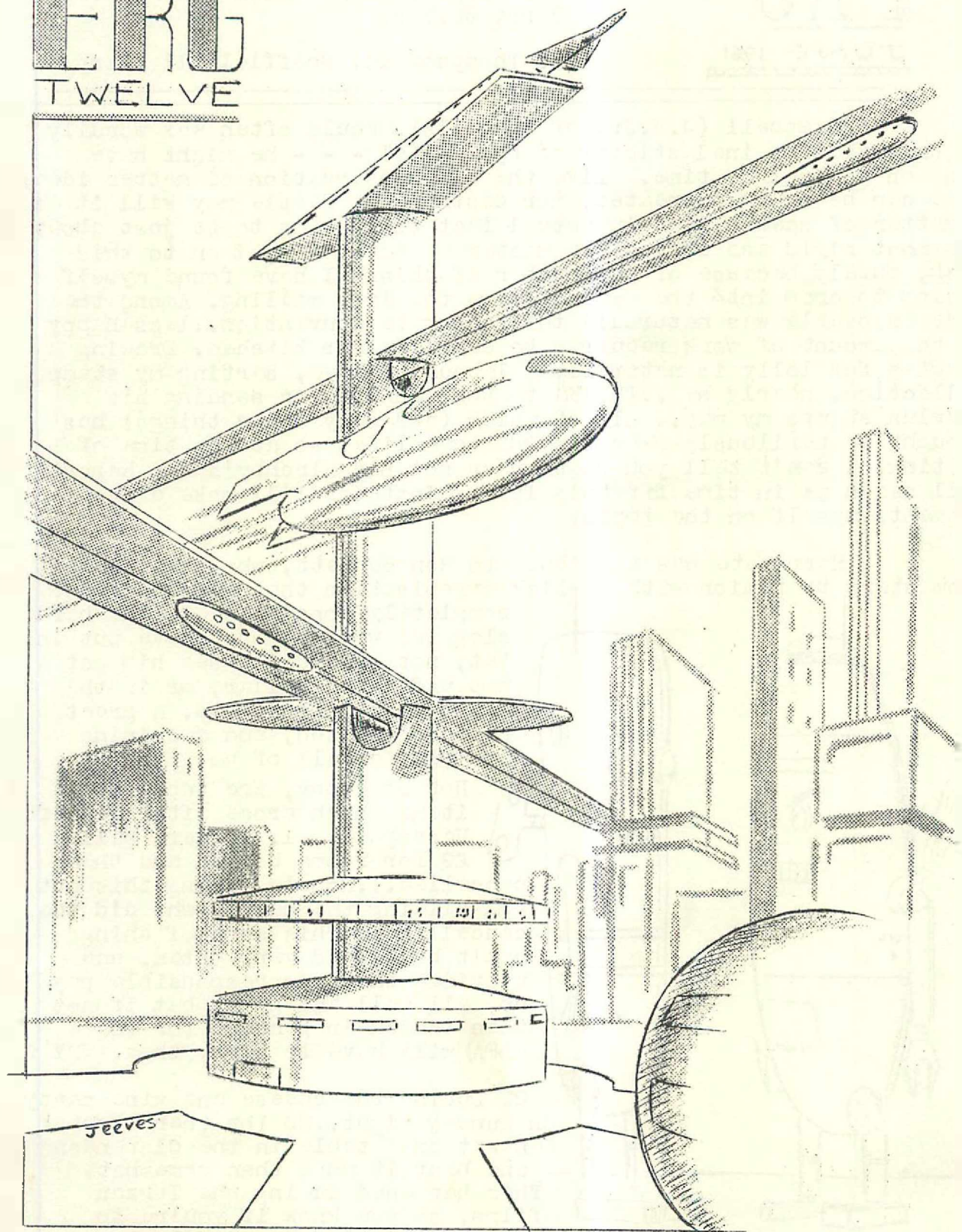


ERG

TWELVE

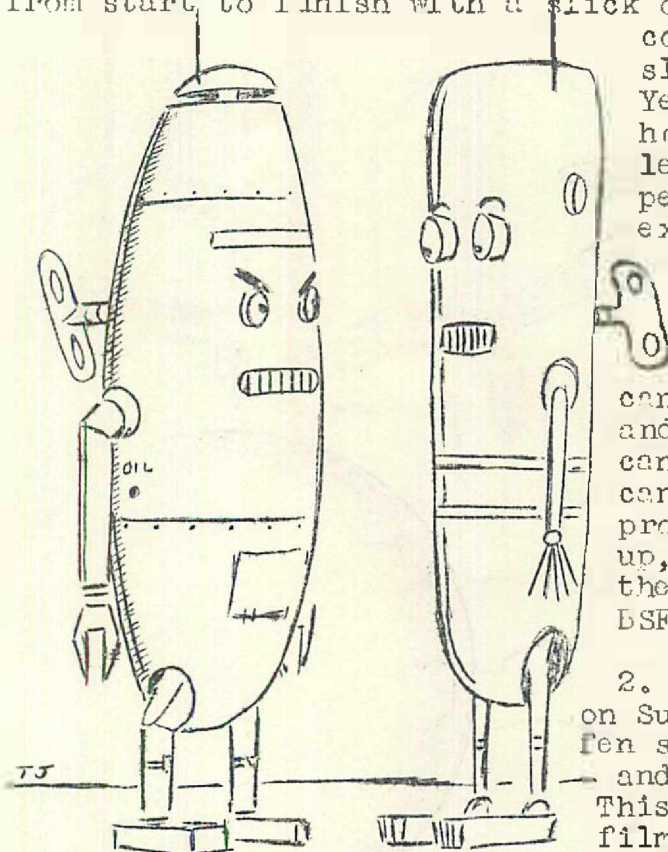


Campbell (J.W.Jr. of that ilk), would often wax wordily on the relative inelasticity of type metal - - - he might have gone on to include time. Like the old conservation of matter idea, time can be neither created, nor destroyed. People may kill it as a matter of speech, but in actual fact time seems to be just about the most rigid and inflexible master we have. I got on to this tack, purely because of the number of things I have found myself trying to cram into the period since the last mailing. Among the more enjoyable was naturally the Harrogate Convention..less happy is the amount of work required to decorate our kitchen. Drawing Soggies for lolly is naturally a labour of love, sorting my stamp collection, nearly so ..THANKS to Ron Bennett for sending his surplus stamps my way.. All of which (and many other things) has brought me perilously near the OMPA deadline, so at the time of writing, I can't tell you whether or not Sid Birchby's Con Report will reach me in time for this issue. Instead, I'll make a few comments myself on the topic.

