

moonshade



MOONSHADE

MAY, 1962

NO. 4

First Anniversary Issue!

Published by RICK SWEARY and LEN MOHRATT for the 99th FAPA Mailing, with extra copies for Friendly Waiting Listers -- we hope. This is an Experiment (it may turn out to be an Experience!) in Duplicating by Ditto. If it turns out well, we will all be happy--won't we?

THE MOONSHADE STORY •

The first issue of Moonshade was a two-page one-sheet published by Ljm for the 4th Shape Mailing.

The second issue was a 4-pager published by rms & Ljm (and bound with MOONSHINE No. 29) for the 96th FAPA Mailing in August, 1961.

The third issue was a 1-page one sheet published by rms & Ljm for the 98th FAPA Mailing in February, 1962.

Extra copies of the 2nd and 3rd issues went to Waiting Listers, at all. Sorry, we have no more extra copies of the first three issues...

The first issue of Moonshade was dated May 1961, so this is indeed our:

FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

Gosh-wow. Hoo-boy. .

COMMENTS FROM 32 (MORE OR LESS?) IN THE SHADE

Arigate to Les Gerber for sending me the seventh Shape Mailing (how's that for a transposition?), the my bundle was missing a copy of Amnesia #1. No, Les didn't have an attack of amnesia; he merely ran out of copies...

I enjoyed all of the five titles received, and I think I liked Gerber's shortale, "The Giant-Killers" best of all. I can see it as a prize-winning movie short subject. Not too expensive to film, as the special-effect required for the ending would be the most "expensive" part. In fact, the preceding portion would probably cost quite a bit less than that crashing final scene. That is, not using Big Name Stars. I'm sure that Ted Johnstone and Blake Maxim could handle the two main roles very well...

It was nice to see Art Widner in Finnish print, after all these years. Any chance of the ol' Poll-cat returning to the microcosm, Russ?

((continued--next page))

BLEP TAFF! BLEP TAFF! BLEP TAFF!!!

COMMENTS FROM...IN THE SHADE (continued & concluded)

Thanks merci to ol' Ephless Elmer for Elmer's Number One, and to the "young'uns" of Mathom House & Associates for Hillside. I've been an Admirer of

(damned drunken typer!) the Writings of Elmer Perdue ever since nineteen-ought-forty-two, when he sent me a postcard--actually, a postal card (and we know how to spell it in those days)--all the way from Casper, Wyoming --to tell me that I'd been accepted as a member of FARA, please remit dues, etc. As for Hillside--well, now! A real whoop-de-doo of a one-shot. Enjoyed it immensely, though it made me regret more than ever that I had passed out on attending Graphics 62--and not just because of the nicely stacked gal in the Hillside Booth. After all, I've had me pichur took with June (43-20-36) Wilkinson, Star of Stage, Screen, & Packaging Shows.... Both my job and my hobby have helped to really develope my interest in the graphic arts, so I'm sure I'd have enjoyed Graphics 62, with or without mammiferous models. And I could have used that Print-A-Sign deal to make quintuple copies of covers for SA's, CAPA's CO...

Idle Hands #7 just arrived, so Genuine Late-Late Thank to Norm Metcalf, whose comments on westerns makes me wonder what it would be like to read a western story, for a change. I was an avid reader of S&S western pulps, and have (in my time) read a lot of hardcover westerns too. My all time favorite western story writer (pre-dating Max Brand) was Emerson Hough. Preferred his novels to the "more popular" ones of Z. Grey. Though Hough authored "The Covered Wagon" (better known as "the first full length movie") I've rarely seen his name or his books mentioned in articles or commentary dealing with early western writers, and one never hears of him today, while Grey's name and fame goes on and on. Haven't read either author in years, but I'd still say that Hough was the superior writer and story teller of the two. I'm not sure that they were in direct competition in their earlier writing careers as I rather suspect that Hough pre-dated Grey, and had most, if not all, of his books published before ol' Gene got started. Perhaps Norm or Redd can set me straight on this?

