

No 5

BOBOLINGS

May 1959



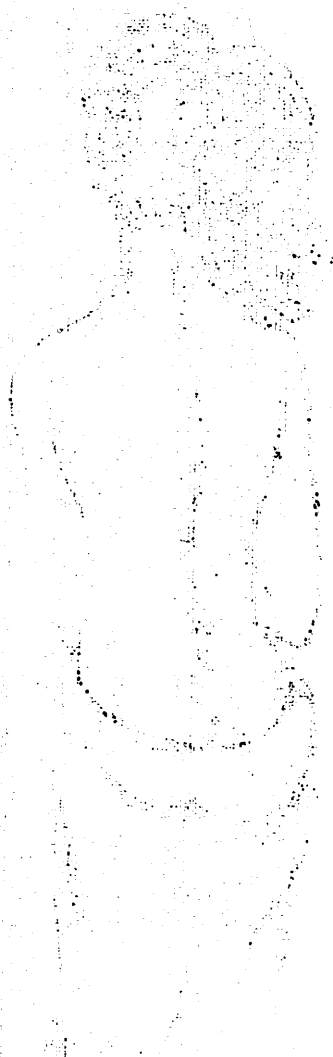
SHARE

BOB PAVLAT
6001 43RD AVE
HYATTSVILLE, MD

FOR THE

USE OF

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HYATTSVILLE, MD.
8001 43RD AVE
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1952

Whoever Counts...

A couple of people have made dire sounds of doom about the lack of activity in FAPA. Frankly, as a member, I've appreciated the smaller mailings--I now have a chance to read what's in the mailing. The last one was so small, in fact, that I turned back to the 83d and read a couple of items that I'd passed over at the time. I find I'm not alone in liking mailings somewhat smaller than those monsters that were being produced between mailings 72 through 83; Warner has indicated some pleasure in the reduced size, Andy Young has mentioned the agreeable smaller size on tape, and there are a few more rebels against the big mailing fad sneaking about in the woods, ashamed to admit that they like a five-hundred page mailing better than a seven-hundred pager. I like them from maybe 300 to 450 pages. This may not be the size that's best for FAPA; it is the size that's best for my enjoyment.

Many people have wondered where the activity came from and went to. I decided to try to find out half of that--where it went to. The where it came from part will have to be done by some researcher who wants to plow into mailings before the 72d; I waded through fifteen mailings, and that's enough for me. The results are on the next three pages.

The tally that follows indicates pages in each mailing by editor. Page sizes are converted to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11, which short-changes Danner but has little affect on anyone else. When more than one editor was shown, I split the page credit evenly. Official publications are credited only to officialdom, not to the individual official. Articles, etc. by members published in other's magazines are not counted, and thus Boggs, Burbee, Silverberg and others are short-changed in-so-far as total activity is concerned, but not in terms of publishing activity. At least I hope they're not--there are doubtless some errors in here, but I think the big picture is correct.

There are some surprises in the tally. I readily expected GMC to be first in activity, but I didn't expect that White would turn up in second place (nor did he expect to!) I hadn't realized that McCain had been so active, nor that Raeburn had been present in 14 of the last 15 mailings.

It turns out that the decline in activity can be accounted for by the activity of less than a dozen members. Calkins accounts for a little bit, Economou for some, Clarke (Ellis) for some, and Eney for a bit. Note how Harness has fallen off, and activity-conscious Martinez, whose exhortations probably helped cause the boom. Ryan, Sanderson, Schaffer and Shaw played their part in the rise--and in the decline, as did White and the Youngs. The change in activity by these people, plus the loss of McCain, is the cause of the change. (I added Clarke and Martinez while writing this, thus the change from less than a dozen to a baker's dozen members.) The average activity drop of these people amounts to about 300 pages. Many of them still contribute their share--perhaps more than their share--to the mailings. They're past heroes, and almost without exception I miss their past heavy contributions (particularly you, Phyllis); I'm never-the-less happy they've slowed down. Not to the extent they have, for I'd like to see more by Andy and more by Lee, to name the two I miss the most (after Phyllis), but the mailings were too big. It's fun to read the whole mailing for a change.

