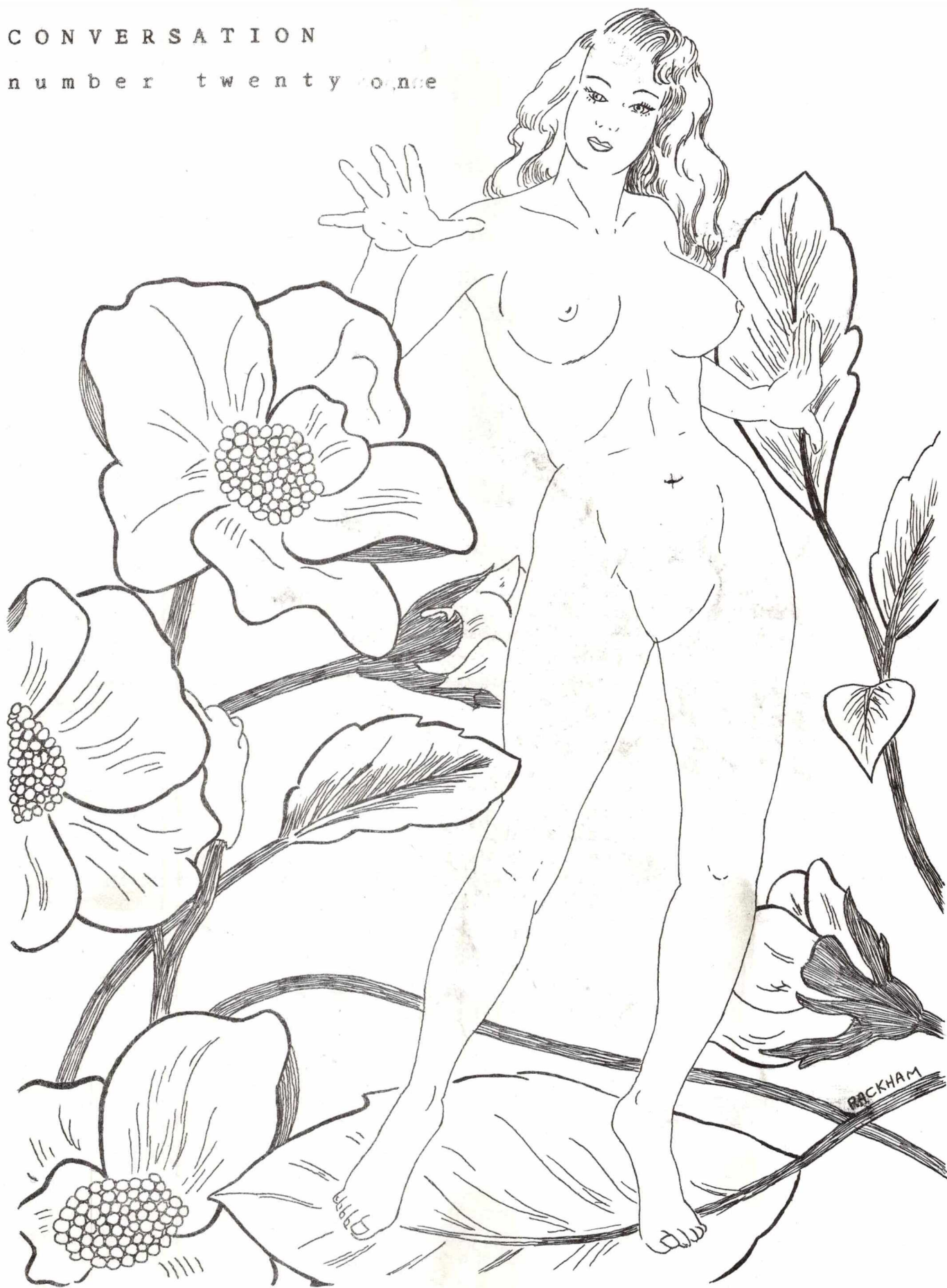


CONVERSATION

number twenty one



C O N V E R S A T I O N   n u m b e r   t w e n t y   o n e

Published by Lynn A. Hickman at 224 Dement Avenue in Dixon, Illinois for OMPA. This issue published in an edition of 100 copies. 50 go to OMPA, 3 stay in my files and 47 go out to unsuspecting targets.

