



JANUARY, 1965... Well, people just simply have to write locs, that's all. There's simply no use trying to escape it. My apologies to Rick Sneary, Art Saha, Ted Engel and the rest of you who won't find your (ahem) brief notes included here -- I cannot produce a 50-page fanzine. (I am not so damned sure I can produce this 40-page letterzine, either, if you should ask at this particular moment!) Anyway, a good many things had to be left out of this issue: the astronomical illos, for example, that are both done on multilith mats here and ready to go to the printer -- the last two illos of the "Local Cluster" series, which I started month before last. And there's experiments in mimeo artwork I wanted to do on a new drawing plate, since last issue's illos didn't come out too well. And there's a very brief skit I wanted to write up, with some few maps and charts, on the matter of building a spaceport on Earth...

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Other things can wait; but one thing that won't wait is TAFF. I think Bill Donaho has won it -- if you have voted. I am certain that others have, after what was attempted in Eney's Fanzine Poll, and that they're betting you won't. I was right about ATOM and Wally Weber without needing any "inside" information to guess the outcome. I could be as certain this time, if it weren't for the unusual aspects which some fans have already attached to this particular TAFF election. I think those aspects will be dead issues, happily forgotten -- that even the worst soreheads in fandom will inevitably find new issues to get soreheaded about.

There are three good candidates running for TAFF, this time. We like Donaho. My own evaluation of fandom's preferences in a TAFF winner indicate Bill as the likeliest choice. Those who have already voted may not agree at all. And I'm not asking Bill, himself, if I ought to say any of this. Or Wally Weber or Arthur Thomson.

What I'm saying is get your vote in.

* * * * *

Now, getting back to other things, one old cliché which can certainly be quoted, what with our rate of publication, is "There'll be other times!" --and plenty of upcoming issues of g2 in which to do all the things I might've wanted to, this issue. Might be best to save something, at that. Meanwhile, this cleans out the letterfile here, and we'll resume LOX in the forthcoming March issue with whatever comes along between now and then. This issue, of course, is late. And I would rather you didn't ask, just this minute, when the February issue will be coming out. Or what'll be in it. Or how many pages it'll have. Or...no, don't ask that, either! Actually, I've had a great deal of enjoyment with this all-lettercol issue. And I hope it shows.

But I suppose this issue makes one thing completely obvious: that I don't simply enjoy getting letters of comment. The thing that fills me with utterly shameless delight is to print them and answer them -- to tangle horns with every dilemma -- to be as ambiguous and as long-winded as any of you might be.

higher



WITH NOISE -

Well, I see where I have been getting some notice in a few fanzines I usually don't consider worth reading, and all in the past few months. Thom Perry has published some cheap utterance about how I advocated the use of libel, which proves Thom Perry is perfectly willing to be a dirty liar if he thinks it will serve his purposes. And John Boardman has published a statement that I married a police-woman, which proves he's a dirty liar. But at that, I've been .. treated rather well by this trashy element of today's fandom; at least, I haven't been given as cheap a double-cross as Dick Bergeron handed to Busby and Rogers. I suppose someone will convey these sentiments of mine to the individuals I've named? I care too little for them to bother about sending 'em copies. I have much better things to do with my time and this fanzine. Besides, their cute behavior hasn't surprised me at all. I'm just not impressed. If they'd only try something new, I might be.

Before we get into the letters, here, there's something I know I'll have to do, sooner or later, so I may as well get it done now -- so where's the file-copies of the last 3 or 4 issues? In the file cabinet where they ought to be, for a change! Well, let's see, now -- I can never remember all this stuff without checking back -- the September g2 had the Ballard Special on that gawdawful cover that didn't come out right, and the first part of my Con Report all about the Death-Defying Kujawas and the Reno Shoot, and LOX had BettyK cussing trains and praising the lake country's Indian Summers and it was Roy Tackett, not Robin Wood, I was snarling to about cities. Now, who was it said I discussed that with Robin Wood? Oh, well -- the October g2 had that Three Stooges cover that I loused up drawing (but bhoj, that do look like Wrai Ballard -- so we used it) and the 2nd part of my Con Report which actually does mention something about a world convention; and the November g2 was mostly LOX with Rick Sneary and a sterling silver copy of the National Rifleman and McQuown making movies and John Boston mentioning science-fiction, by gum! And the December g2 -- why, that was just last month -- had some little thing about airplanes and suchlike.

Now, just to make this a page you could've ignored entirely, let me point out that publishing a lettercol every month has always meant I had to dig out the back-issues and go prowling through 'em again to see what you've written in about. Maybe we can catch up on it all, this time. And when I run LOX again, two months from now, in the March issue, we won't have to reach so far back to remember what it was they're about, maybe. Anyhow, I'm going to try it and see how it works out.

STAN WOOLSTON, 12332 Westlake, Garden Grove, Calif. 92640:

Impossible? Peter Singleton's idea of the impossible deserves a question-mark, as you give it. What will be possible depends on "developments"--inventions, chance discoveries, etc. Imagine a method of speeding up each particle of matter at the planet's core, or shifting it to another "dimension"--tossing a big hunk of the core away. Um--it might be dangerous if the core is liquid--earthquakes might exist, or planetquake, anyway. Still, remove the core before the heavy world is turned over to men.

- + I'm butting right into the long paragraph that Stan's
- + begun with, here (I've noticed he likes to do this,
- + start right in musing off the top of his typewriter)
- + to pin him down. First, Singleton questioned a remark
- + of mine about interstellar colonizing, saying most
- + worlds we'd find might well be larger than Earth, with
- + more gravity-at-surface than human colonists would like.
- + And he used the word "impossible" in his comments.

Of course double gravity would be a challenge, but even this, without lessening gravity, would have its possibilities to us. I can imagine the use of water to "float" people, combined with muscular training of the muscle-tension methods we know about. ((+Been reading those Charles Atlas ads again, h'mm?+)) This might make a lad of ten strong enough, if hauled to Earth, to win the discus-throwing contest--but maybe not. Still, the principle of increased strength is there so that by using the muscles in a planned way, avoiding falls by having cities fixed with nearby water maybe, and safety devices, the world might be made livable. Um--water might feel "solid" if you dropped far--I'm not thinking this through --but it is possible to figure the distance of fall that would be dangerous. So if a sort of Venice City world could be used, fine...Condition the kids to wear artificial

- + Cut! Nemmine what you'd "condition the kids to wear";
- + I'm stopping that noise right there, chum. You go live
- + on your double-gravity world. I want no part of it.
- + Nossir. Besides which, I have a hunch your colony's
- + going to go broke before it's even dug those canals.

- + Pete Singleton was referring to planets a lot bigger
- + than that. More like -- let's see, where's CONQUEST
- + OF SPACE, here -- well, I'll be damned!!!

- + Okay, the Equatorial Diameter of Jupiter is 88,700 miles
- + and its surface gravity is 2.64 g's. But the diameter
- + of Saturn is 75,100 miles and its surface gravity is only
- + 1.17 g's! And according to the same figures, Earth has
- + the greatest density of any planet in the Solar System!
- + Jupiter hasn't even one-fourth as much density! Ye gods.
- + Where d'you guys get with your "giant" planets? Have I
- + gotta look up everything around here???

- + The first thing to be done is boil off the surface
- + layers down to that core you want to throw away, Stan
- + -- then capture all the lightweight stuff we've boiled
- + off that world, compress it and fuse it into material
- + of greater density, then ram it down into that core so
- + the smaller world we end up with has enough gravity to
- + hold water -- not letting it all evaporate before we
- + can get any seas and rain and topsoil and plants growing.

+ That's if other planets run to such low densities and,
 + still using the Solar System as a yardstick (which I
 + have doubts about), not much larger than Uranus or Nep-
 + tune. The core of any world Jupiter's size is more
 + likely to be as dense as we'd like -- dense enough to
 + supply structural materials needing little or no pro-
 + cessing -- and, in fact, we might have to strip 'em to
 + an even smaller diameter than Earth to get a surface
 + gravity we like. Here, the surface layers we boil off
 + might be funneled across space to whatever small moons
 + are circling the giant; building them up to make worlds
 + worth living on. Hell, you could boil solid rock off a
 + planet's surface; then trap the escaping hot gases and
 + separate 'em into the several elements those rocks con-
 + tained; then cool the stuff to form dust, and you can
 + recombine those elements into more useful material.

About 20 years ago I "plotted" a story in which Our Intrepid Hero moved his spaceship, protected by a magnetic device that hurled heat aside, into the top of the sun and siphoned off matter to form another planet. ((+And thereby triggered off a solar storm that spewed enough hard radiation into space to fry all living matter on every planet in the Solar System, I'll bet.+)) Dunno--maybe today we could use some sort of controlled shielding like that modified ball-lightning that can be used to build up heat near sun-heat strength. ((+That's easy; controlling it isn't easy, or we'd have fusion power by now.+)) Dunno-- ((+You said that.+)) Or how about using a radio-transmitter of matter at the surface of a planet to change matter into energy, and squirt out as a beam into space. ((+Mean to sit there and tell me you can't say "matter-transmitter" and know I'll understand exactly' what you mean? Now, go write 500 times on the blackboard, matter-transmittermatter-transmittermatter-transmittermatter-+))

"Well, I liked stf 25 years ago!"

The specification of your plane is interesting. The psychological difference between a plane and "Buck Rogers flying belt" is probably important if I could pinpoint it: you feel like you're moving around the plane, I'd imagine, which might give you a sense of power. With flying belts, in time would it appear as a natural function, with whirling and speeding, etc. being more a part of you? If I drove a car I might imagine flying a plane was also a part of you--but I don't. Don't drive.

+ And I can't remember, now, if I said anything about any
 + psychological difference between planes and Buck Rogers
 + flying belts. The trouble with rocket belts, such as we
 + already have, is that it gets embarrassing if you run out
 + of fuel, or get a plugged fuel-line. A real flying belt
 + (as Phil Nolan knew perfectly well) has to be an antigrav
 + belt, with rockets used solely for maneuvering, not lift.
 + If we ever find "seetee" matter, we'll have flying belts
 + -- if we can find, and mine, a vein of "seetee" lead! But
 + mere rocket belts are too risky, even for standard military
 + use, just as parachutes always have been. We'll have some
 + paratroop-type units using them, and no doubt sky divers
 + will strap on rockets. But that's about all. It's an
 + engineering problem, and rocket belts just don't solve it.

I've an idea the specifications you list may be possible in a few years of striving, if the money was available. ((+A new, lightweight, tougher-than-steel material developed by Space Age technology? A powerplant developed on the Moon? A partially "idle rich" Automation Bra society? Those were my specifications.+)) It would take people who can handle plastics, planes, etc.--plus trial and error.

+ Now, there I need to chop off your trend of comment,
 + again. There's a small, but nagging paradox, Stan,
 + in that some of you would certainly be interested in
 + such developments -- people, private individuals, do-
 + it-yourself types working with plastics and new ideas
 + in small aircraft -- and yet, apparently none of you
 + had any idea that's been going on for about ten years,
 + now. I believe there's also been a scientific break-
 + through that most of the experimenters don't know about.

Maybe matter transmitter ((+There you go!+)) would be a gadget to work specifications up about: imagine making the "photographing" or duplicating of matter on as fine or definite a scale as would permit duplication. ((+And what power requirements d'you suppose it would involve?+)) How close would the matter-pattern need to be to the original for it to appear like the original? Would the duplicate diamond have sub-microscopic flaws? Would the pearl ... Would a mouse

+Me, again. Stan, look up something or wait 'til you've
 + read something on cancerous tissue. It'll give you a
 + slight idea of what you're up against, in duplicating
 + anything so complex as living organisms. And of what
 + could happen if you fail.

In SF authors may ignore lots of detail, and as they do this their picture (or story) is less real. This discourages many who prefer the story to be made up of firmer stuff than the average yarn.

Perhaps someone should write down their "specifications" for SF--an author can do it, or a reader. Comparing specifications might help reveal the strengths and weakness of SF today.

+ I seem to recall that's been tried several times, and
 + almost always resulted in a free-for-all. One man's
 + "firmer stuff" is another's anathema; and while the
 + ideal solution would be to satisfy both of them, today's
 + stf more often succeeds in satisfying neither. In
 + consequence, I suspect we've been led up a stump in
 + thinking of it as a literary problem.

Frank Herbert's talk could have been quite speculative and useful in this respect. I wish it had been: it is one of the few things I saw on the program (or "heard").

Sometime you mentioned you didn't consider g2 a fanzine. ((+Several times.+)) I wonder what you call a fanzine, anyway. Yours reflects your interests, and I'd say what it reflects fits well in what I'd specify is a fanzine. You don't have to use fanfiction, have a certain format, etc. to get that classification from ME. I'm entertained by your views, I think they are related to SF too (including that plane specification to some degree).

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- + Others have something to say about fanzines, too, so
 - + I'll discuss it then; I see I'm giving you answers
 - + which might escape being ambiguous only if I would
 - + explain 'em to greater length.

