

Mike Rosenthal

HIGH LEVEL 1

The collector fanmag in fandom

\$5.00 OR EQUIVALENT
per year

"I'LL BE RICH AND ..."

1/24/74

229 Berchemite

Borgerhout

... (now's that for starting properly?) after half
after (at last!) some generalities:

This matter of the incorporation of the WSFS, however, is something I feel very strongly about, as you have ascertained. I have already started the article you requested, and will try to have it done by the first of the year. (Boy, do I work fast). I would like to have seen it in one of these first three issues, since the free circulation of 350 will undoubtedly be more than when you cut down on gratis copies. It is obviously impossible to get the thing done on time for n# 3, however. Now, I honestly feel that the WSFS should be dis-incorporated, and that apathy in fandom could wreck the World Conventions in time. In order to get someone -- anyone -- in fandom, other than those of us who are already worried, thinking about the situation, I would like to get the arguments for dis-incorporation before as large a fan audience as possible. In order to do this, and since the article is apt to take up an extra page or two in the issue in which it appears, it might be better if I lend some additional financial help on that issue. How much is it costing you to put out one of these 400 copy editions now? For the issue containing the incorporation article, we might be able to step up the gratis circulation again. For one thing, everyone on the London membership or mailing list should get a copy. As you can see, so far as helping out with suggestions is concerned, I'm loaded. To continue along this line: - ... Hold it Steve!!!!

Let me interrupt for a moment, seeing some of the above will appear puzzling to some of the CONTACT group. Ellie Mills arrived here from the NY convention with two tapes, one from Cleveland on which Steve and some of the group spoke rather strongly against the incorporation, and most of the talk made sense too. I had come to know Steve earlier on, via Alpha, and as he seemed a keen fansine-collector, thought he might be interested in joining Contact. At the same time I requested him whether he could put the matter of the incorporation of the WSFS on paper for possible publication in Contact, as it seems, the people against the incorporation weren't allowed much of a chance to get a word in at NY. Hence the above. I feel that whichever side one may be on, publication of the reasons against the incorporation should be given publication; if only because now the thing was rushed through without much opinion-taking among fans.

Re the prices: at the present moment, a three-sheet issue of Contact costs, all-inclusive, eight dollars. As this is cheaper than can normally be done, I'm just crossing my fingers that the price will be kept the way it is as long as possible. I suggest that a supplement is used, same as was done with the current issue four on the TAPP-voting system. This supplement was mailed out to all the original mailing list, while the complete copies went to subscribers or people who had promised to subscribe in the near future. I shall contact (see how wonderful a name we have found!) Bobbie Wild, in order to try and get the complete mailing list of the London from her, or else permission to include copies of the supplement in their next general pre-con mailing. OK? Over to Steve again.

To continue along this line:

If, as you suggest, I conducted a regular feature or column on the incorporation question, I would certainly be accused (probably justifiably) of prejudice and discrimination in conducting the thing by the incorporation supporters. This, in turn, would reflect upon CONTACT. If, however, after my initial article, you (I poor me!) conducted such a column, the impartiality would be obvious, and I fail to see how anyone could raise any objection. You could select and edit comments on both sides of the question for publication in

this special column, and then either send the text to me for my specific comments, or let me reply by letter twice a month to the comments that appeared in the previous issue. The first method would have the advantage of keeping comment and answer together, so every one would know what we were talking about, and would also have the benefit of brevity because I wouldn't have to remind the membership of what we were talking about. On the other hand, it would cause a time lag; it would take longer to get the comments published, and it would, perhaps, give me an unfair advantage.

The only thing I have against that column is that I have enough work of my own as it is. This is Jan again of course. It was nice of Steve to think of the effect on CONTACT itself. Thanks. You must all realize first that issues take three/four weeks to reach the greater part of fandom; the US fans, excepting for the airmail subscribers. This means that another two issues have appeared before I get comments!!! Seeing that most of it takes that long, another issue's delay won't hurt, and I suggest that I arrange that the stencils for that column are cut first by myself, with a copy at the back to send you airmail. As long as you aren't gaffiating that week, you should be able to get the answers back to me before mailing out date. I'm afraid however, that the only thing to do is to wait and see. (Theoretically I can get a letter express mail) to Cleveland in 48 hours. Any opinions about this, anyone? Back to Steve...

