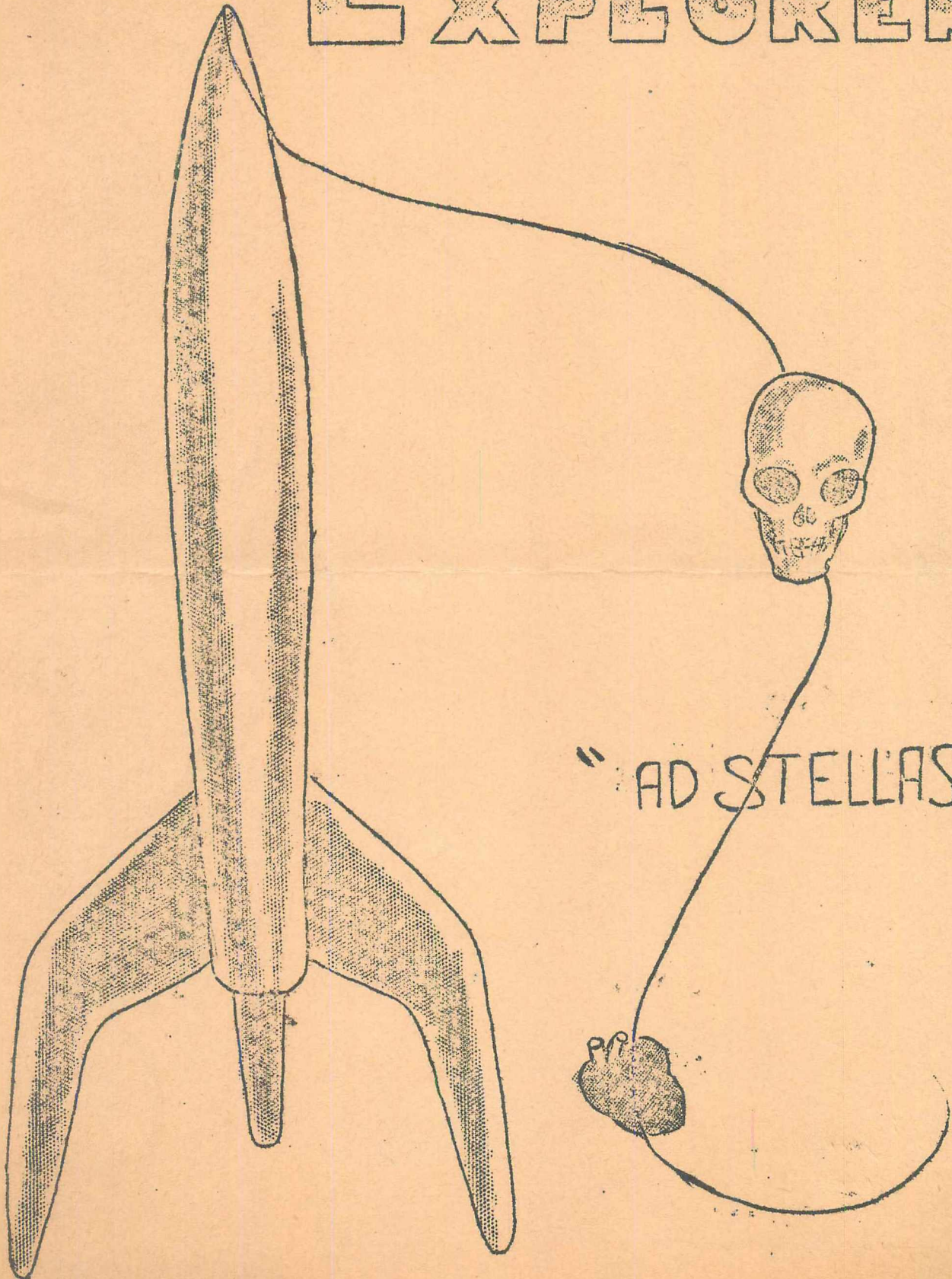


EXPLORER



"AD STELLAS"

"Ad Stellas"
Vol. II - No. 6

"To The Stars"
Nov. - Dec.

FROM LARRY - FROM LYNN - TO YOU

Dear Members:-

My last message to you members of ISFCC, and I do not have too much to say. It has been more fun than actual work while being president of the ISFCC, and I did enjoy meeting all, or the greatest part, of you by mail.

Local chapters of ISFCC have been taken up wholeheartedly in a couple of widely separated areas. The first to have broached the idea was the Baltimore Science Forum, headed by our well-known Allen Newton, and the second is a group in British West Africa, in Lagos, Nigeria. This group has been sponsored by one of our group, Pat Eaton, of Otis, Oregon.

Had I had the sufficient spare time for the round robin letters I could have had them done before my "retirement". Anyway, the idea went over quite well with the majority of the members, so it will be one job left over for Lynn Hickman to finish, as he won the election for the Presidency.

Well, nice people, will end it here, except that I should like to have you meet the new President of the ISFCC, Mr. Lynn Hickman -- so, Lynn, won't you bow in, and I will bow out.

"Ad Stellas"
Larry Kiehlbauch

/// *** ///

Dear Members of the ISFCC -

This first letter will be more of a get-acquainted item than anything else. Many of the members know me through our corresponding, but of course there are many who do not, and vice-versa. At any rate, I'll put down the pertinent facts about myself for those who do not.

I happen to be a male. (I get TOO many letters addressed to Miss Lynn Hickman) I'm in the exact center of my twenties, and have been a science-fantasy fan for about 15 years, and a member of ISFCC since 1948. I also belong to various other science-fictional clubs.

The theme of this first letter, I think, should be pertinent to the way this club has grown. At its humble beginning in Stowe High School in Stowe, Ohio, I do not believe that anyone thought it should grow to the size it is now. If so, it wasn't in my mind when I first entered the club by dropping in to see Rich Abbott (the founder) at his home in Stowe. At that time there were no more than ten or twelve members, with no club magazine, and just the wanting to make new science-fiction friends through the mails, and the will to get it started.

As time progressed Martin Wocmer of Penna. started a little correspondence magazine (no connection with ISFCC) to which most of the members seemed to attach themselves. Martin agreed to let the ISFCC use a portion of his magazine for our club. However, due to ill health and, I imagine, ill finances (he charged nothing for his magazine) he was forced to quit this venture, and eventually we got out our own magazine, The Explorer.

At any rate, from that small beginning, the will of a young high school boy to be able to make new friends, we now have one of the major science-fantasy clubs both in the nation and in the world.

Still, we should not be content to stand still. It should be the duty of every member to try to get new members. I also happen to be the Master Monster of the Little Monsters of America. This club, although newer than ISFCC, has grown tremendously since entering the national field last May. One of the things that has helped in the growth of this club has been the drive for local chapters, and such

(cont. on page 8)

* THE EXPLORER *

Published By and For The International Science-Fiction Correspondence
Club

Edited by Ed and Jo Noble, currently at Box 49, Girard, Pennsylvania

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KOLLEKTOR'S KORNER - Bea Glass, 97 Baker St., Dover, N. J.

