

Grandfather Stories No comments that I particularly feel like making on this Howie, but it was enjoyed.

Allerlei Your quote covers usually break me up. The fact that this one didn't is, I'm sure, much more indicative of some minor (I hope) glumness on my part than it was of any lack of quality in the material. ++ Close Encounters pleased Missy and Eric, but I felt some parts of it were too overdone. That's fine in a rollicking spoof like Star Wars, but it detracted from my enjoyment of Close Encounters. ++ No one seems to have mentioned in FAPA the TV Project UFO. Strikes me as a so-so treatment of interesting material. Mom worked on the Project Bluebook files many years ago; she says the treatment of the parts she recognizes is honest. ++ Enjoyed.

Big Mac More miniscule print, but at least there's room enough for marginal scribbles. ++ They were filming part of Hair here this past week. Wonder if you were in town. ++ Never before occurred to me that each side of a set would be used. ++ "Big Mac" strikes me as a pretentious self-important title. And I still say the title doesn't mesh with the editor.

The Speed of Dark By proper selection of light emitters one can choose two that interfere with each other and, in conjunction, emit a wave of dark. Obviously the speed of dark can be measured under these conditions. ++ I hope that maybe my mc's are contributing the change you see in Fapa. I don't want to return to the titanic mc's that used to appear by such members as Janke and Carr (GM), but we do need more than there have been over the past handful of years.

Cacoethes I'd wondered why Chuck was carried on the membership roster as a joint member with you. Maybe it's so that he can convince you to remain a member. I enjoy your submissions, though I wish they were more frequent. ++ The last miniatures that I worked on were on a 1:87 scale (3.5mm=1ft). But more on that, probably, following my mailing comments.

Horizons I haven't double-checked, but your note which reads "A periodical that is written and edited by science fiction and fantasy enthusiasts and that is frequently prepared by mimeographing...." sounds to me like the exact wording used for the definition of the word fanzine in the Websters Unabridged. In the past I looked that definition up in three different dictionaries (Websters, Random House, and Oxford), and I believe that yours is from the Websters. ++ Peggy Rae, in her Lansdale days, was a non-Fapa Horizons recipient. ++ I'm glad to see the Al Ashley reprints. You're right that Al was not a polished author. But he did state his views with some directness and with considerable enthusiasm. Abby Lu bubbled even more than Al, and with those two plus occasional others, En Garde possessed considerable life and made enjoyable reading. ++ Ed Cox once told me that Swisher started the custom of listing the comments (oops! contents) of the mailing in the FA (or a supplement thereto). Since Swisher didn't become OE until the 25th mailing it looks like you've found the true originator of the custom. I could never have put together the data I have on the mailings without the FA listings.

The Rambling Fap Sorry to hear about the burglarization. I'm afraid that sturdy protection of the household is a part of city life.++It was nice to note that you got some skiing in this year.

Le Moindre I had once wanted to consider the Austin Marina, but it received rather bad press here, evidently merited if your car was typical. Our Toyota (1971 Corona) now has logged 94000 miles, and while it displays signs of age I fully expect another 40000 or so miles from it. ++ The Cocks white sounds like a good value. Shipping cost would probably raise the price to at least \$3 here (shipping and insurance ran about \$5 a case two years ago); not many good wines are available today at that price. Even a good Chablis (genuine) runs over \$5, and a Chablis just isn't worth that much to me, much though I miss the occasional bottle. ++ One of my early loves was wintergreen mints. Still like them but just never think to buy any. As for phosphates, I've no idea of what they are technically, but their effect was, as I recall, merely a bit of tartness.

Grue Yes, I believe The Whisperer was on radio. ++ I'll bite. What does "RTP&BP mean? Roving Traffic Police and Border Patrol? Randy Town Pimp and Bullshit Purveyor? Whatever, he tells a story well. ++ I'm with you on the extensive open hours for any purchase or form of entertainment throughout all parts of California that I've visited. We're almost as fortunate here, though it does vary depending on county. And I still remember the time Peggy and I spent one evening in Albuquerque, starting about 9 pm one weekday evening, looking for a simple jug of milk so that Missy could have her evening drink. I presume we finally solved the problem; all that I remember is the hours spent trying to solve it. ++ I mentioned that I'd found a source for Ta-Non-Ka. He closed his doors shortly after Christmas, merged with a company twenty miles north, and no longer handles Ta-Non-Ka. Sigh.

