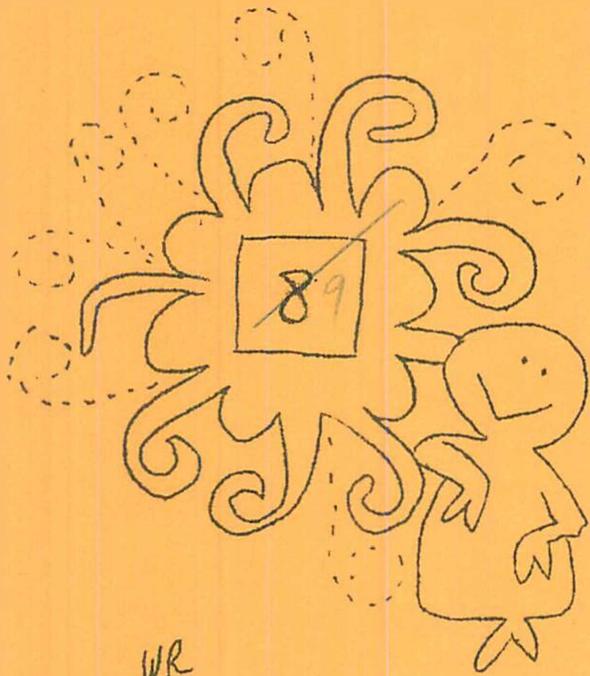


BOBOLINGS



NOV '62

1871
1872
1873
1874
1875
1876
1877
1878
1879
1880
1881
1882
1883
1884
1885
1886
1887
1888
1889
1890
1891
1892
1893
1894
1895
1896
1897
1898
1899
1900

Last Wednesday my former (sob) office girl Friday asked what I thought of the current fashion in skirts. I quibbled until the question was clarified by the statement that Mr. Roberts, a fellow employee, did not approve of them. What I think of short skirts is quite a different question than whether I approve of them. I also gather from casual observation that whether Mr. Roberts approves of short skirts is quite a different question than whether he appreciates them.

Danny Curran could have answered the question quite easily. After the Nycon II there was a party at the Dive attended by, among others, Dot Cole and me. Various of us were scrouched around comfortably talking and drinking, with Dot sitting on a chair, one leg idly swinging not too far from Danny's head. On one swing, Dan stopped the leg, inspected it critically, turned to me and asked: "As a connoisseur, have you ever seen a better one?" That question I was able to answer with a prompt and enthusiastic "no." People should stick to questions whose answer is easy.

Mary, the girl Friday who started this page, never did get a direct answer to her question. The answer she received was that I liked the present fashion in skirts because it gave a girl the choice of wearing a skirt varying from six inches below the knees to four inches above. There was some quibbling about the six inches below the knees bit, but I was able to find the example of one girl in the building who wore skirts that long. There was no quibbling about the four inches above the knees bit, since the girl in the building who wears them that short is well remembered.

But, in the two days since Mary asked her question, I've reflected on short skirts, attitude toward, and think I have either better identified my position or can state it more clearly. I like and approve of short skirts. I do not approve of some of the girls that choose to wear them. As Ella Parker mentions (in Parker's Peregrinations--PLUG) they all too often are worn by the girls that can least afford to wear them.

I am not a confirmed leg man. Legs are nice, but so also are faces, busts, derriere, waists, and various other portions and sub-portions of anatomy. Even including knees. Only some knees; but equally only some faces, busts, etc. And since some knees please me, how could I conclude with anything but approval for short skirts for those who can wear them?

It isn't fond of the three hands, and she is seldom covered either

Driving back to DC from the Midwestcon, Scithers brought up the subject that despite the long-distance driving of fans, usually under far from ideal conditions, there had been amazingly few fatal accidents. This was, of course, before the recent accident which resulted in Champion's death. Spanning back through the mists of time, there are such accidents as Speer and the fonepole, Hadley and the ditched Cadillac (if that one ever happened), the sleeping LA drivers, Donaho and the taxicab, and probably a typical number of fender benders forgotten by me or never reported in the fannish press. Yet Bjo suffered the only serious injury that I know of in fandom through an automobile accident, and John's is the only death--and that was evidently in connection with mundane.