This Current Issue completes the Second Year of Publication and May Be Con-
strued as the November-December Issue for the Year of 1951. The Next Issue
Will be the Start of the Third Year of Publication and probably will not be
a Super-Large Issue due to the Fact that it takes time to put out a Super -
Large Issue, and Time is Something of Which We Ain't Got a Lot of.

* * * * *

SPEAKING EDITORIALY

The elections are all over for another year. The percentage of the vote was
a great improvement over the balloting of the previous year - congratulations
all you guys and gals who made the percentage so much higher.

The new "brass" who shall be doing all the wheeling and dealing for the ISFCC
for the coming year are Lynn Hickman as the new president, Jack Cuthbert as
the vice-president, Paul Ganley hanging on as secretary for a third year,
Larry Gage taking his ~~xx~~ second term as Trading Manager and Robert Hoskins
doing the same thing as Correspondence Manager, while yours truly, Ed, ye ed,
has (heh-heh!) the pennies, nickels, dimes, and even quarters, halves, and
that green stuff.

In another section of this issue Lynn pretty well introduces himself, and the
only other "wheel" perhaps somewhat unknown to a number of the members is the
new "vipper", that peerless penman of Mehuman (Ed. Note - I said we were just
going to introduce ourselves.) (V-P's note - And just what do you think I am
doing -- now go away and sit in a corner and chortle over all those millions
these unsuspecting members have let you loose with--), Jack Cuthbert, of the
city of Pittsburgh.

Gage, Hoskins, Ganley, and n'self are sorta holdovers in some respects -- so
there's not much need of further introductions. We'll do our best to make the
club all that you'd like it to be.

Of course, there is the new addition to the editorial section. Jo has done
some of the stencils on this issue, and they're the ones which are free of
typing errata. Since the 29th of September EXPLORER has been working under a
two-editor set-up, a situation which is highly approved in these circlos.

Christmas is coming -- a time when there's a stronger than ever emphasis on
the ideas and ideals of Peace on Earth and Good Will toward Men -- let's hope
that it can be a strong part of the years to come - that all nations and all
races and all creeds can live together and work together pacifically.

And, 'fore you get another EXPLORER, it shall have been a Happy New Year, too.
We're hoping it'll be a Happy New Year for all, all the way through '52 -----
We shaddap for this time -- page is just about filled up anyhow --

The ISFCC Story

W. Paul Ganley

(Author's Note: - It is almost impossible for any writer to describe historical events without introducing a bias of some sort. Therefore, instead of attempting to tell the ISFCC history in an unprejudiced manner, this scribe will relate the story from his own worm's eye vantage point.)

The beginnings of the ISFCC have some aura of sentimentality for this one since they coincide with his own entry into the jumble of acti-fandom. The first notice I had of ISFCC was a letter from one Richard Franz Abbott, partially mimeographed, (although the similarity to the typed portion was so great that at the time it went unrecognized as such) to the effect that: - He had seen my letter in the Dec., '48 Thrilling Wonder Stories and he would like me to join a new sfantasy club he was organizing, called the American Science Fiction Correspondence Club.

This was my first letter from a fan, as had my letter in TWS been the first that a prozine had ever published. Naturally, with the exuberance that typifies young fans, I wrote back.

This was the beginning of the ISFCC.

I corresponded with Abbott for some time thereafter. He had sent letters to other names he had gleaned from the pro-zines, and was slowly and steadily building up his prospective club. To my memory, he had about forty or fifty members when Calvin Thomas Beck stepped into the picture.

Abbott wrote me that he and Beck had decided to pool their respective organizations; Beck was the contemporary founder of a group which he called the Science-Fiction Trading Post. They were deciding on a constitution for the joint organization, to be called the International Science Fiction (or Fantasy - both versions have appeared) Correspondence Trading Club.

At this time, due to the very normal lassitude which is an unfortunate characteristic of this scribe, I broke off connections with Abbott for a couple of months. Finally I dredged up the ambition, from somewhere, to write to Abbott and ask how things were shaping up. I was surprised to find out that their prospective constitution had not only been agreed upon, but mimeographed and circulated to the members of both clubs for approval. Abbott sent one of these to me, but told me that almost all the results were in, and that the constitution had been all but unanimously rejected.

I do not have a copy of this constitution for the ISFCTC, but if Abbott has one handy, I'd appreciate a copy for the records. I can recall several things about it, however. It was extremely underocratic; the ruling board was to be composed of several members including both Abbott and Beck, with the others being either chosen or elected. Other officers were to be elected or chosen, including a 'hostess', a welcoming committee, and I believe, a trading manager or managers.

In effect, such a constitution would have given its two authors complete control of the activities of the proposed ISFCTC. Abbott confided to me in letters both then and later, and personally long afterward, that he was willing to be more lenient, but that Beck wanted a strong central controlling factor. He acquiesced to save argument; letting the fans decide. They did.

So, Beck and Abbott were left with a club and members and a constitution that the members refused to ratify. There was no club organ, and were no other functions, since any of these would require a constitution. The club sat still while Beck and Abbott tried to figure out what to do.

Cont. next page

When the members of the ISFCTC rejected the proposed constitution, Calvin Beck and Richard Abbott could not agree on a new constitution. A breach appeared in their comradeship, widened, until finally Abbott decided he had made a mistake in trying to merge with Beck's SFTP.

He withdrew his club from the ISFCTC, inviting Beck's former members to join him, and Beck did likewise, seeking to have Abbott's members side with SFTP. I received a postal card from Beck, my second missive from him, which said certain untrue things about Abbott, or, to be perfectly fair about the matter, things which I construed to be untrue, and which later events proved to be untrue. I wrote him and objected, and received a second card making even wilder statements. On Abbott's request I mailed both of these cards to him for keeping.

Newer members have not been cognizant of the, at times, open "warfare" existing between the two groups, but older members will recall it. Calvin Beck attempted to regain control of Abbott's members, since he was left with a small membership, of about the same size as his original SFTP. He has since broached the subject of recombining the two groups, but no such action has been considered by the officers.

Beck called his portion the American Science Fantasy Society, and other than one issue of his cramped club magazine which I received in trade for an issue of my own fanzine I have little further knowledge of the ASFS, except, of course, through Beck's claims in a multitude of letters to the prozines.

Richard Abbott, meanwhile, was hard put to it to continue the club. There was still not a club magazine, since no one having a mimeograph could be located. He had to write to everyone on the roster; and he wrote to me once: "We've lost many members because I've gone back on my word, and not had elections or a 'zine." At the time he wrote this we had 63 members.

It might be well to add here the fact that none of these members ever paid a cent to either Abbott or me for dues in ISFCC (with one notable exception, who has requested that his donation be kept confidential, but who financed the sending of ballots when elections were finally held much later.) Since ISFCC, ISFCTC, ASFCC, etc. were not really clubs in the strict sense, but only promises or beginnings of clubs, and there were absolutely no services except for furnishing of other members' addresses with an eye to encouraging correspondence, there was no reason for dues.