Harrogate was a tribute to Ron Bennett, who organised it from start to finish with a slick organisation that almost if not completely concealed all the hard slogging work he must have put in. Yet, not once did I see him get hot under the collar, or in the least degree flustered. A great performance Ron, and a shining example for all of us.

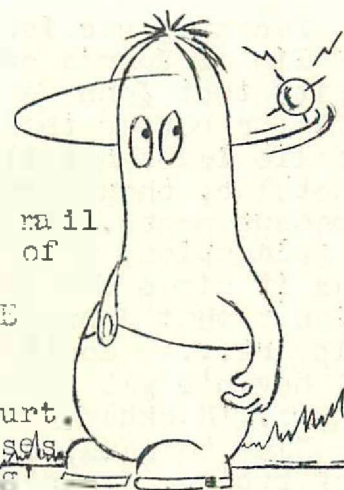
Not so happy, are two little items which arose after we left Harrogate. 1. We were billed £9 for rooms booked and then cancelled...Ron is paying this out and billing the people who did the cancelling. This sort of thing can't be helped very often, and provided the bods responsible pay up, all well and good, but if not then fandom in general (or the BSFA) will have to carry them. WHY?

2. During the cheese and wine party on Sunday night..23 (or thereabouts) Fen sat on a table in the Clarendon and bent it more than somewhat. This happened during the Tarzan films, so you know if you're to blame..point is, Ron had to pay for that too. If everyone on that table



"I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D WIND UP LIKE THIS"

sent Ron a five bob P.O., it would help the game along wouldn't it? This idea is just off the cuff, and was NOT suggested by Ron or anyone else incidentally.



