

THE STAR THAT GIVES NO LIGHT

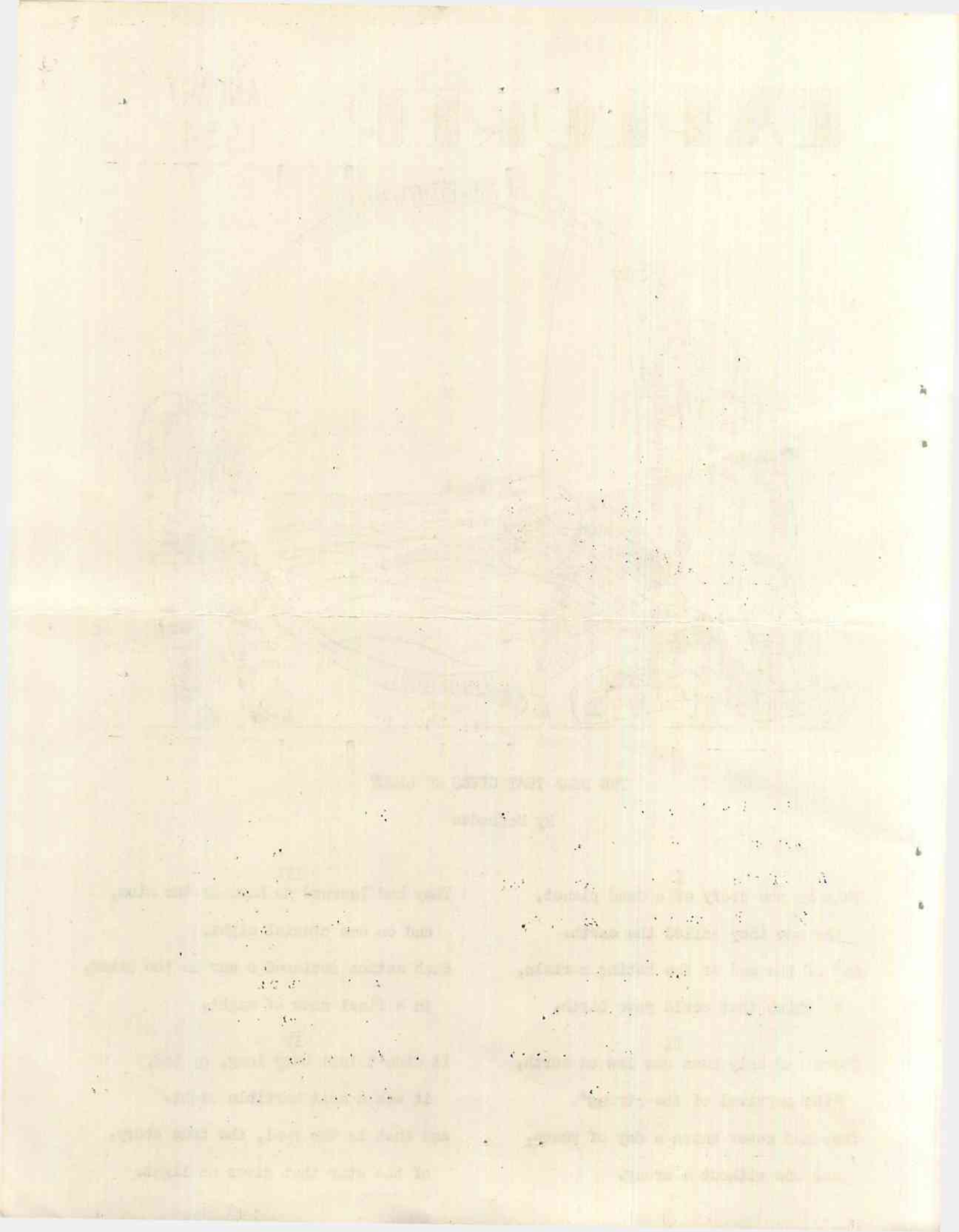
By McPhaden

I
This is the story of a dead planet,
the one they called the earth.
And of the end of the hating mortals,
to which that world gave birth.

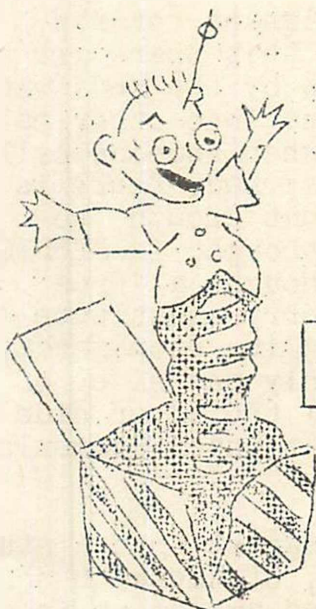
II
There had only been one law on earth,
"the survival of the strong".
They had never known a day of peace,
nor one without a wrong.

III
They had learned to harness the atom,
and on one crucial night,
Each nation declared a war on the other,
in a final show of might.

IV
It didn't last very long, my lad,
it was a most horrible sight.
And that is the real, the true story,
of the star that gives no light.



Here's Your



EXPLORER

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION CORRESPONDENCE CLUB

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

SECOND EMERGENCY ISSUE

JANUARY - - - - 1954

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Not having heard any loud complaints concerning my last letter under this heading I've worked up enough nerve to try again. Due to the VERY POOR response to the plea for candidates to run for ISFCC offices you may be stuck with me for still another issue.

