

F F M



FALL 1966

F I R S T F A N D O M M A G A Z I N E Fall 1966 issue

Published for First Fandom, a non-profit organization. This issue is edited and published by Lynn A. Hickman at 413 Ottokee Street in Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

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First Fandom was first discussed in late 1958 at a get together at Doc Barrett's in Bellfontaine, Ohio, and was founded in 1959. In discussing the various eras or "fandoms" that have existed in the past, Jan. 1, 1938 was selected as the cut off date as the whole idea of FIRST FANDOM is to stimulate and revive interest in the older science fiction and fantasy fans.

The founders of FIRST FANDOM are: Bob Madle, C. L. Barrett, MD, Don Ford, Lou Tabakow, Dale Tarr and Lynn Hickman.

A roster of members will appear in the next issue which will be published in November, 1966. At that time it will also be listed as to who owes dues. January, 1967 is the deadline for dues and January of each year hence will be dues time.

Many thanks to Jay Klein, associate member, whose fine reports were received just in time to fill this issue out and give us the latest report on a First Fandom meeting. Both Jay and Stan should be welcome additions to the organization. However, I personally feel that only borderline cases (re: our deadline of Jan. 1, 1938) should be invited to associate membership or the idea and meaning of FIRST FANDOM is ended.

First Fandom Magazine is published by The Pulp Era Press, Wauseon, Ohio.

Editors report; Lynn Hickman

During the past year I thought perhaps First Fandom and FFM had gone the way of Wonder Stories, only to appear as an anthology every few years. Being one of the founders of the organization and finding myself once again with time to be active in the club, I started writing some of the members to find out what was wrong. I received the following letter from Robert Madle:

Mr. Lynn Hickman
413 Ottokee Street
Wauseon, Ohio 43567

Mr. Gus Willmorth
5658 Winnetka Ave.
Woodland Hills, Calif.

Dear Lynn and Gus:

Pardon writing you as a pair, but what I have to say concerns both of you.

First Fandom has been quite inactive of late, but it's time we got going with something, or we're going to have merely an annual get-together organization. Naturally, the most important aspect of getting FF rolling again is getting First Fandom Magazine out again.

Lynn, as you know, since you gave up pubbing FFM (because of the pressure of other work) Roy Tackett filled in very nicely for awhile. Then he had to give it up. Nothing happened for awhile. Then Gus offered to help out by getting it going again. You offered to edit it again about the same time Gus did. Now I'm in a dilemma: two editors.

Right now the problem is to get an issue out for the Tricon. I feel that if this can be done it will be a real shot in the arm for First Fandom. What I'm going to suggest is this: because Lynn has the equipment available and previously published the magazine, you (Lynn) get this issue out. I know you can fall back on some material and artwork you have around to fill it in. In the meanwhile, we can decide how to handle future issues. The problem is to get one out fast. Lynn, even if you can't assemble them, bring them to the con with you.

I am enclosing what material I have and have written to all the Committee Chairmen to send their reports to you. If you have to, Lynn, a little reprinting from the Pulp Era will not be amiss.

I am going along on the premise that the above can be done. If not, please advise immediately.

Sincerely,

Bob Madle.

I immediately wrote both Bob and Gus and promised to have at least a 10 page issue ready for the Cleveland Convention. I also stated that if Gus wished to edit the magazine that would be fine. I will work in any capacity to get things rolling again. Whenever our next election is, I will declare myself to run for any office or offices where I might be of the most help in keeping the club going.

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FIRST FANDOM GATHERS AT WESTERCON

With the World Convention being held in London it appears that the 18th Annual West Coast Science-Fantasy Conference was the U. S. convention of the year. True, other regional conferences were attracting a somewhat larger than normal attendance but I doubt that any drew as many attendees from such great distances as Westercon. Besides the contingent of New York fans there was in attendance a wide variety of fannish personalities from such scattered points as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and even Hawaii.

Among the first people I ran into at Long Beach were First Fandomites Alva Rogers and J. Ben Stark. We discussed First Fannish affairs over coffee including such matters as the Hall of Fame Award and what-ever-became-of-the-magazine, and decided, after looking over the convention membership roster, that there were enough First Fandomites in attendance to warrant calling a meeting-party. The three of us made a quick trip to the local liquor store to purchase the materials necessary for keeping throats from getting dry during what was sure to be a long-winded session and I managed to corner convention co-chairman John Trimble in the Project Art Show room and got him to agree to make an announcement of the impending meeting. We scheduled it for Saturday night after the Masque Ball.

About 11:30 the ancient, but still young-at-heart, members of First Fandom began to gather in Alva Rogers' room. Scattered about the chairs, beds, and various portions of the floor were members Alva Rogers, J. Ben Stark, Don Franson, Stan Woolston, Roy Squires, Dave Fox, Sam Moskowitz (who suprised us by flying out Saturday), and, of course, your reporter. Also present were other first fandomites although not official First Fandomites including Jack Speer, Len Moffatt, Ed Wood, and Lester del Rey.

