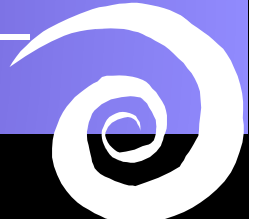


DMSFS PARADOX

WINTER 2005-2006



READ. IMAGINE. THINK.

December 2005, January, February 2006

16th ANNUAL DMSFS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY & SEMI-ANNUAL CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

December 30th 2005 - January 1st 2006

**The home of Les and Jeannette Roth
(The Roth Hotel & Convention Center),
1304 20th St, West Des Moines, Iowa.**

The festivities begin on Friday, December 30th at 7 pm. Please bring snacks and drinks to share. The theme for Friday evening will be our annual pajama party. Please wear your favorite sleep or lounge wear. Saturday evening (New Year's Eve) will be our Overdresser Night. Please come in your party finery as we ring in the New Year. The party will continue until late Sunday evening (or more likely Monday morning for those that have that day off).

If anyone is interested in organizing a meal, we'll be looking for breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday and Sunday. Please contact me at les@trans-iowa.org if you would like to organize one of these meals. If you are not organizing a meal, you're welcome to bring food and drink to share or give cash donations to the cause. Paper and plastic products will be supplied.

As we don't have any movie or TV show marathons planned this year, you're welcome to bring DVDs or tapes to share with others. The hosts reserve the right to decide if a specific video offering is appropriate. Also, please bring card or board games.

If the weather cooperates, there will be sledding.

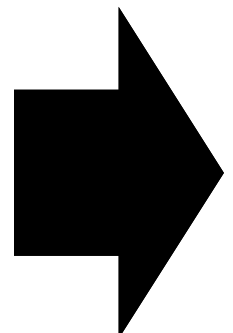
Kids are welcome throughout the weekend, provided that they are accompanied by a responsible adult. Because of the relatively short party, we will not be have a kids-free day. Rowdy kids of all ages will be asked to leave.

Please contact me if you'd like crash space.

By Les Roth

Inside This Issue:

- **Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade Highlights**
- **Mark Your Calendars for SuperCon**
- **On the Horse Show Circuit**
- **And Much More!**



DMSFS Participated in Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade

DMSFS Members cut a fine figure in the Beaverdale Fall Fest parade. With music from Star Wars, Star Trek and assorted SF Movies and TV shows blasting down the street, we made quite an impression! Our members were dressed in various renaissance costumes, as a fairy Godmother, a very tall Dragon, Soldiers of Winter, Cloaked ladies, Elmer Fudd, a Rainbow spider, an Evil Villain made of bones, and Cruella DeVille- complete with Dalmatians. The truck was trimmed out nicely with banners for Costume Con 24 and DemiCon. Greg Abba provided a float which was a 3 dimensional model of the club logo with a real book for the ship's log! We also carried a banner up front with the club name, logo, and web address. The announcers (Kevin and Molly Cooney from TV-8) were wonderful to us and remarked on our costumes and repeated our name and web address for the crowd to hear. All in all, the crowd was quite pleased, as was the Fall Fest organizer - as she rode by us at the end, we were promised a spot closer the front for next year! We were definitely noticed and a good time was had by all!



The DMSFS Beaverdale Parade Unit

Many thanks to book sorters Bill Davis, Jon Mohning, and Josh More. Thanks also to the Parade crew: Max Rauer (driver, graphic designer, and loaner of vehicle) Mel Hrubetz (loaner of trailer) Tammy Mohning (photographer and vehicle assistant) Sheril Harper (nurse and all around gal Friday in alien jacket) Les Roth, (music, sound system and Renaissance Gentleman) Jeannette Roth (Fairy Godmother) Tal Roth (Doctor Bones, evil villain from the Terrific Man Universe), Dani Roth (Rainbow Spider), Marian Webster and Diane Dunlap (Renaissance Ladies), Nikki Fitzgerald and Lindsay Griffey (Cloaked Ladies), Bo3b Harper (the Bi3G Game Hunter), Bob and Marty Cook (Vampire and victim - they brought along SPF 2000 to keep the vampire from burning up in the sun light) and Sarah Macht, with Dusty and Dancer (Cruella and Dogs) .

Thanks also to those who donated books, or sat on the route and cheered us on. Thanks to the DMSFS for supporting this new adventure.

Looks like we will be doing this again next year!