"Columns like this -- columns of all sorts -- could really make CONTACT, I think. In order to have a really good and complete coverage of the affairs of ~~many~~ active fandom, I would like to see a column like this: The title: 'Global Cleanings', or perhaps, 'The Month in Active Fandom', or something of that sort. As you gradually get in contact with people willing to do the job, one fan in each city that has any sort of fanaticity at all, maybe two in LOS ANGELES or other cities that demand wider coverage, would write in brief reports of everything that happened in their territory in the two week period. Ackerman or E. E. Evans could cover the LASFS in LA and Rick Sneary or Stan Woolston the Outlanders; Dick Ellington, New York with Dave Kyle or someone taking the Hydra Club angle; Moskowitz, Newark; Don Ford, Cincinnati; Ed Wood, Chicago; yourself, Belgium; (\$ you mean I have to report myself?) Willis would report (factually you stay out of this, Goon) Ireland; I could speak for Cleveland; and others could send in news from Washington, Atlanta, Oklahoma City, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Greece, Union of South Africa -- these last three I would be very curious about, having heard nothing of activity in those countries other than scattered reports at one time or another that there were fans there -- Australia, Japan, etc etc. Such complete coverage is a dream, of course, but it would be something to aim at. I, and I think most fans feel the same, always have a sneaking feeling that ~~no~~ matter how much I am in contact with the field, I'm still missing most of what's going on. Mainly, because most of it is never reported at all.

"A typical report would read something like this: The Terrans: The Cleveland Science-Fiction Society met Friday 9 November 1956 at Cudell House for their monthly business meeting. Lousy weather. Only six members ~~unexpressed~~ showed up: Moreson Palasca, Bea Gittery, Jessamine Greer, Steve Schultheis, Gene Pallet, and Ben Jason. No ~~at~~ business of any importance was transacted. Gene Pallet reported that the completion of the Hieronymus Machine was being held up for ~~right~~ want of a right angle drive. Inquired if the club would care to buy him a small metal turning lathe to produce same. Schultheis reported the interesting fact that Hieronymus bears the same name as Hieronymus Karl Friedrich, the Baron Munchhausen. Suggested it might be a coincidence that the world's greatest inventor has the same name

"You could then take these reports, select the most interesting aspects and write them up as a column in consistent style. This would have the advantage I think — over publishing the reports as they would come in — of relieving the correspondents of the necessity of writing polished prose. They could just scribble something out after every meeting and send it off to you very pronto. It would also make every report an over-blown chamber-of-commerce style of report that you might get from some quarters. Of course, there's the question of space. Many fans might not care to be bothered with the project if they weren't going to see their deathless prose in print. As an answer to this, the correspondents reporting in a given column issue would have their names listed at the head of that issue's column or some such arrangement. I think almost everyone would go along with this, especially if they realised that it was going to save them literary labour. Still, especially good or unique reports could be by-lined. I'm thinking especially of Wally Weber's "Minutes" of a Meeting of the Nameless Ones of Seattle in CRY OF THE NAMELESS 97. Wonderful!"

"I don't know. Which would be better, a singly smoothly written column or individual reports? (This is, I guess, more of a discussion than a suggestion.) The first method would have the advantage of consistency and not take up so much space in the line, along with the advantages I mentioned, but it might have the drawback of less speed. Then, too, it would place more work on your shoulders."

