

1956

MOONSHINE

SPECIAL NYCON II MEMORY BOOK EDITION

Now - does
anyone remem-
ber why we
came?



EDITORIAL PALAVER

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In a few days I will be heading towards the Westercon, which is the west coast conference in Oakland this year. This will take the place of attendance at the NYCON II because I'm one of the guys who can't make it across the continent to attend a world convention. You who read this may have picked up the "memory book" at the NYCON itself; perhaps it is during the con that you are reading this. I will be thinking of it, and the friends I might have met if I could have made it.

But I won't be moping. As soon as the Westercon is over, I will have plenty to do in N3F, plus an issue of Moonshine to get out for FAPA. Recently I have contacted a number of people near Garden Grove and Santa Ana who might decide to organize a club. This may be a science-fiction or a space club; if it is the former, perhaps I can influence its members into affiliating with the Society for the Advancement of Space Travel, a group I'm active in.

Len Moffatt and Rick Sneary, with me as the third wheel, may start a fanzine of a sercon nature. (Serious but fun, it would be.) The three of us are close friends, even though we have been separated by over thirty and 400 miles (I'm about 35 miles from Los Angeles and Rick was deep in Nevada, working for a telephone company.) Rick lives in South Gate, Len in nearby Bell Gardens--so they get together often and talk by phone in between times.

If you are one of my regular correspondents except that you haven't heard from me lately, it's because of the scandalous way I've been carrying on, being an over-active actifan. I've a suggestion for you: why not write me even if it isn't your time, and I'll answer TWICE? That should make our books straight.

In N3F, where I've been an eager-beaver (non-Roscoan type, by Foo!) there has been material to get out for the O-O, The National Fantasy Fan. One issue is now off, so I have to start writing to try to catch up on my correspondence--and then I ask everyone I write if they'd please send in news of a fan or pro nature. TNFF is trying to cover the field, with personal news, news of pubs, cons, and pros. You might call some of the information we are printing publicity, as we want to know what you're planning for your fangroup--including the date and price of admission or price for the publication if it's a zine. You can see we're not just sticking to N3F; we'd like to have news of your local club as well, including your address and meeting information. As the article on N3F will show you, this is not everything we're doing by a long shot. N3F is a good place to see what a group of fans can do "by mail" in the line of fan activity. As I said, I live at 12832 West Ave., Garden Grove; I would like to hear from you, and if you want I'll even pass your \$2 membership dues (for 1½ years) to the secretary-treasurer. If you'd rather work direct, it's Janie Lamb, Rt. 1, Heiskell, Tenn.

If you write in, I'll pass any news on to the O-O to be published, and you'll get the credit for it. Regular reporters are wanted to insure that the various fan centers of news are covered, so if you're member of a club, or are a pro or fan who'd like to help yourself with some publicity, just send it in. Thanks. Stan

"ONE FAN'S FANDOM"

by Stan Woolston

What is a fan?

The classification of "a fan" is apt to be one of those things that will be argued over as long as s-f fandom exists. I hear that Walter A. Willis, Irish fan, has declared that it is his intention to advocate that, as far as the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund is concerned, it be defined as being someone who writes for or puts out a fanzine. This is a big part of fandom, but personally I wouldn't consider it important enough to be made a definition, even for TAFF uses.

My reason is simple (and my best enemies and worse friends will agree, I'm sure). I believe there are several lanes of activity that would lead towards qualification of an ideal convention-goer--and the same reasoning would be useful for judging any "best fan" poll that might come up. A fan that is primarily a "letter-hack" could make the grade; so could someone who habitually attends fan meetings of various kinds (local fan clubs, conventions or the like).

As an example, let's look at Rick Sneary. He began his fan life as a letter-hack, writing to letter departments in the professional zines. He corresponded widely, and at one time put out a letterzine, GRIPES AND GROANS. Since then he has turned to publishing in FAPA (serving as co-editor of a couple of magazines) but is now out, or rather on the waiting list again with a chance that it might be years before he becomes a member again. He has been active as officer in a number of clubs--and this is another way, I think, a fan can get the qualification for being nominated by TAFF. He has been active, helping with a number of projects. Now Rick would be acceptable as a candidate under the WAW definition, but would not be if he had merely specialized in writing to the prozines and in corresponding widely, or in attending fannish meetings, which he has also done.

