

OFF TRAILS

The Official Organ of
The Off-Trail Magazine
Publishers' Association.

NUMBER 44
JUNE 1965

CONTENTS OF THE 44th MAILING

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L2	Ringwraith	2	Bailes	7LQ	8
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12	Fenris	8	Hulan	5LQ	5
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14	Viper	9	Donaho	12LQ	14
15	Conrep From B'ham	-	Henley/Mercer	15 Q	15
16	Attercliffe	1	Jeeves/Jordan	2 Q	2

20 Items from 14 Members; 294pages, equivalent to 304pages of 10"x8"

ADDITIONS TO THE 43rd MAILING

P1	Nadir	4	Winstone	39 Q	39
P2	Brobdingnag	7,9-20	Schultz	36LQ	41
P3	Phenotype	OC/275	Ency	12LQ	14

Revised total for the 43rd Mailing: 390pages.

DEADLINE FOR THE 45th MAILING: 5th SEPT.1965. AE:B.JORDAN; TREAS:R.BENNETT.

Presidential Report.

This is a Presidential, rather than President's, Report because it is being perpetrated by the Editor.

After the last mailing, President Parker, under section 4 part2 declared the President's owner-workedness a situation not covered by the Consitution, and declared Archie Mercer to be Acting President until the results of the election were known. With the resulting chaos, and with unfortunately having a new befuddled editor as well, the Presidential Report seems to have been overlocked by all comers.

VOTING RESULTS:

PRRESIDENT: Archie Mercer 10 votes
Chas Wells no Votes
Bruce Pelz no votes.
Write-in no votes.
ARCHIE MERCER IS DECLARED ELECTED.

EGOEEO POLL: There was a very thin response to this - only four members bothered to fill in the form. One member went so far as to say that he didn't think of OMPA as a competition. Accordingly (ie, with the thin poll, not with the non-competitvity) I'm not declaring official results. I'll mention in passing that the only person to get two votes was Arthur Thomson, as best outside contributor, with Brian Varley getting $1\frac{1}{2}$ for the same spot.

MEMBERSHIP TURNOVER. The list shows a very drastic turnover this time, which is to be very much regretted. I was about to go on here suggesting how John Roles could be allowed to keep his membership, having only 2pp due. I couldn't really believe that John was letting OMPA slip, and I've just checked right back. Although John is listed in the lastOT as due 2pp, after a 10pp Morph in March, he also had a 20 page Morph in September, which very clearly makes him in no danger of losing his membership. I can't tell what happened in between, as the back page of the relevant OT is lost. This, and the membership fanagglng in the Editorial, show the necessity for members to read OFF TRAILS, to spot any mistakes that the Editor might make. Remember that, like Ethel, I'm very busy, that I do OFF TRAILS in odd moments and in a hurry; and that mistakes may go un-noticed. Meanwhile, sorry John for nearly fining you 6pages! As for the rest of the problem of rapid turnover.... what are your memborial opinions of altering the Constitution so that members not contributing (say) at least 8pp not only get put out, but also loose their fourth mailing? This would get them out and others in more quickly. Dues cover expenses, contributions cover the mailings. No contrib, no mailing.

OFFICIORIAL TURNOVER. Forged Presidential thanks go to all officers, old and new, for thier work for OMPA.

LIBEL. Semi-official legal opinion has been found on the libel business mentioned later, and this suggests that it is most difficult to get round the problem. Even the form I'm including seems useless - but I'd still like you to send it in, just in case. But mainly, PLEASE don't send in anything dodgy until we work out what to do. Thanks go to a fan for the advice, but I don't know whether the said person wants to be involved, so no names.