+
+ But you've touched upon one thing that I consider extremely
+ important. Almost everywhere I look, now, I find science-
+ fiction being thought of (but seldom contemplated) and even
+ mentioned (but seldom discussed) as a field of literature.
+ I seem to recall that it was as much as 20-odd years ago
+ in a letterzine called Voice of the Imagination (or maybe
+ it was Imagi-Nation) that that fallacy was exposed and dis-
+ posed of; but such things get forgotten. Anyway, stf can't
+ be conceived as a field of literature because it's capable
+ of encompassing any field. A western story with one charac-
+ ter using a time-machine is science-fiction; a love story
+ with one character from the planet Mars is science-fiction.
+ But that's oversimplifying it; and it's not simply such
+ gimmicks as time-machines or other planets which denote
+ a science-fiction story. Such gimmicks are simply the end-
+ products, the symptoms, the results of using stf. Writing
+ a stf yarn means you are using a particular method of story-
+ writing. Stf is the cause of gimmicks, not the gimmicks
+ themselves. It's more a way of thinking than a kind of
+ story. Even the term "science-fiction" is false and mis-
+ leading, in that it denotes only the end-product of what
+ has been done. And it's a way of thinking which most of
+ the general public doesn't have.

RICK BROOKS, R.R. #1, Fremont, Indiana 46737:

I never thought my listing could have been misinterpreted. Fortunately you got the right ones. All but the July 63 issue arrived ok.

- + Fortunately, most people ordering back-issues have listed
- + their wants exactly as I did in the ad. It helps, since
- + that's how I've got the available copies filed here.

I like the Starship series. It is very thought-provoking.

I think you have overlooked one large point on your statements on club fans vs. fanzine fans. My interests in SF go back many years. I started collecting Planet Stories in 1954. I went to the Pittcon in '59, but didn't start writing to fanzines until last year.

I think you get the point. How many SF fans are just that? Fans who read & collect SF without bothering with fanzines or organizations.

- + During all my 25-or-so years in fandom, Rick, I have always
- + found that the majority of fans were just as you describe.
- + And I've always found active fans -- even back when clubfans
- + and fanzine fans weren't separate groups -- who seemed to
- + consider it beneath their social status to even admit your
- + existence in "their" fandom. (And don't they dislike my
- + saying so!) However, there have always been others in the
- + so-called "active fandom" groups who had no such illusions,
- + and who were worth your trouble to find. Personally, I've
- + never felt that a fan's writing ability (as much a genetic
- + "talent" as artistic ability) was any measure of personality

+ or intelligence. When someone who can express himself in
 + terms of exceptionally good writing says a fumbling, inept
 + writer is "stupid", the stupidity as often lies with the
 + competent writer. And sometimes I wonder if a certain amount
 + of stupidity isn't essential to anyone organizing or direct-
 + ing the activities of a fanclub, convention or gathering....

I like your diagram of the local grouping. However, your
 services come a bit high. According to the Dooks In Print volume
 at Tri-State College Library, Stellar Populations costs ten
 bucks and Pictorial Astronomy costs \$6.95. They both look like
 good reading, tho.

+ Not with blind faith in their accuracy, they aren't. I've
 + found one star-chart on page 193 of Pictorial Astronomy which
 + lacks the entire constellation of Pisces!

MICHAEL L. MCQUOWN, 129 1/2 N. Franklin Blvd., Tallahassee 32301:

Finally, thank Gha (or Foo, I don't care which) you've got
 some kind of easily readable issue out; that green-on-blue was
 hell, even on my eagle eyes. (I always use eagle eyes for
 scanning fanzines - leaves smaller eyetracks).

Your con seems to have been a blast - wonder if some of
 the others were half as good. I'd sure loved to have seen that
 there Rotsler Nude. Yeah. Seems as if the different regions
 run Con programs appropriate to their locale. Authentic Indian
 dances on the West Coast - what can we expect from the Midwest
 and East Coast?

I really feel for Al haLevy; he must have felt the pressure
 badly. But to stand in front of a bow and arrow!

+ Hell, Al always feels the pressure badly. And he spells it
 + "Halevy" now that he's been to Israel and done patrols into
 + Ay-rab territory. Being shot at broadens one, y'know. Even
 + the chance of being shot at makes one's arse seem much wider.

If you can figure on mass-producing that little sportplane
 for under \$3000, you might be able to market it a lot sooner -
 now, figure how to bring down the expense of getting the pilot's
 license. ((+Why d'you think I piled the whole shebang into the
 21st Century?+)) I'd dearly love to get mine; as I had just
 enough light plane time in CAP to get the bug, but haven't had
 the time since to do anything about it.

+ What are the current FAA requirements for a private ticket?
 + I've heard they've been changed somewhat, but haven't looked
 + into it at all. And how d'you pian to afford the landing
 + fees, maintenance and hangerage of your \$3000 plane??

My God, Gibson, are you trying to tell us you're a dirty
 pro? This was a fact I was unaware of. When and why did you
 stop writing?

+ When I finally sold a story to Galaxy -- in a rewritten ver-
 + sion Gold liked, but I didn't. When editors began asking me
 + to read what they published and write then material exactly
 + like that. And when the stf market got so small that you
 + have to write other fiction (which doesn't interest me) to
 + live on a writer's income, and fill editors' specific needs
 +

+ (for which I couldn't care less) for stories of specific length
 + from month-to-month, to fill out their magazines. It was
 + somewhat hastened, too, by an earlier offer (I've forgotten
 + how much -- \$500 or something like that) from a Hollywood
 + group for movie rights to a story of mine; the offer seemed
 + slightly fishy and I turned it down flat. Subsequently, I
 + learned the group never bought any story and never produced
 + any stf movie. And it hasn't been deterred any by what's
 + happened to stf since then, by the type of professionals who
 + have gained control of the field or their methods of doing so.
 + And I haven't much sympathy for the problems of today's writers
 + who only give about as much as they get from the field, after
 + helping to make it so. When Earl Kemp asked, "Who Killed S-F?"
 + I read it only with the academic interest of one who had wit-
 + nessed the actual murder.

No, I never expected fandom was a bed of roses, ole buddy,
 but something like this Breen mess could give a very warped pic-
 ture of Joe Fan as some kind of pervert, at least from some of
 the claims made by Breen's 'friends,' and I, personally, don't
 care to have that sort of label pinned on me. ((+But they do
 want that label, and want to make all of fandom wear it, don't
 they?+)) Of course, I'm not in the habit of publicizing my fanac
 anyway. Not unless I think I can get someone interested. You'd
 be surprised how many people turn it off because they can't fathom
 some of the esoteric references, or want to know what the rules
 are - a rather strange thought, that. Almost as if one would
 expect there to be rules about living, outside of law and mores.
 ((+Not at all strange, to most of humanity -- or to the noisome
 few who always try to make rules for everyone else to follow.+))

Very tight trousers or jeans are tight in the area where
 Blizabethan clothes were not; the hose went to the thighs, but
 the various forms of breeches were not tight around the genitals;
 matter of fact, they were quite loose, to make room for the var-
 ious forms of padding which could be put in the codpiece, to em-
 phasize the genitals; often, the pantaloons were also stuffed
 and slashed as well. Ironic, though, that these teeners, in
 order to emphasize their masculinity may be depriving themselves
 of their potency.

+ You have reminded me of the bit from the Shakespearian Bra,
 + about how the girls would dress in men's clothing and attend
 + the masked brawls at the Mermaid and suchlike establishments
 + of merriment and good cheer. Now, did they -- ?? But I've
 + often wondered about fashions of the period, not only as to
 + what they wore but who wore what among the different classes
 + of society.

My main beef about nudity is the number of less-than-
 attractive bodies which would be on display, and the lack of
 pockets.

+ There's something to claims by the nudists that nude people
 + aren't unattractive. Almost all newcomers to nudist camps
 + appear awkward, weeks after their initial self-consciousness
 + has worn off; but eventually, the poise and movement of their
 + nude bodies becomes expressive and demonstrative -- something
 + people who wear clothes seldom develop. But you can get the
 + same result wearing nothing but swimtrunks all summer. And
 + I've wondered if a belt of pockets, or even a harness with
 + them, wouldn't be handier than where we've got pockets now.
 + Of course, we have need for them now, too. That could be
 + changed in some future civilization.

As to what one might wear in place of nothing, well - a loincloth has no pockets, either, and would be rather cool in winter, even with a cloak; loose clothing is better for cooler weather, and a tunic or singlet might be pretty good for summer, but more so for spring. I'm rather inclined toward such things as boots and breeches, myself. For some interesting thoughts on the monokini and topless dress, see this month's ((+Nov.'64+)) Double: Dill.

+ Like Amra, Yandro and Ratatosk, another fanzine I've always
 + been intending to subscribe to ... but I strongly object to
 + your discussing styles of apparel without stipulating where
 + you intend it to be adopted. Right now, I would favor a loose
 + coverall festooned with pockets, the trouser-cuffs bloused
 + into short boots -- of soft, light material, one-layer for
 + warm weather, two or three-layer for cold weather -- but I
 + would rather our future environment be far more comfortable
 + than the present smog-laden, drafty, weather-conditioned mess
 + we're forced to cope with. Thus, I stipulated a controlled
 + environment for future cities (or suburbia, if you will) being
 + naturally developed from the work we're now doing on space-
 + craft. And I speculated that apparel fit for space travel
 + might thus become the clothing of the future. Since I've
 + gone to all that trouble, dammit, go you and do likewise!

John Boardman has a petition going to keep down the price of prozines - this sounds like a hell of a good thing, if there are enough signatures on it. ((+Yeah, all you'd need is -- umm -- a quarter of a million dollars to subsidize all prozines, now and in future.+))) Perhaps we could make the publishers realize there are people directly concerned, and in sufficient numbers to affect their sales. ((+Where? In fandom, whose numbers are less than the fluctuation of any prozine's circulation from one month to the next??+)) I realize we see editors at cons, but publishers are another matter, some of them having no interest in SF or it's people at all. But they do have an interest in money.

+ Since book publishers have nothing to do with the price of
 + prozines, you must mean the prozine publishers -- and if they
 + had any damned sense, stf writers would be a lot better off
 + by now. Consider the fiasco JWC was given free rein to make
 + of advertising in Analog; with his idiotic delusion that most
 + readers of Analog are scientists, engineers and technicians
 + who direct and influence the research investments and pro-
 + curements of large corporations (and who might reasonably be
 + enticed by a \$1,000 telescope) he blew the whole scheme. And
 + don't forget that Street & Smith had already had to kick him
 + off the editorship of AIR PROGRESS after he'd nearly scuttled
 + it with much the same nonsense. Didn't his new pubber know?

+ A "books in print" ad from a paperback outfit like Penguin
 + would've been a goldmine to stf readers who don't live in
 + the proximity of a university, where such pb's are readily
 + available. And on my campus rounds, I'm constantly seeing
 + the handbills, pamphlets and brochures which cost large cor-
 + porations hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly just to
 + announce all the scholarships and inducements they offer to
 + aspiring college students -- especially technical students.

+ Furthermore, the payment any writer gets for a booklength
 + serial in a prozine is peanuts. Its subsequent paperback and
 + hardcover sales won't provide him with even the illusion of
 + a decent income. Only a good reprint sales-record, with his

+ book being reissued every 5 or 6 years, as new generations of
 + readers come of age to enjoy it, gives a writer any promise
 + of decent income from his profession. Even then, he has to
 + get quite a few books onto the market, and they must be damned
 + good books. Now, the publishers got some good books from a
 + few writers during stf's "Golden Age" and those writers have
 + profited in just this way. But did the publishers learn any-
 + thing from that? Are today's writers being offered any kind
 + of assurance that they will get that treatment -- and are the
 + publishers getting good books from them??

+ Is any prozine publisher also publishing paperbacks and/or
 + hard-covers? And advertising the latter in his prozine? Do
 + any of them show even the slightest awareness of such basic
 + facts as: that many competent writers of other fields simply
 + can't write science-fiction??

+ Go ahead, now; tell me they aren't a bunch of damned idiots!

Trials and Tribulations of Little Theatre Dept:

We're getting ready to do a comedy called, " Send Me No
 Flowers, " and it's too late to change it, now. So, we find
 out that a movie has been made of it, Starring Rock Hudson,
 Doris Day and Tony Randall. What's worse, it'll probably get
 here before our production. Not that I have any great regard
 for the talents of the first two named (God help me, I've got
 the Randall part!) ((+Well, suppose you'd been given the Day
 part?+)) but it might play hell with our box office, for several
 reasons:

- 1) many people might decide we can't do it as well;
- 2) many people may expect the same play (it isn't) and be
 disappointed;*
- 3) many may expect our to be up to the same level of pro-
 duction.

*It's the same play in essence, but H'wood has done the
 usual job on it; a few of their touches were improvements, but
 most of it was pure addition.

+ You might've fought fire with napalm: give the Day part to
 + some busty young thing and have her nude to the waist through
 + it all -- pure addition, of course, but quite effective.

Ironically, the character I play gets progressively
 drunker through the first two acts, and I just recently went
 completely on the wagon because of this damned ulcer. Oh, well...

+ I do wish you'd research a bit and write up something on
 + wearing apparel, past, present and future, because you seem
 + at least more conversant with the subject (I wonder if that's
 + the phrase I want? No matter.) than I am. Certainly, a
 + theatrical feller has more acquaintance with the peculiarities
 + of dress which public taste has at times approved -- and what
 + damnfool things they may approve, in future.

+ Now, let's see -- there was somebody else I wanted to argue
 + with, here....

+ Can't start at the bottom of a stencil. Besides, I am not
 + going to bother rearranging these loc's into any kind of
 + order. I'll take 'em as they come. I'd like to get into
 + some loc where I'm not tempted to do so damned much yakking
 + myself -- h'mmm, did someone mutter that'll be the day? Well,
 + it does bother my conscience on rare occasions.

