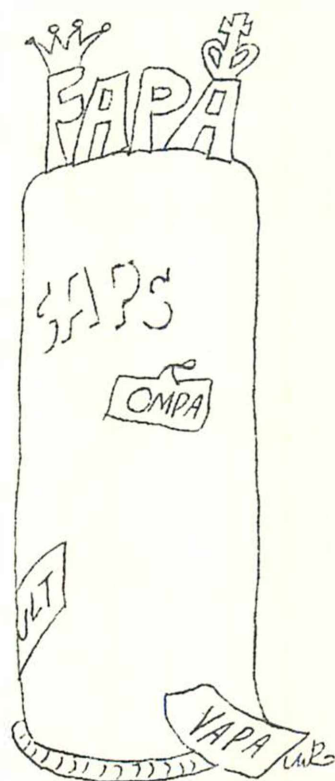


BOBOLINGS 28



3010-1



The Fantasy Markstein, you moved from Louisiana. This I can kind
Amateur of forgive since Boutillier recently came into Fapa
in Louisiana. Enoy, you moved from Virginia to
Maryland, even if your address change isn't in the FA. This I can
forgive since you checked with us first and since you made room in
Virginia for Wesson to move in. A couple of you moved around within
your state, and that's ok, as long as you don't move from northern
to southern California, or the reverse. Which, of course, sane
Californians don't do--but which limits the population that might
by perhaps five people. Total Californians, not just Fapans. I can
quote from memory all sixty-umph members of Fapa. But my key is the
state of residence. If all sixty-umph of you crowd into Don D'ammassa's
Rhode Island I'm not going to have a prayer of remembering you. And
it's easier if I can just set my gears: "Texas = one Fapan" and leave
them set that way. "Texas = one = Hickey." But that was last month.
Now it's "Texas = two = Hickey, Markstein." It would have been much
easier if Markstein had moved to Florida. Then all I would have to
do is change names, not both names and numbers. Lester, can we weave
a state-of-residence-change-request in with your dues/activity
extension appeal constitutional change somehow?

The Tiger is Isn't this your third mailing, and the third mailing
Loose #10 in a row you've been in? I think it's great. Thank
you for giving a damn; too few do. ++ I rather like
the idea of granting the waiver authority to one person rather than
the membership at large. It would be a great simplification and
would both speed up the process and reduce the labor. I guess I'd
have to opt for the S-T as the proper party, with appeal to the veep
permitted (since, in Fapa, you don't throw the ST out until you find
someone else willing to do a little extra work every quarter.) Stick
to one mailing extensions--one month doesn't mean very much, and all
that Fapa really wants is dues in time so that, if they aren't paid,
someone else can be invited in to fill the slot in time for the
next mailing, and magazines in the mailings. ++ Having been trained
by Markstein I easily recognized your magazine as coming from
Louisiana. What the hell did they do, pass a law against margins?
++ If you find in some abandoned garage an unused 1936 Packard, you
have found an obsolescent automobile. It's hard as hell to find
parts, most mechanics won't understand its innards, but it can be
kept in repair and haul you around. Find, instead, a beat-up clunker
of a 1946 DeSoto, and you've found an obsolete automobile. It could
be made serviceable, though with more difficulty than the Packard,
but it's really out of it for parts availability. Obsolescent equates
to hard to keep going; obsolete to defunct. ++ Yes, I know red
cream soda is merely cream soda with some hopefully innocuous coloring
added. I'll stick to what I said: the can I had was terrible stuff.
And yes, it was a metter of brand, but if red cream soda wants to be
honored it should be more careful of who it selects as its maker. ++
++ Who can't sell legal
tender at a profit? The US Mint and Walter Breen do it all the time.
Destruction of coins--looked at any junk jewelry lately? ++ I enjoyed
this.

