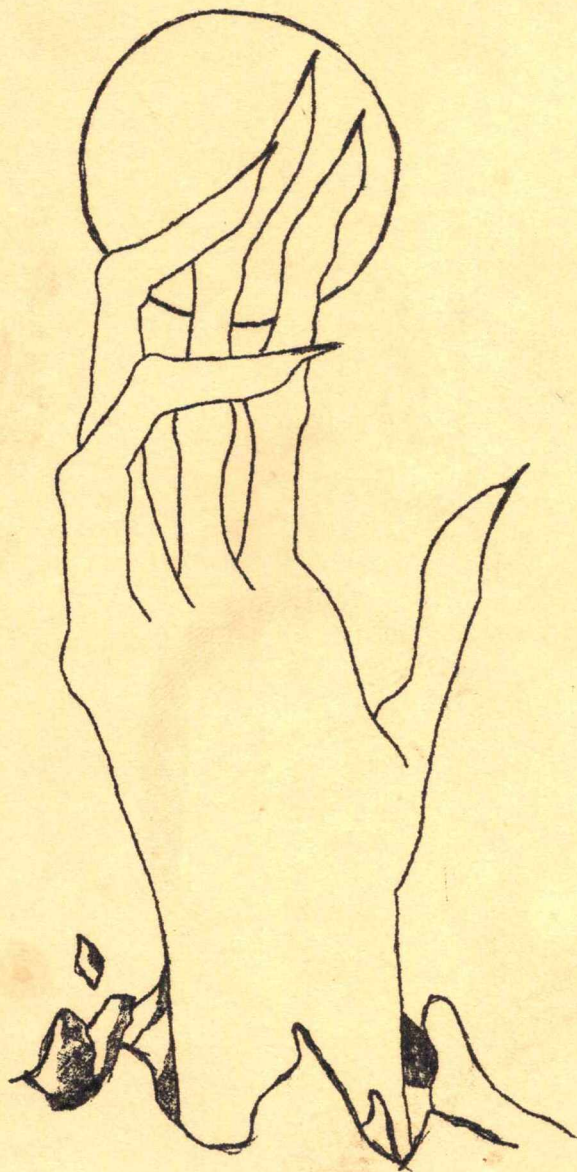


YELLOWWEED  
MEMORIES



STEVE  
VANCE



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Hello my friends. I hope, that with a little luck, you'll be reading this in DAGON #3 instead of #4. Despite timely urgings by Roger, I have just been so busy that I haven't had time to do much of anything in the line of a well planned contribution for DAGON. I regret that I am forced to do nothing but mailing comments as there are many more interesting things that I would rather do. Included in these are a piece of fiction and possibly an interview/article with a friend of Clark Ashton Smith. And there will be more. However, I hope none of you will judge too harshly on this initial contribution and will wait for later efforts before making up your minds about my abilities. My perusal of the first two DAGON mailings led me to conclude that the level of quality is incredibly (and unbelievably) high and I hope that I will be able to produce material worthy of inclusion in this notable apa.

You'll note that my comments regarding the first two mailings of DAGON are somewhat informal and that I refer to everyone on a first name basis. No disrespect is intended in this, but instead a show of friendship. I found out in APANAGE (another apa that I'm in), that referring to people on a first name basis makes for a friendlier atmosphere and overall mood. Shoot, if you can't enjoy what you're doing, why be here at all? And by looking at the first two DAGONS, I know I'm going to enjoy this apa, and the people in it, for a long long time to come.