11

LBN ZBTTEL, 7101 Quail St., Fair Oaks, Calif.:

We had an interesting one at work the other day. Halloween it was. Line 4 experienced its first big bang ((+at Aerojet's division of solid-fuel rocketmakers, this is+)) in quite a while - nothing alarming really, its just that every once in a while you know there has been a good sized explosion somewhere around. You don't hear the big ones - what you hear is the wump and rattle of the building as the shock wave moves it over about an inch. Usually you never find out what went bang this time, either, or whether or not they planned it that way.

Enahoo, there we are about ten o'clock with the clank-rumble of a good one. In the thirty seconds of dead silence that followed (everybody was too blase to rush outside and look) I pipe up "trick or treat". And not a marshmallow in the place.

+ Well, everyone to his own celebration of such holidays.
+ I can't imagine all the ways in which this past Yuletide
+ Season, or whatever it's called, was observed in the many
+ exotic places to which this fanzine's posted. About all
+ we did was take an indian family to a Christmas Party --
+ which shook me somewhat, not in chauffeuring them through
+ pouring rain past several auto smash-ups while reminis-
+ cing about New Mexico as she used to be, but in discov-
+ ering at the party, after they'd got into their ceremonial
+ garb, that I'd been hobnobbing with a full-feathered Chief
+ of the Lagunas.

The other thing I wanted to get off my chest this time around was a passing remark in an article in Science that completely demolished one of Joe's pet theories. If you consider the evidence objectively, there can't be any doubt that hunting was man's first major un-natural occupation. The thought of running down an antelope just completely fags me out. Or the idea of crouching down in the leaves hour after hour in the rain waiting for something to come by. Heavens to rheumatism! Ten minutes of squatting in the army (dry) was screaming torture. ((+I'll wait 'til you're done,+)) If that isn't enough contemplate barked knuckles chipping flint, the frustration of having your last tap split the core the wrong way. Then there's the discipline involved in keeping arrows dry, leather supple, knives sharp. Or the related discipline of taking orders from the boss man of the party, so the buffalo will move to where the best shots can clobber it. No wonder such elaborate social structures and rituals were built up to praise the mighty hunter! It even fostered that crowning invention to keep a man going, the nagging wife. A few millenia of that and men were ready to become farmers, all nicely broken in.

+ Anyone who'd try to run down an antelope is a little too
+ stupid to ever be a hunter -- any wolf can tell you that
+ much! And anyone squatting where he'll hafta wait hours
+ for game to appear might as well go back to civilization
+ and the bus stop where his talents are more sensibly ap-
+ plied. And you don't get very good results tapping flint
+ to chip flakes off it; the idea is to press steadily on
+ the right spot until a flake pops off. By the time you
+ know where the right spots are, you'll have learned one
+ hellova lot about the grain-structure of many kinds of
+ rock -- and you can fashion a good stone axehead in about
+ thirty minutes. And if the leather's not supple or the
+ knives sharp, it's your own stupid fault for not beating
+ hell out of your wife -- or giving her enough time to do
+ any nagging, either.

+ Finally, rituals and elaborate social structures happen
 + to be necessary, but mostly just to get that bunch of
 + low-lives and lazy old coots off their dead asses back
 + at the tribe's camp and out cleaning the carcasses and
 + scraping the hides, as well as letting 'em know who the
 + hell's boss and gets his best cuts of meat roasted first.

Instead, contemplate an environment that, while limited, will force an ape out of the trees. ((+How come you're so sure that ape ever got into any trees?+)) The carrying of food and other things found will encourage bipedal locomotion. ((+So how come we took so damned long to invent pockets?+)) An endless variety of encounters will encourage the development of brains to meet the unexpected. ((+Or maybe just brains enough never to get far from a commendably tall tree?+)) On top of that, I defy you to beat the really deep, primitive, simple satisfactions associated with it. I have never hunted, but I have done this. I can't think of somebody in a position who would not. Walk in the sand, hear the rumble of the surf, poke in the flotsam, and there can be no doubt. Man got his start as a beachcomber.

+ Not on any beach where the flotsam consisted of manmade
 + trash cast up from polluted waters -- nor, for very long,
 + on any beach where a meal wasn't to be had by the fling
 + of a rock or the jab of a sharp stick. No sir, I much
 + prefer the really deep, primitive, simple satisfactions
 + associated with a full stummick. I will even switch my
 + combing to some other beach to get that, and I will walk
 + upright to look for the place or anything that's maybe
 + looking for me, and use my brains to figure out just where
 + the blamed place is. Man, you just don't know how I hate
 + to get hungry!

+ Or don't you, tho???

+ I'm inclined to be a bit caustic about this, Len, because
 + of the decidedly stupid and self-satisfying comments many
 + otherwise intelligent, well-trained scientists and technical
 + people are prone to make on subjects they don't know a damn
 + thing about. I've read stuff from the same source about
 + how "survival of the fittest" is one law nature observes
 + without exception, when I know timber wolves and African
 + lions and several other carnivores maintain families in
 + which old or sick "kinfolk" very often have the others
 + hunt for them and feed them.

COLIN FREEMAN (whose address is someplace in England):

Your scientifically naive agent has another stupid question for you. I was reading in some obscure prozine recently (Readers' Digest, I think) that the biggest argument against Hoyle's "Implosion Theory" explanation of the quasi-stellar radio sources was that such a heavy gravity would be required to cause the implosion that nothing could possibly acquire escape velocity -- not even the radio waves which we receive. Am I to understand that radio waves are affected by gravity? This is completely new to me and I'm afraid I have no library available in which to find out more. Any chance of enlightenment from your end, please?

+ What in blazes are you doing with your old 'g2's? Don't
 + answer that. And where in blazes were you, back in the
 + May '64 issue when guys were trying to tell me gravity
 + was "instantaneous" and not so slow as any speed of light?

+ The answer is yes; but nothing in my hair-trigger memory
 + nor any May 62 issue reminds me of which reference book to
 + grab for, here. There's the pull of Earth's field on
 + solar storms; there's some bit in radio astronomy -- oh,
 + nuts, I can't remember it now. First stumble I got onto
 + it was Einstein's (yeh, him again) bit in reference to
 + visible light. Which nobody could prove when he brought
 + up the question. Which they finally got instruments for
 + detecting stars (and the planet Mercury) near Sol's disc
 + -- which is always moving in front of distant stars, from
 + where we sit. And so they found the light from those
 + far-oof exotic stars got "bent" as it came past the Sun.

And a political question now, please. If the two main candidates in a presidential election are pretty evenly balanced, is it theoretically possible for one of them to win the popular vote by an extremely narrow majority and the other candidate to win the subsequent electoral vote? If so, what happens next?

+ Oh, certainly -- I thot you were going to ask a hard
 + question! It happened back in 1876 when Tilden got 51%
 + of the popular vote and Hayes got 48%; but Hayes won the
 + election and became President because he got 185 electoral
 + votes to Tilden's 184. And again, in 1888, Benjamin
 + Harrison got 5,439,853 popular votes and Grover Cleveland
 + got 5,540,329 -- but Harrison won, with 233 electoral votes
 + to Cleveland's 168. Article II, Section 1 of the Con-
 + stitution of the United States (later restated and maybe
 + even clarified in the 12th Amendment, after some little
 + trouble we had over Tom Jefferson) says that our Presi-
 + dent and Vice-President are elected by a majority of the
 + total number of electors in the Electoral College; it does
 + not say one thing clearly and plainly about any election
 + by popular vote -- or even imply much about one, until you
 + start asking where that Electoral College gets its elector
 + chaps. And that's not very clear. Such things seldom are
 + if they work at all. And if you're wondering what gives,
 + should that Electoral College get deadlocked (which hasn't
 + happened yet), then our House of Representatives must
 + choose the President by majority vote, each State having
 + one vote, with a quorum consisting of members from 2/3rds
 + of the States. The Senate chooses the Vice Prexy, same
 + way -- the idea being, if the House doesn't get us up a
 + President by March 4th inst., the Senate-chosen V-P gets
 + the job. Had enough?

+ I've been wondering lately about the Natchez Trace -- and
 + whatever happened to it. I read something about it, years
 + ago, but I can't recall what or where. I know damn' well
 + it isn't Highway 40....

+ Perhaps I should've added: a "majority vote" as referred
 + to above is not just "the most votes" -- it has to be over
 + 51% in the Electoral College, the House, and the Senate.
 + We call "the most votes" (as where you've 3 or more candi-
 + dates and no one of 'em gets 50%) a "plurality vote". So
 + we had some Presidents whose popular vote was a "plurality";
 + but they always got a "majority" of electoral votes, so far.
 + (Later:) I think I'd feel quite at home in your light aircraft.
 + I used to have a single-seater, 3-wheeled invalid car (supplied
 + by the state) which I used to drive on three hundred mile trips
 + from my home in the south to my girl friend in the north. It
 + was a light-weight fibre-glass effort and, believe me, when

the wind blew hard I used to leave the ground. Yes, I think I can claim some experience in air navigation.

I'll see if I can get you another sub for the next letter. It will be a record.

+ And you did, you know. Or shouldn't we count renewals?

JOHN BOSTON, 816 South First St., Mayfield, Kentucky 42066:

Clay Hamlin's statistics were very interesting; much more so than the misspelling of the same name. ((+Hell, I thot he spelt his name right!+)) In line with them, you might be mildly interested in some observations I have made from behind the circulation desk of the Mayfield public library.

First, let me explain a little about what we have. At one time there was no one on the staff who knew anything about sf. Consequently, we got junk. To wit, the whole bloody line of Avalon stuff, up to about the beginning of 1963 or thereabouts. Now we belong to the Science Fiction Book Club, and that's about all the sf we get, except for a few anthologies I lobbied onto a purchase order last year.

In the juvenile field, we have a few of the Winston titles, very nearly the whole set of Tom Swift Junior, and a number of titles each by Heinlein and Norton.

Our adult sf doesn't do too well. I would guess that this is due to a combination of the poor quality of a lot of it and the fact that Mayfield is chiefly a rural/agricultural area. At any rate, most of what circulates is the borderline stuff. Cat's Cradle and The Man in the High Castle have done very well, even among a number of people who "just don't like science fiction." Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land, and to a lesser extent Glory Road, have enjoyed a fair amount of popularity; Farnham's Freehold, with its ambiguous blurb, will probably be as well read--if not as well liked. (Oddly enough, I have noticed that one of the most popular sf titles is "Ivar Jorgenson's" Starhaven, another old Avalon title. Probably the most pleasant thing I have done in a month is tell some housewife that we didn't have any more of his books because he didn't exist.)

So much for that. On to the juveniles. The best-circulating titles by far are the Avalon titles I demoted when we took inventory last year. Especially the two Kellemm screeds, Hunters of Space and The Little Men. We were donated an armful of ERB titles, a mixed bag of -sf and Tarzan, and these enjoyed only a temporary vogue. Among the younger younger set, Tom Swift is rather popular. Heinlein and Norton? They sit on the shelf and gather dust.

+ How's Kenneth Roberts' Daniel Doone, Wilderness Scout been doing? If you do a book review column in some fanzine, you can get a hellova chunk of free pocketbooks out of publishers, but I've never heard of getting hard-covers suitable for libraries...tsk.

+ And here I am at the bottom tail-end of a goddam stencil again! Grumble. Mutter. I see Harry Warner is next in the pile. H'mmm--that pile is diminishing not atall, too.
+ And if I don't print 'em this time, they don't get printed.

HARRY WARNER, JR. 423 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, Md. 21740:

The job crisis is ended, at least for a while, so I might accomplish now the achievement that has eluded me since the last broken hip: catching up on fanzine reading and commenting. This time, the work question was a close thing: I came close enough to quitting to cleaning out my desk and inquiring about the cost of having the house rearranged into apartments, for extra income in case I found it hard to find something else to do. ((+For years, I've wished you would quietly sell out, buy a motorbike, strap a bundle on the carrier rack, and head for someplace like Buenos Aires. Y'know why? You'd love it.+) Maybe I'll tell the whole story in Horizons. Briefly, one person above me got demoted, another is getting Moved Out, nobody below me got promoted over me, I've retained the same status as before, and I believe that my dignity is sufficiently intact to justify staying on the job. I calculate that by 1967, I'll have made most of the big foreseeable investments --better audio equipment, a paint job for the house, installation of a downstairs bathroom, a trip to Europe ((+I DON'T BELIEVE IT!+))--and I'll find it much nicer to live then on a sharply reduced income if I get fed up.