Since the last issue of Conversation I've worked coast-to-coast and have had a chance to visit quite a few fans. For the past seven months I've been in the northwest most of the time. Fans plagued with my visit have included Nan Gerding, Jack Cascio, the Chicago bunch, Vernell Coriell, Ed Bryant, Gregg Calkins, George Barr, Guy Terwilleger, Chuck Devine, Judy Glad, George Willick, Avram Davidson, Pete Graham, Bob Stewart, Ted White, Boyd Raeburn, Andy Main, Terry Carr, Walt Coslet, Chuck Ammon, and Ed Wood.

I had to miss the Chicon, being in Idaho at the time, but Ed Wood brought me up to date on it plus letters from other fans that knew where I was staying in Idaho. I hated missing it, especially with both Lindsay and Willis there. I can't help but wish that the cons were held at a different time of the year. In my own case business interferes at that time of the year, but even if it didn't it is hard for fans with children in school to get away at that time.

I've resigned as publisher for First Fandom, which I hated to do since I was one of the organizers, but I can only spend so much time on fanning and there are others that will be able to get the zine out more often. I'm going to try to stay in OMPA but if I find that I can't be at least as active as an average member I'LL resign and let someone else take my place. I hope its not often that I have to send in zines that were as old as the ones I sent in the other day.

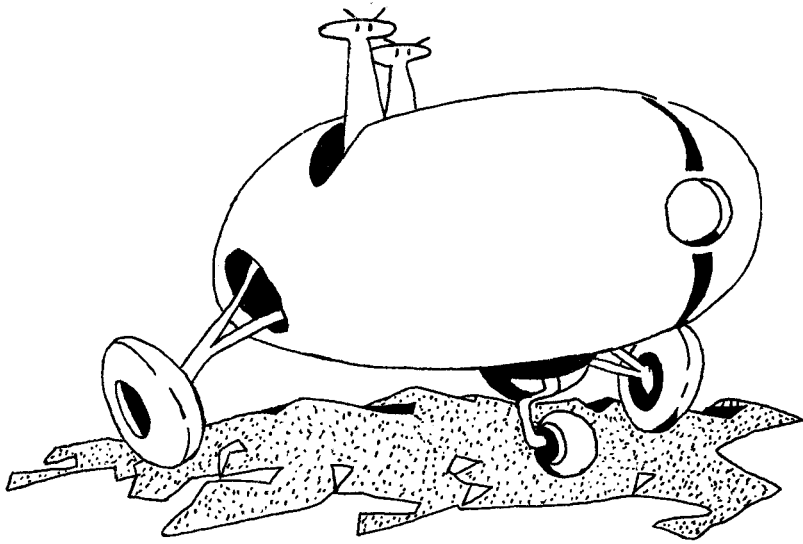
To those of you that subscribe to JD-Argassy, take heart. Your subscriptions are based on a per issue subscription. I still have hopes of issuing it 3 to 4 times per year. However, with the #61 issue the title will be changed from JD-Argassy to The Pulp Era. This title will be more in standing with the new policy of the zine. It will be a serious zine devoted to the old pulps. Anything of faaaanish nature will appear here.

I was in Idaho Falls for about a month and a half so Ed Wood, Chuck Ammon and I got together quite a few times. After telling Ed what my plans for the zine were, he came up with the idea for the title "The Pulp Era". Ed will have a guest editorial in JD-A #60 and announce the reasons for the change of title.

Since I just returned home, I have only had a chance to skim through the 33rd mailing. I immediately mailed off the zines I had finished but not sent and thought I should start this one right away if I were to keep at all current.

We have just finished our off year election here and while I was pleased with many of the races for state governors the outcome as a whole was less pleasing and has given rise to many

thoughts, especially on



the spending and taxation of this government. Not enough people realize the magnitude of government spending at the present time and the startling rate of increase in both state and federal taxes.

Did you know, for example, that the people of the United States pay more taxes than all the rest of the people on earth combined.

Although the U. S. national debt is some one hundred billion more than the combined debts of all other free-world

nations, we are the ones who have in recent years doled out one hundred billion to the others in the form of foreign aid.

It was just one hundred years ago that the first permanent federal tax agency was created under a law signed by Abraham Lincoln, July 1, 1862. In the beginning taxes were a minor matter, and except for a short period during the Civil War when the nation's per capita tax rate amounted to approximately \$8.50, the average tax per person never exceeded \$4.00 until 1914.

