

INTRODUCING KEN AND LINDA

Some information about the 1979 DUFF Winners, published by John Foyster, GPO Box 4039, Melbourne V3001.

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LINDA LOUNSBURY-- autobiographical stuff

~~It was a dark and stormy night~~ Actually, it was probably a cold and snowy morning. I don't remember, but it was 7.31 am on January 30, 1950 when I was born, and that date is usually cold and snowy in Huron, South Dakota. Huron is a small town (about 15 000 population) but the fourth largest in the state. It's situated in the middle of prairie farming land in the middle of the eastern half of the state; the western half is rolling pastureland (drier than the east) and the Black Hills (very old remnants of a mountain chain, but still the highest points between the Rockies and the Appalachians) and the Badlands (bizarrely weathered limestone formations which are a National Park).

I grew up in Huron for 18 years, went to grade school, junior high, senior high; played softball and took swimming lessons (but didn't do more than passably well in the latter) during the summer; rode my bicycle around a lot; went sledding and built snow sculptures in the winter and tried to learn to skate once; got good grades in school; had three cats - all named Timmy - in succession, until it was discovered that my youngest sister was allergic to most animals, also helped raise assorted chickens, geese, and some wild pheasants that we stumbled across (or rather, across their nest) once; took piano lessons; was in the school plays for the last year or two in high school and directed one; doodled constantly in class between taking notes; didn't have a date to the Senior Prom (or anywhere else for that matter); saw STAR TREK and loved it; read science fiction beginning at about age 12, but didn't realise that it was SF; learned to sew; went to our cabin on Lake Byron for several years' vacations, then my parents sold that about bought a camper, so we travelled to the West Coast, the Black Hills, Canada, the Midwest, and Northeast U.S.; and I graduated in May 1968.

(For genealogy fans: my family is half German, the other half mostly English, with some Dutch, French, & Scots-Irish. One grandmother was born in Germany and came to South Dakota with her parents to homestead when she was two years old; one grandmother was born in South Dakota of parents who had come from Russia (the Crimean Peninsula) to escape the Russian military conscription; their ancestors had come from Germany in the early 19th century to escape the German draft. One of my grandfathers moved to South Dakota as an adult from New York state; his ancestors included French Huguenots and Dutch settlers from the days when New York was New Amsterdam. My other grandfather's family was from New England (though they settled in northern New York state en route to South Dakota) - puritan stock, and minor participants in the American Revolution; they came from Southern England, with some French Huguenots refugees-to-England intermarried. The Lounsbury name is derived from the name of the village of Loundesborough in Yorkshire, England; the suffix change to 'bury' suggests that some of my ancestors of that name moved south (e.g. Salisbury, etc.) Our family has always used the spelling Lounsbury, though there are other branches (cousins, perhaps - or unrelated) who use

'Lowndesbrowe', 'Londesburg', and others; the American branch evidently all trace their ancestry through one Richard Lounsbury who came to New York ca. 1690 and owned some large tracts of land along the Hudson for a time. I can't verify that, since I can definitely trace my ancestors of that name only to 1799 (when Elisha L. was born). My parents met in college after World War II (my father was in the American army in the South Pacific) and were married in 1947; I am the oldest of four children (I have one brother and two sisters) and have a niece and nephew (my brother's children).

I went to college in St. Paul, Minnesota at Macalester College (and thus became an honorary member of the Macalester clan) on a Reader's Digest/National Merit Scholarship. At one time I had visions of being an astronomer (STAR TREK influence) or being in the U.S. Foreign Service; to those ends I took physics, astronomy, calculus, biology, geology, chemistry, Spanish, German, and French. But my interest in history won out and I made that my major; in fact, I wrote an Honors Thesis in History (on the Woman Suffrage Movement in Minnesota). While there I discovered Fandom; we had a group who watched STAR TREK re-runs and I knew some people who read SF, but not until spring of 1969 did I learn that there was already a club of SF fans. I went to a meeting (the end of February, I think it was), but didn't bother to go to the next one, and went home for Easter vacation during Minicon, so it wasn't until April that I decided to go again - mostly because I'd started reading a book in our host's library and wanted to finish. The second time I met a few people and was generally noticed more than the first time; so I went again. Only, this time I wore the STAR TREK uniform I'd made (with red tights); that attracted a lot of attention and I got to talk with more people, started to remember names, and got it straight which one was Fred Haskell and which was Ken Fletcher. During the summer, I worked in a parachute factory in Huron and was tickled to receive a copy of Rune; feeling a bit cut-off from college, etc., I wrote to Ken (who was then secretary) and he wrote back. I didn't discover until later what a rare event that was.