I've got news for you. Besides contributing lots of art work to old fanzines ((+and a lot of old fanzines to blitzed Britain--or was it old prozines?+)) and selling to a number of prozines ((+and being a Gold Star member of the old British Whatever-It-Was Society+)) and so on, you were the main figure ((+of course!+)) in Columbia, S.C., fandom for a couple of years ((+whaaa-a-a?+)) and published an excellent fanzine called Southern Star. ((+Just pass me the jog thar, sonny.+) One of the burdens on my conscience is that I've never admitted to mixing you up hopelessly for a long while with Joe Gilbert. You were most active in fandom of the 1940's after I'd begun to slow down, I don't think we had any direct contact in those years ((+wonder who the feller was used to pub my "artwork" in a fanzine called Spaceways?+)) and somehow I remembered the Columbia fan's name wrong and assumed that he was you. It was only after I began taking fan history notes and ran across many references to Joe Gilbert that I realized what I'd done. In case you remember Joe Gilbert, you might understand that the mistake was natural for someone who knew both people only by writing styles. Even today you sound quite a bit like Joe Gilbert. ((+Yeh -- whatever happened to him and Sullivan, anyway?+))

The con report made magnificent reading. I think it's the closest thing I've seen to an inside story from someone who actually helped to put on the event since several survivors of the last Los Angeles convention told everything ((+the hell you say!+)) from the standpoint of committee members. The entire Pacificon had an atmosphere of unreality for me long before it started, partly because of the Dreen affair, partly because it was the first worldcon in several years that I had no intention of attending (the two matters are not connected--if I go three thousand miles, I want to get out of this country, that's all), and some of the things that you narrate make it seem even more set aside from the normal, real convention stereotype. ((+Noo-o-o, it certainly wasn't that.+))

So I misunderstood your remark about fandom, the public, and hate, but you can't expect me to keep the procedure by which I earn my living completely separate from fandom. Of course, I don't get paid for misquoting fans. ((+I didn't say anything, did I?+)) But I never felt the desire for

secrecy or sense of reticence about my interest in science fiction that you feel many fans possessed. ((+Could there possibly have been this difference, among others, between the illogical diehard groups of stf and fantasy fans of the pre-'Golden Age' period I was talking about?+)) I've never hesitated to let people know that I like to read science fiction, and the number of prozines that I got from mundanes during my two long hospital stays would indicate that most of my acquaintances are perfectly well aware of my interest. ((+Have you wondered if you'd have gotten any before Hiroshima?+)) The thing that I have tried not to publicize in Hagerstown is my active fan status: not because I feel that it's something to be ashamed of, but because it would lead to all sorts of complications and endless arguments with local nuts, if people around here started passing around fanzines that contain my frank opinions on certain sacred cows. ((+Why, Harry! Come to think of it, tho, I do recall a certain issue of g2 with some mention of a pussycat...+))

I've never been in California but the map on the cover for the August issue produced many fond memories. One of the first things that roused my sense of wonder came when I was a tiny boy. ((+If present theories of the motivating influence of child nurture are correct, d'you realize most of today's lost "beatnik" generation must've got lost sometime during the New Deal administration?+)) My father showed me Washington Street in downtown Hagerstown and told me that that was part of Route 40, and if I went out that street toward where the sun sets, I would eventually come to California. It had never occurred to me, until that moment, that men had accomplished anything as difficult as building a road 3,000 miles in length. All through the years that followed I liked to look out Washington Street and wonder if the time would come when I would get in an automobile and drive out that street and finally reach California. Now I know that I never will, because the unspeakable Maryland State Roads Commission has made Washington Street one-way eastbound.

...Tomorrow I finish one of the last chapters on that history volume. ((+The first volume of his fan history--I'm chopping him short here.+)) Only two or three more chapters to go on the 1940's, then. The uncertainty concerns a possible chapter on fanzines: I'd love to write the history without a chapter on fanzines, to confuse those who claim that the history will be preoccupied with them due to my main interest in fandom.

+ I doubt that it would even be missed, since you've already
 + made yourself the latest proponent of that rusty, old saw
 + about fandom being comparable, in any way other than pretense
 + by some few of its members, to an amateur publishing asso-
 + ciation. Well, I don't mind; that's been your fandom, I
 + suppose, and you're welcome to it.

+ But I always got quickly bored with Lovecraft's operatics.

SAMUEL D. RUSSELL, 1351 Tremaine Ave., Los Angeles 90019:

At last I'm getting around to renewing my subscription to g2, beginning with the May 1964 issue, which I've already received. ((+Various things like occasionally disposing of all copies of an issue within a given month make it nigh impossible for me to backtrack that way.+)) If by any miracle you still

have and can spare any subsequent back issues, I'd greatly appreciate getting them. I never did learn how the starship series ended--and after going so far!

+ During just this past year, requests for and queries about back-issues of g2 became so frequent as to be almost embarrassing. Perhaps after a fanzine has had relatively steady publication for a certain time, readers begin to wish they had some few of its earlier issues. So finally, I dug down through my file-copies and thinned them down to just two of each issue, then went through the whole house and shook out as many other copies as got "disposed of" in Robbie's periodic mad fits of housecleaning. That job alone blew a couple of my weekends.

+ Then I had to do some thinking, which is very hard work. I actually didn't have time to handle many orders for back-issues; and a bit of figuring showed that anybody ordering as many as a half-score of them in one lump would leave me with over 70¢ postage costs.* But most of all, the whole thing would be cutting into what available free time I have. I had to put a price on those back-issues which would make it worthwhile. Otherwise, I should forget the whole thing and simply ignore any requests for back-issues, or politely deny that any exist. (*If sent back East.)

+ Anyhow, a few of most issues are available and the price-list is included here again this month.

In the May issue you mentioned Fritz Leiber's THE WANDERER, so I suppose you have read it. Can you tell whether the scientific background in it is correct? I don't mean such hypothetical concepts as hyperspace and null-gravity but rather the matters, such as the physical effects of the Wanderer on the Earth, that are presumably explicable in terms of today's science. Leiber seems to have taken pains to make these accurate, but I haven't the scientific background to judge his success. However, a couple of things puzzle me. The Wanderer apparently is supposed to have about the size and mass of the Earth (cf. pages 67, 72, 117), and its effects on the Earth are presumably appropriate to this, but it turns out to be not a solid chunk of rock and metal but a honeycomb of large rooms--some fifty thousand floors of them--with a twenty-mile-across hollow at the center and a thirty-yard-thick skin of metal on the outside (pages 237-38). Would such a body have Earth's mass and therefore the gravitational and meteorological effects on Earth and the Moon that occur in the novel? My other question has to do with Tigerishka's account of the masking of the light of the stars by the tens of thousands of artificial planets orbiting each one (pages 257-58). Our solar system, she says, "is one of the few primeval spots left," though it will be taken over within two hundred years. The "great dark central cloud" in our galaxy ((+That's the Coal Sack+)) consists of "planet-choked suns," and we see the other stars only because their light left them before they were artificially planetized. It seems to me that we see too many stars in the Milky Way, and at too great a distance, for this galaxy to have been colonized as thoroughly as Tigerishka implies.

+ It's presumed to have 125,000,000,000 suns in a giant lens shape 100,000 lightyears in diameter and 10,000 lightyears thick -- though being where we are, we actually see only about two-thirds of those suns, if I remember correctly --

+ and, based on what observations we can make (which are
 + fairly good) it seems to be more a "whirlpool" type of
 + galaxy than a "spiral" type with distinctly separate arms.
 + You might say Fritz's galactic population boom was very
 + definitely of astronomical proportions, but I found nothing
 + particularly disturbing about it. I also noticed the only
 + version of that galactic civilization told Earthmen was by
 + the Wanderer's crowd. The Stranger didn't tell a thing.

+ The scientific background seemed tight enough to me, and
 + I could probably support some or much of it -- and you
 + aren't the only one who's asked about it. I've also had
 + queries about whether our galaxy had enough excess mass to
 + fill enough planets to blanket out the stars.

+ But it would be more interesting, I think, if we could get
 + Fritz Leiber himself to answer some of these questions.

In spite of these faults, if such they are, I agree that
 THE WANDERER is the leading contender for next year's Hugo.
 Of course, I haven't read many other of this year's s-f novels
 yet. Do you still consider it to be out in front?

+ Well, I'm not going to make any phonecalls to London about
 + it -- but my own personal opinion is not only that it will
 + get the Hugo, but that it's one of the best Hugo winners
 + we've had in years. Perhaps sometime I should explain just
 + what I got out of it, for the further enjoyment of those
 + who might like to reread it.

~~THE WANDERER~~

g2 for January 1965 is also Volume 4, Number 4 of this
 monthly publication -- this being a month late,
 which means we are gonna have a darned short "month"
 sometime soon if we're to get back on schedule. No
 trades, no free copy for loc's; but anyone who requests
 one free copy will get it -- we haven't enough extra copies
 left for games, once the subscribers get theirs. Rates:

Stateside: 3/25¢, 6/50¢ or Europe: 3 for 1/9, 6 for
 12 for \$1. 3/6 or 12 for 7/-.

European Agent: Colin Freeman
 Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hospital
 Knaresborough, Yorks.
 England

- () Your sub expires with Vol. _____.
- () Your sub expires with this issue.
- () I wish to blazes you would renew the sub you let
 expire last issue.

This message of good cheer comes from Joe & Roberta Gibson,
 5380 Sobrante Ave., El Sobrante, Calif. - 94803.

~~THE WANDERER~~

The list-prices for back issues has not been translated into
 Sterling rates simply because I don't recall having gotten
 any requests for back-issues from England; also, orders for
 large lots from there would involve some postage problems.

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE...!!!

THIS IS AN S.O.S...!!!

NOR FROM MARS BUT FROM ARGENTINA....!!!

The LA PLATA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY needs your cooperation. It is the second organized association in this country -the Buenos Aires SF Soc was the first one- aimed at bringing together those persons in this city who have science fiction as a common interest.

The LA PLATA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY was finally organized in March 1964, by a very small group of fans, just four and is intended as a literate meeting of minds of people who likes science fiction, fantasy and horror, books, magazines and films. The LA PLATA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY welcomes people of all ages, provided they are interested in entering the unusual realm of science fiction, fantasy and supernatural stories and novels.

The LA PLATA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY is open to everyone who wants to sign the membership and is integrated at the moment by a small group of people. We are in need of so many things that it becomes even impossible to list them all. We have just bought, with indescribable sacrifices(?) this typewriter, letter paper and envelopes, an old bookcase and some second hand books and magazines, integrating our own library.

The LA PLATA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY, sends this S.O.S. to all persons and in a particular way to all fans in the world, expecting to get any kind of help from them: a magazine (fan or pro)(any title, any date) a book, a letter, suggestions too, anything shall be welcome. Science Fiction is resisted in this country, because it is something new(?) to most of readers, so we have to plead for your help...

Thank you.

Write to: Oswald Bliff
Calle 2 n° 270, 2°
LA PLATA (BA.)
ARGENTINA. SA.

+ I'm publishing this
+ because I think it
+ may interest a few
+ of you -- although

+ I know some of you
+ have already seen it
+ since it's already been circulated in the M3F. All I know
+ about it is that La Plata, a city of over 200,000 people,
+ is located some 100 kilometers south of Buenos Aires. But
+ I'm putting Senor Bliff on our subscription list and per-
+ haps he'll write us more about los cuartos amigos de
+ cuentos fantasticos -- which is about all the Spanish
+ anybody here knows.

DWAIN KAISER, 5321 Mountain View Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada:

Usually in letters like this I'd ask the faned I'm writing to if he would be interested in joining InterApa, but I won't do that in your case. I doubt very much if you'd be interested in joining. The first mailing is March 15, 1965, so if you are interested ("I'll lay a 100 to 1 bet, that he....."), write. Membership is \$2.50, three mailings a year.

+ And I'm printing this bit of Dwain's sub-renewal note so I
 + can answer him. Sure, it would be better to write him, but
 + I know I'd never get it done. I have criticized apas for
 + the habit their members have of assuming theirs is THE fan-
 + dom and anyone who doesn't enjoy the same type of fanac just
 + isn't "in" ... but it's been much easier for them to spread
 + the word that I don't like apas or apa-members, period. If
 + that "word" happens to be untrue, apparently that just has
 + to be my hard luck for ever daring to say anything against
 + their cherished, li'l apas. But this doesn't worry me quite
 + so profoundly that I'd join any apa just to prove the lie.
 + In Dwain's case, first I'd have to write him; I've a letter
 + to someone else that's been lying half-finished beside this
 + typewriter since the 1st of the year and it'll probably never
 + get done. Then, undoubtedly, I'd have to publish something
 + three times a year for those Inter/apa mailings; I haven't
 + even enough time for publishing g2 half as well as it should
 + be done. And for this, he'd charge me two-fifty!? Nope.

CREATH S. THORNE, Route 4, Savannah, Mo.:

The con report was one of the longest and one of the most interesting ((+and, man, that combination is rare+)) that I have received to this date. But how is one to comment on them? ((+Yeah, and I think such things as con reports shouldn't be published too often.+)) I'll just say again that I enjoyed it.

Your policy of distributing your fanzine I agree with for one reason -- a person should always enjoy putting out a fanzine and it should always express what he himself feels and thinks. ((+Howzat again?+))

I think that STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND and A CANTICLE FOR LABOWITZ have good ideas in them, especially A CANTICLE FOR LABOWITZ. ACFL has some good ideas on the survival of the church, how ideas might survive after a nuclear war, and how the civilization might build up again. And these ideas are expressed in a literate way. So some of the ideas aren't pure science --- big deal! What is these days?

+ Or at any other time; agreed. But I've read enough books
 + written extremely well, but saying nothing worth the author's
 + trouble, so that's no recommendation by itself. And we'd
 + had post-atomic-war-survival and oddball-reconstruction yarns
 + until that theme was utterly stale. To me, anyway.

+ In the 15th Century, Roman Catholic Spain launched military
 + expeditions against the Islamic territory in North Africa.
 + They met very little resistance since by then, the Islamic
 + Empire was a corrupted shadow of its former power. But they
 + stopped Christianity's advance in that direction, not due to
 + military reversals, but by Court Decree; and instead, in
 + the 16th Century, Spain sent her conquistadores on their
 + abortive conquest of the New World and its gold -- with the
 + complete approval of the Church. That gold destroyed Spain,
 + bankrupted her economy and corrupted her people; but I have
 + yet to see half as critical a study of what it did to the
 + Roman Catholic Church. If we had an "alternate time" story,
 + now, wherein the story-characters enter a world in which
 + Catholic Spain went east instead of west....