The significant increases were first felt in the 1930's when a variety of New Deal spending schemes were put into effect. Then in 1941 they soared to an average of \$55.25 per person.

From then on the big spenders began to have their way -- and in the last twenty years the per capita tax rate has risen from \$96.22 in 1942 to \$510.87 in 1961. With the 1962-63 budget of the "new frontier" it will require an additional \$11.53 in taxes from every man, woman and child in the country.

In the fiscal year which ended last June 30, the Tax Foundation estimates total tax collections (State & Federal) reached some one hundred forty three billion. That is very close



ADKINS-

to one-third of the entire income of this nation. And -- Federal and State spending continues to exceed tax income.

One wonders when the last straw will break the camel's back. One wonders how long the duly elected representatives of the people in Washington will continue to pile on the straw.

The other day I was reading about "High Finance" in the case of Joe Doakes and his wife, Matilda. Average Americans, living an ordinary life, in an ordinary town, right in the middle of the new frontier.

Joe is a skilled workman in a good trade and earns \$8200.00 a year. However, he and his wife are \$30,000.00 in debt -- this, of course, includes a rather substantial mortgage they are going to have to pay before the three bedroom ranch style dwelling they call home will be theirs and theirs alone.

Joe and Matilda are dedicated to doing their bit towards keeping the country moving vigorously and imaginatively ahead. They have filled their house and garage with a variety of possessions designed to make life easier and more worthwhile -- and they continue to buy just about anything and everything that can be paid for with borrowed money.

Last year they increased their total indebtedness by a mere \$390.00. This year they feel they can double this -- and safely add at least another \$700.00 to their indebtedness.

From time-to-time friends have warned them that they cannot continue to pile up additional debt -- that this is the road to financial ruin.

Joe and his wife have been only mildly impressed with these arguments and the need for economy, but after talking matters over did decide to draw up a budget for next year.



To date their efforts in this direction have been something less than a complete success. As a matter of fact, after considering their various needs and wants, together with interest on the money they already owe, they figured that it is going to be impossible to reduce expenditures, or even hold the line at the present level. But, by squeezing a bit here and there, they have finally convinced themselves that they can get by by spending a mere \$340.00 more than in the current year.

There is a possibility also that Joe will get a cost-of-living increase



increase in his wages -- nothing definite -- but with even a small raise they might just break even for the year.

Of course, this is without making any provisions for reducing the \$30,000.00 debt presently owed. The interest will have to be paid, but there will be nothing to apply on the principal.

The significant thing is that there is a chance they will be making more money next year -- where and how can it best be spent.

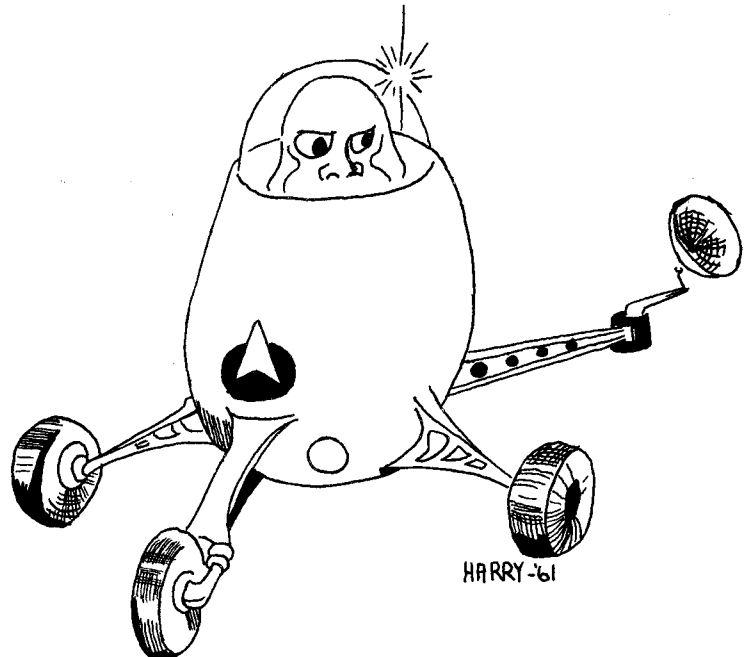
Nearly everyone will agree that a family handling its finances on this basis is headed for serious trouble.

