

May 1970

This occasionally quarterly but more frequently annual publication is the product of Bob Pavlat, who lives (with considerable pleasure) at 5709 Goucher Drive, College Park, Md 20740. This issue is supposed to be full of goodies. Considering the date, that's going to be impossible.

The three months since last mailing have been used in passing from winter into spring. We'd planned to go skiing--we caught the flu instead, or at least Peggy and I did. Kathy and Eric were much more clever. Parts of my time, planned for FAPA, went to replacing bushes that the prior owner had planted which I wished he hadn't; to relieving Peggy of minor chores so she could do some things she found politically necessary like organizing a voter registration drive in this town we live in; to mowing a lawn that I foolishly fertilized (it looks great); to doing a little more office work than I'd really prefer; to updating some chunks of my index to FAPA.

When I joined EAPA, back at mailing 50, Coslet had his FAPA index about ready to go. It went through mailing 50. Mine now goes through mailing 53, with many gaps (particularly mailing 29, 31, and 32) but at least the bulk of the problems--the mailings before I joined--have been solved. Maybe a couple of year's more work is needed, or maybe more time than that, but I intend someday to publish this. The FA's for mailings 19 thru 32 would help--anyone out there have copies that I could borrow? Or mailings that I could buy from that same period? I've tried Coslet; he wants to sell his entire collection, not parts of it. I hope he finds a buyer--maybe the next owner would be interested in the FAPA portion of the collection.

The job continues to be great. I'm beginning to know most of the questions. Soon I expect to find some of the answers. It does have interesting questions: Where to obtain \$230,000 to fund a move that had been planned for next year rather than this year? How to reduce a work plan calling for \$500,000 more than available down to size? (The first was solved easily by turning the problem over to men who knew the answers; the second has not proven to be so easy. That, Howie, was why I was in Detroit last week). How to keep tabs on a myriad of projects; how to trace costs; what to charge for an hour of time on a ten-year old computer, on a four year old one, on one we haven't even bought yet?

I believe that I used the phrase "what is past is prolog" when discussing the new job back in November. There are enough questions that I'm often left wishing I'd had more past. But, if I had, the job might not be so interesting. I'll talk in more organized form about the job another day; for not I want to get some mailing comments made.

# THE 129TH CONTINUED

When I last heard from you I had not finished reviewing the 129th mailing. I made myself a promise, this time, that I would not read the 130th until I had finished my comments on the 129th. Since I now want and have (or would except for this have) the time to read the 130th, it's time to take care of the promise. I had time to finish once before, but I spent it building a light box. Gee, it's great to see your lettering as you're doing it.

DIASPAR 12: Deadwood, yes! Brilliant, well yes, that, too. Seriously, I'm not sure that it's possible for you to be deadwood. Somehow there are always eight pages minimum. They're better than eighty or eight hundred, would be from me or many others. Deadwood is wood that never shows a new leaf, that never drops a seed. And that just doesn't sound like you. # I would deeply enjoy Part II of Decline and Fall, should it ever be written. This article gave more information, and more enjoyment, than any other article on this or any similar subject. I've never known Hippie. I knew Beat, to some extent, through John and Joann Magnus in the days when they were active in Baltimore. I knew Zoot, a little, in '42-'44, to the extent that a 16-18 year old working in a new city (new to me) for 60 hours a week on rotating shifts can know anything. I didn't belong with the Zoot Suiters anyway-- I wasn't a swinging kid. I was, for some reason, sympathetic with the beats even though far from Beat. There was a time, sitting on Magnus's porch chatting with a girl, when she dropped a seed not related to our conversation at the time. "You can't be a beat," she said, "because you're too happy." Or maybe it was contented that she said--for I had been more "contented" than "happy." Beats were comfortable people to be with. Maybe Hippies were too--I was never around them enough to find out. Thanks for the article.

A PROPOS DE RIEN. The Ellik collection went to the Institute for Specialized Literature, c/o Ed Cox. It was willed to Langley (Tolliver), Trimble, and Lewis, who made the donation to the Institute. I hope Ed Cox will provide more details on this. # Skiing unlikely in Kentucky? Beech Mountain, in North Carolina, has a fine resort going. Another is near Gatlingburg, Tennessee. Six hours drive for you maybe? If you need details ask and I'll dig out some addresses for you.

FUTURIAN COMMENTATOR. When was the Brussels Exposition--1964? Anyway, one of the segments of the exposition covered sausages--balogna, salami, and all the rest. Concerns around the world were invited to participate, but a detailed list of ingredients was required. The proposed entry from one of the larger English concerns was returned with a note stating entry

the show's regret that there was no cereal category.