ROGER: I don't think you should pattern DAGON to closely after SAPS. True, SAPS has been running for 25+ years, but that doesn't necessarily mean that its rules would work for DAGON. Take the 'prior circulation' rule: SAPS which is largely a social apa would need such a rule as members might be tempted to run though similar material that had seen print elsewhere. Most of the people in DAGON are rather new to apas and would not be likely to do this (and the material that has seen prior circulation...with the exception of stuff in currently available fanzines...would be quite rare, and, I think, worth seeing). And the requirement that 3 of the 4 pages be the person's own writing...is a great idea for SAPS (which is socially oriented), but not for DAGON (which is oriented towards Lovecraft and weird fiction). I'd much prefer to see obscure quotes and similar things, than I would mere chatter. Certainly chatter is nice, but that isn't the reason we're here. As the word about DAGON gets out I imagine you will get quite a few request for copies on a continuing basis from people who are interested in Lovecraft but are unwilling to join. I would suggest raising the price of copies to these people, both as a means of getting them to join as well as making the treasury larger. I was surprised that DAGON #1 (with 16 duplicate copies) sold out so soon and would not be surprised to find that #2 was sold out at this date either. I kind of favor Dirk's motion, but I think that you could just as easily solve this problem by giving one issue extensions to people who ask for and deserve

them. I really like the OO's physical appearance, but why do you list it as the last contribution on the contents page, yet put it at the front of the apa? I'd much rather see it listed as the first contribution on the contents page as this would make matters less confusing (I could be alone...but it seems to my mind that the OO is perpetually out of place and this annoys me slightly). Finally, I want to thank you for the fast (and many) replies to my inquiries. From what I've seen thus far, you've done a superior job as OE and except for a few minor quibbles (which are just that), I don't see how anyone could do a better job(though I'm sure that if Meade wins the election, he'll certainly give it a very good try and may surprise us both).

KEN: You can get a good used mimeograph real cheap if you hunt around in obscure places for a while. I bought a used Rex-Rotary at a used furniture store for \$11 (it printed this zine) and another Rex (my backup machine) at a Goodwill store for \$9. Had I purchased them new or used from an authorized dealer I would have been charged much, much more, but because I took my time and looked around, I was rewarded with two good bargains. I was aware that comic book editor Schwartz had acted as an agent for several SF writers in times past (Ray Bradbury is the one author that comes directly to my mind), but your revelation that he sold 'At The Mountains of Madness' by HPL to Astounding comes as a total surprise. I quite enjoyed your rambling history of Providence and the background on HPL and his ancestors as it filled in a great deal that I didn't know. Thanks mucho.

DAVID: 'The Friar's Tale' was quite interesting and quite enjoyable, once I was able to get through the archaic Olde English that you employed in telling the story. True, it couldn't have been done any other way and while you more than succeeded in what you set out to do, that archaic english was almost too much to overcome, James Faulkenberg's art went a long way in making your tale successful (in terms of providing appropriate images and breaking up large unsightly blocks of text) and he is to be congratulated for his fine efforts. You did a good job, James.

CLAIRE: Pages 1 and 2 impressed me little but your history of the Futile Press (how did that name originate? Or am I asking an obvious question?), was both informative and impressive. I'm only sorry that you didn't produce more pages so that you could have put the entire story of the Futile Press in this issue of the Bush Work Enquirer, instead of spreading it over several issues. I hope that you can get better repro, for the pages of the BWE smear too easily.

FRED: The Dark Bride was just too predictable for me to really enjoy, but the story of Darkham House was such a delightful parody, that I couldn't help but enjoy it. Even though 'An Eldritch Carol' was quite predictable, this made the story vastly more enjoyable due primarily to the absurdity of the situation and the



fact that it was intentionally obvious. You use colored ditto masters quite well, but you'd better watch out for those green and blue masters...they can mess you up when you least expect it.

MEADE: I can't say too much about your fiction other than the plot was interesting and the writing tended to be too dull. This might have been your purpose in that it was building in some way to the ending, but as you neglected to finish the story, one really can't say. I hope you plan to finish future stories in one issue, because there's nothing quite as frustrating as a half finished Lovecraftian story, and makes judging the unfinished fragment nigh impossible. It's nice to know that this apa has two able and well-qualified candidates for OE so that no matter who wins, DAGON will be in excellent hands.