Mailing Member	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	Tot	Ave
Alger			8				10				8				8	34	2
Anderson, K.	#####				9				8	14	12		8			51	4
Anderson, L.	8			11								#####				19	2
Ashworth		17				5	3	22				12				59	4
Ballard	6	6	4				8	8			10				6	48	2
Bennett	#####						12	10			14				14	50	5
Bergeron				#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	-	-
Bloch		2				2	2			12½		11				30	2
Boggs	4	½		4		5½	2									16	1
Bradley				18	9	5½		4	19			4	21			81	5
Brandon	#####									2	9	24	18	#####		53	14
Browne				#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	-	-
Brues/Dunn			9		8			2			8					27	2
Burbee		4½	9		1		5½				15				9½	45	3
Calkins		15	10				16	20	32	16				8		117	8
Carr, GM	22	45	28	46	48	48	46	22	20	48	42	32	36	32	29	544	36
Carr, T.	14		4	5		3			59	3		38	18	24		168	11
Caughran	#####													8	6	14	5
Chappell, D.	#####			10								#####				10	1
Clyde	2	5½					#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	8	1
Clarke/Ellis	#####		48	24	31	14		4				20				141	9
Coslet	8	14	10	8	6	4	6	2				4	6			68	5
Coulson	#####													4	10	14	7
Cox	19½	20½	14	10												64	8
Crouch	10		20				10					9		8		57	4
Danner	24	12	41½	26	21	12	23½	23½	14	4	10	10	23½	8	24	277	18
Derry	#####										10	17	1	16		44	9
Dunkelberger						#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	#####	-	-
Economou	12	26	18		18	20		22	20	28				16		180	12
Ellik	14½	15½	5	26	2		32			2		76		3		176	12
Eney	10	8	6	8	24	38	43	11	34	12	8	12	6	6	5½	232	15
Evans					9	19	29	10	42	16	78	18	39	41	10½	312	21
Geis	2	#####														2	1
Gerding	#####										17					17	3
Gould	#####											#####				-	-
Graham	11		12		14	31					#####	39	12			68+	6
Grennell	30	38	22	4	4		5	4	4	11		74				196	13
Harmon	#####						8				#####					8	2
Harness	10		14	18	8	29½	24	27	13	14		21			1	180	12
Harris			18				10	4			18	4				54	4
Hevelin	#####															-	-
Hickman	#####														4	4	4

