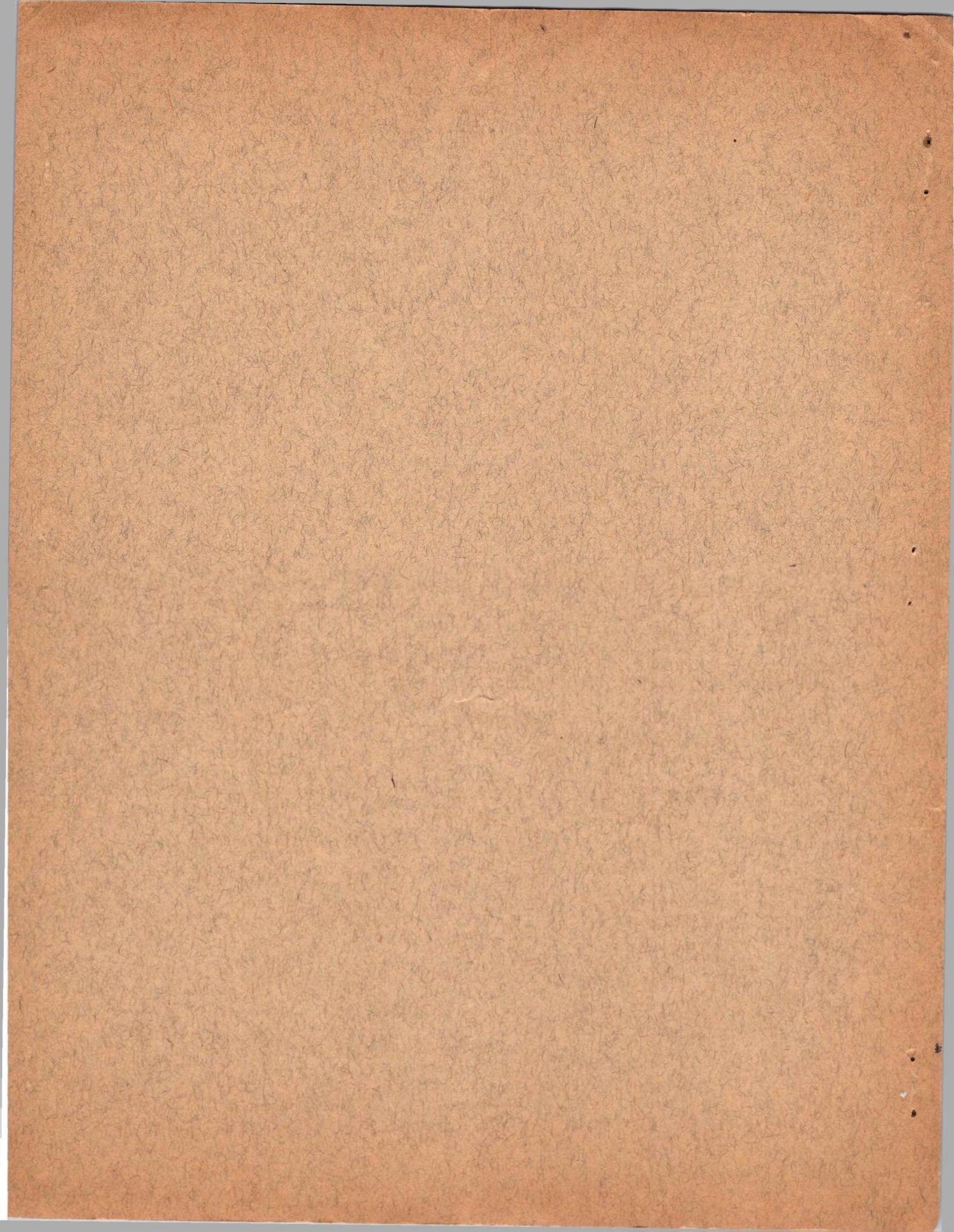


**The
National
Fantasy
Fan**

Successor to "BONFIRE"



THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN, (formerly "BONFIRE" is the Official Organ of the N. F. F. F., and is published monthly by the Federation, on or about the 15th of each month. Free to all members; this issue is

VOLUME IV

JANUARY, 1945

NUMBER 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of December was not productive of much actual results that show up concretely, although there was a great deal under way that will come up very soon. Not that they are secrets, but that we think you will enjoy them more when we can make definite announcements, is the reason they are not being detailed here.

