

5/52

EXPLORER

W. MAX KEASLER / 521

MAY
JUNE



EXPLORER

May - June 1953

"Ad Stellas"

Third Issue --- Third Year

REPORT ON *** MIDWESCON

"Beatley's On-the-Lake"--- This year's Midwest Conference was well-attended -- the exact number is, apparently, a great mystery. My guess would be around one hundred and fifty, but there could have been more. Ninety were signed up for the Sunday afternoon luncheon, but uncounted ones from Chicago, Buffalo, and other points north, east, west, and south took off before noon. What with Arthur Clarke, fresh from a successful bout with the Book-of-the-Month, Mack Reynolds, E. E. Smith, P. Schuyler Miller (an elusive chap I did not meet), Robert Bloch, Bob Tucker, Charles Tanner, and others among writers, there were names galore. Bea Mahaffey, with an equally attractive sister along, was the lone pro mag editor present. But Eshbach, Ted Dikty, Greenberg and Kyle, book publishers all, showed. And Mr. Midwest Con, alias Doc Barrett, was around.

Fan mag editors and BNF's were there by the score. No use trying to name 'em all, but here's a sampling:- Dale Tarr, whose Tarrnation column sticks in memory from ten years back; Lynn Hickman, best looking Monster I've ever met and also President of ISFCC, and his Carol; Joan Carrol from N.Y.C., and her younger sister Karen, from Pittsburgh; Leo Hoffman of QUANDRY; Harlan Ellison; Bill Berger of NSF and Cleveland; Don Ford, Roy and Deedee Lavender; Shelby Vick all the way from Florida; Bob Johnson, Ken Krauger, Joe Fillingar, and the co-authors of the limited edition, book-length ELAGUE, Ganley and Leverontz.

Things got goin' good Friday night; in fact, so good that a few rules were supplied for Saturday. You could SLEEP Saturday night if you so desired...Saturday was a round of talking, getting acquainted, and renewing friendships....or losing them! Saturday night Don Ford and Bob Tucker showed slides of pics taken as far back as the first convention in Chicago. How these boys have grown! an original, A Paul, was auctioned off, and several others to be sold on Sunday were passed around for inspection. Then Clarke showed some of his slides on space, rocketry, and other planets, along with a general commentary. Bob Tucker played back a tape recording that is to be used at the Chi-con..'tis a howl, a takeoff on radio advertisers, news commentators...his interviews with the eds was really-- wait until you hear it at Chicago.

So the Saturday night session broke up and the room prowling began. I moved around to at least four different huddles and lost out on another that must have adjourned on the first floor..or maybe I flooped the room number. While in Doc Barrett's suite some joker heaves a firecracker inside and one of the guests was cut by it. The fireworks were confiscated...all was going strong at 3:50 when I hit the sack.

We left about eight the next morning, while only a few of the hardier souls were astir. We saw Don Ford, his wife, Ken Krauger, Ted Dikty, Joan Carrol, and some of the Cleveland gang, and a handful of others having breakfast. So, who spoke at the luncheon of where next year's meeting will be, I cannot tell you.

The weather was against us this year...no swimming for pleasure, although some did try it Saturday morning. The attendance was very good despite weather, dotcure, and threats of gasoline rationing. Better try going next year.

....Basil Wells

DO YOU WANNA BE AN OFFICER IN I. S. F. C. C. ????

Elections are Coming This Fall -- Let Us Know If You'll Be a Candidate!

Published by and for the International Science - Fiction Correspondence Club

President: Lynn Hickman
Vice-President: Jack Cuthbert
Secretary: - W. Paul Ganley
Treasurer: - Ed Noble, Jr.
Trading Manager: - Larry Gago
Correspondence Manager - Bob Hoskins

EXPLORER is published by Ed and Jo Noble at RFD # 1, Townline Road, Erie, Penna., at times when the weeds in the garden, the over-growing grass in the lawn, and other such odds and ends of extra work allow.

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"EXPLORER ... blazing new trails, particularly in the minds of men"

office and in voting in the club elections.

It is something to be viewed with pride (br-ff-sk) that we have managed to have a majority of the members vote in our elections. It is to be hoped that this year's elections may have the same percentage or better.

IF YOU WANT TO RUN FOR OFFICE IN THE ISFCC, PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NAME AND THE POSITION FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO RUN TO US, Ed and Jo Noble, RFD #1, Townline Rd., Erie, Penna.

And while we're at it, a lot of members of the club are not only eligible to vote in the ISFCC elections but also in the national elections this November. To be able to vote in these elections it is necessary to be registered as a voter. There are a lot of issues that are sorta vital in the elections this Fall .. it is not a question of party affiliation ... get registered and get out and vote. At this writing we don't know who the Presidential candidates may be, but each vote counts in a national election. Public apathy is a sad reflection on the national consciousness. So, get out and vote!

To all you overseas members, excuse the above tirade...but maybe you have some elections coming up, too...in that case, the above is for you, too.

To everybody, at the rate we're going, if you get this 'fore the Fourth of July, have a pleasant, safe, and sane Fourth and that sort of stuff...to be on the safe side, as work piles up all around this machine, Merry Christmas!

////

Read Fan-zines Published By Members of ISFCC -
OFUS QUANDRY AD-O-ZINE SCIENCE & CULTURE S-F NEWSSCOPE
SOL MAD ABBY FAN-FARE
COPSLA and others

This is the lazy season of the year as far as fandom goes, or so it seems. For the scholastics it is vacation ... for us antiquarians it is summertime when long evening hours and stuff take for gardening, yea, and even such as just plain loafing.

However, elections are coming up, but soon. Before we can have an election we'll need some candidates. We will need some replacements on the staff of the club by constitutional set-up as well as by reason that some do not wish to run for office again.

The ISFCC Constitution stipulates a maximum of three years in office which means that we'll be losing an efficient secretary in W. Paul Ganley, which will leave that office wide open for anyone who wants to run. All other offices are open for candidates.

This club is designed to be run by the members, not just a few who make a small ruling body. To make it a club run by the members, the members should take an active part in both running for

LETTER FROM LYNN

Fellow Members-----

This month's letter will be more or less a short note. 'Tis a busy time of the year, what with getting married, and with work really getting under way ...