+ But speculating upon survival of the Church after an atomic
 + war seems to me a mere crutch for the author to express his
 + own particular views of the Church. So I ignored the book.

FUTURE SPECS... was interesting, very. I was even more interested in Clarke's proposal for an airplane that could be flown without outside power. Now that would really be something... I wonder if his prediction of a new sport where teams race each other will come true?

+ I've seen fotos of various bicycle-pedal-powered gliders
 + and read of others recently, none of which quite met
 + Clarke's specs for a successful sporter. But hell, guys
 + were riding under small, gas-filled blimps a hundred years
 + ago; why not mount pedal-run propellers on a hot-air blimp?
 + But what really puzzles me is how anybody could be at all
 + interested or the tiniest bit intrigued by such jazz. Put
 + me behind an engine, bhoys -- to hell with all that puffing
 + and wheezing! (I don't care much for rowboats, either.)

By the way, the zine under the imprint of your mimeo looked a lot better than it did before. The basic trouble that I have with my mimeo (a very cheap one) is that it is very messy and that it takes a long, long time to run something off.

If I may ask, what is/was the Starship Series? Please don't scream? A shake-down cruise for me would be most interesting. I remember...several months ago I subbed to g2 because I wanted to see a zine where there was discussion of science and math. Now that the con is over perhaps there will be more of this? But at any rate it was enjoyable.

I had already more or less got the impression that a lot of scientists didn't really know what General Relativity had to say on certain things...but the main trouble now is, (it seems to me), that a vast number of scientists do not believe in many of the things that Einstein did. The Unified Field theory, for instance. Part of this attitude might be because Einstein never got things down so that everyone could understand them. And part might be because Einstein did not associate with his contemporaries. And then there was that big blow-up over the Uncertainty Principle. I read recently in the newspaper ((+a notoriously bad source for any kind of technical news+)) that a person who had studied under Einstein claimed that he had proven with experiments funded by himself that there was a relationship between gravity and electricity. And then there was nothing more. Either it was a fraud, or else the Physics sector decided to just ignore the whole deal. I don't know what to think but I do know that if John W. Campbell ever gets ahold of this it will be the Dean Drive, Dianetics, etc., all over again.

Clay had some fairly interesting facts there, but they didn't bring out anything that I hadn't already suspected. As of right now, I read F&SF and ANALOG regularly, and just might buy an issue of the others if they had a story in them by an author that I like. But this business of Galaxy going up to 60¢ -- terrible! I have dropped that magazine completely. I think that it is about the worst out.

+ The nice thing about the old pulp magazine era was that
 + most people liked to read the detective and western pulps,
 + which made a profit; but the chain publishers had to put
 + out enough different magazines to drive a wedge in their
 + competitors' mags on the newsstands, so they were willing
 + to publish science-fiction pulps which never made a profit.
 + (Fantasy pulps had a much more colorful existence, tho.)

Did you read where almost everyone agrees that if the news about Kruschew had been announced only a few hours earlier, undoubtedly the Tories would have won the election in England. ((+Nope, I didn't read that.+)) As it is, sooner or later within the next few months Wilson will have to call another election. And then, due to new unpopular taxes already announced by the Labour Party, it is quite possible that the Tories will win.

+ I haven't seen or heard mention of another li'l thing in any
 + news -- I sometimes wonder about these odd-seeming, little
 + lapses in our news coverage -- but did you notice after Mr.
 + K was bounced by the Kremlin, it was the Russians who tried
 + to capitulate to the Chinese? And the Chinese aren't having
 + any. That's the play I find most int'restin'....

ROBERT P. BROWN, 1484 Elm Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 90813:

The tub had some hard luck while in Korean waters according to what I heard. ((+Bob was in port here and home for a vacation while the S.S. Aloha State made this trip.+)) Propellor fouled in another ship's anchor chain. Towed from Inchon area to Pusan. Apparently, considering the length of time there and another tow job to Osaka for repairs, the repair job could not be done in Pusan. It was due in Northwest area yesterday. Checked with the local office and was told there was a possibility of it stopping off in this area before heading for the East Coast....Considering how frequently changes in schedule are made, no telling where it will stop off at for loading.....

+ As I recall, now, the sooner Bob could get back aboard,
 + the sooner he could complete his last tour and become a
 + retired merchant seaman or officer or some such -- I never
 + knew how ships' radio operators ranked.

RICK BROOKS, Illegitimus Non Carborundum:

I find your plight on the front page quite sad. ((+Which one? Oh, I remember.!+)) If only science wouldn't catch up with us so fast. Oh well, we've got people like van Vogt that can't be understood, let alone caught up with.

The Kujawa's better half was kind enough to send me one of the photos you mentioned in the con report. Maybe I'll send her back some of the ones I took in Maine on how a jet aircraft looks after tangling with a wooded hillside.

+ Well, if you didn't, now she knows about 'em...the fotos,
 + I mean.

RICK NORWOOD, 111 Upperline, Franklin, La.:

To print or not to print, that is the question. Your ideas, I mean. If you don't print them, chances are no one will ever know about them, and you don't even get egoboo. Print 'em, and they loose all commercial value. ((+Oh, it's not hard to copyright a fanzine -- if a fanzine ever had anything worth copyrighting.+)) I guess everybody knows about Clarke's problem with the unpatentable communication satellites by now. ((+Yas. Pity.+)) But, to get down to cases, could you ever

have applied the hard technology to your "starship drive" to turn the idea into an invention? ((+If so, I'd damned well never tell the Patent Office! They publish patents, y'know.+)) My guess is that you were just playing around, and still are. ((+I'd been reading the ads in SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN.+)) (Not that you weren't in earnest. My definition of non-play is work: something you wouldn't do unless you got paid for it.) There are places where you get paid for raw ideas, without the backbreaking work of polishing them up. They were called science-fiction magazines last time I looked. If you need someone to stir in "story values", which I doubt, there are bound to be some good collaborators floating around. ((+The fish have probably got to 'em by now, certainly.+)) In other words, Joe Gibson, why aren't you in there breaking down a few of those taboos you keep telling us about. If you can sell to Other Worlds, you can certainly sell to Amazing, or are you too proud?

+ Rick, I have. Several times. But I remember feeling elated
 + over the first story I ever sold (the 3rd or 4th I'd ever
 + written; it was to TWS) for all of something like five minutes.
 + Then I sat down, thought a bit and doodled on the back of the
 + envelope that \$50 check came in. And I estimated that, for
 + the time spent on writing that story, my earning capacity had
 + been something just a bit over 35 cents an hour.
 +
 + So long as science-fiction ed/pubbers go around bragging
 + about what Great Novels they have, what Profound Concepts and
 + excellent writing and superb characterization and deep socio-
 + logical insight -- you had enough yet? -- I feel that anyone
 + who punctures their balloon is in a perfectly legitimate bus-
 + iness. And I'm enjoying it.

I believe in common sense first, authority second, and fans not at all (unless they happen to be an authority on Jazz, say, or literature). ((+Name one -- and prove it.+)) Not even something simple and straightforward like traffic directions, you ask. ((+Nope.+)) Especially not on traffic directions. ((+Indubitably.+)) I may go along with the gag, if there doesn't seem to be any other way, but deep down I know everyone else is just as confused as I am. ((+You're too gentle and mannerly with 'em. Be firm. They're all crazy as bedbugs.+)) For example, I don't believe half the things you say about relativity, nor would you want me to. The proof of the time paradox in Scientific American, on the other hand, I do believe. ((+You mean that Brownowski article I suggested Jim Caughran go read and stop bothering me about clock paradoxes?+)) I'm no nihilist, I just like my ideas seasoned with math. Personal preference. Someone else may find it convenient to believe what you have written on relativity, and so long as they don't try to pilot my starship, that's fine with me. ((+I've found that you must not use math in a fanzine or prozine unless you're satisfied with a very small audience.+)) The point I'm trying to make is this. To my knowledge, no fan is an authority on abnormal psychology. Therefore any "information" I read in fan publications on this subject is really no information at all. And how am I supposed to pass judgement on a fan whom I know absolutely nothing about?

+ Taking your last question first, you're always doing that
 + and you know it. We must all do it. And I don't recall
 + saying that you should consult some other fan about abnormal
 + psychology. In fact, you might try explaining how what
 + you've said here differs in any way from what I said to you.
 + Your last question was supposed to convey something, I sus-
 + pect, but it doesn't. It simply ignores the rather bitter

* truth about human relationships in general and as scattered
 + a tribe as fandom in particular. Anyway, it sounds that
 + way.

Why is everyone so leary about wandering around outside the plain of the ecliptic? ((+It's a long trip.+)) Ben Bova, I think it was; listed the planetoids we might visit in a recent prozine, and automatically discounted those outside of this plain. Fair enough, since there would no doubt be trouble matching velocities. ((+It's not that. It's getting where you can.+)) But what is keeping us from poking around up there, not to land, but just to look around. ((+Not likely much up there that doesn't come down through our ecliptic plane, then 'round below and back up through our ecliptic plane, on its way around the Sun.+)) The question of why so many planetary bodies lie near this plain is tied up with the mystery of planetary origins. There hasn't been time for gravity to dampen the up-down oscillations of the planets (we can leave orbital velocity out of it for the time being) unless the universe has been around a heck of a lot longer than we think. (Don't believe that. Check it. But remember that most heavenly bodies are going in the same direction, something that dampening would not effect.) If there is something peculiar about this plain, there is a good chance we will find something interesting outside of it.

+ Anything rather big would be interesting, since it probably
 + wouldn't have originated in this Solar System, but got
 + picked up on the way somewhere. The eliptic plane of the
 + planets is simply the path of least resistance around a
 + spinning sun; Sol's rate of spin; rather than the orbital
 + velocities of any of her planets, probably tells more
 + about what other suns may be expected to have worlds of
 + their own -- even moreso than Sol's classification as an
 + (ahem) G-2 type of star. But you confused me, speaking of
 + "the universe" when you meant our little bit of it and of
 + "heavenly bodies" when you meant only planets. (I forget
 + how old the galaxy was presumed to be at the date of pub-
 + lication of the last reference book I looked into.) And
 + though the Solar System's ecliptic plane is perpendicular
 + to the "whirlpo61" of the galactic lens, and we're swing-
 + ing around at 150 miles per second, about 30,000 lightyears
 + from galactic center, this motion is by no means uniform
 + for all the other stars in our particular little piece of
 + this merry-go-round. In fact, give a few dozen thousand
 + years and the star nearest Sol will not be Alpha Centauri;
 + it'll be a little sun called Schlesinger 7703. ☹.

Your segment of fandom doesn't need the N3F? Suppose only one or two percent of your subscribers wouldn't be in fandom at all if the N3F hadn't been handy when they were looking around for something to join. Are you sure that it is a one or two percent you would care to loose?

+ Well, I could do with one or two percent fewer subscribers
 + around here, now you've mentioned it...but your question
 + should be passed on to those who've told me they never got
 + into fandom until they'd gotten out of the N3F. It's no
 + use asking someone who's never needed a "handy...something
 + to join" in more than 20 years of this foolishness.

+ I am almost tempted to print your comments on "Man In A
 + High Castle" but here's the bottom of the stencil and I've
 + already argued it with another Neffer.

MISHA MCQUOWN, STILL same place (Tallahassee):

Glad to see a change in paper - hope you'll someday go back to lettersize format, as it will be much easier to store. ((+You dreamer.+))

Rick Norwood - trains used to be the way to travel; the expense and the poor service don't make it worth while. The meals are over-priced, for one thing, the heating system never seems to be reasonably regulated, and it's simply too slow. ((+And most people don't live near a railroad station.+))

Joe - so, I still don't see why Gene's name didn't come up in the Rifleman. ((+It's thisaway: the Rifleman's a general circulation magazine among shooters, so it prints the results of the Opens which any shooter can get into if he wants. You get to be a top skeet-shooter only by attending shoots all over the country, all year 'round, and shooting in every event -- and making a high over-all score for the whole shebang. Then, as I understand it, you're permitted to enter special events reserved for only the top contestants, nobody else. And your score in any one such event is important only insofar as it affects your over-all score and standing -- if you slip once, you've got to go back and earn your status all over again.+))

Betty K - seems a shame to waste one's charm on a Rambler. Bob said he tried to call recently, but you were gone.

Sure, I've seen Remingtons, Griswold & Griersons, etc; I simply don't ever recall your saying what the B.Spec. was. Is yourn named after Wrai, or was this a make I never heard anything about?

- + Oh, that! I'd swear you asked what kind of gun it is.
- + Named after Wrai, of course; I thought that would be completely obvious -- like with the Buntline Special. Y'see,
- + back in the summer of '63, we heard Wrai might be down for the Westercon so we got that gun ready for him. But he
- + didn't make it. We still had it when the Kujawas sprung that Reno Shoot, and used it there. And finally, when
- + Wrai did come down for the Pacificon, last fall, it was
- + still waiting for him and he wore it.