By Rachelle Hrubetz (Elmer Fudd)

And a Thank You From the Parade Organizer

October 2005

Dear Parade Entrant:

On behalf of the Beaverdale Fall Festival Committee, I want to thank you for being an important part of the biggest event of our Festival – the Parade. Whether your entry was large or small, loud or soft, you helped make the parade what it has been referred to for as many years as I can remember – “The World’s Best Parade.” We want to maintain that distinction, so that is why I am sending you this letter.

Next year, the Beaverdale Fall Festival will be the weekend of September 22nd through the 24th. We would appreciate you marking September 23rd on your calendar right now in the hope that you will be able to join us again. With nearly 125 entries this year, I have a feeling that next year will be even bigger and better.

Again, thank you very much for being a part of the Beaverdale Fall Festival Parade. I hope this is an event we will continue to share for many years to come.

Theresa A. Graziano
Chair, Beaverdale Fall Festival
Coordinator, Beaverdale Parade

Mark Your Calendars for SuperCon

SuperCon is a-coming and this episode promises to be a good time again. Scheduled for February 3-5, 2006, in Rochester, MN, this relaxacon is well-known for its Consuite of Exceptional Decadence.

A wonderful time to catch up with others that run conventions throughout the year without being asked to volunteer, SuperCon offers three days without children (or adults that act like children), a chance to catch up with friends after the holidays, a first-rate hot tub and the aforementioned consuite. Although this writer does not know what this year's offerings will be, past temptations have included chocolate in its myriad of forms, smoked foods including oysters, buffalo and cheeses, and one year there was cheesecake representing all seven deadly sins!

SuperCon is held at the All Suites Fifth Avenue Inn in Rochester, and room rates are a modest \$55 a night. The hotel is an easy walk from a downtown that features several restaurants in a variety of price ranges. For those on a budget, refrigerators and microwaves can be found in most rooms. Programming is casual in the extreme and the video room often brings surprises to the fen.

Registration is \$30 for the weekend. For more details visit <http://supercon.info> or simply mail your registration to SuperCon, PO Box 6123, Minnehaha Station, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Brought to you by an experienced conglom including Ishmael Williams, Charles Piehl, Melissa Kaercher, Gregg Parmentier, Anton Petersen, Shaun Kelly, Samantha Thomas, Kevin Austin and 'Becca Armstrong as well as yours truly, SuperCon is a marvelous way to start the year out. Join us!

By Susan Stewart

On the Horse Show Circuit

I am writing this in hopes others will also feel free to write a little about their activities outside DMSFS.

My husband Mike and I raise reining horses on our acreage in St Charles, IA about 20 miles south of Des Moines.

For those of you not familiar with horses, reining is like western dressage. The horses are asked to do a pattern that shows their ability to perform fast spins, show speed control while loping circles, and of course the signature sliding stop. The National Reining Horse Association, (NRHA) is the governing Association for the sport. Many celebrities enjoy the sport of reining including the infamous Bill Shatner, who supports a charity called Ahead With Horses that helps inner city kids. They bus the kids to the NRHA show at the LA Equestrian center and put on a wild west show for them. There have also been reports of Klingons in attendance as well.

This last spring after a 6 year absence from the show ring, we purchased a mare from Oklahoma to show. Pictured are La Gatita Pintada (Gatita) and I making our debut in NRHA competition September 10-11 in Columbia, Mo. We are training with Mark Gratny, Leavenworth, KS.

By Candy Anderson



Our New DMSFS Logo

The picture to the left is our new DMSFS club logo designed by Les Roth. The winning design was chosen by DMSFS members. The logo made its first public appearance at the Beavertdale Fall Festival Parade. This logo will soon be appearing on DMSFS publications, web sites, and clothing.

Thank you to all those submitting logo ideas!

Highlights From the Hindu Temple & Cultural Center Dedication

A new house of worship was consecrated in central Iowa during the first week of June. The Hindu Temple and Cultural Center (HTCC) sits just off the two-lane blacktop of highway 17 near Madrid. The building is un-assuming except for the brilliant whiteness of the carved spire which sports a glowing golden orb.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Maha Kumbhabhishekam (dedication) which was open to the general public. I went late in the afternoon on a weekday and few of the public were actually there. As a matter of fact, there were only five obviously non hindu present at the time, yet we were made to feel very welcome if willing to speak up and converse with the Hindu people in attendance.

My visit began by leaving my shoes at the end of the side walk. I crossed a large concrete patio dotted with fire pits surrounded by silver colored idols. The idols were wrapped in cloth and there were vases filled with apples and grasses. I learned later that these were the Panchaloga Idols. These idols had been cast and finished on site all through the weekend as part of the dedication.

