

TROPICON





TROPICON

"The South Florida Science Fiction Convention"



MARCH 12-14, 1982

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LEE HOFFMAN

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P.O. Box 2611 Boca Raton, Florida 33432



SABRINA JAREMA '81

Presenting Tropicon's Guest of Honor Lee Hoffman

-- by Joe Siclari

The number of women who have been influential in science fiction fandom can be counted on the fingers of one hand: foremost among them is Lee Hoffman. Lee's fannish career has included publishing the most popular fanzine of its time, the creation of international legends, and a prime role in developing folk music. She has capped this with a professional writing career of over a dozen novels, both science fiction and western. With all this, I still think Lee's main contribution to the current state of fandom was an attitude.

In 1950, fandom had just gone through a period where it took itself too seriously with fans attacking each other from coast to coast. Lee entered the lists with the light-hearted enthusiasm and energy of a teenager. Her fanac was taken seriously, but it was for fun. She was not the first with this attitude, but she became the standard-bearer after some troubled times.

Lee accidentally discovered fandom by showing some of her poetry to Walt Kessel. He in turn showed her some of his, which was published in his fanzine COSMIC LUST. Then he loaned her a copy of THE FANCYCLOPEDIA. In her own words:

"This was the doorway not only into summer but into a whole mysterious new world. It was (as was to be expected) amazing, astounding, fantastic, a thrilling wonder, perhaps even an out-of-this-world adventure.

I wanted to read a prozine, but even more than that I wanted to see, to touch, to read fanzines. I wanted to publish a fanzine. However, since I had scarcely seen any, I decided to employ admirable restraint. I meant to learn my way around fandom first. I would not rush into this business half-cocked."

Forty-four days later, in August, she published the first issue of QUANDRY. It was a rather inauspicious beginning for the most famous of all fanzines: hard to read (she forgot to ink the mimeo), on poor paper (16 pound A. B. Dick reject sheets), and with its title spelled in a way that neither Merriam-Webster nor Robert Benchley had ever intended. But Q, as it is often called, was soon to go on to better things.

Q took a monthly look at fandom with a light-hearted but kindly glance. Fans, fanhistory, and fan myths were the constant topics. By issue #6, Lee had attracted some of the best fanwriters of the era, e.g. Harry Warner, Jr., Redd Boggs, and Bob Tucker, and by #8, Bob Silverberg and Walt Willis were regular columnists.

The frequent, regular, and interesting issues soon made Q the focal point of fandom. If you got QUANDRY, you were in on all the important happenings. Incidentally, this also made Lee a Big Name Fan (BNF) in less than a year of frenzied fanac.

Lee is an ambiguous name and 1951 was a difficult time. There were few femmefans and none had pubbed prolifically. Most assumed that Lee was male and she did little to disillusion them. In fact, some fan were absolutely obtuse: Shelby Vick thought "he" was immature when they spoke on the phone, and it took a photograph to open Willis' eyes.

At the 1951 worldcon in New Orleans (the Nolacon), Lee attended her first convention. To judge the surprise effect, here is Tucker's version of their first meeting from QUANDRY #15:

There came a sound at the door, the peculiar kind of half-hearted knock that could only be caused by a timid fan getting up the nerve to kick the door in....I wrapped a towel around my middle, began searching my luggage for a deck of cards, and yelled a bored invitation to enter.

Three strangers trooped in wearing abashed grins, a girl and two men. The girl looked as if she were desperately searching for better company than the characters trailing her. I silently sympathized, and stared at the trio, the meanwhile dripping soap and water on the rug. The two gentlemen stared at the towel and giggled, while the girl looked at the puddle on the rug.

"Hello," one character said.
"Hello," another character said.
"Hello," the girl echoed....

The first fan spoke. "I am Shelby Vick," he exclaimed then in clear, ringing tones.

"The hell you say!" I shot back astounded.

I-am-Shelby-Vick then flicked a finger at this two conspirators. "You know Lee Hoffman, of course?"

