

# The Montgomery Papers



The first volume of The Montgomery Papers -- the SFPA collection of onetime member and current waitlister Larry Montgomery -- held the first 5 mailings of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance. The second, which I now intend to peruse, holds the next 3, mailings 6 through 8, carrying SFPA from December 1962 through June, 1963. If I have time, I'll plow on to Volume 3, but in the meantime ...

When we left our heroic band of merry outlaws, the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, the group's second OEship had just begun. Dave Hulan was at the helm, having taken over from Bob Jennings, founder of the group. Dave's innovations with the outfit began with the official organ ... whereas before it had merely been called The Official Organ of the SFPA, now it was called The Southerner ... a title inspired, Dave admitted, by SAPS' Spectator. The OO took on its classical form, too, although at the time when Volume 2 begins -- mailing #6 -- almost all the apa bizness -- logo, contents, roster, waiting list (by which heading Hulan merely says "What are you, some kind of nut?"), treasury, membership ins, outs, pages owed and deadline -- could fit on a single stencil. So it is with mlg #6.

7 members are on the SFPA roster, five charter members who had been around since Day One. These were Hulan, Jennings, Al Andrews, Dick Ambrose and Bill Flott. Tom Armistead and Gary Labowitz, a newcomer, completed the team. 3 members had been lost, notes Hulan ... Mike Kurman and Ken Genzry had resigned and Rick Norwood, who would

... be gone long, was dumped for forgetting his dues. Hulan asks everyone to send 10 copies of a zine for mlg 7, and to "wrap'em better".

In an editorial, following the mandatory reprinting of the bulky SFPA by-laws, Hulan notes that mlg 6 was being sent to all members of the Southern Fandom Group, as a combination Christmas present and come-on. (Norwood's ouster didn't affect him much -- as an SFGer, he got his mailing dues or no.) He urged members of the more-or-less defunct organization to sign up, as, to "outside fandom, the SFPA is the SFG."

After the OO Maelstrom, Bill Flott's zine, appears. It's a deviation from Flott's usual title, Sporadic, and is issue #9 ... he announces, after making the familiar statement that his new A.B. Dick mimeotone was a godsend over offsetty bond, that Spore was "kaput", & that SFPA'd be encountering Maelstrom thereafter. He was back with Sporadic in mlg 7. Flott wins my 1961 heart by branding Ross Barnett and George Wallace as "mundane fugg-heads" (I knew fans were brighter) and mentions visiting a strip bar in New Orleans. A sad, welltold story called "Ralph, Jean", follows, apparently the inspiration for D.B. Fletcher's spooky cover to the zine. A story by Mike Deckinger and a reprinted article by Paul Cox fill more pages, which shows how impressed I was with either.

One item in Flott's mc's is worthy of note: he mentions Hulan's stats on SFPA, namely, mlg's hit, consecutive mailings hit, and total pages contributed to SFPA. Hulan led the last category with 180 pages. Good LOCs from Joe Staton, Al Andrews and Katya Hulan finish the zine ... a number of topics discussed, politics, fandom, sex, women (I realize that the last two items might seem redundant) ... a typical, solid fanzine, i.o.w.

Next up is Tom Armistead's Phallic 4, his last zine for SFFA. It's fair ditto, with a decent cover, and consists of standard mc's ("liked this, this was so-so"), a reprinted Sidney Harris column (?), a poor story called "Diary", and an effective, funny reminiscence on the junk sold by ripoff artists in comic book ads. It's by far the best piece of writing Armistead ever offered SFFA.

Alabok follows, and you will remember from the first installment of "The Montgomery Papers" that Alabok was Bob Jennings' zine in those thrilling days of yesteryear. It is onehelluva good zine; the cover, drawn on stencil by Ken Gentry, is effective, a pulp-style illo of a Roman centurion raygunning a giant snake. (Whaddya want? This is science fiction!) Within, Bob editorializes amusingly about his cowboy fandom (not the midnight type, I hope), plugs Fadaway, his genzine, and mc's mailing 5 ... with another installment of "Horns'n'Hooves", of course. He mentions in mc's that he feels "cheated" when a SFFAan fulfills his publishing requirement with a genzine, feeling (as did Armistead before him) that SFFAans were staying afloat with general material. The urge to an in-group was around even then. The eternal loves of Bob Jennings, pulps & boys' mysteries, are brought forth and discussed. It's a fine nattering apazine, is Alabok #4. It's also Bob Jennings' last SFFAZine for fifteen years.