Movie report: we have the backers, we have the studio, we have the distributor. But they want a new script - which I expected - and will do the thing as soon as Bill Schwartz and I get one ready that suits them, the present job being too much to be producible within the budget. Bill will be in Tallahassee next month, and we will begin the re-write. The title has absolutely been dropped, and the new script will take off from about the middle of the present one. I'm not counting any unhatched chickens; this is my first venture at screenplays, and if it doesn't pan out, I won't be out anything, because I'm bound to learn something from the experience. Will keep you posted on further developments. ((+You've done damned well, already!+))

I see Rick Brooks lower cases 'Negro,' or was that your stencilling? Hmmm?

- + Probably my stencilling -- I lower case 'whites' too,
- + mosttimes. In fact, back there in Zettel's loc I lower
- + cased "indian" becuz it occurred to me that an Indian
- + should be somebody in India.

Can I enroll in your ground school, please? ((+That's spelt with an 'e', isn't it?+)) I haven't got over my CAP flying experiences. We had some pretty hairy pilots, I tell you. ((+This here correspondence groundschool is now in session. You will get Lesson #2 when I get around to it.+))

What was so hot about 'Man In the High Castle'? I saw little point in the ending, although some of it was rather frightening; especially the Oriental subtlety with which the Japanese fused their culture over our own. ((+Wonder what Japanese fans thought of it, tho?+))

Well, in brevis, virtute, or something like that. ((+Yeh -- you got chopped, anyway.+))

BETTY KUJAWA, 2819 Caroline St., South Bend 14, Indiana:

My how I relished that Con-report #2 cover...You caught Wrai just right, Joe ((+Should I say it? No. Wrai wrote, over Xmas, that he'd gained 10 lbs. and is gonna look like Ron Ellik yet!+))...(and dont be ever doing a cartoon of me, pal). ((+Forgot that you, Gene & Robbie were smack on the cover in the Starship Series??+)) Amused at Metcalfs idea of you striding onstage to announce that the hotel had just lifted and taken off and was on its space-exploring way out through the universe...yeah. (and the first order of business is rounding up some firing-squads for the clean-up of crew...) ((+I do believe some would've jumped.+))

'You can have your lil scoot-about midget-racer plane, tho, honey...thats for tiny folk under five-five. Who dont want to tote along baggage, guns, etc....you know how I feel about leg-room, baggage-space, and enough space to avoid colliding elbows, etc...or is this to be a plane for one person?

Sort of like tastes in automobiles, aint it?Us for the big roomy ones that allow for all kinds of baggage and you-all for them lil jobs that have me knees-to-chin alla time.

+ Even Rick Sneary questioned that "Future Specs" plane;
+ and all this after I very carefully specified that it'd
+ be very likely done by some small bunch of "gentlemen of
+ (automation-induced) leisure" and, not one time, not even
+ onct! mind you, did I so much as imply or even hint that
+ it'd be THE sportplane of the future...So now I s'pose I
+ will just have to speculate what the future of aviation
+ is for everybody else besides that small bunch. Not that
+ I mind--it looks like fun. But I am gonna stick with that
+ small bunch and their lil aeroplane, too, in spite of all
+ you scoffers and unbelievers. And stick around; once we
+ got the Squadron going, around here, we'll still have need
+ for somebody to keep the coffee on and stand out in the
+ weed-patch and wave so we can find the darn place again.

Am impressed no end by Al Halevy and his volunteering for bow-and-arrow jazz. More I think of it though, the more it seems to me that Red Feather, dancers, and bow-and-arrow shooting simply isnt quite the thing to have going on during a Masquerade. It doesnt exactly come under the heading of science-fiction and fantasy and as an exhibition thats hardly the audience to work to, you know? I need no stage-entertainment during such a thing, the 'floor show' should be the main

attraction and center of interest.

- + Several others have said much the same thing. It's inter-
- + esting, now, to remember how the Committee worried for
- + months about two things: the fan attendance of West Coast
- + cons is usually small, comparatively speaking, and we have
- + a lot of 'casual readers' in this area who were expected
- + to attend (and did) -- also, the large number of very young
- + Monster fans who were expected, as well as the children of
- + attendees who travelled long distances to get here. But
- + (one) it wasn't a small convention and (two) they learned
- + at the last minute that the Monster fans were putting on
- + their own convention, across the Bay.

I am very much in favor of some price-adjustment for TAFF winners depending on where the convention will be taking place stateside.

TAFF is for the winner at the Con and round about the con-city within a reasonable area, dont you think? Or am I nit-picking or bringing up even more complications?

- + No, you're right -- but I've chopped your remarks a bit,
- + here, because I'm very much aware of people reading this
- + who felt a quick tug of irritation and boredom, the minute
- + you mentioned TAFF, and who'd rather skip over this.

But yes, the travel expenses, the 'hidden' charges and expenses. Only Britifens who've been through this know what it can add up to. Another thing, one Don Ford and I have laughed and sighed over for many many years now, is this problem we always have with Britifens and their ideas of size and distance. Not only stf-fen...in a TIME mag article recently it was mentioned how British and European tourists simply couldnt get Americas size through their heads.....fr'instance one party would(seriously now Joe and Robbie) plan to see, say, Niagara Falls in the morning, have lunch in Dallas and expect to spend evening and stay overnight at Phoenix...and not by jet-plane, mind you; but by bus or car! Not only do they underestimate the cost, more importantly in many cases they underestimate the time-factor.

And sending maps and sectional-maps of America doesnt help too much either...did that with Ella Parker before she came over and I know the size and breadth and mileage still didnt register till she started driving back from Seattle to here in a car with Pavlat and Evans. They underestimate and I suppose we over-estimate in this context.

- + I wonder if any of 'em really believed it for a moment when
- + I said a car-trip overland from London to Istanbul was in
- + almost every way comparable to a car-trip from San Francisco
- + to (and no farther than) St. Louis, Missouri??

- + But this and the other problem -- the lack of enthusiasm
- + many fans have for a Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund -- are things
- + I think about when considering whom to support as a TAFF
- + candidate. Every TAFF winner becomes a TAFF administrator
- + who must cope with these problems. Some have done a lot;
- + Ron Ellik's been an Old Taffer almost long enough now for
- + me to be giving him due credit for all he did. But the
- + problems are still there, still unsolved and perhaps un-
- + solvable. So if I'd never voted for any TAFF candidate
- + before, at all, I think I'd want to vote this time ...
- + for Bill Donaho.

- + Just once in the past several months, I've asked Bill Donaho what he thought about these TAFF problems. Much to my amusement and approval, he just patted his beard a couple of times and then calmly changed the subject!
- + Anyone with an ounce of sense would realize I've been bellyaching about "problems" which haven't yet become critical or even very noticeable. Right now, TAFF's doing fine; neither its popularity with relatively few fans nor the present limit on the Fund has caused anyone any great hardship. Also, it's been my private practice to raise hell about "problems" before they become at all bothersome; I'm well-known for that. By now, it shouldn't surprise anybody.
- + I've never known any "problem" to become critical if people were at all concerned about it. When they aren't, tho...well, I rather expect there'll be trouble. I may not know exactly how or when, but it gets me wondering about things like who's a good man for a job.
- + Of course, I know you agree, Betty, that Bill has all the other qualifications normally expected in a TAFF winner.

I quite agree with your comment to Misha in the October issue, Joe. About 'murder will out, inescapably, in this crowd'...ergo my saying that time is on Our Side, and that Time Will Tell. ((+Y'know, I'm not terribly worried about that, somehow..+))

No no no no nonono...no. It was not a German girl with an American husband who dreamed up stretch-pants, etc...it was, says nit-picking Betsy, the wife of a Nazi German officer who hadda skii lodge on her hands and a hubby who was prisoner of either Americans or Russians (he was Luftwaffe or somesuch), she got the idea and when he was repatriated they got hold of more G.I. materials, a sewing machine, and got in business.

- + Well, hell, I got the girl right, didn't I?

By the by, speaking of things generally assumed to be examples of good ol' Yankee know-how.....those coffee-cans with the plastic lids are not of our invention, we borrowed this from Sweden or Norway a few years back. And why someone hadnt come up with that idea 20 years ago I will never know.... because its too simple, I suppose.

- + Lessee, now -- those plastic lids came from development of our polymer plastics industry, didn't they? Pioneered just after World War 2 by the Du Pont outfit, it was....and 20 years ago? Why that was 1945, give or take a few months, and these civvie "field technicians" from Du Pont were in a G-2 office near Munich with an ex-combat scout, namely me, telling 'em exactly where I.G. Farben's research center was that had the "secret" info on polymers -- which they'd sat on for several years simply becuz they knew they'd never get a damned pfennig out of the Nazis for it. (Later, by court action, they did get quite a lovely lot of pfennigs out of Du Pont for it.) But I.G. Farben hadn't quite carried polymers so far that they had plastics (if you're thinking, as some did, that it might've "saved" Nazidom); neither did Du Pont make a "cartel secret" of it when they got that far -- they got that info only on legal condition that it'd be made available to everyone. (And

- + they got hauled into court again, several times, when they
- + didn't -- or it seemed to someone that they hadn't.) So
- + you got plastic coffee-can lids from Scandinavia, but not
- + 20 years sooner. I'd hardly stopped getting shot at then.
- + For chrissake, woman!!!

Had I the energy (sinus build-up is fierce today) I'd go into details of Gene's visit to the Lincoln Division of Ford Motor Corp. last week, kids....it was one of those dream-deals most every car owner would love to get a crack at..

Recently Gene met, via skeet, a Top Gun, Big Man of the Lincoln Div. Gene being good customer sounded off loud and strong about what he thought was wrong with this and that about Lincoln Continentals, etc..((+You were expecting him maybe to bow low from the waist?+))...seat placement, foot-brake set-up, dealers, all kinds of grotches... over long-distance phone I got into the act and told the fellow my feelings on that no foot-room, no knee-room in the present model.

- + You go on for about six more paragraphs on Big Kuj, Con-
- + sultant Engineer, getting consulted like it was something
- + new -- and maybe FORD should do it more often, at that --
- + and then spring a "Not for publication" on me! Pffine
- + thing. What isn't? So they asked 'im in for tea. You
- + think they shouldn't? Good engineers grow on bushes??

Methinks those first 3 pages of the November g2 some of the best you have ever done...I'd like to see this copied and pubbed elsewhere. ((+Considering the so-called "quotes" that have appeared some places, I'm not so sure I agree.+))

You know my feelings as to fanzines and what they should be or shouldn't be ((+I can always ask Wally Weber+))...that whoever pubs that zine has a perfect right to do it any dern way he/she wants to do it...period. And nobodys gotta right to tell em this or that about it. Its their zine and their business.

I'd find a great big gorgeous super-fanzine appalling, myself. As such a monarch isn't at all what I want... its the personal touch in fanzines, the flavor and spirit, or whatever, of the guy what puts it out that makes amateur publications in my book. Iffen I want some slick sleek professional exquisite jobbie I can sub to SATURDAY REVIEW and the like....gimme the home-made (or fan-created) zine of a Joe Gibson, a Buck Coulson, a Ethel Lindsay, or a group such as the late and sorely missed CRY-gang. Gimme the real good ones, the so-so ones, the cruddiest crudsheets, and what apazines kindly fen allow me to have (heh, and what Cult zines I can beg borrow or steal) Joseph..that to me is the point of all this; its a zine from Buck and Juanita, or from Joe and Robbie, or from Ethel, etc....not some glorious 40 page monthly thing all that done-up. That sort of set-up, Joe, I think would smother and kill the flavor of what I want from fanzines.....

- + You know what's amusing about all this? It's to get such
- + comments, not only from you but even from some oldtime fans,
- + and read 'em while remembering what happened in fandom. It
- + all began with cruddy fan magazines that tried to be exactly
- + the georgie-us "super-fanzine" horrors you describe!

+ Almost all the very early fanzines were like that; there
 + were still some fairly "strong" ones when I got in, and
 + we've some vestiges of it occasionally, even now...but
 + you've seen 'em described: the ultra-sercon types, the
 + "fanzines that try to be prozines" with the Table of
 + Contents and "departments" and things of that nature.

+ So wha' happen? I mean, have you ever heard anybody tell
 + how fanzines ever quit being like that, and became the
 + personality-type 'zines that we have today?? Not just
 + theories about why it happened, but how it happened!?

+ There was a "transition-stage fanzine" in there between
 + that early type of "fan magazine" and today's personality
 + 'zines that almost nobody ever mentions anymore. Y'see,
 + those "fan magazines" weren't too successful; their eds
 + were always crying for material...and it occurred to some
 + of 'em that one way to get material coming in regularly
 + for every issue was to have somebody write a regular fan
 + column. But sometimes you had to lean over backwards
 + and give such "columnists" all kinds of free expression
 + and things of that nature, or maybe they'd quit you in
 + a huff and go write their colyum for some other guy's
 + fanzine.... And with that, some "colyumists" began to
 + write personality chitchat stuff -- and it was almost
 + overwhelmingly popular, fans raved about the stuff and
 + more guys kept trying to write it. In fact, at one time
 + it got so bad, I remember a fanzine editor complaining
 + about so many guys writing colyums that you couldn't
 + find anyone with enough time to write an article anymore.

+ But along about that time, "fan magazines" were dying out.
 + The guys writing the personality colyums didn't have any-
 + body to publish their stuff anymore. They had to publish
 + it, themselves--and today's fanzines were born. They're
 + more like pamphlets than magazines; but there's hardly
 + an editor left alive in fandom, anymore.

