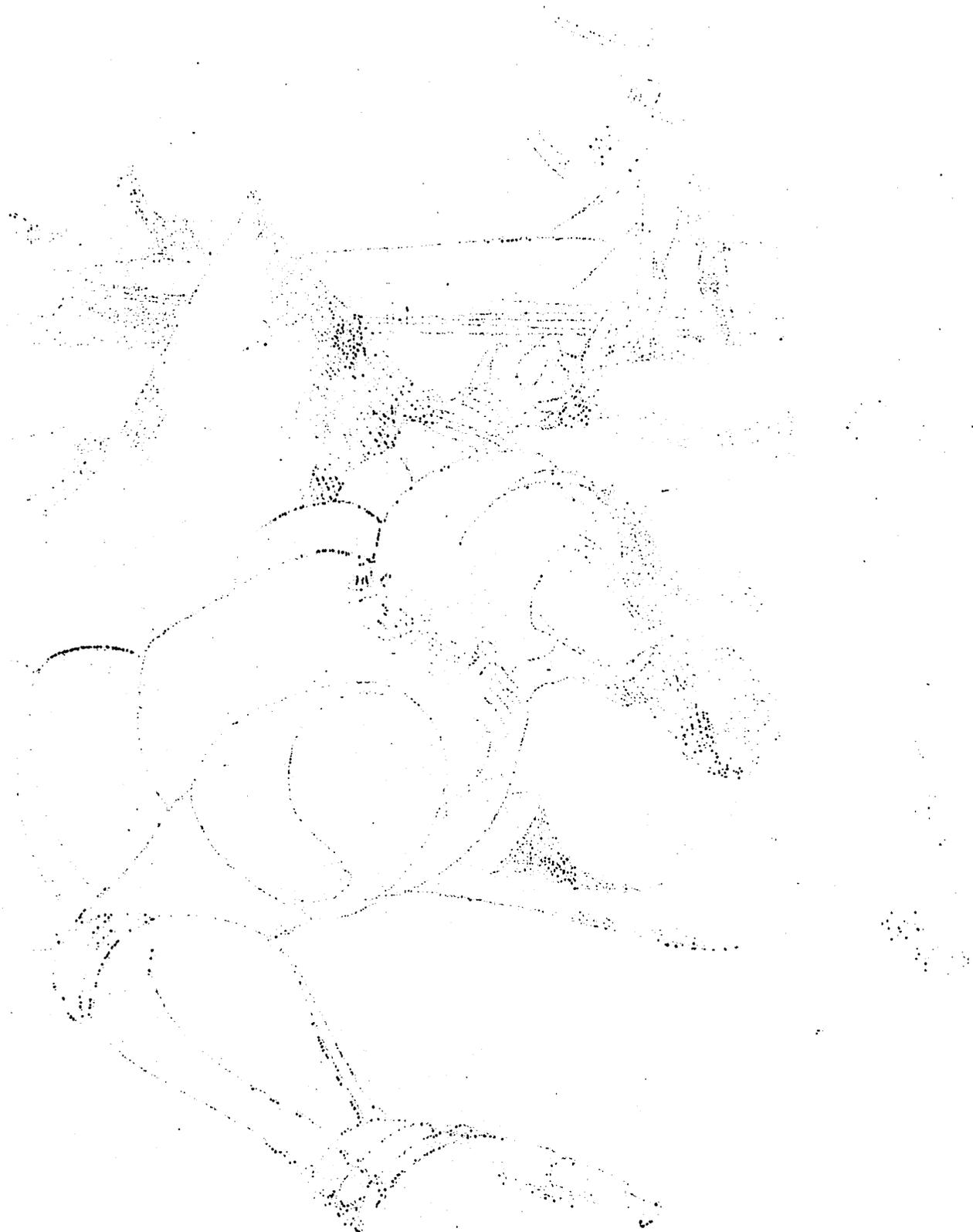


babblings



Harness



BOBOLINGS, May 1977, is the production of Bob Pavlat residing at 5709 Goucher Drive, College Park, Md 20740. If the world goes right I hope to have this to Burbee in time for inclusion in the 159th FAPA mailing.

This past January a series of coincidences started which had me concerned for a while. Finally, in mid- or late March they stopped, so hopefully that chain is broken.

