

At least we hope it's the 19th issue. The mere fact that I have any idea of what number this might be is an indication of further progress in sorting out the fannish clutter. This issue as were the prior 18 or so issues is brought to you by the Post Office Department. It is perpetrated by Bob Pavlat, 5709 Goucher Drive, College Park, Md, 20740.

Last issue was a pretty poor job of stenciling and mimeography. I'll try to do better. I know what the trouble was in stenciling--at least on those pages where I did not use a film over the stencil. I'm still trying to re-learn what I once know about obtaining a sharp but not too light impression. Could be the mimeo. Even following its overhaul of a year ago it doesn't seem to ink as nicely as it did when I purchased it some ten years ago. Probably a couple of days of full time use would help loosen it up, but I just don't have that much demand for it any more.

Boggs wrote a letter after last mailing reminding me of the all-time list of FAPA members that Ellik had in the 101st mailing. My list checks with Ellik's. The error on my list was the inclusion of Woolston, whose membership has not been continuous from mailing 42 since he dropped out in August 60. The Ellik item had Speer listed as rejoining in November 1946, but I understand this was later clarified and Speer's membership is continuous. Juffus? Assuming Speer's membership is continuous, the order of joining of our six longest-continuous-term members is: Speer, Warner, Perdue, Moskowitz and Wesson (same mailing), and Boggs. For total length of membership both Evans and Rotsler would equal or exceed Boggs and possibly Wesson.

Back at the time last mailing deadline caught up with me (I have to allow some time for my material to get to the OE) I was reviewing the 128th mailing. I still am:

SAMBO 18. Enjoyed the ramblings--little theater, moon, vacation plans and all.

TAFF PROGRESS REPORT. I wonder if we really want a TAFF race this year. Sending a US fan to Heicon under TAFF is really of little point--there'll be a hundred or so US fans there anyway. TAFF came about when there was a vacuum that needed filling, when Europeans had significant difficulties getting here, and we were equally noted by our absence at European (read English) cons. While travel has eased up considerably, there are still sufficiently few oversea fans at a con that the additional one TAFF can swing makes a significant difference. This won't be true for Heicon. I recognize the other reasons for TAFF--honoring a fan, sending overseas someone who is both (we hope) particularly respected at home and a person the oversea fans want to meet, etc. I don't think these reasons stand up this year. Either bring a European to an American conference this year, or hold over the funds for a 1971 European con. Since TAFF filing deadline has been extended

(so I understand) to the end of February there's still some time left to cancel the campaign for this year. In any case, regardless of candidates, if there is a campaign I'm going to vote for "Hold Over Funds." Nothing personal about the candidates--just that it's the wrong year to send an American TAFF representative to Europe.

SERCON'S BANE. Welcome to the world of those who appreciate driving a car. Not that I'm all that sold on Volvos, but they are without question beautifully handling cars. # Thanks for so frequently being present in mailings; even tho it may*only a page or *be two, Sercon's Bane is always a nice addition.

SYNAPSE. The FAPA mailings go out book rate because the Post Office clerks I've talked to have decided they qualify as books. In my opinion the PO Department has let its definitions sufficiently open that the people who have to live by the rules, the clerks, can't find out what the rules are. Three separate offices have now advised me that twenty-four reproduced pages secured (not paper-clipped) together are a book. If a mailing has one such item, the mailing is a book. I think they're wrong. But I'm not going to spend FAPA's money on that particular belief. # Surprised you didn't mention Bestor's use of symbols (\$son) in your article on Japanese.

GRUE. Even in the wrong color this is a good thing to see again. # You speak so casually of building a new light box. In this neighborhood I haven't even been able to buy a piece of frosted glass. (I know I could get along without it, but I like to go first class.) # The Haldeman's, who just visited Canaveral/Cape Kennedy tell me that signs at the Cape read "Kennedy Spaceport." That's what they should read. It passes belief that they do so read in my time.

COGNATE. Welcome to FAPA, Rosemary. No, no comments--I frequently have no comments. Sometimes this bothers me. It doesn't seem friendly, yet lack of friendly feelings is not normally the reason for failure to comment. No more of a reason is lack of interest. I almost always (like, I can think of no exceptions) enjoy your fanzines. Keep them coming.

CAMP CLOVELLY YEAR BOOK '69. Some day I may appeal to the President for a decision on pre-mailings. Yes, president--the matter is not covered in the constitution. Not that I really care. I do care that you published the Patterson Midwestcon picture. Great. # You mean you received two ballots in your bundle and kept both? Your mailing is incorrect. It should contain only one ballot. If you want your file to be accurate withdraw and throw away one ballot. # My copy of GRUE lacks the same portion of the horoscope as yours. The way things were going I'm just as well satisfied that way--I would not want 8 to 11 more days filled with similar disasters. ## The Jean Young filler was evocative of sadly fond memories, wasn't it? For some few fans there just is no replacement, no one who can fill a similar role, seek out and find the same spot inside where you don't even know something is missed until someone reminds you that it isn't satisfied any more. # The best Lyons' in a long time. Thanks.