Too, there were the Holidays, and your Officers, like everyone else, like to take time out for their Christmas and New Years' fun, and felt that no one of you would begrudge them a little holiday of their own.

Your President has been spending a number of days recently going through his back correspondence, and picking out ideas and suggestions that have been made previously, but not acted upon because the time was not ripe when they were made. Quite a number of these have already been started, and will be bearing fruit very shortly.

Then besides, here is one directed at all our artists. We feel the need of some sort of an emblem for the Federation. We would like to have all of you submit your ideas in the form of a drawing ready for making a cut. That means black ink on white. Use your imagination; produce your own idea of a design. They will be judged, and the best accepted for our official use.

Second, it has been suggested that we have a Fanzine Review section in The National Fantasy Fan. Would like volunteers to handle such a department. If you would like the job, please consider one very important point before you do volunteer -- we want to make it permanent if we undertake it at all. Are you sure you have the time to do it regularly? Will you make the deadline each month?

Third, we want a lot of suggestions about the necessary details of publishing a "Who's Who of Fandom". This we hope to make one of our really fine projects in the very near future, and we feel that we should have all the ideas regarding it that you have to offer. So please send them in -- remember, this will be something for all of you, and we want it to please all of you.

Fourth, Harry Warner last issue suggested that we institute a project such as the British boys already have. That is, a Chainzine of longer stories by fan writers. We are pleased to announce that Charles R. Tanner, of "Tumithak" fame, and one of our most ardent members, has consented to take the Editorship of this 'zine.

We need volunteers for typing -- if you have an Elite machine and can do 10 to 30 pages each issue, about every two months, please let me know at once. Also, you authors who have longer stories, of

from 5,000 words up, which you consider good enough for perusal yet are too long for the regular fanzine use, get them out and have them ready to send in when the call goes forth.

Incidentally, please write in and suggest a name for this Chain magazine. Do NOT suggest "Beyond"; that is the name the English boys are using for theirs.

Fifth, there have been a number of suggestions that we should publish some sort of an advertising medium for members who have fan stuff they wish to sell, swap, buy and so on. We need your comments on whether such a magazine is really needed; and lots of ideas on how to handle the financial end of it -- should we charge for the space used in your ads and give the mag away; or give the space free and charge for the mag; or what? Croutch suggests that if we do decide to have such a medium, we call it the FAN ADVERTISER. Comments are desired.

Sixth, there have been several suggestions that we have a Manuscript Bureau, to which authors, poets and artists could send material not otherwise designed for some specific magazine, and that editors desiring material could draw from this pool, as well as sending in things they think are good but cannot themselves use. This is particularly desired by some of our Servifen who want to keep on doing things when they have time, but are not directly in touch with enough editors to handle their entire output. Comments and suggestions, please.

Croutch, the indefatigable suggester, thinks we should make an effort to get discs cut by the professional authors, artists and editors, on subjects related to their crafts, to add to our collection of fan voices. We have one marvellous start in that direction -- in the discs of the Heinlein speech which Daugherty cut at the Donvention.

By the way, have YOU cut a disc with a short bio. of yourself and your fan history, and sent it to Los Angeles, where the library of these recordings is being kept? We want everyone's voice recorded for the Fan Archives. If you haven't a place in your own city, try to remember to cut one when you go to some other city where such equipment is available.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM VICE PRESIDENT TUCKER: The 1943 - 1944 Book List (Walter Liebscher is compiling it), will be offered as an NFFF Pamphlet, free to all members, and will be out soon. It will be a listing of Books published in those years, of a Fantasy, a Science Fiction or a Weird nature; with a short synopsis of each.

Don't forget to write often, letters of suggestions, criticism, or praise. The first we must have if we are to grow into the sort of organization YOU want it to be; the second we can take; the third -- well, after all, we are only human.

