

EXPLORER

october
1953

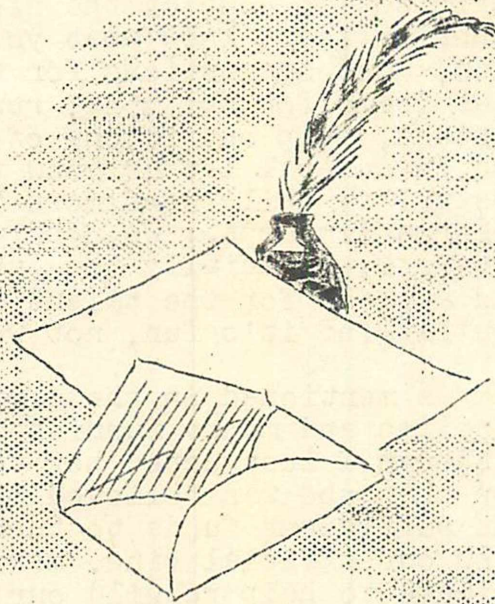


EXPLORER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION

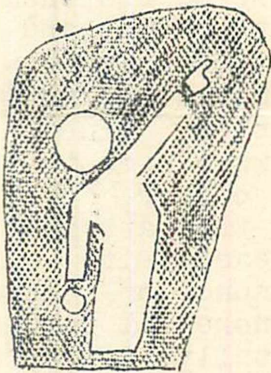
CORRESPONDENCE CLUB

Ray C. Higgs - - - Official Editor
813 Eastern Avenue
Connersville, Indiana



EMERGENCY ISSUE

OCTOBER 1953



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

All of you have probably received one of the cards I sent out and are aware that we at last have an editor for Explorer. To make certain all of you get to know him let me introduce him here - our new member, Treasurer, and Editor-Publisher of Explorer, Ray C. Higgs of 813 Eastern Ave., Connersville, Ind. Let's hope he'll be with us for a long time and that he'll enjoy being a member and putting out our zine. Welcome, Ray!

It has been a long time since we've had a copy of Explorer and in that time much has happened. Unfortunately all the happenings were not pleasant but now that we have an editor and a fanzine again let us hope that this issue will mark the beginning of a new era of growth and activity for ISFCC. Whether it does or not depends on you, the member, as well as on your club officers.

There seems to be a misunderstanding in ISFCC and fandom in general to the effect that four or five officers and a few interested members can supply all the work and activity necessary to a gooc club. I hate to shock anyone out of a comfortable, furlined rut but- it just ain't so! Sure, four or five officers can manage to keep the club struggling along getting nowhere but if you want an active organization that's going to do things and go places YOU have to show a little interest and participate in some of the activities and work.

You don't need to slave and toil and burn the midnight oil. Try

writing some of the other members that you don't know - you'll be surprised at some of the nice people you'll meet. Let the editor and other officers know what you like and dislike about the paper and the club, make suggestions for the improvement of both, submit sf and news items for the zine, run for office or get in on one of the committees, help out in one of the departments, vote in the elections and in general let us know that you're not just a name on the club roster. We still need more volunteers to work in the Welcommittee and Information Dept.: we need write-ups, short stories, poetry, news and art-work, especially the latter, for Explorer. There's room for all and a place for the talent of each one of you so let's hear from you. You'll find it's fun, not work, to participate in the club activities.

As mentioned in the cards Marion Cox did not return any of the supplies and money furnished her at the time she took over Explorer although I instructed her to do so in the letter in which I notified her that she was relieved of her duties. Of course that left us without sufficient funds to turn over to Ray Higgs to enable him to publish our official zine, making it necessary for me to ask you to contribute to help rebuild our Treasury. I could see no other way to replace the funds and supplies without which our zine cannot be published.

It is unfortunate that Miss Cox has seen fit to so misuse club property entrusted to her as an officer of this club in a position for which she volunteered, to show complete lack of a sense of responsibility and concern for her duties and the welfare of the club, and to ignore completely efforts of the officers of ISFCC to communicate with her in regard to her failure to publish the official magazine and later her failure to return the supplies and funds. If at any time she had made an honest attempt to publish so much as a news letter to let the members know that she was trying to do her job as editor, or if she had resigned and made some attempt to account for the material supplied her I, for one, could feel that she had at least tried and had been honest and square with us. But she has done none of these things and instead has chosen to remain silent and ignore all requests that the club funds and property be returned. Incidentally, if any of you are interested in proof of some of the activity that Marion Cox was engaged in during the time she couldn't manage to publish Explorer or even an emergency substitute issue you might turn to Page 127 of the November THRILLING WONDER STORIES and read her letter to the editor. While reading this letter it would be well to remember that magazine material is made up from three to six months ahead of time thus definitely dating her letter during the months in which she couldn't find time to publish Explorer or answer letters from the officers of ISFCC. While on this subject I want to thank you members for your many letters supporting my action in relieving Miss Cox of her duties.

As President of ISFCC I've made mistakes and been slow in accomplishing some things. However, I've done the best I could and given the club as much time as possible, often neglecting my own studies and affairs to do so because I believe in ISFCC and feel that it has great possibilities. You can give credit and thanks to other officers and members that you still have a club - Pat Eaton for his efforts and volumes of correspondence on behalf of international friendship and understanding, Alan G. Davis for suggestions, active interest and help on several problems; Helen Huber for ideas, material for the zine and many letters to interested fans; Larry Keihlbauch and Ed Noble for in-

valuable advice, help and co-operation; and others, both in the US and abroad, who have helped to keep ISFCC alive and pull it through a dark time in its history.

I have word from Pat Eaton that one of our members, who prefers to remain anonymous, has offered to "match" with an sf mag from his own collection each magazine up to 300 sent in by other members, the resulting stock to be distributed among our overseas members who have difficulty getting good sf and fantasy. The member who made the offer will also pay the postage required to send the mags to overseas members. This is about the finest offer I've ever heard of in sf fandom and I feel that we owe this unknown member our sincere gratitude and respect. If he is generous enough to give 300 magazines from his own collection I think each one of us can give a few of our old or double issues to go with them to fulfill the idea and afford a lot of good reading to sf fans who have a much more difficult time than we in acquiring their favorite reading matter. This isn't just a matter of giving sf mags to foreign fans - it is a matter of extending the hand of friendship to fans in other countries. A great deal can be done to build friendship and understanding between people of different countries by doing it on a smaller, more personal scale as some of us in ISFCC are trying to do. The friendship and understanding which we and other like us can build may well mean the difference between war and peace in years to come.