The Rambling I'm willing to try being a curmudgeon. I think I need
Fap 79, 80. it. But I hope someone uses the word every mailing
to remind me how to spell it. ++ I read someplace
multiple years ago (ergo it must be true) that II's and III's (etc)
skip generations, as differentiated from Jr. which merely means
like-father, like-son. To get the point you have to time-bind a
bit--a subject on which I'm sure that you'll remember I've lectured
you before. Within my family we've had the situation of four
generations living in the same house. People didn't always move
around every three months between Fapa mailings as they do today.
Jr's and II's were historically necessary to distinguish. The fact
that flighty moves and social security rather than family-support
for elders has become the vogue is no reason to say that the
historical tradition is nonsense. For some, it isn't. And, after
all, whose name is it that you're fussing about Gregg? Theirs, or
yours? I can remember your fussing about the spelling of Gregg on
more than one occasion. ++ Re snowmaking and skiing--it's used
extensively in the East, and quite a number of resorts (including
the big ones) can cover their complete area with man-made snow. The
western resorts have less seldom had to deal with a shortage of
cover, and haven't gone for artificial snow to the same extent. ++
Considering the evident location of your new house, how many nights
a year do you think you'll have good seeing for a first class
telescope?

Horizons. Amen on the Metcalf submissions. But you lost your
sense of time. Metcalf habitually appears only in the
February mailing, and I believe that he habitually postmails. ++
Without researching the matter (all knowledge is contained in
fanzines) I'd imagine that Burbee, Hansen, and Perdue are very
close to the same age. Burbee recently said that he was 62, I
believe Hansen said that he was past sixty in some mailing in the
past couple of years, and an unreliable memory states that Perdue
was born in 1916. ++ Interesting question that you raised on
"franking" versus the old constitution. Juffus? ++ Leave us not
celebrate Fapa's 50th anniversary. The celebration of the 25th
wasn't all that great, the mailing would not have sent records with-
out Eney's titanic postmailed A Sense of Fapa, and the 101st mailing
which followed was the smallest since the 54th, some twelve years
earlier. If it must be celebrated, aim for the 200th and hope that
some die-hards hold out and put a page or two in the 201st. ++
Speer, back around mailing 106, had an article on the opinion that
fans held of one another "in the old days." In general the theme
was that in personal contact they had the same "special feeling...for
one another" that you describe as true of today, but that the
vituperation and hatred expressed in fannish writing of the time
were none-the-less true and valid expressions of feelings. Kind of
a "my dog" attitude; probably true of all in-groups regardless of
time or locale. ++ I'm sure that you have membership cards in your
Fapa mailings from the late 50's/early 60's. When Evans was ST
during those years--and he often was--he'd bring filled-out cards for
members who'd renewed to the assembly session, and those cards would
be inserted into the proper envelope at addressing time. I've run
into three or four in my back mailings, which seems as good a place
to keep them as any.

Interstellar The McDonalds here are now (or last time I looked were)
Ramjet Scoop sporting signe saying "over 23 million sold." Or was
 it billion? No matter, except to the cows of the world.
For hamburgers sold down under can we subtract rather than add to that
fearsome total? Reminds me of my wine class story--which about half
of Fapa has heard before--when the wines were all from Australia,
and all were untypically poor. I pointed out to the instructor that,
being used to Northern hemisphere wines and the Northern hemisphere
swirl given to wines, that we'd probably upset them by swirling them
in the wrong direction. ++ Your comment on Grue: "A pleasant
bubble of words..." exactly captured my feeling.

Ultimate Where's my Atlas? It just occurred to me that your title
South might mean something. ++ Why not stand for DUFF? You're
 one of the seven downunder fans I'd like to meet in person.
++ I'd heard the name Uri Geller before, but it had no referent.
Last night (literally) my wife asked me if I'd ever heard of him
before, and thanks to the fact that I've read this mailing and she
hasn't to date (12 December), I was able to tell her a tiny bit about
the man. I'm sure she wouldn't have accepted the information so
readily if she had known where and from whom I got it, but I didn't
tell her that part.

Dynatron Hell, I was glad to vote for you as President. The group
 came through in one piece from your last time around, and
that's good enough to call for an encore. ++ It was Buck and Wilma?
Who was it that Buddie (if that was his name) used to flit about with?
As to Flame, I rather thought that Buck behaved himself with considerable
more restraint than was called for. ++ How do you chart anything
moving away from you at a velocity in excess of the speed of light?
To measure it you gotta see it, and to see it, it has to be moving
at less than light speed. Who recently explained the working of
rotary engines?--Whoever, come back, your skills are needed. By the
way, I'm serious; to the best of my knowledge you cannot measure
a velocity of recession in excess of the speed of light. I'd be
interested in any follow-up data you find. ++ I have no doubt that
the "New World" was visited more than once long, long before Columbus
or Eric the Red. The Piri Reis map, to the best of my knowledge, is
established to have in fact existed. The Mayan carvings do in fact
picture people with non-Mayan, non-Amerind features.