If I received any other FARA or Shadow-type mags recently I can't seem to find them around here, so it's good-bye (the Ed-co Influence?) until August, and the 20th Anniversary Issue of ~~MOONSHINE~~ MOONSHINE, and, oh yea, FARA's 25th....

Len -Len Moffatt

WE ARE PLANNING a Cover for this Special First Anniversary issue of MOONSHADE, featuring a Drawing by Arthur (ATOM) Thomson, and have asked good ole Bob Lichtman to put it on master for us. The Choice of Colors--and the Title-Lettering--are Mr. Lichtman's, him being a ditto expert and all.

CONFIDENTIAL FILE COPY

groupings were to be raised. Although designated by name
to be in the group, all the boys. Starting on the 1st of
the 1st of the group, he moved to his every voice in the
group. I am afraid that the group. But never fear, the group
will be a group of the group. It will be the group. I am
in the group. It will be the group. It will be the group.

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I heard some what the some cry within the LASFS a year or so ago. What had happened was that before an election a couple of us regular members would get together and talk about who we thought would make good officers. We viewed them not on how popular they were, but on how good they were likely to be at controlling a meeting, or keeping minutes. (For example, while I made a good Treasurer, I would have been a bad Secretary). We spoke to our friends, and urged all those who would, to attend the election meeting. By having a planned slate of candidates we eliminated much of the "impulse" nominating, which often gets popular but incompetent (for the job) members elected. What we did in other words, was what any political party would do....and won easily, because we had good candidates.... But some how some members looked on this as evil machinations, and as a plot to "take over".

That's ridiculous. We all know the only way to take over a fan club is to capture the mimeograph.

Polls

Last Summer you will remember, Geo. Willick was circulating a questionnaire regarding his Fan Awards idea. The idea had a certain amount of appeal, Mr. Willick did not. So I found myself trying to explain why I was against the Awards to Willick and myself. It went something like this.

For a fan to vote honestly on a fanzine or its material he has to have seen them. Now in this day and age there are few fans who even try to get all the fanzines that are produced each year. But even if there were, there are a number of fanzines with very limited circulation, so that few fans could get to see them. There-fore, everything else being equal, a good large-circulation fanzine should receive more votes than an equally good small-circulation fanzine. If S.F. Times were all you saw, you wouldn't be dishonest in voting it the best fanzine of the year.

Which brings up another point. How important to you is the opinion of a fringe-fan or neo-fan, when it come to judging a fanzine? And think how many votes would be cast by those who didn't really know enough about the field to be able to judge what is good and what isn't?

Once you see this as a weakness in the Fan Awards, you see that the same criticism can be applied to all fan poll, such as those of Fanac and Skylark. Only in the apa's do all those voting in theory atleast see all the material, and supposedly have the experience to judge. But one can't just do away with general fan awards, as so many look forward to them. So I tried to think of a new approach.

I came up with one answer that answered most of my objections. I told it to Willick, and he didn't like it. No one else I have told it to has liked it either. I'm not even sure I like it, and I doubt that it would work. But somewhere in it there maybe the germ of an idea some one else can use. I would be interested in hearing a more general reaction.

My suggestion was for fandom to elect an Awards Committee to do the actual judging. I thought about 20 fans, five to be from each of the three U.S. Convention Zones, and five from over-seas (mainly Britian). They should, I feel, be nominated, to help cut down on ego-boo runners. And there would have to be some TAFK-like assurance that anyone running was willing to serve. The voting would be general, with each fan being able to vote for five names in each of the four zones. This would assure that large local clubs would not control the outcome in their zone.

The Committee would serve a year, and at the end of the year select the "Best" by taking a poll among themselves. The mere fact that they were selected would indicate that the 20 were among the best known in fandom. Big Name Fans, you might say. Their joint opinion would therefore be more important and meaningful. And as actifans they would most likely already be receiving the bulk of the fanzines being published. But if a few were not, any fan editor who wanted to have his magazine considered would not be hard pressed to add a few names to his mailing list.