+ And maybe we've lost something there. Maybe a fanzine
 + pubbed by some guy who writes less than 25% of it, with
 + 75% by three other guys, would be one fanzine containing
 + as much as you can only get in 4 separate fanzines now.
 + But "ye edde" would damn' sure have to be an editor.

+ He'd also be worked to death.

As to letters...Gene shook his head wonderingly at Rick
 Norwood's comments and remarks as to his own experiences in
 car-crashes (as you can well imagine him doing, I bet!) This
 is obviously a personal thing, a case of each reacting in
 his own way to such. A guy with flying experience and with
 close-shave experiences may or may not, I guess, be like
 Gene...it would depend in each case on each person. But
 lets say Gene found Ricks question surprising.

+ You'd find someone occasionally with Norwood's reaction
 + in a combat rifle squad; most of 'em get the feel of the
 + thing if you give 'em their own time, and some get darned
 + good -- but it's sheer hell when such a guy has some con-
 + viction that "he's just made that way" and can't change
 + because then, of course, he won't. But you've gotta be
 + Sympatico with the guy, too, at first. That's usually all
 + he needs, even tho it's a little harder for him than for
 + most -- same as with a guy who's never been scared before!

+ There ought to be a good textbook on this for every coach
 + of any school or "bush league" football team.

Course, too, its a case, like you said, of your physical condition, including what you had for breakfast mebbe, your age, and the type of person, personality-wise, you are.... surely like in the case of our crash if this had happened to you, Halevy, Metcalf, or Donaho as well as Gene we'd have all kinds of actions and reactions by same, no? Think of the emotional reaction after it was over! I remember only too well I didnt even look at Gene, I heard him say he wasnt all right, that he was bleeding and I flew out that car door without turning my head to look at him and was hollering up and waving up at highway above me in an instant..it was after I realized his head-cut was superficial that inwardly I said prayers, proper traditional Christian prayers, instinctively, same as when I consigned myself to Gods Hands as we flew into space. And I dont mean I prayed smugly or as a playing-it-cagey play just in case there was a God up there...hows that for a reaction of an agnostic?

But then I am not a driver... and I personally had no control over what was to be, Gene did and had umpteen decisions to decide and things that had to be done with hands and feet, and he was trained for just such a contingency.

+ Well, he knew he was gonna fly a Lincoln Continental over
 + that open culvert that soon after breakfast a lot earlier
 + than you did, I suspect. And considering the space which
 + those designers have left under the dashboard of a Connie,
 + I'm not surprised you chose the windshield instead -- and
 + to roll into it, not be thrown into it; you relaxed when
 + you could have tensed up. And I notice, too, that you do
 + not remember making any such decision in so specific a way.
 + (Not consciously -- but I wonder if it made you more than
 + usually aware of the short leg-room in that later-model
 + Connie you were loaded into to finish the trip!??)

Rick Norwoods asking about why people live in places infested with earthquakes, etc.....I know the thing I've always found mistifying is the flood-country where folks stay and stay regardless of being washed out from time to time....floods, with the resultant loss of the entire house, or having ones first-floors chock-full of muck and silt are the catastrophies that Id like the least..thats just too darn messy.

Been in tornado country all me life, I guess of them all I'll take our native danger of big twisters to quakes, floods or hurricanes....((+Cutting this short: d'you realize any of us is far more likely to be victim of an auto accident? Why do we put up with that?+))

You an' Tackett and that there Albuquerque...sheesh. Any place that has my throat like raw hamburger by noon each day isnt all that great boys. Only good thing about that dry-dry throat-irritating country is that when you wash out undies they are bone-dry before you can hang them up.

((+ Shucks, all you need there is a sufficient supply of liquid refreshment and sense enough not to talk so blamed much!+))

 "Jeezus, not more locs? I'll shoot that postman!" --1/9/65

BOB BROWN, S.S. Aloha State, New Orleans:

Here we go again! Full load of lumber in the holds and a Stage Three of a Moon missile on Number 4 hatch, along with the shell that connects it to Stage Four. It is being put ashore here for movement to Huntsville.

W.W.Weber is there. It's competition, though. He works for Boeing; this is a Douglas job.

Actually, a prototype to be tested at Huntsville...

RICK BROOKS ((+Excerpts (ex-what?) from 2 more locs+))

My loc's may fall off a bit. I'm going for an Electrical Engineering degree at Tri-State College here...((+BettyK was asking in part of her loc I chopped off.+))...As you say in your answer to Misha McQuown's letter about oldtime fans falling into two groups, either recluses or fighters, I have decided that I'm in the first group...When I was gallantly serving my country in the frozen North, one of my buddies was a licensed pilot-instructor. He was in OCS until he lit in the hospital. When he got out, he was informed that he was now an airman basic. As a result, he was stationed with me up in Maine, both of us aircraft radar repairmen. He promised me free flying lessons if I provide the plane and let him use it when I wasn't. I would have taken him up on it, if I hadn't been serving on 1500 a year.

In my spare time, I have fiddled with the idea of putting together a barrel-shaped VTO. I have a good Chevvy six engine laying around that I could use. In fact, I could use a lot of old Chevvy parts. At the present time both my Chevvies seem to be junkers.

+ So were a lot of German aircraft, har har. But the thing
+ I don't like about any barrel-shaped VTOL (translation:
+ Vertical Take Off & Landing -- and STOL means Short) air-
+ craft is that, power off, it'll glide just like a barrel,
+ mostly straight down.

+
+ If they run out of fuel or have engine failure, most heli-
+ copters will descend fast enough to smash the landing gear
+ and maybe give you two broken legs and a fractured spine
+ besides. The only two exceptions I know about are the
+ Benson Gyrocopter (which can lift only one man) and the
+ Hiller Hornet (which can lift two--but it's got ramjets
+ eating fuel so fast that it hasn't much range). The rest
+ have their rotor-blades geared down so much, and trimmed
+ so much for good cruising speed, that they can't "free-
+ wheel" fast enough or produce enough lift for safe power-
+ off landings. They're like rocket belts in that respect:
+ you'd darn well better be back on the ground before you
+ run out of juice.

COLIN FREEMAN ((+I thot it was spelled exerpts+)):

After considerable deep and prolonged rumination I have come to a momentous decision. In future you may leave the "Ripley Road" out of my address -- my cumbersome address. It won't effect mail delivery in the slightest -- and just think -- I've saved you a line of print in all future issues of g2. ((+I'mmm. And how many lines do you already owe me?+))

Here we are besieged by winter gales, snow and ice....By the way, do you know that your balance now stands at slash-L 2 dash 3 dash 2d? I will continue to renew your SKYRACK sub automatically until you tell me otherwise, but this won't drain away your wealth (unless Bennett drastically increases his rates.) Anything you want doing with your riches? Want to buy a space rocket (British)?

- + I have heard just recently that Bennett's rates may
- + take every bit of that. Best deduct your postage costs
- + before he gets at it..

MAE S. STRELKOV, Las Barrancas, Ascochinga, Cordoba,
Argentina:

Kindness of Betty K, I've not only received two zines from you, but she sent a glowing Kodachrome((or rather, two)) in which you glow, and I can't make up my mind whether you, Robbie, are better looking even than Joe, or is it the other way around? Handsome is that handsome does, anyway, and I gather you do, "handsome" also! In fact, Betty's praise of you rings high!

So darlings, I approach yo'all with open heart, though I do confess that your zine (like all zines) is way above my head. Me, I'm a country-bumpkin.

- + Betty's spread such nice stories about us that I'm going
- + to have to start telling fans how I sprout hair and fangs
- + and type this lettercol on full-moon nights. But let's
- + see -- where did I put that atlas -- Las Barrancas? No,
- + maybe Cordoba. Yes, it has the Province. Looks about
- + 500 miles northwest of Buenos Aires.

Do you have Salamancas in Cerros Bravos in California? We even have fiery salamanders -- as per local folklore modern to the minute -- and other wonders, guarding these magic caves. And supposedly the hills thereof groan and send out fog and even smoke, and quake, if a stranger tries to climb them. And in a pool in a supposed crater at the top of the nearest one, near us, there's a blond mermaid, or lady, (supposedly, again, for I've not yet met her), called Mayuc Mamau, one of a number of Maya dryads, who've even gone so far as to give their names to Latin American rivers. (Any river ending in mayu refers to her or them, and means "river".)

Meanwhile, we have UFOs galore, and all sorts of other marvels, and I don't know why I'm so lucky of late, to find myself living exactly where I'd best want to be if I could choose. True, nobody takes this seriously yet, and when I burble abroad with joy that we've met "contacts" of saucers, everybody snorts royally. Nor am I trying to prove the unproveable, but believe me, life gets curiouser and curiouser. So what is life like up there? Saucers, too? Or do you chase your salamanders away with your skepticism? I just bet!

- + No, not with skepticism -- we just keep bigger salamanders
- + as watchdogs. You see, Mae, for some of us all the "craze"
- + about flying saucers came years after we had already read
- + and talked about space travel, life on other planets or

- + even other dimensions of space/time, as well as ancient
- + myths and lost civilizations and vanished peoples. All
- + the excitement over UFOs did not bring out anything that
- + we hadn't already thought of, years before. To us, it
- + was stale. Besides, we were already busy with new ideas
- + that scared us even more: destruction of whole planets,
- + enslavement of one's mind, a future too frustrating and
- + complicated for men to understand.....

BOB BROWN, S.S. Aloha State, Freeport, Grand Bahama Island:

The Aloha State is across the dock from this "hotel"! It actually is the Italian liner "Italia" converted to hotel use.

- + Bob sent along a circular depicting the Imperial Bahama
- + Hotel -- actually an ocean liner tied up at a marina with
- + cabanas, golf course, yacht & boat piers; but mysterious,
- + too, because it doesn't show a pier where a merchant ship
- + could tie up across from this tourist trap.

Leave here tonight for Wilmington, Delaware and Baltimore, Maryland. . . Don't know yet where we will go for the next voyage. Rumors say that we will probably head back to the Gulf area, most likely Tampa, Fla., to take on a load of phosphate for Korea.

- + Did you happen to notice what condition that hotel's
- + bottom was in?

BETTY KUJAWA ((+Where've I seen that name before?+))

This will NOT be a loc on last g2 issue((+Hah!+)).... If things keep improving and we do get away, plan to tote it with me to loan to various olde timey flyers who now shoot skeet, by the way....did I tell you that for Xmas I bought amid other books a pocket edition called "5 DOWN AND GLORY"? ???Ballentine, I think...damn nice lil book to have for settling bets and for research....

- + Out in some places now is a p-b edition of Martin Caidin's
- + EVERYTHING BUT THE FLAK. This is not a wartime book. It
- + has a movie outfit wanting to film "The War Lover" y'see
- + and suddenly they got to have three B-17 Flying Fortresses
- + in England in the middle of October. So this book is only
- + about the guys who found 3 old B-17 wrecks in the Arizona
- + desert and rebuilt 'em and flew the Atlantic in September
- + and are filed for Bordeaux the night they come into Lisbon
- + in tight formation, one Fort without lights and no oil
- + pressure on three engines, one Fort with an engine afire,
- + and the leading Fort with a copilot who has banged his
- + knee cranking up flaps by hand -- and who is also the
- + guy who wrote the book. And they got thrown in jail.....

oh yeh, and thanks for that 'BettyKujawa-green' term..... actually Im more a blue-tinge when in air-pocket flying weather, but I got the picture...I do wonder tho about your rains, etc....like holy gee are you two still there? Or have half the fen in the area been washed down river?? I keep remembering Robbies tales of how it is when it rains and your back patio fills up....from what we've seen on tv it could have filled up right up and over your roof! So how was?

- + A bit wet, nothing unusual -- the front ~~part~~ pasture
- + didn't disappear once, this year -- since all that Deluge
- + passed inland a few hundred miles north of here.

Gene, silly dreamer, says we'll haul out of here Feb. 4th... week in Tampa, week at big shoot at Winter Haven.. then Montego Bay and Kingston-Town in ol' Jamaica... then Royal Palm shoot in Palm Beach (where else?), then either another shoot back at Winter Haven/Cypress Gardens or we may take our pals in our plane plus mandatory supplies and Mae Wests and life raft (and Govmt. note-of-permission, shudder!) and fly the Apache out over the blue shark infested water to Grand Bahama Island for a shoot week-end....

- + Stay out of that Imperial Bahama Hotel until I find out
- + from Bob Brown if it leaks! And by the way, McQuown says
- + to tell you Bob called and you were out. Which Bob???
- + Damfino! Ask McQuown...

How is Billy, is he back???? Here I go again asking you to pass on messages when you've just told me how far removed you are from them fen there (yes, since you are on the way to Sacramento, maybe from now on when I have things to say to Gov. Brown I'll ask you to pass them on, right? And you can tell him now that I'm ALL for California being split into two states.....if in return we can do the same with Indiana... ..I'd druther see north Indiana and North Illinois become one state and the same for the southern parts of both, as well.)

- + Yeah, Bill's back. And when California divvies up, we'll
- + probably give Brown back to the Southerners who elected
- + him. You got any messages to send to Napa Valley or any
- + of the wineries thereabouts, tho, it's just over the hill.
- + One communicates by toots on the jug.

