

SCIENCE FICTION ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1993

ELECTION RESULTS

We are pleased to report that all nominees have been unanimously elected. The current SFOHA Board of Directors consists of:

Lloyd Biggle, Jr., President, Nancy Tucker, Vice-President, Suzi Nassen Stefl, Secretary, Jean Lynn Barnard, Treasurer, and Roger Sims & Terry Harris, Directors-at-Large.

OH, CANADA

At WilfCon IX, August 14-15, 1993, in Waterloo, Ontario, Pauline Finch gave a SFOHA presentation as part of the convention programming. The following day she taped other program items, with a SFOHA sign (including the Space Dog) prominently displayed. She reports that SFOHA information was enthusiastically received by fans and pros alike, and the con organizers are eager for Oral History participation in next year's con programming. Thanks, Pauline!

We need to get more cons directly involved with SFOHA. If you know anyone who is running a convention, why don't you see if they would be willing to give SFOHA an official role? Would they like SFOHA to plan or participate in any programming? Would they confer official status on SFOHA representatives recording events at the con and provide 2 free memberships for the SFOHA personnel who will be doing the work? Do they have local people willing to do some recording? If so, contact Ray Beam, 2209 S. Webster, Kokomo, IN 46902.

RAY BEAM APPOINTED SFOHA ARCHIVIST

Ray Beam, prominent science fiction fan with a long record of service in fan activities, has been appointed Science Fiction Oral History Archivist. Ray succeeded Lou Tabakow as secretary of Science Fiction First Fandom in 1981, a position which he held until 1992. He is currently that organization's president. He has been a fan and collector of science fiction for forty-two years. This year he has been designated recipient of the 31st Science Fiction Hall of Fame Award, which will be presented to him at the San Francisco WorldCon in September.

First Fandom and SFOHA are natural allies in their concern for science fiction history and its preservation. Ray will invite all First Fandom members to join SFOHA; and we extend Ray's invitation to all SFOHA members to join First Fandom. Details will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter.

Ray will house the SFOHA Archives, consisting of our master tapes, equipment and records, in his Kokomo, Indiana home. He will be responsible for safeguarding the archives, and processing, classifying, and keeping records on all new tapes received. He also expects to be active in making new tapes for the archives. He will be ably assisted by his wife, Mary Ann.

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Tucker
Contributors: Lloyd Biggle, Jr., Ray Beam,
Jean Barnard
Illustrations: Larry Tucker.

NEW ARCHIVAL SERIES FOR EARLY RECORDINGS

Curt Phillips, an electronics technician living in Abingdon, VA, has sent SFOHA an item that will be highly prized by all with an interest in oral history. In 1949, Neil R. Jones was an invited guest of the Cincinnati World SF Convention, Cinvention, but was unable to attend. In compensation, he sent the convention a recorded speech to play. Apparently he recorded it at home on a Home Transcription Disc Machine. The speech is on three discs, which play on a standard 78 RPM phonograph. Jones sent them to Don Ford, who was Chairman of Cinvention, and the discs now are in the possession of Don's widow, Margaret Keifer. She kindly permitted copies to be made, and Phillips sent one of them to SFOHA. The recording itself is mainly concerned with Jones's World War II career.

This is certainly the earliest recording in our archives.

There were a number of home recording processes in the late 1930s and 40s. My parents, about 1940, bought a console radio/phonograph/recorder, and I still have discs I recorded on it. Some are a kind of coated cardboard, and some have a metal base. None of them are hi-fi, but they were revolutionary at the time because they accessed a new world. If there was a radio program that interested you, you could record it while listening to it. And of course via a microphone you could record yourself.

Unfortunately, I was not recording science fiction events at that time. I didn't know there were such things. Perhaps some persons were. Phillips says Transcription Discs existed under various names: "Home Transcription Discs," "Voco-Discs," "Audiovox Recordings,"

and others. We are wondering what is out there that has a science fiction significance. Phillips heard that Robert Heinlein's Guest of Honor speech at the 1941 Worldcon was recorded on such discs. If so, where is it? Someone may have made such recordings at NolaCon in 1951.