HARRY: Those were great collages and the coloring shows exactly what you can do when you have an offset press at your disposal. I wish I had something like that to work with, but I guess I'll have to content myself with my old M-2 Rex mimeograph. Grump.

BEN: I was extremely impressed by The Road To Dunwich for it was completely successful in suggesting a creeping and inevitable horror that just kept building and building and building. NIGHT GALLERY tried to do the same thing as you (with their continuous building etc...), but rarely succeeded as you succeeded. The mood was perfect as was the writing style (I could almost believe it to have been written by a poor ignorant farmer whose use of english was neither elaborate or professional). The power with which the story was endowed was so great, that after reading it, I found myself emotionally exhausted and virtually unable to engage in any intellectual pursuits until the effects of what I had read wore off. Your story was too real and too convincing and it's a real credit to you that this was your first attempt at fiction. Even the printing of your zine (which was poor) seemed to fit in and add to the realness of your story (I could almost expect a poor ignorant farmer to get his zine reproduced in such a manner). E. Vernon Smith's painting was quite appropriate, though I must confess that he didn't make the road to Dunwich look sinister enough, though from what the story implied, the road did have several pleasant aspects (which were of course misleading the net effect of this was to make his painting all the more effective). Congratulations on a fine effort which was easily the best fiction in DAGON #1 and if this sort of high quality product continues to appear (as I know it will) I imagine I'll be around in DAGON for a long time.

BILL: Tallahassee's newsstands have yet to see copies of the new WEIRD TALES (and probably never will) and I fear that this speaks poorly for the magazine's fate. Sad, but if you can't get your product distributed, no matter how good or sought after it is, you won't make a profit. That was a very interesting account of visiting Providence and was enough to whet my appetite until I can get up there myself (to say nothing of answering my questions about



as to how many of HPL's old haunts remain.

BOB: While this issue is little more than mailing comments, I am planning for a larger and more elaborate zine, next issue. Probably I'll have my piece of fiction ready by then and will have other miscellaneous tidbits to go along with it. As I can do my own printing, I can print up as many extra copies as you would like to handle (in advance please! While I save my old stencils, dragging them out to reprint can be a real hassle). That is, assuming you want to handle my zine.

RANDY: To say that I almost fell over when I found out (through the HPL letter that you printed) that HPL voted for Tallahassee as the NAPA Convention site, would be understating the matter slightly. Knowing the little about Tallahassee history that I do, I can safely say that it was a rather small town that didn't have all that much to recommend it. And when you consider how out-of-the-way it was and how little people traveled in those days, I wonder how it was nominated in the first place. Do you have any information as to whether Tallahassee won or not and if so, where the convention was held? Though almost all of downtown Tallahassee (and many of the old buildings and houses in other parts of the city) have been razed in recent years, there is a possibility that the convention building might still be standing (assuming a convention was held here which is quite unlikely). The information about HPL's sex life was very interesting, but not unlike what I would have expected from HPL.

DIRK: The Miskatonic Literary Circle sounds fascinating and since we are quite close together, perhaps a visit to a Circle meeting in the near future would not be too difficult to arrange. Your zines certainly have answered the question of what new ways can we look at HPL. Regardless of what one thinks of your conclusions, they have to admit that you tried something that was not only quite different, but beyond the scope of many of us. Still your lengthy critiques were too academic (almost to the point of boredom) and could have been more informal. I hope that your fiction doesn't utilize this academic style, otherwise your fiction may sound more like a paper than fiction.

JOE: Thanks for the info on DAGON way back when. Half-sized ditto zines are difficult things to read and tricky things to bind, so please go back to your regular size. When you really think about it, t'would appear that Moamrath was a trifle too prolific.

I did have a few more comments to make, but at present seem to have run out of room to make them. Since the old deadline is threatening away, I guess I'd better get these pages printed up and to Roger, else I'll be back on the waiting list (and possibly due for a long wait-that I wouldn't like. So, until next time my friends...

Best...

9-20-73

Rich.

