

MFS BULLETIN

Volume One

An MFS Publication

Number Six

MFS TO PUBLISH ENCYCLOPEDIA

At the Michiconference the MFS agreed to publish a dictionary of fan terms for the NFFF. Inasmuch as Dale Tarr and Jack Speer are already planning to compile a fan dictionary and a fan encyclopedia respectively, our project has been combined with these; Speer and Tarr will write the publications, with the MFS handling the duplication, and final revision. Speer is planning a 50 to 100 page encyclopedia, so we may be sure that it will be a comprehensive and permanent work. Tarr's fan dictionary, which we hope to publish soon, is designed primarily to acquaint prospective fans with obscure fan terminology, and various other factors about which they might be in doubt. It will be distributed to fantasy readers contacted by the NFFF Welcoming Committee. E. E. Evans is working on plans for financing these two publications. SDR.

Next meeting: Friday, October 30th, at 3949 Yosemite Ave., St. Louis Pk.

The meeting of October 4th was held at the apartment of Fran Blomstrand, at 400 Pierce St., in St. Paul. Present were Russell, Fran Dickson, Gergen, Saari, Bronson, Osterlund, and Brackney. The gathering was entirely informal owing to the sparse attendance and the lack of a previously prepared program. Highlight of the meeting was the long distance phone-call placed to Jane Tucker in Bloomington, Ill. Everybody managed to get in a word of hello despite the fact that Brackney and Bronson hogged the phone. The idea originated with Gordy Dickson, who is still bemoaning the fact that he was unable to attend the Michiconference, having missed the Michigan-bound fans by only a few hours. The remainder of the evening was devoted to a heated fan-gab occupied mainly with the nomination of the all-time "punk story". Finally Ollie won out with his selection of "The Blue Beam of Pestilence" in an early Amazing. "Dark Eternity" ran a close second as the prize stinkeroo. After that the discussion of future plans for Fantasisite prevailed. The next three issues and the 2nd Annish were hashed over, and from all indications the annish will definitely be something worth waiting for. After Fran served ~~ice-cream~~ and cookies, the gathering broke up at 12:15 a.m., and we all dashed madly for the nearest beer-joint. We split up at 1:00 a.m., but all arrived home intact. MB

The meeting of October 16 was held at the famed Russell abode, and proved to be quite successful. Present were SDR, Simak, Jacobi, Brack Osterlund, Gergen, Bronson, Saari, and Arden Benson. The majority were late in arriving so the first portion of the evening was disposed of in gabbing. Later, the meeting was called to order, and the NFFF fan dictionary was discussed. Correspondence from various fans was

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read, a weird story by Simak, "Renegade", was read aloud to the assembly, and Gergen suggested having membership cards made, with the provision that he have them done up gratis, each member paying a small fee for his card and thus neatly swelling the treasury. Cliff put this in the form of a motion, Bronson seconded, and it was carried.... Minor items were attended to, and the customary discussions were held during the remainder of the meeting. Mrs. Russell served another of her famous lunches, and the ensuing rush nearly cost the lives of several less burly members. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 and Gergen, Brackney, Bronson, and Saari zipped to a (censored) for refreshments.. They all enjoyed rides home in the StfNash, of Michiconference fame...

NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 30th, at the home of Clifford D. Simak, 3949 Yosemite Avenue, St. Louis Park, Minn. Be there at 7:00, or after. It being the night before Hallo'een, various outre entertainments are likely to be provided. HOW TO GET THERE: Take the "Excelsior" bus, which leaves the bus depot in downtown Mpls., travels south along Hennepin Avenue, turns west on Lake St., and goes out Excelsior Blvd. to St. Louis Park. Get off at Yosemite Avenue and walk one-half block north; Simak's house is on the right-hand side of the street. You will be duly greeted with a joyous bark from Squanchfoot.

JOTTINGS

Simak has sent out two new air-war stories, having already sold two, of which one, "A Bomb for No. 10 Downing", has already seen print in a Thrilling pub. In addition he's submitted a tale to Planet. "Earth Can't Take Chances" to Future (this will be doubtless returned since Future's next issue will be the last), and has a new story ready for Astounding. Carl Jacobi, who has a yarn coming up in Planet has just sold another story to the same magazine. This yarn was originally an adventure story laid in the South Pacific, but was re-written to take place in the swamps of Venus. Surprisingly enough it makes a pretty good tale, although if we remember correctly, Carl himself, in an article printed in an early Fantaste suggested that such revision wouldn't work. Saari is working hard at the "U", and at the present has little or no time for writing. PRB.