Occasionally, I get highbrow enough to read the 'Observer' which thumps through the mail box every Sunday...I now quote from the issue of March 25th. 'DRUG RING IN CAFE' CLAIM.

"Police found a loaded pistol at the PEACE Cafe, in Chelsea, the local headquarters of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, was alleged at West London magistrates court.

What seemed to be going on at the premises was the organisation of 'a small drug ring' drugs being administered to young people who were supporters of that campaign.

Five men and a girl were remanded on charges under the Dangerous Drugs Act"

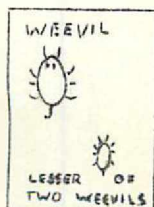
.....all good pals and jolly good company.

IS 'THE WEEK'S GOOD CANS' PROGRAMME STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS ?

Here in the stately crumbling mansion, we had the pleasure of paying host to TAFF candidate Ron Ellis for a couple of days. In addition to nearly getting him to drink tea, and also having to re-educate the children in the English use of the knife and fork, we managed to tote Ron around one or two of the local beauty spots. He was particularly taken by Chatsworth House and its stately gardens (of the non-crumbling variety) and nearer home, shot loads of film in the Botanical Gardens which back on to our house..I managed to film Ron inside the cage in the aviary thanks to a co-operative keeper.

Somewhere else in this issue is a PRIZE CROSSWORD puzzle which I must reluctantly confine to OMPA membership, owing to the difficulties inherent in mailing out surplus copies to non members and getting it to coincide with the OMPA mailing date. However, if non-members care to mail in their solutions, and I find sufficient response, then next time, we'll also have a non OMPA prize. How about it.

Just before travelling up to Harrogate, I was very pleased to hear the news that my short story 'Mightier Than The Sword' had won first prize of \$10 in the NSF short story contest. I don't quite know what is happening to the story at the moment, but if nothing spectacular comes in from Metro-Goldwyn Mayer, or Street and Smith, then I may inflict it on the Ompaship. My story ran about 3,000 words...I'm flattened by seeing Brian Ball mail of his latest 50,000 word epic to Ted Carnell..hope he makes it though, as I have a cut in as technical adviser.



Recently received from John Rackham was a fanzine type art folio of John's own art. I liked the art, and thought it a pity that John doesn't do any (?) general fanart, as his work is far better than many current illustrators. This particular folio leans heavily toward the nude..but with more detail than Rotsler, though an equal interest in mammary and gluteal measurements. The only drawback to the folder, is the opening explanation, which rather sabotages the good work which follows as it gives the impression that 'This is how to do it'. That isn't what John intended at all, but just to show his likings in art...so don't be put off by that opening. Incidentally, I haven't yet asked him why he called the folio by his pen name..'Rackham-art' Any reason, John ?

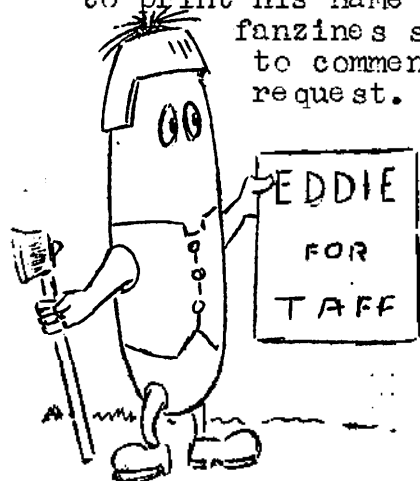
Also to hand, is another of his articles, but at the moment of typing, I can't say if I'll be able to squeeze it into this issue or not. However, if it isn't in this time, then it will be with us next issue, so one way or the other you'll be seeing the article. Further good news from John Rackham has been the reception accorded the 'Gabriel' yarns, but since I'm not sure whether or not the news is DNO, I'll hold it over.

