

BOBOLINGS
November
1977

Too much, or not enough, transpires. I have no trivia. No war stories. No pre-planned puns (but also no guarantees that one won't happen on the way through whatever it turns out that I have to say. Which will nothing more than a few random comments on the August 1977 mailing, starting with

The Fantasy Amateur. It does its job. This time I don't even have any quibbles with the ST. Well, one little one maybe. How can a person (such as, say, Peter Roberts) be listed as owing 0 pages, ATM? But I did have to reach far for that quibble and neither want nor expect an answer. ++ Sometimes, I find that there's no fitting place to insert a comment on the mailing as an entity except here, in my place to comment on the FA. Like, this mailing, weren't there a lot more fanzines with mailing comments than we've been seeing in the recent past? I thought there were. If it's a trend it would seem to be a healthy one.

E d c o The extra space there is for Cox and--someone--who
s a y s. wondered about names. I dig your stretch slaunchwise
Ed, but no comment hooks of yours really hooked me. ++
Do all SF fans have at least some passing knowledge of astronomy? I've always been more than casually interested, and usually find that at least one book out of my year's reading is astronomy. My knowledge of the constellations is limited (partly because they--some of them--just can't be seen from this murky, night-lit area), and I've looked through a telescope only a couple of times in my life. But I find the occasional article or essay on stellar processes, galactic evolution, or even planetary structure to be a necessary and enjoyable part of my reading.

Grue. That cover was a bit much. I'm still not sure that I read it all. I had thought I had, but I found a completely new corner while sitting here not really looking at it at all, but just ruminating on what to say, ++ No, not this August,...you have this year to do what you like. Not next August, I hope, nor the year after that, nor the year after that. Dag, I haven't enjoyed a Grue as highly as I did this one in mayhap ten but more probably twenty years. I have an oversized empathy gland, and I just soaked up the enjoyment that you so obviously had in turning yourself loose and putting this Grue together.

Interstellar One of my problems is that I sometimes don't know what
Ramjet I think until I read it. I'm surprised from time to
Scoop. time at the office to write what I think I believe, only
to find on reading my prose that I don't think or
believe that at all. Disconcerting to say the least. ++ I'm not
in the least sorry about the fact that tomorrow's Fapa lies in the
hands of tomorrow's rather than yesterday's fans. I've seen yester-
day's Fapa. It was a lot of fun, most
of the time. It was mostly fun when one
group clicked, whether that group was the
California Insurgents, the Michifans,
the DC Worry Warts, or whomover. I don't
need to be a part of the next group. But
I sure hope that I'm around to watch.

Bob Pavlat
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Tekeli-li. You're pushing your luck with that spacing. Your reason for being in Fapa is not really different than that of almost any one of us. We like to read what the other members put out. It is occasionally nice to have an audience, and always superb to have feedback, but the real reason I'm here is to read what you and some sixty other people may decide to say. ++ Someone, most likely Bill Evans, once loaned me a file of W Paul Cook's THE GHOST. That was long ago, and all that I recall is that it was one of the finest fanzines that I'd ever seen.

Humble We, too, saw STAR WARS. The whole family once, and me Opinions. and the two youngsters a second time. I am amazed at the ads which quote reviews calling it "the best film of 1977" or other such hockum, for it's not. It's space opera, straight out of Planet Stories. It's wonderful good fun.

From Sunday Your trip route sounded familiar. In 1961, returning to Saturday. East from Seacon, we came back via British Columbia and Alberta (including the big loop north of Revelstoke, for the highway from Revelstoke to Donald Station hadn't been cut through then), taking in Lake Louise and Calgary and then south to Montana, backtracking through Glacier before finally and firmly heading to our first eastern fan stops. There were three stops as I recall--with Boggs, with Grennell and family, and with Gene and Betty Kujawa. ++ In north-eastern Oklahoma, near Afton, there is a multi-acre museum devoted to early Americana. Not too much on Indians, though what there is appears to be authentic. (The "not too much" is one building, maybe 60 feet long and twenty wide, glassed in on each side with an aisle in the center. It's free, and is owned by the Jones of trucking in that part of the country. I think you'd enjoy it if you're in the area, and I certainly felt that it was worth the two hour each way trip that it took me to get there from Arkansas. I don't think that I'd have felt it would be worth four hours, however.