Ecce Fanno No comment.

Owning Up I like the Orwell quote, and the research into your past
 is appreciated.

Huitloxopetl ...petl is not pronounced "petal" but since the
 pronunciation can't be spelled we'll let it pass. ++
The Discon concomm tried to avoid the leak that you cite. Mail
ballots were passed, unopened, to Peggy Rae. Peggy Rae, and only
Peggy Rae knew the content of those ballots up until almost the
last minute. One Discon person didn't let his lack of knowledge
interfere with his need to be important. He was not knowingly passing
on faulty information. He did knowingly invent and pass on completely
fictitious mail-ballot results. I know who did the talking--and so do
you if you've talked to the Columbus people. But let's have it straight:
he's on his own; it was not a Discon plan or intent, and the choice of
Peggy Rae as the keeper of the secret was quite carefully considered.
A less leak-proof barrier might, in the long run, have been a better
choice, but sheer invention was not an expected danger. Some mail

ballots obviously were opened and seen by others; the talking party was not even a member of the chain that opened and redirected convention mail to the action person.

Crumbly You doubtless already know that the title of my OMPAzone Cowboy was Dogie. ++ At this moment I'm cursed with the memory of a Silverberg and the conscience of a Markstein. There are some parallels to the Suncon boycott that you jolted into my mind that I guess are better left where they are until I manage to forget them. I agree on lack of effectiveness of the boycott. It isn't a new stupidity. Read "meaningfulness" for "effectiveness" above--and certainly one gay mouser is worth a thousand protestors in absence. (The gay mouser reference is just a couple of years old. I believe it was at a Westercon that Ron Bounds appeared with Jerry Jacks as Fafhrd and the Gay Mouser.) ++ What does "Myghtern Arthur nyns yu marow" mean? Yes, it looks Celtic, but further it looks modern Celtic, and that I cannot read. I have trouble enough remembering the words from 1300 year ago without having to keep track of this modern gibberish. He loked as layt so lyzt,
So sayd al þat hym syze;
Hit semed as no mon myzt
Vnder his dynttez dryze.

...which seems to me like a reasonable beginning for a challenge. ++ If there's an illustrator in the audience who wants to tackle the illustrations for a casual article on the above--which just happens to be a bit from Sir Gawain and the Green Knight--I may yet get off my duff (pardon!) and write that article! I've cheated quite a bit in throwing this quote at Peter. I'll make up for it, if Peter insists, by reciting Culhwch and Olwen in Celtic. In that my friends lies the roots of The Enchanted Duplicator. Not specifically in that story but in the collection of which it is a part--The Mabinogion.

Diaspar You accumulated no marginal flags. I've finally come to recognize this to mean that I didn't read the fanzine, that I was bored, or that the words flowed so smoothly and rapidly that I took no time to highlight items for comment. ++ Daughter Missy is the DJ expert here, but she hasn't run across the Ted White show yet. I wonder how many stations we have--close to fifty I imagine, but she's now scanning the airwaves and unless Ted is on very late indeed she'll find the show. Calling Ted to find out would be cheating. ++ I was impressed a year ago and still am by your collection of old fan art which you're now putting into print. The '62 Rotsler Princess of Venus was notable, but his back cover was undated and I can't place the period. ++ Not a typical worldcon report, but a darn good one.

Grue Am I seeing you more often in the mailings? You seem not only to be coming through more often, but you're coming thru like DAG. ++ The FB:TM in the November 1976 mailing was run on Ta-Non-Ka Opaque. I've finally found a source of supply for Ta-Non-Ka Mimeo, and the next FB:TM will probably be run on that--I've been fifteen years without that paper, and hope returning to it may help me achieve my old results. Rex ink, however, isn't what it used to be. This batch at least offsets badly, but at least I don't have the bleed-through problem that you're running into.

Pavlat items Noted.))).))) . We left those out.

Just West of I don't think that I'm going to be able to comment on
the World this in any way that satisfies me or you. I'm happy
 that you tried to offer us some poetry. My reaction to
it is about the same as Carr's to the Fontainebleau: "High Tacky."
I felt that the words were being picked based on some clue other
than their meaning:

the rats are placidly
aswim, sharp noses leading ominous
V's from shore to shore

placidly just does
not tie in with
ominous.

or are busily ascurry
along the grey sand
among sinister
small bones.

aswim, above, and
ascurry here compete
with rather than
complement ominous
and sinister.

