



HEY OLAF?
COME BACK?
THIS IS HOME?

ENVOY 13
K M P CHESLIN
18, New Farm Rd.
Stourbridge,
Worcs., ENGLAND
OMPA.



Kens' Col.

So I got this bit of paper and I wrote on it these words;-

" OMPA.....Waiting List....all members who wish to send wls their zine are invited to join WOMPA.

Plan is to save postage. You send your zines to AE who mails the WOMPA bundles - then bills members for postage, assessed as a %age of the whole cost, reckoned on the number of sheets posted. (ie;- if you have 12% of the total sheets mailed out, you pay 12% of the postage) purely voluntarilly"

So I showed it to Ella and she ran away. The next thing I knew she had come back with a bundle of cOMPACTs (no.1) and these, together with the just duplicated cOMPACT 2s, she gave to me saying something like "Its a good idea, I'll join".

Me an' Dave have usually mailed out wl copies together, and I send J M Baxters extras out too, when there are extras, I don't know that there will be any this time around.

I don't know that the scheme would work for US types, it wouldn't save you much postage as most of the wls are living in the US anyhow....but any English OMPAns.....Archie?.

The trouble with a thing like this is the AE. Now I don't mind doing this WOMPA thing even if I'm not AE next time....but it wouldn't be much of a saving to you lot, you'd have to mail 2 bundles. And, seeing that this WOMPA idea was mine, that is, in addition to the normal AEs work, mayhap the next AE, or the one after, or the one after that, may not want to take it on. I don't think it right that it should be written into the constitution as one of the AEs jobs. The only thing for it, as far as I can see, is that every time there is a new AE someone will have to ask him to state officially whether or no he will continue WOMPA.

Number of copies to be sent in is up to the sender. We could of course make a rule that 10 copies be the standard. So if the wl shrinks there will be spare copies, if it increases the wls over 10 position will have to be mailed personally, like we do now.

Of course, the AE has to mail OT to all wls anyway, so perhaps we'll be OK....

Having nothing else to say on the subject..that I can think of at the moment anyway, I may as well pack up. The reason I'm bding so longwinded is that I want to fill this space up. See?.

OK, that'll do... (tho' I could have used it to say that this is ENVOY 13, from K M P Cheslin, 18 New Farm Road, Stourbridge, Worcs., England, for the June 1963 OMPA Mailing, but its too late now so I won't) ... ken.

I was up at Tonys' place the other night and somehow it came about that I was telling him about the night at the con when they did the "Birth of Elric" thing....you know, all take it in turn to bash out a few lines, oneshot-like. Anyhow, this resulted in Tony and I typing out the following two items.... The first is this untitled one....

"Where am I?"

"Epping Forest, Why do you ask?"

"Well, its nice to know these things" said Brutus feverishly.

"Say, I recognise you". said the Centurion, "You're that Brutus chap who did so well in the games last year. Won a tidy sum off the Emperor didn't you?. Mind you, I didn't approve of you killing him off, even if he was a wolver...."

"Yes, it was rather a pity, but you know how it is. Let one get away with it and they all want to be let off"

"Can I have your autograph?"

Brutus ignored the clutching hands and outstretched parchment.

"Not today, got a lot of things to do you know....there's this Bouediccia wench I has to see....by the way, can you direct me to the local post office?"

"Don't be stupid, they haven't been invented yet. (Thank God)."

"How in hell do you get your letters delivered then?"

"I never write letters. Why don't you send a telegram?"

"Telegram, Shmeligram, who's got money for things like that?"

"Thats true. It wasn't so bad when it was only a bob a leuge, but now they only accept gold. That bloke over there might help you, he's not the ordinary bob-a-jobber though, he's a Talent Scout."

"CUT!".....shouted the Director..Thats fine, print it.

"Don't be silly, with all those dirty words in it, it would never get past the Lord Chancellor".

"Maybe, but think of the fun we'll have seeing it before the cuts are made".

