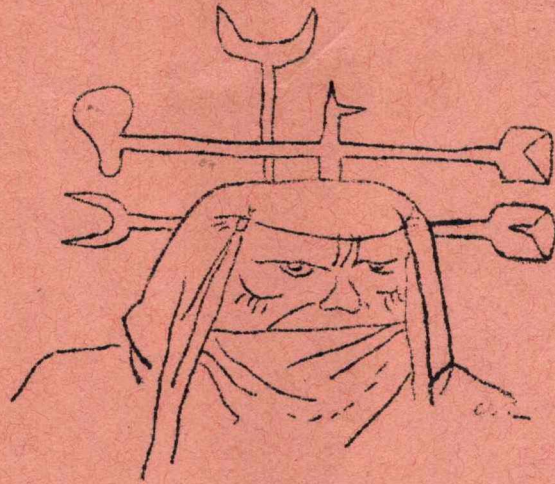
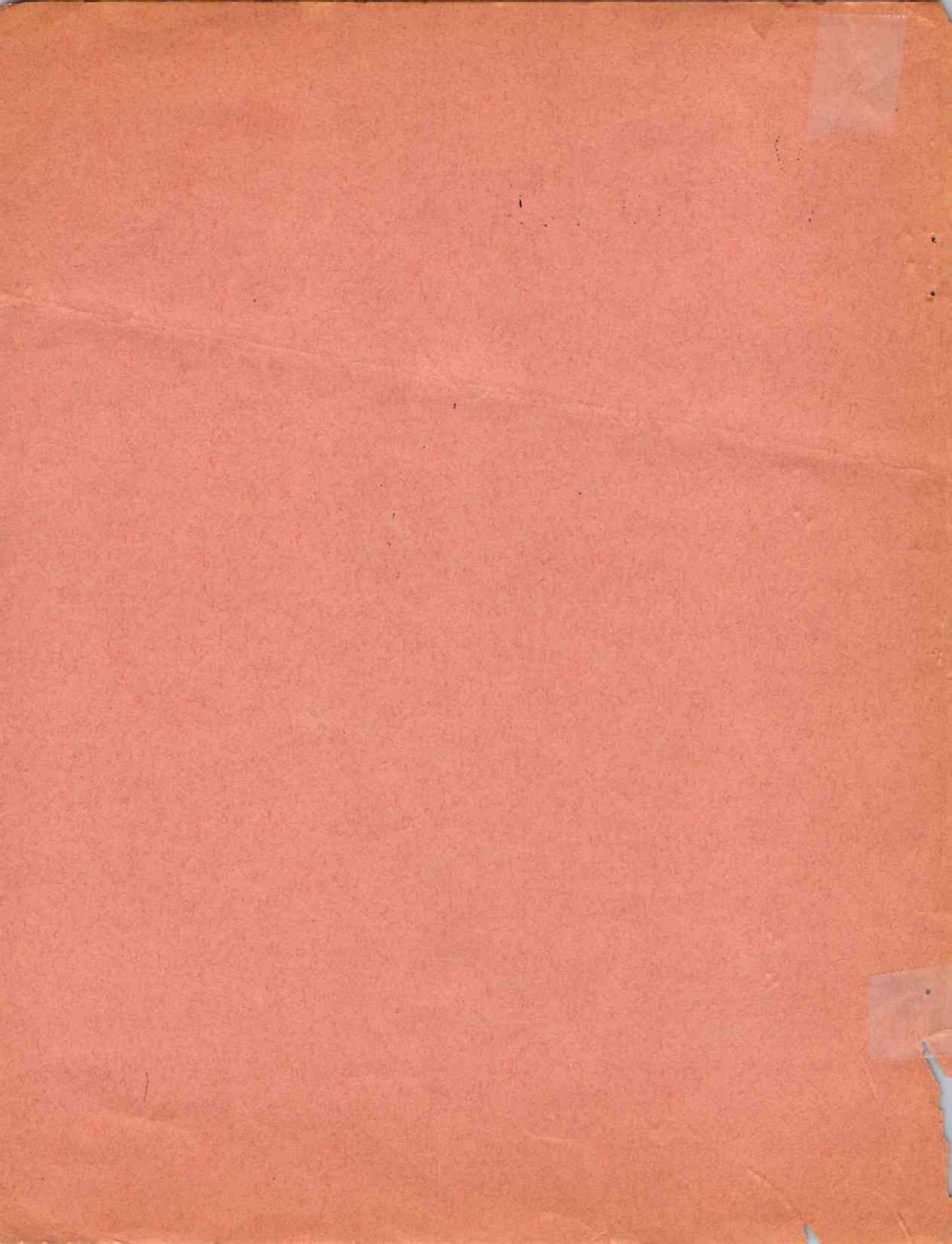