In all seriousness I want you all to know that I can not continue as President, even though it makes me feel good to know that a number of you want me to, and that unless someone comes forth as candidate for this and other offices this club will be without some of its officers. Ray Higgs has notified me that so far the only candidates for office are Ed Noble for Secretary and Alan G. Davis for Trading Manager, both good men. Two candidates out of 147 members is a poor showing, don't you think? Granted that we've had two bad years - all the more reason for those of you who are supposedly avid fans and interested in ISFCC's welfare to respond and get the club rolling again. You have a good foundation and a good zine again - what more do you want?

This probably makes many of you wonder why I'm dropping out of ISFCC activities. The answer is simply that the pressure of my own affairs - work - and study leave me without the time in which to work on club business. Responsibility to nee's family comes before other activities. In addition I'm planning on moving to California in May and preparations for such a move from this little, red-tape encrusted state of beaurocracy are monumental.

I sincerely regret having to drop out of the ISFCC picture because I believe in the club and wanted to continue to work to improve it and because I have found many friends in the club and enjoyed their friendship and correspondence. I intend to remain a member and an sf reader, and if at some later date I am able to find the time I would like to join in the activities again.

Now for a few thoughts on other subjects. I've heard some talk in

sf circles that there is Communism in fandom and indignant retorts that it isn't true. From my observations I would say that there are a few fans who have been duped by a strategy used often by the Reds with great success - that of insinuating Communist doctrine into other material and then crying "Persecution of free thought" when someone calls it Communism and attempts to remove it or block its spread. There is no harm in "free thought" if the thinker is intelligent enough to think freely with an open mind and if the object of thought is STUDIED FROM ALL ANGLES. The danger lies in a desire to be thought a "free thinker", a desire to be different. Communism is a sorry substitute for democracy and freedom but the Reds, in presenting its propaganda, manage to make it appealing to millions by showing only one side of the coin. The millions who fail to THINK and to STUDY the other side of the coin often accept it greedily only to find that under Communism the so-called advantages are all baited traps.

Getting back to ISFCC business I would like to suggest that a study be made, by a committee appointed for the purpose, of the club constitution with an eye to needed amendments. One needed amendment is a change from elections every six months to elections once a year. Since I have been a member the elections have been held once a year but the only copy of the constitution which I have been able to obtain states that the elections will be held every six months. In a club of the nature of ISFCC this period is definitely too short for the new officers to do a good job and the added expense of ballots for the extra election is wasted. I would suggest other amendments as follows:-

Any member holding the office of President or Vice President in another sf club may not hold, or run for election to, the office of President or Vice President of ISFCC.

Explorer be scheduled for publication on the 10th of Feb., April, June, Sept., and Nov. and that the Nov. issue be the election issue. (This would allow three months between the election issue and the next issue in which the results should be announced, giving sufficient time for the ballots to be returned from overseas areas. It would also allow for a three month period during summer "vacation" time.)

In closing, and at risk of being repititious, let me say that if you want ISFCC to survive and have officers to keep it going you'd best get on the ball and elect some. To those of you reading this who are thinking "Well, I'd kind of like to be President, or Vice President, or Treasurer or some other officer but I don't know just what it's all about -", don't let that stop you. Give it a try; someone who is, or has been, an officer will help you get started if you'll just ask.

Sincerely,
Donald E. Gates, Pres. ISFCC
Box 73
Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone
Central America

ALL 1954 ISFCC DUES MUST BE PAID NOW! PLEASE SEND THEM IN TO THE CLUB
TREASURER. BE ACTIVE BY PAYING YOUR 1954 DUES - - - - ONLY 50 CENTS

By Tony Glynn

It was Thursday, and it was pretty hectic in the office, just as it is every Thursday. Thursday is the day we put the paper to bed - I'm a reporter on the weekly paper of a Cheshire town, Congleton - and what with proof reading, last minute stories, corrections and what have you, Thursday means turmoil for us.

Well, I was deep in the turmoil, bending over the forme - the paper in metal - with a grubby proof in one hand and printer's ink on my nose, when a colleague came into the newsroom.

"Girl on the 'phone, asking for you", said he.

"Who is she?" I wanted to know as I came out of the hecticfulness with considerable rapidity.

"How the hell do I know what you do after hours?" he retorted. I made my way along the gloomy passage, haunted by divers printer's devils and a bad tempered editor, I picked up the 'phone in the reporter's room.

I groaned. It was only my sister, ringing from my home town, Manchester.

"Guess what?" quoth she. "Bob's here!"

"Bob?"

"Yes, Bob Keyes!"

Wow! It was Bob Keyes an ISFCC member with whom I had been corresponding for over a year. I knew he had set out for Europe weeks before, but he seemed to have got himself lost.

"Hello," drawled a voice over the wire, in what was evidently the accent of Waukesha, Wisconsin.

It felt great to be talking to a fellow with whom I had been exchanging letters for so long.

Well, we exchanged a few words and arranged to meet outside Congleton Town Hall that evening. Bob could have got a bus or train from Manchester to Congleton, it's only twenty miles away, but he said he would hitch-hike as a matter of principle since this was a hitching holiday for him and he had hitched all over the Continent of Europe and, anyway, he wanted to see some of the scenery. I didn't blame him, it was August.

