

G<sup>2</sup> 12-25-62

SPECIAL

POSTCARD →

SNEARY FOR ENGLADN  
IN '64!!!

-- WILL BIG BILL  
GO FOR '65???

ISSUE

2-13-58-66

11/10/58

← POSTCARD →

FOR EUGEN ADU

IN 64 III

GO FOR 6555  
WILL BIG BILL

3A7551

Report to: Ella Parker  
151, Canterbury Rd.,  
West Kilburn,  
London N.W.6,  
England

Date: 12/25/62

From: Joe Gibson, Investigations  
Bay Area, California  
USA

Subject: ..... Portfolio To South Gate

Dear Madame:

There may be some misunderstanding resulting from the indirect manner in which you retained me to handle this case; or, in fact, as to whether you had retained me at all. But I will not worry about that unless or until it happens. Referring to my files of the case, I find a letter from you dated Sunday, 28th October, 1962 -- copies of which you sent to Robbie and myself, Len and Anna Moffatt, and Ethel Lindsay. In this letter, you said:

"In talking this over with Ethel (I think) I did make the suggestion that the one thing we should try to do was discover who was his Dr. and ask. . . what his chances were. . . ."

In short, you admit that you may well have made that suggestion to Ethel Lindsay. You could not have known what the consequences might be, I admit; neither could I. But when Miss Lindsay was travelling as TAFF delegate from Britain, this year, she naturally gave some thought ahead to the time she would be TAFF Administrator, looking for candidates and trying to promote interest in TAFF.

Thus, events took their inevitable course. It all began for Robbie and myself when Ethel came through Berkeley on her Stateside visit, and (as we mentioned in g2) we had her to dinner on the University campus. Sometime during that dinner, Ethel began talking about TAFF. And then, quite naturally -- she'd just come up from Los Angeles, you know -- she began telling us (including Jerry & Miriam Knight and Cal Demmon) what a wonderful thing it would be to have Rick Sneary for TAFF. In fact, she gave us to understand pretty clearly that a good lot of British fans wished very much to meet Rick, and would be extremely grateful if some of us over here could get him to come over. But of course, Ethel also mentioned the chief problem: Rick's health. We just didn't know the answer to that. Still, if it could only be done....

That got me thinking. Like many others, I admire Rick -- but I detected something else here, too, that no one else seemed to realize. I remembered certain jobs Rick had done in fandom, in the past. And I'd been thinking quite a bit about TAFF, lately, as you know from g2's last issue....!!

A few weeks later, I wrote to Ron Ellik suggesting (in my usual tactless way) that there's only one way we can know whether Rick's health is really a problem, and that's to talk to his doctor. So I asked Ron to find out who Rick's doctor is -- without bothering Rick about it -- and to get in touch with that doctor, tell the whole thing about TAFF (more thoroughly than Rick would probably do it) and ask the doctor's opinion.

Of course, that was asking quite a lot -- even though, as the American TAFF Administrator, Ron's naturally more interested in possible US candidates than Ethel might be! Anyway, here was Ron Ellik's reply, dated 4 October:

"I talked to Len Moffatt yesterday, and told him what you said in your letter. He agrees that it's a good idea--and, to add to the excitement, he says Rick is not DEAD set against standing for TAFF, and seems to be weakening, in theory. Len says he thinks Rick would say no if somebody asked him to stand for TAFF...but I put it to him differently: what if somebody handed Rick five signatures, five dollars, and one hundred words, and English fandom's mandate that he stand for election?

"Len thinks Rick would acquiesce. He also thinks (as I do) that while he would love to be a nominator, somebody else should start it--preferably from England. I think Ella Parker would be a good choice--I know she would love to see Rick stand. If she could get up another signature (doubtless an easy task) and you people and Len could get one more, and send the whole kit and kaboodle to Rick, my official opinion is that he wouldn't be able to say no.

"There are problems.

"One is his health. Len doesn't know the doctor's name, and we agreed that there is no way to find it out without Rick getting suspicious.

"So we'd have to take his health for granted--go on the concept that English fandom would take care of him.

"Another problem is finances. Rick would be more likely to visit just the con city and London...on the other hand, he'd certainly want to see as much of the islands as I did...and since he has no job, he'd have no time limit about returning.

"An idea to help this out would be to suggest a boat-trip; on the other hand, I don't know how he reacts to extended sea-voyages...

"But money's a problem. As TAFF, I have to wish you good luck on this--I couldn't conscience a penny over \$500."