Wraith

NUMBER 21





W R A I T H

Wraith 21 Published May 1963 for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association by Wrai Ballard, Blanchard, North Dakota. Intended for the 103rd mailing. With this issue Wraith is old enough to smoke as anyone can plainly see if they strike a match to it...hey now don't get in such a rush, don't you want to see if there are any comments on your zine first? Jeeze what a bunch of eager fans.

Think this may just possibly be a small issue for the weather has double-crossed me. I think. Normally I could expect another month before starting to seed, and after a rugged winter like the one we've just finished (and which at times I expected to finish me) you'd expect a late spring. But no, March came in like a damn lamb and stayed that way all the time. This isn't as nice as it sounds for no snow and nice weather in March means dust storms. We always have winds, and usually enough snow or dampness to hold down the dust till the grass and crops grow and hold North Dakota together a little. Way it is people in Winnipeg are complaining about North Dakota trying to take over Canada. They say entirely too much of North Dakota has blown up into Canada recently.

Anyway if this zine is small that's my excuse. Unless the weather turns bad we will start getting ready for and doing spring work tomorrow. With normal luck it will be disasterous, but if things work out in unusual fashion I'll be able to work on the zine now and again. For reasons of my own I'd like 8 pages as a minimum and if there is less than that you can figure the situation was desperate.

I've got a desperate feeling anyway. Betty and Gene Kujawa are flying to the Westercon and invited me along. There's always a chance that work will let me go, but the chances are slim and such a chance makes me pay more attention to the weather and how things are growing. Life was more simple before I started thinking maybe I could go to some convention. In those days I took it for granted I couldn't go and it made no difference when we started haying...now though I find myself trying to apply body-english on the weather.

Taff and according to the issue of Cry I got a few days ago, only Wally Weber is a candidate. Hope they find someone to run against him to make it a legal contest, but for winning, I choose Wally. He qualifies on all grounds...for service to that nebulous thing known as fandom, and just as a person it is fun to know. Trouble is a lot of people in Fapa do not know him very well...but in that case just ask anyone who does know Wally or who has had dealings with him. It may sound trite, but to know Wally is to be enthusiastically in his favor. He'd make an excellent Taff Candidate.

Man! the things a man has to say to keep his friends from breaking his neck! Most my friends are violently for Wally. I am too, but I like to let them think they can successfully threaten me.

BIG BARGAIN BONANZA!!! GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE!!! REDUCING INVENTORY SALE!!!

Argosy magazines... around 500 issues from 1931 through 1940. Several hundred sf zines including the first half dozen years of Galaxy..of the first years of F&SF plus various things such as Weird Tales from the 40's. Plus zines going back to the late 1930's. Reasonable offers in bulk buying considered (I'm reasonable mean.) Buy from me and start your own bookselling business.

The Fantasy Amateur 102 Seems nice to have the WL move. Was so overcome at the thought of some fellow at the end of the WL actually being able to become hopeful again, I felt like using the "Waiting lister to be dropped" segment of my poll sheet. Didn't of course, but have been wondering what foul thing we can do to get more to drop...for those who will not stick it out deserve their fate, I says bloodthirstily.