At about half past four that evening, having had my tea / that's the name of a late afternoon meal we have here in England / I boarded a bus at the door of my digs and I was standing on the platform long before the vehicle pulled up in front of the Town Hall.

A group of the usual loafers stood under the arches of the old

building, all of them throwing astonished glances at a big fellow who was carrying a monstrous pack on his back and standing close by.

He wore a French style beret, a hiking jacket, denim trousers and heavy boots. He viewed the world through glasses and he possessed a sizable skinfull of tan.

This was Bob Keyes, fan, ISFCCer, advocate of World Government and a student of the University of Wisconsin.

We did a Dr Livingstone and HM Stanley act to the astonishment of the yokels, who were eying him with suspicion thinking, perhaps, that he was something out of a flying saucer.

Well, this was the first time I had ever met a fan and you just couldn't hope to meet a finer fan than Bob, I guess anyone who met him at Chicon last year will tell you the same.

Almost as soon as I met him he said,

"Did you know that Vance is Kuttner?"

That started it of course, we couldn't stay off the topic of SF ever after that.

I fixed it with my landlady for Bob to stay the night as he had to push off to Southampton the next day to catch his boat for the journey back to the States.

Two things about him tickled me pink, first, his hair.

By English standards, he had the crewest of crew cuts, but he kept moaning:

"Look at this hair! Gee, look at this hair!" with obvious disgust and he showed an odd reluctance to remove his beret. I got the reason out of him in the end.

HIS HAIR WAS TOO LONG ! ! !

Well if that light foliage was too long, university students in the states must look like so many Buddhist monks! Over here we favour fairly long hair, Bob's loaf had a covering of hair like the first frost of a very mild winter - and he thought it was too long.

The second thing that tickled me was his favourite saying: Ever since Montreal!"

This ejaculation came out of the Keyes larynx whenever anything went wrong. It seems things had been sorta dicey when the student party with which he had started his travels had first boarded ship at Montreal, so "ever since Montreal" had become their cuss words. Egad! I even found myself saying it on occasion!

I felt pretty low when I saw Bob mounting a truck on the main London highway - he was still hitching to the last, - when he finally set off for Southampton.

At the time this is written this is advance copy...Sunday night TV Theater, which is sponsored alternately by Goodyear and Philco will do a space problem hour show on Dec. 20...advance publicity makes it sound like it'll be a good one. For those directly on the cable, it's Goodyear Television Theater, Sunday night, Dec. 20th at 9 P.M., Eastern Standard.

For those of you who like the comic spectral, there's TOPPER put on by Camels...since it's a film, we dunno when or if it appears on your local stations, but George Oppenheimer has taken the Thorne Smith characters and tried to put them in situations such as Thorne Smith might have enjoyed putting them in when he was alive. The cast is a pretty close copy physically of the movie versions of some years ago in several characters, mainly Topper and Mrs. Topper. Roland Young and Billie Burke played those parts; Leo G. Carroll does a good facsimile of both Cosmo Topper and Roland Young. The three ghosts, George and Marian Kirby and the dog Neal provide odd situations one half hour each week.

On the movie side of the story we are still far from up to date because our ventures into the film world are rare these days, being kept mostly to the drive-ins because of Butch...but this week we did go to see "THE ROBE" in the highly advertised Cinemascope...a well recommended picture with some pretty good acting, it is full of pageantry of the Roman empire along with the simplicity and implicitness of the very early Christian era...the one who plays Caligula plays a madman without being too hammy...a very good film.

Book-wise, Ace Books is out with two s-f double features. Ace Books are the ones who have one book starting at one end and another starting at the other, both meeting somewhere in the middle. The first of these double-features is a vanVogt affair, "The World of Null-A" and "The Universe Maker"...the latter was in Startling Stories or TWS several years ago and is thereby not as advertised, a "new" vV...the second is "The Sword of Rhiannon" and "Conan, the Conqueror"...one of these is by Brackett and the other by somebody else, but since the book is already on loan I can't tell you which...someone with a better memory than I can supply the info.

Avon is out with a Robert Graves volume which, if neither s-f nor fantasy, is a study of the old days when Rome was at its tops of glamor, intrigue, and everything else. The title is "I, Claudius." It is a fictional autobiography of the fourth Roman Emperor, dealing with his predecessors and the time before he became emperor of Rome. This one is 35¢ at most pocket-book racks. Considered quite accurate historically, it brings out the intrigue that was the Roman court at that time and is worth reading.

SSR Publications, brainchild of Paul Ganley and Bob Briney, two of s-fandom's younger and smarter fellas, has come out with a litho'd book "Shanadu"...strictly fantasy written by Toby and Andrew Duane, Eugene de Weese, and Brian McNaughton, with frontispiece by Ralph R. Phillips and map by Robert Briney...our copy just arrived this past week and we've only had the chance to look at it briefly...it's \$1.50 per copy, and is 100 plus pages, heavy paper cover, and nicely done...for info or a copy, send to Paul Ganley, 119 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, N.Y.

WHEN ISFCERS COLLIDE - continued from page 4

He's a great fellow and it was wonderful meeting him. We'll meet again somewhere, someday, and I guess it's worth remembering that our friendship started through "EXPLORER."

