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Editorial Matters

I lied last issue when I said it was the biggest ever. This issue, at 74 pages with flyers, is even larger. At that, we will still have lots of material left over — mostly aging lists of catalogs received, other publications received, stories in odd sources, etc. They'll all appear eventually in order to keep our records straight. On the other hand, various moldering photo stories on bookstore signings, etc. will probably be skipped. No matter what size we make *Locus*, there is always material left over.

NEW COLUMNIST

We don't usually mention trainees or list them on the masthead until they survive our 3 months baptism of fire, but Trevin Matlock likes books none of our other reviewers can enjoy — he's still young and uncynical. So he's been pressed into service as another columnist. He gets last pick at the piles of galleys and manuscripts.

STILL MORE HELP WANTED

Whether we want to or not, it seems as if *Locus* is expanding, and Locus Press, our book operation, is growing. We still want to hire one more full-time employee. We need someone who has a good memory, can deal with people, and can live with the constant crisis that surrounds a job that's *always* on deadline. You also should love science fiction, of course.

JAMES TIPTREE, JR.

In 1968, shortly after *Locus* started publication, I received a wildly enthusiastic letter sent from a post office box in Virginia. The writer also asked if I wanted to see a "Star Trek" story he had written. I thought the letter was from a teenager and sent a non-committal reply and a discouraging note about "Star Trek" fiction. The story, of course, was the brilliant "Beam Us Home", and the author was James Tiptree, Jr. The enthusiastic heavy blue postcards kept arriving, as well as one of our earliest lifetime

subscriptions and rafts of gift subscriptions for friends.

In 1977, one of Tiptree's friends gave us the story on who "he" was. It was on the same day we were going to the printer, and I remember the excitement of pasting in a last-minute "scoop." The letters stopped coming, and it was quite a while before they started again and I talked to Alice Sheldon on the phone. She told me, in a matter of fact, even cheerful voice, how she stopped writing, closed up her affairs, and prepared to commit suicide after seeing the story. The basis for social interaction and indeed civilization is that, within margins, we can predict how others will react to what we say and do. I found I was wrong, and I lost my taste for "investigative" reporting. With hindsight, I think maybe Tip's suicide was inevitable, but there's still that niggling thought that maybe the *Locus* story helped set it up.

Ironically, word of her death also came just as we were going to press; this time the mood was one of shock.

James Tiptree, Jr. was the first *Locus* lifetime subscriber to die. I can no longer say that having a lifetime subscription confers immortality, at least of the physical kind.

CORRECTIONS

We managed to lose the editor of *Night Cry* his job even before the magazine was suspended. Alan Rodgers, not Alan Ryan, is the *Night Cry* editor, and he was understandably upset about becoming an unperson so quickly. We're sorry. The chances of *Night Cry* being sold are also receding. It's probably worth more as a tax write-off than as a saleable product.

Owen Whitlock withdrew from the Hugo ballot in the Best Fan Writer category.

The late Patrick Troughton's last *Doctor Who*

(Continued on page 64)