Qurp 2 Ron, how often do you get a chance to see American currency being used? How often has the problem of converting values arisen? Around here no one would know much about converting currency from US to UK values because it is never needed. The only time I've seen a Pound note was when Berry showed me one he had, and he showed that only because Bloch had signed it. This rendered it valueless as a medium of exchange though of great value to Berry. At the time the fact that Bloch had signed it so impressed Berry I wouldn't have asked what its comparative value would be...he'd just say "Priceless!"

Vandy 17 Most the time you can get a table out of any door, but we have problems too. When we rebuilt part of this house we put in smaller windows and as a result the only way we can get a double bed out of one of the back rooms will be to saw it in half. That is the spring would have to be sawed in half. Same thing with the Freezer. When remodeling we filled in the door in came in through, and now about the only way we can get it into another room might be to take out the sink. There is a faint chance it could go out by taking it through the living room and out the front room door and then try get it in through the back door. Only trouble is we moved that door from the North to the East side of the house and put in a slightly smaller door and I'm not sure this big freezer could make it. Seems we just have to figure on living here the rest of our lives for we can't move out.

Unlikely as it might seem this year we could look out of the window almost any day and see absolutely no snow. I'd get a little snow, usually in a Blizzard, but the Blizzard would wear the snow out so by the time it stopped blowing there was no snow left. A peculiar year. Cold enough though.

Mr. Tucker, if you run for Vice-President of SAPS, I'll vote for you. I appreciate harsh officers.

Target: Fapa My objection isn't as much to wearing a coat and tie as to being told I must wear one. At Seattle it wasn't required, but I did wear coat and tie and so did most. In Chicago I missed a lot of the speeches because the combination of heat, humidity and Coat and tie got too much for me. Like Buz anything tight around my neck bothers me.

It would have been interesting if I had included more conversation in my con-report. Much more interesting, perhaps but for a number of reasons it would be impossible. For one thing my memory would be a little unreliable and for another thing much of what I best remember was told in (presumably) confidence. Wish I had tapes for my own use though.

But...I thought it was illegal to register in any other false name than Forrest J. Ackerman.

Perian Coffee...phoey. Once I drank around 15 cups a day, now one for Breakfast is all I can take.

Fringe 3 Pardon me if I quote from my Sapszine, Outsiders 24 which was published in July, 1956. No quote marks but it came from a Songs and Snatches column. Oh heck, let's use a couple quote marks so they'll wear down evenly with the rest of my type.

"One of my favorite magazines is one sent to me by one of my favorite people. No, not a Science Fiction magazine. It is entitled THE GUN REPORT and is pretty close to being the slick paper fanzine of the gun collecting crowd. Beautifully printed with fine pictures and interesting articles on guns and cartridges. For example the last issue I got has an article on the Lewis and Clark Air Gun, one they used on their expedition and one that was mentioned a number of times in the records of that expedition. Now an airgun sounds like Lewis was using a bee bee gun but nothing could be further from the truth. Back then they did have some very powerful air guns, and this one was powerful enough that one time when it looked as though he'd have to fight to defend himself, Lewis told of being prepared to defend himself with his pistol, his rifle and his airgun. So it is evident he thought it sufficiently powerful to be of use in defense. Some years ago I saw an article on tests made on some very old airguns and with these guns the first 10 or more shots from a full chamber would, when fired at a steel plate, flatten their lead slug to a thin disc. In this article about the Lewis gun they also showed pictures of others, including an air pistol which when tested held pressures up to 3500 feet per square inch before the reservoir failed. These guns were not toys, but since they used in excess of 300 strokes of the pump to charge, they weren't especially handy, even though they'd fire quite a few shots on one charge and still have a lot of power.

Lewis tells of the time, shortly after leaving Pittsburgh, when he wanted to try out this airgun for the first time. He fired 7 shots at 55 yards with good success and then another fellow in handling the gun accidentally discharged it. The ball cut through the hat of a woman about 40 yards away, causing her to fall instantly with blood gushing from her temple. They thought her dead, but in a minute she revived and on examination they found the wound not mortal or even dangerous."

The rest of the article got away from air guns and to the problems overcome in building the mine that resulted in the "Crater" during the civil war. Only connection was there being an article on that in the magazine too. It was a good magazine.

