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# LASFS NEWSLETTER

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number 20

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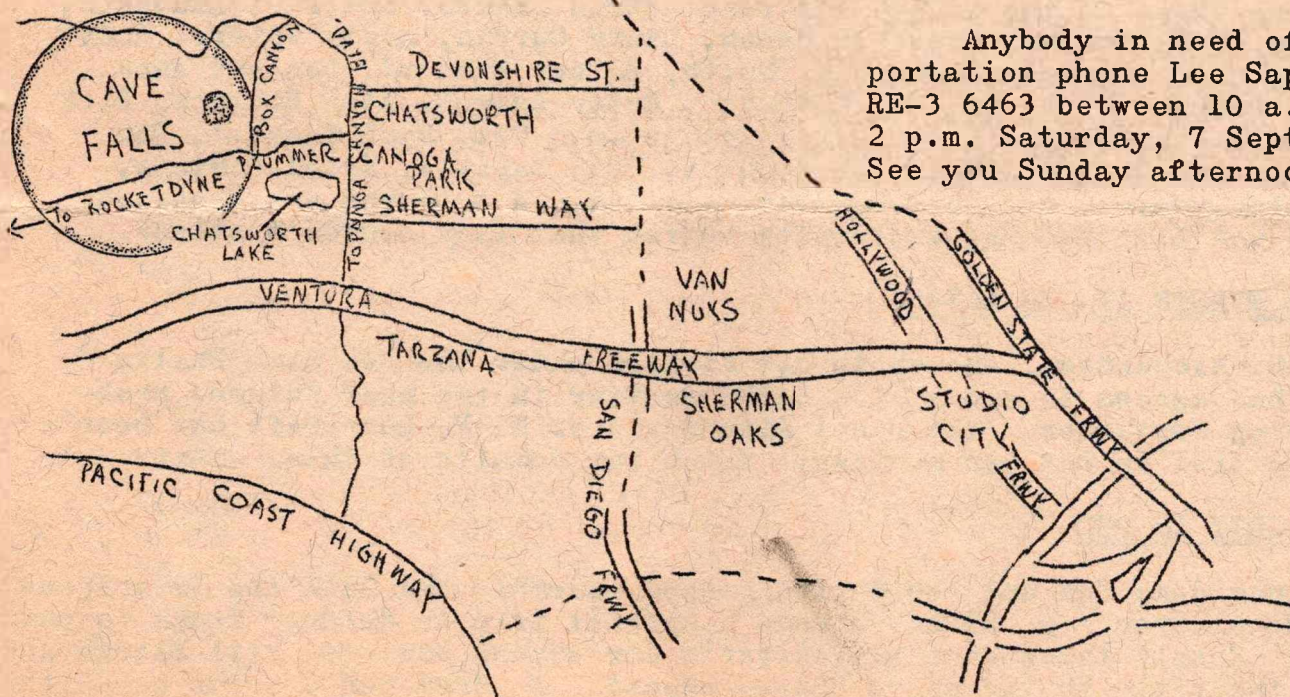
## I HAVE BEEN IN THE CAVES (OR WILL BE NEXT SUNDAY)

Remember Krishna Venta, the leader of the Fountain of the World, who was killed five years ago in an explosion set by two disaffected members of the cult? The cave where Venta kept house is high up in Box Canyon just over the Ventura county line. Jerry Bixby, science fiction writer, has been living in the cave as custodian-caretaker of the place.

Next Sunday, 8 September, the LASFS will hold a picnic at Cave Falls, site of the cave, which is one of the most beautiful natural settings in the southern California area. Come any time after 12 o'clock noon. Bring along cold drinks, sandwiches, and whatever else you want in the way of food and refreshments. Everybody is welcome.

Members are warned to exercise due caution regarding insects, centipedes, and other pests of the desert area. You are asked also to be especially careful about trampling down or otherwise destroying shrubs and flowers on the grounds. The cave itself is cool and pleasant and from it you can look down over the sprawling San Fernando valley.