While we're in the province of overseas matters I want to include notice of a change in the title of the head of the Overseas Department from Director, as it was originally announced, to Secretary. Pat Eaton, the Department Secretary requested the change and I guess Secretary does sound better, at that.

It has been brought to my attention that many of our overseas members have apparently been left out of the voting in the past. The only reason I can see for this is the time element and that is not sufficient reason because arrangements should be made to provide for that. All dues paying members are entitled to vote regardless of where they are located. I suggest that in the future the election issue be published in December - before Christmas - and that two months be skipped instead of one before the next issue, thus bringing it out in early March. This would be in line with our past policy of five issues per year and would allow sufficient time for the overseas member's ballots to be returned and counted to be included in the final results which would be announced in the March issue. The new officers terms would begin on that date and run from March to March, much the same as the term of the President of the US. Let us know what you think of this idea or give us your own suggestions.

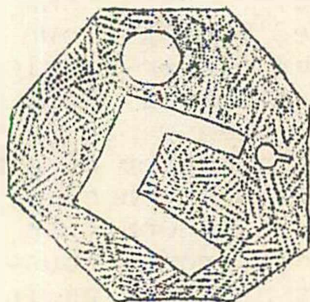
I have one more announcement to include, that being the appointment of Alan G. Davis of 132 Hudson St., Northboro, Mass. as Acting Trading Manager. Our regularly elected Trading Manager has joined the Air Force and, although he's still in touch with us, I felt that we must have one who has a permanent address and space to handle the trade items such as mags, stamps and the like, especially in view of the active trading set-up we are trying to establish to enable our overseas members to pay for their subscription to Explorer.

Let me remind you now that election time is coming up so start
(Continued on page 7)

MEETING OF THE TWAON

by

Helen Huber



I have pen pals all over the United States and Canada, some close to my home state, and some far away, and I hope to meet them someday and really get to know them. There was one girl living in Florida, Ariel Garnick, and for awhile I thought I might get a chance to meet her, but she moved to California and that was that. And I thought I might someday go to Delaware and meet Joann Johnson, because that's not too far from Jersey, but I never did it--yet. And then I had a pen pal in Japan. His name was Tetsu Yano, and while I thought his letters were nice and our correspondence seemed to click, the thought of meeting him never entered my head. I don't think I even mentioned it to him. I mean--Delaware is pretty close, even New York,--but Japan. Well, you know. You've probably felt the same way.

And then one day last April I got a letter from Japan. It said: "I have a wonderful surprise. I am coming to America. I will go to the Philcon and meet you there, or I will go to your home and meet you there." Well, after I got up off the floor and dusted myself off I read the rest of the letter and phoned my husband. He thought it was great so then I wrote back and told him to come here because I didn't know then that I would be able to get to Philly.

Another letter from Tetsu explained that Forrest Ackerman had invited him to stay there while he was here in America and that Forrest would get him to the Philcon. Meantime he was having a gay time in Los Angeles and reported his doings with Kris Neville and other authors, and that he was going to the Westercon. Well, it was hard to wait but I did, and we finally met at the Philcon. Tetsu speaks English clearly, that is not without an accent, but very understandably. And since I usually speak rather fast, all I had to do was slow down and he could understand me.

Well, I only stayed at the con Saturday, and then I went home. But Tetsu stayed over to give his talk and enjoy the rest of the convention. Tuesday Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman brought Tetsu to my home and we spent the evening getting acquainted. I told Tetsu we were glad to have him with us, but that we lived a quiet life and I couldn't promise a real gay life, but that suited him fine. My children took to him very well, and my two year old daughter was soon calling him "Honey" all the time which seemed to delight him very much. Tetsu also has a two year old daughter.

Well, we went to the Park on Wednesday, and Tetsu braved New York

City alone on Thursday. Thursday night we played poker and he won 8 cents. Friday night we took in a movie and Saturday my sister who had been with me at the Philcon came over with her husband and their in-laws. That went on far into the night. Saturday afternoon my husband was off from work, so we took Tetsu over to Staten Island to meet another pen pal of his, a Mr. Herold, his wife and their five children and little black puppy. We had a fine time there, since Mr. Herold is a musician as well as an amateur radio ham. He showed us his station and then played several pieces on the piano for us. Since Tetsu was once a concert violinist in Japan he appreciated this better than we did and turned the pages for him. All I knew was that the music sounded darn good to me and I could have listened to him all day. We had some beer and the fellows got in a huddle leaving us girls to discuss things like slipcovers and drapes and the time the baby had a fever.

Sunday I took Tetsu with me to the regular monthly meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction Association. Forrest Ackerman, who had been in New York the past week, was there to meet us, and of course the most we did that day was talk about the convention. Then Alan E. Nourse, who had been our featured speaker in August on our rained out picnic, a sodden affair if there ever was one, spoke the speech he would have spoken in August had not the rain put a damper on the day. Meanwhile Sam Moskowitz got a phone call informing him that the members of the Circle, a New York fan club, were on their way over to visit us, and they arrived enmasse near the end of Alan's speech.

After the meeting was over the bunch of us went down to a restaurant in Newark for dinner and spent a couple more hours hashing over the convention and asking Tetsu how were things in Japan. After that Tetsu went to New York with Forrest and Mrs. Forrest Ackerman and Jacques Root from the Circle and they all went to see WAR OF THE WORLDS, and as it was too late to come back to Jersey. Tetsu stayed in New York with Jacques Root.

Monday was the day Tetsu was leaving our house, and I was really sorry to see him leave so soon. After dinner Tetsu packed his things and we spent some time saying goodbye to him, and the Ackermans, and Bert Campbell from England who was going back to the Coast with the Ackermans. Then finally they had to go, and we said goodbye all the way down the front stairs and out to the car. Then they were off and it was over.

