

SPACE-TIMES

N.S.F.C. NEWSLETTER

Printed by Eric Jones

Vol. 1. No.2. JULY 1952.

EDITORIAL

With this, the second issue, the Newsletter not only doubles its size, but far improves in content. The size of the Newsletter will probably vary from month to month, due to the amount of material to hand. If you wish to see it grow in number of pages, then WRITE...This is YOUR organ, and the medium through which you can state your news and air your views. Contacts have been made to give you good coverage over the world of S-F, and reports on conventions and clubs, throughout Terra, will be featured from time to time, but we do want to know what you, the Member of N.S.F.C. is doing....Get cracking and WRITE.

I must apologise to the number of people omitted in error from the list of Members in the previous issue. Completion of this list will be made in this, and future issues of the Newsletter. ...E.B....

NEWS.

By Eric Dentcliffs.

First part of the "Checklist" sold quite well at the London Convention, and due to Eric Jones' nice job of printing, several Fanzine Editors were seen to turn green--- A consignment of the "Checklist" is now on its way to Dale. R. Smith, who is handling sales and publicity "over there". The Half Yearly Election is now due, and your vote should be sent to Paul Scowby, 21, Lansdowne Rd, West Didsbury, Man. 20., by July 31st. This is a rather unusual Election, as we have one Candidate for each Committee post, however, if you don't think any Candidate should hold the position, he is running for, record a NO and a new Candidate will be requested. Positions open, and nominees are:

SECRETARY : D.H.COHEE.

ASS. SEC : E.BENTCLIFFE.

LIBRARIAN : F.SIMPSON.

TREASURER : S. KLEPPER.

CHAIRMAN : W.H.JESSON.

MAILER : G.ELLIS.

Results of the Election will be announced at the club meeting on Aug 3rd, and in the first Newsletter following.

THE DGO-SPOT.

Focus for the first of these pen-portraits swings on to Dave. H. Cohen, one of the founder members of N. S.F.C., and the clubs' secretary since its inception. He has been very largely responsible for its success. Dave, the man is 31, height somewhere about 6' 2", though the inches above six are usually extended above atmosphere, searching either for flying saucers, or Lyell Cranes' Astral. Dave is a travelling salesman by occupation, and someday hopes to sell Walt Willis an English Translator. Favourite authors are: The Smiths, G.O. and E.E. Favourite yarns: Clarke's "AGAINST THE FALL OF NIGHT" and "CITY AT WORLDS END" by Ed Hamilton. Dave's ambitions are numerous, but he will be content to sell a story to AaF.....

...E.B....

EXTRACT FROM SOLAR HISTORY.

In the year 2005, the Interplanetary Libel Act came into force, and the then surviving S-F authors were indicted under it, and imprisoned by joint action of the Martian and Venusian Governments. This is the law that became known to a certain section of the community on Terra as - Holy Klono's clause. ..E.B...

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

A club has now been formed in Copenhagen, Denmark, centred around a shop dealing in S-F. It already has some twenty members.

Sigvard Ostlund, Stockholm.



LATE NEWS.....

MEMBERS! Do you know that GEOFF LEWIS IS NOW AWAITING AN OPERATION in Ward .1., Park Hospital, Davyhulme, Manchester ? He would no doubt welcome a letter from YOU.....

The LAKELAND S-F ORGANISATION (L.S.F.O.) has now been formed by Pete Campbell and A.N.Other, (what's his name Pete ?). The first issue of their O.O. is due in JULY.

WANTED BY THE N.S.F.C. Suggestions, details, drawings, etc for our BADGE. Keep it simple with not too much detail please, and if anyone knows where to get the die made cheaply we would like to hear from them..... Send all the guff to Eric Bentcliffe. All suggestions considered.....

N.S.F.C. MEMBERS ADDRESSES.

These addresses were missed from Newsletter 1. From time to time the Newsletters will contain New Members addresses, and we hope to include change of address of present members----- if you let us know.....

Phil Best,
26, Grange Drive,
Blackley, Man; 9.

Geoff Lewis,
Merry Hampton, Holly Rd,
Wilmslow.

Bob Swartz, ♂ ♂
106, Floyd St,
Dorchester 24, Mass, U.S.A

Ron Burrows,
46, Edison St,
Nr Openshaw, Man.

Bernard & Pat Lee,
2, Bruton Ave, Stretford,
Manchester.

Robin Silburn,
378, Upper Brook St,
Chorlton - on- Medlock,
Manchester 13.

Ken & Edith Crowther,
8, Whitworth St,
Longsight, Man.

Frank Leyland,
41, Newland St,
Nr Crumpsall, Man.

Dag Siggerud,
Kirkeveien 3b,
Oslo, Norway.

Tony Cooper,
10, Essex Rd,
Chingford, London E.4.