Of course. I threw a bored glance at the remaining character and yawned, "Hello, Lee."

"No, no!" contradicted I-am-Shelby-Vick. "Not him...HER!"

Mustering what dignity I retained, I picked up my towel from the floor and stalked into the bathroom, flanging shut the door.

Although Lee's effect on fandom was primarily through QUANDRY, her other fanac also kept fandom entertained. She was a prolific correspondent -- her correspondence to Ireland with Willis was daily. At one point, when he had not heard from her for over a week, he worriedly wrote "enquiring what was wrong. Hastily typed, it read: "No pactsarcds?" Lee replied sorrowfully to the effect that she had tried every shop in Savannah but had been quite unable to find any pactsarcds. The pactsarcd situation was serious... Taking her at her word, I ran off a few dozen pactsarcds with Lee's name on one side and PACTSARCD on the other." Thus the fannish equivalent of the telegram, the pactsarcd, was born.

The activity between Lee and Willis was so furious that it became known as the Belfast-Savannah Axis. Together they invented pocsarcds and the Fort Mudge Steam Calliope Company which waged an international war with Ken Bulmer's Aqueous Vapor Corporation over the right to combine a calliope with a locomotive for circus trains. Another of Lee's interests also kept fandom amused -- the elevation of a comic strip character to a fannish ghod. Living in Savannah and being a fan of Walt Kelly's POGO, it was only natural for her to found the Royal Order of Chattahoochee, Okefenokee and Ogeechee District Swamp Creatures -- an honored and enviable list of true worshippers.

After two years of creative fanac and 30 issues of QUANDRY, Lee found horses more attractive than fans. She gafiated after being one of the prime movers in giving fandom a more enjoyable outlook.

Fandom is addicting, however, and Lee was soon back. In 1955, she rekindled interest in fandom's past with three issues of FANHISTORY, refired POGO's jihad and started yet another fanzine which is still being published. This time she chose a publishing schedule which she felt would not be too burdensome. SCIENCE FICTION FIVE-YEARLY #6 should be out any year now.

Details about Lee's part in the creation of folk music fandom are not really in the scope of this article. Suffice it to let me quote from Pete Seeger's THE INCOMPLETE FOLKSINGER:

"She devoted one of her occasional 'fanzines'...to folk music. The response was so tremendous that she gave up everything to edit a folk song fan magazine.... CARAVAN was so popular that she found herself with the burdens of...an office.... So she cheerfully turned the magazine and its headaches over to Billy Faier and started out again with a mimeographed fanzine, as informal, as unexpected and irregular as she wanted. The name she picked: GARDYLOO. Thereby hangs a tale.

The title is taken from some French words meaning 'Look out for the water,' which were shouted in eighteenth-century Scotland when people wanted to empty a bucket of slops out into the street."

Lee's fanac has since subsided, leaving her time to write professionally. Her science fiction novels include ALWAYS THE BLACK KNIGHT, THE CAVES OF KARST, and TELEPOWER. But her writing efforts have been concentrated on westerns, and her novels in that field include DEAD MAN'S GOLD, GUNFIGHT AT LARAMIE, RETURN TO BROKEN CROSSING, THE LEGEND OF THE CANNONBALL KID, and THE VALDEZ HORSES, which won the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

In A WEALTH OF FABLE, Harry Warner, Jr., summarized perfectly: "She has left an indelible mark on fandom, as the most talented, best known North American example of the fan who is a fan for the sake of fandom, for the deceptively plain but carefully controlled writing style, and for the low-key humor that pervaded almost everything she wrote, said, or drew."