I have told you mostly just the things we did. But it would take me forever to tell you the things we said and felt. The increasing feeling that the world is smaller and human people are the same all over, and that it doesn't make any difference what race creed or color you are, your problems are all the same, and the solutions are also the same. Oh, I know that sounds preachy, but ten years ago when we were fighting with Japan I never dreamed I'd be a hostess to a man whose country I had tried to hate. But wars would never be over if we didn't try to forget mistakes and do things better next time things get going wrong.

I had known Tetsu's wife was a good cook, and of course I tried to hold my own and be a good cook too. I don't know what he thought of my cooking, but he ate it and seemed to enjoy it, so that was fine.

All in all, it was an experience I'll never forget, and I learned



LOOKS AT STUFF AND SUCH!

Before we start delving into books and TV screens and moompitchas and stuff like dat dere, let us say that we're mightily delighted that one has been found who shall take over the editorship of EXPLORER. The year that has elapsed since Marian Cox assumed the job and then did little in actively producing an issue of the magazine has been one which made yours truly regret the passing on of the job to someone else. Wherever we can, we'll do our best to help out.

The Fall TV-Drama season opened auspiciously for s-f viewers, particularly with Eddie Albert doing a fine job in George Orwell's "1984". This was the opening show of "Studio One", and they mixed good acting and unique camerashots to eloquently portray the dismal futility of the highly regimented life of a super-totalitarian state.

Then, for the fantasy side of the group, Kraft Theater just did a sequel of Nelson Bond's "Mr. Mergenthwirker's Lobblies" in "Lobblies Never Lie." Henry and Japheth - the two invisible Lobblies- predicted and carried out same, certain things that should occur. Altogether it presented a nice, light comedy.

An element of fantasy makes Philco Playhouse's "Holiday Song" well worth the mentioning. While more of a religious theme, the two subway trips of the bewildered cantor, played superbly by Josef Bulow, bring "Holiday Song" somewhat into the fantasy realm. This play is a repeat, having been performed last year around Rosh Hosannah and Yom Kippur.

If we can get the cooperation of the various TV drama groups, we'll do what we can to acquire advance listings of the s-f and fantasy shows. More on that next issue.

From the motion picture angle we are very weak...this viewer has seen little in the line of movies, and the last s-f film seen was "The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms". This one we did not like. If Bradbury wrote the story just as it was filmed he was writing for pure money and was reaching deep (20,000 fathoms deep) for a wild and woolly story that would have looked better in Horror Comics or somep'n.

In the fertile pocket-book field there's a lot of s-f and fantasy. Latest one we have is "Takeoff" by Pennant Books...two-bits at most places where p-b's are sold. That's as far as we can go on this one because we just bought it.

Arthur Clarke is out with a novel, "Childhood's End", pubbed by Ballantine Books at 35¢. In this you see the end of the Earth as children develop into super-mental giants who are destined for far greater stuff than this li'l ol' Terra Firma. We have read better and we have read worse.

Several very good anthologies are out which are worth the picking up. "Tomorrow the Stars", edited by Heinlein, has a number of fine short stories. "Stories of Tomorrow" is an equally good one for s-fictionados. You'll find them still very much on sale at most of the places where you can buy pocket books. One for the fantasy reader is John Collier's "Fancies and Goodnights".

Two more "Space" stories sorta round out the column.....one is "Space Platform" by Williamson (at 25¢), in which the first space platform is being built despite sabotage from all angles. The other is "Space Merchants" by Kornbluth, which seems to make the present day advertising agency look like peanuts.

As a finale, for those who like stories of the future, and because we've seen it still in the pocket-book stands, there's a very top-notch tale of the classic variety, Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World." This is an adult book, full of satire. Huxley wrote it in 1932, so it's not a new one, but it's in p-b editions for about a year.

Better we should shaddap for this time. See you, we hope, next issue. And we trust that we'll have a better column for you, with advance notices and such.

effan (E. F. Noble)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - Continued from page 3

thinking about it. A suggestion was made by one member that all present officers run for re-election en masse due to our having been hamstrung for most of our year in office by lack of Explorer. But whether this is done or not we're still going to have a democratic election. Let's have more than one candidate for each office for a change and make it a real election. If you want to run for office or nominate someone else send the information to Ray Higgs so he can include it in the next issue.

This is enough for one issue, I think. My address is just below so let me hear from you. As I said before, I won't promise to answer each letter but will try and will read and consider each one.

Sincerely,
Donald E. Gates, President ISFCC
Box 73
Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone

Ed. Note - In above message - third paragraph - eleventh word in line "3" should be good instead of goog. Gad! What a typo! Sorry!



SATURDAY, PHILCON

Much as I would like to tell all about the Philcon, Saturday is the only all I saw firsthand. Since friend husband has resisted all attempts at indoctrination into the SF world there was nothing to do but go the convention alone. However, having heard bits of juicy gossip about conventions of every type and sort FH turned thumbs down on a solitary trip for me. Therefore I coerced a non-fan sister of mine to (ha-hahaha-hahahahaha) chaperone me. All I said to her was "There will be men, and we will be alone". That was all I had to say.

With high hopes for a gala time we disembarked from a grayhound bus at Penn Station Philadelphia and hailed a cab. This honest man took directly to the Bellevue Stratford Hotel. This is true and we will both swear. To it. We ran into the hotel looking eagerly for friendly faces. And we found plenty of faces. But no friends. Twas four pm when we arrived, and until 8 pm we looked eagerly. And let me tell you to look eagerly for four solid uneventful hours is hard on the feet. Seems we had arrived just after introductions were over and all the other fans had FOUND each other. Well, we went out for a bite of something-I mean something-- and fortified by a delicious lobster dinner we returned to the fray.

Just as we were going to crash a high looking group and make some new friends I spotted a fellow ESFA member, Corwin Stickney. After that it was easy. Seems like I saw everybody I knew. I think this all happened at the auction, and I remember what a good job Sam Moskowitz did as the auctioneer. His powerful voice vibrated over the microphone, commanding attention--and money--from present people, and he got both. Ye gods, the stuff that was sold, and the prices the stuff sold for. Shudder. I had three dollars and I thought it might get me something happy. Silly little fool. Three dollars was a mere nothing, and my thin ladylike voice hardly withstood being drowned out with a solitary blub.