Oh, Steve, don't worry about me. I'm only the slave boy. It would be lovely to have all these reports. Any suggestions on how to cram it all on three pages? Now, and this goes for everyone... the idea of complete coverage is of course what we all want, why we all are trying to make CONTACT a success. In this respect, for heaven's sake (and think about me while you're at it) get some correspondents lined up yourselves. You Steve, suggest for instance Ed Wood. I've only heard of him very recently, and he is not even on our mailing list. Now if you had contacted him about the magazine, we might have had a correspondent and a subscriber. Who knows? I was considering Ron Klilik for LA, but he's going in the Marines next year... Anyway, contact whoever you think is fit, wherever they may be. John Hitchcock, de Vlaamsse Welt, how about your Australian penpals? And that schoolteacher, hab, how about Manchester? Or the North up there? You're the travelling Englander... Billie is of course far too busy toying around in the darkroom making me snapshots (what's that?) snapshots of the NYers to be able to come in... But honestly fellows, use your own discretion in getting people interested in both reporting and subscribing. I'm trying to write to various people continuously, but I can spare only part of my time for this. And to get back to Steve and his awkward questions...

"How in hell are you going to keep up a bi-week schedule indefinitely? (Do you usually spell out scheduled? New accepted US spelling perhaps? No joking, just a query?) It takes two men, Tsurasi and Van Houten, hopping like mad, to keep P-T even approx on schedule; and when you start alternating six and twelve ~~xxxxx~~ pages, you're going to be publishing half again as much wordage as they are. (And to say they have an addressograph, while I do it by hand!!) Furthermore, what happens to alpha? Add that to the CONTACT production and it looks to me like a gargantuan task. (What d'you think it looks like to me? A melchill?) Admittedly, I'm not lazy (just to make sure, that is a quote from Steve's letter!!!!!!) but even for an activer!...! Now I don't want to see CONTACT succeed, as I have said, but I'd certainly like to see alpha fade away -- and I don't certainly do not want to see you get yourself into gaffs..."

It is very much more likely that I should fall into the pit of "gaffe" through lack of work, rather than too much of it. I just thrive on busy seasons. ALPHA is mainly held up through lack of suitable contributions, and I'm waiting for all those people who promised material to send it to. I can't spare the time to write, then half a dozen letters as I occasionally do. Five pages are ~~skipped~~, the cover is stencilled, the first page of Ambrosia is stencilled, and various illos have been received, but the material is still lacking. Soon as that is in (and it goes as suitable) ALPHA will be out again. Of course, not on any sort of schedule, just in between, whenever suitable material arrives. Trying for at least 4 issues per year, naturally. And there will be at least 16 pages in OMPA and 2 in FAPA too, plus odds and ends for the ISFCC. Hyperactive is the word pal.

There was even talk of an issue of UMBA from these quarters, but as John seems to be saving for the London instead (and I can't blame him) that'll probably not come off. I'll manage quite well, just as long as you fellows will understand that I couldn't do things like this every time, much as I'd like to try it. Nor can I guarantee decent letters from here all the time, especially when two mags are on the presses at the same time. Now just in case, --- Oh, hell, I put Sonia to bed since writing that just in case, and can't think of what I was going to say. Let's therefore lead on with Steve.

"Of course, the three page bi-monthly will be mostly fanzine reviews -- we hope! Oh, a good, complete, annotated monthly listing of fanzines would be a wonderful thing! (I have the soul of a bibliographer.) But alas, I fear it is a dream. I hope I'm wrong. I hope all the fan eds send their aines in for review. But I'm not optimistic. And the no-trade policy doesn't help much either.

"All right, the no-trade policy is a financial necessity -- But wouldn't it be a provident solution to the problem if a fanzine addict could be persuaded to take over the column. This theoretical ogel would be a character who, like me, is nuts enough to pay for fanzines, but doesn't have the monumental patience it takes to subscribe to, keep track of, and hunt down the elusive, short-lived critters. He would send you the cash, say 5s or 10s of an issue of CONTACT for each fanzine he rec'd and reviewed, along with his copy. Then you would be able to send copies of the issue to each editor whose aine was reviewed therein. Nice? You'd then be offering an issue-for-issue trade. But to the editor who puts out a more expensive aine, or one that is valued at more than an issue of CONTACT, would be offered, at his option, the price of the aine, to be sent for each issue received. In this case of course, he'd have to subscribe to CONTACT if he wanted to read the reviews. Our theoretical reviewer might even be able to convince FAPA, SAFS and OMPA each to accept him as a member for the required number of Contacts to be distributed as his contributions. Naturally the poor guy would be paying for all these issues, plus dues in all three organizations, but would be receiving the mailing of all three -- a rare distinction -- for a minimum of effort. As for FAPA, SAFS and OMPA, they would have satisfaction of knowing that their publications were going on record and review (properly noted as non-subscription fanzines) in the most complete department of its kind anywhere: not to mention the fact that each would be receiving a very substantial amount of material from a single member.