Average death rate from automobile accidents appears to be close to 1 per 20,000,000 vehicle-miles; a somewhat lower figure than I'd expected. I wonder if fans going to fannish affairs have even logged a total of 20,000,000 vehicle-miles. Say that 20 cars are driven an average round-trip distance of 400 miles to the four primary drive-in conferences (Westercon, Midwescon, Disclave, and Philycon); total distance 32,000 miles. Say that another 50 cars make a round trip of 800 miles to the Worldcon: total distance 40,000 miles. Total distance for the year would be 72,000 miles. Say that this has been going on for 20 years. Grand total distances: 1,440,000 miles. Add to this 20 cars travelling a round-trip distance of 20 miles to 26 annual meetings of local clubs, with 20 such clubs existing, and say that this has been going on for 20 years. Your total local-haul distance would be 3,920,000 miles. Add local and more distant vehicle mileage together, and the result is still only some 5,360,000 vehicle-miles over the twenty-year span that I'm assuming. At this rate, it should be something like eighty years between fatal accidents occurring within fandom due to motor vehicle accidents while engaged in getting to or from fannish functions.

The number of cars and mileages assumed seem liberal to me, and the twenty year time-span assumed compensates for the fact that there was only limited driving to conventions prior to 1949 or so. The first long-distance car ride to a con that I know of was made by Madle and others from Philadelphia to Denver in 1940. I believe that Harry Moore and possibly others drove from New Orleans to Philly and Toronto in 1947 and 48. Rog Phillips in 1952 drove at least one way, and probably both, between Chicago and LA. And in 54 Magnus and others drove from Detroit to SF, on what memory says was a one-way driving jaunt. I've left out a few, I'm sure (didn't at least one car make the round-trip from SF to New Orleans in 51?), but the point is that these earlier junkets were memorable; not at all the common affairs that the LA trips east or the NYC/Washington/Cleveland/Detroit/Chicago trips west are today. Assume the trips increase. Assume vehicle mileage doubles every ten years. In that case, statistically, we might expect two deaths by 2000 A.D.

And yet, it still seems surprising that there haven't been more.

She is upholstered, and he is afraid of three newspapers.

This is BOBOLINGS, August 1962. Issue number, if I've managed to unscramble this problem before publication date, appears on the front cover. Producer is Bob Pavlat, 6001 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland. Purpose of production, aside from self-evident ones, is to appear in the 100th FAPA mailing and thus increase the glory of that mailing. Since I joined with mailing 50, this mailing also means that I've been in FAPA for half of its existence which perhaps merits celebrating, waiting-listers to the contrary notwithstanding.

The 99th FAPA mailing arrived here the 22nd of May, and my mailing reviews were started on 27 May, representing a radical departure both from usual postal delays and usual personal slowness. And then two months passed without progress, so on 28 July we try again to finish the reviews of the 99th.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR * OFFICIALDOM. Martin had not only been on the waiting list for several years, but had served two prior stints in FAPA. Martin let his membership lapse through failure to defend it against Trimble's decision. Under the Special Rule provision, he could even now be readmitted, or the ST's decision could be overridden, achieving the same effect. While I think that Trimble's decision was wrong, I also think that there has been no loss to FAPA and that Martin had adequate recourse available to him. The fact that he didn't use the available provisions for relief does not lessen the protection available to members under the constitution.

REVELATIONS FROM THE SECRET MYTHOS * PARKER. Grey ink on green paper is not notably legible.

HOOHAH! * PARKER. Ella Parker commented favorably on the American institutions of rest rooms in gas stations, paper napkins in restaurants, and related niceties of civilization which are apparently far more common here than in England. = My main sentiment, on reading of Kent Corey, is that I have trouble enough being myself; thank God I don't have to be him. Speer's quote of the letter from Brazier some mailings back led to essentially the same sentiments, though with the difference that Brazier's troubles are evidently far less of his own making than are Corey's.