Nostalgically, I remember how one thing went for about 8 dollars, purchased by a pretty girl no doubt spurred on by the promise of a kiss from Sam Mines as an inducement to buy. She got two kisses, but gee, she was cute enough to just ask, she wouldn't have to buy. And then they put up an illustration from an L. Sprague DeCamp story for which I happily bid. When L. Sprague said he would kiss any girl who bought it I went even higher and shed my ladylike voice for a rougher more commanding one. I even began counting my money to see how high I could go, but alas, the figure went to astronomical proportions, which was only natural, since such a kiss would probably be heavenly, but I never got it. I kept a stiff upper lip and returned kissless to my husband, wearing my virtue like a badge and telling him I didn't care--not me.

Also at or around the auction I met Sally Dunn, a co-Fannette, and I tried to meet Honey Wood, but never did. Everywhere she had just

been was where I arrived two minutes later. Then I met a whole group of fellows and girls at once so naturally I don't remember their names and they probably didn't get mine either. Just before the auction my sister and I stopped in at the book display and met a nice guy who sold us a book we hadn't planned to buy. That was Bill Venable. He told us Sally Dunn had just been there. Hope I meet Bill again--there was not much time to talk. And we went on into the Mel Hunter show. Oh, this is painful. That green. I saw the most beeyootiffle painting I ever did and oh, I wanted it. But it cost more than I had with me. I could just see it on the parlor wall. I can still see it there in the empty space. I even dream about it. What a gorgeous thing. I don't know what it was, some kind of moonscape or something, but the color was the thing. Absolutely haunting. I'll never be the same.

Then I met my friend Tetsu Yano, and his sponsor while in this country, Forrest J. Ackerman and we made plans for Tetsu's stay at my home after the convention. After this we went to several parties in several rooms and had a few (tee hee) drinks (hic). We met some conventioners from the Airborne group who were also having a convention in the same hotel at the same time, and a revenooer, and a man who had a bottle of OLD CROAK. We arrived in one room to see an empty bottle of Vodka on a table. Needless to say we didn't stay there too long. After this my sister and I went up to Tetsu's room where we had a fascination discussion with two handsome gentlemen, about everything, and then we discovered they were not with the SF convention at all. Nor were they from the Airborne convention. Seems like they just wandered in off the street to see what was going on. But they were nice.

About two forty am, my sister Roseann and I packed our pocketbook full of souvenirs and so forth and went back to Penn Station. We hated to leave but we had had plenty of fun and at least a taste of the social side of the convention. I forgot to mention going up to the Rose Garden to gather with our old and new Friends, but we were there and it was fun. Quiet fun, but fun anyway. So, even if it was for only one day, it was worth it.

- Helen M. Huber

MEETING OF THE TWAIN - Continued from page 5

many things no school can teach, and if I ever get the chance to go to Japan, I know I have a real friend there, and that my welcome would be a warm one.

* * * * *

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* * * * * PAGE NINE * * * * *

From Eva Firestone

Hello Fellow Members:

I certainly am happy to see the ISFCC being revived. According to our 1952 roster, there are 147 of us, and memory tells me that many of you were very active members.

It was disappointing that we had no club meeting at the Convention in Philadelphia this year. I would like to suggest that we begin making plans for one in 1954 at San Francisco.

The time now is not too early. Contact by mail is a slow process, and everything should be worked out, discussed in our Official Organ, far enough in advance so that the final outline could be published in TH-E EXPLORER, at least one full month before the SFCon..

It should be fairly easy to make up a very good program, if we start right now- thinking and talking about it. Wishes, ideas and suggestions from all members, published in The EXPLORER will be of great help to ISFCC in general, and more so to those who will be in charge.

At Chicago, we had a nice ISFCC meeting. The attendance was second only to that of the N3F. Paul Ganley gave some good ideas, and I was in hopes that they could be carried out. One was that officers of ISFCC should be leaders only in ISFCC during their term and not try to hold important positions in other fan clubs at the same time. I am sure the majority of you will agree that any one who is trying to accomplish too many things at the same time, will be bound to neglect part of them, no matter how much he tries to do justice to all. Divided efforts seldom prove satisfactory.

Last year at the ChiCon, the ISFCCers I met were- Lee Hoffman; Paul Ganley, Jim Harmon, Will Sykora, Honey Wood, Richard Bergeron, Sheldon Deretchen, G. M. Carr, Neal Clark Reynolds, Bill Berger, David Ish, Jim Schreiber, Walter Willis, and I think- A. C. Catania. At PhillyCon- W. Sykora, H. Wood, John Magnus, D. Ish, Nancy Gerding (a beautiful young lady), S. Deretchen; and just before going to Philadelphia, I spent five happy days with Janie Lamb at her home in Tennessee.

The following should really be sent to The "Collectors" Corner but I'm not sure at this time who has charge of it; For sale to the highest bidder- I have FUTURIA FANTASIA, Vol.1, #1, 1939, Cover by Hans Bok, Editor-Publisher is Ray Bradbury. Address on back cover is- "Skylark" Smith. Fanzine is in good condition. There are eight and one half pages material counting inside back cover and half of outside back cover. No printing on inside front cover.

For the information of any members interested- and perhaps at some time wishing data- Believe that I have a complete file of all ISFCC publications, and all of the very first leaflets months before our OO was named THE EXPLORER.. I'm a charter member- came in with the group- first ones- when Richard Abbott began organizing. This collection includes "One Fan's Opinion" and those headed- "Allentown Pennsylvania." At the moment, I cannot remember exactly why those with title- One Fan's Opinion -are filed along with the other two named above- Was back in 1949- five years ago- and since events

move swiftly in Fandom, and there's many of them, it's not too easy for recalling everything.

I have a pet project in mind. It is frowned upon by some fen and approved by others. It is the compiling of Fan-Nicknames, only those to be listed which are permitted by owners. I think such a list would be fun reading. What think you-ISFCCers?

If this letter seems disjointed, blame it on the fact that it is being typed at intervals between the duties of making a living, also, right now am listening to piano music on radio phono, and both my feet are trying to keep time. So far I've managed to restrain the hands.