PLATTER PATTEN

October 4 saw a resumption of recording activities with a few tests made at the Dollens home on some new glass records. These discs are fashioned of a glass base in the place of the customary metal. The first attempt resulted in a lot of slap-stick and a fake drinking bout, complete with the clinking of glasses. It was sent to the Tuckers, but fortunately broke on the way. Later tests resulted in "The March of Fandom", a makeshift Bronson script, which didn't sound too bad when recorded. Dollens--ever the artist--however wasn't satisfied with the results, so the second half was left undone until the recorder is again functioning perfectly. If and when "The March of Fandom" is completed it will undoubtedly be sent (inflicted) in the general direction of Bloomington. If at first you don't succeed, to hell with it er, try, try again. Sorry.

The MFS BULLETIN is a bi-weekly publication of the Minneapolis Fantasy Society. Editor: John L. Gergen, 221 Melbourne Avenue, S.E., Mpls., Minn., to whom all subscriptions, inquiries, or newsnotes should be sent. ASSOCIATES: Phil Bronson, Sam Russell, Hanson Brackney, Gordon Mickson. Subscription Rates: Three issues for ten cents, eight for 25¢. To all subscribers are offered free advertisements (subject to our approval), limited by three by three-and-one-half inches. Money for subscriptions may be remitted in the form of small denomination stamps or coin. Any news items of fan interest are welcome, and will be printed with a by-line for the reporter. Notice: we cannot accept any trade subscriptions with other fan publications.

Fanotes — By Phil Bronson

From Janie Tucker comes the news that Walt Liebscher has been drafted. We're sorry he couldn't make it up to Minneapolis for a visit first, and wish him luck.

Dean W. Boggs, drafted last July, has finally announced his address. Here it is: Pvt. D. W. Boggs, 359th Base Hq. & Air Base Sq, Army Air Base, Alamogordo, New Mexico. It seems he was stationed for a while at Jefferson Brks., Mo., about the time that John Chapman was there; in the same squadron, in fact, and neither of the two knew nothing about it! Dean announces that he is hopeful of obtaining a furlough by the first of the year, in which case he'll be around to the MFS meetings for a while.

Rod Allen, stationed at Camp Grant, Illinois, has an officer John Carroll, the movie-actor. Strangely enough, Rod had always expressed a desire to meet Carroll before he even thought of being drafted, having long been one of his fans. Allen got a big kick out of the fact that Carroll, when exasperated, swears at the boys in French! Rod's address: Pvt. Rodman Allen, Co. B, 31st Med. Trg. Bn. 4th Platoon, Camp Grant, Illinois.

Frank Robinson announces that the new Chicago fanzine "Parsec" should be out fairly soon, providing he is able to secure a typewriter in time. He has a two-year supply of stencils on hand, ink, lithoed covers for the first ish, and ten pages of material. Get busy you fan writers and send in some material or what have you, to Frank Robinson, 6636 S. Sacramento, Chicago, Illinois. We feel certain that this mag will be first class.

One of the best of the new crop of fanzines is "The Acolyte", edited and published by Rimel and Laney of Clarkston, Washington. The second issue, which will be out in December, in new mimeographed format, will contain a good story by Rimel in the Dunsany manner, and an article by Laney on Lovecraft's mythology, which he has been working on for the past two years. Scheduled for a future issue will be an article by Sam Russell.

Speaking of fanzines, the long awaited 2nd issue of "Tycho" will be out within the next three weeks. Twice the size of the first issue. With a hyper lithoed cover by Dollens, it will feature material by Donn Brazier, Joe Fortier, Bowen Conway, The Ghoul, D. W. Boggs, Russell, McElfresh, and Sheldon Areas, most recent addition to the MFS. You may recall his letter in a recent Astonishing! Address: 189 Arthur Ave., SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

There is no truth to the rumor that Sam Russell is a shavetail in the Junior Commandos.....

Fan-Sanctum Magazine
Gordon Dickson

Life on the MFS Front.....What well-known Director has been seen recently running at a good 7 mph clip? What well-known MFS member, a burly brute, shivers like jelly at the mere thought of finding himself in the middle of a dance floor? What blonde and extremely tall MFS'er finds thought of a lissome little female interfering with his EE homework? If you can answer these questions go on to the next.

Certain people have hinted darkly that the MFS member John Gergen writes stories under aliases for his own mag. The MFS cordially denies this and also wishes to point out that the short absence of two of its members had nothing to do with the unfortunate (?) kidnapping and ghoulish murder of Raymond Washington, Junior. Who has that candid photo of Manse imitating a newspaper editor? The writer of this column will pay a good price for it in the scientific effort to enlarge his collection of hideous photos of MFS members. What is the attraction that a certain burlycue has for some of our fans on our local mail-route? Notification: I know the middle name of one fan and the baby-name of another. If either of these jerks don't want these blights published, they may come across with suitable blackmail before the next issue of the Bulletin. Dealing will be strictly confidential.....line forms to the right, please.