EDITORIAL

There was a time when I looked forward to writing this, my first OCPA editorial, but by now the matter has gone a bit sour. Firstly, there is the sad business of Don Ford's death to report - a very nasty way of producing a vacancy, and not very pleasant for Arnold Katz, who takes Don's place. Secondly, there is the matter of this mailing being over a week late - not a very good start. OCPA editors without duplicators are at asslight disadvantage! Thanks go to Terry Jeeves, without whom you'd not be getting this at all, never mind late. Finally, there's the very dreary business of the libel clause in the Constitution. I've had to invoke this twice already, and am most unhappy about the matter. But more of that later, now onto the more humdrum business.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES: The following are dropped from membership; they will get this mailing, but no more:

BAXTER - no activity or dues; BURN - no dues or activity; BUSBY - no dues or activity; EVANS - no dues or activity; MALE - resigned, no activity; ROGERS - no dues or activity; TRIMBLE - no activity.

The following, then, are elevated to the membership: ARNOLD KATZ; HEINRICH ARENZ; MARY REED; STEVE STILES; GRETCHEN SCHWENN; STEVEN PARR (due to an error on my part, Steve has not had chance to send in his credentials; if these come before the deadline for the Sept. mailing, he'll be in then.). KATZ starts now, getting this mailing; all the others start with the SEPT. mailing. ALL must have SIX PAGES in the first available mailing - I don't know what the Constitution means by this, but I'd say the DECEMBER mailing for Americans, unless they can do it earlier, and the SEPT. mailing for the others. There are vacancies.

Note the above are members only if they pay their dues by Sept 5th.

MAILING NOTES:

I expect to run off OFF TRAILS on June 15th. If, then, anyone has something arriving after that date, they can hardly blame me for leaving it out. COLIN FRIEDMAN and DON STUDEBAKER earn Editorial Praise for being the first UK and US members, respectively, to get their bundles in. No-one seems to have sent them in late - though LEFNUI and RINGWATTE ARE here through missing the last mailing. BUT: Will people who move up and down Ft. Hunt Rd. please not rely on the Editor reading about it in SKYRACK, and will people who want Don Studebaker to be credited for columns in their magazines please not rely on the Editor spotting it without having had a letter to tell him.

OFF-TRAILS CHANGES: I hope no-one will mind my experimenting a little with the front cover. A note reading 18LQ21 means that the zine has 18 pages of American Quarto size, which is equivalent to 21 English quarto pages. Comments on whether the lines separating the columns will be welcome. On the back page, M6 etc. means MARCH 1966 etc.

It could, of course, be argued that no-one in fandom has enough money to bring law suites, etc., etc.,. But law suites have been brought in fandom, and the fact that it is unlikely is pretty cold comfort.

Allow^{ing} then, that there should be no libel-responsibility in OMPA, for the AE. This can be brought about by either having the AE strike out anything libellous, or by in some way removing the responsibility from the AE's shoulders. I can see no way of doing the latter, and I find it very difficult to do the former without becoming ridiculously censorious.

I have really no idea what to do about the problem, but until a good answer appears I'm going to jump, without hesitation, and anything and everything giving me concern. But I hope that you will all consider VIPER a test case, and try to think of a way around the difficulty - preferably sufficiently good for me to put Bill's magazine in the next mailing. As an interim measure, I ask every member to be careful about what he puts in his zine, and also to sign and return the enclosed form, indemnifying the AE against any responsibility. It won't be of much legal value, but it'll ease any decision to let things by. If possible, by the way, I'll send the un-offending parts of Bill's zine this mailing.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

I seem to have slipped up badly by using an old copy of the Constitution when I re-cut same - I missed out the recent new clause saying that "On admission to the Waiting List a prospective member must pay his first year's dues." Can you please write this into your copy (after 1st sentence, Section 4) if I haven't been able to do so. Thanks.

Ethel seems to have got into a bit of a muddle with the membership expiry dates, putting the expiry as the fourth mailing after joining, and not the third, as it should be (ie, the fourth of the membership) I've corrected these in the list, adding "xx" to mark the new listings. The following members are affected. NOW EXPIRING IN MARCH: Blum; Hulan (1pp above req.s this time carries over); Peters (had none owing, so 13pp this time clear him for another year); Schlueck. NOW EXPIRING IN JUNE(66) Charters (this makes his dues overdue for next year); Weber (12pp owing, must be in next mailing anyway, and a further 12 by next June; dues also owing); Fitch(5pp owing, must be in next mlg anyway; then 12pp by June 1 dues also owing-if you in fact came in in Sept 64 - the records aren't clear). NOW EXPIRING IN SEPT: Henley; Dian Pelz, Weston, Winstone (all ok for activity, so just have to pay up a month earlier than expected. NOW EXPIRING IN MARCH: Mann (12pp due a month earlier than expected.)