Seems to me, if we had this type music at Stf Conventions, all fen would more enjoy the programs. It's a wee bit tiresome (for me at least), to sit quietly through lectures, one following right on the heels of another. I was quite surprised at the almost total lack of music at the ChiCon and at the PhillyCon. Surely Stf fen would feel better, happier, if there were music- fast-tempo (not any slow droopy stuff) mixed in through-out the programs. Also if it could be had at the informal parties- Party rather, since at both conventions we had only one at each. Others were simply get-togethers in various rooms of fen.

Lively cheerful music (piano is my personal choice) has power to quickly easily create an atmosphere of good will and friendliness in any crowd any where. I wish that all of you would help bring it about by expressing a wish for it in letter to the San Francisco Committee, as soon as the address becomes available. Let's have more pep and fun at the 1954 Science Fiction Convention.

When bewildered slightly disapproving NON-Stf-fen stop your enthused talk about Fandom and Conventions with the question- "But what is it for- what is your aim?" How do you answer them? My own view is that there's no need to have an aim in order to be happy, but I can't always give that reply. To some I say "We wish to make the public become space-travel-conscious." To others I say "We are interested in all scientific discoveries, but mostly in those which may make possible a successful landing on the Moon." However, when cornered by a sober-sides who is too serious and dignified to understand the idea of enjoyment for its own sake, and thinks that space travel is nothing but foolishness.. then it takes considerable brain work to answer. How would you make reply?

One of the speakers at the PhillyCon gave a plug to N3F, and then spoiled(?) it by a several minute razzing. He went into a long funny(?) story about receiving letters -shortly after he had joined the club-some time ago- saying "Welcum welcum to the N3F." He stressed that "U" in Welcum, not knowing that not only members of the N3F but of all fandom are in the habit of making all words as short as possible- that fen have a special language all of their own. It is possible that one of the Welcomers really was a poor speller, and did think the word should be so spelled- Be that as it may, it might be best henceforth- that ISFCCers profit by that incident, and always be strictly conservative when writing Welcome letters to new members- especially if the letter is sent to a professional- as I think the speaker was George Smith(author) but am not sure- Names of some were not on the official program, and I did not hear the in-

roduction. Had my wits been elert- I might have stood up and explained such things right then and there- SOME one should have done so. Too often we amateur fen sit like sheep and take whatever is handed to us.

And now it is about time to say WELCOME to our new OE, RCHiggs. It is fortunate for ISFCC to receive his services. His mimeo work is excellent and THE EXPLORER will make a fine appearance. Racy was Official Editor and one of the Directors of N3F for seven years. I know that he will make one of the best members ISFCC ever had. Thank You- President Gates- for making the appointment.

Perhaps there'll be a Book Review column in this issue of our OO, but just in case not, and if some of you haven't heard of the news (it is not especially "new" - however, of a recent enough date to be helpful to small town fen- our news-stands are not so up to snuff)- SLAN by vanVogt is published in pocket-book-edition, and is a must buy- And a hard cover book- Children of the Atom by Wilmar H. Shiras is out, at \$2.75, sold by GNOME PRESS, 80 E. 11th Street, New York 1, N. Y. No doubt many of you read the two wonderful stories in ASTOUNDING some years ago, by this top fem writer- Wilmar H. Shiras. Opening Doors and In Hiding were the titles. The main characters are children of vastly superior intellect, and it is related in a most fascinating manner- how they eventually make contact with one another.

Janie Lamb took me through the Museum of Atomic Energy at Oak Ridge, and after viewing all the marvelous research going on in an effort to cure every ill of the human body AND MIND- Brain rather.. More than ever before I believe there will be, in the near future- perhaps in our own time -children similar to those described by W. H. Shiras. And, to me, it does not seem too fantastic to think a few may be living right now.

There were many teen-age Stf fen at Chicago- and some at Philadelphia, who impressed me as being right out of this world- I was quite dazzled (this is not kidding) at their brilliance. This is not my opinion alone.. other fen around my generation (upper age brackett) made same comments. We were very happy to see them, and made us proud of Fandom.

And now before some reader accuses me of trying to say that STF fen are Slans.. Restrain yourself please.. I am not going that far.

I think you will be interested to hear that Nangee Gerding has a wonderful collection of hard cover books, one of the finest I've ever seen- Hundreds of volumes- all classes of the best literature- Non-fiction as well as fiction- and of course- a great number of our top favorite Science and Fantasy reading.. (I made a two day visit with Nangee in Roseville, on my way to visit Janie).. Also, Nangee has one large room- sunny cheerful -which contains all of her publishing equipment- and nothing else except her piano. There is a row of windows at one end-(lawn, trees, flowers for the view) and one window on right and left of that end.. On the walls are photos and snapshots of fen- and Front cover paintings of Stf prozines, and several works of art by top Stf artists- In fact- that room has me still dreaming of heaven- Most of her equipment is up to date and the sight of everything cured my Gafia!

Best of Wishes- Eva F.

From Janie Lamb

Dear Racy:

For most fan the stf convention did not begin until 4th of September. But for me it began a week early. And tho I did not attend the convention, I'm sure it brought as much pleasure to me as to those attending. You are probably wondering how I enjoyed the convention when I did not attend, so allow me to explain.

You see my day is usually made up of very commonplace and mediocre things. So imagine my surprise one morning at 6AM to look out the window and behold a somewhat dusty chariot deposing at my door a short, sawed-off piece of humanity. Rushing outside to convince myself I wasn't dreaming, and that someone was actually visiting my domicile at this ghastly hour of the day. When I stepped outside, I was immediately engulfed, shook awake, and introduced to none other than.....
EVA FIRESTONE!

What a conglomeration she met. We were in the midst of house-cleaning, and the living room furniture reposed in the yard, while the odor of fresh paint permeated the entire neighborhood. Since the front floors were all gooey with undried varnish, I bade Eva welcome at the back door.

Sure got a kick out of Eva when my hubby (not a fan, he is perfectly normal) walked out of our bedroom, and I introduced him informally to Eva by saying, "Eva this is Miller". Where-up-on she gave that friendly smile, and asked "Janie who is Miller?" A 6 foot hunk of man walks out of my bedroom at 6 AM and Eva nonchalantly says.. "Who is He?"
What a fan, what a fan.

