

PREMONITION OF DISASTER

FAPA postmailing of Howard Miller, 1421 W. George St., Banning, Calif.

February 23, 1948

A few of the more ardent newsstand-haunters may have noticed the first issue of a magazine called Fate among the digest-sized publications last week. I remembered seeing a copy of this magazine's cover at Roger Graham's mother's place; curious, I picked it up and thumbed through it. Oahspe, the New Bible, is advertised prominently on the back cover. Occultism runs rampant throughout it; it seems to be a sort of Chicagoan version of a Rosicrucian Digest.

Inside the front cover, an advertisement lists a book entitled "I Remember Lemuria", by Richard S. Shaver. This author is pictured with a cigarette dangling from his mouth, bedecked in an Arabian head-dress. I can't remember the publishing-house name -- only its address, 1617 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. Roger P. Graham's address.

Roger P. Graham is publishing Shaver's works in book form!

When I met Roger P. Graham last January 31st, at his mother's home in Los Angeles and later at Charles Burbee's residence, he dropped hints as to future mentions in his fan column. He mentioned that he was to say in a future edition of this column in a discussion of race prejudice, that the true conclusion was that fandom is the superior race, and that the duty of every citizen was to spread fandom throughout the world.

I need not mention the parallel of Deglerism.

Warning: watch out for REward's "Fandom Speaks" in future months. I noted the emphatic vigor with which Reward defended the assertion of Graham that through drilling holes to the earth's center and measuring them, it had been deduced that the mouth of the Mississippi was ~~six~~ farther from the earth's center than its headwaters. I note the parallel of Ward's editorials to Graham's arguments. For ~~all~~ I know the assertion may be true. I wish to know where the tunnels mentioned were dug and how the measurements were obtained. This I could not find out from Graham.

Hints have been dropped about past dealings with the De Coureys, of which I could find out no real information.

When I first saw FATE magazine I remembered all his hints of things to come and what was to happen. His trying to keep me from joining FAPA by claiming I had not the qualifications. A half minute after he became a member he was trying to boycott me! Of course all this may have been in fun. But the publication of a magazine with such a wide distribution on the stands means that someone has gone to great financial lengths to do something. What? Could it be connected in some way with the CLUB HOUSE? Could someone be in the midst of cooking up a scheme to discredit fandom? Who is it? Is Palmer up to his old tricks? Or is it someone else?

I noted the downfall of Don Wilson, at first an ardent anti Palm-

write. Graham wrote him a letter praising him. From this point on a correspondence of increasing intimacy developed. I need not point the parallel of an expert puppeteer. In my opinion Graham has been floating Wilson down a river with great precision. Farther down this river is a falls. I rather believe that Don has already gone over it. Rick Sneary said that Graham, if he were a lawyer, could with in 15 minutes convince the jury that the judge had confessed. After meeting Graham this seems to be right.

I only saw a few of these letters of Graham's. But I will venture to say that a good many of them were not printable under any form.

You may believe that the fan column was all Don's idea. But this is not so. It was Graham's idea, and he argued Palmer into running it against Palmer's opposition. For what reason has Don been played up as the originator of this idea? Was the whole correspondence with Don Wilson just to make an opening in fandom in this manner so that it would not appear suspicious?

We have no safeguards. Sam Merwin is bound by editorial integrity not to misuse his column. But Graham is not. He has no editorial integrity; he is not an editor. He has nothing to lose. I should warn Palmer that he might keep a careful check on the fan column to assure that he will not be dragged into anything.

Graham tells us this fan column is for us. But how do we know? He has no fan-loyalty; he is bound by nothing to handle this for us. It is his column. He can do anything. He seems to regard it all as a joke; from which he is the one to derive the amusement. He is using fandom for his own personal amusement!

It might be a good idea, fandom, to keep a watch of the Fan column. It might be a good idea to demand that each installment be OK'd by a committee of fans, or if this is impossible to begin making sure that if we are discredited by Graham writing in our name, that we have some outlet of public defense. We don't know what he might do. I leave to your imagination what would happen if he preached Fandom the Star-Begotten SuperRace and said fandom had given him permission to do it. This sounds like all puppetteering. A while back I would have said Palmer. But now I wonder who is the higher puppeteer who can even sway Rap.

Holes to the center of the earth? Bah!

---Howard Miller

FROM
HOWARD MILLER
1421 W. George St.
Banning, California

Printed Matter
Return Postage Guaranteed

(to)
Norm Stanley
43A Broad St
Rockland, Maine