The faults of this scheme are obvious -- and are probably fatal. In the first place, you wouldn't be receiving the fanzines, a circumstance which I would hardly expect you to approve. In the second place, my theoretical reviewer remains to be found. I'll admit that I've sold myself on the plan, but I rather doubt that I could find the time to

for the reviewing and incidental correspondences. I would probably talk myself into trying for time, but I don't think I'll worry about it, as I doubt you will approve of the whole thing anyway. But the suggestion may offer a few fresh ideas.....

In the first place, I'll make it clear that the fanzine index will primarily be an index, reviews being put in according to the space allowed in each issue. Reviewing each issue of each fanzine, crudzine and crudshed in existence would be not impossible, but impracticable. It would take too much room. What would/should be done, would be to complete the listing and spotlight the items that are likely to remain of interest.

I am still getting magazines as trade for ALPHA. If some scheme could be worked out that I would get sufficient remuneration for the copies of Contact that go out, I'm quite willing to consider putting out CONTACT on an exchange-basis ~~again~~. The only question is 'how much is the theoretical reviewer going to spend each month???' There being a rather large number of fanzines, plus all the AFAPublications to consider.....

How about blinging the idea around anyway, now? John, Ellis???? But do think Steve has come to the end of his latin....

"Here's hoping you get some dependable French and German correspondents fairly soon. (Of course, there's always Ellis, but who knows where he's going to be.) True; P-T ignores France almost entirely, but then, fanwise they don't report Germany either. (Fanwise, perhaps they aren't worth reporting.) Now, the bulk of the activity in fandom will probably take place in the USA, there being a few more fan over here than in any other given ~~space~~ country -- and CONTACT should not ignore this. Still I'm happy to see you putting out ~~a~~ the zine, rather than a US fan, because it should be a truly international publication. I should hazard the ~~idea~~ that if all non-US fanac was taken together, it would pretty well beat that in this country. And I want to read about it. Let us not forget Australia, especially.

In this last matter - Australia: go on John, wake up damn it man! (mouse?) Now if you said that fanjan equalled the fannish output of the non-Anglo countries..... Re P-T... I wrote them before starting the mag, telling them I planned a newsmag relying on fanzine news with possible inclusion of some non-US pronews. You will note that the International Edition has been revealed, which will save me the trouble of even thinking of including pro-stuff. As for Germany: Fandom? If you ever dare make the smallest criticism on the state there, you're blasted all over the place and have no chance of stating your own case. Ask the Penfords or Billie France: the club has fallen down... will be included in next issue. Only other thing going on there is Jean Lizard, and personally.... I don't think he can keep it up.

But if anything worthwhile does happen, it will be reported. But do remember that just because there is only one fan in a certain place, the fact that he goes and puts out a crudzine isn't more news than a crudzine elsewhere..... Now that guy rambles on....

"...those prozines, rates, addresses? Those 15 fanzines: let's see that ~~one~~ of them get a fanzine review or lacking that, Sjoberg compiles a list, ain with some etc.... as a bibliomaniac I'm interested in that sort of info. Think our other readers would be? Maybe not. Let's ask them. You will note that I have slipped into the third (3???) let surely??) plural. Already I consider myself a member of the Contact group....

From experience: readers are interested if the story is interesting. For just a recital, they couldn't care less. If a news-item crops up they'll find it very good, if you try and report a routine matter, they'll say so what. Quite correctly too. In this matter of foreign stuff - soon as I hear of anything it'll be in print, providing it is news, and that it is fanish. Otherwise it'll go to P-T.

