

This is a publication of the family Sims. The members of which are husband Roger, wife Pat and two cats named Tina and Tigre. We live in the small community of Glendale, Ohio, 45246-3811, U.S.A. Our telephone number is 1-513-771-7587. Our email address is CompuServe 73473.2247. The purpose of which is to inform the Down-Under-World of New Zealand and Australia of our impending visit as the 1995 DUFF winners and to give a shortened version of our fannish lives apart and together.

We had the pleasure of spending a recent weekend with the Smiths who were most kind in dropping off a number of boxes of DUFF auction material and in offering their sage advice as to what we might want to do, once we reach the far up-side-down (to us) shores of Australia and New Zealand. They also suggested that we might want to send something in advance to some of you who we might be visiting to give you some idea of our fannishness.

So here, then in a very small capsule, are our fannish careers both before and after we met each other.

Pat was born in the very small town of Paris, Arkansas. At age eight her family moved to Bellingham, Washington, and happily they took her along. After finishing her schooling (a Masters in Social Work), she moved to Chicago where she found a room mate. It just so happened that the roomy, Anne, was a member of the local Chicago fan group.

The time now is early 1962 and Chicago is about to host a WorldCon for the third time. Ann and Pat become involved. So Pat begins her contact with world con administration as part of the registration committee.

In 1963, Al Lewis came through on his way to the 1963 Midwestcon. Pat and Anne decided to join in the trek to the con. I also went to the con.

Pat's story is now interrupted to begin my history.

I was born on a dark and ... no that's

not right. The truth is that I was born in Detroit, Michigan, USA on the day that my father's brother was to marry and since my father was the best man, the wedding was interrupted for my birth. Upon my return from a year with the Navy, the son of the previously mentioned brother thrust into my hand a copy of Amazing Stories Magazine. The lead story was Edmond Hamilton's novel: Star Kings. I was hooked! Several weeks later having reached the letter column we decided to call Ben Singer, a local, since the Editor printed his name and address. He told us (myself, and cousin Bennett Sims) of an upcoming Halloween party. We decided that we would go. So my very first in person contact with the world of Fandom was on October 29, 1949!

*I think that I will interrupt this history to say that the three of us: myself, Bennett and Ben were the editors of the very first Fantasy-Scope.*

In 1950 I attended my first con. It was the WorldCon in Portland, Oregon. I did not have a good time! But in 1951 an event and a party changed my life forever. Prior to my attendance at Nolacon, I thought that Fandom was all right, but nothing I wanted to spend the rest of my life in. However, on the bus ride to Nolacon I met two young fans and together with Detroitier, Ed Kuss, we became the residents of Room 770. And from that day to this, life has not been the same! Also,



I am sure that was the major reason for my selection as Fan Guest at NolaCon II.

Between 1949 and Midwestcon 1963, I published a number of SAPSazines (the second oldest APA), attended all but one Midwestcon, ten worldcons, and made many bids for a worldcon to be held in Detroit. This finally happened in 1959, when I co-chaired Detention with Fred Prophet. Between these events was an interview with a reporter from Life and a poker game in which my five queens bested Bob Tucker's five jacks.

At the 1963 Midwestcon, the second con that Pat had ever attended, I was foot-loose and fancy free and looking for companionship. Sometime around midnight I happened to stumble into a room in which Pat, her roommate, and other fans were assembled. Looking at two fem fans, I decided that I would marry one.

And that is just what happened. So, now the two stories are joined.

For the first 25 or so years of our marriage Roger was an on again off again member of SAPS and Pat was the provider of wondrous food at our annual New Year's party to which fans traveled to from all corners of the Midwest.

In 1990 we moved from Detroit to Cincinnati Ohio where Pat became Secretary/Treasurer of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group, Midwestcon and Octocon. The last two being yearly relaxacons in the Cincinnati area.

In 1992 my almost idyllic life style was totally upset by my decision to bring Fantasy-Scope back from the land of GAFIATED fanzines. And now in 1995 I have produced two issues with the third somewhere in the computer. Mike Glycer in File 770 writes of it "(it) may be fandom's oldest and most irregular fanzine." He continues with this discription of Pat,

"...keeps Roger in line, runs great parties and con suites, writes occasional fanzine articles and is the mainstay of the Cincinnati Fantasy Group and Midwestcon."

Now you know some things about our fannish history. We hope that it is enough whetting of your appetite to want to know more about us. So here then is where we will be while in the Australia/New Zealand area where you will be able to do just that.

In closing we would like to say that we hope to meet as many of you as possible, renew old friendships and make new friends.

- May 31: Fly to LA
- June 1: Somewhere in flight
- June 2: Arrive Melbourne
- June 3: Melbourne
- June 4: Melbourne
- June 5: Melbourne
- June 6: Fly to Adelaide
- June 7: Adelaide
- June 8: Fly to Hobart
- June 9: Con
- June 10: Con
- June 11: Con
- June 12: Con
- June 13: Fly to Sydney
- June 14: Sydney
- June 15: Wellington
- June 16: Wellington
- June 17: Fly to Auckland and LA