Everyone was frantically scrambling about for someone with a mimeograph so that the prospective club organ could be launched. I, myself, laid long-range plans to obtain a hectograph about the close of 1949, and to then publish EXPLORER in the event all other efforts failed. This was unnecessary, as later developments disclosed, but it did accomplish one thing: it imbued me with the desire to publish a fanzine, and eventually resulted in FAN-FARE. (Ed. Note - all these guys plugging their own nags: H-mm-ph and br-ffskl)

In March of 1949, meanwhile, I received a one-page fanzine from Martin R. Woomer, PO Box 453, Allentown, Penna. I read it and immediately forgot all about it. The April issue followed, and this one made an impression.

It was photo-offset, very neat, and although it was not a fantasy magazine, being instead a sort of a hobby-zine with "members" made up of people who would write in, I thought perhaps I could get an ISFCC department insinuated into it. So I wrote to Woomer right away.

(The second installment of "The ISFCC STORY" will be run in the next issue. We hope you like it -- Ed'n'Jo)

* * * * *

ISECC'ers Publish the Following Fanzines - How 'Bout Readin' 'Em ?
 FAN-FARE...QUANDRY...SCIENCE FICTION NEWSSCOPE...TLMA...FAN-VARIETY...ODD
 SLANT...SOL...WASTEBASKET...And Others For Whom We Extend Apologies
 For Not Having Listed -- Memory Is Atrocious At Times....

P.S.F.C. Features L.S.D.C.

And with that hunk of initialization over with, we'll elaborate to say that Sunday, Nov. 11th, was the date of the twelfth Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference, held at Philly's KofC Hall, 157-9 North 15th St. One of Pennay's top s-f pen-wielders, L. Sprague de Camp, featured the program. (DON'T ask me what was the topic of his speech -- This is being written six days before the PSFC takes place -- knowing of the de Camp multitude of qualities, it was a good speech!)

The Philadelphia Conference is one of the top 'cons' of the Eastern Seaboard, and fans, editors, writers, and artists of the s-f world are generally to be found in goodly number at these affairs that are thrown annually in the City of Brotherly Love.

... //// ...

BALSCIFORUM NEWSGRAM

One of the newer s-f groups in the eastern section the USA is the Baltimore S-F Forum, and its program of expansion is shown in the growing attendance at the meetings. From a small group of eleven for the first meeting, the group has expanded until it has all but tripled in size.

Programs have been planned well to make meetings interesting, and have included lectures and demonstrations of electronics equipment, discussions on the controversial flying saucers, en masse attendance at such films as "When Worlds Collide", and, for this November meeting, a talk, illustrated, on the Size of the Universe by a staff member of the Maryland Academy of Sciences.

The Balsciferum, headed by our ISFCC'er Allen Newton, has the distinction of being the first to investigate the possibilities of gaining an ISFCC Local Chapter, and it looks like another city s-f club is well on its way. They have their own club-rooms, and are planning some extensive, long-range activities.

.o01! \$80o.

Mostly Stuff Like Dat Dere --

Actually there isn't much we can report about this time because we-uns had a siege of GaFLA for awhile, startin' with the 29th of September and lasting into the middle of October...many thanks to those of the club who sent in cards and congratulations, particularly to the purty lil' ol' sketch made up by Lee Hoffman...we aren't in our home yet, still being at the same address, but we hope to be putting out the next issue mostly from the Erie address...Jo will be doing a number of these stencils, and they'll undoubtedly be the ones that aren't full of tripotyping errata...a number of ISFCC'ers are college bound or more accurately, are working at those lectures and lessons...Rich Elsberry at Minnesota; Paul Ganley at University of Buffalo; Bob Hoskins at Albany State Teachers...lot of others at other schools, too .. Dick Abbott at Grove City College, for one Max Keasley at St. Louis ... Prexy Lynn Hickman making a dash from N. Carolina to Nashville, Tennessee and had time to drop in to visit ISFCC'er Janis Lamb.... Basil Wells reports that an s-f writer has moved into the Northwestern Penna. area in the form of Betsy Curtis, who's done some yarns for Galaxy --- Elsberry types in a card that he's made the grade with the Minnesota Technolog...the voting in the elections this year topped the percentage of last year...congratulations to youse guys and gals...nearly an 80% turn-out compared to the 50% returns of the 1950 elections...wonder if we can get the Library revived???? .. we've got three books we'll send to the Library to get it started up again, and maybe there can be some urging of the ex-Librarian to ship those volumes....Jo'n'Ed start it off again with Clarke's "Interplanetary Flight", Burton's "Kasidah of Hajji Abdu-el-Yezdi" and Wylie's "Gladiator"...OK? I shaddap for this time.

Ex-SOL III BOOK NOTES

IANewton Jr.

Interesting to note the ramifications of a development of a "school" in literature. Horatio Alger's treatises had the poor boy making good by marrying the Boss' daughter. In other words, the pure heart conquers the world. Now, many decades later Heinlein writes THE SIXTH COLUMN wherein six (count 'em, boys!) heroes save the U. S. from the Iron Heel of the Despotic Asiatic Conqueror...just released in p-b format under the title Day After Tomorrow, and available from Signet, 501 Madison Ave. NY 22 NY for 30¢ postpaid, this book continues the high standards that this firm has shown in their s-f releases. First appearing in ASF in 1941, the story sees conquering Russia gobbled up by the Asiatics who in turn reduce the U.S. to slave-state status. A handful of men are left who organise a new religion as a sixth column in order to distribute their weapons--a product of a superior science. 'Tis strange that Bob Heinlein missed the sociological dynamite that is contained in our living monotheistic religions. Certainly elements in the creeds of the religions of the West point to the possibility of the revolutionary ideal of universal peace being attained--PEACE (not of necessity being a Pax Americanus and most assuredly not a Soviet Putridero) where:

"And they shall beat their swords into plowshares." (Micah 4:3)

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God." (Epistle of John 1.4:7)

Selah-pardon editorialising--but Bob did use religion rather freely in his plot.

Don't forget the kiddies for Xmas & Penguin has lottsa titles in picture book series. Extinct Animals has pics of ye monsters of past and a color chart of geological eras of real help to us who get the pleistocene and plesiaurus mixed up. (35¢ net from Penguin Bks at Harmondsworth-Middlesex-England.)

Scion Ltd at 37a Kensington High St. London W8 has a swell juvenile space up-roar in Vargo Statten's THE AVENGING MARTIAN. Available at 1/6 (say two bits) this low price item is a dandy for the junior book-shelf. Mars and Venus engage in mutually destructive war with result that earth comes off the unwitting winner.

Then there is THRILLS INC., an Australian periodical dedicated to space up-roar pure and simple. 8d for British fen and 15¢ for statesiders and Canadians who wish to send to Transport Pub.Co. Pty.Ltd. 26 Hunter St-Sydney, Australia. At the price--and if you like space high and low adventure--you can't go wrong.