I entered the main door and was taken aback by the unfinished construction. The floor was bare concrete and boxes, wood scraps, and other discards were everywhere. Crates held statues of the Hindu deities. I walked gingerly with my bare feet, anticipating perhaps a nail or sliver of wood but felt none. Seeds and dried flower petals crunched underfoot. The temple area was as incomplete as the vestibule. The flooring had not been installed and many of the shrines lacked statues. I learned later that they had begun installing the deities a mere 20 minutes before, and yet they were nearly halfway done.

People in traditional dress were everywhere. I tried to study the various garments with out being too obvious. Many of the people had cameras to record the event. One woman ran over to her husband excited at the photo she had on her digital screen. He was happy too, yet admonished her that she should be praying instead. They had only one hour to get photographs inside the temple. Once the deities were in place, photos would never again be allowed.

I drifted over to a small knot of people listening to an older gentleman. Someone had cornered a local worshipper and was asking many questions. He was explaining how one side of the temple contained gods of southern India and the other featured the gods of northern India. And that the HTCC had been designed to accommodate every sect as if all branches of any religion had to gather under one roof and worship together. All aspects of Hinduism had been included in this single temple and that is unique.

Although the congregants were happy to answer questions, there was an undercurrent of urgency and excitement. We found out why when we were suddenly herded out the back door and instructed to look skyward. They were installing a golden orb atop the spire and blessings were being offered. Brass drums were beaten and people were chanting and clapping. A man with a video camera was on the roof. He panned across the crowd then focused on the spire. A cheer went up as the spire was placed in its final location and secured with cement. The exterior of the temple was now complete.

Upon returning to the temple interior, I was told that the smashed and broken coconuts scattered about were a type of sacrifice. The coconut represented mankind and the hard shell we all live within. Once we smash the hard shell, we allow our "softness" and true self to be revealed.

The idols themselves were amazing. Northern idols were expertly carved of black granite and had been anointed with colored pollens at key points such as the forehead and palm. Southern idols were carved of alabaster and painted bright colors. The carved surfaces had been burnished to a shine. The alcoves housing the idols were littered with the offerings of coconuts, bananas, flowers and seeds. Oil lamps burned while prayers were offered. Faucets and drains had been built into the alcoves to allow easy washing of the idols, after which the entire cycle of anointing and offering would begin anew.

A group of women in saris relaxed in lawn chairs by the exit, chatting and fanning themselves in the summer heat. They provided me with the official program book of the dedication festival and with introductory pamphlets on Hinduism. I congratulated them on the new temple and was enthusiastically encouraged to visit again some day in the future.

For those who want to read more about the HTCC, their practices and festivals, the web address is <http://www.iowatemple.org>

by Rachelle Hrubetz

Book Review

Less Than Human

by Maxine McArthur

Aspect Science Fiction, October 2004



This is a murder mystery with robots, which in the world of publishing makes it science fiction. The heroine of the story supervises the robotics department at a Japanese company. Being the only person working on a holiday weekend, she is asked to sign off on an industrial accident.

As a westerner who speaks Japanese, Eleanor McGuire is a curiosity to the people she meets. As a no-nonsense engineer, she earns the respect of those people. Assistant Inspector Ishihara of the Osaka Municipal Police is alert to the intensity of McGuire as she puzzles over an improbable software failure in the deadly robot. As a policeman who is near to retirement, Ishihara provides the opportunity for McGuire to explain the technological issues of the case.

In addition to an errant robot, McGuire also must deal with corporate decisions that threaten financing for her nearly completed project and with her Japanese husband's family who resent her for being childless, a foreigner, and a woman. All of these issues are resolved by the novel's end, however.

Maxine McArthur is an Australian who lived in Japan for sixteen years. In 1999, she won the George Turner Prize for Time Future. In Less Than Human, McArthur uses cults, earthquakes, manga, and other broad strokes of Japanese history, geography, and culture to tell her story.

In the novel, McGuire's professional and personal connections pull her deeper into the mystery. Ishihara works the case as part of his job, but his own life experiences give him sympathy for and concern about the safety of the western woman.

Although the story is not complex and key points in the novel do not surprise, it is worth reading as a relaxing break. For people who have never read science fiction, parts of the story will seem surreal. For people who are familiar with several themes of human-computer interfacing, the story will read far more like a mystery adventure.

Review by Rose Field

Meet The DMSFS Member



Candy Anderson

Age: 42

Currently: "I don't know..braindead?"