I wonder how many members are going to attend the 10th World Science Fiction Convention in Chicago. (Hey..! That's the CFI-CON II!!!) I have written to the Convention committee in regard to meeting rooms for ISFCC and TLMA members to get together while there. This will be a chance for a lot of us to get together and meet each other for the first time, discuss the club--AND get more new members.

If you have never attended a World SF convention--take it from me--you don't know what you're missing. Let's see you all there.

I had the pleasure of attending the Midwestcon at Indian Lake, Ohio, and met and met a number of ISFCC'ers there. Wasn't able to stay for both days, so I missed out on a lot of it, but I still had a wonderful time.

Basil Wells' book "Sons of Thrane" is to be published by The Confederate Publishing Company (tha's me) this Fall. Pre-publication price is \$1.00, and it will be bound in heavy paper cover. Regular book binding at higher price. Basil is one of our ISFCC group and really writes a good yarn.

We have a new address now:-- 239 East Broad, Statesville, North Carolina. If you'd like to assure your copy of "Sons of Thrane" by sending for it now, at the pre-pub list, send the buck here.

Let's start thinking about these elections. We can have an active and wide-awake club if we work at being that way.

Lynn A. Hickman
President, ISFCC

"Ad Stellas"

About Our Cover

This issue presents one of the best covers that ever graced a fanzine. It is the work of one of fandom's top artists, a fella who's proved he can do some of the best, both as an artist and as a fan-mag publisher...referring, of course, to W. Max Kessler. Max pubs a top-notch 'zine in OFUS, and it's well worth the investment to buy a copy...full of good stuff, including a lot of laughs.

.....

FRIENDS OF THE LETTER

A Department Supervised by Lawrence Kiehlbauch
1516 10th St. West
Billings, Montana

Not too much in the line of requests for pen-pals in "Friends of the Letter".. in fact there are only a couple...Spring and Summer lethargy seems to hit fans about this time. Here's what we have, though:--

Mrs. HELEN HUBER, 20 Stanley St., Irvington, New Jersey .. "I am a new member of ISFCC, but not a new fan of science-fiction, since my interest dates back to my hoptotch days. Now it's hops and scotch days, but what are y' gonna do? I am 24, tall, blonde, and married, but my husband does not like s-f, so I'd like to hear from any fan in their twenties or older, married or single, guy or gal, and I promise to answer every letter promptly. My interests are s-f and fantasy both in reading and writing, artwork, dancing, swimming, and cooking. Will swap snapshots in first letters ... OK?

LOUIE MASONICK, Jr., Long Prairie, Minnesota - I would like to correspond with somebody who is interested in SF or Flying Saucers. I am 15 years old. (Hey, Schreiber, here's an ETR0 prospect for you!!!)

MAN MUST CONQUER SPACE

by D. Earl Gates

A recent rash of movies and stories dealing with rocket flights to the moon and spatial exploration is presenting to the public the possibilities of future flights, and even the migration of the human race from this to other planets. Most of this is accepted by the public in general as interesting but fantastic entertainment and nothing more. Actually it is not fantastic.

The interests and efforts of the US military and certain scientific groups toward overcoming the problems of space flight and developing space rockets is evidence that space travel and exploration may become reality in the near future. The exodus of part, or all, of the human race to other planets will take place eventually simply because it must, the force factors being the tremendously increasing population of Earth and the rapidly decreasing reserve of natural resources.

Due to progress in medical science, sanitation, and preventive medicine and the development of public health services the death rate has dropped sharply in recent years to the lowest point in history. At the same time the birth rate has climbed to an all time high. As a result the present yearly population increase is approximately 25 million - a fantastic increase rate which, if continued over a period of years, might drown the Earth's resources under a flood of humanity.

These resources are not unlimited. Neither are they being replaced as rapidly as they are used. In fact, many of them are not being replaced at all. Leading scientists and engineers have, in recent years, predicted the exhaustion, within a century, of such highly important resources as coal and oil. Even though new sources of power and raw material are being discovered it is not difficult to foresee the day when Earth will be stripped of its life-giving materials and no longer will be able to support the human race. Then man must migrate into space or die.

The food supply problem is far more pressing and immediate. Down through history there have been times of famine in one country or another due to drought or scourge of insect pests, but now famine is rampant in many countries simply because the population has increased to such an extent that the land can no longer produce sufficient food for all. Scientific advances in food production and the opening of new lands to cultivation have not been able to keep pace with the increases in the population...the gap is becoming continually greater.

Faced with the absolute necessity of finding additional living space, man will find the means to migrate to other planets. His transportation, the rocket, has already been invented and developed to the stage of making flights to the outer limits of Earth's atmosphere. The man-carrying interplanetary rocket is definitely in sight and the problems still remaining will be overcome as other seemingly insurmountable problems have been overcome by the inventiveness, resourcefulness, and courage of men goaded by necessity.

...oooOooo...

T R I

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For further information write to FRED GOETZ, Secretary
Tape Response International
3488 - 22nd St., San Francisco 10, Calif.

WE GO TO THE BUFFLOCON

Finally yours truly found the time and the opportunity to go to a science-fiction get-together, and, needless to say, everybody seemed to be having a good time.

The "-con" was the "Bufflocon", held in the Rose Room of the Richford Hotel in Buffalo on the 3rd and 4th of May. Our personal part of the gathering was limited to the Sunday session since there was work to be done on Saturday. But on Sunday morning a carload of s-fictionados in the persons of Ed and Betsy Curtis, Basil Wells, and ye ol' took off from Erie for Buffalo. The driving was very elegant and was punctuated with discussions of Walt Kelly, Pogo, Charles Addams, and kindred topics.

Arriving at the Richford and the Rose Room shortly before noon we signed the register and met up with Ken Kreuger and Joe Fillinger, the welcomers of the event, and, in turn, located a number of fellows known previously only by name and address. Paul Ganley and Al Leverontz of North Tonawanda, Jim Schreiber and a bunch from ETRO of Cleveland were there; Stan Crouch made the trip all the way from Sterling, Virginia; David Stone of Toronto; Bob Hoskins of Lyons Falls, Ron Friedman and Frank Dietz fronted a New York City delegation; Don Derrick and a number of others were from "far above Cayuga's waters" and Cornell U..... Bob Banding from West Seneca. Altogether, for the two-day session, there were better than fifty registered.