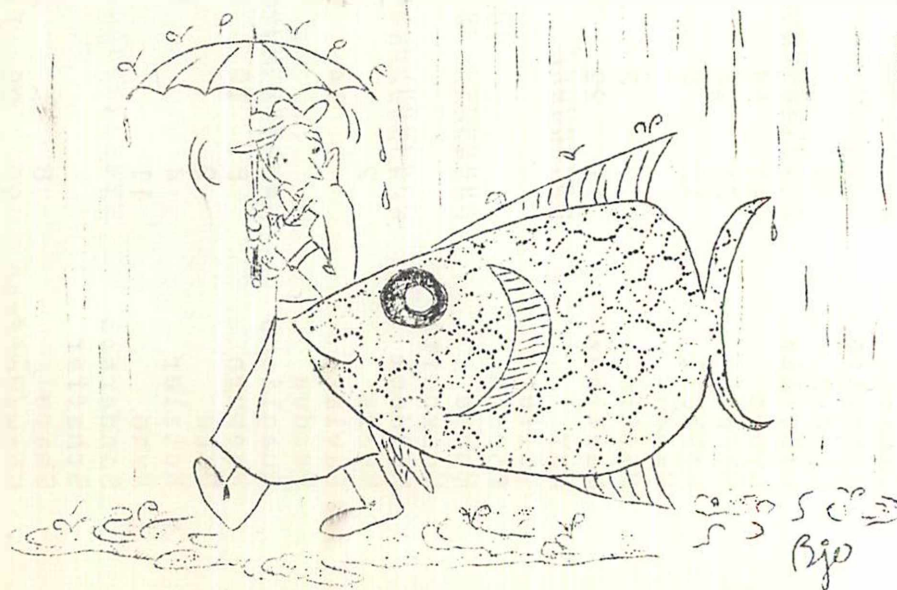
Higgs				25		1	16	1		16½		10	8		77	5		
Jacobs	6	½	#####												7	7		
Janke	#####					9	9		8		14	23			63	7		
Jansen	#####				10	12			5				####		27	2		
Jenrette	#####											9			9	3		
Kidder	11					1	#####								12	2		
Labowitz	#####					2	8		#####						10	3		
Lyons	11	14		24				15	22			17			103	7		
McCain	21	16	14	22		32	28	20	24			#####			177	15		
McPhail	12	8	14	14		14	10	14	10	16	77	17	26	23	19	20		
Magnus					#####										-	-		
Martin		3	2	11			9	4				#####			29	2		
Martinez	11	22	20	4		8	18	11		14	10				118	8		
May	#####				#####										-	-		
Miller					#####										-	-		
Moreen	#####				#####										-	-		
Morse	#####										7		10			17	3	
Moskowitz											16			10		26	2	
Murdock	#####					4	4					#####			8	1		
Myers	2				16	5		8		4	3	1	#####			39	3	
Pavlat		14	10	2½	22			13										
Perdue			9				5½			33		28		15½	139	9		
Quagliano	#####														9½	39	3	
Raeburn	8	10	8	4	4		7	10	11	4	8	4	4	4	8	32		
Rike	2		8		27	2			5	12		24	12			94		
Rotsler	4			16			8	22						10		92		
Ryan	11				13	18	16	18		19						50		
Sanderson	#####									21	12	26	45			95		
Schaffer			8		15	25	12	50	23	17		9		2		104		
Share	8		23			10	15	10				#####			161	11		
Shaw/Hoffman	90	28	111			60	38	118	38	16	9				66	6		
Shrewsberry	#####															508	34	
Silverberg		3				2	#####										-	-
Smith	#####									9			2			5		
Sneary	#####									17						11		
Speer	18		10	25	19	32	2	1	36			9		8	2	27		
Stark	#####															152		
Steward	#####					18	1	7		14		30			14	58		
Trimble	#####										11			8		10		
Tucker	4	10			12	2	8			12½		7			12	6		
Vorzimer	#####				#####										10	66	4	
Walker	#####				#####										-	-		
Wansborough	#####					7	1	8	3	4	2		2			-		
	#####															27		
Mailing No.	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	Tot Ave		

Mailing	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	Tot Ave
Warner	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	360
Wegars	26	14	14	20												74
Wells			8	1			17			24		3				58
Wesson	55		71	93	2	85	9	73	50	18	18	16	11	33	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	536
White	24					16			12		10			2		64
Willis	10		2	2	14								11			39
Wilson																3
Winne																
Woolston	8				19				15				9			51
Young	6	12	6	34	23	28	52	40	46	73	14	13	7	20	20	347
Officialdóm	@10	16	16	14	@10	16	15	11	17	13	14	13	7	20	12	@204
																639

That sum of averages figure of 639 rather startles me. It seems like a legitimate way to obtain the average size of all mailings without adding the individual columns and then dividing, but I didn't expect that it would be so high--particularly when you consider that I discounted half-size pages. It's a surprisingly large figure. It means that average activity (and it's a misleading average!) has been ten pages per member per mailing. Like, wow!