Personally I would rather have the praise of a few who I respected and admired, than adulation of the multitudes. But would fans be willing to except "authoritive judgements"? What ever, I'm not suggesting this as a "SneakyPlan", but an idea for discussion. And I would not want to serve on the Committee. I get to many fanzines as it is.

My Father is a Beatnick

That was the caption on an imaginary Ray Nelson cartoon I dreamed up, as the result of something I did acouple of months ago. When I finally got around to visiting a coffee house that opened up about ten blocks from me, last Summer.

Now you must understand that a for-real coffee house in South Gate is about as unlikely as Pat Siger singing for a D.A.R. Convention. South Gate is a fairly conservative, middle-class, bedroom community, with very few extreams of wealth or imagination. Most of the people live in single family dwelling that were built 25 to 40 years ago. Other than a G.M. plant we have no big business and no large shopping centers, as most of people work or shop in our neighboring towns -- like Los Angeles. It is a good community to live in, but it is no place to visit.

But there it is, with all the accouterments of a real coffee house. A bearded proprietor in a black sweatshirt. Little table with chessboards painted on them, in a room so dark you could see to read the over-size menus by the flickering hurricane lamps. Even the folk singers dressed the parts, and claimed to have just come from Greenwich Village. --- But don't get me wrong, the singing was good; I found I liked expresso coffee; and I enjoyed myself so noticably that some one sent a third cup of expresso to my table. But I kept feeling that they couldn't be "for real". Why would beatnick types or artist want to operate in South Gate.

I had the feeling that much of it was stage setting, and they were catering to mundane types (which is about all you find around here) who came in out of curiosity. These people probably liked a relaxed arty, music filled life--but they were also working hard to run a business, and probably raise a family. Which brought to mind the picture of a group of kids standing around talking about what their Dads did for a living.. And this one little ruffled boy saying, "My Father is a Beatnick".

But this lead to another train of thought. Most of my friends and acquaintances are fans. Some of them are close to being beatnicks, but a good many of them live in houses cluttered with books, papers, pictures, records, and happy relaxed people. In other words, people like you. And in the past I have tended to think of these interested and interesting people as either fans or beatnick. But that isn't enough. There are also non-fan non-beatnicks, who enjoy the same things, out to the rest of the world seems to lead a normal life of work and family. The kind that would enjoy being with fans, but is not a faan. He would enjoy the company of beatnicks, but not approve of their lack of responsibility. There ought to be a name for him. Have you any suggestions??

The Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance

In view of my low degree of activity in FAPA you may well wonder why I would want to become a bi-again. But I find it a lot easier to write for CAPA than I do for FAPA. These four pages have taken the better part of two days to write and re-write. While in CAPA I have been turning out four to six pages in every one of the monthly mailings -- and more when I have been O-E. It is the old problem I have of being able to talk easily in a small gathering, but getting stage-fright before a large audience.

But then too there is the fact that there is no limit to what you can do. Hand painted artwork and paste-ups become possible as do photos and stenofax work. As all mailings go First Class, worries about postal restrictions are forgotten. But mainly it is the fact that the members are all old Fifth Fandom letterhacks. (CAPA, as you may know, is limited to fans who were active during Fifth Fandom). So when all you have to do is slap move paper and carbons in the typewriter, it is hard not to ramble on for page after page. -- Maybe some of will run some CAPA material through FAPA, so you can see what we are doing.

Mailing Comments : Revoltin' Devel. (Alger) I was glad to hear the details in the case of Hal Shapiro. I'd heard a number of stories, not always complete with names, which had lead me to believe they were about still another fan. That is the trouble with making charges but not naming names, as Joe Gieson has done recently. You start thinking about the people you know who fit the description, and are apt to come up with some pretty wrong guesses. --- Ofcourse if you go around saying so-en-so is running dope, you might get sued.. I'll be interested to see the reaction to your anti-lawsuit law. It is a pretty sad day though when a group has to put one of its unwritten rules into writing.