Since typing the above, Erg has fallen into final shape, and not only do we have a short Convention report by Sid Birchby, but an even shorter 'first impression' by Brian Ball. I would like to apologise to both these stalwarts for having to prune their masterpieces, but with deadline less than a week ahead, I had been forced to plan Erg to a certain size, and save a standard of three pages for the pair of them.

I'll also use up this little space to repeat the Ergonomics of ERG. If you are an Ompa member..you get ERG thataways. If we trade fanzines, that explains itself too. Contributors get ERG free, and then we come to the great army of the unemployed ..unemployed by me that is. If you got a copy of ERG, and you don't come under the above headings...it is probably because I like you and think you're a wonderful sort of person..on the other hand, you may just be getting it because I thought you may be interested. If you want more, send a Letter of Comment and you're in. Don't be like onefan who wrote and asked me to print his name and address..he promised to comment on all fanzines sent to him....Blimey ! He didn't even bother to comment on the issue of ERG in which I put the request.

And as our ship sinks slowly beneath the waves, it only remains to say..'Glug'

and a Happy October.



OR

HOW TO BAKE AN OSEGO PIE

When the Harrogate Convention was nearing its end, Tony Walsh said to me that as usual, he had arrived anti, and was leaving pro. He meant pro-convention and I suppose few of us would disagree. I myself usually arrive wherever it is feeling tired, hungry and glum after the journey and I slouch off to bed quite soon, more than half-certain that I am at last too old for fandom, and that it was a mistake to come. Yet I always integrate steadily until by the third day the thought of having to leave dismays me utterly. I can now keep going for another year!

Sid Birchby

Enough of philosophy. Let's have a few vignettes.

After the Sunday night wine-and-cheese-film-party tailed off at the Clarendon, Archie helped me to carry the wreckage back to the West Park where we were staying. This would be about 4 a.m. We found a brag school in the lounge: Ron Bennett, Elizabeth, Ron Ellik, and, I think, Al Hoch. I was mildly surprised to see that both Irish Fandom and George Locke had reappeared. They had left for their hotel, (The Victoria..an overflow hotel) quite early, about 2 a.m., but had returned because they were locked out. I didn't know then, that they were not staying from choice, and when I staggered to bed at 5 a.m., I thought, 'Migohd; once I too, had the stamina to stay up all night'

One way and another, Irish Fandom must have thought the Curse of Yig was on them that weekend. Walt's and Ian's luggage was put on the wrong plane at Belfast's aptly named Nutt's Corner. On arrival in Manchest, only canny James White who had refused to surrender his luggage, hand any at all. I learned from James and Ian that Walt had volunteered to wait in Manchester until the luggage caught up. Well, that was their story..I shall be interested to read Walt's version in Hyphen.

There was a Crusty Residential Old Gent (CROG) at the West Park who complained bitterly about the noise at nights. Personally, I found the nights very quiet, except for the usual slight hum of cultured conversation near the door of the room party. He got it into his head that the man running the whole convention was Ken McIntyre, and kept telling Ken, "I've lived in hotels for 50 years and I've never before been woken up by someone tapping on the door" Although tempted to reply, "Man you call that living?" Ken tried to explain it was someone looking for a room party. Ken had booked in a day early, while a repairman was doing a job at the hotel, and the CROG had

6.
complained about that, "Your Convention's been doing a lot of hammering! I've been in hotels..... etc etc "

As part of his fancy dress costume, Phil Rogers sprinkled talcum powder in his hair to turn it grey. You'd think being programme organiser would have been enough! Next morning, in a spirit of fannish goodwill, Irene Boothroyd offered to help wash it out again, and after polling several fen came up with the information that 'Men like women to wash their hair, and vice versa'

How can I describe to you the dreamy feeling of 5 am. in the kitchen of the West Park when at the tag-end of the night, our minds floated like stunned goldfish in a chamber pot and in a bid for revival, I volunteered to make coffee.

"For this", said Ron Bennett, "You will need hot water".

"Yes", I agreed humbly, "This is true."

"Leave it to me. There is a heater on the wall, and I am an expert." He snapped switches...click! things popped, lights lit, water gurgled. I gazed admiringly at this Lord of the Machines, as the magic of STEAM began to appear.

