

THE

LETTER FORUM

I.E.S. NE

MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Alma Hill
Lee, Maine

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First class mail



INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION SOCIETY

New England Members and Friends

Bulletin #15

February, 1960

Next open meeting March 5, 1960 7 - 11 PM

Saturday evening

as usual

Hotel Touraine

Boston, Massachusetts

Boylston & Tremont Streets

Probably in the Adams Room ...

but check the directory

by the elevators...

Topic: Machine Translation.

At least, that is what the committee is trying for.

Jim Hill will be there to stand in for Tom, who is unable to attend. Alma Hill will come in from Maine, unless barred by a blizzard or the like. She says her knowledge of the subject is skimpy but so's everybody's; and word work is what she does best.

Minutes of the meeting, February 6:

Chairman's notes as received:

Hon. Secy.:

Good film on Weather, good talk on the history of gravitation theory & good Coffee & Talk. Attendance: 10. Next meeting Krabek Jr and ~~Sarill~~ will each try to get a speaker on Machine Translation. Hope for 1, between them, wouldn't hurt to have 2. We have other ideas we will pass on when I get to a ltr. "

[had to quit awaiting ltr. to get this newsletter out. ABH.]

"As mentioned, I'll be missing March. French phoned here while I was out to a Scout C t. Honor Friday nite, to say he'd miss the meeting; would call me Sat, but apparently didn't get to it. I'll mail on his copy [photostat of "Precognitive Potato" article as mentioned in Brass Tacks; very interesting; we should have some accessible place to file such things] will try to get together with him when time permits. Lv. on a business trip Wed. thru Sat. will write you in more detail on return. Neither I.A. nor W.B. (with spouses) were present so I'll have to mail the set of pix

to I.A. I had for him... Sarill promised to send you minutes. He's been sick 3 wks, still hoarse; A.Y. in bed yet; same bugs! " P.S. Hector French came for a 3 hr visit today 2/7/60 T"

[we misdoubt that Sarill may be back sick abed - he is the kind who will turn up when he says he will, whether or not it is convenient. He gets perfectionistic and delays notes; but -even if he is in good health by now - three weeks" illness is a hard blow in one's freshman year in college. Bill must be swamped with catching up, if nothing worse, and we retract with remorse our suggestion of an assistant armed with sharp stick to get minutes out sooner. Any volunteers in this situation? As aforesaid, Alma plans to come in herself, which ought to take care of that for the next meeting.]

[flu all over town, we fear] Not submitted except in the above temporary form until we find out whether that's adequate.

minutes of the meeting of F January 2, 1960

By all accounts, this meeting was so much fun that the secretary is kicking herself for being deterred by a mere 300 snowy miles. Dr. Krabek gave a lecture on nematodes, illustrated with pickled examples; apparently it was so good it was horrifying. Then we had a birthday cake with forty candles, it being member Asimov's birthday. We then discovered that it was also Blanca Patteau's - she wouldn't say how many/candles. We figure that with all of six children, she must be over 21; but since she doesn't look much over, she can afford to be vague as she likes about how much. Since both Isaac and Blanca came to the meeting, with spouses, before stepping out elsewhere, that should show that our meetings really are fun. We had the cake in three layers, one for each Law of Robotics, and some plastic spacerobots and a spaceship which Isaac took his children. Tom took some photographs which came out well, but he's still puttering with reproduction - we'll put them in the newsletter, when and if. They are not only good likenesses of good friends, but also good likenesses of good groupings. The expression that accompanies listening to, or offering, a good idea has a glow all its own. They seem to have taken up a little of everything. Fragments have reached here, including a note from Isaac about what a good time he had, and a comment from Janet (Soul Stirred) Freeman who says she also saw Hal Clemens and a guy named Andy Young who looked and dressed beat, but sounded sensible - he would not give Isaac a lock of his beard to remember it by. [that beard makes sense for an astronomer:observatories get C*O*L*D]