We decided to get the business of the meeting over with in a hurry so we could get down to more pleasant things such as drinking and gabbing. There being no official-type officers of the club present it was decided that as an ex-official-type officer I should preside.

Two items were brought up. The first, a question asked un-animously by all club members present: "Where is FIRST FANDOM MAGAZINE?" The second, a poll of our preferences for the Hall of Fame Award. No one knew for sure what action First Fandom had taken in regards to the award this year but we decided to make our own feelings known to officialdom. Sam Moskowitz mentioned that the previous recipients of the award were well pleased with it. I called for nominations. Various likely candidates were presented. (Sam wanted to know how long we were going to continue giving the award to living writers) The merits of those suggested were discussed but in the end the members of First Fandom present at Westercon XVIII recommended unanimously that the next First Fandom Hall of Fame Award be presented to Dr. David H. Keller.

With business out of the way general fangab started in earn-

est. I asked Sam, since he was close to the magazine scene, if it appeared that the sfzines could survive. Sam expects them to continue. del Rey, however, disagrees and feels that because of such factors as poor distribution the magazines are doomed.

The conversation came around to Lovecraft, as it so often does, with various phases of HPL's life and career under discussion. At one time Roy Squires mentioned that he had an invitation to Lovecraft's wedding which prompted Alva Rogers to remark that this was indeed, First Fandom.

Sam and Ed Wood held a lengthy discussion on copyrights although no conclusions were really drawn -- except that the copyright laws need revision.

At length Moskowitz looked at his watch and declared that it was six o'clock. We reminded him that he was still on Eastern time and that the night was young even if the fans were old. At which point we adjourned to find out what the younger fans were up to. They were having a blast.

Mention should also be made that First Fandomite Ray Bradbury gave an excellent talk to the convention on Sunday. This pleased the con committee, of course, since the bidding on Bradbury items at the auction that followed was quite spirited.

And we did pick up one new member: Lester del Rey decided that he might as well become an official First Fan. Speer preferred to remain an Eofan.

-- Roy Tackett

TRIBUTE TO DON FORD

At the 23rd World Science Fiction Convention (LonCon) held in London last August 1965, Many convention goers -- in particular those who had met him -- paid tribute to the memory of our former secretary, Don E. Ford.

It was officially listed on the program as "A Tribute to Don Ford -- some brief remarks by Dave Kyle." Simply, it was a short account of the fannish activities of Don, reference to First Fandom, and comment on his special relationship to British fandom as the TAFF representative in 1960.

Noteworthy was the fact that this spot on the program followed a long and tortuous discussion of convention business. The starting time, therefore, was delayed a long time. Despite this, however, many fans waited patiently in the back lounge for that "Don Ford" part of the program. Remarkably, when Dave went to the front of the hall to speak there was a very large number of persons who filed into the hall. After the brief remarks, Dave closed the session by asking for a standing minute of silence. The feelings of the group can best be summarized by the remarks to Dave at the foot of the platform afterwards by Roberta "Bobby Wilde" Gray who, with real tears and choked voice, expressed the sorrow of British fans on Don Ford's death and the earnest wish that they could somehow comfort Margaret Ford.

Report on the "First Fandom Hall of Fame" project; Stan Vinson.

We started the "First Fandom Hall of Fame", and I would like to add "In Memory of Don Ford", to give honor to some past science fiction writers and illustrators. After all, the science fiction conventions give honor to living leaders in the field, First Fandom has found memories of the great men of the past.

I started making these in a wood frame with glass but changed to mat and plastic cover to cut weight as well as danger of breakage if they have to be taken to the convention each year.

What goes into each frame depends on what we can find, but I always thought a photograph and an autograph were most important. So far I have had to make up what I could from my own collection. Up to this point it includes --

Jules Vern, with photo, autograph, sample paragraph from a story and a part list of his works.

H. G. Wells, with photo, autograph, and a part list of his works.

Arthur Conan Doyle, I need a photo, have an autograph and a part list of his works.

Virgil Finlay, I have an original drawing of "The White Gorilla" from the White Gorilla by Elmer Brown Mason but need a good photograph of Finlay and an autograph if possible.

Edgar Rice Burroughs, have a photograph, autograph, paragraph, and a part list of his works.

J. Allen St. John, have photograph, autograph, original drawing from Daarmaud the Strong, by Arthur Petticolas.

To make this project go, if the group wants it to, I need two things: first, someone who will set it up at the con. I think it should go in the Art Show room so they can be seen by all, but will be locked up during odd times. This would require checking with the Art Show group. I can bring them or send them if I can't make a con.

Second, I need help in getting material for a frame, I can't do it all myself. Anyone who has a favorite author or illustrator could get a photo, etc., together and I will fix something up ready to put in the show. I think I have done my part too, fixed up six frames. I just can't write everyone saying I need a photo of Doyle or an autograph of Finlay.

I guess what I really want to know is, does First Fandom think this project is worthwhile or should we forget it? Any suggestions?

Stan Vinson

Report on the collection of Fan Magazines project; Ed Wood.