The first day's activities included the setting of the site for the next year's meeting. The Cornell University group was present in strong enough force to bring the "--con" to Ithaca for '53. Members of the Buffalo Fantasy League were all introduced, and a blind auction was held, along with some rocket films, and the picture "Bars".

Sunday's session started off under the guiding hand of Ken Kreuger. The first of the speakers was Jim Schreiber, who outlined the activities of the Extra-Terrestrial Research Organization and then stood off a barrage of questions on the flying saucers and what is hoped may be done with, to, for, and because of them.

Betsy Curtis, who has authored several shorts and novelettes in the past couple of years, was next on the list, and asked a number of questions about the types of stories which s-f fans wanted to read. After which this writer spicled on the aims of ISFCC, and then Basil Wells, the second of the "pro" writers took up four minutes in discussing the advisabilities of writing what one wanted to write.

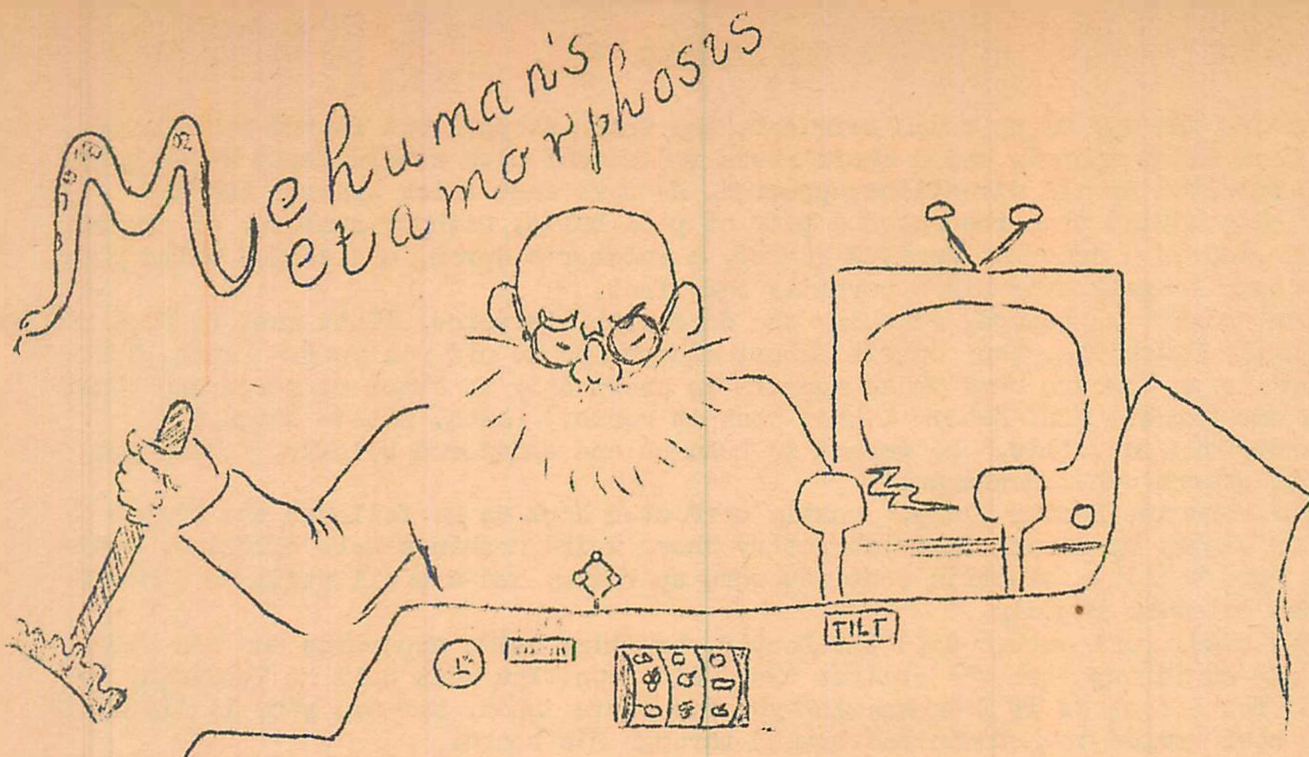
The finale was to be the showing of H. G. Wells' film classic, "The Shape of Things to Come". Everything started off excellently, and then, with about two minutes to go of the first reel, things broke loose....the lights went out.... fuses were blowing and the meeting was alternately dark and light while hotel light technicians were playing checkers with the fuse boxes, and then the projector started smoking and burned out.!!

It wasn't the nicest thing that could be for a wind-up to a convention, but that's the way it finished. Everybody had a good time...everybody got stuff to take home with them, from sample books and fan-mags, to autographs...it was really a good get-together...and, for a plug, should anyone ever need a good pianist for entertaining, got Paul Ganley to let his fingers run wild on the 88.. he was doggoned good! To the Buffalo Fantasy League, our congratulations for a fine meeting, the first of the New York State Conventions.

Ed Noble

KREUGER To Pub Pro Stuff

One of the items coming out of the Bufflocon is that Ken Kreuger is soon to put out a printed job that will feature pro writers and reprints of some of the classics of s-f. Slated for publication already are stories by Betsy Curtis and Basil Wells.



BOOK TWO

PART TWO

AN HISTORICAL ROMANCE
by
JACK CUTHBERT

The huge Calabash limousine glided smoothly up to a large castle-like mansion located on an obscure street in Philadelphia. (author's Note:- There are certain people who believe that most of Philadelphia's streets are obscure..) (Ed. Note:- So what!) (Auth. Note - So, SHUDDUP!) The Calabash crest on the side of the car, an unattached head floating in a pool of blood, turned red as the car stopped and Noel, dragging Mohuman out of the lunch basket, motioned for him to disembark, after assuring himself there were no passersby about, which was not an unusual condition considering it was 2 A.M. V.S.T. in the morning (Vampire Standard Time),

"Come, young one," said Noel, picking up a small grip and pushing Mohuman toward the door of the vehicle. "This is the place." He consulted a small human-skin notebook and verified the house number which glowed nervously in the surrounding darkness.

"Leave us go home," suggested Mohuman, as he was not relishing the prospects ahead for him. He had already undergone some of Dracula's therapy and had a slight suspicion that this in store for him was going to be worse.

"Bah!" replied Noel briefly as he turned and instructed the humanoid chauffeur to wait. Then, grasping Mohuman by one of his left arms, he glided up to the door and tolled the bell. (Ed. Note - What was it he tolled it?) (auth. Note - Gad, what humor! Yes, what humor?) (Ed. Note - If you do not cease being so sarcastic I shall not ask those stupid questions for you to make remarks about!)