[while on the subject of this friend, we may add that he wrote some rather upposed opinions of the worth of this operation, and we'll quote them elsewhere since they're interesting. Then he attended a meeting and accidentally stumbled over news of a way he could improve his technique for photographing stars which will help him solve, according to report, his doctorate problem, and though he hasn't joined yet he hasn't missed many meetings either.] Janet Freeman mentions that one conversation cluster took up and settled the hash of most current science-fiction magazines, thus:

"AMAZING and FANTASTIC: For kids

GALAXY : Tongue in cheek, & you can get awfully sick of that

If : Had hopes for it, but since Gold took it over, it's become another Galaxy

FUTURE and OSFA : Lowndes does an awfully good job with his budget, which is nothing, but he has "instinct"

FANTASY & SF : Didn't catch the words, but that didn't fit them either, too quiet, etc.

ASTOUNDING (ANALOG) : They liked it! only good sci magazine out. I didn't say it, they did."

[FANTASTIC UNIVERSE : for some reason, this one was overlooked
NEW WORLDS and is added here in justice to scholarly editor Santesson. He has a little of everything, and in fact ran so many fact articles in the January issue that he stole a march on Campbell's plan to increase fact material. New Worlds is a British publication, very different. Incidentally, the publishers are new and so is the format - look among the hot-rod sized zines instead of the pocket sizes to find these.]

Chairman's notes on this meeting. "Isaac blew out the candles in one mighty blast, although he had to go around the cake to do it..."

[never underestimate the lungpower of a science-fiction author]

QUESTIONS TO THE MEETING: All hands said "All you can get" of clippings, quotes, etc," and no hands showed on the limitation choices... next is to get people to send them in...

2. All felt that a little more program-planning would be good, several said they'd join me the first 10-15 minutes of the next meeting to set up a committee, and I also asked

people to send me suggestions by phone, postcard, etc."
[Thomas T. Hill, 37 Oxford Street, Winchester, Mass.,
you can find him in the phone book] "Bill Sarill is
anxious to do our next program on GRAVITY. I do not know
what Bill will say except that he is sure Andy will dis-
agree. We have some program possibilities also, particu-
larly Dr. Holt Ashlet of MIT Astronautical... Jim got
Wayne Batteau to promise to talk to his Winchester Explo-
rer Scout Post soon, to which Ashley made an excellent
presentati n last month."

Tom also suggests reporting on the "loo Proofs that
the Earth Is Not a Globe" (q.v.) and concludes with a
dissolute pun to the effect that 100-proof is only 50%.

This seems to scratch the surface of what all went on
- this may be a good place to quote something Andy had
to say about the moon-orbit trajectory published in our
last. He stated that there is no single formula for
computing a satellite trajectory. First you get it up
to where earth's gravitational attraction is less and
the sun's is more of a factor, from there you work out
one to where the moon's amounts to more, and so on. It
sounds suspiciously complex, doesn't it. Maybe no other
way is known yet, but a better one should exist if it
could be found and seen. Bruce Berry sends a clipping
of a reprinted orbit diagram for Lunik, released by TASS
and reprinted by papers here. Bruce notes that a polar
orbit is used. The curve is a smooth one as diagrammed.
He says that a polar orbit is incomprehensible to con-
ventional thinking, but is a sure-fire way to hit the
other of a two-planet system. We note also that there
are newspaper reports of a satellite with a polar orbit
which nobody will claim, and Bruce raises the question
whether this is not Lunik, which was supposed to circle
the moon twice and return, and may in fact have done so.

One thing more about meetings: they are nothing very
impressive, nor meant to be; yet they are the life of
this operation. This newsletter can process some data
for those who really cannot attend; but for efficiency
the ratio for vis-à-vis is 1000/1. This advantage is
both for the amount you can compare | also for the
time you can do it in.