I was given the assignment at the First Fandom meeting at the Midwestcon to write Mr. Harold Palmer Piser of Flushing, N.Y. and inform him that First Fandom was interested in his project of compiling a complete bibliography of fan magazines and that First Fandom would want to provide a home for fan magazines at Syracuse University through the contacts which David Kyle had made there. I did this in a letter dated July 15th and received an answer dated July 21st.

Mr. Palmer said that Kyle's offer was "a little premature; I've only begun, and I have no collection other than the few bibliographical works, about two feet of fan-publications to be scanned and possibly given to New York University where I have arranged for the Library of Amateur Journalism to go after it has been worked over. We have planned a center there for all amateur publications, with faculty, students and outside participation to study and promote this much neglected literature." That seems to settle that.

I had invited Mr. Piser if possible, to come to the TRICON and meet the First Fandom group and explain his ideas. I told him I thought he would accomplish more in person than by writing letters as he has been doing to date. It appears he is another like Harry Warner and our hermits and doesn't wish to meet fans.

It is true that the "establishment of fandom" has not been very kind to Mr. Piser and he doesn't understand the nature of fandom. (who does?)

Edward Wood

Report on the First Fandom Emblem project; Dave Kyle.

First Fandom has an emblem. Old timers will recognize it as the original "Scientifiction" design which Hugo Gernsback first introduced as a full-color cover on an early issue of his Amazing Stories. The idea for its use was advanced by Dave Kyle in 1964, in which the design would be somewhat simplified and an additional line of identification, reading FIRST FANDOM, would be run along its bottom curved edge. Don Ford furnished some color prints of the Amazing cover and from them Dave prepared several samples. At a First Fandom meeting at the Midwestcon in 1965, the re-worked design was officially approved.

Dave suggested a sample blazer patch be prepared by a company in that business and some eight-or-so other members also gave him five dollars apiece to have such patches made for them. Subsequently Dave sent the design to a company and after some delay (the actual patches are made in Hong Kong) two samples were returned. Unfortunately, although the design was quite good, the colors used were considered unsatisfactory by Dave. Bob Madle was shown the sample at the Philly Conference (I believe it was) that fall and liked

it despite the odd color scheme. That spring Dave went to England and through Keith Freeman, who was having blazer patches made for the Order of the Knights of St. Fantasy, another sample was ordered. This was completed in July and at this writing is en route to the U.S.A.

At the First Fandom meeting at the Midwestcon this June (1966) the subject was again discussed and Dave brought the members up-to-date on the progress of the blazer badges. In an effort to have something for the forthcoming world convention at Cleveland this year (the Tricon) the following plan was worked out: Dave Kyle was to make a black and white drawing of the design; this was done and then sent to Howard DeVore who was to have it reproduced on some sticky-backed label badge stock. These copies, about twenty-five or fifty in number, were to be sent back to Dave who then hoped to hand color them and bring them to the Tricon. These would serve as temporary blazer badges for use by those First Fandom members who are in attendance there.

Dave Kyle

((Editors note: Dave sent a copy of the emblem to me. I will attempt to trace this on master as a cover design for this issue. Lynn Hickman))

(Editor's report; continued from page 3)

It appears that I will not have to use any reprints from the Pulp Era, Reports are already in from Stan Vinson, Ed Wood and Dave Kyle, along with the other material that Bob sent. Since this is already August 14th and I leave on my vacation to Canada the 27th, I won't have time to trace any artwork on master other than the cover which will feature our First Fandom Emblem. I also must finish the current issue (#64, July-August 1966) of The Pulp Era which I plan to have at the convention with me. For those of you that are interested in the old pulps, I will be accepting subscriptions at the convention.

I intend to return from Canada on the 1st of September and will check into the convention hotel the 2nd of September between noon and two. We will distribute this issue of FFM at the First Fandom meeting Monday afternoon.

I had a visit this past week from Bill Clark, First Fandomite from Arlington, Virginia. We had a great time talking over the old magazines and doing some swapping. Bill will be doing some work for the Pulp Era, most notably an index of Theodore Roscoe's works that have appeared in Argosy. He is also planning an index for the Pulp Era on H. Bedford-Jones.

That's it from this old fan. I hope that the next issue of FFM is larger.

Lynn Hickman

Report on the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award; Robert Madle

Mrs. David H. Keller
55 Broad Street
Stroudsburg, Pa.

Dear Mrs. Keller:

It was with great regret that I recently heard that your husband had passed on. Please accept my deapest sympathies.

David H. Keller has always been one of my favorite science fiction writers and, in fact, one of my boyhood idols. As you know, several of us published one of his books back in 1948, The Solitary Hunters and The Abyss.

I'm not sure whether you are aware of this or not, but at the recent First Fandom meeting (held the last weekend in June) it was decided to present Doc Keller with the First Fandom Award. This award is presented only to those who have contributed vastly to the field of science fiction over the years and who, in fact, have actually set the standards for the field. Your husband is the third to be the recipient of this award -- the other two were E. E. Smith and Hugo Gernsback.