Loki #5, from Hulan, bears the reason ... mention of a scandal that was exploding all over fandom in late 1962. Following a fine, evocative cover of a Valkyrie, Dave editorializes on the subject ... D. Bruce Berry's A Trip to Hell, or through Hell, whatever.

I've never read A Trip to Hell, and of course was nowhere near fandom in 1962. What I understand to have happened was this: D. Bruce Berry, who was a very prominent fan of the era, accusing Earl Kemp, an even more prominent fan, of robbing him on the streets of Chicago on Labor Day, 1958. Afterwards, Kemp had allegedly burglarized Berry's home, and then harassed the hapless D. Bruce into a wacko ward.

It was all hooie, as Kemp was utterly innocent, as he proved by producing lots of people who saw him at the worldcon in Los Angeles on the day he was supposed to have robbed Berry. Berry was totally discredited in fandom. So, alas, was the guy who ran A Trip through his mimeo. Bob Jennings.

It obviously hacked Hulan off a great deal. I won't quote his editorial directly, since though these are old wounds, they are deep ones, but I will report that he does, in this issue, express his regrets that Loki #4 had had a Berry cover (the same that ran in SFFA 100 atop Utgard). His lettercol includes a note from Buck Coulson and a letter from Harry Warner expressing condolences for the same. Obviously D. Bruce Berry had made some powerful enemies, very quickly. So, alas, had Bob.

The rest of the issue? Standard, good material. Dave reprints his brother's story from SFFA's first mailing. Katya talks about a book, How to Live with Women, which sounds invaluable. Bill Flott reviews. Robert Anderson (who?) indexes the Avon Fantasy Reader series. There's a Mike Shupp represented in the lettercol ... wonder if he's the same guy who defends Bill Bridget in LASFAPA?

A delightful, whimsical cover on neat brown paper leads off Canticles from Labowitz #1. Gary Labowitz, a Missouriananahan, has precious little material in this zine ... like one page, an editorial. The bulk of the issue is fiction, although a Rev. E.H. Ziegelmeier contributes a religious article (all knowledge is in fanzines, remember), and there is a beautiful short poem by no less a personage than Stanton Coblenz. Truly we wade through the genzine era in SFFA history.

But in those early years, there was always Iscaiot. Al Andrews and Dick Ambrose, charter members, put a lot of work and a lot of care into their SFFAZine, and oh, it glows. (So does the cover subject, a lantern hanging from a snowy bough with a pixie warming herself over its red flame.) Al ty<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>es his name (to use Deb Hammer-Johnson's spelling) as "Andriws", which I'll bet caused an uncharacteristic curse as it rolled off the mimeo, but other than that, it's a jolly and handsome zine. A neat Christmas greeting, a nifty page of Andrews cartoons ... an incomprehensible "Perpetual Calendar" ... and the usual, to which I'll presently turn.

The usual in Iscariot was quality ... it was the Melikaphkaz of its day. "Slaughter Row" was the mc and fanzine review column; thish's covers the last SFFPA mailing, Yandro, and even touches on A Trip to Hell (was it "to" or "through"? I've read reports of both ways). Al handled the mc's this time, and in them calls for a return to "Christian idealism" in response to that rightwing flyer Who is Tampering with the Soul of America? which Bill Plott had franked through mlg 5. He defends -- quite gently -- his right to criticize lousy neozines to the producer of one such pub, Tom Armistead. "Why shouldn't an apazine be neat, attractive, interesting and readable?" he asks. (I blush when thinking of his probable comments had he seen Spiritus Mundi 1. But then again, Al Andrews would have only been encouraging.) He is carefully neutral on the Berry/Kemp/Jennings controversy.

Iscariot had variety ... and a variety of contributors. Larry Montgomery contributes a story, "Cold Wave", next. It's nicely evocative and bodes well for the future SFFPA. Ambrose contributes his usual "Remarquez les Ghouls" column on the supernatural, this time dealing with the unicorn. It is a nicely illustrated and fascinating piece. The blank spots on various pages are filled with poems and quotations and illos ... it's not the largest or the best Iscariot, but it's damned nice.