In early January I sent a letter to some twenty fans who had been FAPA members in the mid-1940's. The first two replies came from fans who had joined Fapa with the same mailing. One of those two members asked, in his letter, if I knew the present whereabouts of R D Swisher. I didn't, but in a casual conversation with Bill Evans that evening I mentioned the inquiry. Bill didn't know either, but he had seen a recent article mentioning an award given Swisher. I mentioned another fan that I hadn't been able to trace. Bill had gotten a Christmas card from him, and provided me with the address.

It was only a short while after that that we received Peter Roberts' postmailed Checkpoints. It arrived on the last possible day to be included in Peggy Rae's Of Members and Zines. It was also the issue asking for a copy of Fanzine Index, of which I had, at the time, only one spare copy left.

I write a letter to Peter, setting forth from memory some fanzines that I want. Turner's NOW & THEN 1 and 2 are on the list. Midway through the letter I find that I want to check something out, wander into the cluttered area of the back room, pick up a folder which I hope is the one that I want, but find that it isn't. But the top item in the folder is the second issue of NOW & THEN.

A couple of weeks later Peter asked if I could check for him which issues of Bletherings were in FAPA. He suspects that it lead a former existence of some kind in OMPA. I found four FAPA issues with no trouble, numbered 1 to 4, but there is a hint of prior use of the title in OMPA. I decide to do a little searching, open up a box that contains some OMPA material, and find Bletherings 36 listed as part of the 40th OMPA mailing in the Off Trails which was the first magazine in the box.

The last in the series was about two days later. I'd dropped the Toyota at the shop on the way to work, which is significant since this puts me on a different bus route than usual to go to work. That evening, on the bus ride back to the shop, I was day-dreaming out the window when a sign caught my eye. So-and-so Clothing, a Division of the Grue Clothing Co of Baltimore. "I'll have to tell DAG" I tell myself. So I write a note to myself, using the paper bag containing a book I'd bought that day--The Eyes of the Overworld by Jack Vance. The coincidence is that this book contains, among its other invented monsters, one that is called the grue.

I'm very relieved that the string appears to be ended, even if they did have to end on a gruesome note.

Curtailed Comments on the 158th Mailing

THE FANTASY AMATEUR. A succinct job. Jack, would like to encourage you to list waitinglisters invited in as Evans did (the O and OO series) or some other similar way. Otherwise postmailers may too easily miss them, and there's some room for doubt as to just who is, and who is not, on the Fapa waiting list.

Speaking of postmailers, on March 1, 1977, I received a "post-mailed" THE DEVIL'S WORK. The postmark was illegible, but I wonder if this was mailed February 12 or before. The 158th mailing, posted on February 23, was received here on March 4. But, back to the 158th:

THE RAMBLING FAP 76. I'm glad you liked your 1976 and hope your 1977 turns out even better than you expect. ++ Bruce Arthurs isn't over the edge yet Gregg. In a recent letter he admitted that he'd changed a certain element of his fanning so that it would stop interfering with his sex life. ++ I'm not sure if I could drive over an edge steep enough that I couldn't see the road over the edge. It would give me nightmares. In fact, I have had exactly such nightmares, but my mind won't tell me whether they were brought on by a real experience.

INTERJECTION. I read Jungle of Stars, Jack, and as far as I'm concerned you accomplished what you set out to do. It was enjoyable, it had beginning, middle, and end, the people were reasonably real, and a story was told. I'll happily read your next book.