The First Fandom Award will be presented during the World Science Fiction Convention (The Tricon) in Cleveland. Sam Moskowitz will make the address and present the award. If it is possible, we would very much like to have you accept it for him. However, at the same time, we realize that it may not be feasible for you to be in Cleveland at that time (September 2-5). Information pertaining to the convention has been sent you, along with a membership card. If you cannot attend, one of the members of First Fandom will accept the award for Dr. Keller.

First Fandom considers it an honor to be able to present this award to David H. Keller, one of the really great writers of science fiction.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Madle, Pres.

Above is a copy of the letter sent to Mrs. David H. Keller by our President, Robert Madle. I'm sure that all the membership concurs with the committees choice, Dr. Keller surely deserves the First Fandom Award. If I remember correctly, the first Doc Keller story I read appeared in the June 1934 issue of Wonder Stories and was titled The Doorbell. I will never forget the wonderful talk given by Dr. Keller at an early Midwestcon on how he grew plots.

Lynn Hickman

The first memorable item about going to the Midwestcon this year was the fact that the day before leaving I had moved into a recently bought house. Dave and Ruth Kyle came by the next morning and took me away from a houseful of cartons stacked chest high. Collection, you know. As we headed toward Cincinnati, gradually even the thought of my desk standing on end in what was to be my study rapidly faded away.

This problem was replaced by apprehension over Dave's hic-coughing Cadillac. Also afflicted with asthma and galloping consumption, the car seemed in the last stages of Stokes-Cheney breathing. The car died not long after we reached Ohio. So far all good, convention going fans will recognize the usual plot of most con safaris. With an unusual twist, though, we had a happy ending. The car had the grace to expire in the parking lot of a restaurant, not 100 feet from a garage. The proprietor turned out to be an excellent mechanic, the local parts house had a replacement gas pump, and we were soon on our way again. Yeah, I know, John Campbell would reject such an ending as contrary to all laws of scientific psionics.

We arrived at the Carrousel Inn at 10:00 pm. My room was awaiting me -- if I could find it. The clerk handed me a map and wished me luck. I'd sent my \$13.39 in advance to guarantee a room and I was determined to track it down. It was in the tallest of some fifteen buildings composing the motel, and practically across the hall from the convention party room. A party was going on, and I stayed in my room only long enough to unpack my guitar and camera equipment. Dave and Ruth Kyle headed for the nearest real motel, since they had been unable to secure a last-minute room at the Carrousel. Several other fans also suffered this fate worse than death.

At the party I was startled to see English fan George Locke again. We had just met a couple of weeks before at Bill Donaho's house in Berkeley during a Little Men's party, where we were joint guest of honor. Also on hand at the Midwestcon was English fan Trevor Herndon, who was introduced to George by Lou Tabakow. Strangely enough, these two had each asked Lou if he could secure them a roommate to cut costs.

My guitar was quickly commandeered by Chicago fan Phyllis Kleinstein, aided and abetted by Lynne Waitzman. These two were to provide 95% of the folk music at the Midwestcon. The other 5% was provided by a convention bidder co-chairman who shall remain anonymous. Anyway, I was more interested in taking pictures than being the death of the party. Unfortunately, and no one will believe this, I had left 90% of my camera equipment home through confusion after moving. All I had was one Leica with one lens, one roll of film, one electronic flash unit, and no flashcord. I had a great time in spite of this handicap, fan parties being what they are.

The Cincinnati group always puts on a first class party, with liquor, mixer, and icecubes enough to last the whole evening. To this, add beer for Bob Madle and you have the fixings for a first

class brawl. Banks Mebane was there, supporting Bob's drinking arm with his one free hand. The other was occupied with what could only be Southern Comfort. Tricon Chairman Ben Jason, widely known teetotaler, was busy not drinking with both hands. Late arrivals kept swelling the party.

next morning, I got out my map of the place and headed for the Bob Madle/Banks Mebane suite, a single room as far from the center of action as you could get without being in the adjacent motel. The glorious Cincinnati sunshine was melting my Leica at 11:00 am when I knocked at the door. At first I thought the place was deserted, then inhuman groans from the interior reassured me that the WSFA delegation was merely slow in getting their coffin lids moved aside. We all piled in Banks' MG (ouch!) and headed for a restaurant. On the way we passed the North Plaza, amazingly still open for business. The only reason the Midwestcon ever moved from there last year and this was the assurance of the management the old motel was going to be closed.

After breakfast, we located a camera shop where I bought lots of film and a flashcord. Now, I was really living! Everyone back at the motel was at the pool, including Roger Zelazny and Judy Callahan. Fred Prophet in particular made a big splash. I sat down next to Judy and stared at her camera equipment. I guess that's just the way I'm built.

A little later at the party room I spied a semicircle of fans around a Cincinnati Enquirer reporter. He asked questions such as "Is 1984 science fiction?" Lou Tabakow, Dave Kyle, Jack Chalker, and Ron Bounds filled him in. Dave did most of the talking, and gave the reporter a complete rundown on the history of science fiction, plus comments on who's who in science fiction authors. Surprisingly, Sunday's paper had a fairly long piece that was written completely straight. In fact, the reporter quoted Dave at considerable length.