Give the guy a medal - he's still at it....

"The mast-head down the side of the page is excellent. Keep it. It's so radically different from E-T that no one will ever be able to accuse you of imitation. would suggest ~~xxxx~~ immediate replacement of your address on the masthead, in addition to the mailing page.... Show one boldly, right off, where to send communiques.....

Don't like the front page otherwise. Looks too solid. Not vital, newsy. Suggest that after the masthead, the remainder of the page be used as follows: Headline for the main story would take up full width in large letters. A one inch lettering guide would help. Full width for a short leader too, then a narrow half-column to the bottom of the page. Beside that, in the other narrow half-column, would be the second lead story (xxxxxxx with a half-inch headline, or the continuation of the main lead story (if it isn't short enough to end in the first column) Headed by a subsidiary headline.... admittedly this would be a heck of a lot more work to set up, but I think it would look much better....

If I had an elite typer instead of this one, there would most likely be the two columns as described. As it is, the columns would be too narrow: only 26 spaces at the most. And that can look horrible when justified. Too many white spaces having to be left because you can't otherwise justify the right side. Of course, if I have not got a lead story, I will have to divide up the front page, and then your suggestion will be a must but if it can be avoided, no. If you want to have some fun, try typing one out, not just drawing a sketch. Of course with elite spacing I would have about three or four spaces more, and you'd be surprised how much difference they make. Fellows, do you think he has completed his entry even with the necessary good points???

"The rest of the makeup is good, I think, except for the open lettering guide and the script lettering in the first issue, for which I did not care. They seem weaker than the straight line, and harder to read.

But the continual use of the same-lettering guides tends to get boring, both for me and the reader, hence the various ones. Re your 1-inch guides mentioned up there: the ones I am currently using on front page (see last three) are half inch ones. Want them larger still? And unfortunately they charge me 2.40 and 4.00 dollars respectively.....

"Hope you will be able to run paragraphs on the rest of the TAPP candidates soon, as you did on Eney and Ellington in N91. Headlining them along might influence the voting somewhat. Of course, I'm a Stu Hoffman man myself....

It takes all sorts of people... as the saying goes. So I suppose it'll take all sorts of fans too. If you're for Stu, OK with me, but I haven't even heard of the guy except for one or two references here and there. Not exactly what I would call an 'actifan' anyway. You will perhaps be glad that CONTACT takes no sides in the TAPP voting. We'll print news as and when we get it - and the person who it is about, or who writes it, obviously gets egoboo - and if he is a TAPP candidate, perhaps a bit more attention that would normally be the case.

And that my dear friends, were extracts from a seven-page letter of comment on an uncommendable upon magazine. He has certainly deserved a place on the CONTACT GROUP, other than the next five bucks that are weaving the way across the waves. Give him a big hand now.

And let us by all means consider the various suggestions he has brought up. By the way - this and the rest of the pile is being run off on 20 copies - heavens know who will get them. Anyway: definite are: Ron Bennett, John Hitchcock, Ellis Mills, Steve Schultheis, Mike Rosenblum, Dick Ellington and Richard Eney. The latter two as probable Contact men once they have ceased to have to worry about TAPP.

Monday, 3/12 - Contact mailed out at 12:20 today.

On one of the other sheets I was interrupted putting Sonia to bed. After a night's rest myself it's come up again... Steve had mentioned somewhere the 'consistent style' of a column. In this respect: I would like to say that as far as possible all material in CONTACT is kept as nearly unchanged as possible the way it arrives here. Most of the news is included in very informal letters - and I usually take out whole phrases and paragraphs, only rearranging the stuff in order to give better readability or occasionally an higher impact value especially to the opening of the new item. This I do mainly to retain a 'fanzine' flavor. I hope I'm managing OK??? A nother letter I feel you might be interested in:

"Dear Jan, Even though I fully realize it's inardusable, I'm asking -- please excuse our neglect in not answering your very ethical, sportsmanlike and much-appreciated letter of a few months ago regarding your plans for a fan-type "Fantasy Times". The first issue of Contact arrived two days ago and the time for not writing is definitely over.