NULL-F 29 * WHITE/BREEN. On the subject of the children of beat parents, I recently encountered an analysis which tried to establish that the waive of conformity among children of school age was in rebellion to the lack of conformity in their parents. The author attempted to establish that the college crowd in the twenties and thirties had looked up to the free thinker; that variation from the norm had been the goal. Today, he claimed, the same crowd insisted on conformity in dress, action, and thinking. The emphasis on conformity exists today; I'm not at all sure that it didn't exist in equal measure at mid-century. Or rather at mid-half-century--the twenties and thirties. The coats, the cars, the flapper, the code of morals which only a couple of days ago led mother to use the term "widow" regarding a divorced woman she'd known back then. Variation from the norm has probably not been accepted among the bulk of college students since at least the turn of the century. = We have at our office a "thinker" type who is slow. Due to his slowness, he's probably reached the top of his particular ladder. He is frequently a terrific bottleneck, but when he finally does reach his decision, it is right, and it is impossible to find a side issue of the subject which he has not considered. It is vaguely possible that

he is "fast" if all of his thought processes could be seen, for he leaves no avenues unexplored. Perhaps the avenues he explores would take another person, a "fast" thinker, two or three times as long, if he was to explore all avenues in equal detail. The net result, however, is that his type of perfection is too costly in time, and consequently a less thorough individual able to come up with the right answer faster, though with less assurance that the answer is "right," is a more valuable man. = The last time I checked on it, an individual once in the Army had to go through fairly elaborate proof to get his classification changed to that of a conscientious objector. It was possible; the reasons for its difficulty should be obvious.

PHANTASY PRESS * McPHAIL. The "service" concept behind a job such as yours, Dan, is sometimes forgotten by the man on the job. How many postmasters exist, I wonder, who actually realize that there's is a service occupation. The difference between "running a postoffice" or "running an employment office" and "providing mail service" or "helping people find jobs" is startling in the extreme. I like your attitude.

POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC * BROWN. 90% of the time that I answer the phone the only reason is because I'm closest. The time that selfishness turns up in conjunction with my answering the phone is when I'm alone, and the phone rings at an inconvenient time (like I'm comfortably reading a book ten feet from the phone) and so I ignore the damn thing. I'm not yet so hard up that I must receive each and every call destined for me at the second I'm called. Of course, since most calls here are destined for someone else, chances are very good that any call I fail to answer wasn't meant for me anyway, nor do I fail to take calls very often. I take calls at home for basically the same reason that I do at the office--it might be someone I want to chat with, but far more likely it's someone after a service I render, whether that service is calling my nephew to the phone or explaining why only a small number of cooks in the Army are authorized proficiency pay.

HORIZONS * WARNER. Comments on Martin appear under the review of the FANTASY AMATEUR. Those who don't defend their rights sometimes lose them. Martin had the experience which should have taught him how to fight; he had the opportunity; he tucked tail and howled. If he can't live in an adult society he's better off outside. = I wonder the possibility of relative fannish immunity to serious illness which you cite doesn't fall under the same category of "insufficient number of cases to determine" as the fan fatal auto accident rate mentioned a couple of pages back. Offhand, it seems to me that fans known become seriously ill about as often as non-fans known. = I had always thought that Speer had made his fair share of fannish enemies, though perhaps I was overly impressed on reading some years after the fact his "Partial List of Lies, Distortions, and" (Omissions?) "Appearing in the Pages of Le Vombiteur During its None Too Brief Existence." Going solely on the basis of the

printed word, I would think some former (and even current) fans might not yet feel friendly toward Speer. = I regretfully agree that some self-censorship over what goes into FAPA is necessary. I rarely comment on discussions of the Army in FAPA simply because, in my position with the Army, any comments of mine should be cleared prior to publication. This is a form of censorship which I prefer not to undergo, so I instead undergo the self-censorship of saying nothing. Beyond that I'm not personally too bothered with censoring my remarks in FAPA aside from normal reticence in discussing personal matters with 64 people, some of whom I don't know and a limited few of whom are idiots. = Your opening three sentences of Hagerstown Journal, concluding with "bats are brighter than I am," are a wonderful sight to behold. Beautiful. Incidentally, I'm sorry that this quote of your phrase so closely followed my remarks about idiots in FAPA; no connection between the two was or is intended.

VANDY * COULSONS. The clipping regarding the CIA and the information from the Russian embassy sounds possible but unlikely. There was a somewhat similar happening when the CIA building was first being discussed some five or more years ago. During the congressional fund hearing, the then-director Allen Dulles made it clear that he could not discuss number of personnel to be housed in the building due to security. It later came out (during the same day's hearings I believe) that space was being allocated on the basis of so many square feet per employee as an overall average, and that total space requirements were so many million square feet. Naturally the Washington newspapers reported the figures and proved that through not too laborious calculations one could derive a fair estimate of total number of CIA employees to be housed at the new CIA headquarters in Langley. And if your present clipping is correct it only indicates that the CIA has forgotten the prior goof, but the Russian embassy still has that along with other information readily available in its files. I'm not surprised.