Love, as always,

Evans

President, the N. F. F. F.

T H E 1 9 4 4 N F F F A W A R D S

Well realizing the mess made last year by the tardiness of the voting for the Annual Awards, we are holding them early this year while the answers to the various questions are still fresh in your minds. Incidentally, in order to avoid conflicting with F. A. P. A. we are calling them the "N. F. F. F. AWARDS" rather than "Laureate" Awards.

Officers and Directors were recently asked to list those awards they considered should be listed for voting this year and from their suggestions Vice President Tucker has made the following selection:

Best Fiction Author, Best Non-Fiction Author; Best Poet; Best Artist; Best Fanzine; Best Newsy; Fan Of The Year. In addition, keep the following in mind, for a Mid-Year vote: Best Fanzine Technically; Best Story; Best Article; Best Poem; Best Humor; Best Picture.

Remember, please!! These awards are to be made for activities during the year 1944 only. Please try to make sure that the one for whom you vote actually performed that activity during 1944, and not previously. Some Fan, some magazine, some artist, etc., may hold an all-time place in your mind as the best in that line -- DID that fan or mag or artist or author do the best of such classifications LAST YEAR? You may think FANFLICKER the greatest fanzine ever produced. Did it print ANY issues in 1944? You may think that Joe Si Phann is the grandest fan who ever lived. Did he do anything to uphold that reputation in 1944? Or did Finch McGlinch far over-shadow him with his 1944 activities? Let's make this voting as correct as possible!

The postcard ballots will be addressed to Dale Tarr, whom I am appointing Chief Teller. Associated with him will be Jay Chidsey and John Anderson. These boys, while living in the same section, are not in the same city, so it will probably take an extra month before the results are tabulated and can be printed. But the Fan groups in any one city have been used so many times that we feel it only fair that these isolated Fan have a chance to do something.

Please fill out and mail your ballot at once. Deadline, in any case, will be the last mail delivered to Tarr on March 1st, 1945. We put it that far off so our Servifen will have a chance to have their ballots counted for once. However, please do not wait until the final day before mailing in your own ballot.

Winners of the 1943 Awards will each receive a quire of stencils. The Treasurer has already been authorized to purchase and send out these Award prizes. For the 1944 Awards, we are planning something different, which will be announced later.

Just one special mention: in voting for the Fan Of The Year, it is our desire to honor that Fan who did the most for all Fandom; who was the most newsworthy; stimulated the most interest, whether for a good or bad reason -- in 1944. This is not a vote for the Number 1 Fan -- some one may not have done much last year and still be your choice for the No. 1 Face. But we want to know the Fan who did the most for Fandom during 1944!

VOTE NOW DROP YOUR READING AND FILL OUT THE BALLOT MAIL IT NOW NOW!!

CURRENT ACTIVITIES CORNER.

1. THE FANZINE PUBLISHERS' MANUAL. Four of the six chapters have been completed and edited. We are publishing in this issue the Introductory Chapter, and shall print one each issue until they have all been run. Comments and criticisms of additions or deletions you think necessary will be welcomed.
2. One Servifan has taken advantage of our services, and has been supplied with a list of fen in the neighborhood of his camp. We hope others will write us for a similar list when moving to a new camp.
3. Have you sent changes of address, or the names and addresses of new fen you know, to Walt Daugherty for inclusion in his new Fan Directory, and the permanent Fan Registry files? If not, please do so at once, and be sure and include the zone number if your city uses them; also state whether "Street", "Avenue", "Drive", or what is it?
4. 1945 dues are now due and payable. (How did that get in here?)
5. The committees are working on more listings of Films and Recordings of a Fantasy or Science Fiction nature, and these lists will be published herein as fast as completed.

* * * * *

In a letter from Walt Daugherty, he has this to say about the new Directory:

"I doubt very seriously if the 1945 fandirectory will come into being before the middle of the year. Address changes are coming in so fast that it almost makes the project impractical. By that I mean that by the time I can put out a correction bulletin on an issue, the corrections are 80% off. . . . But a promise is a promise, and 1945 shall see another addition.