And the evening and the morning were the 6th mailing, 120 pages.

Sometime between the 6th and 7th mailings, a SFFPA revolution occurred. Dave Hulan says in the OE Symposium (Me1 #81, mlg 100) that this was a pivotal moment in SFFPA history, & indeed it was.

What had happened was this. Remember that SFFPA had been founded as the SFG -- Southern Fandom Group -- apa, an extension of that loose organization, bound to it permanently by the by-laws which Jennings had written. Between mlg 6 and 7 -- the beginning of that terrible year 1963 -- the SFG folded. It wasn't fulfilling any tasks, wasn't providing any services: Andrews and the then-President of the SFG, Lloyd Broyles, sent back all dues and deep-6ed the group.

SFG was dead, but SFFPA was alive. Jennings' rules required that SFFPA members belong to the SFG; if that rule was now moot, and oh, was it ever, then it stood to reason that all the old rules were due for revision.

Revision they got. Mailing 7's OO introduced SFFPA's new constitution ... basically the same document you saw in mlg 100's OO (and will likely see again in mlg 103). It is a really remarkable achievement; clean, well-structured, easy-to-understand, and therefore a far, further-than-far cry from the old rules. As you know, it gives a lot of power to the Official Editor, finally called that instead of Mailing Editor, the title from SFFPA's 1-6. It lists Delaware, D.C., Oklahoma and "the Caribbean possessions of the United States" as being Southern for residency requirements, along with more traditional states, sets the damyankee quotient of 25%, in short creates the official SFFPA we have all come to know, love, and occasionally amend.

It was a late mailing, for sad family reasons involving Dave's child's illness. He leads off the OO apologizing. Further on, he declares that as no one else filed for OE, he assumes reelection, and announces SFFPA's first Egoboo Poll. Later in the OO ran the ballot, categories including Editor of best zine, Best MC's, Best Articles Writer, Best Fiction Writer, Best Natterings Writer, Best Artist, Best Humorist, Best Book/Mag Reviewer, and Other (specify). You can see the genzine influence. Also mentioned this OO was a possible constitutional amendment, designed to allow Southerners to receive mailings without contributing to them or being members of the apa. Proposed by Rick Norwood, it attracted Hulan at first, as the mailings might stimulate these "non-publishing members" to do zines. But there was no formal vote called for.

101 pages are in mailing 7, 7 zines counting the OO. ALARums and Excursions -- 's first, a oneshot (first of its kind) committed by Bill Plott and Hulan on the occasion of the former's visit to the latter. (Plott was on the road a lot, thus his nomicker, "The Traveling Fan". It's not the typical sleazy oneshot, with alternating paragraph-authors and the like. Bill types in pica on the two inside pages, Dave elites outside. Plott

nattered about his trip; Hulan compares N'APA and SFFA, which had conflicting and contrasting problems. SFFA had a small membership that produced mainly genzines (though there was a lot of inner-group input, too). N'APA had lotsa members, but no energy ... 32 members producing 111 page mailings, for example. An idea is tossed out -- I can hardly think it was serious -- for the two apas to merge. Nothing -- thank God -- ever came of it.

Sporadic 6 shows its faces next -- faces of various weird types were the subject of the REC (Robert E. Gilbert) cover. Kaelstrom, as a SFFA title, had lasted but one mailing. Quotes from The Devil's Dictionary and "The Tell-tale Heart" top page 1, along with a cigarette package illo labelled "FIJAGH" (he left out the best part). A Traveling Fan report, sparkily-written and neatly illoed (the selfportraits are crude but funny), bops up next: this time B'ham, Montgomery (the city, not the Larry), Opelika, Greenville SC, Atlanta, Huntsville were on this jaunt's itinerary. That boy, he were on the move! His mc's feature a heading they will run from then on, a stick figure beating a SFFA mailing with a stick (so I'm redundant?), and praise Katya Hulan, "Horns'n'Hooves", and the cover to Canticles from Labowitz #1.

Texzine vol. 1 no. 1 is up next, a dittozine by L.D. Broyles. Despite a rather nice cover illo (I'm a sucker for perspective shots), it seems to be a pretty standard neozine, reminiscent of Phallicy/Blob/DEEK!, earlier SFFAZines. "Anyone remember Science Fiction Theatre?" he asks, on page 1 ... and of course I do. That theme will forever play in my head ...