CELEPHAIS. Since you probably won't have anything in this mailing I think I'll tell Fapa what you did during your first weeks of retirement. You went to work. You're about the only person that I know, Bill, who so enjoys his work and enjoys so many things not work-related. A letter from Speer implies a similar condition in Swisher. Maybe chemists are just more alive than other people. ++ You mention the different structure of the hills of the east versus those of the west. By structure you meant external appearance (slope, etc), and I agree. I'm kind of a hill/mountain collector (sadly restricted due to lack of storage space) and I find it relatively rare when, on walking into a room with actual hill/mountain scenes, I can't identify the locale. The specific forms are distinctive, at least in the USA, Canada, and Europe. Remember our trip with Ella through the Canadian Rockies? I think that was the only time in my life that I got tired of looking at mountains. They're different from any other mountains anywhere that I know of. But they're all so damn much like one another! ++ You made happy comments about the fact that Burbee and Busby were back in Fapa, and I agree (tho I fear that the dreaded dollar sign caught up with Buz), and indeed some old names are with us again, in and out of Fapa. Donn Brazier. Ed Conners. Walter Coslet. Dan McPhail. Russ Chauvenet. Tom Perry (don't I recognize you from the Fapa waiting list of the late 50's/early 60's Tom?) Burb is obviously unchanged from his years out of the field, but I've a feeling, which I hope is wrong, that Fapa over the next five years is going to be far more dependent on the people that I've never heard of than on the rejuvenation of fans that you and I know out of the past. I loved Salud and Sercon's Bane (the first two Fapazines of FM & Elinor Busby), but their replacements are Seeds and Stems and Yew Tree Inn, and not Re-Entry.

GNOMEN'S ISLAND. This was a good introduction, and I think I could easily come to like this.

CACOETHES. I sent in to register for the bookbinding class being given by the Smithsonian, and a few days later received a notice that the class was full. This class was scheduled to start on April 11. On April 20 the Smithsonian called; the class was evidently popular enough to convince them to set up a second session commencing April 26. ++ Sounds like your having fun with your family tree, and I enjoyed reading about your search.

FROM SUNDAY TO SATURDAY. Nothing specific that I feel driven to comment on, but did want to thank you for putting this in Fapa. Material such as this is pretty much impossible to come by outside of specialized limited circulation groups.

QUANTUM SUFFICIT. You know, of course, that Legman's name is Legman. Whether he was ever in or around fandom under some other name is a bit of a question, and I, at least, can't figure out anyone that he could have been. Legman was in southern California for a while, and was connected with some university at the time, so some of our LA fapans might have an idea or two.

ALLERLEI. Nicely done, good research. Enjoyed.

520 07 0328. I'm really enjoying seeing you in Fapa both with greater frequency and quantity than in prior years. And I enjoy reading your ramblings.

RAMSBOTTOM. The directory has already come in handy for two addresses. That directory was six pages long. In the late 50's/early 60's, Bennett's directories of active fans ran about 16 pages. How long would a similar directory run now?

BIG MAC. For some reason I don't associate this title with you. I'll try to learn, but either my picture of you is wrong or the title is wrong for you. An interesting fapazine, none-the-less. And what are some of our most loyal members doing behind our back? ++ TAFF winners used to automatically produce TAFF reports. Generally, due to the quality of the TAFF winners, the reports were excellent, and they certainly provided me with many hours of happy reading. Maybe one day prior winners who haven't yet published a report will do so.

HORIZONS. I thought that "breakfast, dinner, supper" were a mid-west naming convention, for that's how I learned them as a youth, only learning (and not very well) the "breakfast, lunch, dinner" naming convention after moving to Maryland in 1935. Brunch I accept as a handy word. ++ It's possible that I'm misinformed, but I thought junkies hit their veins. I doubt if your vitamin shots were veinal injections. ++ ++ Certainly you're entitled to use your name as you like, much as Speer prefers to be Jack and I prefer to be Bob in Fapa. When Peggy Rae recently ran for office she received some static from the Board of Elections. There's a law that you must run under your given name, and the clerk wanted Peggy Rae to file as Margaret Rachel. "Well, that is your name, isn't it?" It's not, but she had to send off for a copy of her birth certificate to prove that her given name is Peggy Rae. I wonder how Jimmy Carter got around that one?

HUITLOXOPETL PRESENTS. You burn your candle at both ends.

THE YEW TREE INN. Gee but I like this. I was disappointed when you decided that it was time to stop typing and go read a book instead.

GRANDFATHER STORIES. I appreciated your tribute to Martin Alger. Alger was in Fapa for quite a spell (May 51 thru Feb 64), but was never particularly active. He once published details on his home-made mimeograph (AHMF \$3.75), and this could even bear reprinting.