"I still have about 75 copies of the present directory on hand, and I would appreciate it if you would mention in the next issue, so that any who have not received theirs may have one post haste merely by dropping me a postal card."

We know there are some who have not yet received one, so drop a card to Walter J. Daugherty, 1305 W. Ingraham, Los Angeles, 14.

* * * * *

Also, a card from the Vice President.

"President, Dear:

It pleases me no end to hear that the name of our fiery house organ has been officially changed to The National Fantasy Fan. Now may I suggest that we carefully keep our eyes and ears open, so that we may with alacrity run out of fandom the first fan who tacks some ignoble nickname onto it, something dingy like Phanny II, or Phan-Pap.

Your Effervescent Vice President,

(Signed) BOB TUCKER.

WELCOM REORGANIZED

To promote efficiency, to absolutely minimize the cost to the individual, and to spread the jobs around more fully among the membership the Welcoming Committee is being reorganized along these lines:

(1) Each member of the committee is being assigned one prozine as his field of work. There are to be as many members as prozines. The committeeman will be soley responsible for contacting each and every new name appearing in the letter section of his prozine.

(2) Application blanks and Introductory Booklets will be furnished by the WelCom Chirman, who at the present time is Bob Tucker, succeeding Mari Beth Wheeler. The committee member is charged with the safe-keeping of the booklets.

(3) A booklet and application blank is to be sent to each new name appearing in the prozine. He may, or may not, as he chooses, also write the newcomer a letter. Booklets may be mailed by first class mail for 6¢, or by third class mail for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

(4) The committee member is to keep an accurate record of the people contacted, and on the first of each month submit their names to the Chirman, so that the Chairman may stencil the combined records for the forthcoming issue of the Fan.

(5) The committee member is to check the membership list printed in the year-end issue, to check all further lists, and to watch the hektographed report sheets published by the President each month, so that he will not erroneously send booklets to those who have already joined.

The cost of sending these booklets is small, often there are but one or two new names appearing in a single issue of a magazine. At other times there may be a dozen or more. Inasmuch as all the present officers are defraying their own expenses (so that the treasury balance may be used for publishing expenses), the committee members are asked to pay for the mailing of the booklets themselves. However, if this practice should prove to be a hardship upon any member, he is to submit his bill to the Chirman on the first of the month, and the money will be refunded him.

- Bob Tucker

WelCom Report

The following have received booklets in December and January:

L. Dorzback, New York City
Calvin Jack Witt, Los Angeles
G.L. Kendter, Bristol, Penna.
George Wheeler, Casper, Wyoming
James L. Cribelar, Indianapolis, Indiana
Marie M. Calleta, Hammonton, New Jersey
Marjorie Bruno, Los Angeles, Cal.
Pearl L. Moon, Fort Myers, Fla.

Mrs. Elsie Pearce, Clearwater, Cal.
Norman Davis, Martin, Tennessee
Sam Sackett, Redlands, Cal.
George A. Foster, Stoughton, Mass.
Beatrice H. Allison, Lockport, New York
David I. Segal, Laurelton, Long Island
P.M. Stone, Waltham, Mass.
Mrs. Hal R. White, Wasco, Oregon
Henry Hirsch, Staten Island, N.Y.
John B. Platts, Wallace, Idaho
James Alburger, Hollywood, Cal.
Lt. Richard Godfrey, Lakeland, Fla.
Joan McKinney, Mission, Texas
Joe Kennedy, Denver, Colorado
Peggy McIntyre, South Minneapolis, Minn.
C.R. McClellan, Baltimore, Maryland
Hugo Hanser, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Albert Yeager, Jr., Durham, N.H.
William Rose Benet, New York City
Wilma Tolley, Bloomington, Ill.

And thank you for the co-operation during my short term as Chairman of the Welcoming Committee. My resignation, and the reasons, have undoubtedly been mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

- Mari Beth Wheeler

Committee Members Wanted !

