to the secretary of the Detroit Science Fantasy League, the Detroit local fanclub. The DSFL claims that Seger is not, and never has been, a DSFL member./

Dear Furcsiks: This letter is my formal announcement of my resignation from the Detroit Science-Fantasy Society. Since it costs me about a dollar just in gas to come to the meetings, and since you have the attitude you and the others have toward me for scmething which was not at all my idea (Re: the Saginaw incident) and for the MISSTATEMENTS George printed in The Michigan, I feel that it is only my duty to resign. # I am sorry to have to do this I am gradually losing interest in the field of science-fiction gaining an interest in the much more abundant field of the occult. may stop in down there sometime to get rid of some fifty or so copies of STF which I have been gathering and give you what you want for five or ten tents or so. Also, since by now you have probably dissolved the Misfits, I would like a refund of the dollar I paid into it last fall. George said that I would get it back and as of yet I have not heard anything. # If you care you may tell the other club members of my change, but if you were fair to me, THEN WHY HAVE YOU DELIBERATELY IGNORED MY INTENTIONS BY NOT SENDING ME NOTICES OF THE MEETINGS??? # Sinceroly yours,

NAIF TARR

323 Altamont Covington, Kentucky

Dear Art: February issue of TNFFF (whoops) goes to press end of this week and will be going into the mails the fifteenth. The deadline for the April issue is March 15th. The April issue will be released the first of the month unless an H-bomb is dropped on Cincy. The First issue (February) will not be much but subsequent issues are to be at least twice the size and things will really hum.

Therefore I'll need the material /parly/. I don't want March 15th to rell around and have to do all the make-up work in the ensuing two weeks. The Yours --

RAY C. HIGGS

Friend Art: So NFFF has entered the letterzine field! GOOD! Very glad to hear of it (speaking as though I didn't know it was going to happen before it did) since I was one of the directors who voted it in. Why did the directors vote for a letterzine? Here's why -- just because we had so many requests and demands from the membership for one, and surely 375plus stfans (members of N3F) can't wrong. What we need now, is for those 375 to come forward with their contributions vis: letters and subscriptions to POSTWARP. are to have the 'new look' injected into the veins of INFF via off-set and a new editor -- introducing Dale Tarr, (I became kinda stale some say), POSIE fills in that awful gap in the wall, that showed up like a sore spot. To team with TNFF and POSIE, we are promised that wonderful generalzine by Boggs. Now with these three fine fanzines sponsored by N3F, we should have the 'official' publishing biz 'in the bag', providing of course, the members do their part in supporting them. POSIE can take care of all the letterhacks in NFFF, and dish it out monthly all in one big bundle. Letter writing is something that all of us can do. So many of the members say "that they are not good enough to write the kind of stories and poems, and draw the kind of art work that most of us want"; but anyone and everyone can write letter. Thru POSIE you can give suggestions, ways and means on betterment of N3F, and oh, how the directors would like to hear what you think! I believe POSTWARP can take care of from 20 to 30 letters menthiy, and with the membership we have, it would take something like twelve issues to get around to publishing a letter from each one Just think -- one little measly letter from each member of N3F, and \$1.00 for subscription to POSIE, (you all throw that much on gum and beer at one sittin'), and Art would be setting jake the year of 1950...and we would be receiving POSTWARP for twelve months too. It's worth it, every dad blame cent of that 100, and to you WARP, I mean ART, congratulations, keep up the good work POSTE, and say, thanks to all of you for voting for me (the year as director), many thanks!

RONALD FRIEDMAN

1980 E. 8th Street Brooklyn 23, New York

Dear Mr. Rapp: Now look! I'm a member of N3F and damn proud of it too, but things are going a bit too far, as far as our policy is concerned! I belong to several other organizations, am president on two, and director of another. The N3F does not by far represent the greater, or even the more important part of fandom! I know! # I think that the April-May issue of our 0-0 had a letter by Rick Sneary suggesting that we pick future convention sites; I believe that the matter was also mentioned in the August issue of the Bloomington News Letter. I don't have a thing against Mr. Sneary personally. From what I hear, he's a swell guy. It would certainly be unfair to the rest of fandom if we took the right to vote away from other fens as far as Con sites are concerned. Why we'd be taking the very thing that our country stands for, right from under their noese! We certainly are not a select group of dictators organized to rule over fandom. Since we are one of the largest clubs, we should set at least an example of democracy for the rest of fandom. # Be-sides, we'd probably be blackballed; and rival Cons might start

springing up at the same time as World cons. Well N3Ffers - what have you got to say? # Now lets look at the pleasant thing that fandom is made for. How about having a Coye Portfolio? Remember that letter from Roger N. Dard of 232 James Street, Perth, Western Australia? Now Rog is a guy that I take great pride in corresponding with. He's honest, sincere, and thoughtful! He tells me that the Futurian Society of Australia wrote a letter to the editors of Weird Tales requesting such a portfolio. Now I'm going to try and coax you N3Ffers into doing the same thing. I'm going to write a letter to the editors of our favorite horror mag saying: "We the members of the National Fantasy Fan Federation want a Lee Brown Coye Portfolio." Then it will be signed in print by whoever send me their name and address. Deadline for receiving such will be April 11 - my birthday - I'll be 94. (Plug! Plug!) Of course no-one believes me, but cross all six legs, its true! Sincerely, a BEM,

