July 25, 1953

Fellow Fen.

This is to allay any suspicions you might have had that MOTE was no longer among the living --- and its editor likewise.

Firstly--- the main reason that you haven't as yet received your copy of the MOTE Annish is that it hasn't been mailed. fact, it hasn't all been dittood yet.

And secondly --- the reason you haven't received a letter from me during the past month or two is because I haven't written any.

Now all this is caused by a number of things. Host important is the fact that summer is the busiest time in my work (which is a bookkeeper for a wholesale fruit and grocery company). I've had very little spare time to devote to anything during the past few months. Also, the summer season has brought on an increase in non-farmish activities. And finally, the hot weather isn't doing my onthusiasm any good. Which is all just a long-winded way of saying that I haven't had much time to devote to fannish activities lately.

What can be done about ??? Not much, at present, I'm afraid. All of these things will pass in time (I hope) and then I can spend more time on my zine and correspondence. Until then, I'm just going to slug along as best I can (which ion't very good, I'll admit) and try to get the most done with the time available.

(I guess I should have contioned before too that my fannish confederate here, one Ray Thompson by name, has been out of town for a coupla months. He's back now, and maybe he'll provide sufficient inspiration to spur me on.)

As I said before, I haven't finished the Aumish yet. I'm hoping desperately to got it in the mail within a week or two, but I'm definitely not making any promises. It will have first call on my spare time. though, until it is finished. After that, I hope to start right in on issue #6, so as to get back on my publishing schedule. I have an overflow of material from the Annish to fill it so the only problem will be time.

Along with working on #8, I'll try to start answering some of that mound of letters that have accumulated here. I will definitely answer them, but when is another thing. Thanks to those who have continued writing to me despite my silence. It's approciated.

And sincere apologies to several fan-eds to whom I had promised some art-work (sc-called). It will probably be some time before I can fulfill those promises.

This is being will look and mailed to about 30 of my correspondents. Nuch engler that trying to write 30 individual letters. At least it'll let you in w that I'm still alive and interested.

Till I'm able to write further, then .... Beb Testroppely

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