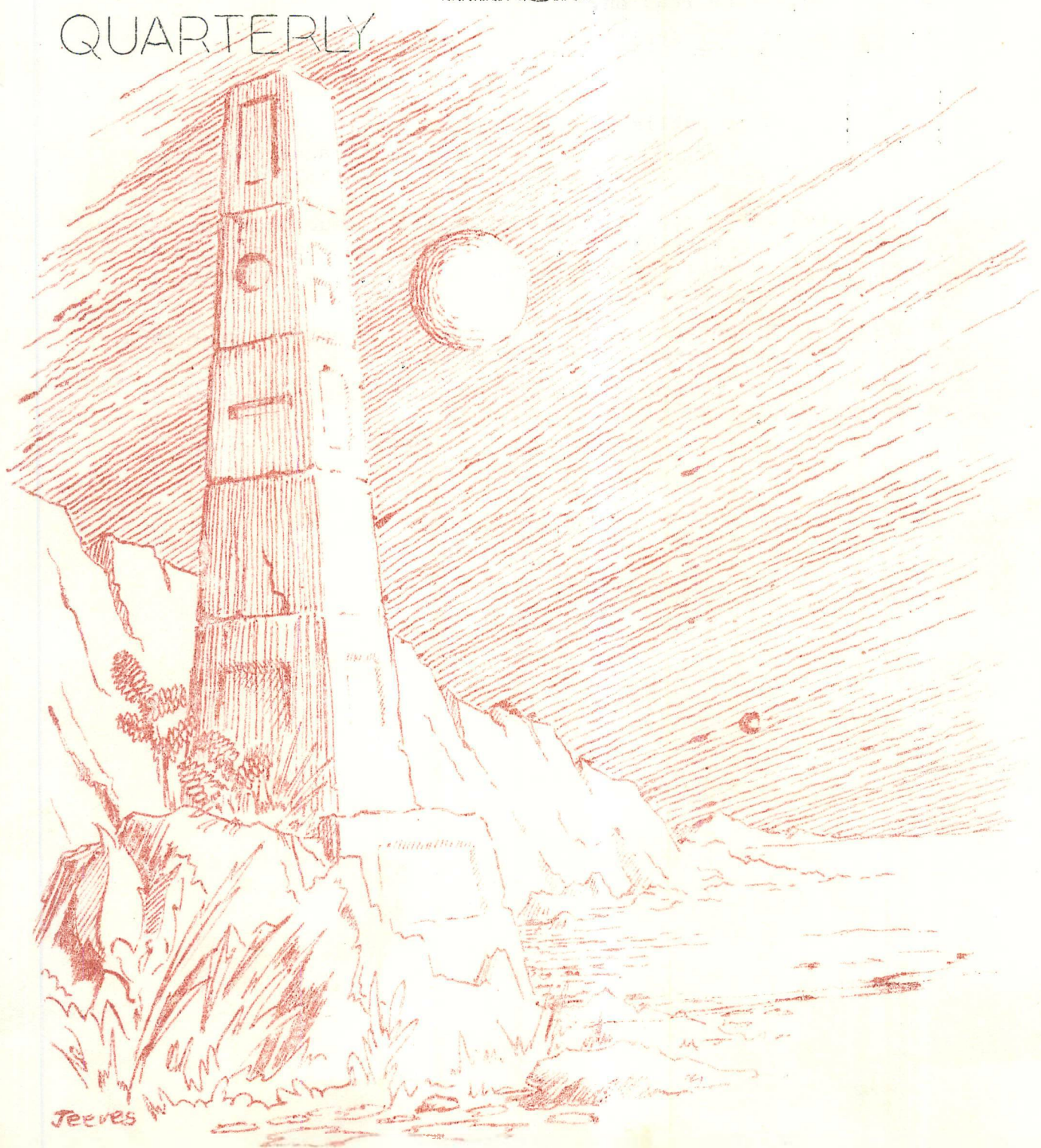


NOW IN ITS SIXTEENTH YEAR

THE



QUARTERLY



For the benefit of Dave Rowe, who failed to find the colophon in the last issue ('cos he said I'd missed it out)..it was on the same page as this one. Now read on.

This is ERG 50 for April 1975

.....
.....

ERG is published quarterly, by Terry Jeeves
230 Bannerdale Rd.,
Sheffield S11 9FE

Subscription rates will probably go up next issue once the new Postal charges really bite in. Until then, you can get ERG in the U.K. at 4 issues for 50p and in the U.S.A, a dollar bill will get you 4 issues.

