

REVEL-ATION #1

by Marcy Waldie

4 February 1995

APA V #16

Evidence of my first acquaintance with Las Vegas fandom or ANY fandom appeared in the fanzine Area 51 #1 in October 1992. Here's a reprint.

"What are these?"

"Fanzines."

I glanced at the colored stapled sheets that hubby Ray handed to me.

"What's a fanzine?" I queried.

"A publication for and by fans."

"What kind of fans?"

"Science fiction and fantasy, mostly," Ray replied patiently.

"Why are you giving them to me when you know that mystery novels are my thing?"

"Because you're also taking an advanced writing course, and I thought that you'd be interested in reading what others put out - to broaden your range."

"Are they professional writers?"

"Some are. Others pen out of pure interest and enjoyment. But they're published."

As I scanned the articles, I became frustrated with my inability to decipher terms through their context.

"Is there a glossary with these?" I asked meekly.

"No."

"Are there a lot of typos?"

"Not likely."

"Gee, I learned Greek in ninth grade and it was easier than translating these."

I felt sympathetic toward those who experienced Corflu. Is this the forerunner to

swine flu? Cyberpunk. Oh yeah, I think I caught their video on MTV.

At the closing of this unique session, I had only one thing to say. "These people are weird."

"Yeah," Ray agreed. "Wanna go to the next social with me?"

Apprehensively, I acquiesced. After all, everyone has idiosyncrasies. These contributors and the ones about whom they write are fellow human beings. How unsettling could it be to meet persons tagged Elf, Woody and Supreme and Beloved Leader? And Raven is just a nickname, too. Right? Besides, Arnie and Joyce would be there to protect me.

What I found is what you folks already know; a group of intelligent, caring individuals who have retained a sense of humor - all priceless commodities in today's world. Although I may not be a full-fledged sci-fi buff, I am a fan of you, person-ally and collectively. You exemplify the basic values which seem so refreshing to re-discover in society. It is a treat for me to observe and to appreciate each of you.

I still think that you're weird and am grateful for it.

My brain now holds a pigeonhole that is reserved solely for fan terms. If unidentified jargon catches my ear, I am no longer afraid to ask. Fear of being labeled a fugghead has abated.

More often nowadays I excuse myself from Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, P.D. James and others to become more

acquainted with and fascinated by Asimov, Heinlein, their predecessors and followers.

Through their warm generosity, Arnie and Joyce have patiently yet enthusiastically introduced me to fans, either personally or through fan writing and artwork. It is unnecessary to list all of the greats. You know them and, be assured, I know them, too. I must, however, mention The Patriarch, Charles Burbee. I will not attempt, in my feeble way, to record his contributions. Rather, I suggest that you read Arnie's sensitive tribute to Burbee in APA V #14, Dec. 1994, "The Art of Burbee". Mr. Burbee, I am honored to have met you.

Ray and I have been married for 25 years and have been together for 29. I believe that he's changed me with his subtle suggestions more than I've changed him with my, yes, nagging.

He is responsible for introducing me to fandom, for re-acquainting me with Robert Frost and his road not taken. Scores of lives have touched mine and have made memorable impressions.

Thanks always must be given to Arnie and Joyce for opening their home to fans each month and for tolerating the crazy goings-on; to Ken and Aileen Forman for their successful efforts in making Las Vegas fandom so strong; to Alex Borders for creating SNAFFU. It is ironic that I've never met Alex. He is largely responsible for the positive direction in which my life is headed.

I still think that fans are weird, and I'm grateful to be a part of fandom.

Submitted to APA V #16 on 4 Feb 1995
by Marcy Waldie
6980 Wedgewood Way
Las Vegas, NV 89117-4418