LEWIS J. GRANT JR. 5810 S. Harper ((+Using up your old stationery, are you?+)) 5333 S. Dorchester, Chicago 60615:

Your short lesson in practical aerodynamics takes me back twenty years, when I used to sit on a hard bench at Harlem Airport and absorb same. Our instructor for a while was a dashing fifty-mission hero, except he did only 25 before he got rotated back to Blighty because of bad ears. As I remember my boyhood, I wasn't much interested in WWI aviation. By the time I was really interested in Aviation, WWII was just about to start. Also, for some reason, I became interested in LTA, which I think was handled very poorly before and during the war. Have been interested in LTA since then. I belong to an LTA fan club, which is actually a Goodyear captive organization. My fanzine says "please report your correct department, plant, address or zip code number." I imagine at least half the membership are Goodyear employees.

- + If you haven't gotten it already, there's a p-b out now
- + from Signet called "JAMBO" -- English title was "Throw
- + Out Two Hands" -- about some nuts who went free-ballooning
- + off from Zanzibar into the wilds of Africa and the Seren-
- + geti Game Preserve, with center section of color-fotos.
- + And I would very much like to see an LTA-man's review
- + of this book and the flights described in it. I would,
- + indeed. Anyway, it's fun reading.

- + In fact, I should tell more about it: balloon flights
- + in Darkest Africa's regions which fit the term -- the
- + Rift Valley, the Ngorongoro Crater -- by guys with the
- + least-required experience in free ballooning; and the
- + color-fotos with captions like, "The sort of wind gy-
- + rations that Africa can suddenly produce."

Starting yesterday and continuing for the next three weeks, Chicago is being subjected to sonic booms, as the Hustlers hustle around. The first boom shook everybody at work, as it was 11 minutes late, and we had ended the old year with a bang by having two fires on the afternoon of the 31st....

- + Let me jump in here with a thot: anyone who thinks
- + sonic booms are bad should try flying a small, private
- + airplane over a turkey farm! The flak from irate far-
- + mers with shotguns can be fierce -- not to mention the
- + bill for several hundred turkeys that fricasseed them-
- + selves on the fence!

....Ours is not the place where one gets used to Ba-LUMPH. I have seen the windows come popping out of the building next door three times in my 15 years, preceded by the same sort of ba-lumph. Theirs is the explosive side of the business. They usually don't have big fires because everything inflammable is kept covered and the place is sprinklered. Our side has the fires, but we haven't had a real explosion yet.

- + Uh-huh. And you know that we know you're a chemist in
- + a company that makes ink, an industry which has some
- + rather unexpected sidelights at times.

I yam worried about one little problem with your visions of future flying machine fandom. I suspect with the population bomb, i. e. ; ((+oops, sorry+)) still exploding at the same rapid pace, and the prosperity bomb going off at an even more rapid pace ((+I think you've got them backward+)), that the air of the future will be pretty full. Pleasure flying may not be looked upon as the best possible use of scarce air, especially near large cities.

- + "will be"..."may not be"...Christamighty, Lew, it's
- + been that bad for the past ten years!!! Just try to
- + approach a major airport in any plane without a radio
- + and see what happens! It's getting worse, too...and
- + it'll become far worse in the future than it is now.
- + I have some idea of just how much worse it'll be.
- + But you also know, don't you, that there are some
- + regions which are having a drop in population? I've
- + poked into this and come up with some odd conclusions:
- + our presentday cities are not only totally inadequate
- + for the future, but most of 'em are even built in the
- + wrong place! And as for transportation.....

This is one reason I am frantically pushing pink pills. ((+ --Oghod, not that again! Man, when are you gonna say something new on that subject? There was a hellova good report in Scientific American several months back on better methods than pink pills and better results than any "legalized childbirth" theories can offer.

The Chicago press is full of beardmutterings about booms but I am very happy to get a course of the things. For one thing, maybe people won't be in such an all-fired rush to put the SST in the air. In my opinion, the SST is a new-fangled contraption which wouldn't be any good even if the fangles were fifty years old. It fits in between the jetliner and the long-distance rocket and tries to be both, but doesn't succeed. We still have a long way to go in improving the subsonic liner with boundary-layer control, etc., and I can not see crossing the Atlantic in 90 minutes to do just what you would do over here.

+ So why spend 9 hours crossing the Atlantic to do it? Or
 + 9 days? They're doing it for business flights, Lew, and
 + that means for passengers who aren't asked whether they
 + like it or not. Hell, it's slave traffic!

Wonder if the Loncon will give a special dramatic presentation Hugo to Dr. Strangelove. ((+ --Nooo-oo-o; I
 + don't think they will. You are nattering around, here,
 + and I am chopping out big chunks like blazes. Puns, yet!
 + And I don't care if the Russkis do have year-round "day-
 + light saving" time, or that a lot of native music can't
 + be written in our notation which has no room for 2:7,
 + 3:7, 4:7, 5:7 and 6:7 ratios, when I am looking at the
 + page number on top of this stencil and realizing I still
 + have to crank all this out on the mimeo yet!

Did you hear Uncle Elby deliver his state of the union message? ((+No.+)) I like everything about the Great Society except the dues. ((+I'd like hearing it a hell of a lot more in the General Assembly of the United Nations, where most of the work will have to be done for any "great society" we can get within the United States now.+)) My real gripe is that there are millions of people who can't get a job in our automated society for various good reasons, and a large group of people who don't want to get a job, and I can't think of a satisfactory way of telling them apart. ((+(If you can't lick 'em, join 'em!) To hell with that; let's start the 4-day weekends!+))

They are Tearing Down the Morrison. I stopped in to take one last look at the scene of the happy days of 1952. The Morrison is the tallest building taken down so far, which will be a real treat for the sidewalk foremen. You wouldn't recognize the Loop if you ever came back to Chicago. At least a dozen buildings have been built since 1952, and more are going up. The tallest building in Chicago is going up where the Morrison was. Sic transit Morrison day.

+ Pity -- it's such a waste. That's all doomed to become
 + an abandoned slum-area, you know, when New Chicago
 + (Indiana) has to be built.

JAMES ASHE, R.D. 1, Freeville, N.Y.:

Enclosed find a renewal subscription for g2 starting with, I hope, Vol.4; no.2. Wife said I had to write you a letter of comment, in spite of your statements you really don't need one. ((+Oghod, nonononono-oo!+)) So here it finally is and now she can send you some money.

+ And since you did, by dang, I'm going to print it.

Well, I wish you luck with that machine, which I read is going to run you something like \$50. I'm interested to see what you can do with a machine for that price. ((+Yeh, especially with THIS issue.+)) We have some ideas along that line and are carefully watching to see what is happening to others before we start spending. Also gives us some time to get some money in.

In reading your spaceship series I thought the most interesting idea brought out was the use of material in the path of the ship for fuel. There is, however, a slight problem. That is, that this fuel must leave the ship at the stern faster than it enters the intakes. ((+That's why I did away with intakes and simply "warped" the stuff past the ship's sides with electromagnetic fields.+)) I'm afraid that the ship could not carry enough nuclear fuel to accelerate the large masses involved to the appropriate velocities.

However, I read in the Handbook of Space Flight, 2nd ed., published by Perastadion Press, that one of the proposed space drives which apparently has been seriously studied is called the Bergenholm (1) or field generator drive. Other less likely systems are listed. This is an engineering handbook, and a mine of information. If you don't have it, I recommend it strongly.

+ Thanks -- it sounds good. One main problem of nuclear
+ powered field generators was how strong a field you
+ could generate; but now, super-cold magnets seem to
+ promise fields strong enough for that, tho to power
+ them, we would certainly need fusion power developed
+ very near to its theoretical maximum efficiency. As
+ you know, we don't have it at all yet. And even with
+ that, you'll recall I had our starship "lose weigh"
+ and begin displaying "freefall" conditions as it got
+ close to lightspeed...

There now: I've indicated my approval of g2. If I had more time, my letters would be longer and more frequent. At the present time I'm setting up a business and very busy. Be glad when it's done and I have some time. Then watch out! Wife and I have our own ideas about a zine. ((+That's usually the best kind.+))

+ +

AS FOR THE AD on the next page, all the back-issues which had only 1 copy available are now out of print. A few others are all gone, now, too -- I don't remember which ones, tho. But the large (legalsize) ones will not be folded for mailing; I've found some extra-big manila envelopes at discount, which I'll use for orders of two or more copies as long as they last. Sorry about the prices; if you can get back-issues of g2 cheaper elsewhere, by all means do so. I would rather that you could!

= = = == == == == == == == == == == == = = = = =

...If you haven't voted on TAFF, please let me suggest that this ISN'T the time not to. The deadline is March 31st and if you haven't a half-dozen TAFF ballots around, that you've ignored up 'til now, write and I'll see that you get one airmail. Our choice, of course, is Bill Donaho....

MOST BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

All copies will be mailed "Printed Matter" rates, with single copies folded, stapled and addressed in the usual manner. Two or more copies will be sent in a manila envelope with the early lettersize issues mailed flat, the present legal-size issues folded (crosswise, not lengthwise). The price is a flat 20¢ each, unless otherwise indicated in this listing. All sales will be on a first-come-first-served basis, cash or checks only; money sent for issues already sold out will be refunded. Prices are effective to May 1st, 1965.

Lettersize issues (actual measurement 8½ x 10):

Volume 1

- No. 1 (June 1961) = out of print.
- No. 2 (July 1961) = out of print.
- No. 3 (August '61) = out of print.
- No. 4 (Sept. '61) = 3 copies available.
- No. 5 (Oct. 1961) = 1 copy available.
- No. 6 (Nov. 1961) = 5 copies; has first illo of a teardrop starship, if anyone cares...
- No. 7 (Dec. 1961) = 1 copy available.
- No. 8 (Jan. 1962) = out of print.
- No. 9 (Feb. 1962) = 5 copies available.
- No. 10 (March '62) = 2 copies available.
- No. 11 (April '62) = 6 copies available.
- No. 12 (May 1962) = 3 copies; Early Fandom's Great Air-War...

Volume 2

- No. 1 (June 1962) = 5 copies available.
- No. 2 (July 1962) = 15 copies available.
- No. 3 (Nov. 1962) = 7 copies available.
- No. 4 (Dec. 1962) = 1 copy only; has The Old Taffers' Club.
- No. 5 (Jan. 1963) = 5 copies available.
- No. 6 (Feb. 1963) = 19 copies; Robbie's Tales of Her Flying Daze -- price: 30¢ each.

Legal-size issues (8½ x 13 or 14):

Volume 2

- No. 7 (April '63) = out of print.
- No. 8 (May 1963) = 4 copies available; 17 pp.; East Bay Cons.
- No. 9 (June 1963) = 5 copies; 16 pp.; Star Drives, Ships&Men.
- No. 10 (July '63) = 5 copies; 20 pp.; All-Letterzine issue.
- No. 11 (Aug. '63) = 9 copies; 12 pp.; More on FTL (not Laney).
- *No. 12 (Sept. '63) = 2 copies; 18 pp.; Beginning of the Starship Series -- Building the Indeconaminable.

Volume 3

- *No. 1 (Oct. 1963) = 3 copies; 20 pp.; Shanghaiing 500 fans...
- *No. 2 (Nov. 1963) = 5 copies; 14 pp.; All-Letterzine issue.
- *No. 3 (Dec. 1963) = 9 copies; 16 pp.; Around Regulus.
- *No. 4 (Jan. 1964) = 5 copies; 20 pp.; Charting our star-cluster.
- *No. 5 (Feb. 1964) = 3 copies; 18 pp.; drawing of our cluster.
- *No. 6 (March '64) = 1 copy, mimeo; 16 pp.; In Hyades Cluster.
- *No. 7 (April '64) = 10 copies; 22 pp.; mimeo, On Relativity, w/multilith illos Approaching Pleiades.
- *No. 8 (May 1964) = 5 copies; 22 pp.; In Pleiades Cluster.
- *No. 9 (June 1964) = 4 copies; 18 pp.; Bail-Out from starship.
- *No. 10 (July '64) = 3 copies; 14 pp.; End of Starship Series.
- No. 11 (Aug. '64) = 21 copy; on Report: price 15¢ each.

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...and just neveryoumind what I said about this fanzine NOT being such. As I told Roy Tackett once, at least -- I'm the one who makes the rules for this fanzine and, by damn, I'm the one who can break them! It sneaked up on me, tho, this time ...when I began putting LOX on stencil, the first week of January, I had just enough letters on hand from Nov.-Dec. to fill about 15 pages without too much weeding-out and cutting. But even as I did the first few loes more of 'em arrived. And more. And I began to see what it was shaping up to. Like Bob Brown said of his own ship: "A 19-knot surface vessel carrying part of a missile that travels approximately 17,000 m.p.h." ... I saw this fanzine was having a load on even if, for once, I wasn't. I got enough of a belt out of so many of you writing and some of you writing so often. And for no reason other than enjoyment -- there was no fannish storm or tempest brewing here! I'd had no such blast as the paragraph I've put in this issue; and you may think my "reply" to the 3 fans named is unduly harsh, but then you aren't being asked for an opinion. I won't be bothered to argue the things they've said with them or you; it's enough to know cheap intimidation when I smell it. And I want them to know exactly what they can expect when they try using that on me. And not just those 3, but all that crowd. Anyway, if you won't mind terribly (and I doubt very much that most of you will, at all) I would rather no letter of comment was wasted on that subject. We've better nonsense to waste our time on. In the past, too, I've always been curious to note that all-letter issues, such as this one, never seem to evoke much response (so I've not published many of them) and I'm wondering if that just won't be what happens this time. Anyone care to list all the subjects that are discussed in this issue? Just the thought of it



LEE JACOBS
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 CALIF.
 Giddy

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