Sadly, if an x appears in the above box, this must be your last issue unless some response is forthcoming.

Alternatively, S indicates a sample, and again, a response would be appreciated.

Sincerely, Terry.

EDITORIAL

With this, the 50th issue, ERG commences its 16th year of publication. Offhand I can only think of one U.K. zine to beat that record.

This then seems a good time to look back a little.

Originally, ERG was planned as my contribution to OIPA for which the annual page requirement was only about 20 pages..or five to a mailing. With only 40 members to cover, only about 1 of a ream each quarter would have covered it. It looked a small job, so I chose the name, ERG, which happens to be a small amount of work. A second reason was that this short title could easily be cut or typed, (far better than something like Mercer's 'Tales From The Oubliette'). By evolving a brand-new alphabet (Yes, I did work out all 26 letters) I came up with a style in which ERG could be cut entirely in straight lines, thus avoiding horrible things like Q, R, S etc.

So ERG (a small amount of work ..heh, heh) began. In actual fact, that first issue hit 16 pages and included such items as:- 'Kornan The Bold', 'The Space Age and Me', 'Major Missiles' (scale illos) and a complete table of satellite launchings up to that date. Size fluctuated, but for many years, averaged about 12 pages per issue. Then inevitably, expansion began. Friends, traders, subscribers swelled the ranks. As the mailing list grew, so did the page count. In those early days, it was often a problem to fill eight pages (Back then, I wrote virtually all of every issue). Now, the problem is how to limit each edition to 22 pages...more than this, and it edges over the postal limit into a higher bracket (which may not apply under new rates). To pay extra postage for only one or two pages isn't practical; to carry on and take the zine up to the next limit requires extra paper (£1.30 a ream) ink, (£1.50 a tube) and stencils (6p each) is not on without more cash subscribers. So 22 pages is the target. I'd like to make a bigger issue, particularly by a regular lettercolumn, but that 22 page barrier usually means something has to go. The most expendable item being a lettercolumn. Nevertheless, I still enjoy..and want your letters, so keep 'em coming.

Sadly, the new postal rates announced after the last issue closed, look like killing off most British fanzines. ERG operates on a shoe-string, and rather than raise the rates this issue, I'll retain the current rates at least until the next issue. However, freeloaders must all go. Trades and good LOCs will keep you on the books, but otherwise, I'm afraid that it must be 'shell out, or farewell'. Sorry, but if you ever got into fan-publishing you'd understand. Help in the form of passing this issue along, talking friends into subbing, or even taking out gift subs, will be greatly appreciated. And if there is a cross against your renewal box, I trust you'll understand...and sign up again.

4.
THE STENCIL CUTTING SERIES continues this issue, and sees the first of the symposium pages where I have collected useful items suggested by readers. So you get an article by Jim Cawthorne, THE master of hand-cut stencilling, plus other tips from Messrs Alderson and Poole. For newcomers, this is a continuing series, and will eventually appear complete in a very limited edition. The series seems to have been well-received, and in answer to numerous queries...No, it will not be limited simply to stencil cutting. I hope to cover such items as dummyping, inking, colour work, collating, binding your own fanzine file, ..indeed, as I said at the beginning, EVERYTHING I know, or which readers can tell me about this fanzine publishing business. Incidentally, to further the cause, I sent copies to both Gestetner and Roneo, and asked for any details and catalogues etc., which they may care to send. I pointed out that eventually, I hoped this would possibly even see hardcovers and their information would be given due credit. Gestetners sent handouts (no details or prices) of three dupers and copiers. Roneo never replied. Don't these people WANT business ???

RECENT READING is the title of what most fen refer to as 'the reviews'. Now I don't know what YOU mean by reviews, or what YOU want of them, but for my own part, I do not want a literary essay which tells me nothing of the book's theme. However, several readers (about four) have expressed views similar to those of Dave Rowe, who says of RR, "just plot precis & collection contents listing". Well, I for one, want to know what a book is about before I buy it. I am NOT interested in whether or not Fred Bloggs derived his theme from the Eohippus saga in Hummer's 'Everbinad' and that the work contains some excellent character studies and arcane, esoteric allusions to some little-known Norse stanza. I want to know the broad topic of a story, its setting, and if a re-issue, where, when and under what title it appeared before.