Yes, there was that problem, too -- that damnable low limit on the TAFF Fund. Plenty of TAFF winners have had to sweat that out,

spend all their own savings, scrape and borrow. But I finished reading this letter of Ron's with a loud groan of despair. I could see how it was, how I could no longer avoid the bitter truth, no matter how much I hated it. The answer was obvious, Madame, and utterly appalling: I would have to get to work!

So I did.

So on Friday, 12 October, at 8:42 p.m., I sat down at this typer and wrote Ron Ellik (making a carbon copy to send Len Moffatt) on what I had just done. They received this letter in envelopes identically inscribed with an admonition: "NEVER ASSUME ANYTHING WHERE SOMEONE'S HEALTH IS CONCERNED."

And the letter said:

"Dear Ron:

"Why, you snivelling, little pipsqueak. You spineless runt! Yas, YOU -- and that decrepit, old Has-Been, Len Moffatt, too!

"What \* a \* fffaine \* pair \* of \* Amateur Sleuths you turned out to be. Indeed! I picked you, Ron Ellik, to do a simple, little job in South Gate because I admired your veracity, you have a college education and you made Lance Corporal in the Marines. As for Len Moffatt, the matter of fact is that if I hadn't had you, Ron, I'd have asked Len to do the job -- only I might've tried to get Anna on my side first. And what do you guys do when you get together?

"No, wait. I'll tell you. You write me a report which does not say who Rick's doctor is, and what this doctor said about Rick doing a TAFF trip to England. No. N-n-n-nnnno. What you write is 'We agreed that there is no way to find it out without Rick getting suspicious.'

"That's what you wrote.

"Gentlemen, I will not bore you with any more references to what my opinion might be of such a prize pair of Amateur Detectives. Real Private Eyes, you guys are -- but no, that's enough!

"Now, hear this:

"It wasn't easy for me from here; it would've been easier if I were in L.A. But Rick's doctor for the past ten years has been Dr. Clara T. Younger, whose address is 3625 East Century Boulevard, Lynnwood, California.

"Phone: NE 9-1511. You got that?

"We're in luck, too -- Rick was in to see her last Saturday, because he'd been flat on his back a week with the flu. This means the doctor has examined him recently and will be ready to say 'yes' or 'no' on the trip. And get this: last Saturday's visit was the



"first time Rick has been to his doctor in two years! That sounds pretty good.

"That's all I can tell you except that she's a very friendly person who's pretty careful and thorough as a doctor.

"...P.S.: You deserved this, you pipsqueak!"

Miss Parker, that got results. Indeed it did. I soon heard from Archie Goodwin -- er, I mean, I heard from Ron Ellik (carbon to Len Moffatt) in a letter dated 21 October; it said:

"Dear Joe, Sir:

"Knowing not how you discovered up the doctor of Rick Sneary, I think I shall be introduced by some cosmic Sam Moskowitz at the opening sessions of that Great Big Convention in the Sky, still maintaining stoutly that Gideon Fell nor Father Brown could not have so turned that fact within my limitations.

"Despite this, I telephoned Dr. Younger this last week and talked quite comfortably with her. She is very interested in Rick's well-being and she feels quite strongly that a trip to England would be a good thing.

"She recognizes that a convention and trips visiting fans, all of which I explained tersely but clearly, would be hectic. Her opinion is that Rick couldn't stand up to much activity; however, with the foreknowledge that English fans will have, he is perfectly capable of enduring such a trip--all he needs is the chance to sit down frequently.

"Colds are very serious with him--but Dr. Younger sees it from her own viewpoint, which is that Rick is getting along admirably from her recent examination of him.

"Now--or rather, in the spring of 1964--she feels he will be strong enough. She feels this is directly dependent on his own interest in going (in which she feels confident) and in the hosts treating him carefully.

"I made Lance Corporal in the Marine Reserves, Sarge..."

As you know, Madame, I wrote all of this into a letter dated 23rd October, copies of which went to you, Ethel Lindsay and Len Moffatt. I asked you to carry on with the plan (which I'd had suggested to me from two separate sources: Ron & Len and Ethel Lindsay, when she was here) to have Rick's nomination come from England. I suggested to Len Moffatt that he should be the only West Coast nominator for Rick, that the other two American nominators should be from other parts of the US -- in effect, so that all of Rick's friends would be represented.

....And I told you what I would do.