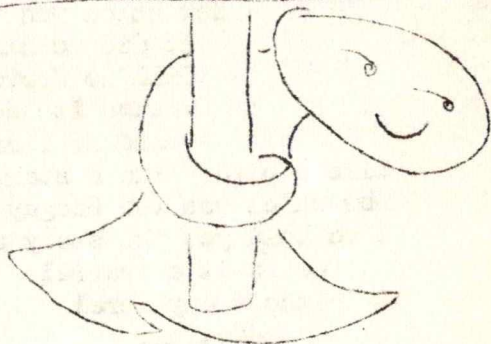
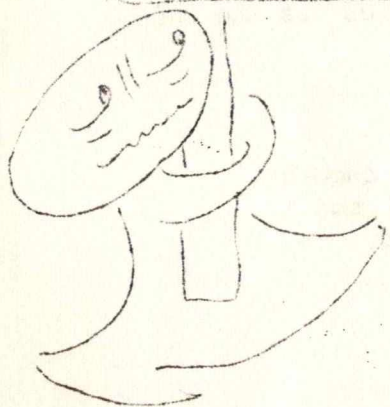
SEE?

WILD IDEAS

~~WARNING!!~~

~~CAUTION!!~~

DONT READ THIS



Young Lochinvar is come out of the Western
And into the galaxies wide
He will ride:

Deleted, booted,
Completely space-suited
(Instead of in levis, as yestern)
A new kind of star --
But tell us. Which ARE
The goodguys. The badguys?
It puzzles my brain
With thoughts that are dark, and surmise
All in vain,
Which same I will rise to explain.

If you go to the Planet of Skrinlok, beware !
Beware! Beware! The Conservative Bear!

It dwells in the East,
A redoubtable beast
With an indolent stare
But a temper like yeast.

It manoeuvres so slowly
You'd think it was wholly
Amenable, tame, neither cold neither hot --
And that's what young Lochinvar thought
When ^{he} the Conservative caught....

Oh, the outcome was sad!
Yet which was the Goodguy and which was the Bad?
It did nothing but purr
Till he drove in the spur
Then it hackled its fur
And he flew, as it were

Like a bird, like a star. Like a cigarette snooed;
Now which was the Badguy and which was the good?

I've told you the story as plain as I could,

Now is it a quarrel

Without any moral

Excepting:

Beware !

Beware!

D. BRUCE BERRY



FROM OUT OF THE WEST

CAME YOUNG LOCHINVAR

The Lunatic Proofs that the Earth is not a Globe by Wm. Carpenter, 1897
 Reprinted by Edward Virchow, 1324 Spring Street, Tampa 7, Florida.
 This booklet is wonderful mental exercise. According to the author,
 the earth is actually a flat disc with the north pole at the center.
 Since it was written before south polar explorations, there is no
 verbal illogic in depicting the whole business as being surrounded by
 mystery and upheld by miracle. Anyone who gets all the way through
 this one will be mighty hard to shake by the next sophist in the next
 mail session. Furthermore, after the first few proofs and polemics
 it gets hilarious.

Patience for the by Casper Yoss, interests member ~~member~~, who says
 he is experimenting with automatic writing with the idea of utilizing
 the subconscious for problem-solving. One might find the solution by
 something one had read years ago but never actually consciously re-
 membered. He says further that those who wish to buy this book should
 refer to the section about it in one following:

Illusions and Delusions of the Supernatural and Occult, published by
 Dover Publications (catalog number 11503).

Induction of Panchromatic Colors in Black and White Photographs in 1906
 J. W. Brown, Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Univ. Pennsylvania.
 He found this one distinct: Panchromatic colors are visi-
 ble when two black and white photographic prints which have been
 taken with long-wavelength and short-wavelength light respectively are
 viewed in an alternating sequence. Such colors may be combined with
 especially-named tri-primary colors to produce or reduce the visibil-
 ity of the latter. Dated 11 December 1959 references and notes:

E H Land, Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 45 115 636 (1959) Sci Amer 200 no 5
 84 (1959).