Tropicon Program

 * Friday *

ITEM	ROOM	TIME
Registration	Lobby	Noon-8PM
Huckster Room	Ballroom D	Noon-8PM
Art Show	Pompano	10AM-8PM
Films:	Coral Ballroom	
Just Imagine		9AM-10:50AM
A Clockwork Orange		11AM-1:20PM
Aguirre, The Wrath of God		1:30PM-3:04PM
I Am My Films: A Portrait of Werner Herzog		3:15-4:51PM
Rescue Mission (from the Arthur C. Clarke story)		10PM-10:30PM
Black Moon		10:30PM-Midnight
Authors' Readings:	Sandpiper	
David Lunde ("The Cozening of Andragash")		9AM-10AM
Brian W. Aldiss ("The Boat Animals")		10AM-11AM
James Gunn ("Child of the Sun")		2PM-3PM
Michael P. Kube-McDowell ("Murphy's Planet")		3PM-4PM
Joe Francavilla ("Memory of Maida")		5PM-6PM
Gregory Frost ("MacDatho's Pig")		6PM-7PM
Programs:		
Is There A Theory of Fantasy?		
Panelists: Samuel R. Delany, Katherine McClenahan, Gary K. Wolfe, Tom Moylan	Sandpiper	4PM-5:30PM
A Thumbnail History of SF Art		
A Slideshow Presented by Vincent DiFate	Suite 112	4PM-5:30PM
Fantasy and Modern Music		
A Presentation by Somtow Sucharitkul, followed by Katherine Young, pianist, performing some of Mr. Sucharitkul's compositions, and by Rosemary Wolfe, pianist, performing a selection by Chopin.	Coral Ballroom	7:30PM-9PM

 * Saturday *

ITEM	ROOM	TIME
Registration	Lobby	10AM-8PM
Huckster Room	Ballroom D	9AM-8PM
Art Show	Pompano	10AM-8PM
Meet the Pros Party	Pool Area	5:30PM-6:30PM
Films:	Coral Ballroom	
Short Films by Mike Jittlov		10:30PM-11:00PM
Five Million Years to Earth		11:00PM-1:00AM

Authors' Readings:	Sandpiper	
Terence Green ("Susie Q ")		9AM-10AM
Fritz Leiber (an excerpt from NOT MUCH DISORDER AND NOT SO EARLY SEX)		10AM-11AM
John Morressy ("Welcome to WIZCON")		11AM-Noon
Justin Leiber ("Ryoangi", an excerpt from BEYOND HUMANITY)		Noon-1PM
Frederik Pohl ("Options" and "The New Neighbors")		2PM-3PM
Karl Hansen (an excerpt from a novel in progress from The Hybrids Trilogy)		3PM-4PM
Joseph L. Green ("A Crystal Love", an excerpt from INHERITANCE OF CRYSTAL)		4PM-5PM
Timothy Robert Sullivan ("The Comedian")		5PM-6PM
Brad Linaweaver ("Clutter")		6PM-7PM

Programs:

Our Lady of the Witch World: An Interview Moderator: Brad Linaweaver, author and teacher Participants: Andre Norton (via telephone) Roger Schlobin, scholar and author of ANDRE NORTON: A PRIMARY AND SECONDARY BIBLIOGRAPHY Ruth Kyle, author of THE ANDRE NORTON CONCORDANCE Becky Peters, librarian and author of ANDRE NORTON: A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHIC STUDY	Coral Ballroom	11AM-Noon
How an SF Illo is Done A Slideshow Presented by Vincent DiFate	Suite 112	11AM-12:30PM
Lee Hoffman, Tropicon Guest of Honor, interviewed by Joe Siclari	Coral Ballroom	Noon-1PM
If You're Not a Virgin, Do You Really Want to Draw a Unicorn? -- Symbolism and Commercialism in Fantasy Art Participating Artists: Sabrina Jarema, Gail Bennett, Sarah Clemens	Allamanda	1PM-2PM
Science Fiction and the Publishing Market Charles N. Brown, editor and publisher of LOCUS	Sandpiper	1PM-2PM
Fads For Sale -- Are Some Kinds of Science Fiction (like series and space opera) Popular because they are Non-Threatening? Moderator: Joseph Green Participants: Fritz Leiber, Jean Lorrah, Robert Sheckley	Allamanda	2PM-3PM
Critics -- Good or Bad? What Kind of Criticism is Good for the Genre? For the Writer? Moderator: William F. Wu Participants: James Gunn, Samuel R. Delany, Eric Rabkin, Gene Wolfe	Allamanda	3PM-4PM
Previews of Coming Attractions Craig Miller, Film Publicist, previews major upcoming motion pictures: THE THING, this time really based on "Who Goes There?" and DARK CRYSTAL, the muppetized fantasy based on designs by Brian Froud.	Allamanda	4PM-5:30PM