But you also know that I made one error in that report. Naturally, Len Moffatt asked me about it first thing in his six-page reply. Len said:

"On page 4 of Joe's letter I note one error, where he is quoting Ron.... Was this an unconscious (or subconscious) error, Joe? Or on purpose? You quote Ron as writing 'Knowing not how you discovered up the doctor...' Ron wrote 'Knowing now...' (underlining is mine) Anna told Ron how you prob'ly obtained the doctor's name, etc. I thought of it after I had talked to Ron on the first go-round, and figured it would be easier for you to contact Jessie, seeing as how the Clintons live a bit closer to El Sobrante than do Ellik or the Moffatts. At the time I wasn't especially keen on any of us contacting Rick's doc without him knowing, but I've kept a zipped lip and it seems to be working out okay. Dunno what Rick's reaction will be when he finally hears all of this 'behind his back' stuff....

"My feeling from the beginning was that Rick himself should contact his doctor, explain TAFF, and get her opinions, etc. I suggested he do this, but to the best of my knowledge he never has."

....This was the first intimation I had that all this had been going on --involving you, Miss Parker, and Len Moffatt and even Roy Tackett, as it turns out--quite some time before I ever got into it. I had not known that you had asked Rick if he'd stand for TAFF, and had no reply--not surprising, since Rick was down with the flu. I hadn't known you had asked Len Moffatt who Rick's doctor was, to no avail, nor that Len and Roy Tackett had corresponded concerning a TAFF nomination for Rick.

And I would have given anything if Len had only let me know that Ed Clinton's wife had the answer! I had met Ed Clinton only a few times at Bay Area fan-parties, but had no occasion to enter into personal discussion with him. I believe I had met his wife once, at a party at Ray Nelson's, but I did not know her name.

Consequently, when I read Ron's letter saying 'Knowing now how you discovered up the doctor...' I honestly thought he'd made a typo -- that he'd meant to say 'Knowing not how...' --and in quoting him, I corrected it. You see, Madame, I knew perfectly well that if Ron even guessed how I'd found out the identity of Rick's doctor, Ron would be screaming like a wounded moose!

No, Ron did not and does not know how I did it. Nor does anyone else. And I couldn't tell any of you -- not until one other person knew about it. I had to tell him, first. And that, Miss Parker, is why this final report was not mailed until I had taken it to South Gate and let Rick Sneary read it.

Madame, we were stymied. Time was short -- we still had to line up supporters for the nomination, if we were going to do anything at all -- and nobody seemed to know what to do. I did not expect miracles

A red book cover with the word "ELECTRICK" in white capital letters. The cover is decorated with two pieces of black tape featuring a pattern of blue stars and a yellow zigzag line. The tape is applied to the top-left and bottom-right corners of the cover.

ELECTRICK



(especially not from anyone as far away as London) but it looked as if we all needed a miracle.

What I did, Miss Parker, was the most terrifying thing it's been my misfortune to experience. I had to try something without having the least expectation that it would work -- knowing, indeed, that there would be sheer, black disaster if it failed!

I asked Rick Sneary.

I sent him an airmail letter with a blank stamped, self-addressed postcard (also airmail) inside.

The letter said:

"Dear Rick,

"What's the name & address of your doctor? We know someone who needs a good one, who might be down that way. If yours is a specialist, all to the good -- he'll certainly know someone to recommend."

Rick returned that airmail postcard to me, filled out with every bit of the information on his doctor that I passed on to Ron, and later to you and all the others. Shortly afterward, I was mailing an issue of g2 out, and I sent Rick's copy to him First Class with a brief note scrawled on the back page:

"Thanks, Rick -- now we did what we could for that guy and it's up to him, down there."

And that, Miss Parker, is how we "discovered up" who Rick's doctor is.....

Meanwhile, you were in the throes of moving to a new address and Len Moffatt was working 12 hours a day, due to a wildcat strike at the plant. You asked me to become coordinator/chairman of this project, at least until after Christmas.

And something else had come up -- I asked Bill Donaho about it, knowing pretty much what his answer would be, and he told me! Anyway, on October 27th I found myself writing a two-page letter with copies going to Ken Potter, Larry Shaw, Don Ford, Ethel, Ron, Len and you. But as you may recall, it was addressed primarily to the first three.

It said:

"I have just been talking with Bill Donaho about this. He knows everything about this, now -- and if it will not upset your plans or whatever efforts you have undertaken up to now, Bill says he would just as soon do it this way. But our immediate concern is with you, his backers; will you go along with this? Bill certainly

"can't agree to anything that might be letting you down. He hopes it won't, that you can agree to it -- but we've got to find this out, definitely, first of all.