"Talking about cuts, whatever happened to that mad Frenchman, De Lessops and his hairbrained talk about a canal from the Med to the Red sea?"

"Which only goes to show" muttered the Director, "as Ceasar said, 'that was the unkindest cut of all'".

"Isn't it" said the Centurion, sadly folding away his autograph parchment. "By the way, what are all you lot doing here, you know that natives aren't allowed out after curfew?"

Roaring with laughter, they all climbed into the bus and roared off into the night, leaving the "Centurian", (one Fred Snidge, bit-part player) all alone on the empty set.

"Aw, to hell with it" cried Fred, and, drawing a pocket sized Z-bomb from his...Pocket!...he disintegrated the Universe.

CUT, said THE DIRECTOR.....

and then.....pto.....

So Tony said, "We need a title". "There's a newspaper" "Oh, hum... how about...."

WASHINGTONS TOP

as a title? he said. "Ok."

I replied. So here we are.

Jabez Higgs of the 1st New York Foot & Mouth stared moodily into his campfire. "Its cold, he remarked, "Damned cold".

Considering that the temperature was 90° in the shade, this was a surprising remark, to say the least.... But on the other hand Jabez Higgs had been through alot, he'd Suffered.

At Valley Forge, at Rules Crossing, he'd been in the front line, always in the front line...admitted we were making a strategic, but fast, withdrawal at the time. Nevertheless, he'd suffered, there was the time, for instance.....

Jabez shook his head. Some things were too painful to remember. "If only it weren't so cold" he thought.

Suddenly there was a scream in the darkness behind him, Like a startled deer Jabez sprang to his feet as, out of the soggy gloom, there appeared the shape of the Sargent.

"Where's Fred?"

"Fred?, Fred?, who?" quavered Jabez, in his best military manner.

"Why, Fred the surgeon, o' course, you clod, begging your pardon Captain Sir" sez the bold Sargent.

"For why do you want the surgeon. Have ye a wounded man for him to see go. Was that the poor fellow I just heard scream?"

"Well, not exactly Sir, as a matter of fact that was the surgeon, th' Gincerl cut his finger, and you know Fred can't stand the sight of blood. It was him who screamed".

Jabez pushed himself up on to his stumps. "Help me on to my horse". "But Cap'n" faltered the Sargent, "don't you remember, we had to eat her last tuesday week?". "Ah yes, I'd forgotten" sighed Jabez, "and pretty stringy she was too.... But I gotta get some sort of transport" he indicated his stumps, "If I den't get a move on soon some bastard will pinch all our firewood".... An idea struck him. "Sargent," he says, "sargent, how would it be if.....".

Suddenly, from the other side of the hill came the sound of shots. "Theyv'e found us" gasped the sargent. "Quick, hide in that tree!" "What tree?" said Jabez, gazing out over the dust plain.

Not waiting to hear the reply, the sargent drew out his trusty sword, quickly fastened his handkerchief to the blade, and ran towards the hill shouting..... "I surrender.....".

"OK, OK", said the approaching officer, "its only the boys apwhooping it up a bit.... Cap'n Higgs, the General wants to see you, at once."

end scene one.

scene two. the generals tent.

Jabez sat in the Generals' tent. "My poor Louisiana wife, he moaned...not to mention the one in San Antonio, and Nellie at the Fort....ah, War is, indeed, Hell"

"Gentlemen". the general looked around. "and I use the term loosely.... We have a problem on our hands. As you know we begin our attack at dawn....I need an officer to lead a diversionary attack on the right flank". Jabez was the only officer present.

"GAD! ... but that's White of you, General" said Jabez, "but then, we can't all be heroes". so saying he rose, saluted smartly, and sauntered out of the tent at a fast run.

"Sargent" he bellowed, "sound Boots and Saddles". The clarion call of the bugle followed him as he ran towards the horse lines. Picking out the fastest horse, he flung a saddle on its back and, mounting with a flourish, fell off the other side. Unfortunately he'd forgotten to fasten the straps.