SHELBY VICK

Box 493 Lynn Haven, Florida

Dear Art, Drag out your record of "There'll Be Some Changes Made". I'm turning over a new leaf -- trimming an entire hedge, even. Henceforth I shall try to make my letters shorter -- and, perhaps, interesting. # First, I know I shouldn't get it, since I was so careless as to lose one, but do you have another copy of VIN2 you could mail me? I was going thru my files and find it missing. We might make deal -- you with VIN2, me with a little dime crying for companionship.) (Which it won't find in my pockets.) /Sad, sad -- no copies of the Nov PWP left. / # How did you react to Amazing's new type fillers? Perhaps dozens will find good, logical reasons to jump down my neck about this, but those stories are tops on my list -- good for filling in little bits of time when I don't want to get involved in a long story. And it gives us aspiring young hacks a wider field... # I think Eva Firestone might find that the space between here and Sol isn't hot because there's nothing there to retain the heat -- just as there's no sound when a tree falls if there's no one to hear it. Vibration is there, but nothing to translate it. A spaceship, tho, would have to be equipped with frigerating system or have a reflective surface, else it just might get warm, out in uninsulated space. # I imaging lots of controversy is going on, especially in fan circles, about the H bomb. If certainly highly-regarded opinions are right, there'll be no world after 1956. has been broadcast that if there is no world government within the next five years, there will be no world. Do you expect such a sudden yersal of human nature?) It seems unlikely to me (optimist that I am) that the entire world will be destroyed, but it might result in something like those Catastrophe stories that continually pop up in sciencefantasy. Maybe a group of fen could gather together to save knowledge, as most survivors would undoubtedly hate science, thinking only of the harm it had done. Joe Phann, Savior of the World -- but is the darned Luck. thing worth saving ...? #

Now available to NFFF members -- Fantasy Pseudonyms, an NFFF WelCom

Leaflet. Over 100 pseudonyms used by 60 fantasy authors. All you

need do to get a copy is write for it to: Eva Firestone Upton, Wyoming

A WORD IN EDGEWAYS

This is the month some of you long-winded blokes should have penened long, long explanations of your pet theories and opinions. Not only should the deadline for copy have been the 10th instead of dragging along until today, the 16th, I'm still filling space, but I even managed to confuse myself. I thought I had the zine nearly full, then discovered that somehow or other I'd skipped page 6, and had to hunt up a few odds and ends to fill it.

What's the matter, can't you think of any

interesting subjects that can be discussed in mixed company?

I noticed someone's calculation the other day -- it was in Bob Johnson's ORB, I believe, showing that anyone who keeps up with all the current prozines is adding 'em to his shelves at well over 100 copies a year. And to think that only a few summers back a collection of 500 or so mags was considered a fairly good-sized one!

still any fans who read all the mags? I did until a few months ago -I've given up a few since then, not from lack of time but from lack of
interest...in the case of a pair of pulpy zines whose identity is no
doubt obvious. I skim thru 'em, and if a tale shows signs of departing
from the biff-bang-boom-and-sex formula, I read it. I've also given up
rereading the Merrittales every time they're reprinted, because I'm not
crazy about Merritt in the first place, and on a third or fourth reading I'd as soon be condemned to reread Lovecraft.

By the way, have you read "The Day the Sun Stood Still" in the Jan issue of Harper's Magazine? It's a lovely article by a scientist who claims, roughty, that the earth stopped rotating once a couple of thousand years ago, when it was grazed by Venus, which had just been thrown off as a comet from Jupiter. This interval of daylight saving time enabled Joshua to smite whoever he was engaged in smiting at the time, as recorded in the Bible. Move over, Atlantis and Mu; you got competition.

That reminds me... Eva Firestone sends this news item:

"GIANT BLAST STIRS WORLD PROBE

Albuquerque, N.M. January 26 -- (AP) -- A world wide watch of the planet Mars has been ordered by scientists, following reports of a "terrific explosion" there January 16. World Director Walter Haas of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, said the work is being concentrated in Western Germany -- where the planet can be observed better. Haas, University of New Mexico mathematics instructor, said he had received a report on the explosion from a Japanese member of the association. The explosion pushed a greyish cloud sixty miles in the air, and the diameter was measured at approximately 900 miles...height and color of the cloud "remarkable." Not visible in the United States because of the position of Mars at the time. Japanese scientists at the Osaka municipal planetarium observed the event thru an eight-inch reflector."

Anybody notice any red-hot cylinders falling on New Jersey?

By the way...seems to me an 8" reflector wouldn't show much. Wonder in the reporter got his reflectors confused with his refractors?

I would like to see in POSTWARP more letters suggesting things the NFFF could do for you. Especially if you're fairly new in fandom.... what would you like? A checklist of fanzines? A dictionary of fan slang? A history of the NFFF? A supply cooperative to save you the high retail markups on mimeo paper and such fanessential commodities? A directory which will enable you to look up a fan's address in a hurry? Well, all the above are either available now to NFFF members, or are in preparation. What else can we do to make N3F useful?

Incidentally, it still giffs a year's free dues to any NFFF member who brings in five new members. You can get a supply of application blanks from PAblic Relations head A. Everett Winne, 109 Ashley Street, Springfield, Massachusetts. Allow a couple of weeks after writing him for them, though because we are revising the NFFF Application Blank so that it will provide the information the WelCom needs to help a new member get full benefit from N3F. Do you belong to a local fanclub? If so, is it 100% NFFF? And if not, why not take a sheaf of application blanks to the next meeting?

By the way -- if you need information on any phase of NFFF, and aren't sure where to obtain it...write to the Secretary. And if you're wondering who that is, it's Roy Levender, Box 132, Delaware, Ohio. Remember...when in doubt, write the Secretary!

Every letter written to POSTWARP has appeared in print: Suppose you flood me with 'em for the March issue...before ommitting any, I'll increase the number of pages in the zine. I'm lazy. I don't like to have to write these page-and-a-half editorials. Don't just stand there -- DO SOMETHING!

POSTWARP

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