Turn On: Horses, chocolate, comedy

Turn Off: Telemarketers

Fave Food: Chocolate

Fave Construction Material: Flour

Fave Tool: Hammer

Zodiac: Aries

Shoe Size: 7 ½ - 8

TV Show: I Love Lucy, World's Funniest Animal Videos

Music: Folk, Rock n' Roll, 70's Rock

Politics: "Well, I can't really say. This IS a family publication."

Best Skill: Horses

Fave Author: Whatever I'm reading at the time

Fave Director: Spielberg

Motto: "A good horse is a good horse no matter what the breed or color."

Calendars and Milestones

December 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 DMSFS Meeting	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Third Friday	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31
						WINTER SACC ROTH HOTEL & CON. CENTER

Birthdays

Martin McClure
December 2

Bo3b Harper
December 3

Bill Griffey
December 11

Jon Mohning
December 15

Otto Seller
December 21

Peg Brandt Zea
December 28

Naomi Adams
January 7

Sallie Abba
January 12

Les Roth
January 14

Mitch Thompson
January 19

Sam Abba
February 5

Mark A. Jones
February 8

Thomas Roach
February 10

Alan Guile
February 11

Christina Miller
February 14


Ida Jones
February 22

January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  WINTER SACC	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 DMSFS Meeting	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Third Friday	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 DMSFS Meeting	28
29	30	31				

Calendars and Milestones

February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
					SuperCon Rochester, MN	
5	6	7	8	9	10 DMSFS Meeting	11
SuperCon				CapriCon, Arlington Heights, IL		
12	13	14	15	16	17 Third Friday	18
CapriCon						
19	20	21	22	23	24 DMSFS Meeting	25
26	27	28				

Anniversaries

James & Marion
Webster
December 20

Al Hohrmann &
Diane Dunlap
December 28

Martin & Nancy
Wirsig McClure
December 29

Gene &
Margaret Miller
January 1

DMSFS meetings are held at West Des Moines Community Center 217 5th St.
There is parking and a covered entrance at the rear of the building off of 4th St.

Paradox Time Warping

Highlights From Last Year's Winter 2004-2005 Paradox Included:

- An article with pictures of Mike & Candy Anderson's Halloween party at their home in St Charles, Iowa.
- Pictures of DMSFS members helping Mike & Candy Anderson build new horse corral fences.
- Book review by Mary K. Wilson of The Book of Earth: Volume One of the Dragon Quartet.
- Mandi Arthur's thoughts on the television show "Lost."

Highlights From Winter 2001's Paradox Included:

- Pictures of the award-winning "Galaxy Breast Bra" entry at the Chicago WorldCon.
- A review by Jon Mohning of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" musical performed at the Stoner Theater in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Paradox editor Jeannette Roth hands the editorial reins to Mandi Arthur.

Let's Be Careful Out There

However you observe the holiday season, please make sure to be safe! Be careful driving (especially when the weather is less than ideal), obey the speed laws, and PLEASE don't drink and drive. We would much rather read about you in the Paradox and not the obituary section of the local newspapers.

Happy Holidays!

The Des Moines Science Fiction Society, LTD.
P.O. Box 7572
Des Moines, IA. 50323



How to Reach Us:

If you need to contact the Des Moines Science Fiction Society for any reason, including subscription to this newsletter and submission of newsletter articles or information, you may do so via any of the following methods:

DMSFS meets twice a month at the **West Des Moines Community Center 217 5th St.** There is parking and a covered entrance at the rear of the building off of 4th St. The business meeting begins at 6:30pm and the fun stuff starts at 7:00pm. Around 8:00pm we go out to dinner as a group.

By US Mail:	The Des Moines Science Fiction Society, Ltd. P.O. Box 7572 Des Moines, IA. 50323
By E-mail:	paradoxwrangler@dmsfs.org (Subject: For Paradox)
By Website:	www.dmsfs.org www.demicon.org
By Phone:	(515) 830-1305 (Voice mail checked daily)

Contributors To This Issue: Candy Anderson, Rose Field, Rachelle Hrubetz, Les Roth, Susan Stewart.
Photographs by: Tammy Mohning.
Editorial assistance by Diane Dunlap. Edited by Jon Mohning.

Thank you one and all!

Deadline for Spring 2006 Paradox submissions: February 10, 2006 Articles, reviews, photos, etc., can be e-mailed to paradoxwrangler@dmsfs.org or sent to the DMSFS mailing address mentioned above.