Put it this way...my son told me that 'Old Grey Whistle Test' was a very good tv show. I tried it...ghod, it was pop 'music' This cost me no more than a little time to find out...but suppose he had praised a book in the same way..and I had spent several quid on it ?? Pop may be good, bad or indifferent...but it doesn't interest me. So, I want to know what I'm buying. Ergo, Recent Reading stays the way it is. It will continue to tell you what is in a book, and a broad idea of whether or not I like it. My hope is that from these comments, the readers will form some idea if the book might appeal to them. Does that make it all clear ??

WEDDINGS are in order
===== Latest news is that a well-known fan and sometime ERG contributor is to marry in August. I have been asked to be 'best man', so plan to mini-con it in Halifax before the day. No, he doesn't live in (or near) Halifax, but his bride-to-be comes from there. I'd give the names, but until I get the go-ahead on the news, I feel it fairest to keep their confidence. No doubt all will be revealed in ERG 51.

Happy landings,

Terry

Where various people air their
views of well-known personalities in S-F

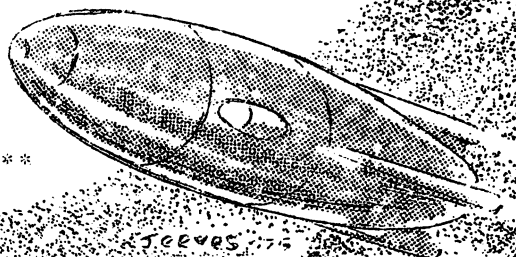
ROBERT A. HEINLEIN

As a callow youth, and perhaps when even younger, I spent many an entertaining, if uncritical, hour reading or re-reading various novels and stories by Robert A. Heinlein. If, as Peter Ustinov says, we are each a prisoner in his own mind, then Heinlein was one of the writers who furnished that cell.

Eric B. Lindsay,
6 Hillcrest Ave
Faulconbridge,
N.S.W. 2776
AUSTRALIA

The phrase, 'the competent man' was unknown to me at that age, and Heinlein's characters seemed anything but stereotyped. To my uncritical eye, the protagonists of Heinlein's novels seemed realistic, and indeed worthy of emulation. From such views do later character traits spring; since it was obvious that 'real' people, as depicted by Heinlein, were able to turn their hands to a variety of tasks. I view with some disapproval the entire concept of specialisation. Union demarcation disputes tend to disgust me, as does the idea that a person be prevented by law from doing the electrical wiring in his own house, altering the plumbing, or modifying a car or motorbike.

Heinlein's writing sometimes seems a battleground between two distinct world-views. In one, morality is defined as something made up of duty to an overview, provided by characters who partake of many aspects of Plato's 'philosopher kings' - thus via his characters, Heinlein is sometimes slandered as a Fascist, or at least a reactionary. The comparison is not altogether unrealistic - so was Plato (pace, Sir Karl Popper, 'The Poverty of Historicism'). The other viewpoint in Heinlein is that of the unpoliticised anarchist, who will take a course because he believes it right, and defend himself with skill from those who try to alter his course, be the interference from an individual or a government. Of late I have come to regard Heinlein as a small 'a' anarchist, who would nevertheless like to believe that there exists somewhere a government/father figure that could be trusted to take the place of the philosopher-kings. " (E.B.L.)



Leroy B Haugsrud
5420 Queen Ave. S.
Minneapolis
Minnesota 55410
U.S.A.

"My feeling is that he is as complex an entity as his pseudonyms. Whether he writes as Anson MacDonald or Robert A. Heinlein, he is one of the best of the master story-tellers.

In his earlier years, when he wrote, 'If This Goes On', 'Methuselah's Children', 'Coventry' and some of his shorter fantasies, the finished product could be read with as much enjoyment for the tenth time as the first. This is my definition of first class reading pleasure.

I think the dividing line between the first era and the second stage came in the late 1950's with 'Glory Road' and then he wrote 'Stranger In A Strange Land' in 1961. Here he explored the world's philosophical concepts, sex, governments, religion, at al.

Perhaps our sacred cows, western culture, political corruption (Lord knows, we in the USA have had a shocking exposure to this) giant monopolies, cartels and the like, need an honest weeding and pruning. However, the solutions he serves up seem to me to be vulnerable to the same sort of blight we have now.

