

Virtual Tucker Hotel



WE BID YOU SOUTH
TO
AMERICA'S MOST INTERESTING CITY
THE NOLA CON
IN 1950

Issue Six

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>

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VTH is primarily an electronic fanzine, available on <http://www.efanzines.com>. Paper copies of this fanzine do exist, however, and will be available for the fannish usual. In any case, e-mails and letters of comment are, of course, welcome.

Thanks to: Bill Mills ("FanLounge"), without whom The Virtual Fan Lounge wouldn't exist. Also to Dean Sweatman for 'pinch hitting' for Curt Phillips on the Southern Fandom Classic chat last weekend – at very short notice indeed!

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 273. Today is Thursday 29th May, 2008.

Way Down South

After their first trial chat session (as reported last time), the Southern Fandom Classic group agreed to set up a regular event on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. This meant their next session was last Saturday. A summary of the chat-room transcript for this sessions is further on in this issue.

Joining the Party

To use the chat-room, just go to <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>. On the left hand side of the page is the live video feed – replaced by a slide show when there isn't anything happening. On the right is the actual chat-room. You can see what everyone else is typing in the top window, and add your own contribution in the smaller box at the bottom.

You will be assigned an initial user name in the format "ustreamer-12345." If you'd rather change this – to your real name, livejournal name, or whatever – you can do this by clicking the "Sign Up" link at the top to register for free. Some people have been slightly put off by the amount of information that the registration form asks for, which I can empathise with. But registration is entirely optional – you can simply stay as "ustreamer-12345" if you prefer.

Who are Southern Fandom Classic?

Dean Sweatman writes with the following explanation of "Southern Fandom - Classic, the Confederation and In General - expanded from comments I posted on the Virtual Fan Lounge and not meant as a in depth exploration of Southern Fandom. This will be littered with The Way I Remember Things rather than

History or Facts...

Southern Fandom Classic is a Yahoo Groups list-serv started in December 2003 by Curt Phillips currently with 75 semi-active Members. It can be found at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthernFandomClassic/?yguid=78444571>

The main porpoise of the group is to let a bunch of '60s era fen communicate with each other. Other Yahoo Groups like TruFen and MemoryHole (now Fmzfen) both formed in January 1999 after one-too-many conflicts on the TimeBinders List-serv. But Memory Hole was devoted to the Fanzine side of the issue with Trufen for discussion of the larger aspects of our interests. Curt was trying to lure some of the old time Southern fen out of semi-Gafia and back into the mainstream - if not into the electron stream.

The Southern Fandom Confederation is an organization formed in the late '60s. First being proposed by Irvin Koch at the New Orleans, LA. hosted Deep South Con # 6 1968 and discussed during the year and approved at the Knoxville, TN DSC # 7 1969. Much of Southern Fandom's and the Organization's history can be found at

<http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hb.html>

and their current web site is at

<http://www.smithuel.net/sfc/frameset/home.htm>

There is no official connection between the Yahoo Group and the SFConfederation though many of the SFClassic members have been involved with the organization at one time or another.

Continuing into the past we wind up in the 1940s and reverse course:

Harry Warner, Jr. in 1986 wrote about The Columbia Camp, a Fannish enclave from Columbia, SC. "The most lasting evidence left behind by the Columbia Camp was The Southern Star, which published five thick issues in the early 1940s. Other Southerners like Art Sehnert of Memphis were editorial assistants and the emphasis was on Southerners for contributions of material. There's no need to smile indulgently while re-reading its issues today; many of the articles are still useful for the information they convey or entertaining for the high humor with which they're written. Joe Gilbert probably did more than anyone in Columbia to create this fanzine. Harry Jenkins published a couple issues of Fanart, which must have been either the first or one of the first of the good-sized fanzines devoted to drawing for fanzines. Two or three of the Columbia fans became active as FAPA publishers for a while. They contributed much material to fanzines published elsewhere in the nation. Moreover, the Columbia Camp was the moving force behind creation of the Dixie Fantasy Federation. This was an organization with aims similar to today's Southern Fandom Confederation, although it included a slightly larger area in its definition of the South. The Columbia fans even tracked down that rarity, a female fan who lived near Columbia."