THE REJECTED MAN

by Terry Jeeves

Walter P. Basket happily pasted his latest rejection slip on the wall, smoothed out the wrinkles and stepped back to survey his work. A pleased smile crossed his face as he surveyed the neatly laid rows of slips, only one more, and he would be the first author to have his study papered completely in this manner. Walter could wait no longer, with one bound he crossed to his typewriter and inserted a sheet of paper. This would be his masterpiece, a short story that proceeds wouldn't even unfold, a yarn that even fanzine editors would reject, an epic that would be held up to first grade children as an example of what not to do. There was a rattling of keys, and Walter had begun.

Floating peacefully invisible in the air above Walter's head, Guardian Angel 3rd Grade, Bloggs G. scanned the latest set of orders from H.Q. His assignment remained the same, W.P.B.'s manuscripts were to be rejected by editors the ratio 5,000,000 to 1. Being practical even if slow witted, Gabriel Bloggs had started to plod steadily through the 5,000,000. Once Walter had collected that number of rejection slips, Gabriel intended to slip in the odd acceptance before starting again. The angel read on, skipping over the various courses in harp work, miracles 1 and 11, wing feathering and the like. He briefly admired and advert for halo polish and began to read the editorial and general directives. One portion caught his eye. "All angels must observe the strictest economy and obedience in carrying out their orders, some have been lax in this matter. From now on orders will be obeyed and nothings will be ignored." Gabriel ignored the rest. He was amazed, astounded, demolished and dazed. Walter P. Basket looked like becoming famous. Ignoring nothings, his rejection ration would drop from 5,000,000 to 1 down to 5 to 1. Since Gabriel had already fixed Walter up with a few thousand rejections, it was high time he began to let Walter catch up with the odd acceptances he had been missing. With Gabriel, thinking was inexorably followed at however late an interval, by acting. Reaching in his pouch he extracted a Blessing Mark iv, made a low level run over Walter's typewriter and pinpointed the manuscript with the Blessing. Pulling up sharply to avoid Walter's nose, he blacked out under the excessive G and by the time he recovered, it was too late to prevent a crash landing in the empty fireplace. Since Gabriel was invisible, so was the noise of his crash, and Walter placidly finished his masterpiece, sealed it in an envelope together with a stamped addressed ditto, and dashed off to the mail.

A few days later, the envelope returned, Walter carried it gloatingly into his study, laid it on the desk, and sorted out his paste and duster. Gabriel watched from the top of a cupboard as Walter ceremoniously slit open the envelope, removed a green piece of paper and began to slap paste on the back. Then Walter froze. The green piece of paper was a cheque, not a rejection slip. There'd been a ghastly mistake, the editor must be mad. Tears of frustration rolled down his cheeks and in a frenzy of anger he ripped the cheque to shreds and flung them into the fireplace. Hours later, his sanity and determination restored, Walter sat grimly at the keyboard. This time he'd make a good job of it. With gay abandon he dragged mad scientists, beautiful daughters and brawny heroes into the story, for good measure he threw in an atom bomb and a dash of epizootics, half a gallon of Null-B and a couple of betatrons. Then to make doubly sure, he threw away the last page, and typed THE END on the one preceding it. Gabriel

FRIENDLY LETTER COLUMN - - - - "Friends of the Letter."

Dear Members of ISFCC:

As you all know this column has been lying on the dusty old shelf for several months in the past. I was able to contact Racy Higgs, our new editor of EXPLORER, and he believes as I do that it may be a swell idea to sort of revive the "Friends of the Letter" column in EXPLORER.

Since it terminated at changing hands of editorship, I now find that I do not have on hand any names of prospective members to be entered in the columns.

I plan to conduct this column for all members of ISFCC that are in good standing. That will mean the older members of our club as well as the newer ones.

Now, since I do not have any names to enter in this column for the first appearance of it, this will be a sort of a letter to all of you members to let you know this column will appear in each issue of our "EXPLORER". When we had this column before when Ed Noble edited the fanzine, we had exceptionally good luck with it. I sincerely believe that we can have the same again.

This column will be donated to all members of ISFCC not only to get in contact with members of our club, but also to let other members know where your other interests in life lie. Such as what your hobbies are, how many pen friends you would like to correspond with, your general appearance whatever other info you feel may be of interest to stir up a writing interest of other members in ISFCC.

That's all for this time, and there'll be more of the same next ish.

"Ad Stellas"

Lawrence J. Kiehlbauch

1865 Sigrid Ave.

Twin Falls, Idaho

THE REJECTED MAN - continued from page 6.

made his run in while Walter was getting an envelope. Profiting from his earlier disaster, he switched on his Blessing Sight Type C, and dropped a Mark iv from a safer altitude. It was a bullseye, dead on the target area. Gabriel did a victory roll in celebration, his port wing caught the light cord, and the angel crashed with unerring aim into the fireplace. ...

Walter's second acceptance was once again the cause for deep gloom, but rallying his spirits, Walter bent once more to the typer. Corn rustled softly in the wind from Gabriel's wings as he made his bombing run. The mark iv sped true to its mark, but a speck of corn dust caused Gabriel to sneeze in the middle of his pull-out. Sitting sadly in the fireplace he watched Walter depart for the mail box.