The Hog Evans introduced me to Islandia. ++ Thanks for the on Ice. suggestion on fanzine binding. I'll try it. My 1940 and 1941 Fapa collections were commercially bound, long before I got them, and they are stab stitched. They are, despite this, easy to handle whether open or closed. I doubt if the bindings would withstand heavy use, but they hold up fine under the occasional use they receive. ++ The Kemp Why is a Fan? was franked through Fapa. The good items that have been franked are rare, but there are a few examples. ++ I've been shaving for about 35 years but don't find my face, so far, to be a mass of scar tissue. Maybe next week. ++ Isn't the expression "This situation no longer obtains" rather than "attains"? ++I really hope that you didn't spend the last five years of your life at the U of Chicago. I'd expected to see you in Fapa for the next several.

The Tiger I'll try not to nit-pick either, and perhaps I can start is Loose. by saying that I agree with you. Anyone who groups Nebraska with Oregon and other states into something called the general west or somesuch is, unquestionably, a geography freak. The point on organizing states into groups is to simplify and/or bring out relationships. The divisions I used had some relationship (not much, but some) to fan divisions into enclaves. ++ Your math is better than your geography. Fapa has slipped one

mailing from where it mathematically should be. This was caused by two changes in the constitutional mailing date, with each change allowing a greater than three month lapse between mailings. There have been other slips, late mailings, and the like, but it's the two constitutional changes that changed the August mailing from an odd number mailing to an even number mailing date.

SAMBO. Why you rated all caps I don't know, but let it stand. Come back with more soon, for while I've nothing to say I did get a lot of pleasure out of this issue.

Horizons. The first Fapa mailing, by today's reckoning, went out in August 1937. I say "by today's reckoning" because there is some question possible as to whether that first mailing was intended as a "mailing" or as a "sample." Evidence leans toward the latter (one example--no Fapa memberships were accepted before September, 1937. I think I'm contradicting All Our Yesterdays on that statement (I'm not going upstairs to check, but I believe that you said Pohl joined in June. He might have paid his 50¢ dues then, but he wasn't entered on the books until Wollheim and Michel were entered as numbers 1 and 2, and that didn't happen until September.), but it's a minor point). You can't date Fapa from the first issue of the FA, since the first issue of the FA didn't appear until the third (March-April 1938) Fapa mailing. ++ I enjoy Charlie's Angels and try not to miss them. It and Quincy are the only two shows that I tend to try to catch. I completely refused to watch the Frost/Nixon series on the basis that Nixon made me sick a number of times while he was in office and be damned if I was going to give him any more opportunities. ++ Harry, I though I recalled your egoboo poll as a simple one. I'd had a similar idea this year--Back to the Postcard Ballot!--and just couldn't do it. More power to you if you can! Go ahead, run for veep. ++ Took a note from your book, Harry, and visited a few yard sales recently. One of the items acquired was a Sony tape deck, two-track stereo, reel to reel. I find that it plays my old two-track non-stereo tapes just fine as long as I tune out one speaker. The other item, same place, was a dual 1009 turntable, complete with new cartridge and needle, works fine except that it won't turn off. The Sony tape deck cost me \$12. The Dual cost me another \$12, and will probably cost \$20 or so to repair the defective switch.

Good people, forgive me a two-pager. Sorry. Can't count. Three pager. I dropped a lot of comments, for I do want to get this on its way, and sorry for those magazines slighted due to my rush.

Peggy Rae is including an item in our package to Bruce which may look like a franked item, but really isn't. She roughed out the text, she and I polished it, a friend, with press, set it in type (and I truly admire the excellent choices he made in type choice and other little niceties), and then Peggy Rae spent parts of two days doing the actual printing. It's her work, and it's even related to science-fiction since some of the items at the auction come from the science fiction field.

...mathematically speaking, this was caused
...in the construction of the model, with each
...greater than three months, gaps between mailings
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...that changed the August mailing from
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...I don't know, but let it stand. Some
...for while I've noticed to say I did
...of this issue.

...By today's reckoning, went out
...I say "by today's reckoning" because
...to whether that first mailing
...or as a "sample" or as a "test"
...I think I'm considering all our
...I'm not going to appear to be
...He might have paid
...but he wasn't entered in the books until
...I and J, and that didn't happen
...You can't see a minor error. You can't see
...the first issue of the 84, since the first issue of the 84
...March-April 1983 (March 1983) was mailed
...I had to try to find it. I completely
...the basis that Nixon
...of these while in office and he
...to give him my own copy of the
...I'd had a
...to the "Black" in the "Black"
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...One of the items acquired was a Sony tape
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...to our package to Bruce which
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...the best work, and the
...since some of the items of the
...the science fiction field.