Stop a minute though -- add seven ciphers to each of the figures in the foregoing paragraphs -- and you have the exact fiscal situation of the government of our country at the present time.

Frankly, this is hard for me to understand. But then, I have quite a few things I don't understand in our country, our government and our people.

For example why do Americans think they are getting something for nothing with trading stamps, when the President of Safeway Stores told his stockholders the trading stamp "mousetrap" cost Safeway 26.6 million dollars a year, representing two-thirds of their net earnings.

Or when E. F. MacDonald Co., who sells A & P and others their plaid trading stamps, report sales for the quarter ending April 30th was 28 million dollars, up from 9 million dollars a year ago, and expected to total 115 million dollars for

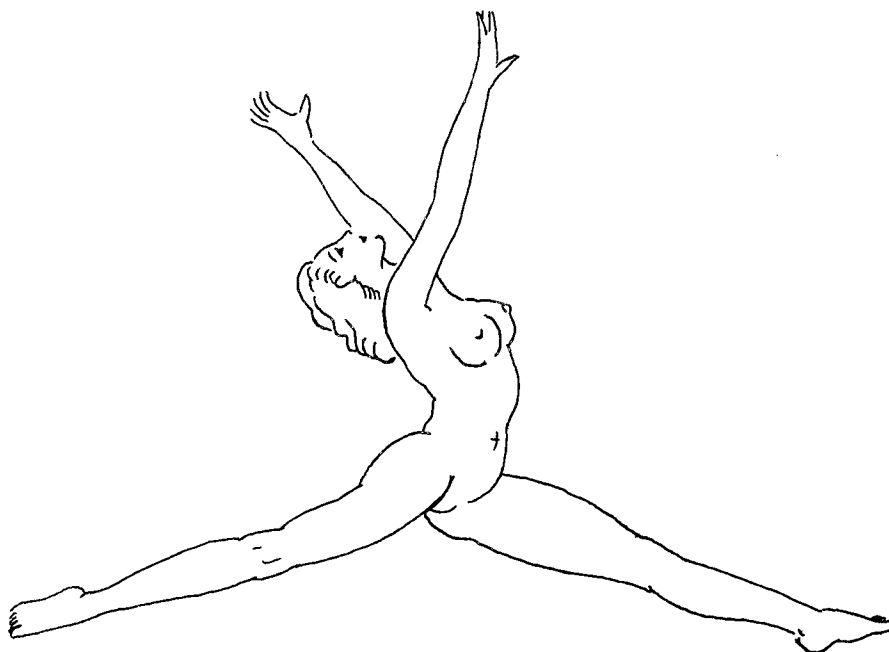


1962, all of which is only a part of the cost housewives paid for "free premiums."

Why do the states pay out untold millions in unemployment compensation to people who quit to loaf or have babies or other ineligible reasons unless their employer complains.

Why do some people believe that Federal budgets are only made to be broken for "national progress?"

While I was on the road so much this year, I did a lot of



reading. It was the first time in years that I was able to keep up with all the science fiction magazines and books and still read most of the outside material that interested me. Read everything from Success Through A Positive Mental Attitude to Westerns. I can't and won't attempt to mention them all here, but in non-sf reading, if you haven't read "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich", you will find it worth while. If you don't want to invest in the hard-bound edition there is a paper-back edition available at \$1.75. I think it is the largest paper-back book ever reprinted.

Mr. Shirer has written a most readable account of the facts and personalities that led to the second World War, based on his knowledge as a correspondent and study of original documents.

My interest was not in the blood and thunder of those twelve years, as terrible and as unthinkable as they were, but more in the psychology of the leaders in swaying masses as their followers.

Purely from a lay standpoint, "Who was fooling who?"

To gain power, the key was to tell the people what they wanted to hear and forget the facts.

They were told that they were a superior race, destined to rule the world, and the people accepted the dream as a fact and condoned the killing of millions before the dream was shattered as a falsehood on a broken nation and people.

The lessons for today and the future are of the greatest importance in studying the past.

Happiness, prosperity and progress are due to the little decisions rather than the major or publicized acts of those in power.