The Devil's Work Yes, Under Pressure stands up well under re-reading. ++ How long has Squires been at his present address? Rosenblum hasn't moved since 1949, I'm still reachable at my first address known to fandom (which goes back to 1946), Searles can still be reached through his 1943 address, even though he has moved--two doors away. ++ Yes, there were two copies of The Devil's Work in the envelope that I received, and my apologies are in order. I've forgotten the details of the last time you went out of Fapa, but I do remember a highly favorable impression of your character at the time. ++ Shucks, blood type doesn't matter to a consumer. Never a cannibal has been killed yet by failure to match blood types with a victim. But watch out for those transfusions! Same goes for vampires, of course. ++ Haven't read any of the James Willard Schultz Indian novels in years. Evans has some of them and I imagine I'll some day borrow a couple and see how they stand up to rereading. They were some of my favorite reading when I was--oh--thirteen or so. Those were the days of Tarzan, the Ransome series (Swallows and Amazons), Tom Swift, the Rover Boys (I wonder why I dug that series but never got involved with the Hardy Boys series), Nordoff and Hall, someone's WWI stories about the air war--was that also by Hall?--in which I learned the nothing that I know about rotary engines,

and quite a number of stories about Alaska though the only author that I can remember was London. One of the Rover Boys books was The Rover Boys at Crater Lake--it was one of the things that made skiing interesting to me. It wasn't till many years later that I really learned what a "stem christiana" or a "scissors turn" was. They are now such antiquated terms (and turns) that I doubt if many current skiers even know the words. Gregg?

The Gubbuan Saor Your mc's are one of the notable nostroms which are relieving anemia in the body Fapa. ++ You can add me to your list of people that have flown into and out of SF, but never via Oakland. And never on a Spad either, nor a DC-3, but I'll have to admit to a DC-6. My only DC-3 flight was from KC to Colorado Springs. I like that plane considerably more than I like DC-10's. ++ Agreed on the messiness of crabs. But it does become easier with time, and they are worth the trouble and mess. They should be available in quantity here in just a couple of more weeks, and I'm more than ready for a dozen or two. With steamed shrimp, a pitcher of beer, and plenty of paper towels. ++ Silverberg will remember a Saunacon at a Disclave a number of years back. I don't remember (and won't reveal) all the people in the room, but Bob was there, and Barbara, and Peggy Rae, and so was I. Bob accused me of ogling Barbara, and I'll admit I tried, but all that I could see was exactly all that you saw of Teresa, except that Barbara's head was topped off with a brown blur rather than a blond one. Glasses are an unfair handicap in a sauna, and I fully sympathise with your sad ta---story.

Interjection Yes, others have gone into full time writing, both with and without a penchant for disorganization. Very few in sf have come out with two superior sf novels as their first two offerings. I'm not too pleased with today's offerings in sf, and read relatively little. But after the reading of Jungle, I eagerly bought Midnight...when it appeared. I haven't bought your third yet only because I haven't been in a book store that had it to date. Thanks for the background material.

Comporoid "Ms" has received general acceptance, but there is still no good coinage for a sexually neutral singular pronoun. I've had to sink to the he/she bit at the office, just as you have, and I've sometimes used hiser in Fapa, but they are not satisfactory forms. I still make the oral slip of manpower or man-years at times, though in writing I've successfully converted to staff or staff-years. Other terms, like chair-person, I just don't like. Cleaning the sexual orientation out of our language will take a while, and new word coinages are going to be necessary.

The Tiger is (on the) Loose Dropped from the waiting list with the 90th mailing were George Wetzel, aka William Lance, and Wilfried Myers. Sambo 8 in mailing 88 had a full front sketch of a nude ("she wasn't nude, she was naked") with a balloon reading "What do you want honey? It's free," and with an external balloon labeled "this fanzine" pointing at "It's free." ++ Archival microfilm will last longer than its creator is going to be around to concern himself about it.

Foolschap Somewhat more than a year ago I was far behind on my Fapa mailings, and was reading one or two mailings a week to catch up. I well remember that one night I turned to Peggy Rae just after having finished something by you--a Foolschap I presume--and said "You know, John Berry is one hell of a writer." "Didn't I tell you he was neat?!" Peggy Rae replied. You were, and are, and I'll miss you, for I'm not too likely to cross your path outside of Fapa. Happy fanning to you.

HUMBLE I seem to manage to violate my format at least once
OPINIONS each issue and type the title of the fanzine in review
 in caps. It was your turn. ++ ++ Worse even than
being manipulated into killing someone is being maneuvered into feeling guilty about it. ++ The usual meaning of the "Privacy Act" is the "Privacy Act of 1974." This applies only to Federal activities, but if your attorneys don't know this don't bother telling them. You were on much stronger legal grounds on the pay discrimination item. Good for you in both cases.