SF in non-sfulp (Non SF pulp--dope!) Blue Bk Mag. Sept '51. Planets in Combat by Robert Heinlein. Part one of two. Heinlein with a BEM yet and almost nekrid gals (drool) and lottsa corn and still the best juvenile thriller IAN has seen. Would like to see this in pb format and especially in the pocketbook Jr. series for 'tis a swell introduction to sf for the younger reader (and his parents).

SF in slicks Satevepost 25 Au 51 / Michael Fessier--AFFAIR WITH A GENIUS. 'Tis an interesting study in motivation. Hero develops gismo to shut off sound as protection agen dream gal's propensity for soap opera. Has the typical Fessier light touch with soupcon of double talk.

NOT RECOMMENDED SEEING: LOST PLANET AIRMEN: Republic edited this stinkeroo to their undying shame. A real punk sfittee (sf shifting pics). Not recommended for children over eight years of age--podon--six!

Recommended Seeing: Admirers of Gothic Horror will find several fine tortured landscapes depicted in Arthur Rank's British production of "Oliver Twist". They will also receive a bonus of the largest number of supporting roles superbly performed that this reviewer has perhaps ever had the pleasure of viewing.

20th Century came thru with "The Frogmen" and tho not sfittee, many local sficionados said 'twas better than some sf films. Ye reviewer agrees!

Republic: "Vampire's Ghost". Coauthor credits to Leigh Brackett. Plot

involves many of the vampire cult cliches but is redeemed by good acting on the part of a large and excellent cast. Locale is Africa and exterior shots seem to have authenticity. Not bad at all.

Off-trail is the widely heralded Italian "Bitter Rice". But it does have classic horror elements in final expiation by pistol-bullet inside of an abattoir. Reviewer apologises for many past unkind remarks and thoughts anent Hollywood after seeing hero and heroine in this opus making woo with the words in midst of driving rainstorm without getting clothes wet. Amused to note that during scene where villain tempts the innocent farm lass, the sound track supplied subdued background of music a la jazz Americana (Oh, those dirty Yankees). 'Cos realize that sex angle was the important one in the pic but the connoisseur could see where censor had nipped love-flagellation scene in bud--as well as other scenes--thereby diminishing UGLY SEX. You see, here in Maryland we are fortunate in having long established state film censorship. As such, we are one of the few states with such moral protection and 'cos it helps make us much better than the rest of you jerks!

I. A. N.

ooo 000 ooo

CHICAGO

CHI-CON-GO

Probably the main item to report on the last science fiction annual conclave at New Orleans is that the next year's convention site shall be Chicago, the second time that the Windy City has snagged the top feature of the s-ficionado year. Centrally located fairly well, it is expected that the CHI-CON will draw fans from all directions to s-f's "Big Show."

There were quite a few of the ISFCC present at the NOLACON, and there have been both fragmentary and fairly complete reports sent in by a couple of them. Because the NOLACON will have been more than two-mohtn-old news by the time you get this, not much shall be given in a review of the event other than to say it was a successful affair both in the matter of attendance and finance. Much of the credit for the success of this year's S-F-Con must go to Harry B. Moore, who worked like the dickens to make it a top-notch convention.

ISFCC'ers who were in attendance were Lynn Hickman, newly elected president of the club; Rich Elsberry, retiring vice-president of the club; Lee Hoffman, far better known as the editor (or should we say "editress" of QUANDRY; and Max Keasler of the unhappily-publicized FAN-VARIETY. For good reports of the convention, would recommend getting either la Lee's Q or Herr Max' FV, or sending to Bob Tucker for a copy of S-F Newsletter, or to Larry Campbell for a copy of S-F News-scope.

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FLYING SAUCERS

Would like to exchange FLYING SAUCER Newspaper articles with any SF reader who collects them.

I am planning a Saucer fanzine.

To anyone who wants to SELL Saucer articles I can pay 10¢ cash plus postage for each DIFFERENT 1951 Saucer Article. Write to:-

E. ROCKMORE
P.O. Box 148
Wall St. Station
New York 5, New York

Lynn's Letter - Cont.

a move has been under way also with the ISFCC. At the present time TLMA has four active chapters with two or three more starting soon. ISFCC'er and Little Monster Marian Cox is now organizing a new chapter in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which will be a sort of a combination chapter of TLMA and ISFCC. All members in the chapter now are members of both clubs. They, in turn, will start a drive to get new members in that area. For example, I and other Li'l Monsters are sending Marian addresses of any persons we know in that area who may be in the slightest way interested in science-fiction. We scan the letter sections of the magazines, write to other fans asking their help, etc. I think it is a good thing for it brings the fan and the club closer together. Gives some good social contact.

I wish that each member who is interested in starting a local chapter of the ISFCC or a combined chapter such as we have in Fort Wayne would write either to me or to Ed Noble. We will certainly give you all the help we possibly can. Please let us hear from you on this. It is a fine method of increasing membership and of having a heck of a lot of fun yourself.

Well, that should be enough food for thought in one issue, so see you all again next time.

Lynn A. Hickman
President, ISFCC

!!!!!!

(Ed. Note: - In the last issue of the Explorer there appeared a paid advertisement by the editors of Fan-Variety, Bill Venable and W. Max Keasler, concerning the action either taken or proposed by the NFFF with respect to Fan-Variety. It has been assumed by some that in carrying this ad, Explorer and ISFCC have concerned themselves with an action of the NFFF, which is not the case. It was run as a paid advertisement, which does not infer that ISFCC or the ISFCC's o-o, EXPLORER, has taken official interest or action in either direction.

However, Rick Sneary, who is both the President of the NFFF and also a member of the ISFCC, has requested space in the pages of EXPLORER to present the NFFF side of the picture. So, we give you Rick's story this time, minus his inimitable spelling, due to an editorial liking for conservative spelling... E.N.)

A REPLY TO KEASLER AND VENABLE

I am sorry to see what is purely an NFFF affair dragged into the pages of the EXPLORER. Not that the question of the NFFF's dropping of the sponsorship of FAN* VARIETY should not be aired publicly, but that it is not an ISFCC matter. (See ed. note). But as it has (again, see note) I will try to explain the reasons for my action.

In the first place let me explain that NFFF sponsorship meant to us (the officers of NFFF) that the NFFF was the same as the Publishers. Losses sustained by the magazine were to be met by the club, and profits, if any, were to be returned to

(cont. on page 10)

- RESERVED -

For Last Minute Disa and Data

New Member - Hal Poretzky
483 Georgia Ave,
Brooklyn 7, N. Y.

In Children's Books - There's a large volume, illustrated, that is devoted to Rocket Ships and Space Ships - think it's one of the Golden Book group, but not quite sure.

Arrived, too, is Vernon McCain's FAPA-zine, WASTEBASKET - a superb issue that is terrific. If there are still copies, at 146 E 12th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Erie Book Store carries not only a well - balanced line of new books, but also has one of the largest of selections in used books. If you're a collector and looking for certain volumes or specific authors, drop a line to our Used Book Department specialist, Mr. Glenn Cantrell. He can help you and give you our prices should we have your needs in stock.