Don McCormick,
23, Milton St, Harle Syke,
Nr Burnley, Lancs.

Ken Woodward,
51, Alldis St,
Woodmoor, Stockport,
Cheshire.

Eva Firestone,
Box 359, Upton,
Wyoming, U.S.A.

Pete Ogden,
3, Belgrave Rd, Marton,
Blackpool, Lancs.

♂ Greater Boston S-F
Society.

Bill Hague,
8, Burnbank, Greenfield,
Nr Oldham, Lancs.

H.B. Pedavitz,
12, Caroline St,
Nr Broughton, Salford 7.

William. H. Jesson,
50, Selby Rd, Stretford,
Manchester.

Phil Schless,
10, Tenerife St,
Salford 7.

Wilf Jennings,
61, Weatherall St,
Nr Broughton, Salford 7.

Paul Sowerby,
21, Lansdowne Rd,
West Didsbury, Man. 20,

John Koestner,
2124, Rene St, Brooklyn 27,
New York, U.S.A.

D.R. Smith,
13, Church Rd,
Hartshill, Hunston,
Warwickshire,



-LONDON CONVENTION '52.

Reported by Eric Jones.

The N.S.F.C. Delegation arrived in London at 1.35 pm. on Friday May 30th, and after some D/F trouble on my part, eventually located the Avondale Hotel.

First stop after a wash and brush up was the Fantasy Book Centre at Stoke Newington some more D/F trouble occurred on the way, but blame Liverpool for that.

The 'Fantasy' sells other books and also Records, which goes to show that S-F will not sell on its own yet. Les Flood bought the first "Checklist" from us which put us in good spirits for the "White Horse", but on arriving there found it completely devoid of life, -- everyone had gone to the trade show of "The Thing".

When they did arrive, we did quite a lot of business and also found a chap from Manchester who did not know that the club existed.... He was promptly enrolled on the spot.

The CON opened on Saturday with the usual 'informal sessions', we had a table allocated which was turned into a stand for N.S.F.C. I had not been pre-warned otherwise we could have had a title poster over the table, still, we flogged the "Checklists"..... Other Fan Clubs represented in the Hall who had 'stands' were, "The Medway S-F Club" "The Lancaster Junior Society", The "Fanart Soc" (including O.F.). What happened to Liverpool ??????

When the Main sessions started at 2 p.m., and 'reps' from the various clubs were invited to speak on the activities of their clubs.

BRADFORD has 23 members with an active membership of 15. They have no committee, but have their own club room, library, and successfully held an Exhibition and film show in October last. (Derek Pickles). Subscription to the club is 1/6 per week.

MANCHESTER N.S.F.C. has more than fifty 'browsers' of whom about 35 are residents of Manchester and surrounding areas. We did some advertising for "The Oxford Cinema" when "The Day The Earth Stood Still" was showing, and consequently some members had free seats at the showing. The "MANCON" is to be held on Sunday, Sept 28th, and will be widely ADVERTISED. (Taff Williams). Subscriptions are 5/0 per year, 6d per meeting.

LIVERPOOL. The Liverpool S-F Society has 22 members, and about 12 turn up at each meeting. They have their own premises, "The Space Dive", meetings are held on Mondays. They too, did some Advertising when "The Day" came to the Trocadero, but did so much of it that I hear they didn't see the film.... Subs are 2/6 per week. (Les Johnson)

GILLINGHAM. The Medway S-F Fan Club is run by Anthony Thorne who has his own shop and organises Competitions etc, there are 25 members, 12 active of whom 10 belong to the 'Fanart Soc'. No organised meetings, but members drop in for a natter at the MFI shop.

LANCASTER The "Lancaster Jun Soc", a postal club for teenage fans is operated by Ken Potter, it has 10 members so far and publishes "PERI". Now here's a plug for the boys: PERI is out on Aug 1st, but owing to the shortage of funds (most of the members are still at School), would interested fan send 1/- to Ken Potter, 5, Furness St, Marsh, Lancaster., NOW, and help them get the mag out?

LONDON. The "London Informal Group" has no Committee, except for organising the Cons, I can't tell you what the membership is, and I doubt very much whether anyone could, but it is to be presumed that meetings will go on every Thursday at the "White Horse", "ad infinitum".

The question, "SHOULD LONDON MONOPOLISE CONVENTIONS", was then put to the clubs.

The Bradford, and Manchester groups both plugged for their respective areas for '53, the main reason being that due to the Coronation, accommodation would be difficult to find in London. Eric Bentcliffe said that he was confident that we, the N.S.F.C., could put on a good show. Fred Robinson also suggested the North for the '53 Con.

Les Johnson for Liverpool said that he had doubts whether the Northern clubs could put up such a good show for the Con, and that it should be held in London. Say that after the MANCON Les .