A cadaverous appearing Thing opened the door, its almost fleshless face floating through the dimness as its glassy immobile eyes transfixed them.

"Hi, Boris," said Mohuman, who thought he recognized the doorman.

"Quiet, you!" snapped Noel, rapping Mohuman's left head sharply with his cane. "We are here to consult Doctor Clump," he announced to the attendant.

"Come you in..you are expected," announced the Thing (not from the picture of the same name) in a sepulchral, mechanical voice. "You will follow by me.... thank you."

Loading the way along a dim corridor, the Thing stopped and rapped four times on a door which opened, and a short obese individual with a velvety black beard which sprouted in all directions appeared. He wore inch thick glasses and his booby eyes behind them resembled a pair of pool balls, without numbers, of course. He was clad in a somewhat spotted jacket, a butcher's apron, and soiled white pants which hung loosely over his apparently bare feet.

"Ach, goot!" he boomed, rattling the door with his voice. "This must be Neel uff the Family Drackoola. Your cousin Egbert flurped to me uff you yedt." (Auth. Note:- "Flurp" is an obscure word whose meaning is known only to other vampires and other queer creatures.) (Ed. Note:- I know what it means.) (Auth. Note:- Natch.)

"Andt this..uh..this," he turned to Mohuran and shuddered briefly, "this must be your charch..uh..Nenhuman."

"Ah..Mohuran, Doctor Clump," gently corrected Neel as he followed the Doctor into an eighty by ninety feet laboratory where weird machines were clucking, cauldrons were boiling, electric contacts were sparking, and a small still in the corner was belching rapidly.

"Uff cuss..uff cuss," said the Doctor, brushing aside apparatus and his whiskers and coming up with two chairs. "But, sid down. You must call me Upharsin, my frand, for I feel as if I am knowing you for years. Andt, how are you, liddle man?" The Doctor turned to Mohuran and beamed through his beard.

"-----" said Little Mohuran, using several four letter words whose popularity has extended for several hundred years.

"QUIED!" shouted Neel, beating a tattoo on Mohuran's right skull. "Such talking! Little beast..menster..dunkcpf! For this I waste eight years teaching ranners yet..already!"

"Tut-tut, Drackoola," said Doctor Clump, "the..the..he iss tired after hiss long trip. Here...I giff you someting." He extended a glass of macerated hogs' livers which had been sitting on a table toward Mohuran who grabbed quickly for it, slopping it all over his jacket as his two heads collided in an effort to be the first to quaff the liquid joy. What failed to go on his clothes gushed quickly down his central throat.

"Bur-r-r-rrp," said Mohuran.

"Ugh," commented Neel, wiping his brow delicately with a black bordered kerchief "Manners...manners."

Mohuran turned and eyed Doctor Clump speculatively. "H-mmm," he pondered for a moment. "Uh-huh---he's a vampire," he stated accusingly and, to further prove his point, he glanced around and discovered a small hand mirror which he held in front of Doctor Clump's visage. No reflection was visible, and to prove there was no trickery, Mohuran looked into the mirror himself. "Eeek," he screamed, as he saw the reflection. "I scared me."

"Ha - a Landsmann!" shouted Neel, glancing at the doctor's hands and noting that each one of his fingers was longer than the others and that a heavy growth of hair covered his palms. "Goot--goot--Egbert didn't told me!" In his excitement the Count had his usual trouble with his English.

(Ed. Note - There is something here I don't quite understand.) (Auth. Note - Goot -- goot.)

"Ho-ho-ho," roared Upharsin, patting Mohuran on the heads, using both hands in the process. "A smartt poy! Eggie thoughtt he wouldt sepprice you. I wish we couldt go outt and haff a time but I am tired. Ach, what a day I had! Three weird wriders and two artists were here all day...taking some notes for some Mad Scientist stories what they are doing! Pah---what fulls!"

"I trust you found out where they lived," said Dracula, licking his bloodless (at the moment) lips.

"Uff cuss..uff cuss," the Doctor observed in very unwashed tones. "I see thoum lador. Butt we must see to this poor unfortunadte...ah...pcy."

"Yes, Doctor," agreed Neel, as they focused their eyes on the uncomfortable Mehuran. "You can see he is in poor condition to circulate among mortals. Even mo he makes shudder when I look at him."

"True, Neel, true. I shudder also."

"Goody, goody," said Mehuran, loorink at the two, "a pair of shudders..lot's build a house around them."

"Geet...geet," applauded Upharsin, reaching for a hypodermic needle.

"Do not encourage him, Doctor," warned Neel, rapping Mehuran over a skull.

"You think you can fix him?"

"Uff cuss...notch," said Clump, waving to his aide who had just entered, a quaint individual who resembled something out of a Grade B horror movie. "I show you how. You, Nobleski, bring to me two nices."

The doctor went over to a huge piece of apparatus which was a cross between a tailor's steam pressing table, an atom smashing cyclotron, an egg beater, a cement mixer, and a 1907 Stanley Stearnor. It was lined with grooves, slots, and apertures which seemed to be movable as the contraption opened in the middle like a waffle iron.

"Here, my dear Neel, is my masterspieces." The Doctor beamed proudly at the interested Dracula and the not too enthralled Mehuran, who was peering anxiously around for exits and space warps.

"Marvelouse!" applauded Neel, eyeing with interest the gears, wheels, levers, buttons, and dials. "Ach, selch! a genius!"

"True--true," admitted Upharsin as his assistant re-entered. "Here--gimme." He was handed a pair of white rice which he inserted in a small crevice in the machine. Turning twelve wheels and a small pinwheel and inserting a nickel in a slot, he closed the machine and proudly turned to Neel. "You see, I combress the two nices with space warpings and atomick groupings, making them into one which is stronger and more intelligenter and likewise heavier than the two nices which I push into one." He turned to Mehuran. "This I do alze for you."

"In a pig's eye," announced Mehuran's two heads as he broke for the door, only to be grasped firmly by the iron hands of the Doctor's assistant.

"Tut-tut," Upharsin scathed him. "This will not hurt a bit..and when it iss ofer you will be more like a human. Eofen so, then you can say--'Now, Mo Human.'-- Ho-ho-ho-c-c!" he roared, looking at Neel for approval of his witticism.