In the wonderful, 'Door Into Summer', his Danny Davis says, "I don't worry about philosophy any more than Pete does". Pete, the invincible cat is an epic by himself. Heinlein likes cats. So do I.

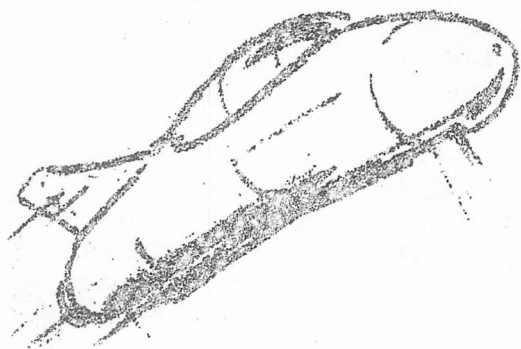
Read the last page or two of, 'The Door Into Summer' for a more terse, common-sense statement that ".....the world steadily grows better". (L.B.H.)

Paul Skelton
25 Bowland Close
Offerton
Stockport
Ches. SK2 5NW

"There's only one way to get a true

evaluation of the work of Robert A. Heinlein and that is to get hold of all his books and stack them up before you. It's a tall stack. Then remove the out-and-out duds. Whatever your choice, you'll be hard pushed to come up with more than half-a-dozen. There's still a hell of a lot left with something going for it. The single stand-out attribute of Heinlein is that no one else has written so much that is so good. No one comes remotely near him in this. Even dismissing his worst six books, one is left with over thirty which range from 'more than adequate' to 'excellent'.

Heinlein is all things to all people. To me, he is a born story-teller. Throughout almost all his books, SOMETHING IS HAPPENING, and something interesting at that. To this, he adds the ability, whilst shaping the story with his hands, to brush in the setting and background with his elbows, so that the whole thing acquires a depth and solidity, taking on a life of its own.



"Give examples !" my old English master used to say, but to try and distill such a volume of work into a couple of examples would be an exercise in sheerest fantasy. So, no examples....no causes, just an effect. 7.

My Favourite Heinlein novel will always, I feel sure, remain 'The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress' because within this book was the instance in which Heinlein's communication with me reached its zenith. The character of 'Mike' the computer, became so real for me that the concept of this 'identity' wandering lost like a lost child through its own computer banks, vainly struggling to communicate, to regain contact really choked me up. Pity overwhelmed me and I cried.

For so much more, Bob, but especially for those tears...

....Thanks (P.S.)

Jim Diviney
9 Church St.,
St. Georges
Telford
Salop

"This can only be a personal view, everything has already been said about Heinlein right down to the psychological and religious reasons of why he wears his socks in bed. Shortly after I discovered that Heinlein was not some obscure German beer, I read everything by and about him that I could lay my ~~hands~~ eyes on. He wasn't just good, he was bloody good.

Robert Anson Heinlein was born in Butler, Missouri on July 7th 1907. His first short story, 'Life Line' appeared in the August '39 issue of Astounding...his last hasn't been decided yet. Sadly I suspect that if he wrote it under pseudonyms other than Lyle Monroe, Anson MacDonald, Caleb Saunders or John Riverside, it would probably be rejected just as Scribner's rejected 'Starship Troopers'.

During '67, while sunning myself in Bahrain at the tax-payer's expense, I read, '...And He Built A Crooked House', and having far too much spare time, I built a tesseract, not out of toothpicks, but out of thin, rigid perspex. That little model involved me in dozens of, "What the 'ells that thing ?" conversations and really helped to pass the time.

The turning off point for me, was 'Stranger In a Strange Land'. (I had previously read 'Podkayne', 'Glory Road', and 'Farnham's Freehold', even though they came after 'Stranger') I read half of it, found it boring and put it back on the shelf promising that I'd make the effort later. It's later...and I haven't.

I bought 'I Will Fear No Weevils', and that's suffered the same fate. No matter what Lester del Rey says (IF, Sept.73) I'm not going to buy 'Time Enough For Love' I know I'd have to force myself to read it, and as I read for pleasure, what would be the point.

Heinlein in his 'first and second' period, was excitement. Heinlein in his 'third' period is excrement. I know there can be great beauty in a dead tree, "I like my trees in blossom." (J.D.)