Page 2 of the text is handscrawled, making Texzine historic; it looks forward to the era of John Guidry and that consummate terror known as ... Ignite. Had Broyles' SFFAship survived till Guidry's day, Jawn would have likely passed him by. His handwriting is worse than anyone's who ever let the nefarious Pear trap them. The content is mere editorial meandering. Broyles seems to have genzine ambitions, for he calls for contributors. One interesting thing shows up later in this 6 page zine ... Broyles actually comments on the mundane world, which had just gone through the Cuban missile crisis. It would surprise many current apans, most of whom talk about external events from time to time at least, to see how rare Broyles was in 1963. He talks about Cuba, glue-sniffing (hey, don't knock it if you haven't tried it, right? sheesh), and fifty mile walks. The age of JFK was upon us ...

Iscariot is up next, and it was probably the shame of having his neozine sandwiched between a good zine like Sporadic 6 and a superb contribution like this double Iscariot that drove Broyles from SFFA after doing but one zine. (Right; he never contributed again.) The ish is double-numbered 6 and 7 for reasons of simplification ... the co-editors thought it best to have their zine numbers correspond with the SFFA mailing. Dick Ambrose reveals the death of the SFC (known to all but unmentioned in print before) in an editorial. Larry Montgomery, still not a member, contributes a vampire story ... I hope Larry won't be driven out of SFFA again by my opinion that it's pretty dumb. So are the three shortshort tales that follow. Slaughter Row, though, is Andrews', and jolly good mc's and reviews they are, as ever. I love the Andrews cartoons -- faces with funny captions, such as the be-goateed, spectacled, beretted (beretted?), polka-dot-shirted wacko who tells us that he's a writer of stories about "everyday people". He boosts Tom Armistead's ego with a nice mc, talks genzine-vs.-apazine with Jennings, pushes mc's as the best "in-group" feature an apazine could run. He makes the obvious point that a faned who published D. Bruce Berry's art -- Hulan, in this instance -- did not necessarily agree with Berry about Earl Kemp, a point which apparently needed underscoring. He also hits the major pubs of the day -- TRB-dom, Yandro, Warhoon, The Double Bill Symposium, and reveals that he's received many more zines that he could possibly review. The zine closes with a page or so on Frankenstein (the novel) from Joe Staton.

A 17-page Rick Norwood zine follows, Cliffhangers and Others. Such was Rick's regular title, but this is by no means his usual zine. Norwood here makes SFFA history, for despite the familiar-to-us-in-the-here-&-now bits of "Horns'n'Hooves" in Jennings' zines, "Coon with the Wind" herein is the true genesis of that staple of SFFAc, faan fiction.

I couldn't describe the plot of Goon with the Wind in a million years, but suffice it to say that it's witty work (I'm at least half right), well-sustained. Dave Hulan was given the part of "Robin Wood", Katya was "Maid Marion", Plott "Little John" and so forth. Well did this zine bode for the cluster spirit of SFFA which members have always held dear. (I always say, if an outsider can get all the jokes, it ain't good faanfic.)

32-page Loki 6, printed on "Yandro-style" gold twiltone, itchy to the fingers after 18 years, is the longest zine of the mailing. A fair Staton cover leads off; he has a short story in the issue and a drawing of Katya made from photos that is positively radiant. Dave editorializes in favor of A Shade of Difference for the Hugo (it can be argued that Allen Drury wrote little but science fiction), continues a column about Unknown Worlds, & of course answers locs and pens mc's. He responds to Jennings' call for apazines instead of genzines by revealing that economy was behind his decision to make Loki general-distribution; SFFA's copy requirement was too small to justify an apa-only zine done on stencil.

It was a terribly tough time for the Hulans; their son was very ill. Nevertheless, Loki came out well, especially considering the circumstances. That Dave was able to keep going at all is a tribute to his determination and loyalty to his elected task.

The second Canticles from Labowitz is the next item in The Montgomery Papers, a postmailing. Ambrose's copy (for remember, this set of mailings belonged to Dick before Larry got his mitts on them) was mailed March 29th. Within the creased and ragged zine, Labowitz shows his interest in SFFA by suggesting a change in page credit policy, reflecting publishers' efforts. It was never enacted. The rest of the zine is idle natter and a few mc's -- he's all for genzines -- and a couple of nice illos that seem to me to be electrstencilled. Most every spot illo SFFA had featured to date had been traced onto stencil. Could it be that Labowitz, unheralded, by and large forgotten now, had quietly ushered SFFA into a new age of zining?