"Blast it!!! he screamed, "and also DAMN! DAMN! DAMN!", not bothering to try to catch the beast he lept up and rushed across the stream towards the British lines....after him rushed the sargent, after him rushed "A" company ("Free Beer" someone yelled), and after them rushed the whole darn army, and the General too...."A general should be a comfort to his troops" he muttered as he tripped over his sword for the fourteenth time, "but this is ridiculous".

Meanwhile, in the British camp, the Officers were sitting down to dinner.

Hearing the roar of the charging American army they rose to their feet as one man, just in time to see the tail end of the American army disappearing in the direction of the position they, the British, had occupied a week ago.

"The damn ingenious dogs!" roared the British General. "we've been outflanked", and straight away the British army decamped and went back to Quebec, where they sulked for the rest of the year.

And that's how Jabez Higgs won the Congressional Medal of Honour.. The British Government in a grateful mood, presented it to him from captured American stocks in 1813. "At least" they said, "those pesky colonials will never bother us again with their petty squabbles".

Actually perhaps we'd do better after we've had a few goes at this....and if we get Jack to take part too.

I saw somewhere recently that the sentence "There are three ways to spell to in the English language" is impossible to write grammatically in the English language. I wonder, have they tried;~ "There are three ways to spell "tu" in the English Language" ?.

don't all clap at once.

CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTION

I've just been stenciling the OMPA constitution for sending out with the June '63 mailing, and this, along with some remarks Archie made last time round, and a semi-discussion that I was present at, at the last SFCOL meeting, has resulted in my taking another look at the present set-up in OMPA.

Now, while there isn't really anything wrong with the constitution as she stands, there are, I feel, one or two ways in which OMPA might be made, shall we say, more convenient?..

Having, as I've already said, just stenciled the constitution, I may as well say here that I'm perfectly aware of the procedure for processing a proposed amendment to the constitution. However, I am going this way about it simply because I feel that it might be a good idea to feel out other members on the subject before actually making an official proposal of amendment. Clear?.

Firstly there is the matter of mailings that arrive just on or after the deadline. As an AE I would dearly like to get the bundles out right on the mailing date...although I don't think I ever have. And you know why?. Exactly. If I am, as usual, merciful, I wait until the day after the deadline, to catch the morning post, in case another bundle comes. Then I start making-wrapping-the bundles. And, sure enough, as soon as I've wrapped up half the bundles another pack of zines arrives. So. What do I do?. I either have to undo the bundles already wrapped, or postmail the new arrivals, or sit on the latecoming zines - asking the mailer what I should do about them. The Lore of the AEs, being handed down thru' the ages says that its best to give at least a couple of days grace before starting on the bundles. I do this. BUT. I don't like to, because for every day I delay mailing it means that the bundles are just that much late getting to you lot, and so you have less time to get out a zine for the next mailing - if you so intend -. This has somewhat of the characteristics of a vicious circle.

Now, how would it be if the deadline (I'm working this out by the present constitution remember) were to be fixed at the first of the month, after which no more mailed-in zines would be considered, and the bundles mailed out on the 5th, as at present?. Any zines arriving after the deadline would be ignored, the only thing would be that the AE sends an airmail letter (6d, to be charged to the offending latecarrier) informing the late one that the bundle was late, and asking - for instance - whether he wanted it held until the next mailing, or what. (much the same as now). Or do you think all this is one of the things that should be left to the discretion of the AE?. I mean, its your bundles that are being delayed, you should have some point of view.

Oh, to make it easier, to save time, how about adjusting the date that the dues have to be paid in to the trez., by the same margin?. Because, you see, until the Trez., sends in his report the AE cannot type out the membership roster. Or discover how many, if any, of the waiting listers get elevated.

thats point no.1.....next....

Point no.2. is related in a way to the previous one. How about this idea of OMPA going thrice?