Around 7 AM after she arrived, and I had drowned her in coffee, I shoed her off to bed, promising to let her sleep and rest. I did until at 9 AM I suddenly remembered I had to attend a luncheon and board meeting of the County PTA. Pulling a protesting and sleepy Eva out of bed, I practically forced her to accompany me. We arrived late and was the center of attraction if only briefly.

Most of the visit we spent exchanging fan talk and getting acquainted. This was the first time I had seen a fan since Lynn Hickman visited me a couple years ago. So I'm sure I must have bored Eva to distraction asking this and that about fandom in general. Eva brought along some old and rare copies of "Bonfire" the original '00 of N3F. They were quite interesting, but like our old Pro-zines. Our new ones are better.

Of course we had to talk of a possible editor for our club ISFCC, and I am very glad to learn you will be editing it.

I did persuade Eva to visit the "Atomic City" and the "Museum of Atomic Energy". This is always a great interest to any stf fan. And I'm sure Eva enjoyed this visit, and it will probably be remembered as one of the highlights of her visit to Tennessee. I could live in this Museum 24 hours a day and still find much to wonder about. I presented Eva with a radioactive dime as a souvenir of Oak Ridge. These

A Pleasant hour and a half is in store for any sf fan (and many non-sf fans) who takes it upon himself to see the superbly done picture, **THE WAR OF THE WORLDS**, based on the well known novel by H.G. Wells. Produced by George Pal for Paramount, the movie version retains much of the original story although revised to present day concepts of what an invasion of Earth from space would be like.

The acting is good although the cast is made up of unknown and lesser known actors, the Technicolor is beautiful, and the technical details are handled well enough to escape criticism from all but the most critical and science-wise viewers. The gimmicks and gadgets dear to the hearts of sf fans are liberally sprinkled throughout the picture and include heat rays, force fields, the USAF flying wing bomber, and the sleek, magnetically powered flyers of the invaders. **THE WAR OF THE WORLDS** is realistic science fiction with many minutes of edge-of-the seat suspense and chills.

THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS is another enjoyable film, although lacking the beauty of Technicolor. Based on the accidental revival, through the heat from experimental A-bomb tests, of a giant pre-historic dinosaur the picture is good fare, a well mixed dish of suspense, terror and sf.

Constructed at a cost of thousands of dollars, the pre-historic beast is probably the most realistic and convincing monster ever built for a film and does a very creditable job of spine chilling. **THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS** is comparable in quality and entertainment value to **THE THING** and is well worth the price and your time.

A glance at the book shelf and **SHADOWS OF TOMORROW**, a Doubleday Permebook, edited by Frederik Pohl. This is an attractive collection of yarns by some of the old and new masters of sf. The contents start off with a BANG! that is not atomic but which is just about as startling. **SHADOWS OF TOMORROW** may not be as exciting as Marilyn Monroe but it will probably fit your pocketbook better and give you a lot of good reading.

And in closing let's take a quick look at a prozine that is fairly new- **SCIENCE FICTION PLUS**. This mag, edited and published by Hugo Gernsback, the grand old man of sf, started out as the first and only slick sf magazine. However the slick paper has been discontinued but the mag is being printed on a heavier, stiffer paper than is common in pulps and its size is still in the 'slick' category. Many familiar names, such as Russell, Farmer, Williamson, Leinster and Finlay, Paul and Lawrence, are to be found on the varied and well rounded contents page. Altogether it has the appearance of a magazine that may re around for some time to come.

OFFICIALS OF ISFCC

President - Donald E. Gates, Box 73, Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone
Vice-President - Honey Wood, 13817 Woodworth, Cleveland 12, Ohio
Secretary - Office vacant at present
Corres. Mgr. - Mrs. Helen Huber, 167 North 16th St., East Orange, N. J.
Acting Trading Mgr. - Alan G. Davis, 132 Hudson St., Northboro, Mass.
Overseas Dept. Secretary - Patrick Eaton, Chernay Hall, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
Official Editor - **THE EXPLORER** - Ray C. Higgs, 813 Eastern Avenue, Connersville, Ind.
Send all applications for membership directly to
President Don E. Gates, address above.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CORRESPONDENCE CLUB

CHARTER AND CONSTITUTION

CHARTER:-

- Article I: NAME The name of this chartered club is the INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.
- Article II: PURPOSE The purpose of this chartered club is for the exchange of ideas, thoughts, and methods on the science fiction world.
- Article III: DURATION The duration of this chartered club will be for an unlimited time, or until such time as the club is disbanded.
- Article IV: OFFICERS The officers of this chartered club are as follows: President, Vice President, Correspondence Manager, Trading Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Article V: DUES This chartered club shall have no dues unless otherwise designated by an amendment to the club's BY LAWS.
- Article VI: MEETINGS There shall be no state meetings for this chartered club.
- Article VII: TRUSTEESHIP This club, as chartered by this document, is under the trusteeship of the club's chartered representative.
- Article VIII: CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS The CONSTITUTION & BY LAWS of this chartered club are as follows:

CONSTITUTION

- Article I: NAME The name of this club is the INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.
- Article II: PURPOSE The purpose of this club is for the exchange of ideas, thoughts, and methods of the science fiction world.
- Article III: MEMBERSHIP Membership to this club shall be granted to those who apply to the President for membership, are in regular contact with some of the other accepted members, and subscribe to the official publication of this club.
- Article IV: OFFICERS The officers of this club shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Correspondence Manager, Trading Manager, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Article V: AMENDMENT This CONSTITUTION of this club can be amended by a majority ballot vote of the members.

BY LAWS

- Article I: Order of Officers
- Section I: Election The officers of this club will all be elected by a majority ballot vote of the members.
- Section II: Eligibility (1) Only members may be officers. (2) One member may hold one office at a time. (3) One member may be an officer only five times.
- Section III: Duties
- (1) PRESIDENT: To grant membership, keep the entire membership of the club, hand down the official decisions of the club; write an editorial in every issue of the club magazine, and be Chairman of the club's conventions.

(2) VICE PRESIDENT: To assist the President in every way possible in the interest of the club, and to take over his office should the President be unable to finish his or her term.