I walk among them --
ready to scatter
them -- god knows how --

You can walk on
water maybe?

at the first flash
of teeth

First flash here and
small sinister (or
sinister small) above
good--another reason to
prefer "scurry" to
"ascurry."

Seeds and Creath Thorne. Rich Mann. Tom Perry. All, I believe,
Stems on the waiting list of the early 60's. I know very
 little about Rich, but I'm glad that the first is and
the last should soon be in Fapa. I guess I can say that I'm happy
that you saved your membership too Terry, for I am.

In the Gums of a If Ultimate South means something, I wonder what
Mumblng Gale a mumbling gale is. One without teeth no doubt.
 I enjoyed your shop talk about indexing, and about
using rather than reading certain books. And, yes, about memory--
not too different from my own, and it's a comfort to find that both
you and Harry Warner admit in this very mailing to some of the same
memory defects that I have.

Floccipaucinihilipilification It was a bit of a shock to my system to
 sit down with a typical-looking
Glicksohn fanzine, read typical opening statements, turn the page,
and have the decidedly non-typical purple on yellow/orange paper
stare out at me. Particularly when it leers redly out at me and
says OH, I.C.! Enjoyed, despite the sprayed gerbils.

Philistine I noticed. I even missed you. Calkins and Warner
Quarterly remain regular, and Speer almost so. Bangsund is back
 to regular, and almost all of the southern contingent
contribute frequently. Arthurs, Boutellier, and Frierson are among
the recently admitted members who have so far not been afflicted with
last-minute postmailingitis, annual inactivity, or other dread diseases
that inhabit this graveyard. ++ Stay with us yet a while, and enjoy
Austin. They have some good seafood restaurants.

In a note dated 19 December 1977 Speer suggests that for FAPA BOOK "Not only should you specify sometime how you determined (both found out the facts and interpreted them) which postmailed FAPAZines were not official mailings, but also should you tell by what touchstone you determine the correct title of an ambiguously titled magazine, e g Now Snirdingbash."

I've always been willing to do research. I seldom document the research done. Sometimes I will record a chain of facts or reasoning on my card files, but usually not. Bleen 6, for example, is an entry that you won't find in FAPA BOOK, even though the magazine exists. I probably spent four hours tracing through other Bleeps, Grues, and correspondence from DAG (a not unpleasant search!) looking for a fact I remembered--that DAG had someplace said that Bleen 6 was not a Fapa postmailing. I finally found it. But I did not then and still have not recorded where I found it. In other cases, I have recorded the sources, and in rare cases I've published them, but there's no particular reason why case a is handled in a manner that differs from case b.

There are, however, some generalities that can be stated. First: FAPA BOOK: THE MAILINGS is intended primarily (though not exclusively) as an aid to help a person determine whether any Fapa mailing he has in his hands is an essentially complete mailing. The next section: FAPA BOOK: THE MAGAZINES will have the aim of enabling anyone with a run of fanzines to determine which of those fanzines, if any, belong in any given Fapa mailing. The THE MAGAZINES section may contain a bit more basic research data than does the THE MAILINGS section, but even then I won't provide a lot of documentation. Second. I'm basically lazy. I'll check out the facts. I would, for a different Fapa, document the facts. So far only one member or ex-member has shown any real interest in checking my accuracy. In other words, I'm carrying the index about as far as I need to go to satisfy myself and that appears to be quite far enough to satisfy the rest of Fapa. Third. So long as a person can correlate an object in Bleep hand with my listing of that object as a Fapa item, then I have done my job. I do not determine the correct title--how can I when the publisher quite often can't? I try to give information sufficient for identification and differentiation, and that is all that I try to do. The identification given is always relatable to the object; there is nothing of an attempt to correctly place an object (though I have at times, through double entries and the like, pointed out inabilities of OE's to read what the fanzine editor put in his fanzine--a sin of which I too have been guilty.)

Sources, in general, are: The FA. The fanzine itself and subsequent issues from the same editor which sometimes contain information about the Fapa status of a given issue. The ST report in the FA, which sometimes "validates" an item when the editor needed credit and there was no way for him to get it except through the item in question (which carries the presumption that the ST did his job--a presumption often open to question.) Correspondence. My own knowledge of the fan, the fanzine, the OE, and the ST.