So it went on. Walter became more and more desperate, his fireplace became littered with torn cheques, which at least served to cushion Gabriels falls. At last, Walter could bear it no longer, taking a bottle of poison and a loaded revolver from the pocket of his dressing gown, he sat down to make a last attempt. It was a poem entitled Rockets, and ran:-

Rockets are red, Rockets are blue,

If you accept this, I know what I'll do.

Minutes later, a battered Gabriel sat in the fireplace as Walter dashed to the mail box. He was still sitting there several days later when the cheque arrived from Galaxy. Walter gazed at it as if stunned, then reached slowly for the bottle and the gun. Meanwhile Gabriel was reading his latest circular. He had just come to a note which read "Owing

to a typographical error in our last issue, please amend the words 'nothings must be ignored' to read 'nothing must be ignored'. The linotyper has been sentenced to three months toasting" Gabriel made a mental calculation; "only one nothing to be ignored, hm, that makes Walter's ratio 500,000 to 1. Better get back on his rejection schedule". So saying he unlimbered a Curse Mark vi and taxied down the carpet, retracted his feet, and made a climbing turn over the typer. Walter had just completed a suicide note, downed the poison and shot himself through the head. Ignoring petty detail, Gabriel dropped the curse neatly on the sentence reading, "I wish to have my death certificate pasted in the remaining space on the wall", and spiralled neatly into the fireplace. Naturally, Walter's last wish was rejected.

THE MAIL MAN COMETH! or U Write 'Em - We'll Pub 'Em or GET THE RAG
OUT AND DROP US A LETTER FOR EXPLORER

Honey Wood
13817 Woodworth
Cleveland 12, Ohio

Dear Racy:

Congratulations on your first issue as Editor of EXPLORER...keep up the good work.

I am sure that all the ISFCC'ers feel very happy that you have taken over said position, and I am sure you will keep up the good job that you have started out with your first issue.

Am very sorry that I didn't have time to send you a convention report for the first issue, but due to lack of time, which I find my self having less and less of lately, it was even impossible to answer your nice letter, and I doubt if I shall ever be caught up enuf to even get my mail out of the way.

I do hope that you will print my congratulations in your next issue, I want every one to see how pleased I am that you have taken over with EXPLORER...keep up the good job.

Well Racy, as usual I am pressed for time, so I shall close off, and hope that all is well with you these days...if you ever have a minute, drop me a line, but no doubt you have the same situation that I do, a million things to do and no time to do it...

So...until I write you a nice long letter one of these days...bye...bye...

Love,
Honey

610 E Street
North Wilkesboro, N. C.

Dear Ray:

Just a word to acknowledge EXPLORER for October. Glad to see we have a new editor. As I told Don Gates, N3F's loss is ISFCC's gain! Congratulations on a job well done.

Sincerely,
Richard Billings

702 Allerton Street
Redwood City, California

Dear Ray,

First off, congrats on the EXPLORER, we really enjoyed it. Most outstanding was that it had practice, inteligont and thoughtful articles through out. The humor was sprinkled just enough to make the articles appitizing and not disgusting, as in some fanzines I have seen.

Secondly, club publicity, we think that a correspondance type club such as ISFCC, should have many members in order to have a wide selection of correspondents. So, wouldn't it be a good idea to form a sort of publicity-recruiting committee? Such a committee might, for example, write letters to prozines telling them about various

club activities and such.

Which brings us to the third item. That is club stationary. Some members have showed an interest in having a stationary heading designed by a member and put up for sale to the entire membership. The profits would be turned over to the club treasury. Now, do you think that if we ran a contest for designs that they could be illustrated in EXPLORER and have a vote taken for the best design? Now, if this would be possible, and there is enough response, I will buy a printing press and go to work. Let it be understood tho, that I will take on the expense of the printing outfit and deduct a certain share of the profit to pay for part of the outfit. The larger part of the profit will be turned over to the club treasurer. Do you members think this idea is worth anything—good enough for you to take a vote on?

Yours very truly
Mr. & Mrs George McPhaden

144 Beresford Street
Moss Side,
Manchester 14, England

Dear Racy,

Many thanks for sending the recent copy of EXPLORER. I'm glad to see it in circulation once more and it is great to know that the club is getting on its feet once more.

I hope you can use the enclosed trifle - apologies for the lousy typing, it was done in a hurry.

Yours stfantastically,
Tony Glynn

58 Sharrard Grove,
Intake,
Sheffield 12, England

Dear Ray,

Congratulation, and also thanks a million. I've just heard that you are taking over EXPLORER and are helping it out of the bad patch into which Marion Cox seems to have dropped it. Anyway, I had a card saying that you were short of contributions for the zine, so I dug down deep into the waste basket and unearthed the enclosed. I hope you like it, but if you don't; there'll be no hard feelings if you return it. If you can't use it, just send it home, as I'm rather fond of the thing.

Incidentally, I'm already corresponding with Pat Eaton, and a pal of his, with a view to working out a sub method to EXPLORER for Anglo-fen. One of the ideas, is to supply stories, articles and art work..Be a pity if you rejected me wouldn't it....(gentle hint, type C)

Thassal for now, so best wishes, and good luck,

Yours,
B. T. (Terry) Jeeves

RD#1, Townline Road
Erie, Penna.