Naturally, none of these members is to blame, and they can expect leniency (lucky things!), but I'd be grateful if they could straighten things out over the next few mailings. I think I've got all the alterations correct, but please let me know if you don't agree. Thanks.

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MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS: My thanks go to Ron, Archie, and Ethel, who have eased me into the Editorial chair with a drop of experience. To those members, particularly overseas, who have to have something in the next mailing to save their membership: why not write and warn me, in advance, that you have sent off your zine? That way, I'll be able to make allowances if it arrives late. I gather that if you send it "SPECIAL HANDLING", you get a date-stamped ticket certifying the date of postage - you could use this as proof that you have, in fact, sent off the zine. I'm not trying to call anyone liar, and I hope no one will ever accuse me of missing their zine, but such a system would smooth relations between the AE and the members, which seem to have been getting a bit rickety of late. Ideally, no one should know the AE is there, it should be as if there's a Mailing Robot behind his door.

Packing: a Jiffybag or two have arrived worse for wear, again. Also a parcel from the UK. But the business still seems to be almost random - bundles badly wrapped seem to get through as well as the more solid ones. To jiffybag users: a brown paper wrapper INSIDE the bag may be useful. I'm trying various types of wrapping this time out, and would be pleased to hear how they arrive - particularly overseas.

Bibliography: a Stout Fellow is trying to produce a complete bibliography of the various APA's. How he'll manage it I don't know, but he'd be glad of any help he can get - particularly from anyone with good back files of OMPAZines. He is Harold Piser,

41-08 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, New York 11355 USA. Anyone care to help?

ACTIVITY AND DEADLINE FOR NEXT MAILING:

Deadline for the September Mailing is SEPTEMBER FIFTH, 1965.

The following have activity due to be in that mailing: McFARLAND CRILLY -12pp; MITCH - 5pp; WEBER -12pp; ALSO 6pp each from KATZ, ARENZ, REED, and the other new members if they can make it in time.

NASTY LIBEL LAWS: I feel very bad about it, but I have, nonetheless, felt obliged to reject two magazines this time.

The first is Dick Schultz's BRODDINGNAG 8 - I took exception to remarks about one of the Diplomacy players mentioned in the zine. The irritating thing about this decision is that the remarks were almost certainly in jest. But as things stand, the only thing I could do was to believe the worst. The second zine is Bill Donaho's VIPER, sent in for this mailing. Here, Bill has an article reviewing the Breen business, in retrospect. Here again it's annoying to have to stop the zine, because the whole thing has been said before anyway, so why stop it now? Also Bill has a page commenting on graft in politics, which seems a bit dodgy, to say the least. Here again, I see no reason to take exception to the stuff I'm stopping, other than the legal aspect, and it annoys me to have to jump on Bill's zine. BUT the legal situation is this:

1) The Constitution states: "Material...violating the postal requirements for legality....shall be destroyed by the AE unless the contributing member recovers it in person"

2) The post office would, certainly, object to libel

3) Should a libel suite arise from anything in an OMPAZine, the AE would, in part, be held responsible for distributing the offending matter. This, naturally, is any AE's main worry.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Whilst this has not exactly broken my back this quarter, from sheer hard work, it certainly has not given me such a quiet time as the previous three months (peculiar sentence structure due to scribe). For one thing, John Roles kept up the tradition of former years by sending along only six shillings' subscription, this amount being followed by the balance a week later, Dave Hulan sent along a dollar cheque which has also caused a great deal of account balancing and the like. American members, ladies and gentlemen, our banks CHARGE for converting dollar cheques. A cheque for the paltry sum of one tiny greenback is worth only around five shillings (70%) over here. No more dollar cheques, plea s@. And so to this quarter's balance sheet:

INCOME

Balance b/f	£21.09. 7d
Dues 17@7/-	5.19. 0d
Schlück	1. 0. 0d
Sale of stock(Katz)	7. 0d
	<u>£28.15. 7d</u>

EXPENDITURE

43rd Mlg:	
Editor's exps.	£4.18. 7½d
Treasurer's "	5. 6
Refund Cheslin	1. 0
Balance c/f	<u>23.10. 5½</u>
	£28.15. 7d.