Along with New Science-Fiction and Fantasy we have used books by such as

MARIE CORELLI

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

H. RIDER HAGGARD

EDWARD BELLAMY

BRAM STOKER

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And Many Others

Write To Us and List Your Wants and Needs. We're the Largest Book Store in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

THE ERIE BOOK STORE
17 E. 8th St.
ERIE, PENNA.

A Reply To -- cont.

the club, with the club retaining the right to hire and fire editors as it saw fit, It seems that Venable and Keasler were not fully aware of this, and partly explains why the NFFF felt that it had a right to say something about the policy of the magazine, and they did not.

My reason for encouraging EV to stay with the NFFF was because I believed it to be a good fanzine, and that the difficulties causing friction could be ironed out. There is no reason to assume that there was any ulterior motive involved.

My reason for dropping FanVariety was simply that I felt it was getting too much unfavorable publicity which could reflect on NFFF. I did not consider my own opinion of EV, but that of others. I received numerous complaints from numerous prominent fans complaining about EV. Many of these people have written to me that they now like the current issues, but they didn't tell me this before I acted. Under the weight of their disapproval and evidences of disapproval from other outside sources, I saw nothing else but to order the dropping of the sponsorship of Fan-Variety.

As for the point of EV never being an NFFF magazine, it is quite true. But Aleph Null, which combined itself with EV without NFFF consent, was. Its first issue was run off at NFFF expense by an NFFF officer. And I have the written statement that by being NFFF sponsored they obtained material easier and better.

Fandom is growing up into a big thing. Fans must learn responsibilities and realize that the days when "anything goes" are past. Just as editors Keasler and Venable have learned that one cannot say or do as he pleases, so have I learned one fan cannot run things. Fandom is becoming civilized, and falling heir to the faults of civilization. It is now possible for a few irresponsible fans to cause bad impressions that will hurt all fandom. And fandom is becoming more democratic. The will of the majority is ruling.

There is nothing more I can say. I acted with good faith, and did what I thought was right. I seem to have displeased some. I regret that, but it cannot be undone.

Rick Sneary

President of the NFFF

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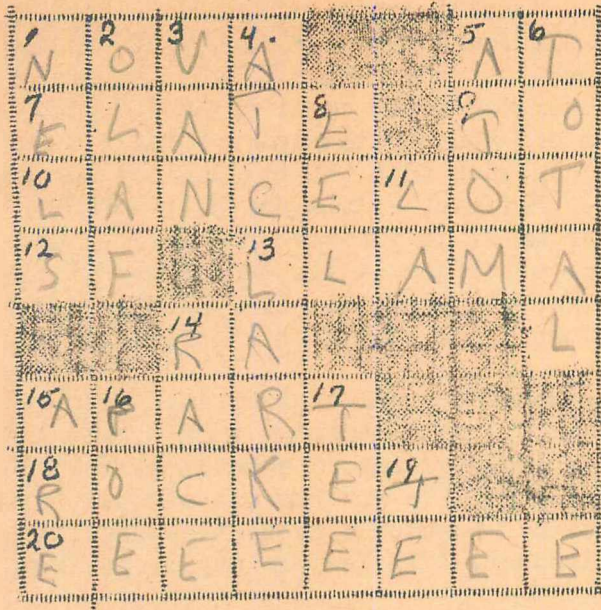
Sorta Gathered in From Here'n'There ...

For those who like some gorgeous fantasy in art, the December issue of ESQUIRE has a superb bunch of illos with a top feature of the stars and the constellations marked out in the heavens...the December Esqy is always a good buy anyhow---so many pages for a half a rock! ... One of the prospective ideas of the ENTERPRISES idea started by Max Keasler and Bill Venable is that of an s-f and fantasy calendar, should enough fan-artists be in the mood for such a job. ...for those of you interested in that particular bit of Americana, the January 1952 issue of LI'L ABNER Comics features the "Sadie Hawkins Day" another poet joins EXPLORER in the coming issue, James Angell, of England ... in the December issue of CORONET there's an article of interest to astronomers and to s-ficionados, on the Peltier Comet ... more and more the big magazines are awakening to s-f .. articles and such on potential rocket travel and stuff like that dere...the current QUANDRY carries quite a series of discussions on this business of fandom self-censorship and Russ Watkins' Crusade idea ... while not in total accord with the CTCF, from the title of one of the fan-mags that comes out of the Buffalo area it sounds like at least one could stand it .. not a Kreuger 'zine, either ...

"ad stellas"

CHRISTMAS SEALS FIGHT TUBERCULOSIS - Use 'em on your Christmas Mail

HERE, FINALLY, is that there li'l ol' Cross-word Puzzle that we've been promising for months n' more months. 'Twas perpetrated by one of us, A. Chas. Catania, 620 West 182nd St., New York, 33, New York



ACROSS

- 1. Exploding sun. (not daughter)
- 5. On, in, near
- 7. Raise the spirit. (Cheer up, not resurrect)
- 9. Toward
- 10. _____ BIGGS, SPACEMAN - Bond
- 12. abbrev. of favorite subject of all fen.
- 13. Andes animal related to camel
- 14. Sm God. (That always gets in!)
- 15. Separate
- 16. What men will travel to the moon in
- 20. Long, loud scream

DOWN

- 1. _____ on Bond.
- 2. _____ Stapleton
- 3. A. E. _____ Vogt
- 4. _____ r_hur C. _____
- 5. _____ Bomb
- 6. Sum

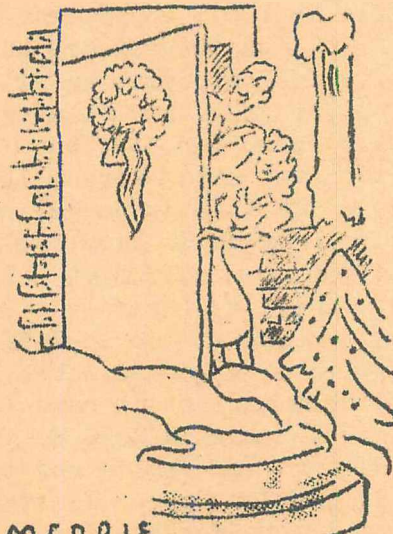
- 8 Snakelike fish (Terran)
- 11. Musical note
- 15. Exist (Do you?)
- 16. Edgar Allan _____
- 17. Golf peg
- 19. _____ d Sturgeon

... ooo)))

(There's another one of these for a coming issue - next one, we hope -- and if any of you are so minded, we'll welcome further X-word efforts on your part. If you think they're easy to make, try one -- and start muttering sweet nothings to yourself --)

#####

From the
Explorer
Staff
to
All of You
Ed + Jo



MERRIE
CHRISTMAS
FOLKS

EXPLORER Looks At Its Contemporaries

Those of you who were fortunate enough to receive copies of QUANDRY and FAN-VARIETY that came out shortly after the NOLA-CON found unique coverage of the big s-f convention. Since then word has got around that not many available copies of those issues are left. Max Keasler's F-V featured a front cover spread of pics taken at the convention, and the photos show off the physiognomies (that's a word?) of many of the BNF...it is generally conceded that the big item of surprise of the NOLA-CON was the fact that concerns Lee Hoffman -- 'tis not Herr Hoffman, but ~~Ferulein~~ Hoffman --- h-h-h-h-h...the cover on FV is further proof of it, too -

QUANDRY, one of the tops in the fanz world, continues on its genial way at 15¢ per copy, and this issue is replete with Tucker, Watkins, Venable, Keasler and a bunch of others. It may be acquired at 101 Wagner St., Savannah, Georgia, as if 99% of y'all didn't know.