A highlight of the afternoon was a discussion I had with Alexei Panshin. I began, "Alexee..." He interrupted, "No, that's 'Alex-ay-ee!'" I tried again, but couldn't get the hang of it. So I said, "How about my just calling you Alex?" He said, "OK." Having received that much of a concession, I quickly ventured further, "How about Al?" With all the infinite pain of a martyred Asimov, he cried out, "No!"

Anyway, I said to Alex that I had completely disagreed with his appraisal of Seekers of Tomorrow in the recent Yandro and had written a letter to Buck Coulson. He said, "that makes two!" he explained that Ed Wood had also approached him to the same effect. Bob Madle said, "Make it three" Bob went on to state flatly, "I think Sam is a good writer. His style is perfect for topic." Alex winced in pain and with all the fiery animation of a John Boardman proceeded to expound his anti-SaM thesis. A throng of fans who surrounded us included Ed Wood, whose voice was more appropriate to the task and took over the hard work of arguing with Alex.

Later, just prior to the Banquet, Sue Miller passed around a prized possession. As teen age Audrey Blaisdell at the Century

of Progress in 1933 she had entered a Buck Rogers costume contest. She carried off first prize as the most authentic Wilma Deering and received a Buck Rogers drawing by Dick Calkins, the original comic strip artist.

At the banquet, for \$4.50 I had a fresh fruit cup, braised prime beef jardiniere, whipped potatoes, green beans, mixed green salad, desert, and beverage. Even more interesting than this were Lou Tabakow and Bob Tucker, who handled the program. Lou proudly announced he had estimated 80 for the banquet, and 79 actually came. I asked if he would be the official Syracon banquet estimator, since we could use someone with experience in that line of work. He even agreed! I was at a table with Bob Madle, Lee Hoffman, Rusty Hevlin, Frank Dietz, Lon Atkins, Andy Porter, and Arnie Katz.

Bob Tucker came along with the dessert, a most delicious ice cream cake. He kidded the brand new \$1 registration, saying he was leaving for Canada with the proceeds. After last year's introduction of three-quarters of the persons present, he said he'd decided to skip the introduction of fanzine publishers and professional writers. Instead, he limited himself to inviting the various worldcon bidders to say a few words. First he called on Dave Kyle for the Syracuse bid. To everyone's amazement, Dave said he owed time for last year, when he spoke at some length and was now returning it. He then sat down, making the shortest speech in history by Dave Kyle. Much laughter and applause. Then Jack Chalker spoke on the Baltimore bid, followed by Ted White for the Fanoclasts in New York City. No one was present from Boston.

The Cincinnati group, who put on the Midwestcon, was invited to stand up. The rest of us applauded a job well done. Bob turned the floor over to Lou Tabakow. He asked if the fans wanted to hold next years Midwestcon at the same motel. The response was overwhelming: a unanimous no! Lou said he felt the same way and next year would secure a smaller motel, perhaps even the North Plaza if it remains open. After the serious business was over, Dave Kyle called to Lou, saying the Cincinnati group should bid for a worldcon next time around. Lou said that first they needed some young, eager fans. I called out, "Breed them!" After all, this is a sure-fire method and can be lots of fun.

The parties for the evening were announced. Baltimore, New York, and Cincinnati were throwing parties. With just 85 persons at the con, the Syracuse group hesitated to further divide fans and settled on a small liquor donation to the Cincinnati party. It was just as well, since never before in fan history have so few had so many parties with so much liquor. There were less than 25 fans at any one time at any party, and the liquor actually was going begging. Once again, competition paid off!

Taking the bull by the horns and throwing it, I set out for the New York party, where I was warmly greeted by Dave Van Arnam. We exchanged witticisms in a friendly and dignified manner. Ted White was also most friendly, and we had a long discussion on many topics. Dearest to Ted's heart, and the first to be brought up was Ted White and his participation at the recent Lunacon. In my

con report in the WSFA Journal, I had reported that Ted said he "imitated" Robert Heinlein when writing juvenile science fiction novel. After Ted clarified what he meant, I promised to amend my report by changing that to "emulate" or even better state that Ted utilized Heinlein's element of plot while maintaining an original approach.

Ted's artistic ire appeased, we discussed the worldcon bidding situation. Ted felt he thought I considered him a "Bohemian", and was somewhat upset over this. I had to admit that Ted was most neatly dressed and tonsured and an Assistant Editor of F&SF certainly should not be thought of that way. Ted also squashed my other objection when he assured me that his fueding days were behind him. I then said I would no longer have any personal objection to the New York bid. Our 45 minute talk was one of the worthwhile events for which you go to cons.

Next to pounce on me -- at the New York party yet! -- was Jack Chalker. We discussed our bidding differences and assured each other, no matter which of us won, we'd still talk to each other, if only in the third person. I was a little curious about Jack's having left his own party so soon. He said he wanted to "scout the enemy", and besides, his own party was practically empty. The New York party was well attended, with practically a full complement of the Fanoclasts present. The notable exception was Rich Brown. Mike McInerney informed me Rich couldn't get leave from his job in New York. However, even back home Rich was still an eager fan, turning out Focal Point #23 over the weekend. My copy was actually postmarked New York City, June 25 and arrived the day I got back from the Midwestcon.