Some twelve weeks before that last page was stencilled I received the 129th mailing, headed, as usual, by

HORIZONS. Sorry you missed the con, but glad we got to see you anyway. # The only time in my history as a FAPAN, now some twenty years, that I published a platform, I was defeated. Platforms are a good idea but darned if I'll publish one if the revelation of my true intents is going to cause me to lose the election. # The man-on-Mars bit is hard to justify from a cost-benefit standpoint. The Government is swinging just a little to cost-benefit analysis. Unfortunately, pollution control, defense, urban problems, and a few other demands for money are a little easier to cite monetary return values for than are discoveries from Mars that we can't even imagine. What's the value of a rock older than the known age of the universe? A new form of life? A new naturally-occurring (but not on earth) compound? (We have at least one of those from the Moon.) I agree with your desire, Harry, but satisfying the desire takes a dreamer, not a hard realist. It also takes a sagging economy that needs an infusion of money. We don't have either of those ingredients right now (tho Agnew is surprising. There is a bit of the dreamer in that boy.) # Friend of mine at the office figures that he's working for \$145 a month. His monthly gross is about \$2,000. He's going to retire in one year, and when you figure retirement income available now vs. then, tax advantages, current earnings vs. retirement income available, and a few other imponderables--he gains about \$145 monthly by working. I tell him that it's about what he's worth. He counters that he's really working for nothing since it costs him at least that \$145 monthly to live in Washington rather than his retirement area. I tell him a few of the disadvantages of living in the Chihuahua. # I wonder if the "This is Tranquility Base" portion of the transmission was pre-planned. That, to me, was the key phrase, the culminating moment to over thirty years of dreaming. Pre-planned or not, the phrase was coined by one who could play the game of rat and dragon, who could feel the outward and upward urge, who could sail the soul, who could ride a green dragon flying to save a red dragon lying. # While I'm still enough of a dreamer to follow some sf, and (possibly preferably) a certain amount of "adult fantasy," I'm glad that I don't simultaneously live in Hagerstown and believe in the Easter bunny. # My favorite place name is Seven Crazy Women Creek. I think you failed to comment on one of the most significant traits of the Washington County place names you cited. While "American," they are in no way derived from Indian characteristics of place-naming.

CELEPHAIS. Expansion of FAPA membership in the very distant past and occasional misses on filling a vacancy (or filling a non-vacancy, as when a delayed petition goes through) also switch membership months around. Since it's been over twenty years since the last expansion of the FAPA membership, I'm surprised we don't now have almost the same number of expirations each quarter. # If a quick count serves, I've lived at 17 different addresses.

RUBBER FROG. I enjoyed your ramblings. Not much said perhaps, but you said it well, and it was interesting. Write when you get paid for it, if you must, but also write for us occasionally, if you will.

DIFFERENT. As OE I sometimes get mail relating to FAPA matters. A month ago I got one such--a carbon of a letter to one of the other officers. I thought for a while, talked to a couple of people, and finally sent the following letter, dated January 7, 1970, to Bill Evans:

"Dear Bill,

"How much credit (renewal credential page count) does Moskowitz receive for Different III 4? It has nine pages of material, but it looks to me like only two meet the requirement for renewal credentials. The remaining seven pages are reprint. Straight reprint. Photocopy.

"I rather enjoyed the story, and the story behind the story. I was quite happy that Sam printed it. But from my viewpoint it's only two pages of FAPA-creditable activity. "Reprints do not count unless they represent substantial work in rewriting or compiling the material," so says section 3.1 of the constitution. Rewriting? No, the story was straight reprint. Compiling? Writing an introduction to a single piece of work from a single source is not a job of compilation. (You should know better than anyone, Bill, that the word "compiling" in that sentence of the constitution was put there to permit credit to be given to such genuine compiling and editing jobs as your "Remembrance of Things Past.") (Well, maybe you shouldn't know that. But I put that word in that sentence at the time of the last constitutional revision, and it was for just that reason.) The word "substantial?" There was no rewriting, and no noticeable compilation, so there was no substantial anything except, possibly, expense.

"Please advise. I'll add that if your answer is negative on constitutional grounds that I've covered above I'll appeal your interpretation. If you use some other grounds, then we'll have to see.

"Best,

/s/ Bob

"Your dutiful son-in-law."