LIGHTHOUSE * GRAHAM. Pete, I'm using your comment re the Eney/White feud as an excuse for mentioning it here rather than in individual comment to either of them. I agree wholeheartedly with your desire that they cut it out. You hear me White/Eney/Eney/White? The way that neither of you can avoid displaying the latest wounds left by the uncalled-for comments of the other is, to put it bluntly, puke producing. I have reached the point of no longer even trying to determine right or wrong, cause or effect. It's merely a series of "your another"'s which doesn't mean one damn thing to anyone except yourselves. For pete's sake, cut it out. And, Pete, the pun was unintentional, but thanks for the space and the use of your name.

SERCON'S BANE * BUZ BUSBY. My main comment on this would be on the status of dual members in FAPA, but this has been discussed with FAPA officialdom and, if I know Evans, there should be a blow by blow account of this discussion in the FA, so consider my comments as made there. I'll only add that I'm now of the opinion that married couples should get one bundle. Period.

SERCONS BANE * BUZ BUSBY. (Continued) I don't know Evans. A check with him on the phone indicates that, for his standpoint at least, there will not be a full discussion of the split membership provision in the FA, so I'll summarize present and past here and let Bill take care of his portion of the future in his mailing reviews and in the FA. Back in the very distant past there was no provision for joint membership in FAPA. Effective with the 77th mailing, as Secretary Treasurer, I changed this by ruling that "If married couples can share one house, and even one bed...they can surely share one FAPA membership." The Shaws and the Youngs were thus recognized as dual memberships. At about this same time the FAPA constitution was undergoing revision, and one item inserted into the constitution was the provision of Section 2.5: "Husband and wife may jointly share a single membership and will be considered as a single person under the requirements of this constitution." In comment on this, in FA 80 (speaking as lead man or whatever I was on the constitutional revision taskforce) I said: "This is the current practice, and I believe it represents the sentiment of the membership. It does not cover the problem of how a joint membership will be split in case of a divorce, but there is no precedent to follow here, and this will apparently have to remain in doubt until someone comes up with a workable scheme or until a precedent is established." By the time of the 87th mailing, the question had finally arisen, and by that time I had progressed to the presidency of FAPA, so I had to establish the precedent that I'd avoided two years earlier. The ruling was that "A person on the waiting list who marries a FAPA member and thereafter shares a joint membership may, when legal action is instituted to dissolve the marriage, reclaim the position he formerly held on the waiting list with respect to persons who were on it at the time he became a joint member. If this position has since advanced to within the membership the individual shall be admitted to FAPA as a full member upon payment of dues. Renewal credentials as required of a new member will be required. The original member shall retain sole rights to the former joint-membership position." Finally, in the 92nd mailing, Evans ruled that persons entering FAPA through marriage are assigned provisional positions on the waiting list or provisionally retained in their old positions in case of divorce. Evans further ruled that the secretary treasurer would apply this retroactively to all joint memberships. And that's where FAPA stood, as of the 99th mailing, with respect to official decrees (the Evans rulings being issued during the term that Bill was FAPA president). On 27 May I asked Evans, as VP, for a constitutional interpretation, with the cases at point being the 36a and 36b listing for the Linards, and the 65 and 66 listing for the Youngs. My argument was that prior rulings did not apply to persons already married upon entry into FAPA (which was the case with both the Linards and the Youngs); that divorce was specified rather than separation and that it was my understanding that the Youngs were not seeking divorce, and finally the matter of dues and the Linards, which I won't discuss here since this has been otherwise settled, though at the time it was obvious that constitutional requirements and prior rulings had not been satisfied. My argument only succeeded in convincing Evans that