At the Baltimore party I found only a few fans present. Phyl Kleinstein and Lynne Waitzman had brought a guitar and were busy making beautiful music. Ron Bounds was in charge as host. I left shortly for the Cincinnati party, where there were a considerably greater number of people. Ben Jason was having some trouble with his flash unit, and we went to my room across the hall to check it out. While there, Ben spotted a copy of the Convention Annual which I always carry around in hopes someone will ask me for a dramatic reading. He looked at it and requested a photo of Doc Smith for the Tricon Program Book.

Back at the party, Frank Dietz finally and firmly gave me my copy of Luna #5, which I'd been avoiding for two conventions, simply because my arms are usually full of camera equipment. This Luna has transcribed speeches by Richard Matheson, John Campbell, Randy Garrett, and Frank Paul. Anybody not picking up the issue from Frank Dietz just doesn't know what he's missing. Then I had a long talk with Doc Miller, until Doc Barrett came along, pulled him into the bathroom, and they proceeded to have a long-winded exchange of operations. It was just as well that Mary Patterson had left early, after the banquet.

At the Baltimore party, again, the press of fans had decended on this second floor get-together and flowed outside to the balcony. There, I had a long talk with writer Joe Hensley, until we were joined by Bob Madle and Rusty Hevlin. Inside, Phyllis and Lynne

were still folksinging... The audience was not too receptive to this sort of thing, and indeed this Midwestcon was the least folk-singing I've attended. Last year, there were a number of parties where the focus was on such entertainment. But then, Juanita Coulson and George Heap were unable to attend this year.

Sunday morning I again roused the notable Washingtonians, Bob Madle and Banks Mebane. Together with Rusty Hevlin we went to breakfast. The restaurant across the street was crowded with fans, and we were able to get a table only by sharing it with Lewis Grant, who entertained us with a rapid-fire stream of witty remarks and interesting quotations. Eventually we made it back to the motel for the usual afternoon poolside lounging. Inevitably, there was good old Charlie Brown, Marsha Brown, and Shelia Elkins.

At 1:00 pm First Fandom meeting proved memorable for me. Stan Skirvin and I were voted associate members. I like to think the honor was due because of my long, hard years in fandom. More likely, they just got tired of having me sneak in wearing a long white beard and a cane. The First Fandom Hall of Fame recipient was decided upon, and will be revealed at the Tricon.

The fans started to thin out with the usual exodus of those who travel considerable distances and had to return to work the next day. However, a very considerable number were on hand to go to a Chinese restaurant for dinner. Lou Tabakow's favorite spot turned out both good and inexpensive. After dinner, a considerably reduced force of fans had a final nights partying. The Baltimore group had largely departed. Jack Chalker had flown to the west coast for the Westercon coming up in a few days. The surplus of liquor from the Baltimore party was donated to the Cincinnati party for the last evening. A large supply of left-over liquor was also at hand at the New York suite. About equal numbers of fans were at both parties, though these broke up relatively early, with most fans either heading towards home or going to bed early for some sleep before leaving the next morning.

The Midwestcons are certainly changing. At one time they were mostly composed of the professionals and the long-time fans. Now, there are few professionals, and those are mostly part-time, occasional writers, always excepting Bob Tucker. There are large numbers of the young fans too. Attendance has decreased from the heydays of the 125 persons which I believe was once not uncommon. Still, the Midwestcons are great fun. They are completely relaxed, being devoted only to seeing old friends and partying. In a smaller motel next year, the 1967 Midwestcon should prove its usual magnet for "inner core" fandom.

J. K. Klein

Editors note: The above report will also appear in the WSFA Journal. Thanks to Jay for sending it along with his other reports.

Lynn Hickman

Report on collection of old fan movies: Jay Kay Klein.

Appointed at the First Fandom Midwestcon Meeting to contact Will Sykora about securing copies of his early fan films, I recently had the opportunity to speak to Will over the phone while I was in New York City. He will be writing me a formal letter on the subject, which I will read to the First Fandom meeting at the Tricon. Will doubts if he can attend. Meanwhile, I will summarize our conversation, with comments:

1. Will urges some First Fandom member other than himself to view the films and report to the membership before any commitments are made. He offered to show them to me, but I was due to fly back to Syracuse in a few hours and couldn't make it.

Comments: Will's suggestion is sound. The quality of home movies being what they are, some evaluation should be made of the films. Some First Fandom member in the New York area should be appointed to do this, or I will do so on my next trip there.

2. Will wishes to retain full copyright to the film, and asks that First Fandom arrange for such copyright.

Comment: The desire to copyright is understandable. The problem arises in expense. It is actually not necessary to copyright a "newsreel type" of motion picture not intended for mass distribution, since the ownership comes under common law (which lasts forever, not just a term of 28 years). However, a copyright may be secured, for class M, by submitting Application form L-M to the U.S. Copyright Office along with either a complete copy of the film or (1) title of the film, (2) description of the film, (3) at least two prints taken from different sections of the film. The Registrar of Copyrights reserves the right to require deposit of complete films. A fee of \$4 is required (as of 1963).