"No doubt", he said nonchalantly, "you would prefer boiling water?" "Master", I cried, falling to my knees. He turned another switch, and smiled faintly but proudly, the smile of one to whom all Nature's laws are revealed. Then disaster struck. There was a 'Whoomph' from the geyser, covering walls, ceiling, floor and us with floods of lukewarm water. In the hall next door, the brag school from which Ron had risen in lordly manner to evoke his miracle of science, first knew of the Gotterdammerung that was visited on us when a dripping figure stumbled out of the inferno muttering brokenly, 'Omighod! Such is the wrath of the gods on those who would steal fire from the skies. I should have known the hex was on us a little time before, when I went to mix the coffee powder. "It says, 'Half a tea-spoonful per cup' "I said. "Where are the spoons?" Groping blindly, I picked up a spoon. It didn't feel right. As my bleary eyes focussed on it, I saw that it had been made with half the bowl cut away. I had got what I wanted....'half a tea-spoon'

-o-o-o-o-o-

-o-o-o-o-o-

So much for the views of a dyed-in-the-wool, and case-hardened con-goer. Now read on for the comments of a first timer, Brian Ball, whose first s-f story 'The Pioneer', recently appeared in New Worlds. Brian's short story may yet be the first of many, as his 50,000 word novel 'Parhelion' has just been completed.

Looking Round

by
Brian
Ball

My outstanding memory of the Harrogate Convention is the rain...and the rain.....and the rain again. The rest is something of a jumble. The auction, which seemed to be in permanent session...the heavy meals - I'm told we did better at the Clarendon than the fen who stayed in the West Park..... and the talk. It seemed to me that no one keeps up a conversation for quite so long, or with such determination, as a Fan. Nor is anyone quite so photographed.

S-F may be a new literary form, but it is widespread and much more s-f is written than I had realised before I went to Harrogate. Mention any work of s-f in a fan gathering, and one or more of them will discuss it at length, correct your hazy memories, and recommend anything up to a dozen similar works dealing with the same aspect of s-f.

Much thought and considerable expertise had gone into the planning of the well-arranged programme. I thought Mike Rosenblum's account of how fandom began was the most impressive of the talks. It made me realise fandom is more than a fan club.

It is the people in fandom that are the chief interest. All tremendously pleasant...even the backbiting is conducted cheerfully; and they offer some entertaining comparisons too. An earnest young man reading Physics, an expatriate Scots typist, an American mathematician with a liking for Brag, a fortnight-old baby, a Leeds' estate agent, a German clerk...and so on. I particularly like E.R. James's talk - what it was about I have little idea, but when a man begins by standing on his head, his comments after that become of interest. Harry Harrison's tapes brought over from the States gave an insight into American folk music...or something like that.

The overall impression was one of a wide diversity of people on the fringe of the accepted image of our society... prepared to laugh at the image, and themselves for standing apart. Your fan might be more interested in several millennia from now, than in the present, but he can be amused at his preoccupation with fantasy. As someone said at the Convention, "Who says we're dedicated maniacs? Lies! Who's dedicated!"

-o-o-o-o-o-

NOW...WRITE TO KEN SLATER, 75 NORFOLK ST., WISBECH, CAMBS, and send 5/- enrolment fee for the 1963 Convention in Peterborough.

BLIND FLYING

Forwarded by Betty Kujawa, our American Air Correspondent, this item was originally published in 'Aero Notes'.

Basic rules for the Cat and Duck method of flight under the hood are fairly well known and are, of course, extremely simple.

1. Place a live cat on the cockpit floor. Because a cat always remains upright, he or she can be used in lieu of a needle or ball. Merely watch to see which way the cat leans to determine if a wing is low, and if so, which one.

2. The Duck is used for the instrument approach and landing. Because of the fact that any sensible duck will refuse to fly under instrument conditions, it is only necessary to hurl your duck out of the 'plane and follow her to the ground.

There are some limitations to the Cat and Duck method, but by rigidly adhering to the following Check List, a degree of success will be achieved which will surely startle you, your passengers, and maybe even an itinerant Tower Operator.