I believe that a sense of proportion is needed in choosing the ideal candidate for TAFF. A sense of proportion--an ability to know their way about fandom or some phase of fandom--is an attribute that any ideal candidate should have. Of course it depends on the individual sponsorer to judge whether a strong qualification in one or a few kinds of fan activities will be more important than weaker qualifications in almost every branch of fandom.

Perhaps there is something to say in advocating the fan who has attended, and enjoyed, conventions in the past. A fan might be quite interesting in his facet as correspondent, and yet be so tense or afraid that he could not enjoy a convention. I believe the WAW definition of fan would completely ignore this aspect, and I suggest it be considered.

As I understand it, fandom is as close to a true democracy as we can get. For one thing, a fan may pick his special fan-interests. He can specialize, if he wishes--or he can try everything. The field is wide and rich, and each of the "smaller fandoms" are apt to be investigated by anyone enthusiastic enough to correspond with a few fans or be active in a club. A person with such a background is not exceptional in fandom, and this is a good thing.

I believe that a fan who suggests a candidate for TAFF will find the job of evaluating an ideal candidate harder by doing as I suggest. WAW's method would be simpler, because it allows a person to have his choice limited for him. However, I believe most fans are individualists, and will choose candidates the way they wish, and not appreciate having their initiative limited.

SOUTH GATE IN '58 CONVENTION

A ten-year plan to get the convention in South Gate in 1958 is two years from completion. Recent discussion with Rick Sneary and myself, along with Len Moffatt, shows that we should be entering a phase of polling to see what the views of fans are concerning various aspect of the convention itself.

Rick would like you to help in this poll. He would like to send it to interested fans, and to be sure you will get a copy I suggest you drop him a card or letter giving your current address and telling him that you will help him with the poll. If you have any suggestions to make about the poll-questions itself, they will be welcome too.

The questionnaire may be mailed individually, or perhaps as part of a special publication designed for the purpose. Details are being worked out on this right now and in the weeks to come.

Rick has been "in fandom" long enough to know about many of its features; he has enjoyed the letter-writing side, the publishing side, the fun of convention-going. It was with a background of a wide friendship in the field that he started his campaign in 1948; today he is still more experienced, and I believe will meet the requirements of a very good coordinator or advisor for the convention.

Besides being a serious constructive fan in his support of projects and various clubs, Rick probably has more friends around fandom than anyone I know. I suppose he has also written more letters to the prozines than anyone else I know, and is known by many a pro too. This background should provide a combination that would make a World Convention to be proud of.

Rick Sneary has moved back to South Gate after being near Las Vegas for about a half year, where the climate is dry. His address is his old one: 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif.

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SOUTH GATE IN '58!

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Stan Woolston Says:

Fun seems to have become the primary purpose of fandom--or so it seemed to me a few years ago. Sercon fandom was still present, but fun seemed to have come into the ascendancy. I've enjoyed fandom, and the Burbee approach has amused me more than once.

I believe there are many ways that a fan or group of fans can enjoy themselves, and personally I like to cooperate on a project that has "meat" on it. I like to help a group like N3F do something. I enjoy expressing my opinions in FAPA. And I like to write and receive letters. So why not humor me and write?

Cover cartoon by B-Jo

N3F - WHAT IS IT?

Stan Woolston

I've written a number of letters on the theory that the National Fantasy Fan Federation is just about the best representative group of fandom as you can find. Outside of the United States there may be others to compare it to, but "N3F" has been a good place for newcomers to "learn fandom" and for fans with little time to keep in touch with the field.

The emphasis in N3F, as with fandom in general, varies as the pressure from the members vary. This is the law of supply and demand, a law that is more than just an economic theorem. It is much like the physicist's law of action and reaction, and as natural.

Any group that survives over a length of time must meet certain basic needs. The group of s-f mags meet a need, one that perhaps cannot be measured by mathematics but can be judged by the sense of belonging it evokes in the individual. If s-f was alien to a person's nature it would repel; the same is true to fandom and of course to N3F.