Follow the map below to Cave Falls. Jerry Bixby says: "On your landing approach, you will recognize Cave Falls by virtue of a wagon-wheel, an ersatz totem-pole, and a large arid parking lot, all to your left, shortly after you encounter a WATCH FOR SCHOOL BUS sign."



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LASFS NEWSLETTER #20, 4 September 1963, a publication of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy society. Paul Turner, director; Leland Sapiro, senior committeeman; Forrest J Ackerman, junior committeeman; Redd Boggs, secretary; Ed Baker, treasurer. The LASFS NEWSLETTER is published at least once a month by Redd Boggs, 270 South Bonnie Brae, Los Angeles 90057, and is sent free to all active members, with sample or information copies to various prospects and inactive members. These latter people should drop us a line if they wish to remain on the mailing list. Those whose status on the list is doubtful will find an "X" marked in the following space: \_\_\_\_\_  
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NONCON ANY DOOR

Bay Area fandom, San Diego fandom, and Michelob made more-than-token appearances at the Noncon, a three-day party over the Labor day weekend held at Paul and Ellie Turner's home in Long Beach. This Noncon proved to be a reasonably quiet, unreasonably enjoyable affair with something for everybody with only two exceptions: (1) Elmer Perdue couldn't manage to get a poker game under way; and (2) Nobody managed to find the National Fantasy Fan Federation hospitality room.

Saturday and Sunday evenings there were probably 40 to 50 fans gathered in the Turner den, living room, and kitchen, and out in the big backyard. Various other fans and friends dropped in for shorter visits during the party. Monday afternoon and evening various Noncon attendees trekked over to Charles and Isabel Burbee's for more beer and conversation.

Al haLevy received official word by long distance phone from the Discon that the 1964 world con will be held in Oakland, and happily signed up everybody in sight to membership in Pacificon II.

Among those at the Noncon VII were Astrid, Karen, and Poul Anderson, Al haLevy, Bill Donaho, Gretchen Swenn, Danny Curran, Ardis Waters, Andy Main bem, Colin Cameron, Dennis N. Smith, Barney Bernard, Len and Anna Moffatt, DeeDee, Lois, and Roy Lavender, Betty Knight, Alex Bratmon, Dick Finch, Bill Blackbeard, Lee Sapiro, Arthur Jean Cox, Paul Puckett, Don Fitch, Jim and Greg Benford, Bob Lichtman, Dik Daniels, Estelle Stamp, Ruth Newton, Dale Hart, Phil Squires, and God. A telegram was received from Sid and Alva Rogers, expressing regret that they couldn't attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE LASFS

R. S. Richardson, who wrote his fiction under the pen name Philip Latham, has agreed to speak at a LASFS meeting in the near future, probably during September. The panel discussion of H. P. Lovecraft has been postponed till an October meeting. Watch for details of these events.

WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Arthur Jean Cox and Lee Sapiro helped assemble and mail the last issue of the Newsletter. # Ed Baker made a special trip to deliver funds to pay expenses of this issue when the editor's car conked out. # Bill Blackbeard gave us the title to the above Noncon report. # Gretchen Schwenn cancelled plans to kidnap the editor and maroon him in the Mojave desert when she learned that a new issue of the Newsletter was scheduled for publication this week. The editor's thanks to all these kindly, helpful people.

## SWEET AS APPLE CI-DAH

Los Angeles fans are forming a theater party to attend a performance in the Bay Area of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Princess Ida" the first weekend in October. The group will leave Los Angeles Friday evening, 4 October, and will attend the opera at the Harding theater, Divisadero at Hayes, in San Francisco, Saturday night, 5 October. Anyone interested in traveling with the group or adding a car to the caravan heading north should contact Ron Ellik, 1825 Greenfield avenue, Los Angeles 90025, or telephone 473-6321 (after 6 p.m. most evenings).

Admission will be \$1.25 per person, which must be paid in advance when reserving a seat so that theater party rates can be obtained. The majority of the group will be composed of Bay Area fans, who are reserving seats through Alva Rogers, 5243 Rahlves drive, Castro Valley 94546.