* Sunday *

ITEM	ROOM	TIME
Registration	Lobby	10AM-2PM
Huckster Room	Ballroom D	9AM-3PM
Art Show	Pompano	9AM-11AM
Art Auction	Sandpiper	11AM-2PM

Programs:

Tarot, Mysticism, and the Supernatural -- Popular
Fantasy Motifs

Participants: Fritz Leiber, Samuel R. Delany, Jacqueline
Lichtenberg, Somtow Sucharitkul, Laurence Donovan

Ballroom C 11AM-Noon

Time Binding -- A View of Science Fiction Fandom from Those
Who Made It

Moderator: Rusty Hevelin

Participants: Charles N. Brown, Lee Hoffman, Dave Kyle,
Fred Pohl

Ballroom C Noon-1PM

How Not to Starve While Writing Science Fiction -- Some
Hints for Those Who Are Breaking In

Moderator: John Morressy

Participants: William F. Wu, Jack Dann, Gary Alan Ruse,
Timothy Robert Sullivan

Ballroom C 1PM-2PM

Art and Story Development

Moderator: Vincent DiFate

Participants: Frederik Pohl, Ellen Datlow, David Kyle,
Brian Aldiss, Robert Sheckley, Vincent Miranda

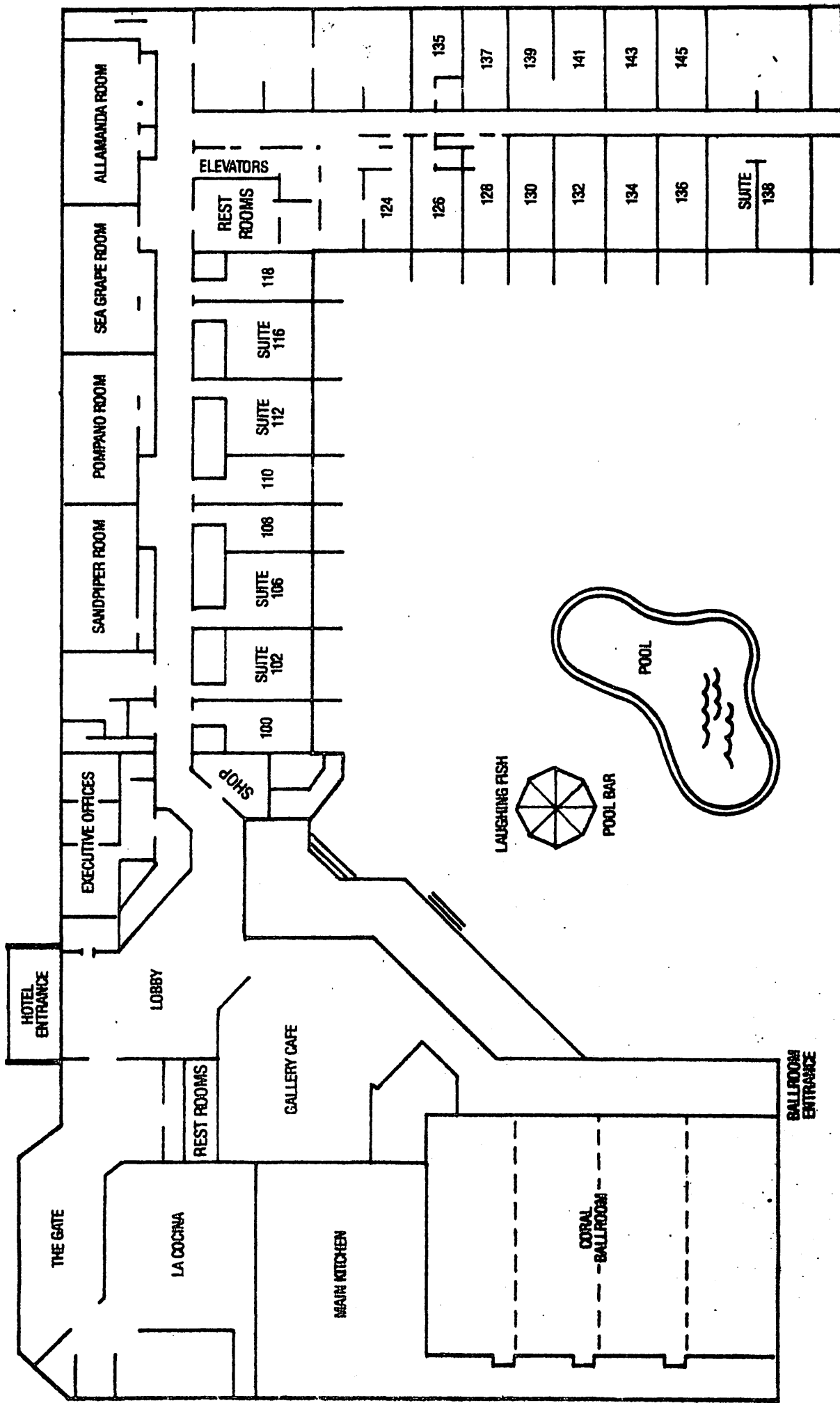
Ballroom C 2PM-3PM

Fantasy Through Music -- Fantasy and Science Fiction Elements
in Popular Music; also Filksongs -- The Science Fiction
Folksong