Or is this zine merely offset, and am I talking through my hat? (If I was wearing a hat.)

The final note of Canticles #2 is a grim one. Above the address section on his back page, Labowitz states that his zine is destined for "the rapidly dying SFFA and the slowly dying N'APA." Well ... we weren't dead yet.

Although it cannot be argued that mailing 8 erased that feeling. At 64 pages, mlg 8 stands as the second smallest SFFA mailing of all time. 4 zines -- Sporadic, Iscariot, Pelf (a co-production of Daves Hulan and Locke), and The Southerner -- overwhelmed the contents. The roster still stood at 7, but two members, Tom Armistead and apa founder Bob Jennings, dropped. Our treasury was healthy at \$32 (Dave extended dues), but that was about the only cheery item on the first page of The Southerner. Hulan announced his retirement from the OEship and called for a replacement.

The results of the Egoboo Poll filled the rest of the 2-page OO, and it was a pretty good spread. Dave had won the prize as best editor, best book reviews, and "other". Andrews' mc's were overwhelming favorites of the voters. Ambrose won for his Articles, Plott for his natter, Staton (not yet a member) for his fiction, Jennings for his humor (Jennings for humor? I hear you cry). Ken Gentry was an outstanding choice for best artist; his work hadn't appeared much in the past year, but memories of glories past lingered.

Hulan won the poll with 152 points, but his Constitution forebade his Presidency, as he was still OE. Al Andrews, second placer, was thus the first President of SFFA.

Sporadic no. 7, for once, doesn't feature a trip by its author. Plott natters about college life, foreign films, a hoped-for excursion to the worldcon with Dave and Katya. Bill's wild about Joan Baez; seeing her warble in concert leads him to discuss the Lime-liters and other folkers of the period. A good Staton story -- he deserved his egopoll win in fiction -- separates Plott's editorial from Plott's mc's, which again have that mailing-beating illo as logo. The comments are complete and strong, especially when he explains to Morwood that he couldn't possibly play Little John as he is as thin as a stalk of wheat and wears glasses.

Iscariot's multihued cover is beautiful; Andrews and Ambrose had apazinery down righteously. I've seldom seen prettier colors come from a mimeo. Even Ambrose seems awed by his own repro. Dick reveals that he's graduating -- from high school -- disgraceful. His production work on Iscariot tops that on Spiritus a thousandfold.

The artwork in this issue is especially noteworthy. Mostly REG work, it's mostly printed in red. Dual-coloring on mimeo is old hat, nowadays, but the effect in this zine is still striking. Contents-wise, there's some good fiction by Mike Deckinger (Rick Norwood? who knows?), an article on Jack Vance, "Remarquez", mc's ... again illoed with Andrews' inimicable faces. Buck Coulson's letter in the lettercol presents the case against Bruce Berry ... very strongly. Al had asked for a rundown, being the fair man he was, and he got it.

There's more to Iscariot #8, but that's the gist of it. If I remember correctly, this zine was acclaimed as the best of its year on the next egopoll. Easy to see why.

Pelf #3 is the first of its number to run through SFPA. Locke handles most of the ish, it seems, nattering wildly and humorously about his first con, a highway problem, and Mickey Spillane. Hulan reveals that he's leaving the Army (note: the Army, not the Navy, as I said before), and reprints a brief, crogging phone conversation he's had with Mississippi maniac Ross Barnett. Coulson, in a loc, says that he'd have no objections to a southern worldcon if integrated facilities could be guaranteed (remember, this was 1963), and Hulan argues Southern history (he wins) with Mike Shupp.

Pelf closes mailing 8, and mailing 8 closes the second, slender volume of The Montgomery Papers. SFPA is again poised at the brink of change. Hulan, who has practically recreated the apa framework, is leaving the OEship and the Army. SFPAzines are mostly -- nay, entirely genzines, though mc's and interrelating natter and articles are staples. The zines have quality and spirit ... but they are so few. Can they survive? Will there be a SFPA mailing number 9?

I suppose you'll just have to wait until SFPA mailing 103 to find out.