## SEE YOU IN OAKLAND!

The twenty-second world science fiction convention will be held 4-5-6-7 September 1964 at the Hotel Leamington in Oakland, California. Pacificon II will open with registration on Thursday night, 3 September, and the four-day program will begin Friday. The theme of the program will be "Science Fiction: Ideas and the Imagination." There will be the usual masquerade and banquet, a Meet Your Authors party, auctions, panel discussions, and possibly even some parties serving spiritous beverages.

A winetasting, featuring the products of one of California's finest wineries, will be a unique event at this con. Too bad you don't drink anything that wasn't imported from France, old buddy.

Guests of honor at Pacificon II will be Edmond Hamilton and Leigh Brackett. The first fan guest of honor at a world science fiction convention will be (who else?) Forrest J Ackerman.

The first Progress Report has been published and memberships in the convention are now available. The price is \$2 for non-attending members, or \$3 for attendees (the extra buck can be paid now or at the convention itself, but why not now? You will be going, of course.) Make all checks payable to Bill Donaho. Send them to: Bill Donaho, Treasurer, Pacificon II, Post Office Box 261, Fairmont station, El Cerrito, California.

The Hotel Leamington, which hosted the 1956 and 1961 Westercons, has been extensively renovated and redecorated this year. Rates for the con are \$9 single; \$12 double; \$14 twin beds. For advance reservations you can write the reservations desk, Hotel Leamington, Franklin and 19th streets, Oakland, California.

## THE SENSE OF WONDER CONSIDERED YET AGAIN

"A literature of wonder must have an end as inevitably as a strange land loses its strangeness when one lives in it. Think of the lost ecstasy of the Elizabethans. "Oh my America, my new found land," think of what it meant to them and of what it means to us. Wonder can only be the attitude of a man passing from one stage to another; it can never be a permanently fixed thing."

-- T. E. Hulme, "Romanticism and Classicism," Speculations, 1958, page 140

# MEANIE

by Sue de Nim



## WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: Recent Meetings of the LASFS

1357th Meeting (15 August 1963): An open discussion of Robert Heinlein's new novel "Glory Road," recently serialized in F&SF, occupied most of this meeting. Though many members were critical of the story, both as a literary work and as an exposition of Heinlein's philosophy, the novel was eloquently defended by Jock Root. Among the criticisms of the story were that it is poorly organized -- is really two stories in one -- and that it lacks verisimilitude and a means of enlisting reader identity. Among those contributing to the discussion besides Root were Paul Turner, Alex Bratmon, Ted Johnstone, Dave Fox, Joanne Gegna, Dale Hart, Fred Pat-ten, Bruce Pelz, Sid Coleman, and Roy Squires. Among the guests at this meeting were Terry Traver, Bruce Roberts, and James L. Brown.

1358th Meeting (22 August): The LASFS voted \$25 to be donated to the fund for a park-sponsored kids' Halloween party at the Silverlake Play-ground. The guest speaker of the evening, Samuel D. Russell, spoke on J. Sheridan Le Fanu, whom he described as "one of the best of the Victorian ghost story writers." Sam noted that some of Le Fanu's stories feature a "psychic detective," an investigator of occult mysteries. Such a character was later developed by Algernon Blackwood, William Hope Hodgson, and others. He thought Le Fanu's best shorter tale is "Green Tea," which he termed a psychological ghost story one can take seriously and not just as a story of escape.

1359th Meeting (29 August): This meeting, on the eve of the world con at Washington D.C. was sparsely attended, although five guests were present: Ruth Newton, Estelle Stamp, George and Kerry Kent Knudsen, and Al (East Coast) Lewis, on leave from the coast guard. (Al said he was planning tentatively on locating out here after discharge from service, giving the west coast two Al Lewises. This may be the end of fandom as we know it.) The meeting included a review by Lee Sapiro of the scholarly fanzine Extrapolations, published by Wooster college English department. Lee said this "fanzine" is "better than any of the recent Hugo winners," although it is almost unknown to fandom. The meeting also featured an impromptu open discussion which might have been called "Who Took the Science Out of Science Fiction?" Paul Turner pointed out that science information is easily available to laymen in newspapers and magazines, yet science fiction contains little extrapolation these days on anything but the social sciences. Why? Among those trying to answer this question were Dave Fox, Alex Bratmon, Sam Russell, Ed Baker, Roy Squires, and Phil Castora.