Many newcomers are confused as to what N3F IS, or what it does. N3F is a group of fans who are interested in many kinds of fan activities. Interest in publications is met, first, with a club organ through which everyone can see their contributions in print. Several projects and publications (such as the dictionary, Fanspeak, and another leaflet, the Pseudonyms List) help explain various aspects of fandom. The Manuscript Bureau helps the editor get material and the writer find a market for it. All of this is on a volunteer basis--not a profit-making matter, but done for the sake of the hobby.

The purpose of N3F is to advance the s-f hobby, and certain projects require more cooperation than others. One such is a YEAR-BOOK, which is scheduled to come out near the end of the year if there is enough cooperation to bring this about. This Memory Book (of which Moonshine is made for this issue) is another example of cooperation. It will probably include various kinds of fanzines, and give many of the convention-goers a chance to see what they are alike. For the record, Moonshine is my FAPazine, which means it has been designed to go in the regular mailings of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. It is a personal zine, and most material is written by me on subjects that interest me. Some FAPazines are also subscription fanzines, and may contain articles, fiction and the like, depending on the whim of the editor. I've chosen with this issue to talk about various aspects of fandom, including N3F as they made this Memory Book possible. As I am President of N3F this year, the choice was natural enough.

N3F's various bureaus, such as Corresponding, the Welcommittee, Trading and Recruiting, show the scope of activity N3F covers. N3F does not have amateur journalism aspects that competes with FAPA or the Spectator Amateur Press Society; in fact, many members belong to these and other groups (such as OMPA). The International Science Fiction Correspondence Club specializes in correspondence, and though N3F has correspondence features we get along well. Many N3Fers are also members of ISFCC. All of us help make up "fandom," which is a hobby for active fans.

So far I've beaten about the bush, giving a rough hint of the activities done in N3F. Actually N3F is a federation of fans, and to know N3F you should be a part of it. Membership would give you the bi-monthly O-O (that's for official organ, named the National Fantasy Fan), and this publication is one of the quickest way to become oriented in N3F and fandom. Addresses are published of members, along with their special interests; news of fandom at large as well as N3F affairs and prodom, is included. Everyone is invited to send in news, to the Editor, Eva Firestone (Box 515, Upton, Wyoming), along with articles and letters if you wish. And members are invited to become active in the bureau or project of their choice.

Probably many of you have wondered about N3F. If your curiosity or interest are enough to desire to become a member, I'd suggest you write to the Secretary-Treasurer, Janie Lamb (Rt. 1, Heiskell, Tenn.) with \$2 which will make you an immediate member. The membership blank is designed to show your special interest (collecting, corresponding, etc.). You'll get a copy of Fanspeak and the Pseudonyms List, and be in a position to get other publications as they come out.

Currently the NFFF TRADER has combined with the O-O, and the letter magazine, POSTIE, is seeking a new editor as the last one had to spend more time elsewhere. By the time you read this both of these special publications may be going strong again. A continued effort to improve the O-O by including reports and when possible articles and other material is proceeding. Memberships are sought, and as we have no limit, and you don't have to be invited to join, the matter is up to you. For \$2.00 you can get 1½ years dues, starting at once.

Despite the name, N3F is more than a national group. It has members in South America and overseas. The number of these vary from time to time, but members in Scotland, England and Australia give N3F an international atmosphere. News from Canadian and Hawaiian members, and elsewhere, comes in to the official organ too.

If you are curious about fandom, or interested in learning more about it, I suggest you write to Janie Lamb. If you wish to become a member of this group, you can send in two dollars to her at Rt. 1, Heiskell, Tenn. Janie manages the Fan File, which is information about fans, their interests and activities; she is the one to ask about fans in your district, addresses of persons with various interests, and so forth. Members get the service for asking for it.

I hope you will write Janie, especially if you are a newcomer to fandom. This brief writeup merely touches on some of the activities of N3F; there are others.

Stan

M O O N S H I N E

Moonshine is published and edited by Stan Woolston, 12832 West Ave., Garden Grove, Calif. This issue is published for the N3F combozine, titled the NYCON II MEMORY BOOK. As a rule this magazine is a FAPA publication, of a personal nature. I would appreciate letters of comment or inquiry about anything mentioned here. As President of N3F this year, I am especially interested in hearing from people interested in entering fandom, or extending their activities from a local to a wider area. I'll answer letters and questions as soon as I can.