While I'm on this subject of activity, a question has occurred to me. I'd like to address a question particularly to Bloch, Larry Shaw, and Tucker. Why, of all the pro's there are, are you three so much more involved in fandom than the others? Is it, I wonder, a matter where you are different from other professionals, or are you fan-type people who happen to have the capability to make good professionally. There are any number of pros who are ex-fans, and quite a number come into contact with fandom frequently. You three, and Rog Phillips Graham, are the only ones that I know of who are involved in our microcosmos. Agberg's still around I know, and I don't mean to be ignoring him--but he's pretty much on the outer reaches. Bradley and Warner are somewhat different cases, as are some others who have sold professionally once or thrice, but have never moved into the "pro" classification. "Classification" I said, not "class". They are mostly just fans who have sold, and I think of them only in the fan category. Not so true of Marion as of Harry perhaps--but then I've never read a story by Harry.

As is apt to happen when I'm not only composing on stencil, but writing material I haven't even thought about, I've strayed from the subject. I wonder if there is an answer to my question aside from "I'm in fandom because I like it."



THE 86th MAILING was not as good as the 85th, which had been one of the most interesting mailings in many many months to me. All filled with stuff to comment on, and I regret that I didn't. The 86th accumulated very few marginal notations, but here we go anyhow.

Officialdom's THE FANTASY AMATEUR. I can see some cases in which I would not agree that a postmailing, "to qualify, must reach all members within a single mailing period." As a general principle I think all postmailings should go out within a single week, but if there's reason for a reasonable delay, so what? The value of an item is not disrupted by a delay over which the publisher has no control. = It was my error in the page count in the president's report, where I said it looked like the mailing was over the 400 page mark, while actually we had 326 pages. And what on earth happened to the postmailings? Either there weren't any, or I've succeeded admirably in losing both physical and mental records of their receipt. = I'm not in favor of having the deadline one week early on the cover of the FA. Unfortunately I've neglected to mention this to White, hence I don't know what will be on this cover (the cover of this FA, that is--I haven't yet changed gears from typing the prexy's report to typing mailing reviews). Seems to me that it might discourage people rather than encourage. All too frequently I've sat down at the last moment and pounded out a fanzine (all too frequently of those I have done, that is), mostly as a sudden urge. One or two of those might never have gotten done if I had believed the deadline was one week earlier than it really was.

Warner's HORIZONS. Hope you managed to sort out the misnumbering of FAPA mailings which you suspected. I've traced the mailings back, and find no discrepancies. Number 3 went out in two sections, and number 5 (Fall 1938) was followed by an unnumbered Emergency Mailing in October, but thereafter things seem to sail smoothly. Numbers divisible by four should be the summer mailing, which they are, but only because the March 1940 mailing was called mailings 10 and 11, and because Burbee and Laney hustled out mailings only a month apart in 1947 when they started the get the mailings out on time movement. = Though hard reading, Rich's comments on convention reading were interesting, as you mentioned. By coincidence, I recently re-discovered Rothman's Plenum 13, "Concerning the Conduct of Conventions," which is the only other example of its breed that I can think of. = Someone should write up the laws of conventions, starting with your first law that "No public address system has ever been in working order at the start of any kind of convention." The second must surely be that even if the public address system was in working order something else would go wrong to delay the opening session. = Mrs. Carr is not in OMPA, but Gemzine is received by some of the people who are in that group and not in FAPA. It has resulted in some weird impressions of American fandom in general and FAPA in particular. What kind of people are we, they wonder, who can put up with Mrs. Carr in FAPA. = Lawsuits about WSFS, not WSFA. Ten years from now WSFS will, I hope, be an almost forgotten organization, but I rather imagine that at that date fans who entered the field in 1960 or later will have rather a vague impression that the Washington Science Fiction Association was once involved in a mess of lawsuits. What price having similar names? It does make the Random House objection to the name, "Fandom House," a little more understandable to me. = Found the journalism article fascinating reading. It tallies well with what Derry has said about his newspaper days.