Notification to Tucker: Please forward a schedule of the hours when you will be out of the house, so that the MFS can make its long distance phone calls station-to-station instead of person-to-person. We are trying to cut down on the costs of long-distance phone calls in co-operation with the war-effort. One of our members--rather the misogynist type--has been subjected to the demands of his parents who think he should find himself a female--lucky guy! Notice to Janie Tucker: Manse wants to know if you believe in long engagements. Notice to the U.S.Mail: The MFS will not countenance the willful breakage of priceless recordings in the mail. Notice to MFS Members: anyone who hasn't contributed to the mag and expects any more free copies due to the generosity of our esteemed editor with the shadowy mustache kindly mail in their choice of weapons, since they will have to deal with both myself and The Brackney (Circulation Manager and Business-manager, respectively) since said copies are to be obtained over our deadbodies only. Question: whatever happened to Inner Sanctum Mysteries? Definite Notification: No former members of this club who have been absent for five meetings in succession are still on the club roster, and none will be able to rejoin immediately after the 2nd Anniversary issue of The Fantasite is issued unless they present a valid excuse and are voted in again by a quorum at a regular club meeting... This does not apply to loyal members like Sherm Schultz, and Charles Albertson and any other fellows who are absent because of illness or jobs.

Pleasant dreams, fans...

There is no truth to, the rumor that the StfNash has been contributed to the scrap drive, although there may be truth to the rumor that Bronson's typewriter was seen sitting out on the curbing one night.....

/JOTTINGS ON THE MICHICONFERENCE/

By

Manson Brackney

Probably the last conference or convention for the duration of the war due to a shortage of gas and tires, and also a shortage of fans because of the draft which is striking fandom with ever-increasing rapidity, the Michiconference was a success; so much so that from any point of view of those attending, from a sciencefictional aspect or for all-around fun and fangabbing, the con could be termed success-plus. Many little incidents served both to highlight and sidelight the entire conference from beginning to end; in that there were so many of those sidelights that even a ten-thousand word account would not be sufficient to relate them all. I shall attempt to outline a few incidents for those who were so unfortunate as to be unable to attend.

On the morning of September twenty-fifth, Phil Bronson, Sam Russell, Ollie Saari, and I set out for the Michiconference in Ollie's '35 Nash. What follows is an outline of the happenings at the conference.

On the way to the Con, we Minnefans passed through the tiny town of Sauk City, Wisconsin, and remembered that August Derleth, the author of many weird and science-fiction stories, made his home there. After inquiring of the whereabouts of his home of a filling-station attendant and a farmerette, we found his place across from a graveyard, (for atmosphere apparently) and entirely invisible from the road as it was surrounded by trees and "No Trespassing" signs. The house itself was of yellow stone and had, what to me was a unique feature for a home - a grass-thatched roof. "Augie" wasn't home, however, and all we saw was a cat; presumably Derleth's.

At Joliet, Illinois (Illinois) ((No correction fluid on// hand, people, but you don't care, the mag's free this issue anyway!)) we met Walt Liebscher, whom Phil knew previously, having met him at the Deconvention last year, and within five minutes we had partaken of his highballs, listened to his records, and looked at some of his books. Later on in the evening, Frank Robinson, Neil DeJack and Jane Tucker arrived, and we had a fangab of our own right there.. ..over our highballs and beer. I was amazed at how quickly one can get to know a fan, for I had encountered only jerks from the MFS previously.

From Joliet, the eight of us drove to Battle Creek, Michigan that same night and barged in on Abby Lu and Al Ashley on the morning of the twenty-sixth. After Jane Tucker had brewed some delicious coffee, the fans, with the exception of Jane and Frank Robinson who wanted to get some sleep, invaded the room of 'Ol Man Evans, Everett was not there at the time, but we made ourselves at home by reading his books, listening to his records, and looking over his originals, and mag collection. From there we went to downtown Jackson, for shines and some beer. Ollie was nearly frantic when he found that there was no Minnesota beer available, but we finally settled for Schlitz and Champagne Velvet. Then to Ashleys where we had some more coffee and rolls. After that, Frank, Ollie, Sam, Phil, Walt and I pored over a dilapidated copy of My Life and Loves, by Frank Harris.

Thence to Jackson, where we registered at the Otsego Hotel. ((Read "Battle Creek" for Jackson in the ninth line down of the above paragraph. Silly, what?!!!))