Moderator: Edie Stern

Participants: Diana Gallagher, Dina Pearlman, Tim Sullivan

Ballroom C 3PM-4PM



HOTEL ENTRANCE

LOBBY

THE GATE

LA COCINA

MAIN KITCHEN

GALLERY CAFE

REST ROOMS

SHOP

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

SANDPIPER ROOM

POMPANO ROOM

SEA GRAPE ROOM

ALLAMANDA ROOM

ELEVATORS

REST ROOMS

118

SUITE 116

SUITE 112

110

108

SUITE 106

SUITE 102

100

124

126

128

130

132

134

136

SUITE 138

135

137

139

141

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LAUGHING FISH

POOL BAR

POOL

BALLROOM ENTRANCE

CORAL BALLROOM



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Plantation Card and Book, 1603 S. University Drive, Davie
Radio Shack, 4637 S. University Drive, Davie
Discount Bookcenter, 251 W. University Drive, Pembroke Pines
Computer Junction, 5450 S. State Road 7, Hollywood
Radio Shack, 1182 NW 40th Avenue, Lauderdale Lakes
Radio Shack, Lakes Mall, Lauderdale Lakes
Radio Shack, Jacaranda Plaza
Coles, The Book People, Coral Springs Mall
Corner Newsstand, 9899 W. Sample Road, Coral Springs
Book Rack, 1619 SE 3 CT, Deerfield Beach
Century News and Tobacco, 1818 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach
Radio Shack, 730 S. Federal Hwy., Deerfield Beach
Card and Book Nook, Crystal Lakes Plaza, Deerfield Beach
Alear Books, 201 S. Pompano Parkway, Pompano Beach
Books and Such, 4725 N. Ocean Blvd., Sea Ranch Lakes
Chapter One, 3050 E. Commercial Blvd., Pompano Beach
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Little Professor Book Center, 6270 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale
Rod's Past Time Books, 3303 NE 32 Street, Ft. Lauderdale
Book Rack, 1374 SE 17th Street, Ft. Lauderdale
Focus Electronics, 224 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale
Radio Shack, 3454 N. Andrews Avenue, Oakland Park
Radio Shack, 5500 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Oakland Park
City News Stand, 4402 Bougainvillea Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea
Ziggy's Bargain, 83 SW 6 Street, Ft. Lauderdale
Abacus Downtown, 218 NE 1st Avenue, Miami
Arts and Sciences, 841 NE 125th Street, North Miami
Bell, Book and Candle, 77 Harbor Drive, Key Biscayne
Book Outlet, 12155 Biscayne Blvd, North Miami
Colossal Book Mart, 9070 Biscayne Blvd, Miami Shores
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Grove Bookworm, 3025 Fuller Street, Miami
Keystone Book, 12559 1/2 Biscayne Blvd, Miami
HiWorld Bookstore, 511 W. 49th Street, Hialeah
Paperback Outlet, 1661-A Meridian Avenue, Miami
Sunshine Comix, 6370 Bird Road, South Miami
Volunes, 3031 Grand Avenue, Miami