Have done a fair amount of shooting with Crossman air pistols...the old pump up style, then a CO² model and finally with a single-six that was used for quick draw shooting. A lot of the shooting was done with the CO² model in a garage which only allowed a 15 foot range and our main trouble was with home made targets which ore so badly it was a little hard to score since most shots would stay inside a 3/4 inch circle. The single six was nearly as accurate, and when we were doing a lot of that type shooting my scores with regular revolvers or pistols were quite good. They are fun to shoot and good experience.

Burblings 12 Odd that two people should talk of Pneumatic guns in the same mailing. Think I've used the same model Benjamin you had, for I don't remember cocking it and do remember dropping the shot down the barrel. At the time I preferred my Daisy for it was so seldom that anyone could get BBs they were just used in playing cowboy anyway and a Daisy seemed to fit the part.

Pooh 1 Why was Rocketeers Have Hairy Ears such a good stf story? It really was not stf and I've read a dozen stories much like it in general fiction zines. Still ever since it appeared in Planet Stories I've remembered it as one of my favorite stf stories.

Revolting Development The idea of being put up for auction at a convention is enough to make me think twice about going. Or twice about not going. Would cause too much trouble for the con committee when any foolish purchaser demands the money back. Might possibly get to the Westercon this year though...they don't do things like auctions though there is supposed to be some program for some unexplainable reason.

A few years ago my brother and I made a vacation trip around lake Michigan and agreed the town with the best looking and best built girls was Holland, Michigan which shows you know me even if you do think I look like a car salesman type. But the friendliest and most easy-to-talk-to girls were at Saugatuck.

Phantasy Press 40 Thanks again for the report. It always comes in handy when making out the poll for it is too easy to vote on what someone has done in some other period than the one on which we are supposed to be voting. With 29 people hitting the first mailing of the period, 36 the 2nd, 42 the 3rd and 15 the 4th we averaged 30½ active per mailing which means less than 50% activity. That means this current mailing is right about average.

Bill Danner did leave a gap in the membership, but I hope some of you will remember him with your extra zines. He'd appreciate hearing from you that way, I'm sure, and since I feel he made a mistake by dropping, I'd like to see it rubbed in by letting him see what he is missing.

Hope to continue more active too Dan'l but it will be easier if we don't make Papa any larger. Now with about 30 people represented in each mailing it is about as much as a fellow can handle...put in 10 new eager type fans and it could reach the point of diminishing returns.

The Rambling Fap 32 Real life isn't like TV and if more examples of this show up I'm going to become disillusioned. On TV they always drive up with their sirens going to give the culprit a chance to get his gun loaded and in a position to be ready to fight them off. Only show that didn't do this was Dragnet. Had already decided that TV Detective shows were phoney though for I've not yet seen one TV show where they caught the culprit by tracking him in the fresh snow and locally that's about the only way they catch anyone. In summer our local police are helpless.

Lately my best shooting has been with a .45 Colt Automatic too. I like that weapon. As for the old Frontier type revolvers I was more erratic with them, but when he was home my brother carried one all the time on the farm..shot it some every day and did things like killing a jack rabbit at 95 yards, hitting it twice in 5 shots(a 32/20)Even using the old Cap & Ball Revolvers we used to drop balls close enough to a rock at a couple hundred yards to make it a rather strong possibility that the luck would be against anyone who was trying to hide there. A lot of this hitting would be luck, but the guns are accurate enough that you can expect to be lucky or unlucky(depending on if you are shooting at or being shot at.)

This gag of not being able to hit anyone with a pistol at more than 10 yards at first...you can ask Elinor for one about that...she was hitting a 2 lb coffee can with the Derringer at nearly that far the first time she ever shot a handgun.

Know the target pistol you talked of though not the name. A fellow was shooting one when Jim Webbert and I were shooting at the range outside of Seattle. Nice to see you with a zine in the mailing again.

Horizons 93 You came close to having the largest zine this mailing too...only 4 were larger and of two of those 4 were only a cover larger. What was even more startling last mailing was Wraith being the second largest zine. That was an added shock, but after recovering a little, I liked the mailing. We can use a few more small mailings like that. Enough of them might even help the WL to dwindle a little for I fear more than a few are on for the amount of zines they can get, rather than anything else.