J. Ducos du Hauron, La Triplance photographique des couleurs et l'imprim-
 ERIE (Gauthier-Villars, Paris 1868) ~~1868~~ 1897

B Prevost Mém soc phys et d hist nat Genève 3 121 (1823-26)

J Cohen and D A Gordon Psychol Bull 71 (197)

There is also a footnote to the effect that Dr Brown is a senior
 research fellow of the U S Public Health service. Dr Brown concludes:
 "It would appear that spatial and temporal interaction effects in the
 retina which give rise to the perception of hues not ordinarily asso-
 ciated with the spectral distribution of the stimulating light are
 sufficiently distinct in their mediation to inhibit or enhance each
 other. These observations may afford new avenues of approach toward an
 understanding of the physiological bases of color perception."

POSTAL

Phil Kohn, Yokneam, Israel:

"Numbers are created by mathematical operations. 0 and 1 are simply is and is-not of everyday language. 2-12, created by counting. 12-19 by adding, 20-49 by multiplication, all higher numbers are powers (plus, of course, multiples and additions of counts). We may call all of these counting numbers, but should remember that they aren't strictly so. It is not strictly practicable to count 1,000,000,000 - even a machine has to order, that is, use powers to do so. When an operation, like division, or taking roots, cannot be universally carried out within the existing system, one may create new kinds of numbers, provided only they are, or can be made into, a self-consistent system. However, 2 such systems may not be consistent with each other. In such a case, the mathematician should take note that he is obviously using different kinds of number under the same name.

"For instance, the 7, which is a prime number, is not the same seven which is capable of being divided into $3\frac{1}{2}$ by a factor of 2. Kids learning in the same year or so about primes and fractions are naturally confused -- it's the one who accepts the system who's stupid. So, 2 main kinds of numbers are counting numbers and measuring numbers. We may find something to unite them into a single system, by observing divisibility reluctance.

[that's what he says here: divisibility reluctance]

"Assume that we are dealing with a class of all fractions whose divisor is not larger than a, which may be any finite positive whole number. We find then that each fraction has two nearest fractions, one larger and one smaller.

"The following proposition then holds true: The difference between a fraction whose divisor is b, and a nearest fraction, is never smaller than $1/ab$. In other words, fractions are unevenly distributed. If a be 1000, there is no fraction nearer to $1/2$ than $1/2000$; but there is only $1/990,000$ between $1/1000$ and $1/999$. The large fractions, one might say, push aside the smaller fractions.

[even among symbols, a pecking order?]

"If a is increased, $1/ab$ naturally decreases in all cases; but the difference between the largest and the smallest possible b increases; FINITE FRACTIONS ARE NOT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED.

"If we assume that, to any number, there is always a next bigger one, then the number of all numbers is equal to: the number of all numbers divisible by 5.

[typist here]: "WHERE IN ALL CREATION DID HE GET THIS 5?"]

(Phil Kohn, continuing) "However, with any number divisible by 5"

[5? Five? 5? Like "5"? WHY FIVE?]

" we can certainly always group 4 other numbers, falling between it and the next smaller number divisible by 5"

[WHENCE O WHENCE these fives?]
"(25/21,22,23,24) consequently the number of all numbers is 5"
[typist just left, maddern a wet hen. Wait while she cools]
"times the number of all numbers divisible by 5."

[? Where IS

he getting all these fives? AH, we have it:

Instructor: "And what would you do if another storm blew up from the north?"

Examinee: "I would throw out a fifth anchor."

Instructor: "Now hold on a minute. Where are you getting all those anchors?"

Examinee: "Sir, from the same place you're getting all that wind."

THAT'S WHERE HE GOT THAT 5! So okay.]

"Consequently, the number of all numbers cannot be infinite."

"Is there a biggest number? Not generally so. But there is, in any particular context, always, necessarily, an indefinite region, above which, additions become irrelevant or impossible.

"We must therefore replace INFINITY with INDEFINITY. Example of an indefinite number: woman asked to give her age in court: 'Over 21.' Observe, that like cantors' alefs, this number can be increased in any manner whatever, without being altered-formally. It is my belief that cantors' alefs are really indefinite numbers. There may be successive realms of such. A court would not believe an 'over 210' - a historian would not believe 'over 21,000' - a geologist would disbelieve 'over 21 billion'. Alef null is arithmetical - alef one, geometrical. It becomes now the mathematician's task to study the possible shapes and laws and limits of indefinity - a study which is likely to prove fruitful for uncertainty physics."