Firstly, the issue was a wow! Fandom has long needed such a publication. For a time -- years ago, that is -- we blithely intended that FT would cover fan news as well as pro. We were quickly taught better, however, when we found ourselves hard put to find room in each issue for one-tenth of the pro news, with the fan news practically untouched except for World Cons, important regional cons and exceptional club meetings.

CONTACT gives promise of covering the fan field in the manner which we hope FT is covering the pro, and both states see Contact

....As I remember, you were a bit concerned that we might consider it competition to FT. Well, in the first place, we don't; and in the second place, what if we did? We have no monopoly on s-f news and we have long considered it very strange that other pro-news mags have not been continually bumping heads with us over lol these many years. We'd like to think that we're doing such a good job that no one feels the need for any more pro newspapers, but that's a pretty egotistical viewpoint. More likely it's just that no other fans in close contact with news sources is willing to put out the amount of time and effort necessary. That you, now, are willing to do so, and mostly in the fan field where the pickings are all yours, is in our opinion just about the best thing that could come to pass. Bravo!!

If there is anything that appears in FT that you feel you want to reprint in CONTACT, please feel free to use it as long as you mention it came from FT. (I'd rather die first!) and if we come across any fan news ~~which~~ which won't get into FT we'll make every effort to pass it along to you. Sometimes this won't be possible, as Jim and I have just about enough time now to get FT out on a reasonably regular schedule, but we'll be trying.

Many, many thanks for the review of FT in your first issue. Most of the 'actifans' just don't care for FT, and it's pleasant getting so much praise from such an 'actif' fan.

May we presume to give you some advice? Said advice is simply this: MAKE CONTACT PAY FOR ITSELF!! We'd like to see it continue side-by-side with FT for years and years to come, and it won't if you have to do all the work and foot the bill as well. I don't know how well-heeled you might be, but in our case FT must support itself, or no FT. This it has been doing since 1948, and our paid subs have been going up ever since that date. We mail out, as ordinarily, almost 700 copies of each issue, and about 80% of this is paid circulation. Occasionally we mail out a big batch of sample copies -- the last such issue hit 1300 circulation. Don't settle for anything less than a going business. The potential is there, and you'll ~~sure~~ have just as much fun out of it, and CONTACT will be around for a good many years more than if it proved to be a

drain on your finances as well as your time. It sure doesn't show a profit, but it pays its own way, which is the main reason it's lasted so long. Again, best of luck. Ray Van Houten, for Fantasy House.

Depending on the mood I'm in I view this letter in two entirely different ways. I'd like to see your comments.

My letter to them was sent off on the 2nd August, Ray's is dated 4/11 In it I also mentioned that I would possibly report on pro-news outside US...it could of course be co-incidence that their first November issue carries a new International News Edition..... that I care, having rejected the idea of pro-news anyway, but still...

On one thing however, Ray certainly has my fullest agreement. CONTACT must support itself, barring the contributions we have decided upon to give it a chance to get started. But all this talking of pro...

"Dear Jan, I just received the second CONTACT, and would like to echo Ken Biner's ~~xxxxxx~~ comment that it is just what fandom needs. I'm sure you know all the reasons why this is so yourself (I'm speaking actually, to the entire group now), so I won't go into detail on that. But I will say that besides liking the idea, I found the first two issues very tasteful indeed, and don't see how the format and presentation could be improved. If it were a one-man project, it might not be successful but with four such responsible and hard-working fans behind you, I feel complete confidence. And I hope you stick mainly or entirely to fan news; the pro's are adequately covered by Fantasy Times.