"Jeez," commented Mehuran grumpily, "what a character!"

"Very good, Doctor," beamed Neel, revealing his sharp pointed teeth in a grim smile. "Now, Doctor, about the cost of this operation..."

"Ooh, think nothing from it," Upharsin assured him, waving a hairy hand in the air. "I do it for a song already."

"Ohy, the Head Bone's connected to the Toe Bone--the Toe Bone's connected to the Hip Bone--the Hip Bone--" Mehuran sang lustily in a loud and penetrating voice, causing Nobleski to shiver violently and Neel and Upharsin advanced on their patient with upraised hands.

"QUIET!" shouted the Doctor. "Nedt that kindt of song."

"Shuddup, you little monster!" ordered Neel as the two of them belabored Mehuran's unprotected heads.

"Now," said Doctor Clump, beckoning to his aide. "We take cuds the rouses."

End of Part 2

of Book 2

Be sure and don't miss Part Three of this Thrilling account.

(Ed. Note - I won't.)

(Auth. Note - You won't what?)

(Ed. Note - I won't miss it - if even you don't send it in I still won't miss it.)

(Auth. Note - Steepid.)

SO YOU WANT TO START AN S-F CLUB....

The following method was employed effectively in starting the INDIMAR SF group of Marion, Indiana, and might serve as a pattern for procedure in organizing a club in your own city or town.

1. Scan Public Library for SF literature. If well stocked, leave your address at the librarian's desk with request that borrowers of SF books write or phone you.
2. Call a preliminary meeting, either at a public place or in a private home. Establish a membership drive, e.g.: have the listing of all SF readers made, preferably by a teacher or one who is well known in town or in library. At the same time organize a publicity drive, first by making posters containing names and addresses of people to be contacted and leave posters at libraries, high schools, and colleges. At that time it will be necessary to agree on a facile or interesting name.
3. Draw up a tentative list of reasons for an SF club in the area, stressing information on SF literature, books, magazines, broadcasts, TV, value of discussion meetings, and correspondence. Stress opportunity of congenial gatherings.
4. Avoid formalism such as electing officers and postpone setting up a constitution, by-laws, etc., for the time being.
5. After the founders have become personally well acquainted and the above preliminary work has been prepared, call a meeting with all prospects invited. A carefully developed program here is a necessity, perhaps developing the meeting around an SF broadcast, TV, or film, trick experiments, etc. Allow time to explain reason for the club and time for ample discussion. A reception committee and someone to maintain a roster of those present should be a must.
6. Set up an Activities Committee to plan well run meetings. Settle upon the meeting places, whether in library, homes, school, community house, etc. Set up (moderate) membership dues.
7. If all these obstacles have been overcome, plans can be made for a library (lending), club bulletin, and special events such as tours and trips to nearby observatories, planetaria, laboratories, or for inviting special guests from colleges or industries. Set up regular reports on newest developments in SF, movies, and scientific discoveries. (Keep reports to 15-30 minutes.)

...DOCB

OOOooo...

TRADE WINDS

A Trading Column

Conducted by Larry Gates
Route 4, Paris, Texas

Well, folks, there's very little in the column this issue. Only one member has written in, listing things he'd like to acquire. There always seems to be this lull during the summer. But keep on sending in your lists of the things you'd like to buy, swap, trade, sell, and stuff.

Also, start thinking of someone you'd like to see as Trading Manager. I'm so busy with college work and editor of the college paper time's a premium.

Larry Gage

PAUL MITTELBUSCHER, Route 2, Sweet Springs, Missouri ... Wants to buy all issues of JUNGLE Stories, SOUTH SEA Stories, CORNET, ADVENTURE, GOLDEN FLEECE, and old AMAZING QUARTERLY and ANNUAL.

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REXALL-3 Book Notes

by Allen Newton

NOTHING SO STRANGE: James Hilton (Avon Pubco., 575 Madison Ave. NY 22 30¢ ppd.) A strong character study of an American scientist in Hitler's Germany. His work is pure research and he deals with mathematics leading up to the A-bomb and beyond. The book is not s-f but it does have a science background and is well written.

ILLUSTRATED MAN: Ray Bradbury (30¢ ppd. Bantam Bks, 830 W. Haines, Chicago 22) A chance for all Bradburyophiles to obtain some of his stories at bargain basement prices. Follows on the heels of hard cover book of same title.

REVOLT OF TRIFFIDS: John Wyndham (30¢ ppd. Popular Lib. 10 E 40th, NY 16). A good buy. Former serial in Collier's. Man finds new extra-terrestrial sentient plant which is definitely hostile and cultivates same for rich products. Cultivation is under rigidly controlled conditions. Unplanned and unexpected horror, apparently originating from faulty satellite orbiting war base, almost wipes out humanity. Ecological upset gives plants the ascendancy. Story ends with picture of several semi-tribal groups, each reflecting the diverse personalities of its leaders, facing the future with a degree of confidence.

DWELLER IN MIRAGE: A. Merritt (30¢ ppd. Avon Pubco. 575 Madison Ave., NY 22). This long announced reissue of Dweller is again available on the newsstands. Merritt's field is fantasy, BUT many readers of sf exclusively make exception and rate Merritt one of top writers.

TARZAN AT EARTH'S CORE: E.R. Burroughs. (2/ - say abt. 30¢ ppd/W.H. Allen, Essex St. WC2, London, England) Pellucidar is the name of world at Earth's core. Inhabited by miocene critters and various specimens of homo sap, it has been discovered by fellow from surface world. He was held in durance vile and got SOS radiogram off (RGA all the way...unpaid advt.). This came to attention of Tarzan and his Wasiri and they were off to incredible adventures.

CIVILIZATION AND THE USE OF ENERGY: Prof. Sir A. C. Egerton, M.A., D.Sc., FR.S. (Free on request to UNESCO - Dept. Mass Information - United Nations, New York). A paper based on the Unesco discussion theme theme of 1951 - viz. "Energy in the Service of Man." Gives brief paleontological background and discussion of development of man in historic times and the increasing control of environment given by utilizations of ever greater power resources. Needs for power and extrapolations of such needs and survey of known resources make this very informative. It is well written and with the layman in mind.

S-F in SLIX:-

LOOK - July 1, 1952 - Another article on Flying Saucers which is more or less of a re-cap of the past year's sightings.