## SCIENCE FICTION FAN?

### JOIN THE L.A. SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society holds meetings every Thursday night, from 8 p.m. onward, with after meeting socializing over coffee and sandwiches lasting well on toward midnight and sometimes beyond.

The LASFS meets at present in the Silverlake Playground building, Silverlake boulevard and Van Pelt, Los Angeles 26. (See map at right.)

The "average meeting" of the LASFS doesn't exist. No two meetings are ever alike, and it is hard to form an accurate picture of the club from just one or two meetings. Club programs include guest speakers, panel discussions, movies, slide shows, and other entertainment. For many members, the best part of the meetings is the informal discussion among the members themselves: animated conversation regarding the latest science fiction books and magazines, news and gossip about the sf editors, authors, fans, and readers, and talk about upcoming conventions and parties.

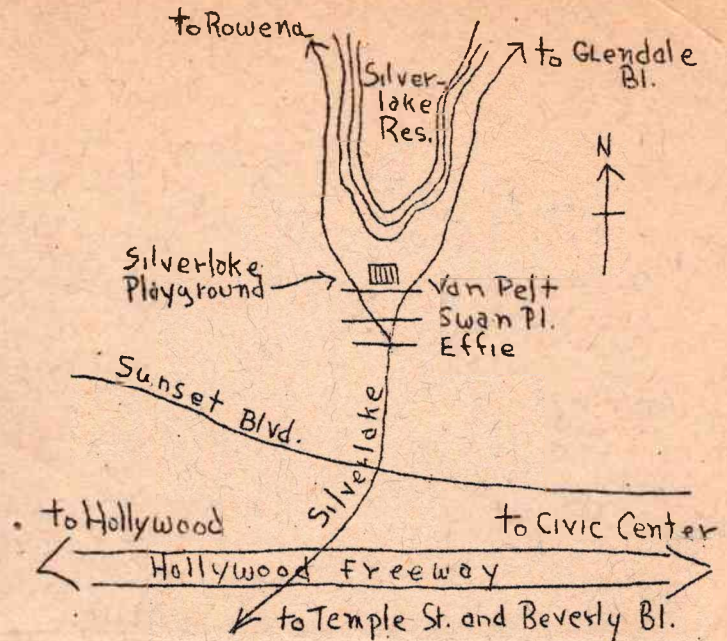
Because science fiction and fantasy literature appeals to the speculative mind, sf fans have many varied interests, and talk among LASFS members also involves photography, costume designing, philately, book-hunting, rockhounding, gun collecting, and many other interests.

LASFS members include established writers, engineers, clerks, magazine editors, salesmen, physicists, teachers, students, artists, geologists, literary agents, librarians, machinists, and many others. LASFS membership is open to anybody who professes an interest in science fiction, fantasy, or even just in the LASFS itself. Guests are always welcome. You can attend up to three meetings as a non-dues-paying guest. Then, if you wish to join, you pay a membership fee of \$1 to the treasurer. After that, dues are 35¢ per meeting, or \$1.25 per month.

The LASFS produces several publications for the information and entertainment of members and others. One is Shangri-L'Affaires, the bi-monthly official organ, which contains articles, reviews, fiction, and artwork by members and top fans and writers from everywhere. Another is Menace of the LASFS, a biweekly publication that reprints in full the minutes of each meeting. A subscription will keep you in touch with what goes on at the meetings you miss. Still another is the LASFS Newsletter, which contains news of upcoming events of the Society.

For information about the LASFS, or about its publications, contact Ron Ellik or Al Lewis, 1825 Greenfield avenue, Los Angeles 90025, or phone Ron or Al at 473-6321.

Or come along to the meeting next Thursday night at the Silverlake Playground. The club always welcomes new faces. Drop around and get to know the LASFS.



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