

LE MOINDRE #23

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FAPA Mailing 95 May 1961

This time around I've been more pressed for time than ever - or time has fled by ever more fleetingly - or I've been more slothful and procrastitudinous (isn't that a nice word?) than ever - so much so that far from getting my material off to Miz Bradley three weeks before the deadline as, with bright-eyed optimism I had promised myself when LEM arrived in Rochester too late for mailing 94, I'll be lucky to get a couple of pages of quick comments out to include with Steward's GASP.

Also, Patient Readers, in spite of my brave words last mailing concerning getting this typewriter overhauled, I still haven't done so, and so for one more issue I crave your patience with the poor repro.

FANTASY AMATEUR: On the subject of the Pittcon editions of SF Times, my attitude to these was a bit garbled by the time it reached the V-P's report, so I'd like to set the record straight - although probably Taurasi and his buddies don't read LEM and I've already become a permanent addition to the Taurasi-Moskowitz Hate List (where I have some very eminent company). Marion Bradley had stated that the copies somewhat violated the identical requirement provision, although they were a borderline case, and would deny them activity credit if any member objected to credit being given them. I was happy to object, for at the time it seemed possible that Taurasi would try to fill his activity requirements with such material, and the possibility grotched me somewhat. Let me make it plain that "officially" I am not objecting to such material being circulated through FAPA. Just because I find certain material circulated with the bundles as being of no interest to me, I would not think of jumping up and down and crying that it shouldn't be allowed credit. Any member who at this point is too dim to discern my attitude may go to a corner and turn blue.

DESCANT - Clarkes. Urf! Haw! Faunch! Goshwow! Those Unfortunates who are not members of FAPA and don't get this should feel Deprived. Norm Clarke, why aren't you making huge sums by writing for that One Manifestation Of Canadian Culture, the Topical Revue? Then you could get a Canada Council Grant, and then write material for the CBC and next thing you'd be on Fighting Words with Irving Layton screaming at you and then Liberty would run an article on you and your photo would be on the front page of the Star Weekly and then....but no, that would be Too Much.

AFFAMATO #1. To Ernie Wheatley, "Mountain Greenery" is not from "Paint Your Wagon". "Mountain Greenery" was written by Rogers and Hart, and came from a musical around 1927.

HORIZONS - Warner. Yes, my new taper would be the one you know as "Norelco". I knew that what you U.S.ers know as the Norelco shaver is known as Phillips "in Canada and the rest of the Free World" (I love the implications of that phrase) but it hadn't occurred to me that all other Phillips products would be known as "Norelco" in the U.S. But Harry, it only weighs about 20 lbs. About the only taper lighter (except for miniatures) is the Wollensack, and it isn't that much lighter. You don't need to carry a taper that far, do you?

ICE AGE #4. You do seem to encounter some creeps. What one does in such a situation is to say, in a loud clear voice "Go Away. We Do Not Want You." If this produces no action, you either use force, or call for the cops. If you find certain people obnoxious, you should have no compunctions about "Hurting their feelings".

A note to those who raised eyebrows over the name of "Conway Twitty"...in Toronto live a 17 year old writer of pop tunes named Conrad Feeny, and a seven year old saxophone prodigy named Attila Gallamb. You see? "Conway Twitty" could have been genuine.

In Toronto there is also folk song, jazz etc. club called The Bohemian Embassy. The latest edition of the Yellow Pages lists it under "Consulates and Other Foreign Government Representatives."

VANDY - Coulsons. Buck: The Pierre Berton Christmas verses were dated only by their belated appearance in Le Moindre. They were written in 1958, just too late for the November mailing. I put them aside for the 1959 Nov. mailing, and couldn't find them when the time came. Thus, they appeared two years after they were written. # I do not deny that one can find in big cities plenty of people who are "ignorant, bigoted, uneducated and narrow." In fact, cut out "ignorant and uneducated" and you'll find plenty to fit the other two adjectives. It is my feeling, (and it is a feeling only, open to all sorts of argument and refutation) that the proportion isn't as high in big cities as in small towns. But even if it be, these people don't have the same opportunities in large centres to bedevil others with their views as they do in small places. "Ain't" is a contraction of "am not" and thus the apostrophe. (And thus "ain't" used with the first person is actually good grammar). # People who like bread with some taste and a non-sponge-like consistency are not ergo "hard bread lovers". Stop dragging red herrings through the smoke screens.