(3) CORRESPONDENCE MANAGER: To inform the professional science fiction and fantasy magazines of the activities of the club, oversee the correspondence within the club, and welcome new members into the club.

(4) TRADING MANAGER: To write a trading column in the club magazine, oversee trading within the club, and welcome new members into the club.

(5) SECRETARY: To keep the entire membership list, keep the history of the club, and inform the members of the club activities through his or her column in the club magazine.

(6) TREASURER: To have charge of all the club funds, which will be derived from the exchange of money concurred in the transactions concerning the club magazine.

Article II: Suspension A member may be suspended by a majority consent of the members.

Article III: Funds There shall be no entrance fees, dues, or special funds, but only the monetary club transactions will be concurred concerning the club magazine.

Article IV: Elections Elections of officers will be held every six months.

Article V: Amendment These BY LAWS may be amended by a majority ballot of the members.

Article VI: Charter members: BEN ABAS, RICHARD ABBOTT, WRAI BALLARD, DICK BARTLE, WILLIAM BUTTS, WILLIAM CALABRESE, SUE CHADWICK, LOUIS CRIMMENS, ERANIA COLLINS, STANLEY CROUCH, ROSE DAVENPORT, FRANK DIETZ, JR., HOWARD DEVORE, EDWARD DICKMAN, PAUL GANLEY, BEATRICE GLASS, EVA FIRESTONE, RAYMOND ISADORE, RONALD JACOBS, HERBERT JOHNSON, LAWRENCE KIEHLBAUCH, HOWARD McCULLOCH, PAUL MOORE, CLAIRE MILLER, ED NOBLE, PAUL PEARSON, FRED J. REMUS, JR., CHARLES RIDDLE, DAVID SANDRIDGE, BEVERLY STEITZER, ALBERT TOTH, MARTIN YAEGER.

Club Charter Representative
(Signature of Richard Abbott)

The above is the one and only legal charter of the International Science Fiction Correspondence Club.

Sworn to and subscribed before me in the presence this seventh day of April, in the year of 1949 of our Lord.

Attest

(Signature of Wilson Coon)

On the Charter, in this space; is
the seal of the State of Ohio, as
legal proof of the validity of the
document.

ROSTER OF MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF OCTOBER 1953
IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CORRESPONDENCE
CLUB

1. Allen Newton, 114 E. 25th St., Baltimore 18, Md.
2. Lawrence Kiehlbauch, 1516 Tenth St. W., Billings, Mont.
3. Basil Wells, Route 2, Springboro, Tenn.
4. W. Paul Ganley, 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y.
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6. W.C. Butts, 2058 E. Atlantic, Philadelphia, Pa.
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8. Carole Hickman, Napoleon, Ohio
9. Larry Gage, Route 4, Paris, Texas
10. Eva Firestone, Upton, Wyo.
11. Jack Cuthbert, PO Box 1736, Pittsburgh, Pa.
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14. Morton D. Paley, 1455 Townsend Ave., New York 52, N. Y.
15. Sr. Miriam Augustine, 702 Puuhale Road, Honolulu, Oahu, T. H.
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17. Jerome Wenker, 2331 Gordon St., St. Paul, Minn.
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19. Lawrence Campbell, 43 Tremont St., Malden 48, Mass.
20. Katie Liberty Stephens, 530 S. Highland Ave., Alma, Mich.
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70. Terry Jeeves, 58 Sharrard Grove, Intake, Sheffield 12, England
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96. David Ish, 914 Hammond Road, Ridgewood, N. J.
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106. Charles Brusard, Jr., 11 Tufts St., Cambridge 39, Mass.
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108. Mrs. Yvonne Worth Dailey, Rt. 5, Edgewater, Everett, Wash.
109. Ariel Garnick
110. Marian Cox, Hq 521st A.D.Gp., Air Base, Sioux City, Iowa
111. Godwin O. Kanu, Trade Center, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria, British West Africa

112. H. A. Oloko
 113. B. C. Ndukwe
 114. A. O. Abossy
 115. B. O. Igunboo
 116. W. E. Nwamboo
 117. A. E. Otu
 118. I. N. Umezuruike
 119. Francis Okodugha
 120. Thompson Dubre
 121. Oji Yoma
 122. G. O. K. Chidi
 123. A. O. Anyiam
 124. T. Ogunteyiboo
 125. A. S. Ogunbowale
 126. G. O. James
 127. M. E. Asemota
 128. J. F. Abaowa
 129. W. O. Akpata
 130. F. I. Ogunbo
 131. J. O. Agbawe
 132. G. E. Okunkpolor
 133. S. O. Odigie
 134. R. A. Akambi
 135. S. Oto
 136. S. N. Oiatabu
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 138. Nick Solntseff, Girraween Rd, Girraween, New South Wales, Australia
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 141. Teun van Ingen, 2 E. Willemstraat, 20 A, Groningen, Netherlands
 142. Mrs. Doreen House, 3 Gladsstone Rd., Heavitree, Exeter, Devon, England
 143. Roger Dard, 32 James St., Perth, Western Australia
 144. Ralph Harding, 38 Central Ave., Maylands, Western Australia
 145. Jo Noble, RFD #1, Townline Road, Erie, Pa.
 146. Gordon Collins, 160 Guildford Rd., Fratton, Portsmouth, Haunts, England
 147. Ray C. Higgs, 813 Eastern Ave., Connersville, Ind.

Please note:- Members listed from and including 112 - 137 can be reached by addressing their letters as follows:-

In care Godwin O. Kanu
 Trade Center
 Yaba
 Lagos, Nigeria
 British West Africa

* * * * *
* OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT - - - - - CONDUCTED BY PAT EATON *
* * * * *

Guys 'n gals, the ISFCC has a new baby. Just like any other baby li'l O. D. is going to require a lot of care on the part of you godparents. He likes to be smiled at and have a lot of attention, but there will be times when he will have to be chastised. He's a healthy tyke so far with the whole wide world for a playpen and given a proper upbringing he can be a credit to us and a source of pride. To introduce myself, I'm Pat Eaton and I've been appointed to be li'l O.D.'s guardian. It's a big job for, as you shall see, li'l O.D. is something of a problem child. Anytime you have advise to offer, questions to ask, or criticisms to express on how the task is being handled, please write and let me know about them. While I cannot promise to reply to every letter, I will give them my most careful attention and shall try to answer as many as possible. On the other hand, I do promise to answer every one desiring more information either by letter or by means of this column. Until next June 14th, letters will reach me at Tau Kappa Epsilon, 1337 $\frac{1}{2}$ Alder Street, Eugene, Oregon.