SYNAPSE. My comment and comparison between 1955 and 1976 remark was directed at the situation when a gang of people turned out to help Burbee in 1955, but, for whatever reason, no similar help was offered (or at least received by) Boggs in his troubles. I am curious as to the reasons, but am not myself inclined to go digging after them unless this comment may bestir someone in the Bay Area to comment. It may be better left alone, I simply don't know. ++ OE for the first mailing was Michel, and he (with Wollheim) had Science Fiction Bard in that mailing. Ghaa. The style of that last comment, along with, I'm afraid, too many others that I've made this time around, reminds me of the style of one other member (not you Jack.) I'd prefer not to find myself coming across the same way.

As usual, most of the items not commented on were enjoyed. Had my mood been a bit different the length of these comments might have doubled. Rosemary, John Berry, Peter Roberts: you helped to brighten the mailing. I missed Terry Hughes and Chuck Hansen--and others, but those two I'm somewhat accustomed to seeing frequently in Fapa, while I'm resigned to the infrequent appearances of, say, Carr and Silverberg.

+ +

Since I've already stencilled and run off the Harness cover I'll use it this issue, even though I'd normally prefer to save it for a more substantial issue of Bobolings. It, like the Rotsler cover last issue, dates back to the late 50's or possibly very early 60's. My thanks to Jack (who will receive a copy of this), and I hope that my hand-stencilling does it justice. No shading plates were used.

Ed Cox has sent me an extended list of corrections to Fapa Book. I may run them next mailing, though since I have the data ready to be typed for the 81st-96th mailings I might do that instead. Ed, many thanks for the work you put into the corrections. Ed disclosed that something went wrong someplace in my system, and I missed a number of issues of Sustaining Program and Inspiration. SusPro had been a particular problem, and I guess that once I got the issue data resolved I forgot to transfer the information onto my mailing index cards. The card for Inspiration has data on two sides, and in transferring data I apparently completely missed the front side of the card.

While I'm thanking people, I was pleased that so many of you signed the Bangsund petition. I sent that, in part, because I had from the beginning planned to send an egoboo poll reminder out, so the additional coverage (all Fapa members rather than only those who hadn't voted) was really no additional trouble.

Does anyone have a current/recent address for Dick Bergeron?

THE STATE OF FAPA

I've been wanting to do a little geographical analysis of Fapa. I don't know what, if anything, I'll ever publish, but since I've gathered some minor facts, and since this issue of Bobolings needs a filler item, I thought that I might as well present this bit of detail for whatever use or interest anyone may find in it. It doesn't do what I want to do. It doesn't make it clear that the strength in the Central US in January 1945 is in Michigan, while in August 1957 it's the Wisconsin contingent that boosts up Fapa membership in the central region. For the heck of it, however, here's some data:

<u>Area</u>	Fapa addresses in area shown as of					
	Sep 38	Jan 45	Jul 47	Aug 57	Aug 67	Feb 77
New England Maine, NH, Vt, Ct, RI, Mass	2	8	4	2	-	/
North Atlantic NY, NJ, Penna, Delaware	32	15	15	6	13	4
Southeast Ark, La, Miss, Tenn, Ala, Ga, Fla, NC, SC	-	6	2	-	-	4
Mid-Atlantic Maryland, DC, Va, WV	2	2	1	6	6	9
Central Oh, Ky, Ind, Ill, Mo, Io, Mich, Wisc, Minn, Ka, Neb, ND, SD, Wyo	3	13	8	15	9	4
Southwest Okla, Tex, NM, Colo, Utah, Ariz, Nev	4	-	1	5	5	8
Northwest Mont, Idaho, Wash, Oregon	-	3	3	5	2	3
Northern California Fresno and north	-	2	4	4	10	7
Southern California south of Fresno	5	10	12	8	15	13
Alaska & Hawaii	-	-	-	-	-	1
Canada	-	1	1	5	4	3
United Kingdom England, Scotland, Wales, N Ireland	2	2	2	7	1	2
Europe & Africa (Excluding UK)	-	2	-	1	-	1
Far East	-	-	2	1	-	-
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	5
Total	50	64	56	65	65	65

Jan 45 data slightly distorted by military addresses, but I've adjusted APO addresses to true addresses (Lane & Speer in Africa).

THE STATE OF TEXAS

County of ... State of Texas, do hereby certify that ...

Witness my hand and seal of office this ... day of ... 19...

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78
79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102

... of the ...