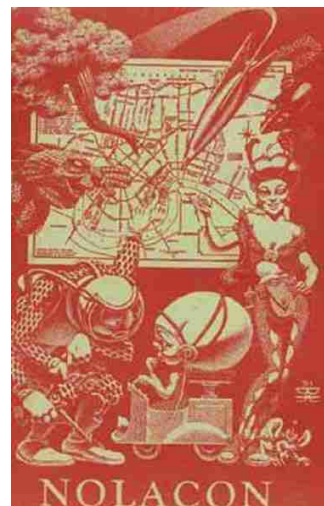
Norm Metcalf adds: "Travelling fan Billy Joe Plott visited Panama City, FL, where he met with Shelby & Susan Vick, rich brown, and myself." In Mimosa 19, published in November 1996 by Nicki & Richard Lynch, Shelby Vick has an article about the first convention in Lynn Haven, FL, in 1948. The "Florida Flames," consisting of Vick, Charles Heisner and Sandy Land (and perhaps others – Vick's memory was hazy on the point), were joined by out-of-towners Joe Green, Joe Christoff, Lin Carter, and some ladies from a local writers club. Christoff procured a copy of the movie *The Shape of Things to Come* and the writer's club ladies provided covered dishes. There was also a costume party. Vick reports that he went on to sell a few paperbacks (not SF), put out a fanzine or six, formed the Willis Fan Fund in 1952, and is now returned to active fandom (and living in Springfield, FL).

In 1977 Meade Frierson III wrote "In 1948-49 in

Ripley TN one Lionel Inman, assisted by a Van Splawn and Wallis Knighton, brought forth a fan mag called *Southern Fandom*. One of its *raison d'etre* was promotion of New Orleans as the site of the world science fiction convention in 1950."



The 1949 Worldcon program book contains an ad from The New Orleans Science Fiction Society bidding the convention come to New Orleans for 1950 (see front cover). They didn't get the 1950 bid but Nola-Con was held at the St Charles Hotel over the Labor day weekend of 1951. Much has been written about room 770 and the meeting of Bob Tucker and Lee Hoffman but the main event was that this was the first worldcon in the DEEP SOUTH and manageable for many southern fen to attend. Coverage both Pre and Post con of the fact that fans lived within visiting distances of each other re-enforced the formation of several fannish enclaves.



The Atlanta Science Fiction Organization was formed and hosted the 1955 AgaCon In Atlanta GA."

Gerald Page adds: "Some clarification and additions if I may. The Atlanta SF Organization was founded in 1950 when Jerry Burge decided to quit sf fandom and ran an ad in *Other Worlds* offering to sell his collection of pulps.

He never sold his pulps and he didn't actually drop out of sf fandom -- though most of his life his connection with it was tenuous at best. What happened was that several local fans, primarily Ian McCauley, Hank Reinhardt, Carson Jacks, Henry Burwell and Walt Guthrie, got in touch with Jerry and with one another and they decided to put together an sf group. (I came along four or five years later.)"

Gerald adds even more about 1950s Atlanta fandom which can be found in the SFClassic message archive as post # 3465 and in the SFC Handbook.

Gerald further adds: "The second one was SECON (Southeastern SF Convention) held in Charlotte the year following Agacon. I think Bob Madle was the chairman of that convention."

A few years later Al Andrews, Dick Ambrose, Larry Montgomery and Bill Plott formed the Southern Fandom Group which started The Southern Fandom Press Alliance (an apa).

Skipping a few year down the road the members of SFPA wanted to meet Face to Face. Thus was born the MidSouthCon (becoming the Deep South Con in it's second year). Huntspatch, AL was the first of this upstart regional and attracted some 5 fans from across the south. Being a Tru Regional it has since been hosted over a range of Southern States except for Texas, Arkansas, Florida, South Carolina, and Virginia but I understand that Dallas is making moves to correct this in Texas's case.

The formation of Southern fandom was as much to foster better quality and quantity zine publications as it was about being like the northern fen and meeting face to face across town/city/state/region. Zines could be passed among ourselves and improved before being sent out to the colder world. Southern Fandom was and is a mindset no mater where the fan is located in geography of expanding the horizons of fandom from the Neofan to the TRUfen.



Video Library

As well as the live events, The Virtual Fan Lounge is beginning to build up a library of recorded material available for viewing. The clips are listed under the main viewscreen – just click to select. We are having a few 'technical problems' with the ustream service – sometimes videos aren't available for some reason. But it's still worth checking them out when it's working. New videos added this week are:

- Video Voyage episode 1 – a higher-quality "version 2" of Bill Mills' first episode.
- Mars Landing – an extract from ustream's coverage of the Phoenix Mars landing.