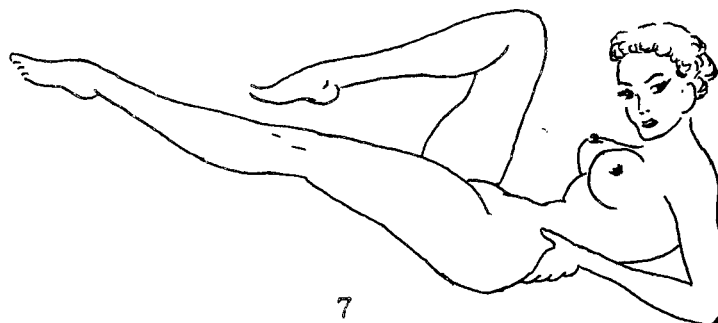
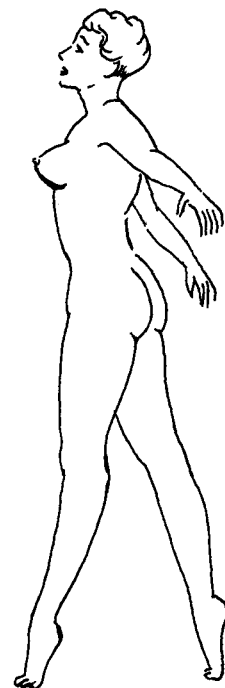
It's easy to believe that if I drive a new car and belong to the best club I'll be a success, but it only makes matters worse if I can't pay the bills.

"Who is fooling who?" is a good question we should seriously ask ourselves.

Are our national leaders setting realistic goals for our country's development?

In our own personal lives and problems, are we prone to accept only the answers we want rather than those we know are sound and honest?

Well, on the 33rd mailing.....





I doubt if I'll have time to comment on all the zines in it, but at least we'll hit on a few.

AMBLE Archie Mercer.....I once write a long letter to a friend on a roll of toilet paper; rerolled and mailed it. This was during the war. I wonder what the censor thought. My buddy read the letter and then used it for natural purposes. I agree with John Roles on gambling. I think its stupid. I'd rather put my money somewhere that brings me a steady return.

HUNGRY Alan Rispin.....Our political views are certainly different. You seem willing to give up your freedoms for a supposed security that is not earned. Welfare isn't a dirty word over here for those that deserve that commodity and need it through no fault of their own, but as far as the rest of us supporting a bunch of lazy slobes that think the world owes them a living... hell no! This socialized medicine is for the birds. People have their own free choice of good medical insurance that they can take out. I'll pay for the five in my family, why should I also pay for someone else that uses his money for something else and then says he "deserves" to have someone else pay his bills for medical care. If he's destitute and actually can't afford an insurance program, he can show that he can't and go on a welfare program. But so many in this country are really trying to make a racket out of this type of thing and spend what money they have on the fun things of life and expect someone else to shoulder the responsibilities for them. No Thanks--- I'll take the type of government where you earn by what you do and you live according to what you make of your own life. I'm really amazed that some of the people in OMPA with seemingly fine minds, should advocate such ideals.

VIPER Bill Donaho.....Once again the best thing in the mailing. As usual, Alva Rogers article on Astounding is the hi-light of the issue. I have never read any of the McCutcheon books that you mention. I've talked with Don Ford on his political views. He happens to be the type of person that believes in standing on his own two feet and making his own way. What is puzzling about that? Bill, California has very much produce shipped into the state. They do have inspection laws and things such as carloads of cherries have to be fumigated, but California is a big market for out-of-state produce. I disagree that the strongest sexual drive in a male occurs from 16 to 19. The awakening period is usually from 14 on, and I'll agree that most fellows first sample sex with a female, petting, necking, etc. and most have their first all out sexual affairs either with a girl or woman some



time during their highschool days, but as to having the strongest sexual drive at that time, no.

JETSTREAM Jim Linwood.....Your nudes didn't show very well probably due to the poor stenciling job, so I can't say they were any improvement as far as being feminine.

SALLY PORT Ken Cheslin.....Every once in awhile on my travels I'll run into a Book Fair. This is where everyone donates the books he has that he no longer wants and some organization sells them to raise money. I've picked up some dandy items at these by spending a little time browsing. The best was "the Green Mouse" by Chambers. It was mint condition and I bought it for only 15¢.