3. Will wants two copies made, one for his own personal use and one to lend to First Fandom. If possible, a negative print might also be made.

Comment: Two copies of the film would be desirable if one copy could be deposited in a fireproof place as protection against loss. The problem, again, is expense.

4. Will wants to retain physical possession of all film except as needed for actual use.

Comment: Keeping all copies in one place is dangerous and would defeat First Fandom's idea of protecting the old films against loss. Also, it might prove more desirable to have the film kept at such a location as the science fiction research library at Syracuse University. Perhaps Will could be persuaded to modify his position on this point, especially since with copyright or commonlaw ownership of all rights, he would be legally protected against unauthorized use.

5. Will is prepared to sign a formal contract that will guarantee First Fandom's continued access to the duplicate films for non-commercial use. He thinks that possibly this may be in

the form of a "rental" contract for the legal minimum -- one dollar, I would suppose.

Comment: Since Will would retain all rights and ownership of the film, it would protect First Fandom to have such a contract.

6. Will prefers to handle all phases of copying by himself, rather than entrust it to someone else. He has a number of friends who are movie buffs and can get the copying done as cheaply as possible. Before doing so, he would secure an estimate and submit this to First Fandom for approval and forwarding of funds to accomplish it.

Comment: It really doesn't matter who does the copying. With a formal contract, Will certainly would be obligated to produce the stipulated copy(ies) upon receipt of the necessary funds.

7. Some 400 feet long, the film requires editing and additional titling. I understood Will to say he would see that this was done if the expenses were taken care of.

Comment: Editing and addition of titles is an absolute necessity. Otherwise, the film is a collection of a meaningless sequence of pictures. In addition, I would recommend that the copies be magnetically striped at the time of duplication for the addition of a sound track. Again the problem is one of expense.

Jay Kay Klein

First Fandom Meeting -- Midwestcon 1966. Jay Kay Klein

President Bob Madle called the meeting to order. Lou Tabakow asked me to write a con report and a report on the meeting for First Fandom Magazine. Present were Bob Madle, Dave Kyle, Lou Tabakow, A. W. Miller, Sue Miller, Ben Jason, Frank Andrasovsky, Ed Bielfeldt, Bea Taylor, Dale Tarr, Ed Wood, George Raybin, Jean Bogert, Howard DeVore, Stan Skirvin, and Jay Klein.

Requests for committee reports brought little response, except from George Raybin, who reported on his efforts to secure old fan movies from Will Sykora. George said that he was unable to deal with Will and that he insisted on a payment of \$1000. before parting with the film. Also some of the film was on 9.5 mm and impossible to copy. I secured the floor and said that I had spoken with Will at the Lunacon and had been informed that Will did not wish monetary payment from First Fandom and was willing to let club have the use of a duplicate but was unwilling to permit a private individual keeping a personal copy. George had said that in return for his services, he planned to make a duplicate for himself, and it was to this that the off-hand figure of \$1000. referred. The film is all standard 16 mm. I also informed the meeting that Will had said to the Syracon committee he would show the films at any worldcon held in Syracuse.

Dave Kyle offered to advance \$50. towards film duplicating,

the money to be refunded from the club treasury when available. he mentioned the science fiction collection at Syracuse University, which is gathering original manuscripts and other science fiction material for a research library on the subject. Dave felt a copy of this old film and any others ought to be placed on deposit at Syracuse University library. The film would be on permanent loan from the club and would be available for use by members and qualified researchers. Ed Wood offered to advance \$50., too, and Doc Miller pledged another \$50. -- all to be refunded by the club when feasible. I was appointed to contact Will Sykora to arrange for making the duplicate(s). It was stipulated that I was to handle any money involved and secure receipts.

Howard DeVore next reported on the project of collecting old fan mags. Those on hand have been shipped to Bruce Pelz. Harold Piser has donated money to Bruce Pelz for the project. During the discussion it became apparent that some permanent home for the fan mags would be desirable. Dave Kyle suggested that these be offered to the science fiction research library at Syracuse U. Dave was appointed to look into this, contacting the library and discussing possible arrangements. He is to report at the Tricon. Ed Wood gave a heart-rending account of how non-fan Harold Palmer Piser, advanced in years, is engaged in trying to compile a bibliography of science fiction fan publications. Ed pointed out that not only was this a project that fandom should itself engage in, but that by and large fans were ignoring Piser and not providing any help. In particular, Piser, who lives in New York City (41-08 Parsons Blvd, Flushing, N.Y.) has had a complete rebuff from the New York area fans. The question arose concerning the disposition of the large collection of fan mags being amassed by Piser. Ed Wood was appointed to contact Piser to see if the collection could be channeled to some repository selected by First Fandom.