FAN-VARIETY sings its swan song with this current issue, that arrived here but a few days ago -- Max and Bill (Keasler and Venable) are embarking upon a variation in the fan-mag field with ENTERPRISES, and it could amount to something. The replacement for FV shall be OPUS for Max and Bill will be putting out another 'zine, too, the name of which has yet to reach here. Max Keasler's present address is Box 24, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. Bill Venable may be located at 610 Park Place, Pittsburgh, Penna.

MAD, a Ryan and Lippincott job, coming from 224 Broad St., Newark, Ohio is a neat lookin' affair and looks like it should go places. From its first issue, we'd say that it has the chance to rank high on the list. It has its own variety of the li'l peepul in Gomer Gleop. A refreshing hunk of stuff and worth the inquiry and a sub if you're so minded.

SHADOWLAND, the "Eerie" Fanzine, a hecto job out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is a neat bulletin-size effort edited by Sam Martinez and has a masterpiece of a BEM on the cover sent here. A very nice bit of work. It's a dime a copy and send the cash to SHADOWLAND Box # 2032, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Last issue we erroneously reported that Larry Campbell's S-F NEWSSCOPE cost a dime -- well, it's worth a dime even if it does only cost a nickel -- it grows in news reportage and coverage - and can be found at 43 Tremont St., Malden, Massachusetts.

Bob Tucker's S-F NEWSLETTER continues in its new format and covers the NOLA-CON both in word and photo. It's about as complete a 'CON report as you could want and the 'zine sells at 15¢ a copy, from Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois.

Gene Smith and Ken Kreuger are out with the Christmas issue of ABORTIONS - and you can reserve future copies by writing to Kreuger at 11 Pearl Place, Buffalo 2, N. Y. - at 10¢ per copy. For those who may become righteously indignant some of the pages are not recommended, but the 'zine is a pretty good one with some satiric take-offs, and a top-notch verse, INSCRIPTION, by Clancy.

SOL has come out with issue #2, and has improved vastly over the first attempt. Features material by de la Ree, Jan Romanoff, and Harvey Gibbs -- one of the tops in fans joins SOL as a columnist - Lee Hoffman. Where does the gal find the time? A dime a copy - send to David Ish, 914 Hammond Road, Ridgwood, New Jersey.

Bill Butts continues with AD-O-ZINE, keeping it one of the better jobs wherein one can advertise books, rags, etc. either to buy or to sell. If you're looking for certain books or magazines or have 'em to sell, consult Bill about an ad, or look over the 'zine. Address is 2058 E. Atlantic, Philadelphia, Penna.

Another one arriving that's new to ussens is FANTASY TRAILS, edited by Andre von Bell, 2321 Parkway Drive, Winston-Salem, N. C. - it's primarily an ad-zine, but interspersed with verse - for book and magazine collectors this one is a good deal - sub at 50¢ a year and looks like an up and coming affair.

Explorer Continues To Look At Its Contemporaries -

From Alan Pesetsky, 1475 Townsend Ave., New York 52, N.Y., comes another issue of ASMODEUS, with which has been combined Michael de Angelis' GARGOYLE. The major part of this issue is poetry in line with C. A. Smith and Lovecraftiana. This one is also priced at 15¢, and pretty nicely put out li'l ol' magazine. The cover for the current issue is exceptional in being sorta unique. At the present Alan is looking for material, so any of you budding authors and poets and stuff like dat dere can find a potential outlet for the inspirations.

The second issue of GM Carr's GEM-TONES, touching the spectrum at CHRYSOBERYL, comes out and generally matches the first exceptional issue, but lacks that tricky page arrangement was was confoozing. This is available only to FAPA or S&PS or by request, not being one to which you can subscribe, but if you'd like to look at a neat little magazine sometime, drop a line to GM Carr, 8200 Harvard N., Seattle, Washington.

Ken Deale's BEWARE, issue # 2, got here t'other day, too -- another pretty good-looking magazine with lots of art work by Chabot and Davis and containing both fact and fantasy and such, with letters thrown in. Available from 115 E. Moshulu Parkway, Bronx 67, N. Y.

Quite a healthy little FANTASY ADVERTISER came in since last making out a review column -- 'tis a neat affair in offset and is loaded with ads for folks that are looking for swaps and such...it's available at 20¢ per copy from 1745 Kenneth Road, Glendale 1, California.

THAT is the list, guys'n'gals --- longest review column I think we've ever had. 'Tis good to know that other fan-eds like EXP enough to send copies for review, et and cetera. When you invest in a fan-mag you're helpin' out the ambitions of a potential editor or writer, and so fan-mags are quite worth-while.

* * * * *

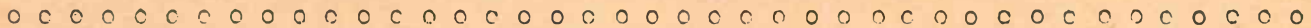
Changes in Names:-

A couple of the ISFCC'ers have changed last names during the year, which means that the percentages have been cut for all you aspiring bachelors of the club -- here they are:

- Mrs. Katie Liberty Stephens - 530 Highland, Alma, Michigan
- Mrs. Andrew (Edith Robertson) Tjepkema, 308 E. Walnut, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Some Address Changes:-

- C. P. King - 237 E. 10th St., Long Beach, California
- Marian Cox, 1831 North Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Terry Jeeves, 38 Sharrard Grove, Sheffield, England
- Den Abas, Eksterstraat, Haarlem, Holland
- Howard Frobisher, 8 Fairview Crescent, Lodge Meadows, B&CUP, LANCS, Eng.
- Max Keasler, Box 24, Washington U., St. Louis, Missouri
- Richard Abbott, Box 143, Grove City College, Grove City, Penna.
- Robert Hoskins, Albany State Teachers, Albany, N. Y.



From the Staff of EXPLORER and the "Brass" of ISFCC

To All the Members of the Club and To All the Readers
of EXPLORER, Our Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas and
an Exceptionally Happy New Year.