I'll hand my subscription to Dick Ellington when I see him, in about two weeks. I want it airmail -- as you can see, surface mail takes over three weeks, which is too long to wait for hot news. I'll also see the CONTACT gets a good-sized plug in SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES. Incidentally, to try to steer more fans into fandom, I'm going to ask newcomers to send their names and addresses direct to Archibald Dentley, who has done a fan column in that magazine, so that he can get help started; therefore, I'll probably send you a list of requests for sample copies occasionally. If your budget can't handle free samples, I'll be very glad to pay for them myself -- I think fandom is worth it. But I'd appreciate it if you'd let me know your feelings on this point.

If there's anything else I can do for you, be sure to let me know. Otherwise, the best of luck -- and I'll look forward to seeing you again in London next year.

Sincerely.... Larry Shaw.

Actually I doubt whether that name is needed there. You might have guessed by that time. I'm frantic about this, fellows. One part of me, the dirty huckster in me says accept it with open arms. Another shouts out: halt, we want no foreign aid. What do you think? Anyway, I feel we should, at least in this private circular, stand up and give Larry three cheers!!!! He's lucky I'm not over there, or some of the SPA issues would be on the stands a couple of months ahead of time.

You may know that we have a little nurse in fandom: there's Ethel:

"....this is a very GOOD Thing, just what fandom needs, and I am sure it will help to keep fandom more cohesive than it is at present. As it is a fan can be very well known in one particular circle and completely unknown out of it. Should you be able to put in a short biography of a fan in each edition that would be a big help. I am enclosing my one to CONTACT and wish it all the help it deserves. Come to think of it, perhaps it would be better to do a short biography of each fan section probably the best way would be to do it geographically. I can offer to do Scotland for you in one go....." Ethel Lindsay.

This letter, sent to Ken was fwd to me, with a comment from Ken that perhaps we could take this to heart.

I read with him muchly - only that it should be kept as a regular feature in the double-issues. Replied to Ethel in that vein, and have since rec'd a one-page article-cum-biography of Scottish fandom. A short intro to the fans up there. Now I was thinking that this is not entirely new to Britain, so I'd like on the opposite page, a similar short item (if one page is short, on US fandom. No, Steve, Cleveland is out, you'll be muchly prominent already. Maryland? White, Stark and Enay, not to mention John. are fairly well known over here too, so again, no. NY? Too much on NY would start the query whether we're unofficially that city's OC. Any of you States guys know any secluded nooks we can uncover? Damsels preferred. Hmm yes. You may perhaps think Nebraska is one of these spots. Ray Thompson from there, wrote:

"....I believe the last newsline I remember was Walt Coslet's STEPCAR during about 1949-50... However, several people have tried news-zines since then. (Very puzzling - never saw one since I came in ...!) The pattern is quite well-trod. The thing starts out with high intent to inform, and as time passes, the editor doesn't lose interest entirely he begins to print more and more general material - departments, articles etc. - until he finds he's editing a general zine....." RT

A very good point the latter. Xaq tabs on me will you folks. As you will note, an ENAY report was included in issue 4. This arrived here in letter form, which Enay explains as follows:

"I didn't write this up as a news story, figuring that if you cared to use it you'd want to fit it to the space available. That, too is why I didn't mention things like the way we went sightseeing, and fell down the ~~stairs~~ steps at the Smithsonian (local museum) and practically busted a couple dozen bones and how everybody was so lateand how Harlan Ellison.....and how Larry Stark....."

I would like to draw your attention to a newspaper article: most of them you will find, are so arranged that one can drop one or more paragraphs without really harming the whole story. The Enay article could easily have been written by ~~me~~ I am devoting whatever space he thought was worth it. It is much easier to cut out, than to try and reconstruct from passing mention in a letter. You may say: it will save me time if I let Jan judge how long it can be, after all he sets the pages. But there you have to consider: before I can arrange the lay-out I have to know what material I have at hand. Which means that I still had to write the whole Enay article, luckily not to be discarded. If there had been too much, I would have had to cut it sure, but you have only that article folks, I've got six pages. Try will y

I think that this is all for the time being. Various matters have been raised in these nine pages, and I'd appreciate very much to hear from you if you doubt it...hell, why else would I even bother to type out and burn off these pages? And get some news going huh???? Contact needs it.

Love,