OF CABBAGES... My wife cuts a better stencil than I do. Now if only she'll only teach me how.

The rest were enjoyed, but no marginal notes, and hence no comments.

THE 130TH MAILING was groovy. Too groovy. I found myself so immersed on many occasions that I failed to make "comment on this" chicken scratches on the margin. The brevity of my comments now reflect this and current lack of time rather than any lack of enjoyment of the last mailing.

HORIZONS. On one prior occasion, an ex-officer's lack of renewal credentials was quietly ignored by the then Sec-Treas, on the basis that his official work satisfied activity requirements. I've never felt that officers should be excused from normal requirements for renewal (page requirements) due to their official work, yet I'd wonder about the judgment of a Sec-Treas who didn't overlook a shortage of page requirements for renewal by an officer.

VANDY. Your comments on your '59 Impala reminded me of my sister's '61 ditto. What a bear to try to steer!

A HISTORY OF THE HUGO.... Greatly appreciated, despite the missing section. Have already had occasion to refer to this to answer a question, and probably will again. Many thanks.

LE MOINDRE. This was more personally you than anything I can recall of yours in FAPA in--hmm--must be fifteen years or so. Great. But the same lack of narrative hooks that you find in me. Oh well. # The Mercedes, when we bought it, had a Texas inspection sticker. I suspect the car had been on the Gulf coast which I further suspect might be conducive to rust in any car not perfectly protected.

COGNATE. The covers are non-identical, if anyone wonders. They accordingly receive no credit (Bill, are you listening?) I enjoyed and appreciated my valentine (picked it out myself) and hardly feel that I'm shorted just because my valentine may be different from yours. Thanks, Rosemary--I wonder if anyone will complain about my passing thru non-identical mailings.

No. I have no mailing comments in me. There were so many good magazines in the mailing (the only things I did not enjoy were the Tolkien Journal and the Bergeron illos) but I obviously was not oriented toward commenting on the mailing when I read it, nor am I now.

Gregg, remind me someday that I'm willing to send you copies of FA's with egoboo poll results. I should have all since the poll started. I don't want to dig them out now, but send me a postal when you get the mailing and hopefully I'll feel like doing it then.

On this 40th anniversary, I have been musing a little over the really great fanzines, and fanzine fans, that have passed by the scene in that 40-year epoch. Some musing results follow.

There has been so much change in fanzines over the years that any definition of what makes a good fanzine would be impossible. Many fanzines that would be all-time greats to one person would not be to another. SF Commentator, SF Critic, Reader and Collector, Fantasy Magazine and many others fill an extremely important niche, and are of the highest quality. They aren't among my own all-time favorites, simply because of my own preferences for type of material.

I liked MASQUE V. It's an all-time favorite. Rotsler's developed significantly since then (1949 or 50) but the magazine has a superb blend of freshness, earnestness, and talent that I don't find to the same superb extent in later Rotsler works.

FANCYCLOPEDIA and FANCYCLOPEDIA II are essential, and superb. Speer also scores with UP TO NOW, the first exploration of fannish history. (SUSTAINING PROGRAM--Speer's fapazine thru 1947, is an all-time personal favorite of mine, but not an all-time great fanzine.)

THRU DARKEST IRELAND was a Chuck Harris report of a visit to Ireland (in the persons of the Willis's) in 1954 or so. It's a great.

Willis scored with almost everything he ever published. THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR. SLANT. HYPHEN. WILLIS DISCOVERS AMERICA. And others. He has no peer.

But Laney came close. ACOLYTE. FAN DANGO. AH, SWEET IDIOCY!

There have been good news magazines. FANAC was the great one.

GRUE unquestionably belongs. So does LE ZOMBIE.

Lee Hoffman scores twice, with incomparable QUANDRY, and with the short-lived FAN HISTORY.

The CONVENTION ANNUALS of Jay Kay Klein rank high in my esteem.

Finally, there's a class item: TAFF reports. COLONIAL EXCURSION. THE SQUIRREL'S TALE. TAFF BAEDÉCKER. PARKER'S PEREGRINATIONS. EPITAFF. THE LINDSAY REPORT.

There may be a few others--EYE almost makes the list, and possibly THE GOON GOES WEST belongs. Just noticed that the Burbee issues of SHANGRI LA AFFAIRS didn't get transferred from my notes to this sheet; it is a great.

Without comment, here's my list of the most important fanzine fans since approximately 1940 (in random order, as was the fanzine list above): TUCKER, WILLIS, GRENELL, BURBEE, LANEY, SPEER, WARNER; and CHUCK HARRIS.