Lynn -- Larry -- Jack -- Paul -- Bob -- Ed -- Jo -- Bea

FRIENDS OF THE LETTER

A Revived Department

Resuscitated by Our First Past President, Lawrence Kiehlbauch

1516 Tenth St., Billings, Montana

Last year a department was set up in EXPLORER to help those who sought pen-pals by letting it generally be known through this column. It was carried out by Bill Johnson of Walnut Creek, California. Since Bill departed thence and left no other address, the column sorta fell by the wayside, and is now being brought back via the efforts of Larry.

Should there be those among you who would like to make use of this column, send word to Larry and he'll be glad to pass along the general information, such as you will see listed in the following lines: i.e. - name, address, age, what you would like to write about, preference of correspondent (or correspondents - let's not be picayunish--)

"" OO ""

Mrs. Honey Wood, 1880 Garfield, East Cleveland, Ohio - wants to correspond with as many pen-pals as want to write to her, either guys or gals..any ages. Honey's age is 22, of 5' 1", 125 lbs, light brown hair -- habits:- smoking, biting finger nails when not busy, leaving all the lights on in the house, and doors open---dislikes bugs of any kind, particularly butterflies. Talents are:- Oil Painting, accordeon and piano playing -- likes dancing and roller skating - also dogs - and collects stamps.

George Dold, 5424 Penn. Ave., Pittsburgh 6, Penna - age 29; 4' 6", blond and brown-eyed - hobbies are corresponding, reading, drawing, stamp collecting, the harmonica, and roller skating..studying Radio and TV Servicing at Penn Technical Institute and will finish early in April of 1952. George says he will let his pen friends know of any change of address at that time. As to the number of pen-pals, George would like about 6 -- guys or gals - but, of course, gals are preferred if they'd like to swap letters -- ages 19-30 -- maybe a gal about his own height --

Mrs. Richard Dimock, Box 451, Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada - Lillian says that she would like to correspond with anyone who is intereredted in s-f, especially pals outside of Canada, and would like to get a pen-pal in South America and in Europe.

Charles Brusard, Jr. - 11 Tufts St., Cambridge, Massachusetts - age 13 -- his hobbies are s-f, stamps, and model railroads. Likes in s-f: FFM, aSF, Planet, FM, Weird, also Wells, Bradbury, and Merritt. Quote: "I would like a pen pal around my age and who has the same general interests as I have."

Miss Wanita Norris, 4217 Central Dr., Fort Wayne, Indiana - Wanita is 20 years of age and single - likes swimming and basketball - hobbies are writing, astronomy, collecting souvenirs from different places, and reading about psychology, in which she intends to major. Doesn't play any musical instruments, but likes to watch ice-skating. Likes to discuss space travel and life on other planets.

Gavin Brown, 47 Ganseyside St., Paisloy, Renfrewshire, Scotland - is very much interested in hearing from overseas members, and is not too fussy about the age group and will answer all letters. Gavin is 30 years old, with brown hair and blue eyes---is a maintenance engineer. Would like to hear from a few feminine pen pals, but fellas are welcome, too - favorite hobby, collecting snapshots; next is reading, of all kinds with s-f leading.

William Gardiner, 36 Royston Mains Crescent, Edinburgh, Scotland -- Bill would like a pen pal around his age, which is 14 - attends Ainslie Park Secondary - plays football and cricket - read of EXPLORER in an s-f magazine and hopes someone would like to swap letters with him.

Claire Garceau, 10 Windsor Ave., West Acton, Massachusetts - Claire says that she will take as many pen-pals as would like to write - she's 18, an art student, and hobbies are anything dealing with horses, particularly Arabians - she has a 3/4 Arab of her own - interested in drawing and painting, reading, good music, and, of course, s-f. Would like pen-pals around her age - either sex. OK?

BELLUS BUMPS-----

For the first time in a long time we went to see a movie. Pretty soon Jo will be getting the idea that I am an s-f fiend, for the first film we saw together was "Destination Moon" -- and just t'other night we hied ourselves to one of the Erie cinema centers and caught "When Worlds Collide" -- so, for about the first time, I am beating our usual movie reviewer (and book-reviewer) Allen Newton to the page with a movie review.

For those who awaited each monthly installment of WWC as it came out in Blue Book back in the early thirties, it may bring back some memories of the serial -- the Balmer-Wylie tale is one of the "classics" of the s-f field and the George Pal production sticks to the story pretty well. The film is noteworthy in that it has no big name stars, and the male lead might have been Danny Kaye for the resemblance ...if you haven't seen it, make sure you do when it comes around either for the first time or at the neighborhood movie house on the second go-around.

As in D-M, Chesley Bonestell does some landscape work on the new planet to which forty-four folks, a super-modern ark-full of animals, and incidental odds and ends manage to voyage and find sanctuary. Moments before the solar-system invading Bellus bops the bejabers out of a groggy Earth the rocket-ship takes off and makes a one-way trip to Zyra...fortunately for them, the story, and everyone else, they make the trip successfully.

Spectator reaction was good -- caught on a Thursday night, second day of the showing, there was a full house and standees in the lobby for the last show. Perhaps "The Day The Earth Stood Still" had some influence, having played another theater here but the previous week.

efn, jr

...ad stellas...ad stellas...adstellas...adstellas... ad stellas...ad stellas...ad

Some More Contemporaneous Reviewing ---

A couple more fan-magazines arrived since doing the stencil of fmz-reviews --- a well-known fiction-mag, Paul Ganley's FAN-FARE, the July-September issue, made the grade despite a lot of difficulties in the vicinity of the publisher's home -- note with pleasure that Bob Briney reviews one of my favorite fantasy books, SILVERLOCK, in the book review section. Like a number of the fmz., Fan-Fare finds the publishing costs zooming and perforce must go up another nickel -- 15¢, but it's a good 'zine nonetheless. Write to Paul Ganley, 119 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, N. Y. for copies.

The second one arriving also comes from that area -- Ken Kreuger's ZODIAC, # 2 issue -- Krauger sends out a plea for material since it seems like he's almost a publisher for Clancy, who lowers the boom prolifically in verse in this issue, but who has done some nice poesy. ZODIAC is priced at a nickel -- and can be obtained from Ken Kreuger at 11 Pearl Place, Buffalo, New York.

ooo 000 ooo

OUR COVER

Although the same cover design appears as a small picture in SF NEWSLETTER, the design was originally done for EXPLORER some months ago by Lee Hoffman, who penned the design for Tucker's 'zine.

Should we ever get around to sending Gregg Calkins a couple stencils he's said he'll do some covers for us, but somehow we've been lax, lazy, and sometimes confused as to how to send some stencils and keep 'em flat and neat for stylus work.

: : :

MORE ADDRESS CHANGES

Charles Harris - "Carolin", Lake Ave., Rainham, Essex, England
Gregg Calkins - 930 Briarcliff Avenue, Salt Lake City, 16, Utah

//////////

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS and Fight TB --

INDICES

This series will conclude the several indices of material found in s-f pro-mags for 1950. Whether the 1951 crop shall be as adequately covered depends much upon the time and the ambition of the last year's compiler or any other person who would tackle such a job. The one who did all this work for 1950 was Robert Hoskins, our Correspondence Manager, and much credit to him for being so patient and hard working. It has been a well-received index, and even pro-writers have written in for copies of EXPLORER because of these series of indices.