Hope my convention reports will help you to enjoy a convention, for based on the results, I'd say I must have accidentally stumbled on the correct formula for enjoying conventions. As for the program at Chicago, the only reason I know about it was because they mentioned it in the Convention Booklet and a few other people mentioned it at times.

Some day soon I'll look again and see if I don't still have the correspondence dealing with the early days of the ISFCC. I could tell you a little about it, but if I didn't have the evidence in writing, completely documented, you'd only think me too imaginative to believe. If you think the known history is hard to believe you should see what was going on underneath. As an example at one time I was nearly president of the ISFCC because I seemed to be the only fellow both factions would agree on...and then became an object of mistrust by both because they felt if I was acceptable to the other faction, there must be some dirty work afoot. It was exciting in those days. Man I hope I still have that mail.

Project Fan Club...Nan Gerding may be able to help you on this for she should remember what it did (Mentioned here to remind both Nan and Harry for I keep forgetting to mention it in individual letters to either of them.)

Come to think of it now, in speaking of the ISFCC, I don't think a history of the early days can be written. There's laws against such things.

Este Acceleration of a student can help even though he may not be much above average in intelligence. I learned fairly fast when young and in the first grade did excellently because the teacher put 4 of us in a special class which had more advanced reading and other studies. My first grade marks were very good. Second grade we were all one class and while I did well enough they weren't as good as in the 1st grade. Did the third and fourth grades in a one room school and most my classes were from material of classes one to three years ahead of me. My marks were excellent. Back here to regular classes I did well in the 5th grade, and then with just the regular classes slipped back till my high school marks were just a little above the class average. It wasn't just me for I know of a number whose IQ would beat mine who did no better or not as good, and the ones who did get the top marks were often those who were if anything slightly slow at learning.

My first Mimeograph was the old Heyers and I think I paid less than \$22. for it back around 1951. Possibly under \$20. Wish I had it now for I got much better mimeoing with it than I do with the one used now.

Alif 17 Nope I had to buy my copy of The Girl, The Gold Watch, And Everything. So they don't send them to everyone in Fapa. That wouldn't be such a bad idea though for I suspect a company with a good stf book could pick up enough votes on the Hugo poll by making sure everyone in Fapa read it to make it worth the cost as advertising. Right now I'd like a special Hugo for the people (or a special award) for the people who are bringing back the ER Burroughs books in PB form. One book, The Monster Men, deserves an award as the worse book ever published.

Sarcos's Bane #15 Odd, when fans "adjust" the numbering of their zines, we so often skip the 13th issue. It is just a coincidence of course for who is that superstitious?

Yeah the Fapa WL is finally beginning to move, and I think maybe Ruth Berman has played like a female Machiavelli in an attempt to make it move faster. It is a tricky one, but when the Martin deal seemed almost settled and some members cooled off...we'll see the results of her vote...not the results that will let Martin in or out, but the results on the members who had a violent involvement in this affair in the past. I think Ruth, beneath her innocent exterior, is someone we'll have to watch.

A cover on a mailing every 50 mailings might be too much, but we could have a cover on any mailing that goes over 1000 pages, since the first page doesn't have room to list it all anyway and we should hide our shame (Quantity is not etc.) (Man I love that kind of talk.)

Ever notice this campaign on TV to help us boy Blonde watchers? They keep asking "Do Blondes really have more fun?" with the inference that they do, and then help our side more by having the girl dye her hair blonde and having a great deal more fun. We should find the fellow that does those ads and give him an honorary membership.

Salud 15 That's a good idea...every fan must write at least two letters a week for a month after the convention. Yes, every fan. Elinor, weren't you unusually tired before the convention? You didn't seem to have your usual vitality the first days and in fact I'd say swung a little better as the convention progressed. Most likely you were looking forward to things too much and when they didn't follow your script it was a let down. There were really too many people at the convention, so many that for some time it was impossible to get the feeling you were really there with most of them. You may have a point about not getting the cold if you'd been having more fun...while I had every opportunity for a bad cold, it didn't hit me till I was safely home. Before that I was cheerful even down to my cold germs.