Phil and I shared a room and were planning to take a shower and then go down and eat. We made so much noise, however, that within a few minutes Jack Wiedenbeck, 'Ol Man Evans, Frank Robinson, Jane Tucker, Sam Russell, Ollie Saari, Al Ashley, Walt Liebscher and several others had located us and were gathered in our room. Then someone lit up the list of drinks of the hotel's bar, and within five minutes the bell-boy was there with a tray laden with refreshments. Saturday night was a series of fangabs and excursions which had best not be mentioned here. Phil and I thank Dorothy Tomkins for her assistance in rounding up a couple of dates.

The Michiconference proper was held in the conference room of the hotel. E.E. Smith, Harry Schmarje, Dakyan Cogor, Claude Degler, Marvin Levene, Alan Becker, the Perry's, Dorothy Tomkins, Dick Kuhn, Mrs. E.E. Smith, and several others, besides the ones previously mentioned.. The first hour was spent exchanging autographs and recollections of the night before. After a minute speech by each of those present, the official business was transacted with the election of Bob Tucker as Co-Ordinator of the Mid-West Fantasy Fan Federation, and the inclusion of Iowa and Minnesota in the organization. Then the movies, replete with the customary wise-cracks, and the auction of the originals from FFM, Future, Amazing, etc.; conducted by double-talk by that auctioneer of auctioneers, Walt Liebscher. One of the interesting features was the appearance of the original for Ollie's latest story which is supposed to appear in the December Future. Needless to say, Ollie got it on his first bid which was ten cents.

Sunday evening the fans were invited over to the home of the Tomkins' for cokes, eats and an informal gabfest. Prizes were awarded to the fans with the best outlined plots for stories and for the minute speeches which we had to deliver earlier that morning. Really, you should see the plot that Doc Becker conceived to win first prize. I believe that it is going to appear in the next issue of Nova. The conversation ran from the book by Frank Harris to the relative merits of round haircuts to Frank Harris. Nearly two case of cokes were consumed by the fans, as well as a substantial quantity of food.

After the Conference, as we were in no hurry to get home right away, Ollie, Phil, Sam, Walt, and I decided to go down to Bloomington, Illinois and visit Bob Tucker who was not able to be at the Conference. Another factor in our decision was Janie's promise to fry us some of her special chicken if we did drop down. The afternoon was spent in poring over Bob's pornography, fanzines and through his mail. Then, after a fangab came the chicken with accessories, and Walt hadn't lied about Jane's cooking. After bidding adieu, we reluctantly left this land of sunny skies, fans, waving trees and golden-brown, crisp, delicious fried-chicken.

There are some highlights of the conference which I forgot to mention such as: the title "The Shamrock Kid" that Phil Bronson received from a brilliant green beverage of the same name; the classic remark of Wiedenbeck's on Sunday morning; the two mishaps we had on the way home with beer and driving.. and the evening in room 452 (Evans' room). Frank Robinson's witty sarcasms should be mentioned as should the games that Walt originated, the lack of sleep, and various other weird things to numerous to mention.

-----Fantasite's a fouty rag, fouty rag, fouty rag-----

ATTENTION SCIENCE-, WEIRD, AND FANTASY-FICTION FANS!

As readers of imaginative literature you will be interested in these notes on your magazine, Fantasite.

THE FANTASITE is fandom's choice as the 2nd best fan publication. It has received awards for the best editing, being the most colorful magazine, publishing some of the best fiction of 1941, publishing the largest and highest-in-quality issue of any fan magazine, and others too numerous to mention here.

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You'll find famous professional authors in its pages, not to mention all the famous names in fandom.

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The efficient staff assures you of a worthwhile fan magazine for your money every issue. Members of the staff are all older fans, acquainted with every phase of the fantasy-fiction field, and all experts in their individual lines. Morris S. Dollens was voted to be fandom's favorite artist in 1937 (see his splendid art-work in our recent issues). Staff writers like Oliver E. Saari, John L. Chapman, etc., are experienced in both pro and fan fields. Regular contributors like Clifford D. Simak and Carl Jacobi are well known as pro authors.

If you're a true lover of imaginative fiction, you'll want to subscribe. Do so now, and don't chance missing the big 2nd Anniversary Issue, which will make even regular Fantasite readers perk up in amazement! Regular subscriptions are only 25¢ (three issues), 50¢ (6 issues), and \$1.00 (12 issues). If you wish single copies, they may be purchased at 10¢ each.

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Subscriptions and requests for back copies should be addressed to the circulation manager, Gordon Dickson, 4833 Elliot, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Do not send stamps, please, but money-orders, coin, or bills. ----- Any other inquiries may be addressed to the editor, Phil Bronson, 2405 First Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.