R.F. Slater,
Fantast (Medway) Ltd,
39 West St.
Wisbech.
Cams. RM13 2LX

"I am asked to say what I think of Robert A. Heinlein; this in some two thirds of a quarto page. By me as I write is a 200 page book with say, 80,000 words on RAH - someone else's opinion. It really shouldn't leave me much to say. But since Panshin wrote most of his

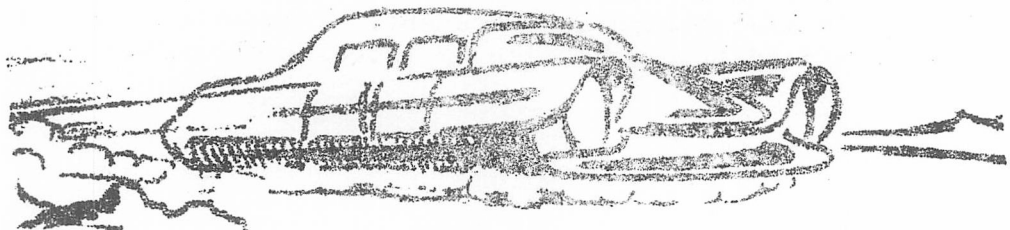
critique between 1965 to 1968 and since then, Heinlein has contributed a couple of lengthy works to his list of published titles. Unfortunately, one of these I have been unable to complete, and the other is - from my viewpoint - just an effort to tidy up some assorted loose ends of 'unwritten Future History' and hardly a story at all.

So for the present, let me say I don't like the material Heinlein has written in the last few years. I still like almost all of the earlier Heinlein stories, both 'shorts' and novels. I still feel that his decriers often do not understand what they are implying... The most frequent complaint is that his philosophy is a bad one, and that he has used his stories to 'put over' this philosophy. This is absurd. The outlook of the protagonists of 'Starship Troopers' is not the same as that of Mr. Smith from Mars in 'Stranger In a Strange Land'. One critic accused him of advocating slavery in 'Farnham's Freehold' - the critic couldn't have finished the book; Heinlein completely demolished the straw castle he had created - and just used the last chapter for this. I feel that the main objection people feel to what Heinlein has to say - and always has had to say - is the fact that he stresses the old army policy, or the old card school attitude - "Put Up or Shut Up!" He advocates a limited franchise in many instances - the limits vary, but in general he suggests that the right to control should need some basic qualifications besides the fact of existence. He can see no future for the Welfare State; he demonstrates the absurdity of the claim that 'all men are born equal'. Statements of this kind naturally are not readily acceptable in a climate where too few people are prepared to accept the responsibility for their own actions; in times when discipline - including self-discipline - is considered a dirty word. Heinlein has never advocated protecting a fool from his folly; a large part of our legal system is now slanted to this end. (Have a read of Starship Troopers, page 100, et seq. in the NEL edition, and have a think back over history)

On the other hand, Heinlein has always advocated sexual equality (although I must admit that, naturally, he makes some more equal than others...any man will do his best to sort the cards in his favour - a woman will do no less!) and since the bonds were released from the written words in science fiction, he has advocated considerable sexual freedom.

Yep, on the whole I like Heinlein, even when I don't agree with him - and that is quite often. He gives me to think - and if he is unfairly treated now and again, well, he knows that life is not fair.'

(R.F.S.)



From Sam Long scrounging a few typing moments away from launching his weather rockets at the Cape, comes this comment :-

Sam S. Long
Box 4945
Patrick A.F.B.
Fla. 32925
U.S.A.



Robert Heinlein is a sort of extremist. He engenders extreme passions in his readers. Either you love his books or you hate them; but, try as you might, you cannot ignore them. You may think that Lazarus Long and Jubal Harshaw are platitudinous old windbags, or you may think they're loveable old rogues - or both, and you may or may not agree with the philosophy espoused and expounded by those worthies; but you've got to admit that Heinlein has gained and kept a reputation as one of the best s-f writers in the business.

For my part, I dislike the indomitable cheerfulness, the well-scrubbedness of his later characters, especially his heroes; but I find 'em entertaining as hell. I mean I'd like to know Jubal Harshaw. But I dislike even more those who call Heinlein a totalitarian or a fascist. By the Great Horn Spoon, NO!

If anything, he's an anarchist. His characters do not preach subordination to the State, but rather individualism, personal responsibility, self-reliance, and a sort of Social Darwinism.....but there I go getting all 'het up' about RAH: see what I mean?