Art Credits

All photos/scans this time from Dean Sweatman, to whom thanks.

- Front cover: scan of the 1949 bid ad for the first Nolacon.
- Page 3: Shelby Vick, Judith Merril, Walt Leibscher at Nolacon – and the 1951 Nolacon Program Book cover
- Page 4: Shelby Vick at the 1951 Nolacon.

All of these pictures – and many more – are part of a slide show available at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/harry-vincent-investigates-fandom>

Schedule for the next few weeks

The Wasted Hour 2 with Arnie Katz

It's the 5th Saturday of the month, so there's no Vegrants Party. But that won't stop Arnie Katz from bringing us the second instalment of his 30 minute presentations of "The Wasted Hour." Arnie writes "Besides featuring a new musical opening that is more to my taste, there'll be some news, a segment with Teresa Cochran and a bunch of hopefully intelligent and funny banter by Joyce and me."

- Saturday 31st May, 8.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 31st May, 11.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 1st June, 3.00 am UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 1st June, 4.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 1st June, 11.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 1st June, 1.00 pm EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 1st June, 3.00 pm NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

Vegrants Party

The Vegrants in Las Vegas, Nevada meet the first and third Saturdays of the month and invite you to join them here for conversation, music, live web cam feed and possibly the latest of Arnie Katz's 30 minute presentations entitled "The Wasted Hour".

- Saturday 7th June, 8.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 7th June, 11.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 3.00 am UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 4.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 11.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 1.00 pm EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 3.00 pm NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

Southern Fandom Classic chat-room session

Dean Sweatman and other members of the Southern Fandom Classic group will be holding their regular chat session in the Virtual Fan Lounge, and invite other interested fans from around the world to join them.

- Saturday 14th June, 4.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 14th June, 7.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 14th June, 11.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 14th June, 12 midnight BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 15th June, 7.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 15th June, 9.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 15th June, 11.00 am NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

And More?

Other ad-hoc events may be added around this 'core' schedule – see future issues of Virtual Tucker Hotel for more details. And, of course, the chat-room itself is open 24/7.

Southern Fandom Classic, 24th May

DeanSweatman noted that he was having some problems with deleted files, but that he had off-site backups of most of them - "I suspect that I have 99% here and the rest can be found again on Archive.org." Tee thought that sounded interesting - "archive.org? hmmm - will have to investigate such a service, if that is what it is ..."

DeanSweatman explained that the Internet Archive, also known as the Wayback Machine, had "Lots of e-books and audio there - Be careful it is easy to lose yourself in their lists." Tee asked "it's housed in the Presidio? Interesting." DeanSweatman replied "I warned her <g> - hopelessly lost in the stacks." Tee said "oh, wow, I was looking for this: Notes on the settlement and Indian wars of the western parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania from 1763 to 1783, inclusive - Doddridge, Joseph, 1769-1826. /me tears herself away." DeanSweatman read "a bio of Davy Crockett from the 1880's there." Tee replied "it's wondrous. That's what the Internet is for." DeanSweatman replied "Don't get to used to it you know we're still only one EMP away from the Stoneage." Tee agreed - "oh sure, Nightfall and all that ... :-P - if there's a big quake there ... well, we won't think about that." DeanSweatman added "More like ALAS BABYLON - Pat Frank from the late '50s." Or, if you "want really scary Jack Finney's I'm Scared Short Story." Tee had "read a few of Jack Finney's stories. Will have to read more." DeanSweatman discovered "An adaptation of Alas, Babylon was broadcast on April 3, 1960 as the 131st episode of the Playhouse 90 dramatic television series. It starred Don Murray, Burt Reynolds, and Rita Moreno. Now this would be something to see."

DeanSweatman got distracted - "Katie (the dog) like the left over ice." Tee replied "a lot of dogs like to eat ice - it's the funniest thing." DeanSweatman agreed - "My sister had a dog that would look at you then his water bowl and back to you if it didn't have ice in it."

