

THE STORY OF THE
SF ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

by Paul Delaney

Before 1975, the city of Victoria suffered from one particular deficiency -- the nonexistence of a science fiction² society. There was the BCSFA on the mainland, but then (like today), Vancouver seemed very remote. It so happened that one one day in early 1975, a small group of Victorian SF enthusiasts conceived the idea of creating a local SF club. (They were playing poker at the time.) And so the word went out to all corners of the city of the impending SF meeting. There were seven in attendance at the first meeting at Stan Hyde's home -- the original poker-playing five, plus two others.

The group was small and decided on a² club name of the Victoria Science Fiction Association. They were an informal group,² banishing Robert's Rules of Order on their third meeting. Led by the effervescent Stan Hyde, as well as Kirk Bullough, the group indulged in a little writing (zines, etc.), but mainly trekked to films, cons, and discussed books. Above all, they had fun.

In 1976, SFAV (new name, same group) planned to hold their own SF convention called "Isle-Con." But although the intentions were sound, the group was too small to succeed on such a venture.

Meetings were held about every two weeks -- the venues being various peoples' homes. But it was only the efforts of a² dedicated few that kept the SFAV together, principally Lynne Fonseca and Linda Thomson.

In early 1978, things began to change. In conjunction with the newly-formed UFCST (United Federation of Canadian Star Trekkers), a membership drive was launched. Articles in the newspaper attracted the attention of the Channel 6 "Barton & Co." interview program. The number of members began to grow. SFAV's activities increased to include more dinners and general outings, parties, and a greater effort at producing a club fanzine (Up the Tube). By December 1978, there were officially twelve SFAVians.

In May 1979, V-Con 8 was attended by eight SFAVians, four of whom carried off the crown of Trivia Quiz champions. In August, a joint mall display was held with the UFCST and shortly afterwards Gary Harper initiated the club's monthly newsletter, From the Ashes. In September, an executive of three people formed to coordinate the club's activities. Party and dinner frequency was still rising and joint gatherings with the UFCST were initiated. Phoenix, the club fanzine, came into existence in December 1979 (and has flown a total of five times to date).

It was 1980, however, that has proved to be the most prosperous for SFAV. A joint benefit in March with the UFCST was held, raising \$100.00 for the local Easter telethon benefit. In April, the Victoria Hobby Show contained a SFAV display. It was at this time that the club became associated with the Queen Alexandra Hospital for Children -- an association most enjoyably maintained ever since. In May, V-Con 9 was attended -- Trivia Quiz runners-up, this time. The month of July yielded yet another successful joint

mall display with the UFCST followed in October by a radio/phone discussion with Michael Coney, Jack Williamson, and Joe Haldeman. By the end of 1980, the SFAV membership had reached thirty, with an active fanzine trading network spanning North America.

And now in 1981 there is Fair-Isle, a one-day mini-con of science fiction and fantasy, organized in cooperation with the University of Victoria Science Fiction Association (UVicSFA). The minicon promises to be one of the SFAV's happiest

and most memorable events. To all those club members past and present, a note of thanks for helping make the SFAV what it is today -- a group of enthusiastic SF fans who enjoy good company and good times together.

[Paul Delaney is a founding member of SFAV, who wrote this piece for Phoenix in 1981. In that year he left to pursue his profession, astronomy, at an observatory in New Mexico.]