OUT this quarter for non-payment of dues go Baxter, Burn, Busby, Evans, ~~xxxxxxx~~. Ken Cheslin resigned and had refunded the shilling on account with the Treasury. Messrs Blum and Trimble have had their dues deducted as promised from their treasury account. Tom Schlück sent along £1, had 4/- on hand, and had his dues deducted and has now 17/- on hand.

The following members must pay their subscriptions for the period covering December 1965 to September 1966 before the deadline for the next mailing: BAILES: BURGESS: CHARTERS: CRILLY: FITCH: FREEMAN: HICKEY: LINDSAY: PATTEN: WEBER: (also, added by Editor, due to muddle: HENLEY: DIAN PELZ: WESTON: WINSTONE:) The dues of Rosemary Hickey and Fred Patten will be automatically deducted from the listing below unless they advise me that their wishes are otherwise.

The following members have money credited to them by the Treasury: Blum(5/-); Hickey(7/-); Johnstone(7/-), Patten(£1.19.11d), Wells(14/-).

Mailing listsers please note that the Constitution states that the first year's dues are payable before a membership can be attained.

-rmb June 1965.

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

I, the undersigned, declare that the Editor of the Off Trail Magazine publishers' Association, whoever he may be, while handling any magazine published by me through that association, and doing so in his capacity as Editor of that Association, is acting solely as my agent, and bears no responsibility for the contents of the magazine. While accepting his right to remove from circulation any magazine which is in any way illegal or offensive and which may come to his notice as such, I declare that his failing to discover such illegality or offensiveness makes him in no way responsible for such illegality or offensiveness; nor does his deciding that a magazine is not illegal or offensive in any way make him responsible if such a magazine is at a later date proven or declared to be illegal or offensive.

Signed..... Date.....196.

Address.....
.....
.....
.....

Kindly sign and return the Association Editor. B.J. June '65

.....
THE WAITING LIST.

- Heinrich Arenz, 6000 Frankfurt 1, Postschliessfach 5002, Germany
- Mary Reed, 71 The Fairway, Banbury, Oxon.
- Steve Stiles, 207 W.80thSt., NewYork 24, NY, USA
- Gretchen Schwenn, PO Box305, El Cerrito, Calif. 94532, USA
- Steve Barr, Box 305, Nocona, Texas 76255, USA.
- Fred Lerner, 98-B, The Boulevard, EastPatterson, NewJersey 07407, USA

If Arenz, Reed, Stiles and Schwenn send thier dues to the Treasurer before the deadline, they're members as of the next mailing, and can send zines to go into that mailing. The same applies to Barr, if he sends credentials and dues, and Lerner if he sends activity. (Activity to AE). That fills all vacancies, anyone applying will now have to wait til the December mailing, or later. Please note that all waiting-list applicants should from now on pay their dues in advance, and that all new members must have six pages in the first available mailing.