Jim Ratigan for London said that there would be many S-F celebrities coming from the U.S.A. for the Coronation (Heinlein may be one of them) and that London had more attractions than other towns. Suggestion was that the main Con be held in London and Regional Con's during the year.

Voting took place on Sunday, and it was obvious that London would get the most votes due to insufficient support from the North. However I hear that the vote may be cancelled, and a Postal vote adopted.

The debate advertised, 'That Science-Fiction is true to the facts of human experience' fizzled out after Ted Tubb and others had given their views, which mainly consisted of the for's and against's concerning Bamboo Rocketships and Eight foot Spiders raping innocent virgins.

At 6pm the Auction commenced, with our old friend Ted Tubb in the chair. It's the one thing that's worth the 5/- charge for the Con. Amply supplied with the inevitable bottle of Vermouth, (or whatever is to hand) Ted really got the show going. The mags were not exceptional on Saturday, but on Sunday some Gnome books, donated I believe by the Fantasy Book Centre, were worth shouting for if you hadn't got them. Some art work was also flogged, most of it being original drawings and paintings from "N.W." Auctions took place on both days of the Con - if you haven't already gathered The Saturday film show, scheduled to start at 8pm, did not commence until 8.25. The programme was: (1) A French astronomical film, showing the sun in eclipse, and the solar prominences. (2) Rockets of the Future, now this sounds interesting doesn't it? BUT the sequence donated to "Rockets" was so small that it was completely subdued by a certain Sheepdog. Maybe you are wondering what the hell I am talking about, so I'll explain. This film was one of the "Answer Man" series, and dealt with various questions certain un-named characters asked. One of the queries dealt with Rockets, nuff said. (on Sunday, Eric Bentscliffe told the audience that it would be well worth coming to the '53 Con if it was held in Manchester as a certain cinema would show the film "Lenshound".) (3) An ancient film "How Talkies Talk" circa 1930, and (4) "How Television works". Pity that the film scheduled to run, "Pari Qui Dort" didn't turn up instead of that load. The main film, "The Man Who Could Work Miracles" by Wells, made up for all the other shortcomings however.

Sunday opened with a repeat of Arthur C. Clarke's speech (recorded as Arthur is now in the States) I missed it on Saturday, but the main theme was a message of goodwill to all at the Con, a few digs at Bill Temple, and recordings from Arthur's broadcasts as well as excerpts from the current S-F films.

The Editors talk shop session was held by Ted Carnell and Bert Campbell and many questions were answered.... Bert replying for "N.W." and Ted for "ASEM". In a more serious vein later, two bits of info were obtained. The first was that a certain publisher had the offer of reprinting "Galaxy" here, but turned it down as he said circulation would not be large enough. (AsF circulates about 45,000). The second was that cir. figs. for ASEM are about 15,000, and between 12,000 and 15,000 sold (where are all the fen?) "N.W." would not release their figures.

At 2pm the group of S-F authors present were invited to speak on "Why I write S-F, read it, and what I think about it." All authors said that they write and read S-F "because they like it", this is aside from the money angle of course. Ted Tubb said that "S-F is the medium where anything goes - within limits. Question. "What are Ted's Limits?" Brian Berry expounded that good fiction is the important side of S-F, and Dave McGilvain, (writer of the HEC's "Spaceways") plugged for Radio as the coming medium for S-F. Bert Campbell said that "S-F fully fulfils all requirements of fiction". The question was then re-phrased "Why I draw S-F". Alan Hunter said that he had tried his hand at writing S-F but had more success drawing it. Alan, by the way, has not had any art training.

Now we come to the main item, the

FANTASY AWARD FOR 1952.

The awards were in the same form as last year, i.e. Spaceship on a Mahogany base, With a Spherical Ronson lighter. Chromium finish for the Fantasy Award, Bronze for the Non-Fiction. Owing to shortage of funds, only the first selected had an Award, the others got an "Honorable Mention". The list of people on the panel who did the selecting can be found in "N.W." No.15.

The Fiction Award went to JOHN COLLIER for his anthology "FANCIES AND GOODNIGHTS" Pub: Doubleday, New York. 4 dollars. Mr Collier has the "Edgar" for Mystery short stories. Second was John Wyndham's "DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS". Pub: Michael Joseph. 10/6.

This was the Daily Graphic "Book of the Month".

Thirdly, Ray Bradbury's "THE ILLUSTRATED MAN". Pub: Doubleday. 2.75 £. Over here by Rupert Hart & Davies at 11/6.

Ted Carnell was presented with the award for JOHN COLLIER and it will be sent over to him in due course. Let's hope it doesn't suffer the same fate as last year's award in the hands of the Customs who treated it rather rough I hear.