CHECK LIST FOR CAT AND DUCK METHOD

1. Get a wide awake cat Most cats do not want to stand up at all at any time. It may be necessary to get a large fierce dog to carry in the cockpit to keep the cat at attention.

2. Make sure your cat is clean Dirty cats will spend all their time washing. Trying to follow a washing cat usually results in a tight snap roll followed by an inverted spin.

3. Old cats are best Young cats have nine lives, but an old, used-up cat with only one left has just as much to lose as you do, and will be more dependable.

4. Avoid stray cats Try to get one with a good pedigree. Your veterinarian can help you locate a cat with a good character.

5. Beware of cowardly ducks If the duck discovers you are using the cat to stay upright, she will refuse to leave without the cat. Ducks are no better on instruments than you are.

6. Be sure the duck has good eye sight. Nearsighted ducks will not realize they have been thrown out and will descend to the ground in a sitting position. This manouever is difficult to follow in an aeroplane.

7. Use land loving ducks It is very discouraging to break out and find yourself on final for a rice paddy. Particularly if there are duck hunters around.

8. Choose your duck carefully It is easy to confuse ducks with geese because many water birds look alike. Though competent instrument flyers, geese seldom want to go in the same direction you do. If your duck heads off for Canada or Mexico, you may be sure you have been given the goose.

OMPAVIEWS

of the 31st. mailing

Another nice juicy mailing, and while it may not exactly cause the Keeper of the Printed Books to holler for more shelf space, to my mind it forms a nice handy bundle. Not too much, not too little but just right. And now to the nominations.

BEST COVER.....Conversation No.17. (I thought this was meant to be Daphne Buckmaster at first)

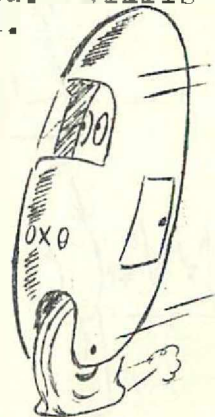
Runner Up.....Outpost No.1.

Best Overall Production..Scottishe

A further word about the above to avoid brickbats and like that. Conversation 17 nosed out Outpost sheerly by artistic merit, but I thought Outpost was the most striking and original cover I've seen in a long time. The C-17 woman incidentally really did look like Daphne to me. I hunted through the mag to see if I could find any such intention. Noluck, it must have been coincidence.

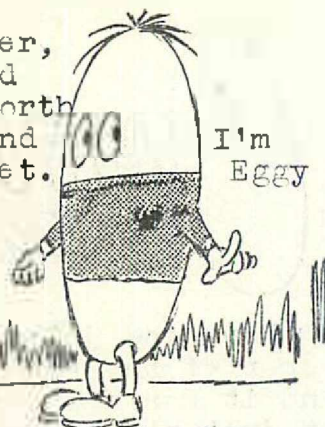
SCOTTISHE takes the biscuit for the best overall care in production and in spite of what (Ethel ?) I read by a fan recently, I disagree that "Anyone can produce a neat fanzine by sheer perseverance". That obviously helps, but you also need layout ability up to some standard. Self discipline to avoid hashing up those wide neat margins with extra wordage....more of the same to USE white space as part of the logo. Then technical ability to operate your equipment.etc., etc., etc. Whatever else you need, Ethel has it here, and for those who say it doesn't matter...which do you prefer to read, a neat and tidy magazine, or some of that shoddy, ranting gosh-wow-ohoy crud we get so much of these days?. Material this time was not quite so hot, Machiavarley was disappointing I'm afraid. Willis was O.K. I agree with you Ethel on the prozine field. I take Galaxy thro' habit. Asf is approaching that state. I've just let my F&SF sub lapse, and sheer inertia keeps me reading the (largely) rubbish in Nova magazines.

OUTPOST Great cover ..the stamps now repose in my album. Liked the idea of the one-stringed bass player with a broken string. Having heard 'Level 7' I can't say I'd relish such an existence, but to say outright that I'd prefer to die in one swell nuclear fop smacks too much of a suicide wish. You only have one life to give for the ban the bomb merchants, and I don't want to give mine yet. Glad you liked Erg, and hope to keep you feeling that way.