the matter was not covered by the constitution and belonged in the hands of the president. Marion has since ruled, and her ruling is surely in the FA. I quibbled with some of her initial wording, but indicated my agreement with the basic results as pertained to the Linards and the Youngs, even though as indicated at the bottom of the page before last I've had later thoughts on the matter of separated (rather than divorced) members. (This has bothered me right along. Marion's decision is the only one fair to the Youngs, but is it correct for application to all future cases?) As part of Marion's discussion she made a ruling that Gallion had to cite credentials in order to retain her place on the waiting list --and finally we're getting to the specifics of your comments in SERCON'S BANE. And I hit the roof. So again I hit Bill Evans for a constitutional interpretation, stating: Everything that is done in the handling of split marriages in FAPA is done on the basis of prior rulings, not on the basis of constitutional provisions. I don't know quite when Jane went on the waiting list, but back in mailing 87 she's on it. And in 88, 89, 90, 91, and 92. With Mailing 93 she entered FAPA with Lee with credentials shared with Lee. Oddly enough, this was the same mailing with which it was required that credentials be established for entry on the waiting list. You cannot question Jane's credentials without also questioning Lee's. I say this in terms of FAPA. What's good enough to let her into FAPA, individually or as the spouse of another, is good enough to let her into the waiting list. ..."

There was more, including the specific "dual property" laws of California, but that gives the essence of my argument. It is sufficient to say that Evans agreed that you cannot separate the work of man and mate, and accordingly Gallion had satisfied any prerequisites for entrance onto the waiting list. That completes the history, unless there's something that I don't know of in the FA. For the future, I'd be opposed to any separate requirements for husband and wife. What of the husband who writes and the wife who illustrates or publishes? What if one does everything for a couple of years, and the other for the next two or three? The constitution is clear--they are one person. Leave it that way for FAPA. How they handle it as two personalities is their problem, not FAPA's.

Never does he hate lids, sand-domes, three plants and steam

And so end the comments on the 99th mailing. There is sufficient time remaining so that I could comment further, and there are a number of good magazines in the remaining stack--MASQUE, helen's FANTASIA, RAMBLING FAP, ANTAIOS, MELANGE, WRAITH, the REVELATIONS... portion of Fifty-Fifty (I still don't accept "pre-mailings,") and possibly a couple of others. But they really don't stir me to comment--I either agree or it isn't worth arguing about or it was pleasing but I can't add to the subject. It was a fine mailing.

Mike McInerney called the other night. To be precise, it was Friday night, 26 October, which was one of the nights when the Cuba crisis was hot. Mike wanted to know if I had floor space for himself and two (or was it three--no matter) persons who were coming to Washington over the weekend. I wasn't in the best of humors at the time, and told him "no" a little more abruptly than I consider proper, but "no" it had to be this time. I suggested Scithers as a possibility and fumbled around for his number while talking vaguely to Mike. (I know Scithers' number by heart, but only as MUG PAXT, which is a hell of a lot easier to remember than seven numbers.) Mike asked if I'd be in Philadelphia on November 3d, and I replied that I didn't know due to the Cuban situation and my Army employment.



Mike had heard of the Cuban situation. In fact, he stated, it was that that was bringing him to Washington. "Oh?" I asked. Yes. He and some others were going to picket the White House. It seems that they didn't like Kennedy's decision. Especially since he'd waiting so long--whatever that statement meant. It took a little dragging to get even this information out of Mike (he wanted to talk, but apparently didn't want to commit himself) and I may have jumped to the wrong conclusion. Maybe Mike wanted to invade Cuba immediately instead of a quarantine and insistence that the offensive weapons be removed. My assumption was that Mike was opposed to any action against Cuba. And my response was to inform Mike that in that case I wouldn't have put him up anyway. The conversation ended there.

Some months ago I chuckled when one of the office powers stated that "he wasn't about to get his exercise for the week by jumping at conclusions" and I regret any jumping that I did. I had just returned to DC from Fort Benjamin Harrison, where--as on any military post--any crisis like this is felt far more severely than in the civilian community. We'd been on the phone to Washington several times during our three days there, one of the two majors on the team had been recalled to Washington, and our military plane to return us to Washington had been cancelled since there were better uses for military aircraft than ferrying our low-priority team around. I was also on office call Saturday, to be available by telephone at all times. These are routine actions in something of this scope--the Army has to be ready to react. I imagine Buz was at work Saturday; my office doesn't swing into the week-end shift quite that readily since our responsibilities are basically long-range rather than operational. I was tense, I was completely happy with the stand taken by the US, and so I hung up abruptly.