Dave Kyle then reported on the Blazer patches. He has had a sample made in Hong Kong, but neglected to bring it to the Midwestcon. He said the work was very good, but that the colors in the sample were too dull. This could easily be corrected in future orders, but before proceeding, he is trying to secure a sample patch from a firm in England. Meanwhile, Howard DeVore offered to print temporary paper patches which Dave will hand color.

The question of admitting additional members to First Fandom was brought up by Bob Madle. He said that many members have felt that long-time fans ought to be permitted to join even though they don't quite qualify under the original rules. For this purpose, the status of Associate Members should be formed. This had already been agreed upon in principle at a previous meeting, but no action had been taken. Discussion ensued on this, and the members were favorable though some concern was voiced over the possibility of such persons outnumbering the original members and possibly taking over the organization. It was generally agreed that such persons would most likely be quite limited. It was proposed that Associate Members be invited to join by invitation only.

After it was agreed to accept Associate Members, Bob Madle

said that there were two such persons present who were well known to everyone, and he proposed Stan Skirvin and me for associate membership. As the vote was about to take place, Dave Kyle rose and asked the members to reconsider. He argued that the original intent of the club was to exclude all those who couldn't qualify for the 1938 date. Some debate ensued, but since the question of Associate Membership had already been discussed and decided favorably, the vote soon proceeded. Stan and I were unanimously elected.

The next item was brought up by Dave Kyle, who said that several English fans have been admitted to First Fandom. He said that Mike Rosenbloom had thrown a First Fandom party at the Loncon II and deserved a letter of thanks. Dave was appointed to write this. He was also delegated to act as liaison between the American and English branches of First Fandom.

The last item of business was the selection of the recipient of the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award. A number of persons were suggested, some no longer alive. During the discussion, the general concensus was that only living persons should receive the award. Dissatisfaction was felt over the fact that the selection was to be made by only a portion of First Fandom -- those at the Midwestcon. However, a suggestion that no award be given was felt unacceptable. It was finally decided that David H. Keller was of such unquestioned stature that no one could take exception to his receiving the award. However, it was decided for the future that all members would be polled by mail for their choices, including members in England. Ed Wood was appointed to explain to the First Fandom members at the Westercon about the necessity for not consulting them this time and assure them that future awards would be made with the participation of the entire membership.

Bob Madle adjourned the meeting.

J. K. Klein

Report on European affairs: Dave Kyle.

A First Fandom Party was held in London, on a Sunday evening, during the weekend gathering there for the 23rd World Science Fiction Convention (The LonCon) at the end of August 1965. As authorized by the FF meeting at the Midwestcon, Dave Kyle was the official representative.

Dave's suggestion was that an official invitation be extended at the LonCon to all those who might be interested and are eligible to join First Fandom. As a result Dave was given an official spot on the program and made a brief talk and explanation of the whys and wherefores of First Fandom with an invitation to attend the First Fandom party.

The host of the party was Mike Rosenbloom, one of the first active fans in British fandom, who graciously volunteered to supply both his room and the refreshments. He and his wife prepared a thoughtful buffet spread featuring cheeses along with

several varieties of wine. At this party were a number of the British oldtimers.

Application blanks which were distributed at the party and filled out and signed were sent on with a report of the First Fandom meeting in London by Dave Kyle to Dale Tarr, who had taken over as Secretary after the untimely demise of our good friend Don Ford. Unfortunately, Dale himself went through a serious illness and was unable to act on the applications.

At the Yarcon (The Eastertime science fiction convention of the British) this April in Yarmouth, England, Dave was again present. At that time several inquiries were made as to what was going on with First Fandom and what was being done about the applications. Dave promised to look into the matter.

At the 1966 Midwestcon, Dave reported on the meeting in London in August 1965 and about the inquiries at The Yarcon in April of 1966. It was decided that Dave would be elected as "Vice President for European Affairs" (Or, as the English would say, "Vice President for the Rest of the World") and handle memberships outside of the United States. This fact has been duly noted in one of the latest issues of Ratatosk (the fannish newsletter) and Dave is now awaiting contact from our European fellows and from our secretary with the necessary information to pass on to them.

Dave Kyle.

Your Editor again.....

Since I have the rest of this page to fill out, and no further material on hand, I'm going to resort to a little huckstering.

The Pulp Era Press will publish fanzines, catalogs, leaflets, flyers, etc. via either offset or multilith at reasonable rates. If you need anything published, please contact me for rates.

I also publish The Pulp Era Magazine. The current issue has articles by several First Fandom members. Donald Wollheim has an article on War Stories, Ed Wood has a review of a Poul Anderson story, and there are regular columns by Terry Jeeves, Wilkie Conner, and myself. In this issue I talk a little on a rare sf story ("The Other: Being the Story of a Terrible Experiment" by Everard Jack Appleton) which appeared in the April 1899 issue of The Gray Goose Magazine. The Pulp Era is available at \$1.50 for five issues, \$2.75 for 10 issues, or 35¢ per single copy.

Since the magazine goes out to many old time collectors that are not members of First Fandom, I have inserted an ad for First Fandom on page 39 of the Pulp Era. It will be interesting to see what response we have from the ad.

Lynn Hickman

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