CONVERSATION 17 In addition to a top grade cover, this also has top grade interior legibility (and I hang my head in shame) Re an illo for Molesworth and your writing about same..get a can opener and check your mailbox, the letter hasn't arrived yet. And I thoroughyl enjoyed Wilkie Connors letter. Con.18 had a snazzy cover by the way..I liked.

VAGARY.15 The colour and solidarity of this reminds me of the old time 'Bullseye' which was on a bluer paper, but had the same solid packing and minimum of illos...you beat by not having any. To my mind you need a lot of 'em in order to break that load of print into mental sized gobbets. Agree with you about being in favour of TOTAL disarmament rather than selective. A breath of sanity in this march mad country. You're right, ERG.9. WAS a labour of love..no other reason could have kept me up to the wrk it involved. Re the Witchcraft cult, did you know that Alan Burns was deeply interested in this ? Perhaps you may care to contact him. For my money, it's just bunk. Not surprised you're taken to task for saying Russell is a woolly minded idealist..you should have said a 'mindless idealist' if you want accuracy.



POOKA Thoroughyl enjoyed your account of the Insurance course.. do you realise that you've invented ANOTHER way of getting pornography through the mails ?? Now, in addition to quoting "The first word on page 28" , we can get even deeper by making up Universities, and leaving it to the recipient to make the abbreviations. Also enjoyed the rest of a very good issue.

ANALYTIC EYE etc. I don't agree with this silly attitude of "Get a degree and then support CND" It is practical, yes. But NOT very idealistic, nor is it even sensible if CND is as urgent as its members try to make out. If World atomic dissolution is on top of us, and so near that we must "ACT NOW", then there isn't time for CND. Or is CND a nice 'idealistic' cause whereby you can wear badges, march around carrying placards and going unshaven while criticising non members. Get on TV and news reels at the cost of a little personal discomfort. In other words, bask in martyrdom until it hits here it hurts. Sorry Jim for the diatribe, but I have the utmost contempt for CND and all it stands for...the much like the Chamberlain ostrich attitude of 1938..and I fought in that war which resulted.



PACKRAT I'm rather looking forward to seeing your arguments against a belief in God. I'm on your side, but I feel many will be loading their muskets.

BINARY About that nit who wanted to name his child "I hate war", I would have most definitely refused, on the grounds that if the bloke wanted to change his own name to that, all well and good, but I would not be a party to saddling an innocent with such a monstrosity. Furthermore, I'd be inclined to try to get him certified as a maniac. Obviously a case whereby people are capable of being parent, but are totally unfit for the job.

CHICKEN WIGGON This is shaping up to something good, though I was slightly clogged by Headings to what is more or less a pile of general ramblings. Couldn't you title topics a trifle more translucently?

ZOUNDS What would I like for a full time job? and I presume one MUST exclude the current job. I'd favour either radio mechanic (a job I had while waiting to enter training college) or some line of commercial art. 2. Given the authority for one week, I'd do NOTHING..a week isn't long enough..but given more time, I'd make it mandatory that the governments of every country be executed if that country declared war..and enforce it by isolating said governments on a UNO administered island. 3. Characteristics of Fanzine X which would appeal to me are..a. neat and well thought out layout. b. plenty of artwork c. absence of 'scratch-art and goshwoboyism

QUARTERING Was fascinated (in a nauseated way) by the list of 33 Happy Moments. These could be pasted into the back of Reader's Digest and make thousands happy..(actually they make me sick) Even so, they fascinate me (morbidly no doubt) Contrast the nearly mouthed wife robbing nit of epic.1., with the selfish type of epic.2 I liked your covers, but felt that they should have been reversed..the back one being for superior

OLLA PODRIDA..Lovely title, reminds me of something. You shouldn't have had translation with that Bomb the ban., it was written on an arrow and you only had to read in the direction of same. By now, you should have got a mailed copy of ERG 9..hope it came up to expectations. "No names no pack-drill" is a hang over from the Forces, and really is meant to imply that if you tell no tales, then no one gets punished. Pack drill was an old punishment (it may still be used for all I know) whereby the unlucky bod had to parade (drill) up and down under the weight of a full pack of equipment.

