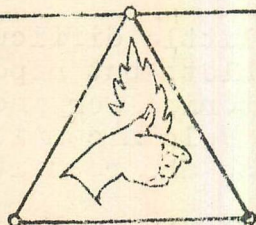


BONFIRE



Volume Three

Number ~~Four~~³

July, 1944

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The time between the issue of a BONFIRE and the time to begin writing another one seems to become increasingly shorter. Life sometimes seems like just one Monthly Report and BONFIRE after another, with no time in between to do anything to put into either. But still we struggle bravely on. "Ol' Onward and Upward Evans", they calls me. Hah!

While the words may sound unkind, they are not meant that way, when I report that we have weeded out some more deadwood from our Organizational Structure. As we go along, we find certain ones have lost their interest, or are no longer willing to do the work which they were appointed to do, and so have to be replaced. Not that one can particularly blame them, after all the vicissitudes which the NFFF has met. But the organization must be made up of active, earnest workers, if it is to succeed at all. And from the magnificent letters of encouragement that have come in, we know that there are a lot of such active willing workers just waiting for a chance to do something for the good of Fandom in particular.

So we have replaced two of the Committee chairmen. All such appointees of the President are merely an extension of his own arms, as they are not elected, but are subject to the President's directives; are answerable to him, and are always appointed on a "produce or else ..." basis. But in keeping with my usual policy, I have always asked the Directors and other Officers to approve such appointments.

Thus, Norman Stanley is now in charge of the Planning Committee and Kenneth Krueger is his first assistant. These two young members are full of ideas, and we should get a lot of good material from the Plancom under their direction. But we still must depend upon all of you other members for any ideas and suggestions you may have, to let us know what you want United Fandom to do for you. So send your ideas and suggestions either to them or to me. They will receive the most thankful and careful consideration, I assure you.

The second change finds Miss Mari Both Wheeler in charge of the Welcoming Committee. Fanne Wheeler has a delightful knack of writing letters that interest the reader; does all her writing in long-hand, as is an indefatigable correspondent. Best of all, she has enthusiasm. Her address:

Mari Both Wheeler,
620 No. Main St., Apt. #3,
Bloomington, Illinois.

We have been having a little difficulty getting printer's estimates for the Welcom Pamphlet, but hope to have it out very soon. We have some really fine material for inclusion in it, that will be of inestimable value to the Welcom committee in their work, as well as of great interest to those who read it.

Was your address wrong on the June BONFIRE? We found quite a few that were, and are correcting out lists as quickly as possible. We plan to reprint the corrected list in the August issue, together with all the new members that have been coming in. If you were one of our former members, who has not yet paid up his 1944 dues, your name will be among the missing if we don't receive them pronto. We know the usual dilatoriness of Fans, and we make allowance for that fact. But we have issued three "last warnings", and that certainly should be enough. Or did you think we were kidding all along? You'll find out!

In another place you will find a suggestion made by Harry Warner. We think it admirable. Study it carefully, and if you are at all interested, write Harry offering your services, and any further ideas and suggestions you may have. Additional information to what Harry first wrote, that is contained in the item, has been furnished by Frankie Robinson, who is also thoroughly interested in it.

I have received some very fine letters offering the services of the writers in the various jobs of which I spoke last issue. But I still need a few more volunteers to put out an issue of BONFIRE. Please get your bids in early. To those who have written, the sincere thanks of myself personally, as well as officially.

I hope you are keeping in mind the various projects mentioned from time to time, and that you are writing to those who are to be in charge of the work, offering your advice and suggestions, assistance. It is, naturally, by working together that we shall attain the best results in all these things which are designed to be of as much benefit as possible to the greatest number, if not all, of our United Fandom.

The new Letterheads and Envelops are at hand. Send your requests to me. 25 are free to each member, and extras are available at 1¢ each sheet and 1¢ each envelope over the 25.

Latest Treasury report shows approximately \$75.00 available!!!

Respectfully submitted:

E. Bennett Evans

President, N. F. F. F.

USING MICRO-PHOTOGRAPHY IN PRESERVING STF. TREASURES.

This suggestion, made by Harry Warner, seems worthy of considerable thought and final action. Frank Robinson has also spent a bit of thought on the same matter, and he will, as he said, be glad to work with Warner in making the plans for putting it into work.

Briefly, the idea is to preserve copies of original pictures, of old and rare fanzines, of certain extremely rare pro mags or even books, so that they will not be lost to posterity. Taken in connection with the oft-discussed plans of a Scienti-Fantasy Museum, it is a splendid project, worthy of much time, work and financial investment. Harry wrote:

"I've gone into the subject in an article to appear in CENTAURI, and point out that already at least one piece of Stf. -- a novel by Garrett P. Serviss -- is apparently irretrievably lost, simply because the files of the newspaper in which it appeared were burned. As the years pass, other rare stuff is going to go the same way, to say nothing of the extreme rarity of early fanzines. Then there are unpublished manuscripts which ought to be made available to all fandom, as for instance the large quantity of stuff Merritt must have left, which probably couldn't be obtained from the literary executives in any other manner. Several NFFF members know quite a bit about photography; and as far as I know, the project shouldn't cost any great sums of money to get under way. If possible, duplicate rolls of film could be made -- one for storage in a permanent place, for reference's sake, the other to circulate to those wishing to borrow it. This could very well turn into a real membership participation project, some aid from quite a number of sources would be needed to put it over -- advisory help, someone to obtain the material for microfilming, someone to act as librarian, another to do the actual work ((several others, I would say in different parts of the country.--BEE)), and so forth."

Talking about this with Robinson on one of his visits at Slan Shack, he says he has found that the work could be done, not only with regular microfilm outfits, but with small movie cameras, using one frame at a time, or with any camera or kodak taking small pictures. As for projectors to view them after they have been photographed, there are (or were before the war, and will be later again) several quite cheap but good projectors on the market, and one can even make his own with little difficulty and expense.

When it comes to making the photographs, if one does it without the regular microfilm outfits, a good way to get a clear picture is to mount it on black cardboard, have plenty of strong light shining on the article to be photos, without shadows.

All of you who are interested in any phase of the problem, are urged to write to Harry and list what you will do to help in the project. His address:

Harry Warner, Jr.,
303 Bryan Place,
Hagerstown, Maryland.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION:

Reflecting on the good that could be done by accepting and putting into practice Warner's idea of micro-filming our many fan treasures, it occurred to me that it would also be a very good idea if each and every fan were to make a short recording of his voice, in a prepared statement about himself, his fan activities to date, and similar data, so that we could have these saved for posterity in our Fan Museum.

We have already lost quite a few of our former good Fans by death, or by their having lost interest in Fandom. Naturally we shall lose many more in the same ways as time goes on. Yet their memory and their doings in Fandom will remain, in the fanzines they may have published, or to which they've contributed articles, stories, poems or drawings; their fame in organizational work and the like will be with us long after they themselves are no more a part of our Fan World. 'Tis a pity not to have a more personal memento of them left in our permanent records.

The Recording makes such a perfect way to do this. Quite a number of Fans have such recorders, and almost every city has a place where recordings can be made for a very small sum. Your President suggests, therefore, that Fans have made such a recording, and I am going to suggest that the LASFS people take charge of these so made, and that they be custodians of these priceless recordings.

So if you can, make one as soon as possible, and send it to them either at P. O. Box 6475 Metro Station, Los Angeles or to the LASFS Clubroom, 637 1/2 South Bixel Str., Los Angeles.

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