I'll always respond to any specific request for validation or sources. I expect about as many as I have to date received on Fanzine Index. None. (Pardon. Piser asked a number.)

That's why I do the job to suit me.

There is a sad and terrible tyranny in the printed word. "I read

it in FAPA BOOK" doesn't yet have the same authority status as "I read it in TIME:" yet the mere fact that I claim to some accuracy tends to give my documentation of the contents of Fapa mailings more authority than I truly feel they either have or should have. Sorting out what's in the mailings isn't usually too troublesome, though even in recent years some quibbles are possible. What magazines are or were postmailed is much more of a problem. A recent example is Terry Jeeves and ERG. Jeeves was shown as owing eight pages in the November 1976, February 1977, and May 1977 mailings. In the August 1977 mailing he was shown as still owing eight pages, "ATM." The four mailings contained no items by Terry, and the FA's listed no postmailings. Yet, in November 1977, Terry is on the list of members, and has evidently renewed. I had received a January and a May 1977 ERG from Terry, and while they didn't claim to be postmailings it appeared to me that Speer had other information. I wrote Speer, carbons to Arthurs and Burbee, in an attempt to find out which ERG was Fapa. Speer's reply made it clear that he had never inquired as to which ERG, if either, was a postmailing. (If this makes you wonder how Speer allowed Jeeves to renew, you're not alone in your bewilderment.) Arthurs commented that he'd seen a recent ERG but not the three extra copies required to make ERG an official postmailing, but maybe they had gone to Burbee (as they should have considering the timing.) Burbee hasn't responded to me, but possibly he's passed something on to Arthurs for inclusion in the February FA.

Out of situations like this I try to document the contents of the mailings. I do my best--but so far in this case there's a conflict between the OE and the ST, one of whom has not so far seen anything he accepts as an official postmailing, and the other of whom allowed Jeeves to renew without knowing whether he had renewal credentials. I could, of course, write Jeeves. I owe him a letter anyway. But I prefer to get my information from the pages of the FA--the OE's recordation of the contents of the mailings, and the ST's actions in maintaining the membership lists. FAPA BOOK should be the consolidated reference to this official documentation. To the extent that the officers fail to do or document their work, then FAPA BOOK will contain questionable information and hazardous reconstructions.

That's far enough, for the moment, on this trend of thought. There may be more in the next issue of Bobolings, which might even be in the May mailing.

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[illegible]

The facing page should be the listing of current (November 1977) Fapa members by mailing with which joined. A mock-up came out legibly with a 50% reduction so I assume that's how the final will be done.

I'm still puzzled by the fact that nobody who joined Fapa over the five year stretch running from mailing 76, August 1956, through 95, May 1961, currently remains in Fapa. Forty-two people joined; all are gone. Another oddity is that the shape of the curve of members joining who remained from mailing 34, January 1946, through 75, May 1956, is highly similar to the same curve from 96, August 1961 through 138, February 1972. That is, if you lifted the section running from Moskowitz in mailing 34 through Anderson in mailing 75, it would fit very neatly over the curve running from Pelz in mailing 96 through Bangsund in mailing 138. The similarity of these two sections makes the five year gap in the middle even more of a puzzle. What secret of the world (or the universe?) is hidden here?

I was a trifle surprised to find that about half of all Fapa members have been in Fapa for six years or less, but I can't imagine what any of us can do with that information now that it's known. Or with any other part of the data. But that's all right, I got my jollies out of putting it together.

On the chart, each column is a mailing. And I hope the columns are readable on the copy. Two-letter month abbreviations are used. The first letter of the person's name is in the column with which his membership began--the "S" of Speer, for instance, is in column 1, indicating his membership began with and has been continuous since the first mailing. For lapses in membership, the individual's name is shown in parentheses. The opening paren is in the column with which the membership began, the closing paren is in the column through (not to) which the membership ran.

One of my curiosities about this chart was what it would show, if anything, about activity. Without getting fancy, I concluded that about 40% of the Fapans whose membership extends back eight or more years are more than minimally active but that only about 30% of the more recent members show more than minimal activity. Most of the remaining 70% won't last long, even in a graveyard.

I still like the quality. A couple of nights ago Peggy Rae suggested that maybe Fapa ought not to allow credit for pages in which the member's only subject of conversation is how difficult it is for him to meet minac. She was kidding, I think, but she does have a point. The re-written stories for which Ed Martin was booted out were certainly more original.