The conclusion jumping and some of the sharpness which may

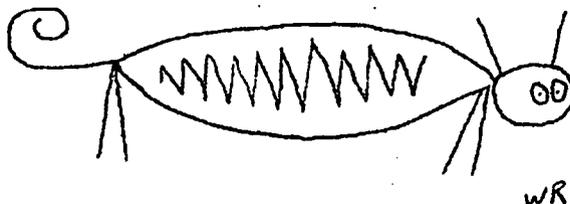
have been in my tone I regret. But, assuming that the conclusion I reached was correct, I stand by the statement that I wouldn't put the picketeers up for the night even if it had been convenient. I would not in the least mind talking to them; I'd like to know some of their reasoning. I am usually somewhat too open minded; too understanding of the other point of view. But this time I can't even concieve of what the "other point of view" in terms of not stopping Cuba could possibly be. If someone can explain this I'd like to hear it.

Mainly, however, this is addressed to Pete Graham, and Ted White, and Walter Breen, and Dave Rike, whom I expect to be all shook up over my statement that I would deny floor space to a fan when that fan was espousing a political sentiment that happened to be contrary to my own. I have trompled on the right of free speech and personal expression, by Gawd.

I have? Three cheers for me!

The Cuban war was a short one. It lasted somewhat under a week, and not a shot was fired by the US. There was apparently only one casualty--at least, one of our planes is missing. But for all of its lack of resemblance to WWII or Korea or any of our other wars of the past, this was a war. Two great nations were in conflict over rights to a bit of what had formerly been a garrison for neither. If you did not recognize this as a war, you did not understand the significance of last week. The war will never be labeled as one (unless Kruschev fails to carry through with his agreement and it does turn into a shooting match), and most certainly the office would not sanction my calling this a war: for years the Korean War was the Korean Conflict in officialeese. The more familiar name of Cuban Crisis will probably be attached to this affair, if any official name is found necessary, but this does not to my mind change the true nature of the crisis.

When something such as atmospheric testing of atomic weapons is the issue, where there are two (or more) clearly reasonable and responsible sides to an issue; then I might be willing to render passive assistance to the presentation of your views, even tho contrary to mine. When the issue is larger, and particularly when national security is at stake, I'll be happy to talk to you and listen to you, in hopes of understanding a different point of view and hopefully swaying you to the right (my) side of things. But assist you in presenting those points of view to others? It's your right to write, to print, to distribute, to talk, to picket. I support that right. But do it on your own money, and through your own efforts, for mine are bent in a different direction.



And so this issue comes to an end, without comments on the long-awaited 100th nor much else. In some respects I'm not too unhappy with the fact that I'm not commenting on the 100th mailing. While some fans occupy most of their fanzine with mailing comments and do it well, I've never been satisfied with any of my own that consisted to any large extent of mailing comments. This does not imply that I hold any preference against mailing comments in your fanzine--yours may well be among my favorites.

Interlineations in this issue are computer prose, swiped from the June 1962 Scientific American. The computer was programmed to select nouns, verbs, etc, according to grammatical rules, but the verb, noun, etc. were selected at random from a limited number of words placed in the computer's memory. The end result is some near-perfect blank thoughts.

I was on radio last night, 9 November. Eney was going to tape-record the session but couldn't find that station on the dial. Scithers was going to be on with me, but he didn't show up. Tom Haughey was there so he and I batted the subject of fandom and science fiction around on the Washington air waves for some twenty minutes. I kind of enjoyed it and may try to get another chance when the convention is only a month or two in the future.

Scithers was quite apologetic about his failure to appear, but in discussing the matter today it turned out that it was really my fault. Scithers' office was engaged in a move out of the Pentagon last night, and worked till midnight doing that. They were moving out to make room for some people from another part of the Pentagon. And the people from the other part of the Pentagon were moving to make room for some other people from another building--my office. George, I am sorry that your failure to show up last night was my fault. As to Eney, I haven't discussed his failure to get our show onto tape with him, but I am hopeful that this failure will be found to be Eney's fault.

"This brings us to the question of why so many have taken up the sport ((skiing)). There are varied answers which have to do with leisure time, more money to spend, the atavistic desire, perhaps, to fling one's radiator-bound self against nature. A six-year-old of our acquaintance says she likes to ski 'because it's slippery.' Another youngster, veteran Otto Schniebs, calls skiing a 'way of life.'" -- Ski Pointers by the Experts, Harper and Row, 1961.

The 100th mailing contains one item which comes extremely close to attempted blackmail. Happily the threat was about as realistic as that of the Snark expedition who "threatened (the snark's) life with a railway-share." Let's have done with threats about what will be done unless someone else behaves the way you want him to.