College was great for my social life. I met new people, went out on dates with a few of the men at Mac, socialised with my dormmates, and helped run the coffeehouse on campus. Gradually, after the first year, my social life started to centre around Minn-stf more and more; I also started seeing more of Ken. We didn't go 'out' much; I visited him at his parents' house (where he lived at the time) and he visited me at the dorm and we both went to Minn-stf functions - formal and informal. I went to Minicons, even when they coincided with vacation time. I started a fanzine, mostly by accident, called The Green Fandom, which lasted for about 8 issues and was largely written and illustrated by me; Caryl Dixon (since, Bucklin, and recently, Wixon) was co-editor for the first couple of issues. I decided to use my historical interests by going into museum work, and applied to graduate schools that offered training in that. I graduated from Mac in 1972.

In the end, I went to the University of Delaware. My family took their summer vacation via Delaware (with a swing through Arkansas, Tennessee, and Georgia on the way) and helped me move into an apartment there. I had to start all over meeting new friends and establishing fanish contacts. Fortunately, I'd been given some names, closest of which was Linda Bushyager; I finally got up enough courage to call her and she invited me to visit. As my graduation present, my parents had loaned me the money to buy a car, since there is no public transport worthy of the name in Newark (pronounced New-ark), Delaware. So I could drive up to where Linda and Ron lived, near Philadelphia; also to Pittsburgh for Pghlange, to New York City for Lunacon and Fanoclasts, Albany for genealogy research, and Washington DC for research and Discon. We even started a club - the Delaware Valley Science Fiction Club - composed of people who congregated in Linda and Ron's home (I was president); there was also a club at the University of Delaware, but its members were less involved with fandom at large. But I missed Minneapolis, and the fans there; I joined Minneapa, I wrote to Ken (and others). Sometimes, Ken even wrote back. Finally I decided to move back there while I wrote my dissertation. (I got my M.A. in 1975.)

And so I did. Ken came out to help me drive back; we went via Tennessee to meet some of his relatives there. We were married (legally) on July 19, 1975 (anniversary of Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention and eve of the anniversary of the Moon Landing); we were married (Great Spiderist) at Minicon 10 (April?, 1975). I've pretty much satiated from fanzine publishing until the recent publication of 'Tales of Fur and Leather'; we haven't been able to afford too many conventions - the 1976 Worldcon (MidAmeriCon), Wiscon for three years in a row (in Madison, WI) and, of course, Minicon. I worked for several months in a bakery as salesclerk, and for the last 3½ years as secretary/office manager for Gordon Dickson. My dissertation (on the Woman Suffrage Movement in Minnesota) is progressing slowly, with most of the research done, but not much of the writing - due date in June 1980. (Help!) Once I get back and write the trip report, I'll have to fafiate completely for a while in order to get it done.

Oh, yes, and I really did do my social studies project booklet on Australia in 6th grade (had a terrible time getting information from the Australian government - I wrote the wrong office and it went through New York City before it reached me).

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KEN FLETCHER - fanish biographical poop sheet

32 years old

Met my first Minneapolis fanzine fan in 1965. Joined the NFFF, Apa-45, and CAPA-alpha (a comics apa) in 1966. I was doing fan cartooning by this time. My first convention was Nycon III in 1967, and very soon after was in on the founding of Minn-Stf, the Minnesota Science Fiction Society.

I've been a member of the Minneapolis in '73 convention bidding committee (both active and retroactive factions), mostly working

in the Graphic Arts Section. I've been active in Minneapa off-and-on, and with Reed Waller founded Vootie, an apa for cartoonists of funny animals. I've worked as a clerk for Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore and as bookkeeper for Gordon R. Dickson. I married Linda Lounsbury in 1975.

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A TENTATIVE ITINERARY (as of late June 1979)

- 2 August leave Minneapolis
 - 5 August 7.45 pm Arrive Sydney (Continental 1)
 - 6-9 August visit Sydney fans
 - 10-13 August SYNCON '79
 - 13 August leave Sydney/arrive Brisbane
 - 14-15 August visit Brisbane (and Barrier Reef?)
 - 16 August leave Brisbane/arrive Canberra
 - 17-18 August in Canberra
 - 19 August leave Canberra/arrive Melbourne
 - 20-23 August in Melbourne
 - 24 August leave Melbourne/arrive Adelaide
 - 25-26 August in Adelaide
 - 27 August leave Adelaide (train)
 - 29 August arrive Perth
 - 30-31 August in Perth
 - 1 September leave Perth (train)
 - 4 September arrive Sydney
 - 5 September leave Sydney 9.15 am (Continental 2)
- et cetera

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The endpoints of the above are fixed, but there's considerable flexibility between (in particular note WAFen's proposal to transport K&L to Perth directly after SYNCON. It'll all work out somehow.....