The new Chairman is faced with the prospect of lining up seven committeemen in a hurry. Volunteers are asked for. If you are interested in the job, as briefly outlined on the preceding page, write at once.

State which magazines you take regularly, which ones you can be counted upon to cover every issue. Also, state which you would prefer to have assigned to you.

Mind you, I can't promise to assign you the one you prefer, because someone else may only buy one or two, in which case he would have to cover one of those, while you who buys them all would have to cover another one. I'll try to assign as many preferences as possible.

I need seven committee members; one each for: Astounding, Weird, Famous Fantastic, Startling, Thrilling Wonder, Amazing and Fantastic Adventures. If you know of another magazine where fantasy fans crop up unexpectedly, send it's name along.

Gents, are there seven gamblers in the audience who are itching to throw their money away?

Bob Tucker, P.O. Box 260
Bloomington, Ill.

I_N_T_R_O_D_U_C_T_I_O_N_.

Prepared by

ART WIDNER, Massachusetts

Fanzine publishing is the dominant phase of fan activity. Almost without exception, every fan who has had any real interest whatsoever in Fandom has tried his hand at this fascinating facet of our hobby.

The editing and publishing of a fanzine, in my opinion, is an unsurpassed outlet for the expression of creative energy and ability. To do it well requires intelligence, craftsmanship, self-criticism, and cultural sense. Not only that, but it develops these qualities to a better than average degree. Learning to gather material, to choose the best, to produce a pleasing format, and to weld them together into an harmonious entity is an education in itself.

If you have heard of the NAPA, or other amateur publishing efforts, please don't judge fanzines in reference to those mundane hobbyists. We are not bound by musty traditions and prejudices. Unlike our venerable predecessors, (whose only aim was skill with the printing press), who considered "Mary Had a Little Lamb", printed on fancy paper in several colors, superior to an earnest essay or thoughtful bit of fiction by some youngster laboring with a cheap mimeograph -- we go for the latter.

This does not condone sloppiness, however. Although King Mimeo reigns supreme in fandom, it isn't hard to turn out neat, legible efforts, and in some cases fan who have a way with machines have turned out marvellous productions that make many a printed affair I have seen look sick.

At the present time, there are two main types of fanzines. The subscription type, or subzine, and the gratis type, or fapazine, so-called because their editors belong to that organization known as fapa, the Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

The subzine is generally the more elaborate of the two, and to offset the added expense the editor charges a modest price, usually from five to fifteen cents, depending on the size and frequency of appearance. Subzines are mostly of the "general" type, featuring diverse articles, fiction, poetry, humor, etc. pertinent to stf or fantasy. Often material is solicited from some of the more good-natured pro authors. It has become a tradition for subzines to get out a "supercolossal" issue on each anniversary, with the added cost being met by good will or "booster" ads from fan and pros congratulating the editor on the event, and wishing him another year of success.

A fapazine is a much more informal and personalized affair. In most cases, the editor also writes a good bit of his material. The contents are less likely to be directly concerned with stf or fantasy as such, but with concepts deriving from the reading of them, and more closely connected with reality. Such as discussions of whether various socialistic or utopian cultures described in stories could

be put into effect in the next few generations, and if they would be practical if they were put into effect. Fapazines are sent, quarterly, to an official editor, who sorts them out and puts one copy of each into large envelopes, and mails one to each member. Dues are \$1.00 a year, and each mailing contains 40 to 50 papers. For 25¢ a fapa mailing is the biggest hunk of intellectual exercise and entertainment you can get anywhere. I forgot who said it, but the statement that it is a huge bull session in print, is a very apt description.

There are also notable specializations and off-trail projects in both major types, such as The Acolyte which concentrates on discussions of the Lovecraft type of weird fiction; Paradox, which specializes in time-travel; Sappho, which features nothing but poetry; The Fancyclopedia; The Check-List; the Year-Book; various indices; Who's Whos, etc.

All this sounds like a lot of work. It is. It is also a lot of fun. But is it worthwhile? you may ask. The answer is an emphatic YES! The possibilities for creative expression, expansion of the individual personality, stimulation of thought, progress toward an objective, stable outlook on reality, for good fellow-ship, and the exhilaration that comes from contacting "people who speak your own language", are, to my belief, unequalled by any other hobby.