Here is a Mission for SFOHA members and friends of oral history: Please ask around, please snoop, and see if you can turn up more early recordings of science fictional events for the SFOHA archives. We do not covet the actual discs, which of course are collectors' items. What we want is what is on the discs -- re-recorded on modern cassettes so we can make it available to historians.

In the hope that we can turn up more recordings -- and as a challenge to you members -- I am setting up an ER Series in the SFOHA Archives for Early Recordings (before 1960). The Jones recording will be ER-1.

Curt Phillips, whose address is Rt. 7, Box 357, Abingdon, VA 24210, has generously offered to put on tape for us any of these old recordings that turn up. Friends of Oral History -- let us hear from you! Where are those old recordings?

--Lloyd Biggle, Jr.

T-SHIRT UPDATE

Thanks to those of you who elected the special membership category this year. Sorry it's taking so long to get your shirts to you. We had to special order them, and our supplier has finally informed us that the printer who was supposed to have the silk-screen "for safe-keeping" had lost, misplaced, or discarded it. So we immediately sent new art work, and should be receiving the t-shirts any day now. We will send you your shirts just as soon as we get them. Thank you for your patience.

A MESSAGE TO SFOHA FROM FIRST FANDOM

The Science Fiction Oral History Association and First Fandom have a lot in common. We both have tried to keep interest in the older material, authors, and others connected with the field alive. I would hope that we may form some sort of loose association between the two groups that may be beneficial to both. Members of First Fandom are encouraged to join SFOHA, and SFOHA members to join First Fandom. First Fandom requirements are: activity before January 1939 for regular membership and 30 years of activity for associate membership. A new category, which any SF fan may qualify for, is Sustaining Patron. This entitles you to all publications and access to First Fandom meetings, but no voting rights. Dues for all categories are \$5 per year.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN FIRST FANDOM

REGULAR ASSOCIATE SUSTAINING
NAME _____ DATE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
AGE _____ TELEPHONE _____



Membership in First Fandom is restricted to those fans who can demonstrate a long-standing active association with either Science Fiction or Fantasy. Eligibility for REGULAR membership requires documented fan activity prior to January 1, 1939. Eligibility for ASSOCIATE membership requires documented fanac going back at least 30 years prior to the date of application. Applications for ASSOCIATE membership must be accompanied by a letter of reference from a REGULAR member. No documentation is necessary for SUSTAINING PATRON.

1. Please list the earliest letter or story you had published in a fan or prozine.
2. Please list your memberships in local, national, or pro groups.
3. Please list your fanzine activity. This includes writing for, editing, publishing, or in any other way helping to produce a fanzine.
4. Please list your collecting interests.
5. Give any additional information which demonstrates your conformance with the membership requirements. Please place this on a separate sheet and attach to this form.

Signed _____

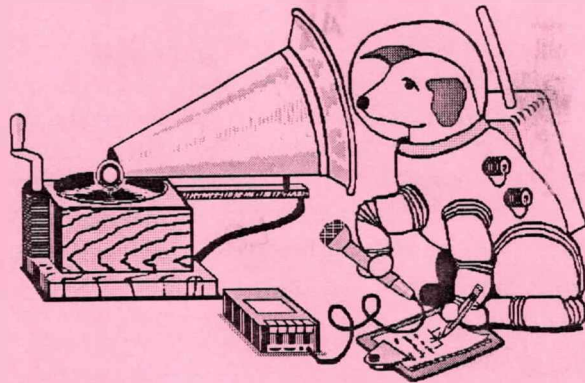
Enclose \$5.00 for the first year's dues. Make checks payable to First Fandom, and send both check and this application to:

Mark Schulzinger, 333 Park Central East, Suite 528, Springfield, MO 65806

SFOHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ I want to go FIRST CLASS! Enclosed is \$20 for my 1993 dues. T-shirt SIZE _____
_____ Just give me a REGULAR membership. Here's \$5 for my 1993 dues.
_____ I would be interested in doing some recording at conventions: _____ audio _____ video
_____ I have my own equipment: _____ yes _____ no
_____ I have an electronic address. It is _____

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Phone _____



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