[he has another page of this stuff, which we will put into another issue if you write and ask for it. Right now, the typist is walking around and around her chair with a look on her face which makes us feel uneasy about continuing immediately.]

Richard Kyle of Joshua Tree, California

"... "Quite right when you say that these things don't verbalize well. I don't think it is the subject itself that creates the trouble... but rather, that philosophical terminology in general and metaphysical terminology in particular are so inexact. I don't think that for all the talk that goes on in the field, much work has been done to determine the mechanics, the logical progressions, of philosophy by those who do not have a cause of their own to espouse... and philosophers tend to make more promises for their creations than politicians do for their parties the day before election.

"Of course. without exact terminology, writing about anything is terribly difficult. The other day I was over at a friend's house trying to talk about his hi-fi set with him. I know nothing about such stuff and I am darned near tone deaf, and my efforts to comprehend the subtleties of woofers and tweeters and all that jazz were probably pretty funny. But I was struck at the time with the thought that if my friend's technical terminology were taken away from him and he had to explain the subject to me cold, it might be almost impossible. It is amazing what complexities of thought one word can symbolize."

Hector French of Wakefield, Massachusetts: "When Judy practices the piano, it seems the longer she is able to go without an error, the worse the error sounds when she hits it. When she hits it, my wife (Jean) and I wince. Lately, I've been noticing my wife starting to wince just before Judy hits the clinker..."

"I discovered I can dowse. Followed a "vein of water" all over my dad's place. I put 'vein of water;' in quotes because I'm not ready to claim there's water there - merely that there's something going on when I hold a stick just so, and that this something follows a certain path on the terrain, and that it is stronger some places than at others. My brother and dad can do it much better than I can. Can work out with a pair of wires too..."

"As for being an electrocardiograph expert, I guess you might call me so. I'm more of an engineer, though, who writes for a living. Direct a group of technical writers, artists, etc., at Sanborn Company, turning out the Instruction Manuals, Parts Lists and so on. Have written about fifteen articles for the various professional magazines, and now intend to have a go at Science Fiction when I get a chance."

[much more of interest but time and space are running out and we have a page of general club news and thoughts which we had BETTER be working on. This channel needs reinforcements. 7

EDITORIAL AFTERTHOUGHTS

We ran off and mailed over 100 copies of this bulletin. About 60 of these are members or good friends living in New England and presumably able to get in to meetings, of which they wish to be notified. The rest are being used to spread and attract news, mainly by sending them to science fiction fans in the hope that some of them will transmit information in this or some other helpful direction.

We are supposedly part of a national group but for all we can get out of the Todd office, we could be existing in a hard vacuum.

However, we have friends. For example, there is a correspondence fan group (founded in Boston, as a matter of fact - any founders left around? None on the roster currently) called the National Fantasy Fan Federation. Your secretary has been running a fangossip column in this club's official organ and puts in occasional plugs for IES. We also took a halpage advertisement in the program of the World Science Fiction Society's progress report for next science fiction convention. That is going to be in the Pitt-Sheraton Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, over Labor Day weekend, if you are interested. They asked me to have an eye on the N3F clubrooms, so that'll be one IES meeting I'll have to miss.

Belle Dietz, who writes "Fannotations" - a department in Santesson's "Fantastic Universe" devoted to fanzines, got me to put some material into the newly-formed amateur press association (in Fanspeak, apa) formed by N3F and called N'APA. We put in notice $\frac{7}{5}$ or thereabouts to make weight, but are now postmailing occasional copies of our notices to the members of this apa, since they are communicative people who can help us locate the other fund founders, maybe, we hope. If this sounds like slow work, small wonder.

Our policy is a very vague and slippery "Anything". How does one program a thing like that! True, we are finding means. We may be showing the way; there may be no others right now. The groups which began may have tried to be too specific too soon. We have to find and spend time as needed, and yet it must be spare time also. How can one tell how much time to spare? Well, how can one evaluate information before one finds it?

ABH