"The situation as it now stands is this." (And I told the events concerning Rick's possible nomination, briefly, then continued:)

"Meanwhile, back in Berkeley, an AXE\*type of fanzine is going to appear. While it won't be much of a newszine, it will promote a special fund for Rick Sneary. Honey Graham has agreed to handle the books and the bank account.

"Bill Donaho would be willing to contribute a regular column on Bay Area fan activities. I feel positive the fanzine can get contributions from Alva Rogers, Poul & Karen Anderson, Reggie Bretnor and Tony Boucher. But it will be a small thing, as AXE was, four-to-six pages published twice a month.

"I had all this done and planned -- when I finally learned that you were promoting Bill Donaho for TAFF. Anyway, this is the situation as of right now.

"So I have suggested to Bill that he stand for TAFF in 1965. That way, we'll have two good candidates for two years in a row. We'll be able to really build up a greater interest in TAFF.

"Now, do you agree? Robbie and I will continue to do the Lion's Share of work on this thing, altho that Sneary Fund zine will primarily feature the writings of other fans, not any of the usual sounding off that I do in g2. But I agree with Bill that he can't endorse anything that you, his supporters, could not sanction."

I ended up getting answers from everyone on that letter! But before all the answers could come in, I had yet another job to do. So on 2 November, I wrote a ten-page monster with one copy for you and other copies going to Roy Tackett and Harry Warner, Jr.

It took ten pages to tell the whole story and ask Roy and Harry to back Rick Sneary for nomination.

Of course, this included full information on what I was going to do -- in short, the Sneary Fund -- but you may realize, now, that I still hadn't explained why I was doing it. In fact, you may have guessed, by now, the real reason I've been in favor of Rick going for TAFF from the very beginning.

I hadn't intended to be quite so mysterious about that; the truth was, I needed time to work it out properly.

But the replies had already begun to pour in, and may not have stopped coming yet! The one reply I did include in my letter to

Roy and Harry was, of course, Ron Ellik's. Ron had written Ken Potter, Don Ford, Larry Shaw, Len Moffatt, Ethel Lindsay and Bill Donaho, as well as me, the following:

"You forgot one point in your letter, Joe: You forgot to name a single reason why Rick Sneary--or anyone--deserves to have TAFF handed to him on a platter. Or are you only going to permit weak candidates to oppose him?

"Bill Donaho is one of the strongest possible choices to stand for TAFF this year; Rick Sneary is another. There is no reason why fandom should be prevented from choosing between them--and I consider it more than just desirable that they both stand."

Ron went on to ask me to "back out of it" and asked Donaho to "write to his nominators and reassure them that he wants to stand" -- and Ron meant it, too. But I had to dissuade Bill Donaho from writing Ron immediately and calling him a fuggheaded idiot!

Then Ken Potter's reply came:

"I got your letter re Rick for TAFF today. I'm copying this reply to Larry Shaw, Don Ford, and Bill Donaho; also to Walter Willis, who had agreed to be one of the British nominators for Bill.

"We won't be junking any extensive work, we'd only just got the ball rolling for Bill, and I hadn't even rounded up a full roster of nominators yet, so I'm glad this came up as soon as it did.

"When I offered Bill the choice of standing as soon as possible or waiting till '65, I rather hoped he'd say '65 anyway, because that is going to be a big show, of which I'll be doing part of the organizing, whereas I might not even attend the '64 convention.

"I'm also sending Walt your letter so he'll know what's going on."

Then, crossing in the mails with Ken's reply, came a letter from Len Moffatt, addressed to myself, Ron Ellik, Ethel Lindsay, Ella Parker, Bill Donaho, Ken Potter, Larry Shaw and Don Ford.

The gist of Len's letter was: "I have come to the conclusion that Ron is right. And--more important--I believe that Rick would agree with Ron. Rick would not want the TAFF Prize 'handed to him on a platter,' as Ron puts it. If he stands for TAFF, he will expect competition."

And on the heels of this came Don Ford's reply to me:

"I have no objection to withdrawing my nomination of Bill Donaho for TAFF...provided Bill wants to withdraw. As far as I'm concerned the decision is up to Bill. If he wants to run I'll support him; if not

"this time, well I'll support him at some future date."

Well, Madame, you can see the fat was in the fire --and I had yet to receive the castigating you gave me! And into the midst of this maelstrom rode Roy Tackett:

"Mighod, Joe, that ain't a letter, that's a fanzine!