DOLPHIN Elinor Busby.....I'm not at all dissatisfied with TAPF. I don't think very many fans are. I've talked with a few that seemed to be, but when you would pin them down it was just that their choice hadn't been elected. They just couldn't understand why everyone that voted didn't agree with them. TAPF has always been a success and I think it will continue that way. I don't believe in a push for money after the voting is over, although I would be willing to see the voting fee raised to \$1.00.

PROSE OF KILIMANJARO George Locke.....Very much enjoyed your article on Pearson's etc. As you may know I'm an Argosy and All Story collector along with the other Munsey pulps. I guess I'm just a pulp lover. Have some old zines here that were to have been sent to you long ago, but with address changing so often in the army, I didn't send them. I'll look them up and send them now if you want to see them.

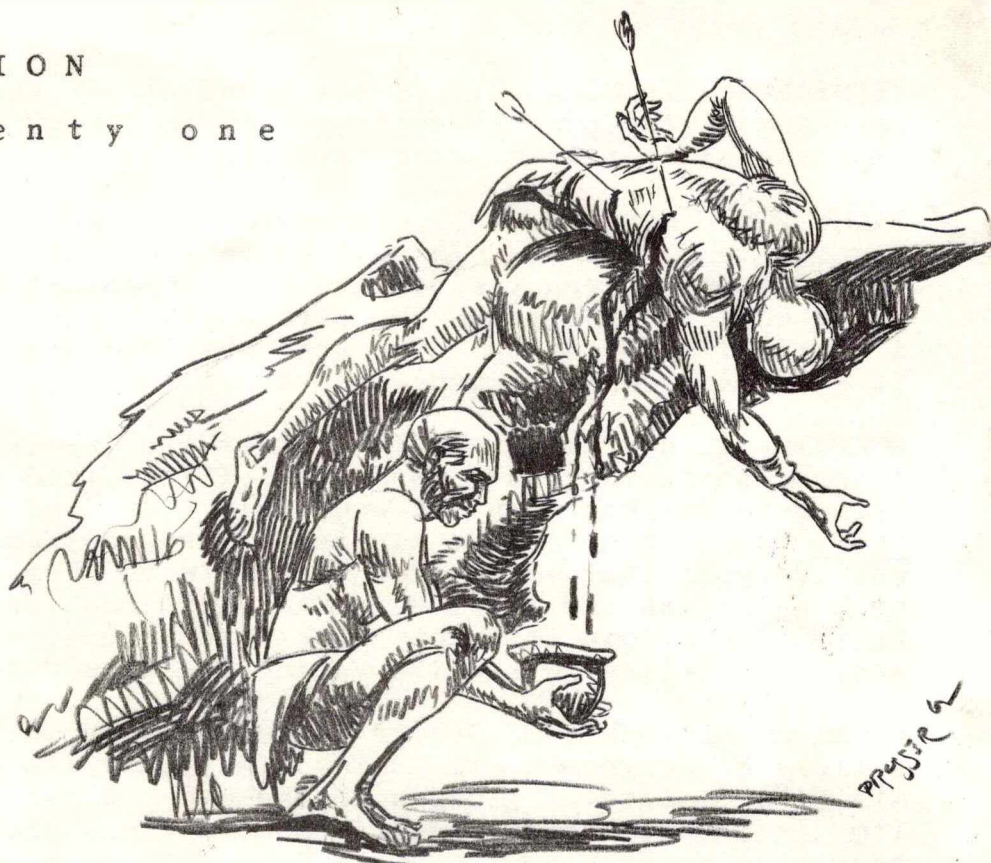
Many other good zines in the mailing that won't get commented on this time around. My top 5 for this mailing is as follows:

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. VIPER     | Bill Donaho   |
| 2. ERG       | Terry Jeeves  |
| 3. BIXEL     | Alva Rogers   |
| 4. FOCUS     | Pat Kearney   |
| 5. SCOTTISHE | Ethel Lindsay |

Next issue will be bigger (I hope) and will contain some of the fannish material I had planned for JD-A. As I mentioned earlier, I will be changing the title of JD-A to THE PULP ERA and it will contain serious articles re: the old pulp mags, authors, etc. Any faaanish material that I publish now will appear in Conversation. I can use outside material and artwork and solicit same. I would also like to have good articles for The Pulp Era on the older English pulps.

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Front Cover: Rackham

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Harry (5), Rackham (6 & 7).

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