Perhaps I should have sent a copy of that letter to you Sam. My apologies for not doing so. Since I didn't, and since considerable correspondence has generated from my letter above and some others not by me, perhaps this publication ("reprint" if you like)* will help set straight the constitutional points at issue. I'll repeat what I said in the letter. I enjoyed Different. Particularly the two pages of new material, but actually all nine pages. But it (seven pages of it) did not meet the intent nor, in my mind, the words of the constitution which define what may, and what may not, be counted as renewal credentials. I have a thing that rules should be followed--unless you don't want to and can do what you want thru some unforeseen application of the rules. I've long said that Martin's sin was not in getting dropped from FAPA, but his failure to use the very specific remedies available to him thru the constitution. In the waiting list fiasco some five years back I demonstrated that the

constitution is servant, not master--at least when desirable results are achieved. In this case I think the constitution is very clear indeed, and that the rule is of sufficient importance to FAPA to be enforced.

I will say, Sam, that if my view is finally upheld, there is a constitutional provision which allows extensions of certain deadlines when a cause is an error of an officer. A decision made in your favor before my letter of January 7, in which Dean said your material qualified for credit, will stand if I'm not upheld. If that decision is reversed, then obviously an officer (hi there Dean) made an error.

I'm expecting to see Dean Saturday or Sunday--The last paragraph might not have been quite so flippily expressed if I didn't expect to present it in person to the erroneous officer.

And as to that "*" last page--maybe I'm just being gun shy. There seem to be many itchy fingers on this issue and typewriters are blasting readily at the nearest moving figure. That little comment, "(reprint" if you like)" was inwit, as in Agenbite of Inwit. The bite, in other words, was directed toward myself rather than toward you.

SERCON'S BANE. There's a serious defect in your thinking. You see both sides of an issue. # I can remember considerable comment from GI days in France wondering "Why are we here." I thought it was clear then and still do. The same question, in Korea, or in Vietnam, is much more difficult, and to a certain degree I can understand the violence of the protests from the potential draftees and others. # Book rate differs from the 4th class rate. Significantly so--like a 65¢ package may be 28¢ book rate. Book rate is further a flat rate, with no consideration of postal zones, at least within the 48 states that are contiguous.

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That isn't even half the mailing, but time is gone. And mailing comments are for me slow going, but there is time enough for a few minor thoughts.

THE SAAB. It's been properly tuned, and is greatly improved. I'm more favorably impressed than I was at last writing. I am most tremendously impressed with its capabilities on a slick road. We've had a bit of snow this winter, and I've had the Saab out on the roads. Forward and sideways traction is fantastic--at least with the radials the car is equipped with. Today we had snow-covered roads, but I had to go to Wheaton--maybe eight miles from here--to pick up some Jiffy Bags. Cars on the Beltway (speed limit 70) were travelling 30 - 45 mph. 45 - 50 was extremely comfortable in the Saab. Off the beltway I was the first car away at lights - even tho the Saab has no acceleration. One car passed me on my right. I was stopped at a light. The right lane had a right turn arrow lit, and a lady came through, relatively slowly, to make her right turn. She sailed gayly through the intersection, front wheels firmly locked right, but never did make her right turn. It was slippery. At Wheaton Office Supply a lady

inquired how the roads were. I told her "fine," and then thought about the behavior of the cars I'd seen on the way over. I told her "lousy," and then tried to explain the why for the different answers. Both answers were honest; the car and the tires made the difference.

Hey, it is possible to set up a four-wheel drift in a Saab! It will take a bit of getting used to. I don't yet know how, but trying to once today I did. Give a few more days of icy roads and I'll even know how.

SKIING. March 23-27. Killington. Come along, and then to Boston on March 28-29.

HOUSE. Great. How do you (1) put a storm door on a sliding glass door to a patio and (2) take a squeak out of an asphalt tile floor laid over 3/4 inch plywood sub-flooring? For (2) a fairly permanent answer is desired. I've taken the squeak out three times. It needs a fourth, and I'd just as soon that fourth be last.

DAG. He called tonight, Feb 14th. An hour earlier, or a little less snow, and I'd have brought him out here. Sorry we missed, but nice talking to you anyway grandppp.

WAR PROTESTS. Near where I work there's a new building. Very nice. Tinted glass on the ground floor, windows up to twenty feet high, eight feet wide. About half the windows went in the last "peace" demonstration. Two guys I know waded into a mob (there's no other word) to bring in our flag. A friend in Detroit had an eye operation last week--to patch up damage from a rock thrown in Washington during the demonstrations. I should tell you more about my reaction? Not here, buddy. This is a family magazine.

Time is really all. A very happy 1970 to you, each and every one.