Walden, 1635 W. 49th Street, Hialeah
Walden, 1601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami
Book Barn, 11047 SW 40th Street, Miami
Book Review, 1553 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables
Bookworms', 14340 Biscayne Blvd, North Miami
Louis Paperback Exchange, 5794 Bird Road, S. Miami
Adolph's Westchester, 8659 Coral Way, Miami
Coconut Grove News, 3199 Commodore Plaza, Miami
Eddie's Normandy, 1069 Normandy Drive, Miami Beach
Gables News, 362 Andalusia, Coral Gables
J.P. Burdick, 121 SE 1st Street, Miami
Kit's News, 1743 Coral Way, Miami
Southeast Periodical, 10100 NW 25th Street, Miami
Mr. Hovie, 3531 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton
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Radio Shack, 1431 NW 40th Avenue, Lauderdale
Ken's Book Nook, 3924 Davie Blvd., Melrose Park
Book Rack, 8038 W. Sample Road, Margate
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Radio Shack, 4411 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale
Clark's Out of Town News, Inc., Ft. Lauderdale
A&M Comix and Boox, 1175 NE 139 Street, North Miami
Arnedo's Book Shop, 411 15th Street, Miami Beach
B. Dalton/ Omni, 1601 Biscayne Blvd, Miami
Book Horizons, 1110 S. Dixie, Coral Gables
Books and Art Prints, 4329 SW 8th Street, Miami
Continental Book Store, 336 SW 12th Ave, Miami
Downtown Book Center, 247 SE 1st, Street, Miami
Harrington's 174 Hialeah Drive, Hialeah
LeJeune Road Bookstore, 928 Le Jeune Road, Miami
Paperback Exchange, 1659 NE 163rd Street, North Miami
Starship Enterprises, 1788 NE 163rd Street, North Miami Beach
Trail Books, 7350 SW 8th Street, Miami
Walden, 163rd Street Shopping Center, North Miami Beach
Walden, 244 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables
World Wide News, 1699 NE 163rd Street, North Miami Beach
Book Mart 19815 NW 2nd Avenue, Miami
Book Room, 3117 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables
House of Browse, 1831 NW 113th Avenue, Pembroke
Adolph's Readers, 2301 Ponce DeLeon Blvd, Coral Gables
Al's Newstand, 8219 SW 124th Street, Miami
Eddie's News and Stuff, 1560 Alton Road, Miami
Front Page, 8922 SW 97th Street, Miami
Hialeah News, 67 Hialeah Drive, Hialeah
Joe's News, 1575 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables
New York News, 3424 Main Highway, Miami
Sunny's Magazines, 1970 Broad Causeway, North Miami
Paperback Booksmith, Boca Mall, Boca Raton
Books and Things, 473 N. E 20th Street, Boca Raton
Boca Raton Video, 493 N. E. 20th Street, Boca Raton
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Radio Shack, 1918 N. E. 5th Avenue, Boca Raton