COLLIER'S - June 28th, 1952 - "Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury, a short on time travel.

READER'S DIGEST - July, 1952 - Two - yes, two -- articles on the Flying Saucers, one of historic interest.

I, Allen Newton

FROM F. PHILIP HALLAN COMES WORD that there'll be a new 'zine out for fans this August, "The Flying Saucer News Magazine" on a monthly basis. Whether it's to be a "pro" job or a "fan" job the letter doesn't indicate, but it's listed at \$3 a year, which may be indicative of something or other.

The "Flying Saucer" is reported to be for complete coverage on the elusive but intriguing saucer, posting the reader on current books, articles, etc., as well as first-hand accounts of saucer-sightings. For the saucer-seeker this may be just the thing!

435 DUBOCE AVE. SAN FRANCISCO

EXPLORER Looks at Its Contemporaries

The quality of fanzines is definitely getting better and better. Some of 'em are exceptional in the manner of improvement from issue to issue, while others continue to hold their spots.

Our lead-off this time is Max Keasler's OPUS... 'tis the most generally interesting fanzine that's been run off the mimeograph in quite awhile... the Keasler style of humor fits in well with OPUS and the 'zine is filled with odds and ends of satirical chuckles along with articles and artwork that are top-notch. LOE of MEZRAB does the fanzine reviewing and is doing a much better job on the critical angle than in previous years... all in all, OPUS is one of the best buys of the fanzine world. You can get it for 15¢ a copy... from W. Max Keasler, Box 24, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Ad-O-Zine, the 'zine that's full of ads, maintains its pace with a collection of ads from all over, advertising books for sale, books wanted to buy, etc... this is one for those who are book or magazine hunting or who have books or 'zines for sale. Bill Dutts has a pretty good circulation worked up for Ad-O-Zine and the ad should reach a lot of interested folk. For info, write to Bill Dutts at 2053 E. Atlantic Ave., Philadelphia, Penna.

A very fine job is by one of our ISECC'ors, Gregg Callins of 761 Oakley St., Salt Lake City, the excellent OOPSLA! Improving in format and stuff like dat dere since its start some months ago, it has nice art work and very neat mimeography. Published every sixth Tuesday, which makes it eight for the year... sub rates are eight issues and an anniversary issue for \$1 ...

Ryan and Lippincott have come through with another MAD... the cover is muchly intriguingly like Bill Steig, as are some of the inside illos... we think you'll sorta like MAD, maybe you're a little that way, too ... MAD is put out at 224 Broad St., Newark, Ohio.

The getting-to-be-perennial favorite, QUANDRY, the epic effort of Lee Hoffman, 101 Wagner St., Savannah, Georgia, picks up a lot with this current issue. (At least it was current when this stencil was typed... Hu knows how many QUANDRY shall have been published ere this reaches the reader?) La Hoffman was at Indian Lake, and there are suspicions that she'll be at Chicago for the --- what is that word? ---oh, yes---CHICON II. QUANDRY is 15¢ per copy.

SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSSCOPE - by Lawrence Campbell, 43 Tremont St., Malden 48, Massachusetts... continues to hold to its price of 5¢, which makes it one of the rarities in the fnz. world... SFNS covers quite well the doings of the s-f world. It is pleasant to note that items of future interest as well as past interest are in its pages.

VIEWS in SF - the o-c of the Baltimore S-F Forum and edited by Ray Sienkiewicz of 802 W. 35th St., Baltimore 11, Maryland... 10¢ per copy... the Balserforum is one of the more progressive fan clubs in America and doing a grand job of promoting interest in s-f and sf-organization. The 'zine plugs the club, of course, but also carries excellent book and magazine reviews.

SCIENCE-FICTION ADVERTISER published by RA Squires of 1745 Kenneth Road, Glendale, California... the July issue is a goodly sized affair full of ads, reviews, and the finale of "A Study of ... E. van Vogt. This is at 20¢ a copy or eight issues for one buck, which is ki good deal. SF-advertiser is an offset job and is a good one for those interested in buying, selling, swapping, etc. Very nice cover for the July issue.

* * * * *

Hope we didn't forget anyone... if we did, our apologies... all these fanzines, as well as almost all fanzines, are well worth reading... try them for some interesting reading... try them as potential fields for your own writing... but help with a sub or two... fan-mags are not published for a penny.

THE ISFCC STORY - Part 4

by W. Paul Ganley

Secretary, ISFCC

Probably one of the problems of the ISFCC as yet unsolved has been that of the ISFCC Library. The club started out with the idea in mind of having one, a sort of a lending library available to all members of the club. Actually it has had its beginnings, and there is a Library...unfortunately the Library and the Librarian are not in the same place. At the present time Fred Chappell is the club's Librarian by appointment, but the Library is still, as far as is known, in the hands of the Librarian who resigned, Sherman Berg of Milwaukee. It is hoped that sometime in the future the Library may be started on its way again, and that Library and Librarian may meet up with each other.

Originally, elections of officers of the club were to be held every six months with a limitation of six terms per office. Since elections must be carried out by mailed ballots such a system was seen to be overly cumbersome, and there resulted some amendments to the club constitution which stipulated that there should be yearly elections with a term limit of three years per office.

Our second election found some changes made in the officers. Larry Kiehlbauch stayed on as President, but Richard Elsberry replaced Rick Snary as Vice-President; Larry Gage became Trading Manager; Robert Hoskins became Correspondence Manager; Dea Glass stayed on as Treasurer and I remained as secretary.

Fairly well established, the club began to get very nice reviews from the Club House section of Amazing Stories, and, like so many fan-mags, wound up with comparatively derogatory reviews in Startling, so that we just didn't bother sending copies in for review to Startling Stories, but then Walt Willis wrote an article concerning "The Mind of Samuel Morwin" which was run in EXPLORER and eventually was printed in toto, with comments by Morwin, in the August (I think) 1951 issue of TWS.

As the magazine progressed, the cover art of the magazine attracted several excellent fan-artists including Leo Hoffman, Richard Kirs, and W. Max Keasler. We attained a steady and very fine book and film reviewer in Allen Newton, who is now very actively a part of the Baltimore Science Forum, or Balciforum. During 1951 we published a series of indices covering a number of pro-mags, an item which was of sufficient interest and value that a couple of pro-writers asked for copies to have for their own files.