SISAR. I don't agree that an amateur play or sketch requires the insertion of songs to break the monotony..(a) the highly successful Liverpool Productions didn't rely on this technique (b) The lines shouldn't be 'monotonous' in the first place, then they wouldn't require bolstering. My own agony, was an agony of embarrassment for the performers, and had no critical connection with them OR the play..just sheer empathy.

DOLPHIN Green Lake to the North, Cascade Mounts, Lake Unions.. etc. etc. With all these lakes around, its a wonder you dare go out at night without your aqualung. Yep, Sandra Mary missed my birthday by one week, we're negotiating with the Greenwich Observatory for an Astronomical correction. Liked your Atomcover and neat layout.



ASP (I presume that doesn't stand for Aerospace Plane ??) Shattered was ere to discover an utter absence of my favourite 'Requiem for Astounding' WHY ? shame, and like that. I'll absolve you if it appears next round, otherwise you get a time bomb. I enjoyed Bill Terry's tongue in cheek Defense of S-F, but I missed Alva. Fie.

UL Nice easy title to type anyway. Don't know how many Edgar Wallace Fans there are in fandom, but I can tell you that I'm on the other side..I never managed to mesh with Wallace..likewise Dickens always gave me a pain..too much like the German s-f authors favoured by Gernsback, they threw a stasis into plot development for two or three thousand words while they described the latest item in their story...a null trend which I find creeping back into ASF more and more. Yeh I can't stand Shakespeare either.

MORPE Welcome to the ranks of haters of pestiferous radios. Val and I spent several days with the children in the Lake District last summer. Pausing by the wayside to admire the view, stretch legs, and nibble a sandwich, I'll guarantee that we met some transistor attached nitwit every time..once we happened to park midway between two..I can guarantee that two lots of random noise do NOT cancel out. Anyway, I am getting down to a transistor stopper for this year. Simply an elementary electric motor battery operated, to be built inside a hand torch, and with an aerial attached to the commutator. Using dirty brushes I should get enough spark interference to squelch most nuisances. A 456 kc/s oscillator won't help, as that frequency happens to be the standard IF amplifier frequency in the UK. If you built an oscillator at this frequency, then the resultant would be zero...if you were off by 1 Kc/s (say 457 or 454) then you could generate a note of 1 Kc/s in the local receivers..annoying, but not as much as the sheer interference of the spark gap mentioned above.

ENVOY Fabulous multicolour work by Patience. My own personal choice of time period is RIGHT NOW. The past was too chancy insanitary and illegal..the future will be too cramped and chaotic. I like it here. Agree with you that RD7 and A for Andre stank to high heaven. ~~KNY~~

SOUFFLE.2 Yep I'm agin off colour words in general circ. Yes I don't think society is worth wasting time on. No contradiction. I mix (as in Ompa) with the minority worth wasting time on...and don't fancy nasty words there. Not that I admit to any contradiction in being against them anywhere..I don't have to be nasty to people I have little use for do I ? Would like to help you out via duping, but right now, I'm having trouble keeping up with mine. Hope you can find a helper though.

AMBLE Thoroughly enjoyed the story of your Army life, and was very sorry when it ended (the account I mean, NOT that the Army life ended) Can we have more like this ?? MORE huh ? Nope, I'm not mixed up over TAFF candidates..merely trying to make the best of the fact that I like BOTH of 'em, but can only vote for one.

ROLL ON HARROGATE !

Terry's Auxiliary Fanning Fund (TAFF) is trying to raise the cash to buy a new typer. Here is your chance to buy some science-fiction cheap. All in mint to good condition unless otherwise stated. SEND NO CASH until you receive your order thus saving me the trouble of returning the dough if someone else gets in first

HARD COVERS. 'No Place like Earth'..Charbonneau.

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If your order is available, I'll mail it back together with an account, and then you can send me a P.O.

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