Index to AVON FANTASY READER

- ASKEW, Irvin - The Headless Miller of Kobold's Keep - # 14
 BISHOP, Zealia Brown - The Curse of Yig - # 14
 Bradbury, Ray - Ylla - # 14
 Breuer, Miles J. - The Captured Cross-Section - # 12
 COUNSELLMAN, Mary Elizabeth - The House of Shadows - # 13
 Cummings, Ray - The Curious Case of Norton Hoorme - # 13
 The Three Eyed Man - # 14
 DEPLETH, August - The Thing That Walked on the Wind - # 13
 Diffin, Charles V - The Power and the Glory - # 13
 Dunsany, Lord - The Wonderful Window - # 12
 Dwyer, James Francis - The Cave of the Invisible - # 14
 GRIMSHAW - Beatrice - The Cave - # 13
 HARDING, Allison V - Guard in the Dark - # 14
 Howard, Robert E. - The Blonde Goddess of Bal-Sagoth - # 12
 Temptress of the Tower of Torture and Sin # 12
 JACKSON, Clive - The Still Small Voice - # 14
 Jacobi, Carl (with Simak) - The Steet That Wasn't There - # 13
 James, Mr R. - An Episode of Cathedral History - # 12
 KELLER, David H., MD - The Yeast Men - # 14
 Kubilius, Walter - The Day Has Come - # 12
 LONG, Frank Belknap - The Love Slave and the Scientists - # 13
 Long, Julius - He Walked by Day - # 13
 MORGAN, Bassett - Tiger Dust - # 12
 ROHMER, Sax - In the Valley of the Sorceress - # 12
 SIMAK, Clifford (with Jacobi) - The Steet That Wasn't There - # 13
 Smith, Clark Ashton - The Chain of Forgomon - # 12
 WANDREI, Donald - Raiders of the Universe - # 13
 Wellman, Manly Wade - The Kulpie - # 12
 Wetjen, Albert R. - The Ship of Silence - # 13
 Whitehead, Henry S. - The Shadows - # 14
 Wright, Sewell Peasley - The Forgotten Planet - # 13
 Wright, S. Fowler - Original Sin - # 13

Index to FANTASTIC NOVELS

- Brand, Max - That Receding Brown - novelet - March
 Cummings, Ray - The Man Who Mastered Time - novel - March
 England, George Allan - The Flying Legion - novel - January
 James, Francis - A Priest of Quiche - short - May
 Kuttner - Henry (with Moore) - Earth's Last Citadel - novel - July
 MacIsaac, Fred - The Hothouse World - novel - November
 Mason, Elnor Brown - Lost--One Mylodon - short - July
 Moore, C. L. (with Kuttner) - Earth's Last Citadel - July
 North, Eric - Three Against the Stars - novel - May
 Schoolcraft, J. E. - Death's Secret - novelet - July
 Stevens, Francis - Friend Island - short - September

Index to Fantastic Novels- cont.

Stilson, Charles B. - Polaris and the Goddess Gloria - novelet - September
 The Soul Trap - short - July
 Templeton, William P - Mr. Primrose Goes to the Devil - short - May
 Wallis, B. - From Time's Dawn - short - May
 Walton, Harry - Cross of Mercury (Mercurux?) - novelet - November
 Wollheim, Donald A - Mimic - Short - September

Index to GALAXY Science Fiction

Asimov, Isaac - Darwinian Pool Room - short - October
 Misbegotten Missionary - short - November
 Boucher, Anthony - Transfer Point - novelet - November
 Brown, Fredric - Honeymoon in Hell - novelet - November
 The Last Martian - short story - October
 Jones, Raymond F. - A Stone and a Spear - novelet - December
 Knight, Damon - To Serve Men - short - November
 Leiber, Fritz - Coming Attraction - short - November
 Later Than You Think - short - October
 MacLean, Katherine - Contagion - novelet - October
 Matheson, Richard - Third from the Sun - short - October
 The Waker Dreams - short - December
 Merwin, Sam, Jr. - Judas Ram - short - December
 Rocklynnne, Ross - Jaywalker - short - December
 Schnitz, James H - Second Night of Summer - novelet - December
 Sinak, Clifford D - Time Quarry - Serial - October thru December
 Sturgeon, Theodore - The Stars Are the Styx - novelet - October
 (GALAXY started publishing with October issue 1950 --)

NEW Members of the I. S. F. C. C. - Welcomes and such --

Neal Clark Reynolds, 704 N. Spadra, Fullerton, California
 Claire Garceau, 10 Windsor Ave., West Acton, Massachusetts
 Bill Berger, 912 E. 140th St., Cleveland, Ohio
 Mark Johnston, 433 Askin Blvd., Windsor, Ontario
 John Blackburn, Box 584, Sholley, Idaho
 Harold Hostetler, Cairnbrook, Penna.
 James Angell, Focklewood, Limpley-Stoke, near Bath, Somerset, England
 Gavin Brown, 47 Gansseyside St., Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland
 William Gardiner, 36 Royston Mains Groscent, Edinburgh, Scotland
 George Dold, 5424 Penn. Ave., Pittsburgh, Penna.
 Ola I Sulu - 4 Seriki St., Lagos, Nigeria, BWA
 (The following all have the same address:- Trade Centre, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria)
 Godwin O. Kanu
 B. C. Ndukwe
 H. A. Oloko
 A. O. Abossy
 B. O. Igunboo
 W. E. Nwamboo
 A. E. Otu
 I. N. Umezuruike
 Francis Okodugha
 Thompson Dubre

(an imposing list for this issue -- and I hope I have contrived to gather all of them together properly -- it looks like we have an ISFCC chapter in Lagos, aided by Pat Eaton, of Otis, Oregon --e.n.)

Merry Christmas - Joyeux Noel - Fröhliches Weinachten - Wesołych Świąt - and a Mele Kalikanaka to Everyone!

And so we come to the end of another issue of the magazine -- it is, as has been the case, late -- we hope that many of you shall have it to look at after a hearty Thanksgiving dinner or its eventual left-overs.

For things to come, we have an article by Donald Gates, another one of those cross-word puzzles (now that we've figured a way to put 'em on stencil) - we would have had our Kollektor's Korner this issue had there been sufficient response, but Bea penned in a card that she had no material for the issue this time. Probably because of the elections, TRADE-WINDS was held up and has not appeared in time even for this late date. There will be a second installment of the ISFCC Story --

Already book reviews are in for the next issue and would be in this issue if there were room, but there just isn't --- and Al Newton has reviewed a doozy this time.

We'll be starting our third year of active publication of EXPLORER with the January issue -- looks like we're starting to be well on the way, and hope that we may be able to look forward to many years of activity in s-fandom -- our best regards to all of you for the coming year. Again we come to another

-30-

This is the Nov-Dec
issue of EXPLORER -
Box 49
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