SERCON'S BANE #5 - F.M. Busby. Ah, but Maeve and Mervyn, ever adventurous and madcap, are going to have a shot at Nasturtium wine. Maeve however, is wondering if one can remove nasturtium wine stains from antimacassars. # "A poot-poot-poot-poot rock & roll group" was my own term for a group which tends to replace the familiar running triplets with eighth notes. No use quoting examples, as they would mean nothing to you.

SALUD #5 - E. Busby. Aw, come on, now. Maeve and Mervyn have never even heard of Manischewitz, England has very few supermarkets, and even if there were one near them, it wouldn't sell sherry, and Maeve wouldn't shop there anyway, because it is one of these horrid American innovations, staffed by rather smarmy young men with pencil moustaches and common accents. Maeve buys her groceries from Mr. Alfred Bloggs, who has been running his little store for forty years, is stout and rather bald and wears a walrus-y moustache and a white apron. Yes, Sweden does have the highest suicide rate. New Zealand has the lowest infant mortality rate if you count the "whites" only, but adding in the Maori infant mortalities pulls it down, and I guess puts Sweden on top.

LARK - Danner. There are two published collections of Berton's material, as well as other books by him, one of which is "Klondike" on which the TV program of the same name was based - which meant that they paid Berton and used the title. # Mitch Miller gave up being an oboist when he found that he had a knack for producing loathsome garbage which earns him large sums.

THREE CHAMBERED HEART - Champion. French translations of such mundania as instructions are usually pretty straightforward. It is only when it is attempted to translate into French the "Howdy pardners, let's mosey on down to the ol' corral...." type of thing that the translation can be amusing when compared with the original.

EPIMETHEUS - Speer. Yes, that is an accent mark over the last letter of "boeuf sale'." It would be cause for alarm if it were not there. # Elinor Busby says "Every American child is taught in school that America won the War of 1812" so you argue with her. #I am not in favor of anybody going into business in such a way that he has so little cash available he can't still pay the few dollars a month necessary for medical insurance. A person in such a non-liquid position will not find his business lasting very long, and will go broke to the detriment of his suppliers, not to mention himself.

REVELATIONS FROM THE SECRET MYTHOS - Parker. Your reprint of the poop-sheet from Goldring Motors is interesting. I can't comment fully on it, as I'm not too up on the subject. However, I think their assertions on the whole are a bit sweeping and general. Certainly with the advent of the compacts, U.S. sales of imports fell off. Some of the odd-ball brands were or are being swept out, but the popular types such as VW and Renault are still selling pretty well. You might find it hard to get parts and service for such cars as Skoda and Toyopet, for example, but service and parts for such as VW will be as before.

It is most unlikely that one could damage a speedometer by "going too fast". Practically all cars have speedometers which will register far above the top speed of which the car is capable. A red line on a tachometer (this is the item you refer to as "RPM meter") is to indicate the RPM level past which it is considered unwise to take the engine. If you rev the motor past this point you are in danger of things breaking very expensively.

I quote: "In Oklahoma, the state legislature has been holding hearings in preparation for a new censorship law. As usual, the puritans are coming out of the woodwork. One witness told the committee that school officials are corrupting youth by putting J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye" on the school reading list. An Oklahoma City police lieutenant said that sexy books on the newsstand were Communistic because they are "morally bad and un-Christian." A reserve army officer topped this by calling Mad magazine Communist-inspired, on the grounds that "it ridicules every great American patriot." An organization called Mothers United for Decency made the most spectacular display. They rented a family-sized trailer, filled it with literature they didn't like, and painted "SMUT MOBILE" on the side. Then they parked it in front of the state legislature building, so that assemblymen could examine the smut that is sold to American children. Among the items displayed were a couple of Erskine Caldwell novels, D.H. Lawrence's "Sons and Lovers", Irving Stone's "Lust for Life" (he should have watched that title) and, as a climax, "Male and Female" by Margaret Mead."

I bet you can hardly wait to get back.