What I Think Of....No.3" Will give fen a chance to comment on that well-known and well-loved author, Isaac Asimov. Do YOU have anything to throw into the discussion pot?

WHETHER your taste is for Arthur C. Clarke (No.1), This issue's Robert A. Heinlein, or the forthcoming pages on Isaac Asimov.. or for that matter, any other writer or writers.....

SHOULD you wish to buy any of the books mentioned in RECENT READING on pages 15 to 19 in this issue; or indeed, any books at all....

MAYBE you hanker after bibliographical works, comics, sword and sorcery

Whatever your wants, there is a pretty good chance that Ken Slater of

FANTAST (REDWAY) LIMITED
39 West Street
Wisbech
Canbs PE 13 2 LX

..will be able to supply what you want. And that applies whether you live in the UK, or anywhere else. Why not drop him a line?

TELEGRAM FROM THE COLONIES

or a sort of

LONG DISTANCE CAGLE

((Being choice extracts from Ed's fascinating letters))

"Until recently, I didn't realise how much my life has been influenced by what I call the Unnnngg Syndrome. It refers to the sound of futility which wells forth from deep within when something that couldn't go wrong, goes wrong. Unnnngg... I recall when I was 18 or so, buying a most expensive white dinner jacket for the sole purpose of attending a wedding. Then, as now, I regarded being required to dress at my own expense in someone else's fashion and for their purposes, to be a pain in the arse of no known equal. I bought the damned thing, put it on and went to the wedding. I felt like and to some extent resembled a very angry chocolate-marble ice cream cone with a van dyke and long sideburns. I arrived at the wedding and as I was about to get in my assigned place, a fight broke out between two very small boys who were in the custody of a woman holding a small baby... which she thrust into my arms while she quelled the scuffle. Yeah, the baby crapped about a gallon of the yellowest stuff imaginable, right down my vanilla frock coat. That was one of my worst Unnnnggers.

Another choice incident occurred when I was the beleaguered owner of a heavy duty contracting firm. I took a contract to clear trees from beneath a public utility's power lines. Not a bad deal, except for the tree roots being intertwined with a buried crude oil pipeline. By dint of expertise and a lot of luck, I extracted all but three large old walnuts without problems, and then decided that no matter how carefully I removed them, the roots were certain to break the high pressure oil line. Relying on experience (and sloth), I planted three separate explosive charges, intending to loosen the roots without dumping them, thence to use the bulldozer to cut the offending roots leaving the line, and my patience intact. Ker-whoomp ! The first shot worked marvelously, the tree just jumped. Likewise for the second tree.. then KAH-WHOOMP ! The last tree was decayed inside, and already loose. It jumped 20ft. straight up taking the pipeline with it. Naturally, a 4 inch steel line will not flex that much. It soon began raining oil. I assure you, it was another Unnnngger.

Oh yes, I'm quite prone to Freudian slips. Not long ago, a large school group spent a rainy weekend here supervised by a 30-ish sweet woman (their teacher) with a pelvic developement of such magnificence that even an old butt-fancier like myself was impressed. During one of many violent thundersforms the woman approached and got into my pickup with me, asking where they should put their trash. I calmly replied, after haveing watched her traipse towards me in very wet denim pants: "I'll go up to the QuartermasterIs and get you some garbage butts....BAGS !" Not fifteen minutes later she was asking me about a precipice on camp called Scott's Bluff, and without hesitation I explained, "It's a 200 foot cleft...CLIFF !"

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ARA-VIEWS

Best Cover,
DIFFERENT

Runner-up.
COCHABE

I'm starting this section on Feb. 1st 1975, and at the time of writing, both Redd and Gregg have written to say they are passing my dues/books query to Bill, but from Bill, still no reply. I hope this gets sorted out soon, or come August, I'm out of FAPA and yet I have £7.30 in Bill's kitty and no reply to letters. Oh well.....

stop press just got it
FAPA & FAPA COMMENTS Like this diary idea, but miss illos. That bit about Venice beach had me wondering until I realised it was USA. A craze gaining ground over here is 'Medieval Banquets' - to draw in the cash customers, the stately homes are putting on feasts (eaten only with the use of a dagger) complete with serving wenches, jesters and all the trimmings ... at a price. Mundane is at last catching up with the Knights of St. Pantony.