Danner's STEFANTASY. It's something that I don't understand, for I like--even admire--Leman's talent. Yet some of his items have left me with a strange feeling, more or less as if Leman was saying something which I couldn't quite understand because I wasn't as smart as I should be. Such items as "Casper Follicle" in UNEVEN and "Henry Gross, Are You There?" in this Stef leave me most heartily pleased, and with no queasy feeling at all. = Bill, you seem to be in touch with all the fans who aren't in fandom any more. Would you happen to have any idea of Norm Stanley's present whereabouts? = My haste forces me to ignore the other marginal notes. Fine issue.

Danner's LARK and its APPENDIX. I like your ink. A nice, rich black. Came through fine in the solid area on the cover too, with amazingly little soak-through considering the paper. Speaking of the paper, have we ever mentioned that Lark invariably comes up short copies at the FAPAcon. As far as we can tell, there are always 68 copies which can be found with enough looking, but your magazine more than any other tends to get improperly assembled into FAPA bundles, with two or sometimes more copies going into several different bundles. We're getting real expert at checking through assembled FAPA mailings looking for the two or three missing copies of LARK. = I went to work for a drug store in about 1939 as delivery boy. This gave me a great deal of time to read comics, of which there were many. But it was late 39 - early 40 when the comics arced into prominence with the birth of superman and his hundreds of imitators. = For years I've been on the Dianetics/Scientology mailing list. Finally decided to do something about it, so I sent back a couple of copies of ABILITY marked "refused." This didn't work, so I sent a letter. The reply said they would delete my name from their mailing list, and asked "What did we do wrong?" I replied, thanked them, and told them the only thing they had done wrong was their failure to periodically screen their mailing list. About two weeks later I received a postcard about some scientology meeting, so another note went in, again asking to take my name from their mailing list. Again they said they would, and again asked if they had done anything wrong. This time I did not reply. Finally, about a month ago, I got yet another copy of ABILITY. So I wrote them for^a third time, and this time I beat them to the punch. My letter was worded something like "This is the third time I have asked to have my name taken from your mailing list. What have I done wrong?" They sent back a very nice reply riding along with the joke, and I'm pleased to say that I've received nothing further. = This, too, is run with paste ink. I can't see much of an improvement here. Lark, however, looked better with paste ink except for an apparent ink distribution problem--gaps where the paste ink didn't show as solid as in other parts. No comments on the Appendix except that it was quite readable considering paper thinness. I wonder what's wrong with your stenciling of styli work. I hope you go over each letter more than once--if not, you should.

Evan's CELEPHAIS. Shucks no, you don't need to measure each drawing. The only question is whether the drawing merits counting as a full page because of effect or organization about a theme, in which the special format was required to carry out the theme. It's still a subjective determination, as always. I hope the Myers ruling imposed a little more order, and some standards which could be applied. = An amazing amount of Army Band audition material is jazz - Rampart Street, the entire score of Porgy & Bess, Tenderly, etc. And I was quite amused the

other day to encounter, among the reasons for the decline in musical talent coming into the Army from civilian life, "the lowered standards of playing required under 'Rock and Roll,' 'Bop,' etc." Lower your voice White--I can hear you from Baltimore. Actually, I think the analysis is true for the standard 'local' bop groups, even though not for the best players. Mostly I agree with you on jazz, (-talking to Evans again-) particularly regarding the blues, but chamber jazz and the cool have definite attractions. This liking mainly developed over many a night spent listening to Charlie Byrd (guitar), with bass and drums. With that type of group (the guitar is usually the Spanish or unamplified guitar) you've almost got to be either cool or funky. Some of the old timers I used to like I now find too much the same to material I've heard too frequently, which perhaps accounts in part for the turn to new horizons.

Trimble's AMIS. Welcome! = Enjoyable, but no comments.

Coulson's VANDY. Again, enjoyable. I sense some possibility of mild forthcoming disagreements, not with what you say but with the way that you say it, but that can wait until I've read a little more by you. Good to see some well-done illustrations in FAPA--and this applies also to Bjo's work in AMIS.

Sneary's JE M'EXCUSE. All is forgiven.

Steward's GASP! I wonder if your new address is in the FA. Or have you notified Bill of the change of address yet? = Man, more on personal adventures such as the Hero Driver. Very fine.