166 Bailes, L. 1729 Lansdale Dr. CHARLOTTE N.Carolina 14284 USA	S5-00
130 Baxter, J. Box c39 Clarence St. PO, Sydney, NSW, Australia	out
5 Bennett,R. 52 Fairways Dr., Forest Lane, Harrogate, Yorks.	J6-12
163 Blum,B. 6 Frankfurt, Mertonstr. 28 Studentenhaus, Germany	xxM5-12
101 Burgess,B. 20 St. Albans Cresc., Bournemouth, Hants	S5-00
70 Burn,B. 12 Kyber Rd., Wellington, New Zealand	out
129 Busby,E. 2852 14th St., Seattle 99, Washington, USA	out
113 Carr,T. 41 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn 1, New York, USA	J6-12
168 Charters,G. 3 Lancaster Ave., Bangor, Co. Down, Ireland	xxM6-00
155 Crilly,L. 170 Reid St., Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201, USA	S5-12
112 Donaho,B. PO Box 1284, Berkeley, Calif. 94701, USA	J6-12
61 Eney,R. 6500 Ft.Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Virginia 22307, USA	J6-12
72 Evans,B. PO Box 86, Mt. Rainier, Maryland, USA	out
136 Fitch,D. 3908 Frijo, Covina, Calif, USA	xxJ6-17
156 Freeman,C. Ward 3, Scotton Banks Hosp., Knarcsborough, Yorkshire.	S5-00
55 Gray,R. 14 Bennington St., Cheltenham, Glos.	D5-06
172 Henley,B. 59 The Fearnings, Crabb's Cross, Redditch, Worcs.	xxS5-00
158 Hickey,R. 2020.Mohawk, Chicago, Illiniose 60614, USA	S5-00
144 Halc,D. 12 Belmont Rd., Wollscote, Stourbridge, Worcs.	out
162 Hulan,D. 19018 Bryant, Apt. 5, Northbridge, Calif, USA	xxM6-11
89 Jeeves,T. 30 Thompson Rd., Sheffield 11, Yorkshire	D5-00
110 Jordan,B. 25c Brocco Bank, Shoffield 11, Yorkshire.	J6-12
146 Johnstone,T. 619 S.Hobart Blvd, Los Angeles, Calif 90005, USA	D5-11
178 Katz,A. 98 Patton Blvd.,New Hyde Pa rk, New York 11043, US A	M6-12
31 Lindsay,E. Courage House,6Langley Ave, Surbiton, Surry.	S5-00
174 McFarland,D. No address. If all fails, Try Ethel Lindsay.	M6-12
173 Mann,R. B331 Bryan Hall, Michigan Univ, E.Lansing, Mich48823,USA	xxD5-12
16 Mercer,A. Seventy Worrall Road, Bristol eight.	J6-12
115 Metcalf,N. PO Box 336, Berkeley 1, Calif., USA	J6-12
157 Pa tten,F. 1825 Greenfield Ave., Los Angeles, Calif 90025, USA	S5-00
147 Parker,E. 43 Wm. Dunbar House, Albert Rd., London NW6	D5-12
127 Patriz io,J. 14 Pilgrim Close, Park St., St.Albans, Herts.	J6-12
143 Pelz,B. Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Calif 90024, USA	J6-12
171 Pelz,D. Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles, Calif 90024, USA	xxS5-00
165 Peters,I. 292 Southend Lane, London SE6	xxM6-00
142 Rogers,A. 5243 Rahlues Dr., Castro Valley, Calif, USA	out
30 Roles,J. 26 Pine Grove, Waterloo, Liverpool 22	J6-12
164 Schlueck,T. Hannover, Altenbekenor, Damm 10, W.Germany	xxM6-12
139 Studebaker,D. %Zimmer, RD1, Sagendorf Rd., E.Greenbush, N.York, USA	M6-00
153 Tribble,J. 5571 Belgrave Ave, Eastgate, Garden Grove, Calif 92641,USA	out
167 Weber,W. Box 632 Huntsville, Alabama, 35804 USA	xxJ6-24
138 Wells,C. Apt. 1, 200 Atlas St., Durham, N.Carolina 27701, USA	M6-12
169 Weston,P. 9 Porlock Cresc., Northfield, Birmingham 31	xxS5-00
170 Winstone,C. 71 George St., Erdington, Birmingham 23	xxS5-00
126 Schultz,D. 19151 Helen, Detroit, Michigan 48234, U SA	J6-12
000 Principal Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum, London.	00-00

J(unc,196)6 etc., is the last mailing you get, and 12 etc., is the number of pages due by the deadline for that mailing. People with unexpected dates and numbers, and marked with xx, see important notice at the end of the Editorial. Note that people marked "out" should be sent any postmailings to this mailing.