So if you have ideas you've been wanting to express to a receptive audience, and printers' ink in your veins, welcome to our fraternity, and -- may I see a copy of your first issue?

NOTE: Above is the Introductory Chapter to the Fanzine Publishers' Manual. If you have any criticisms, additions or deletions to suggest, please write them in at once. Another chapter next month.

We announce with regret the loss of our present Welcom Chairman, Mari Beth Wheeler, who has recently joined the SPARS. However, Vice President Tucker is taking on this added work, so we know that it will be well handled. Good luck to you, Mari Beth!

Reading the stencils sent me by VPTucker regarding the Welcom and the need of volunteers, I note that the name of Planet magazine was not included. Not having time to ask him if this was intentional or an oversight, I merely note it here that if anyone wishes especially to volunteer for that magazine he should do so, and Tucker can then explain if he does not wish a member for that particular field.--EEE.

Treasurer Dunkelberger reports about \$38.00 in the Treasury the middle of the month. It's probably more by now. Is YOURS in there?

FANTASY FILMS FOR HOME USE

16mm
sound movies

Continuing the list of films offered for rent in the (free) catalog of the Ideal Pictures Corp., 28 east 8th St., Chicago, 5, Ill. This is not an advertisement, incidentally. The descriptive blurbs below are as given in the catalog. The price mentioned is the rental price.

THE INVISIBLE MAN RETURNS (Vincent Price, Nan Grey). One of the sequels to the original Invisible Man picture. (\$ 17.50)

THE WOLF MAN (Lon Chaney, Claude Rains) The original Universal Wolf Man picture, strictly in the horror groove. (\$ 17.50)

FLESH AND FANTASY (Charles Boyer, Barbara Stanwyck). "A strong sense of irony and a touch of the macabre" This is listed as not available to individuals, apparently meaning organizations only. No price listed.

THE APE (Boris Karloff) "By day he labors for humanity, by night his hobby is death." (\$ 12.50)

THE APE MAN (Bela Lugosi, Wallace Ford). This is described as the weirdest tale of the year; take that with a dash of salt. If you follow the horror movies you remember this. (\$ 15.00)

HIS MAJESTY, BUNKER BEAN (Owen Moore) (Note: this is a silent picture). "This classic depicts the reincarnation of a timid clerk who re-lives his life as Napoleon and King Tut." (\$ 3.00 per day).

INVISIBLE AGENT (Jon Hall, Ilona Massey) "A... picture which could be called 'The Invisible Commando' because ... he invades the inner chambers of the enemy high command..." (\$ 17.50)

CITY OF LOST MEN (Gabby Hayes, Bill Boyd) It says "A mystery that out-monsters Frankenstein" but we suspect it is a western. (12.50)

DEAD MEN WALK (George Zucco, Mary Carlisle) "A human devil comes from the tombs to strike down his victims." (\$ 12.50)

DEATH FROM A DISTANCE (Russell Hopton, Lola Lane) "A strange... death ray brought sudden death to a great astronomer." (\$ 7.50)

THE KILLER BATS (Bela Lugosi, Suzanne Kaaren) "Flying monsters swoop out of the blackness of night to wreak havoc among the innocent." (We saw this one--straight vampire story, but corny). (\$ 12.50)

- Science Short subjects, silent only. 75¢ per reel.

Evolution of the Universe (1 reel)
Einstein's Theory (2 reels)
The Milky Way (1 reel)
A Trip to the Planets (1 reel)
The Earth (2 reels)
The Cosmic Drama (3 reels)

still more coming up,
Karl Plakney

THE NATIONAL

FANTASY FAN

Official Organ

of the

NATIONAL FANTASY

FAN FEDERATION



POSTMASTER:

Return Postage Guaranteed

From:

25 Poplar Street,
Battle Creek, Michigan

To:

Art Sales,
628 So. Bixel,
Los Angeles, 14,
Calif.

(Please notify us of all
changes of address.)