THE BEGINNING The current lust for wine (drinking and making) is largely wasted on me I'm afraid..despite repeated trials, the only wine I fancy is sherry. so I go along with you. While on about the minor surgery to fit a car driver into his car, why not go the whole hog, and fit the driver with a set of wheels ?? For that matter, it might also be a good idea to install chimneys in smoker's heads at the same time. Shades of Dr. Keller and 'Stenographer's Hands' etc.

TARGET FAPA I liked the (stolen) artwork in this, and enjoyed myself by putting in my own captions...the Roman pic where one bod rests his head on his arms against a plinth.."98..98..100. Coming, ready or not" and the heavenly Presence in clouds of glory..."Now take these tablets". How about a cartoon caption competition ?? Nice zine and much care taken with it. The con report seemed a bit mixed though.

SETE NOIRE A nice hefty zine, beautifully produced..but sadly, (this is my hobby horse) not enough artwork. Can we have more ?? Stencils keep OK, I ran off some 14 year old (unused Triode stuff) in RE and they came out OK. Long hair..I hate it for myself..it tickles the back of my neck. In others, I don't like to see it...BUT, I draw no inference as to a person's character from his hair-style. On the other hand, I draw a heck of a lot of (unpleasant) inferences about drug takers. Many thanks for your letter and the passing of my query to Bill.. sadly, though you and Gregg replied to that Sept. letter, he didn't. This puzzles me as I can think of no reason why. Anyway, I leave the problem to you and Gregg as my dues come due in August, and I am not sending any more cash until the last lot gets used up. (after being located). Funny, but Con reps of cons I missed. and concerning fen I know not (apart from recognising a few names) just don't really get to me. A well-produced issue though Have a star *

12. ~~DIABLO~~ I liked that cover illo, but why no interiors ? You have a nice clear repro simply crying out for illos. Yes thanks, Val is now fully recovered and thanks to a decent pay rise, we are at last getting our heads above the financial waters...if the council can find the cash to pay us. Currently, a ratepayers association is organising a boycott on rates....we're in the middle.

RUBBING FAP How is it SO MANY Fapans produce beautiful looking mags but put virtually no illos in them ??? We're currently hoping to replace our two-year old (nearly 3) Opel Kadett in a month or so...and of course the price went up 380 today.. then we even saw an ad for a 2nd-hand one..Price higher than new models were last week !!! Glad you like RRG..only hope I can keep it coming. I loved that Burbee piece, even though I never gamble more than a few pence (cents) of hard earned cash on a football pool.

DIABLO Liked that illo heading the logo, and the idea of Dena getting cartilage trouble from watching TV football. That mushroom piece has me worried..in our kitchen is a bag of stuff which (according to the instructions) will any day now burst into a crop of mushrooms and continue so every day for centuries ..or maybe less.

NO HESITATE Yes, there is an Ashby de la Zouch (y ou got the spelling wrong. The name derives from the French 'de la Luche's' which means 'of the ash trees' Next question please. Hope the STAFF report is selling well. Someday before I die, I'd like to visit you all, so I plan to buy 30,000 votes..if I can find the 10c.

O GAWD Liked the cover, not so keen on the interiors. How come you only use one side of the paper. fault of the repro system ?? Sorry, but 'poetry' isn't my bag.

SUSANNE Nice cover, and I really enjoyed those cartoons. See you support One-staple-fandom. Nyaaah, meanie. Be a devil, double your outlay, and shove in two per issue.

WHEEL etc. Can't remember the last time I saw so much alphabet soup..wonder what it all means ? ROEP ROTPE (the latter meaning 'roll on that flip ing boat) Your favourite author list virtually parallels mine. I play a bit of chess, but never tried Fairy Chess

MAMA BOOK Very fine worthy item, sorry Rae didn't make it..heck, we might have had a FAPAN as US president eventually. We get the Monitor over here, and are often crogled to see the headline, FORD TO FIGHT INFLATION or somesuch, On reading further, I find that it isn't Ford cars going down in price, simply your new Pres making a speech.

MISSALL 4 GFAO...but this is a good spot to say that current Postal RATES mean that FAPA must get a reduced-size ERG (The full one is currently running a series on duplicating & fapz publishing) Since I need dollars for my Analog dues, I'd appreciate any plugs any Fapan can make which might bring in a few subs.

These same Postal rates (due to go up 50% in March) are one of the reasons for keeping mailing comments so brief. Now if Rae Davlat became World Dictator, she could introduce FREE postage (and duping facilities for all fapz).

Best to all,
Terry.