A few OMPAns have commented on this in their zines, a few for, a few against, but it doesn't seem to have stirred up much comment. The advantage, as far as US types are concerned, is that you have more time to get your zine out. (and, consequently, less excuse if you miss a mailing). The same rule about bundles arriving five days before the mailing out deadline could apply.

Mailing, tentatively, in February, June and October.

Point 3. If you would prefer to keep 4 mailings a year, how about changing the mailing months, so as to avoid, for instance, the Christmas rush? Mailings in Feb, May, Aug, and Nov., would do fine. At least from my point of view. Yours?.

Point.4. The present system ensures that the Officers take over with the September mailing. In the middle, practically, of the normal year.

I would like to see this readjusted so that the new AE starts with the new year. According to the present constitution this would be with the March mailing. Speaking as AE I would have no objections to either cutting short or extending my term to make the take-over smooth.

Point 5. I consider the present limit of 45 members in OMPA to be outdated. I would like to see the membership adjusted upwards to 50. This would still not make the membership too awkwardly large to handle, and would require only 5 more zines from each member. And many members even now send out their zines to the w-ls, or at least to some w-ls. It would probably be more economical to take these first 5 w-ls and let them get the ordinary bundles.

Point 6. Reword the constitution in regards to Membership, concerning the waiting lister who is invited to become a member; in such a way as to do away with any possible ambiguity. ie:-

"When a wler is invited to membership (in, say the 40th mailing, he has to acknowledge by the next deadline, (the 41st) and contribute to the one after (the 42nd, his second mailing as a member)."

Or something like that. I don't much care for the phrase, "the next available mailing".

Point.7. I have heard, if I recall aright, from an ex-member who has access to mailings, that OMPA is not what it used to be. There was some talk that this might be because many of the best of the Old Guard are no longer members; Pooter, Shoorock, Willis, Atom, Bulmer etc., but another suggestion was because OMPA was too full of mailing comments ("why, there was even a zine in one mailing called Mailing Comments!"). Would it be an idea, do you think, to specify that not more than a certain percentage of miniac could be allowed in mcs?...say, no more than 25%?.

And that's about it for now...unless I think something up later on.

yohs,

Ken.

FOUR VARIATIONS ON

A THEME.....



could well be the tilte of this next item.

If you remember back to Sally Port 3 (this was, by the way, befor I discovered another fanzine with that title), you will notice that the cover cartoon had the caption

"Well, it seems there was this watermelon".

Now I never have heard this, by now, famous Bufbecism, but I did read an account of the telling of it. And I couldn't help thinking that this particular cap-line might prove to be highly adaptable..useful..etc.,

I won't go into all the various cartoon ideas Dick and I thought up around this....because Dick might well use them in the future, and this type of cartton depends somewhat on the surprise value of the illo its applied to.

Where was I? ah. Well Dick sent me these 4 a week or so ago - from the time of cutting this stencil - and I just didn't know what to do with them.. He'd already sent me the Olaf cover so I

dammation! start Again.

forgot to lock the typer roller.

I had the Olaf thing for a cover, so, unless I waited and used them all singlyl but then, to-day, I had another look at them, and thought....but they would be rather effective if they were all dupered at the same time....then there would be no 3 month time lapse between them...they could be compared on the spot, appreciated better that way.

So that, if you have followed me this far, is why I'm doing them all together in this one issue.

"A CHILDS GARDEN OF OLAF" is under prepatation. WITH NO publishing date set yet. There should be ovdr 30 illos in the complete version, very few of them seeing previous publication.

I don't know why I'm telling you lot this tho', you will all get a copy automatically....I guess I'm excited over the idea... the illos will be drawn -- those that I cut myself -- by some other more competent person. and, as I said, many more origionals.



"Behold, there appeared during
the eighth year of Tohematopep,
this watermelon....."