Thank you for my character analysis and the explanation why you feel you can know how I think. I hope it is true. Oddly enough much of what you said about me would apply to you..perhaps all, and to Buz as well. I suspect that's why I appreciate it so much.

Tsk, gal you corrected your issue numbers without a fan fare...don't you know you are supposed to cover up the shame of it all by making a lot of noise?

Ankus 6 Argument on charging a buck a year for the FA was that we are selling a service, not a magazine. That listing of names in the roster and WL gives a quarterly and up to date listing of the addresses of a major part of active fandom. Beyond that think how many hours of enjoyment a WL member can get from pouring over the roster and WL figuring which are shaky, which are about to go into gafia, the percentage of those who will slip up....life would become dull if it weren't for all this.

Badli 14 Nice to see you in a mailing again and if you are serious about running for the OE job let me know and I'll make a noise in your behalf. We can make a deal, I'll support you if you run for the OE job if you'll promise to never support me if I run for OE

Psi-Phi 8 Gary you just got into the NFFF at the wrong time. When I first joined back in '47 there wasn't such an organized Welcomittee, but several members introduced me to others and the correspondence was enthusiastic, interesting and lengthy. Most all of them had typers and for years I jokingly said anything I wrote or recieved that was under 4 single-spaced typerwritten pages was a note, not a letter. In later years I shortened that to 2 pages, but for many years some highly enjoyable correspondenece grew out of the NFFF. I tried again quite a few years later and did run into a little of the "half page on note type paper" type thing, but even a few of those correspondences took off for a short spurt of high interest. All this was, of course during the days when I was at my peak as a fan and even more as a correspondent. I still have a number of very good friends and steady and spasmodic correspondence that did start from the ISFCC or NFFF. For years, rather for a while I used to raid the NFFF or ISFCC and come out bloody and bored, but with one or two people who became very good friends.

You give Joan Cleveland as a bad example..but there are several of us in Fapa who will raise an eye-brow at that. She did talk some about her family especially when just getting acquainted, but I suspect you caught her early in her fan career, and the difference in age and interests was just too much. Several of us will remember her as writing long letters(well short long letters...long by present standards but not too long by old time ones when a long letter meant over 10 pages)and with a range of interests...including an interest in Esp. At the time I was writing a couple dozen of us were doing experiments for Rhine and I must say in her defense, that I think she generally scored the highest of all who did that testing. I still hear from her every year or two. Currently she s doing some advanced schooling and working in a school for retarded children. Must also say that she never mentioned you in any way, far as I know. You just didn't try hard enough to annoy, I fear.

Bob, a goose instead of a handshake might be an interesting alternative, but somehow I don't consider it a totally satisfactory arrangement. We ll have to give more thought to the subject.

Null F 32 Interesting Dream Walter. I mentioned it to Betty Kujawa and figuring that my "wife" in your dream would be around 32 in 1987, she felt she had just the the girl for me. The girl is just a year old now, but Betty says if she grows up to resemble her Chinese mother she ll be just right. I think it a pretty good advertisement for vitamins if in 1987 or some later I have a 32 year old wife and a family including a 7 year old boy. Still it figures, I am pretty slow.

Horatio Alger was a mence...wonder how many innocent kids went to a big city and proved an easy mark just because they felt it was the thing to expect..some strange man to take a real interest in you and take you in as a companion? (In digging through an old trunk recently I found some Horatio Alger books. I worry about that man.)

Spinnaker Reach 1 Err...Saying the reason for going to a convention was so you could go home and talk about it was a mock serious gag based on the lack of mail after the convention when I thought a convention would have the other fans as enthusic as I. There seemed a connection between the abrupt slow down of mail and the convention, but honest I do a thing usually for the enjoyment I get while doing it. In fact doing a zine like this is one of the few things I do for later enjoyment..I very much enjoy getting it done.

Celephais Bill, this is all I'm going to do for a zine. Too spring to work more at one.