So, we come to the concluding step of this history, which brings us fairly well up to date. In the Fall of 1951 we had our last election, with a change or two. Lawrence Kiehlbauch decided that two years was enough as president, so Lynn Hickman was elected to replace him. Jack Cuthbert became Vice-president; Ed Noble became Treasurer; while Hoskins, Gage, and myself continued in our respective positions.

We can look forward to the "tomorrow" and hopefully expect that ISFCC shall continue to grow and maintain its position in the fan-domain.

W. Paul Ganley

...ooo000

DO YOU WANT TO RUN FOR OFFICE?

ISFCC Needs Active Officers --- There's An Election Coming Up --- Let EXPLORER Know IF YOU WILL BE A CANDIDATE --- LET US KNOW SOON!!

000ooo...

The Moon is really made of green cheese -- read Donny Dirwit in the Sunday Comics and see the proof ...

NEW MEMBERS TO THE I.S.F.C.C. - Welcome and such....

Mrs. HENRY ORVIS - Route 1, Seneca, Illinois
 JOE FILLINGER - 148 Landon, Buffalo, New York
 ARNOLD ROSEN - 1015 Boynton Ave., Bronx 72, N. Y.
 DELRAY GREEN - R. R. #4, Muncie, Indiana

* * *

.....Mostly Stuff Like Dat Dere

If this issue isn't out pretty soon practically all the mail that will be at the Noble mailbox shall begin with "...and WHERE is my copy of EXPLORER???".... it is with all kinds of apologies and such that we're sorry the issue is as late as it is....sometimes, when the work piles up as it does (not merely the ISFCC material), there's the inclination to hunt around for a prospective successor...

Don Gates, who hails from the Canal Zone down Panama way, was state-side for a part of the summer, visiting his folks in New York state and making a trip to the West for the Souwestercon....

* * * * *

WE INTERRUPT THIS HERE OL' STUFF to bring the following item:

ARRIVED @ 1040 Hours MDST, weighing in at 8# 1 oz., July 5, 1952, one future Editor...she's a boy!! We is gone name him Edward...Co-editor Jo doing very well...yo od is slightly woozy from lack from sleep also with highly inflated ego and stuff like dat dere...Thinker, the pooch, is somewhat bewildered by it all...(We do have a pooch and we DO call him "Thinker", for whatever reasons one may wish to attach...)

* * * * *

To continue from where we were so delightfully interrupted:- S-F will be getting something or other in the near future from Dor Dingle and Bob Hope, if the news items are not too far amiss...the next "Road" picture is tentatively "The Road to the Moon"...

* * * * *

ADD to FRIENDS OF THE LETTER

ROY SEILER, 1351 "N" St., Fresno, California...I am 19, have brown hair, hazel eyes, and stand in my stocking feet. (That's the way it reads..)Favorite Stf authors: Heinlein, DeCamp, Asimov, Kuttner; favorite subjects for discussion other'n stf are politics, current events, and history, past and future...would like to hear from stfans who are stamp collectors.

Mr. and Mrs. (GEORGE and PEARL) McPHADEN, 702 Allerton St., Redwood City, California...Pearl is interested in swapping some nice gruesome murder story pocketbooks and correspondence in general. I (George) am interested in radio, stamps, and science-fiction.

We will answer anyone who writes. We are both 38 and would like to hear from persons who are over 17.

LENUS NETTO, 85 St. Andrews Rd., Bandra, Bombay 20, India...I am interested in magazines, stamps, and modern music. I would like to make stateside contacts.

INTERESTING S-F CLUB DIRECTORY JUST OUT....!!!

Barclay Johnson's effort at compiling a Fan Club Directory has come out and 'tis a nice looking job...this task was started some months agone and contains several dozen listings...we think you'd like to look it over because it covers a lot of territory...dunne what the price of it is because Bark didn't put a price tag on the publication, but it looks like it oughta be worth two-bits...we of the ISFCC are mentioned frequently, for which there are many thanks for the

(cont. next page)

bouquets...early ISFCC members, yea, and even later ones, may get a charge out of the coverage given to ASFS and the references to ISFCC therein. This very neat job, well illustrated caricature-wise, is available from Barclay Johnson, 878 Oak Street, Winnetka, Illinois...he's an ISFCC'er, too.

* * * * *

THE SOLID SOU-WESTERCON

D. Earl Gates

(Our Canal Zone member was a state-side wanderer this summer and toured the USA considerably, taking in the SOWESCON as a part of his odyssey...so we're glad to get this report from him...)

Members of the San Diego Science-Fantasy Society, sparked by Roger Nelson and William F. Nolan, and guided by amiable writer-fan Forrest J. Ackerman, presented one of the biggest s-f events of the year, the 1952 Sou-Westcon, at the Hotel U. S. Grant, June 28-29. Being in California on a 'round-the-U.S. trip, yours truly took time out to attend, and in doing so accelerated my wife's indoctrination into the realms of s-f and fantasy. She even became a Bradbury fan. This is not intended to mean that one becomes a Bradbury fan as a last resort. The jovial Mr. Bradbury was definitely a shining light throughout the convention.

Unfortunately we missed the first morning's program including the official opening by Roger Nelson and speeches by Rog Phillips and guest-of-honor Ray Bradbury. We arrived at the hotel just after lunch and caught Nelson at the reception desk where we were supplied with identification badges, nicely done programs, and an exceptionally fine booklet on "A Cross-section of art in Science-Fantasy". The reproductions of art work by Finlay, Bonestell, Dollens, Paul, and others were a sight to please any fan. And a new star is rising in San Diego in the person of young Tom Gould, who made his debut in the art booklet and in the convention art salon with some fine work. You may soon see him in some of the mags.

We got in on the program during a play, "Interior", written by Jeanne Clark, and so our full interest was started with a discussion of Flying Saucers by Dr. Adamski, who displayed very clear photos taken with a telescopic lens, showing quite distinct and definite outlines and features such as teardrop housings. I personally felt that the photos were not faked, but was certainly disappointed in the evasive answers given by Dr. Adamski to some of the fans who questioned him. Speeches by A. E. van Vogt and Anthony Beucher, plus the SOWESTERCON, a satire (writer's note:- Hoy, Noble-- that's SOURWESTERCON!), by Nelson and Nolan, filled out the afternoon.