Tee reported that the "wayback machine is fun. I did find the seeing Ear Webpage on it - wonder if my old website is on the wayback machine - oh, what a trip: <http://web.archive.org/web/20010428084742/www.crosswinds.net/~terrisu/> - mostly historical, but not all." DeanSweatman asked "When was

that?" Tee replied "about 2000 - Paul Pena has died since." She added "I could put a website up now ... don't have to use a free service, if such exist anymore," as her cable internet access now came with some inclusive web-space - "10MB, but that would be plenty for text and a few graphics."

CurtPhillips asked "Do the Vegrents meet tonight?" Tee said "no - first and third Sat." CurtPhillips saw that "the schedual lists the SFC chat starting today in about an hour. That's not the time I was expecting. I guuess that Peter and I got our wires crossed somehow. That wasn't what I was expecting, but I've been consumed with work this week..." As it was, it "Turns out that I have to go in to work for a while." He asked DeanSweatman "Can you host it?" Curt was also "Working Monday too when everyone else (but the sick people and accident victems) will be on holiday..." DeanSweatman said "Such is life. Need a Stand in for the pie throwing event do you<g>?" CurtPhillips "had thought that I asked for Saturdays at 7:00 pm EST. So yes, I do indeed need a designated pie catcher. Can you do it?" Tee got ready to "throw a pie at" DeanSweatman replied "Did you doubt that I would? I look good in cream filling - and am a nice round target." CurtPhillips replied "Thanks Dean. Just watch out for the cherry pits..."

DeanSweatman "was trying to set up a mike" but Tee said "it was just going to be a text chat, right? like last week?" DeanSweatman said "I have a borrowed mike so we will see - and have a bulls eye panted on my chest." ShelVy had "Got bad news! Friend of mine is visiting from outta town. Suppsed to be picked up Any Minute Now." He also reported "Got in a new mic -- once I can figger out how to set it up!" SheilaS joined - DeanSweatman explained "Curt got called in You wanna host???" He thought "We might get better attendence if'n it was a sweet young thang hosting." SheilaS replied "Hmm, I'm not sure if I qualify for "young" and I'm not feeling real sweet just now." She explained "I blame it on the kitty---who was under my car hood this morning so I couldn't get to the PO to mail my zine for SFPA. He/she's fine---finally got down. I suppose I'll have to write it up and add a zine when I can mail on Tuesday." DeanSweatman urged "Page

Count Gotta have more Page Count<g>" SheilaS agreed - "Oh, yes, absolutely. Especially since I was under minac this time---I lost the mailing under just befor time to type up comments. Make that I lost the mailing until a few days ago. I had written comments, but hadn't typed them up."

Meanwhile, katster reported "greetings from the fanzine lounge at Baycon. where we are doing fanzine in an hour. So now I have to figure out what to write." FanLounge joined and noted "welllllll.... as Peter has pointed out. there are also probably many fen off at actual cons this weekend and thus it's unlikely that there would have been a big crowd for the virtual lounge today... unless someone had cleverly thought to post the damned url at the cons in hopes of bringing some in from there." He added "I just saw Katsters note FROM the Fan Lounge at Baycon! THAT'S SO KEWL!"

DeanSweatman reported "I have a mike wanna try a connection or not - your choice. keep in mind that I am a tryo and have to have it explained in nursery school baby talk<g>." katster was keen - "Yeah! If you guys have anything to say, I can include it in this article I'm trying to write. ;)" SheilaS suggested "How about memories of Bob Asprin?"

DeanSweatman had "Never met the man sorry to say." FanLounge and DeanSweatman tried to get Dean's microphone working - in the meantime, FanLounge put on some audio of "Ron Bounds singing a song by Robert Aspirin," adding "the video of this performance is available on the Voices on Video pages of TVoF," before realising "wait a min... I can show it!"

Sildan made a brief appearance to "let you know to check your e-mail" as he had sent FanLounge some audio links, including "one from me with the Golden Fifties WAV and the James White/Bob Shaw WAV details in it." FanLounge and DeanSweatman tried setting Dean up as a co-host, and/or using skype, with limited success. DeanSweatman ahd "Just got an e-mail from curt suggesting we" ... "do something for the baycon oneshot." FanLounge thought "That would've been a ggod thing if we could have managed it... I suspect they're already laying it out... it was 'in an hour' right? if so, we chatted through that and it should be winding down to the printing stage wouldn't it? too bad... it would have been a good thing for the site so to speak to be included." DeanSweatman felt "Too little time to have had much input." SheilaS agreed - "Another time, another con, maybe."