Perhaps the best way to further describe the O.D. to you is to make a statement of objectives and policy. GENERAL: (1) To provide as close a link as possible between the ISFCC and its overseas membership by writing new overseas members a letter of welcome, by providing a section in Explorer especially devoted to overseas members and their activities, and by being a department which can give personal attention to such suggestions and/or criticisms as the overseas members may have to offer. (2) To spread a knowledge of the ISFCC as much as possible, with the aid of overseas members, among overseas fen who may be interested in becoming members. (3) To attempt to provide stf magazines and books to those overseas members who find it difficult to obtain such material because of the barriers of money exchange, language, or standard of living. O.D. COLUMN POLICY: With the exception of this first column, it is my intention to devote as much space as possible to the overseas fen and their activities. In the following issues of Explorer I hope to have articles, news, and perhaps artwork all by the overseas fen themselves. The only exceptions to this will be when I have general announcements or news concerning O.D. activities.

A careful examination of the above will show that I wasn't kidding when I described li'l O.D. as being a "problem child." However, space in this issue is somewhat limited and a much more detailed discussion of O.D. problems will appear in a forthcoming special Overseas Department booklet together with a series of feature articles on the Afriction Youth Club and pictures of ISFCC officers. As you may gather from the latter, the booklet will be printed.

DUES AND VOTING RIGHTS FOR OVERSEAS FEN

For quite some time overseas members have been complaining, and rightly so, about an ISFCC policy which has withheld from them the right to vote in club elections. Now the most basic principal of any democratic organization is that as many of its members as possible be extended the privilege of expressing their opinions upon activities and officers by means of the ballot. The only excuse offered for denying overseas members this right was the time element involved in getting election returns from such far away places as England and Australia in time for the results to be published in Explorer. Since Explorer is a bimonthly, there is no basis in validity for such an argument if the overseas fen fill out their ballot and mail them to the proper source as soon as possible.

Several months ago it had been hoped that dues for overseas fen could be cut to

30 cents. The ISFCC constitution, however, states that a one year's subscription shall entitle the subscriber to club membership for a year. In view of this, the dues cannot be reduced.

There is also the problem of how these dues are to be paid. Many nations, because of the dollar shortage, forbid their citizens to send money out of the country. How then are overseas fen going to pay their dues? At the present time several plans are being considered to remedy this and we hope to have the final details worked out in time for the next issue of Explorer.

I should like to stress again that speed is essential in the return of ballots, but as long as these latter arrive on time overseas members will have the voting right and in return are expected to pay the full amount of 50 cents for their dues.

MATERIAL WANTED

To what extent the policy of filling the O.D. column with material and news by overseas members will succeed depends upon you overseas fen. We want articles, and news of general interest about you and your activities. News and articles about your stf cons and gatherings, articles on the current stf situation in your country, personality sketches, and opinions on the O.D. itself will all be acceptable. Later on, we hope to accept art work also and when plans for this have been worked out they will be announced. There are two limitations. We don't want fiction in this section. Any material of this nature should be submitted to the editor of Explorer for publication outside of the O.D. column. Due to a lack of space, material should be kept as short as possible without detracting from the effectiveness of the item or article. Just where this line falls will be left to the discretion of the author. Manuscripts should be double spaced, but not necessarily typed, and those found unacceptable will be returned if the author so states his desire to that effect.

It will also be the policy of this department to pay for material with U.S. pro-mags. The rate, subject to change, is one prozine per $\frac{1}{2}$ page of material as it appears in Explorer. If the material does not cover a half page, or if it is between a half and a full page, credit to that effect will be recorded and may be claimed when more material has completed the fraction. The payment will be made upon acceptance of the material and not necessarily upon the publication of the material. We cannot promise to pay in any specific issue of any specified magazine as our supply is not large enough to allow us to do so, although we should like to. However, if any one kind of mag (such as Galaxy, Amazing, etc.) is desired, we shall try to meet that request and such a request should be included with the material submitted.

"VALUE FOR VALUE" TRADE OFFER

For those members who are interested in obtaining British stf or any current British periodical I should like to refer you to Terry Jeeves. Many British publications are printed and sold more cheaply than here in the U.S. You can, therefore, often get a subscription to two British zines in exchange for only one sub to a U.S. zine on "value for value" basis. For more details, I suggest you write to Terry Jeeves, 58 Sharrard Grove, Intake, Sheffield l2, England.

Also, if there are any other overseas fen interested in making the same offer, please write me so that I may publish your names in this column.

NOTICE OF COMING ELECTION! If YOU intend to run for office in the forth coming election, PLEASE notify President Donald E. Gates AT ONCE! We will voting for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. NOTIFY GATES AT ONCE! NOW!

JANIE LAMB'S LETTER (Continued from page 13)

dimes becomes only slightly radioactive when placed near a source of aluminum and plastic, and used solely for souvenirs. The radiation is so slight that it is not the least harmful.

Came the day of Eva's departure for the Philly-con. I hated to see her leave, even the train sympathized with me by being a couple hours late. I certainly enjoyed her visit, and hope she can come by again next year. To you who have not met Eva, she is a very friendly, sweet person, one you will love at first sight. She is certainly the type of person I like to call friend.

- The Lamb

Again may we advise you, if you intend to run for office in the coming election, please notify Ray C. Higgs; 813 Eastern Avenue, Connersville, Indiana AT ONCE. State the office you seek - and do so at ONCE!

1954 membership dues are now payable to President Don E. Gates, Box 73; Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone.

Material needed for EXPLORER for December ish! Please contribute any and all contributions for publishing pronto! Another outlet for all ISFCC letter-hacks is POSTWARP. This letterzine desires to publish YOUR letters. Send material for both EXPLORER and POSTWARP to the editor of this zine!

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