A banquet of no mean proportions opened the evening session, and was followed by the presentation of a beautiful Martian girl as Miss S-F of 1952, and by the giving of awards to various people for their contributions to s-f, or their activities in that field. Guest of honor, Ray Bradbury, got out of giving a speech by reading one of his new and as yet unpublished short stories, "The Flying Machine." Jack Seaman of Hollywood followed with a talk on the importance of s-f to the movie industry and vice-versa. The session closed with the showing of "The Atlantic Tunnel", an s-f film of the '30's which forecast person-to-person TV and passenger helicopters.

The next morning's portion opened a bit bleary-eyed with an open-floor session on "Trends in SF Today and Tomorrow", opened by Clove Watrill. Next, a panel fronted by Ackerman, van Vogt, E.E. Evans, Beucher, Mel Sturgis, and S J Burn, debated whether the mystery would be replaced by the sf story. It was generally conceded that the whodunnit was here to stay, but the sf story would grow in its own field. Closing the morning activity was a most interesting and informative slide-illustrated lecture by Dr. Richardson, known to fan as Philip Lathan. It gave most of the audience a better idea on the possible origin of the craters and seas of the moon. Dr. Richardson also passed along the theory offered by some

scientists that the canals of Mars are actually cracks in the planet's crust caused by meteoric impact and that their color changes are caused by seasonal variation in lichen-like growths in the cracks or faults.

After lunch a business session was held, during which Los Angeles was proposed and selected without a single dissenting voice as the 1958 Westcon site. This was followed by (almost over-run) a terrific auction. Many collectors items and articles of interest to fans went under the gavel, including Bradbury and Taine mss., art by Paul, Lawrence, and Carvier, and many books.

The convention ended Sunday evening with the fans given a chance at Bradbury in a question-answer session of "Bradbury on the Spot". Ray proved himself to be a fan's writer and a man of outstanding personality, a friendly, good-natured guy with a love of freedom and human rights and a deep understanding of humanity.

Many of the top names in the field were among the 377 who registered as attending the San Westcon. Fans ranging from 9 to 93 were present, the oldest being Adolphe de Castro, poet and socialist.

Of interest to s-f readers and particularly to s-f writers and would-be s-f writers was the formation of The Science Fantasy Writers of America to promote a square deal for writers from editors and publishers. Anthony Boucher started the ball rolling as the writers met, formed the society, electing S. J. Burn as president, Cleve Cartmill as vice-president, and F. J. Ackerman as Treasurer.

Everybody seemed to have a good time, and the con was a credit to the San Diego Fantasy Society. Remember - in '52, it's the Westcon 6 at Los Angeles.

d. carl gates

We Look at Some More Contemporaries

CONN FAN - o-o of the Connecticut S-F League...pubbed by Charles Lee Riddle, RTD#7, Norwich, Connecticut...mostly concerned with the formation of the CSFL, a banding together of Connecticut fans. Ronald Rantz is the president of this new group, and we wish it all the possible success. The bulletin issued is a neatly done job, as well it should be, since its editor is also the editor of FLOW...for any area fans who'd like to investigate the idea of belonging to the group, its coming meetings are: August 20th at the home of Matthew Stavola, 5 Henry Street, Rocky Hill and September 14th at the home of Charles Lee Riddle, RD # 7, Monogan Hill, Norwich.

COSMAG-SED by Burwell and Macaulay, 57 E. Park Lane NE, Atlanta 5, Georgia.. This issue took a long time getting under way, but it is well worth the waiting.. predominantly COSMAG by reason of editorializing explanation of Burwell, it has a lot of really good stuff by Ken Slater, Hoffman, Silverberg, and Ridley...it is 25¢ a copy, except the next issue, which is to be planographed and be of 60-80 pages...that one will be 50¢...a very good issue...top-notch.

FAN-FARE, pubbed by W. Paul Ganley, 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y. ... like us, Fan-Fare strives to maintain a bi-monthly schedule in the face of all sorts of exterminating gadgets, but it continues to be a very good fan-fiction zine. artwork on this issue is exceptionally good and the magazine is worth the 15¢ per copy. The publishers of Fan-Fare also have come out with a full-length novel by name of LEAGUE @ 65¢ per copy. There are a limited number of these left, and each is numbered.

MORE Stuff Like Dat Dere...

As the month of July steams its way toward a close, so does this issue of the EXPLORER...we are late, but as other fan-mags bearing March and April datelines have been coming in, we wonder if we should be apologetic. The future aide is at the moment being "burped"....let it be said that he has been taking up a fair share of the time during these past couple of weeks or so, and shall probably continue to do so...we is gone call him Edward Anthony...

Little ol' odds and ends...Larry Kichbauch, first past-president of ISFCC, had a vacatoying trip ranging as far east as Ohio, a tour which included meeting one of the more active ISFCC'ors, Marian Cox of Fort Wayne, and a telephonic talk with Vanita Norris...anyone looking for books, both hard-cover and p-b variety, might drop a line to Bob Hoskins, Lyons Falls, N. Y....he's selling out on a lot of 'em to concentrate on mags....Don Gatos, as previously mentioned, is finishing up a summer-long stay in the states, visiting his folks in LaRoy, N. Y. and touring the states...sorta hopes to eventually settle down in California...

Don't forget that elections are in order for this Fall...we need at least a new secretary and a new Trading Manager and a new Correspondence Manager...every post is open, but those are definite...

Further notes:- You have noticed, no doubt, that we are a month late at least.. it is a highly debatable question whether we shall be able to get on a bi-monthly schedule because of all the work that involves us...if a bi-monthly 'zine is a must, should the job of editing and publishing the 'zine go to another, or do you want us to keep on putting it out, temporarily on a quarterly basis with the hope that it be again a bi-monthly affair????

We like to put out the magazine...it's a lot of fun despite its being a lot of work...the only trouble is that other work also keeps us going, too...if there are some members who would like to become editors and it should help the club, we'll be glad to turn over the job...may we hear from y'all about the idea? A quarterly for the time being, or a new publisher, or somep'n????

So ends this issue of EXPLORER...I hope we have entertained you, informed you, and provided some interesting moments of reading...so we'll give you another

-30-

EXPLORER

RFD#1, Townline Road
Eric, Penna.

May-June-(and July) issue

Mineo'd Matter Only



To:

Gregg Calkins
761 Oakley St.
Salt Lake City 16, Utah