Celephais Four of the five fanzines remaining to be reviewed are from Maryland. Two others from Maryland have already been reviewed. That's six. February is a good month for Maryland. Not desiring to start any quantitative feuds or even look at quality I don't think I'll carry this trend of thought any further. ++ Oh, by the way, I wasn't talking about your quality, or that of any other Maryland fanzine. Quasi-quoting Rotsler, "the quality is about as expected," or, "The quality is superb, for Maryland fanzines." ## Yes, Caughran had a (or has a) PhD, or so memory says. Not sure about states and Fapa members. You suggested Alaska, but I think Barbara Bovard Edge had an Alaska address at one time (can't check, she was a member in the years I'm missing). Seems to me that Idaho, South Dakota, and Nevada were represented only by military addresses, but I'm far from sure. # Chauvenet's "Nachgemachte Schildkrotensuppe" and "L'Oasis d'Horreur" were the first non-English language Fapa magazines, both in the 15th mailing. ++ SF 50 Yearly celebrated the 25th year of Tucker and Bloch in sf. 25*25=50. Since both are still with us, two years pass during each of our revolutions around the sun.

Crumbly 'Twould be nice if you had a fan over here to mimeo your Cowboy material. You could then expand to four or more pages at no increase in cost or loss of timeliness. Sorry I can't offer to do the mimeo work, for I would like to see more.

Of Members Again, a good help in filling out the Egoboo Poll.
and 'Zines

Bobolings If Karen Anderson has departed from Fapa, the five year gap when nobody who joined Fapa remains active has now been extended to a six year gap. Raeburn and Pelz are the two fans now balanced on the edge of the void.

Detours I'm bewildered on why we received this. I read some sections, skimmed others, but still wondered why.. I'm not complaining about getting it, but I don't understand what caused you to go to the work and cost.

Every Christmas for the last five or so years one of two items has been pulled out of the bowels of the basement and set up in the family room for the kids--Eric, Missy, and me. The two items are the slot car racing set and the HO train set.

It's the 22nd of April, and the HO train set is not yet back in its corner. It hasn't been run for a while, but it was in operation well into March. It would probably be going even now if I had raised the train board off the floor and thus had gotten it out of the way of the hordes of pre-teen-age feet that too often turn the family room into disaster dungeon.

Eric wanted a more challenging layout this year, so I laid out a double oval with switches and sidings. Having a siding I wanted better uncoupling, so I converted a number of cars to Kaydee magnetic uncouplers. We had only one engine, and it was in pretty bad shape, so I bought a simple kit and put one together. I enjoyed the work, and when I ran into a somewhat better kit at the same price I put it aside to put together, and have since completed--more or less. (Still some detail work to do on that, such as hand rails and painting, but it's in operational condition.)

I enjoyed the detailed work--I hadn't worked with models for quite a while but found I still enjoyed it--so I picked up a stock car kit. This was a detailed monster consisting of a number of pieces of fine wood, a few pieces of metal and wire, and a sheet of instructions and templates. I completed the car--not too bad a job but with obvious marks of the amateur at work--and may even someday use it on a layout. To satisfy my own curiosity, I'd intentionally put this together scaled to 3-foot gauge rather than standard gauge (4 ft 8½ in.) It's HO, so the scale is the standard 87.1:1 (3.5mm=1ft), but my existing layout uses standard gauge. I don't yet know whether I'll go to dual gauge on part of the layout, build a separate HO_n3 pike, or what. But there's no rush. I probably won't even think about it much over this summer; model building is more for the winter than the summer months.

I am impressed with some things in model railroading. The incredible talent of some of the people, many of whom will scratch build entire locomotives modeled exactly after some prototype. The habit of speaking in prototype feet, so that a person who's into one scale has no conversion problem in talking to a person who's into another scale. The amount of money which some people evidently put into model railroading, with brass locomotives running from \$300 to \$900 being not at all uncommon. (These high cost items do have the advantage that there is a good second-hand market and if the item is cared for it can be re-sold with little loss, and in some cases at a profit since these are limited run items.)

I enjoy it. I like the few people I've so far met. I've learned a little about mechanics and about working to scale. I've picked up some more geography (but where's the McCloud River and where's Buffalo Creek?) Now all I need is the room to build the railroad I'd like to, with some mountains and some mining and lumbering operations.