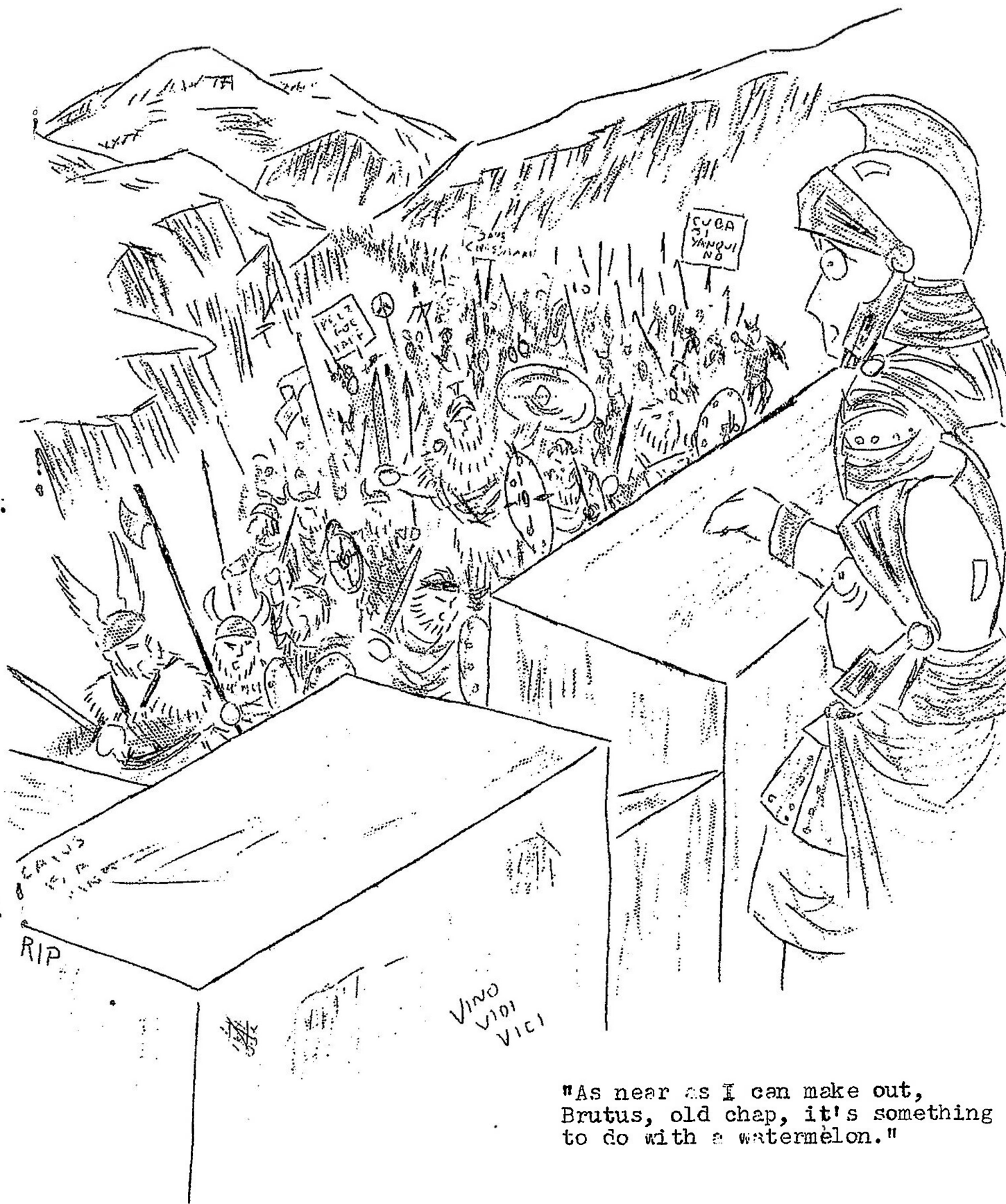


RIP

"YOU SEE, COMRADES,
THERE WAS THIS PEOPLE'S FARM.
COLLECTIVE GROWN WATERMELON..."



"It seems, Juliet, my love,
that there was this
watermelon....."



"As near as I can make out,
Brutus, old chap, it's something
to do with a watermelon."