Br'er Ray, greetings...

It was good to see EXP on the go again...hope this is not too late and also, unless you are overwhelmed with candidates for the various offices, I'll run for Secretary...that's one that seemed to be unfilled at the time.

Would it help the situation if I were to send you a carton of paper? The problem of sending it may involve a week or so, but I have quite a few reams of paper and if it is a case of rebuilding the 'zine from scratch it may help the cause along.... I bought the stuff some years ago and it's still in the original shipping carton.... runs very smoothly on my mimeo, as you may soon see in SAPS. It's #20 stock, not pure

white, but a good paper, with little offset...wish I could have afforded to buy a carload when the opportunity was available because it was a bargain.

Better I should shaddap and get ready for the sank...hour is late and there's work to be done tomorrow...

- Ed Noble

Dear Ray,

I received the Oct. ish of EXPLORER and I enjoyed it very much. I am very happy to see it once more and hope that nothing happens to it again.

Since the last time my address was published in the EXPLORER it has changed. My address now is as follows: - John C. Blackburn, 455 East 17th Street, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

This, however, wasn't my only reason for writing. I have a pet project for the EXPLORER - a new department so to speak. We could have a different member each issue to write a little something about themselves. Sort of introduce themselves to the rest of us. It wouldn't have to be very long and could even be limited to vital statistics if necessary. Might even be able to include more than one. I know that I, for one, would be very interested in such a department.

Keep up the good work on the EXPLORER. I may try a contribution of some sort or another some time.

Sincerely
John Blackburn

1865 Segrid Avenue
Twin Falls, Idaho

Dear Racy:

Congratulations to you on taking over the editing of our club fanzine, EXPLORER. I am writing at this time to find out if you would be interested in adding another column to EXPLORER. I've had this column before in EXPLORER when I was President of the ISFCC. The column I have reference to is "The Friends of the Letter" column.

It is mainly a medium in which the newer members have more of a chance to get in contact with other members of our club.

If you would like such a column in EXPLORER, please let me know, and I will get it ready for the next ish. This column went over big before and I believe it will do the same again.

About all for now so will end it here with a Happy New Year to you.

Sincerely yours,
Lawrence J. Kuklbauch

47 Causeyside Street
Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Dear Fellow Fan,

Here is an item of interest that I like you to put into EXPLORER. Any person wishing to exchange American SF or Fantasy mags for British SF or for any Edgar Rice Burroughs books and magazines, please get in touch with me and their order will be looked after - no matter how big or small it is.

Your Fellow Member
Gavin Brown

Dear Ray:

This is to notify you of my change of address for the EXPLORER mailing lists. We have moved back to the old hometown - so from now on I'll be at

1504 E. Colfax Avenue
South Bend 17, Indiana

Thanks
Betty Kujawa

P.S. - The Oct. issue of EXPLORER was mighty fine - enjoyed all of it!

F O R T I S S I M O

"I like S-F because it relaxes me, makes me think, arouses my imagination and keeps me out of a rut." This is quoting from a letter written by an ISFCCer. Very good! Short and sweet. Covers all points of the compass.

And from another member, Karen Kruse, this information: Jack Williamson is to be guest of honor at the Westercon, September third; John W. Campbell, Jr. at the SFCon fourth, fifth, sixth. Both conventions will be held in the Sir Francis Drake, downtown San Francisco. Four floors in a block have been reserved, plus five suites, a meeting hall with adjoining bar, and other excellent facilities.

Fen who plan attendance should make room reservations through the Twelfth Annual Science-Fiction Committee, Box 335, Station A., Richmond 2, California.

To join this committee, send one dollar to above address; then you will receive membership card, and thereafter all progress reports giving full details.

The Committee requests Fandom to send suggestions for making the 12th Con an enjoyable one.. "This is YOUR con---let us know what you want! We'll do our best to give it to you."

Well, here's something many fen want: Separate and apart from the one at the lobby desk, an available record of all fen who have rooms in the Convention hotel. This would lessen the work of desk clerks and be a valuable convenience for fen.

Several correspondents, who have never been at a Stf Convention, asked about the reports that majority of the crowd, who attended, spent most of their time drinking. The answer is- Exaggerations are made by writers in an effort to be humorous.

Fine letter by President of ISFCC. Like it very much. Agree to Don's suggestion that the election issue be published in December before Christmas; then the next OO to come out early in March. As Don states- this would allow sufficient time for return of our oversea ballots, and a tally of entire membership vote to be published in the March issue- at which time the new officers would take over.

Disagree with that guy name of Ed Noble.. where he sez "there's a very top notch tale ... Huxley's Brave New World." Fie fie on ye! You shoulda "shaddap" one paragraph sooner. Will bet Jo is on my side.

Richard Abbott, I make abject apology for omitting your name in October letter. We did meet at ChiCon.. even exchanged a few words. The PhillyCon is another story.. Perhaps there we had a flying hello goodbye handshake?

RICHARD ABBOTT IS THE FOUNDER OF ISFCC.

Best of Wishes - Eva Firestone

P.S. Janie.. I'm sending sack full of resplendent quarters.. Hoo!