Caughran's A PROPOS DE RIEN. The letter you reprinted must surely have been a gag. Do you get the column "Dear Abby" in any of your papers? Some of her letters also appear to be fake--tho not necessarily with her knowledge.

McPhail's PHANTASY PRESS. Whole number 22 already. So many issues since you rejoined! = No, I don't feel like White and Evans are assistants. They do the only real work in FAPA, I'm available for consultation when needed, so I'm more of the assistant. Somewhat like work. Due to illness of my boss I'm a couple of echelons higher up than normal, and it seems unusual passing out problems to be solved rather than digging into the problem itself. I rather prefer the operational end of things. I enjoy the broad range of problems I now have to outline approaches to, but finding a bit of work unsatisfactory and sending it back for revision is downright unpleasant. One case today will serve as an example, tho since this is still in policy stage I'll have to be somewhat vague as to defining precisely what I'm talking about. Under an Army awards program there is a provision that final say in the award is left to the individual's commanding officer. We (Department of the Army) set the basic criteria; individuals below the criteria cannot be given the award, individuals who meet the criteria can be given the award if their CO approves. An inquiry came in from the field, if a commander first refused the award, and then changed his mind, could the award then be given. The answer was no, not until re-announcement of that particular award for that particular group of soldiers--roughly a year later. This answered the question in terms of DA policy--or did it? What if the award was denied because the soldier was under suspicion for misappropriation of funds and the award was denied for that reason, but a court-martial later acquitted the man?

Wouldn't we be in the position of denying the man something due to a charge of which he was not guilty? The case went back, and tomorrow there will be the effort of coordinating the paper with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and the Army Judge Advocate General. If it has to be done on paper, it will stretch out for a week or two--the simple paper has become complex, staffing is needed, memorandums will have to be written to explain why the case wasn't answered yesterday and, when it is answered, what caused the delay and what offices got involved in the decision. This would be fine if it was the only case we had, but we have dozens, each unrelated, each with its own traps, and each of which has caused someone to say "thank Ghod we're rid of that one" before it reaches me. It's not pleasant to send back a paper with the at-times unavoidable impression that I'm either nuts, nit-picking, or don't realize their workload. Well, it isn't much like the FAPA presidency--except that I don't do anything. I enjoy my work, but FooFoo bless FAPA for being so much different from my daily work, despite the similarities. = I fear I'm going to be most dissatisfied with the above after it's been run off. Even when Phresh is done against a deadline it reads with the same reasoned smoothness.

Pavlat's & Rotsler's TAPEBOOK. I goofed on the address of Warner and the Youngs--strange in a way, for those are two of the three people I presently exchange tapes with. The old addresses were too familiar or something, and my mental warning about recent changes of address just didn't function since these were old changes of address.

Wesson's FANTASIA. It must have been four years ago that you mentioned your impression that Christian Scientists frowned on Christmas, etc, and yet this is the first time since then that I've reviewed a magazine by you. For years I've been wanting to say 't'ain't so, and now 'tis said. They're against the over-commercialization of Christmas, but then who isn't? Some few may carry it to extremes, of course, which might have given you the impression that it was a bleak and dreary religion. No, I'm not a church member. There are those who belong to a church or at least have certain preferences--the religious. There are those who don't know, who are called agnostics. And there are those who deny, who are athiests.. But what name is there for us who just don't give a damn? = The only fannish yarns of places seen and things done that can compare with yours are Warner's recounting of his adventures in Hagerstown, and the reminiscences of John Roles in OMPA about his days in India. These three lend fandom an air of the exotic that I for one would sadly miss.

= There's no more time for comment--not the way I'm running over. I can't pass by that beautiful mimeo reproduction of a woodcut in Garage Floor without praise, however, nor can I help noticing that GM failed to review the last issue of PAMPHREY that FAPA will see. To paraphrase Bob Stein and Poul Anderson, down with women!