LIGHTHOUSE #2 - Graham. I see ol' TEW is trying to Win Friends but will he follow your example and subsequently become friends with the attackees? I can see it now.... "VOID - edited by Ted E. White, Peter Graham, Judy Merrill, Chris Moskowitz....and, oh yes, Greg Benford." # Yeah, sure sure, all corporations are corrupt and powerful, no matter the size. (Incidentally, how about defining what you mean by "corrupt"?) So how about explaining to me how a small trucking firm is more powerful than the teamsters union. I cannot believe that Fearless Socialist Peter Graham is in favor of monopolies in business, but I take it that you are quite in favor of monopolies in unions...in fact, it is unnecessary for me to surmise it, because you say so. Just like Animal Farm. "Labor Monopolies Good, Business Monopolies Baaaad." But, dammitall, don't you know that there are plenty of proven instances of Hoffa screwing his own members?

NULL-F 19 - TEWhite. Can't you get it through your head that FAPA members were not on the whole worried too much about the money you had borrowed. The beef was that having been so irresponsible in your post of OE that it was necessary to send out a supplementary mailing, you dragged your feet on it, waited until the Dentention to get an advance for the postage, and then, when you borrowed it, you didn't even bother to send ^{a card to} one of the other officials informing them of this fact, but just silently sat on the mailing until Andy Young made a trip to New York and picked it up. This irresponsibility is what FAPA beefed about. Your temporary use of a small portion of the FAPA funds was a very minor matter. And, incidentally, you have never given any indication that you made any effort to get a job to alleviate your starving state. I know this is all ancient history, but you can expect this sort of thing as long as you keep dragging up your sad story of Dirty Ol' FAPA Members, Out Of Touch With Reality, Jumping On Poor Starving (sob) Ted White.

A PROPOS DE RIEN #6 - Caughran. I fail to see that "Co-ops" are even an "approach" to socialism. Gad, sir, Peter Graham would grotch. "Dividends" yet. Shocking.

CELEPHEAIS 26 - Evans. As I may have mentioned last mailing, the part of Canada in which I live is not responsible for sending cold weather down to you. Here we get bad weather sent to us by the U.S. I enjoyed very much the account of your vacation...it was a damn sight more "creative" than resumes of French SF rejects. # I've only attended one hockey game in my life (and that was to see a Canadian team play a (eek!) Russian Team) so I'm not responsible for the "letdown in dress" in the box seats. # The concept of specializing in Sowers brings a glaze to my eyes and a sense of large ennui, but each to his taste. Where and how do you obtain this type of material? (Please note, I am not sneering. I respect, but cannot empathize.)

And so end the comments on Mailing 94. I greatly enjoyed much of the mailing, and I am very sorry that so many fine items haven't drawn any comments. Console yourselves, you who were uncommented on, that I probably dug your material, but felt averse to filling up space with "Liked this" and "Liked that".

The Funds for sending or bringing noted fans to conventions have been around for some time. On the whole I think they are a Good Thing, although I favor more the fund for a specific person, rather than the lottery type. But lately a New Concept in Funds has been introduced to us. This is the Project Fund, also known as the Please Finance My Hobby bite. There is no reason why this girne gimmick should be confined to one group. Let's spread it around a bit. Here a couple of ideas for a start. Gerald Steward likes to race cars. I like to travel and try exotic foods. So, Steward will set up a Racing Fund, and I'll set up a Travel & Indigestion Fund. We will send out cute little ~~posting letters~~ flyers, asking for contributions. When we have enough money in our Funds, Steward will buy cars and race, and I'll travel all over the place and eat myself sick. The ~~shucks~~ Contributors will become Associate Members in the funds to which they contribute (maybe we could set up a scale of fees for Full Members, Associate Members, and just plain Members - and maybe create a Lifetime Membership for really large contributors) and they would get Special Fanzines telling them all about the Tremendous Fun Steward and I had spending their money. But I'm not trying to keep this wonderful ~~ticket~~ idea just to a few. I'm sure a great number of fans have or could acquire expensive hobbies. Let us all set up Funds. Of course, if we all do, it would probably turn out that we'd have to finance our hobbies ourselves after all, a concept which seems quite alien to some fans.