Upton, Wyoming

Ray:-

This concerns your letter requesting I enter my name for 1954 Treasurer ISFCC. IF following three conditions are true, only then will I consent to my name appearing on ballot for treasurer.

- 1- That you are sincere saying I'm needed.
- 2- That you-yourself do not want the office.
- 3- That no BIG-shot member is willing to take said office.

- Eva Firestone

Ed. note - On ballot Firestone is listed as candidate for Treasurer.

13817 Woodworth
Cleveland 12, Ohio

Dear Racy:

Here is my formal announcement of running for Vice-President of ISFCC.

It would be a pleasure to work for all the members of the ISFCC in the coming year. I wanted very badly to be active in the year past but due to a very unfortunate happening, such as no fanzine to work through, things were at a standstill. Now that that problem is overcome, I am sure that ISFCC can do big things in '54 and I wish to take an active part in it.

Your votes will be greatly appreciated by me in the coming election.

Honey Wood

1028 Third Avenue South
Moorhead, Minnesota

Hi Ray:-

O.K. I'll go along with you. Sending 50¢ dues to you as I'm not sure who the treasurer is. I'll try for President, but can't promise any mericles, just steady plugging! I'll put an ad in K-T every month if you send copy.

Your steady friend, as ever
K. Martin Carlson
(Kaymar)

167 N. 16th Street
East Orange, N. J.

Dear Ray -

Welcome, Dear Eddytar! The October EXPLORER looked good to me and was very neat. Hope you enjoy your affiliation with ISFCC and I will do my best to provide something printable each month. I don't want the club to get loused up (even though I preferred to step out of the office this time) so how 'bout if I go on for Corres. Manager. Much luck and happiness to you, Ray, and you'll hear from me again.

Sincerely,
Helen Huber

Tau Kappa Epsilon
1337½ Alder Street
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Ray,

Sorry I couldn't reply to your letter and card sooner, but I was caught in the middle of preparations for the final exams week at the university. The fact is that I don't have any material and should have at least dropped you a card to let you know. It was my intention from the start to make up the O.D. column mostly of material from overseas fen and since none of that has come in, there isn't much for a column.

In answer to your questions on the O.D.--yes, it is an appointive position, and yes it is different from the Trading Mgr. My job is to be aware of the problems facing overseas fen and do every thing possible to remedy those problems. One of

these was the lack of voting rights for overseas men which Don cleared up as soon as it was pointed out to him.

I was somewhat amused and at the same time displeased (at myself) to note that I was listed under three different addresses in various places in the October issue. (Ed. note - I requested Pat to give out with the one and correct address for men to use). Well, to clear this up, my address is Tau Kappa Epsilon, 1337 1/2 Alder Street, Eugene, Oregon until next June 14th. One other thing concerning addresses, all members reached at the following address, Trade Centre, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria, belong to the Affriction Youth Club, but should NOT be addressed "care of Mr. Godwin O. Kanu."

I suppose that much of this talk about my address is rather useless since I have sent my resignation to Don, effective Jan. 1, 1954. My main reason was that I could not do the work which I felt was necessary to the proper functioning of this department. If he can't find anyone, I'll probably stay on another month or two and shall be sure to drop you a card as soon as something definite occurs so you'll know what to expect.

One word before I close on the October EXPLORER. It was a very neat and attractive job, one that you and the whole club can be proud of.

Sincerely,
Patrick Eaton

Ed. note - are there just one member of ISFCC who would step forward and take over the O.D.—we need you—please advise the President AT ONCE!

TREASURY REPORT - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1953 by Ray Higgs acting-Treasurer:-

From ISFCC treasury - - - - -	\$ 10.00
Contributions from Cuthbert, Eaton, Huber, Gates, Noble, Firestone, Berger & Kujana - - - - -	26.00
TOTALS	\$ 36.00

N O T I C E !

All officers and members send material for publishing direct to the editor of EXPLORER before MARCH 1! All BALLOTS on or before MARCH 15!

Production costs of October EXPLORER - - - - -	\$ 15.25
Mailing EXPLORER including extra bundles to Gates, Huber & Eaton - - - - -	4.38
MAILING & PRODUCTION COSTS	\$ 19.63

TREASURY - DONATIONS - - - - -	\$ 36.00
MAILING - PRODUCTION COSTS - - - - -	19.63
BALANCE ON HAND - - - - -	\$ 16.37

N O T I C E !

Contributions since December 1953:-

George & Pearl McPhaden and Huddleston - - - - - \$ 2.00

New Members:-

- 148 - K. Martin Carlson, 1028 Third Ave So., Moorhead, Minnesota 50c for 1954
- 149 - Carolyn Jo Higgs, 813 Eastern Ave., Connersville, Indiana 50c for 1954

Monies for memberships renewals:-

- 10 - Eva Firestone, Upton, Wyoming \$1.00 for 1954 - 1955
- 94 - Janie Lamb, Route 1; Hesikell, Tenn. \$1.00 for 1954 - 1955
- 9 - Larry Gage, Route 4, Paris, Texas 50c for 1954
- 57 - Richard Billings, 610 E St., North Wilkesboro, N. Car. \$1.00 for 1954 - 1955
- 93 - Addie Huddleston, P.O. Box 1202, Cincinnati 1, Ohio 50c for 1954
- 147 - Ray C. Higgs, 813 Eastern Ave., Connersville, Indiana \$1.00 for 1954 - 1955

CORRECTIONS FOR THE ISFCC ROSTER...

- 18- Karen Kruse, Box 7, 1237 Russell St., Berkeley 2, California
- 42- Mrs. Marlyn McCann Shaw, 1001 East Lewis, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 138- Nick Solntseff, 184 Girraween Rd., Girraween, New South Wales, Australia
- 82- Patrick Eaton, Tau Kappa Epsilon, 1337 1/2 Alder St., Eugene, Oregon

ADDRESS CHANGES...

- 2- Lawrence J. Kuhlbauch, 1865 Segrid Ave., Twin Falls, Idaho
- 88- Betty Kujawa, 1504 E. Colfax Ave., South Bend 17, Indiana
- 76- John C. Blackburn, 455 E. 17th St., Idaho Falls, Idaho
- 90- John L. Mangus, Federal 203-B, Oberlin, Ohio
- 41- Sheldon Deretchin, 1234 Utica Ave., Brooklyn 3, N.Y.
- 48- Jack Schwab, 1048 A. St., Portsmouth, Va.

ADDITIONAL TREASURY REPORT FOR JANUARY 1954..

Donations.....	\$ 2.00
New members.....	1.00
Renewals.....	5.00
Totals.....	<u>\$ 8.00</u>

Balance on hand 1953 - - -	\$ 16.37
New members, renewals, donations - - : 1954	8.00
	<u>\$ 24.37</u>

CANDIDATES FOR 1954 ISFCC ELECTION

PRESIDENT- K. MARTIN CARLSON

VICE-PRESIDENT- HONEY WOOD

SECRETARY- ED NOBLE

TREASURER- EVA FIRESTONE

CORRES. MANAGER- HELEN HUBER

TRADING MANAGER- ALAN G. DAVIS

Enclosed with this issue of EXPLORER is YOUR BALLOT. VOTE AT
ONCE and send to:-

RAY C. HIGGS
813 Eastern Ave.,
Connersville, Indiana.

DEADLINE FOR RETURN OF BALLOT:- - MARCH 15, 1954

Ed. note- Permission for holding up this issue of EXPLORER was granted by President Don Gates...until your ed could find enuf candidates to even have an election!!

132 Hudson Street
Northboro, Mass.
1/21/54

Dear Ray:

Sorry to be so late and everything, but we can't always do what we want to. Naturally, I want to be our Trading Manager, and I think I can do a good job, my trouble has been in getting started. Then too, these holiday's have interfered somewhat with getting my first column written. But if you still want me, I am enclosing the column, and hope I'm not too late in getting it to you. I know it's not very good, but it's my first attempt.

I am enclosing \$2.00 for a membership for a friend of mine, Mr. Maurice Lubin, 14 Jones St., Worcester, Mass. Morry is a good kid, and has a formidable stf-fts collection. He and I are trying to start a club here in Worcester vicinity! So far we have about 14 prospects.

When I first started to write this column for EXPLORER, I lost Don Gate's letter, so couldn't give his wants and offers. Many difficulties came and went, but I'm determined to write the column.

Say, Ray, (and all you other ISFCCers, do you have any mags to trade or do you need any? How about an ITEM for this column...ALL OF YOU? I do hope all members of ISFCC will use TRADE WINDS. Let's hear from all of you!

- Alan G. Davis

TRADE WIND'S by ALAN G. DAVIS ISFCCers OWN COLUMN!

Fellow members of the I.S.F.C.C,

This column was created for our convenience, let's use it! Are you lacking back issues? Have you any to trade or sell? TRADE WINDS is YOUR answer, so why not write and let me know.

As your new Trading Manager, I'm most interested in making this column a success, and with your help, it will be. I hope to have lot's of items from all of you the next issue. I've been shamefully late in getting this first column written, I know, all I can offer for an excuse is the holiday season, and the fact that every time I sat down to start, my brain was loaded with nothing but blank cartridges. But to business ***

Don Gates, Box 73, Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone, wants good stf-fts artwork, such as Finlay Portfolio's, originals, or reproductions suitable for framing, photo's from stf-fts movies, and good or slick photographic, art, or geographic mags from other lands, especially Europe. Have to trade, books - "ZOTZ" and "SLAVES OF SLEEP" and PB's "Time TRAP", "OUT OF SILENT PLANET", "INTO PLUTONIAN DEPTHS", and also many non-stf detectives and westerns.

Maurice Lubin, 14 Jones St., Worcester, Mass. needs OW V1 NO. 2, and GALAXY VOL 1 NO. 2. Has to trade hundreds of stf-fts mags!

Yours-truly needs pre-1950 ASTOUNDINGS, all kinds hard-cover stf-fts books, will buy at prices us paupers can afford to pay.

In addition to our normal duties, we will endeavor to use this column as a means to help foreign fen to pay their dues, in mags, mint stamps, or what have you? Interested fen may contact me for details, and let me know if they would be willing to purchase foreign stf-fts mags from the club, always providing we can get this scheme rolling.

I hope this first effort has met with your approval, and that you will all avail yourself of this columns facilities, thus decreasing the strain on my feeble intellect. See you next issue.

Alan G. Davis, Trading Manager
132 Hudson St., Northboro, Mass.



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



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