Len Moffatt

and I have been discussing the possibility of getting Rick to stand for TAFF for some time now.

Starting with the currentish of DYNATRON I'm attempting to do a little PR work for Rick by reprinting some of his stuff from 5X5.

All of which, of course, is leading up to the point that I will be quite happy to be one of Rick's nominators. Where do I sign?"

This pleasant interlude was all too brief. Along came a postcard from Larry & Noreen Shaw, giving their new Evanston address, and saying:

"We agree with Len & Ronel -- Rick would split if he thought he was getting TAFF as a gift. Bill should run."

And we might as well include your remarks here, Miss Parker, although your letter (copies to Warner, Potter, Shaw, Lindsay, Ellik, Moffatt, Tackett, Ford, Gibson & your files) didn't arrive until what I'd known all along was going to happen had happened.

You wrote:

"I honestly think this thing is getting out of hand. We can't expect Donaho or anyone else to back down from TAFF in order to make it easier for Rick to win. I am in perfect agreement with Len over this, he would hate it and would probably refuse to stand if it came to his ears. With all the blabbermouths there are in fandom, we can't be sure this won't happen, can we? In any case, I think the inference to be drawn from any attempt in this direction is an insult to Rick that I resent in his name. It implies that we don't believe he stands a chance to make it against fair competition. I have already written to Bill telling him this much and asking him to reconsider his withdrawal. Now cool off and think about it sensibly, please. Added to this is my reluctance to have any part in an attempt to manipulate TAFF for our own ends no matter how worthy they may be."

By this time, I no longer had any doubts about one thing: that some of the finest people in fandom were hoping Rick would stand for TAFF. But the one thing all of you seemed to have overlooked was that I couldn't talk Bill Donaho out of the time of day, especially if he'd already made his mind up. All of you who deplored Bill's withdrawal addressed your complaints to me, as if I had engineered that withdrawal.

No, Madame; I am not that good.

What finally happened, of course, was that Bill Donaho made his stand. And here's what he said:

"Dear Ron, Ken, Larry, Noreen, Walt, Len, Ethel, Ella, Joe, etc.

"Well at last I have a free moment or two to comment on the TAFF situation.

"I'm withdrawing from the 1964 TAFF race for primarily three reasons:

"(1) 1965 will be a better time for Ken, whose idea this whole thing is.

"(2) If Berkeley gets the 1964 Worldcon--and we probably will--it will be inconvenient for me to be away a month or so in the spring of 1964.

"(3) A lot of my friends, both here and in England, are unhappy about having to choose between voting for Rick or me. If I win I want to win with the backing of my friends, not because I'm popular enough with other fans to win in spite of my friends.

"I think that if I ran I would stand an excellent chance of beating Rick. Maybe I wouldn't, but it would be a good fight. But even apart from the reasons listed above I wouldn't feel very happy about running against him. Rick IS a special person and there is all sorts of sentiment and/or nostalgia attached to him. It's ridiculous to even try to ignore this. It's there.

"And, Mr. Ellik, Sir: you, Sir, are off your rocker, Sir."

....Bill then went into a dissertation on TAFF, answering Ron's previous dissertations on TAFF -- comments which I excerpted for my report on TAFF to Eric Bentcliffe. (Now I wonder who'll jump on that glaring error about how often Bney's stood for TAFF, totally ignoring everything else in the report?? But you people may just end up wishing you'd never asked for competition for Rick!!!)

Then I heard from Harry Warner, Jr., and I quote:

"You may consider this my formal and official signing of the nomination of Rick Sneary as a TAFF candidate. There isn't much that I wouldn't be willing to do for Rick, except to marry him, and I can't think of anyone better qualified to be a TAFF representative or more likely to win full acceptance in England."

So we have four nominators for Rick, so far -- including you, Miss Parker, whose job it is to get the fifth nominator there in England. Also, you're writing the 100-word nomination for Rick and presenting \$5 (or its equivalent in Sterling) to Ethel Lindsay. With all this, you're also moving your household -- I do not envy you this November/December period! But I was glad you, Len and Ron wrote the letters you did. You've



just found out that we can't tell Big Bill he has to run against Rick, either. I saw from the start that Bill didn't want that. But if he had written his supporters, saying that, they couldn't have said no. So I wrote them for him; and they could certainly have said "No!" to me! And I can see Bill's side of this, too. Bill isn't going to base his own, personal decision on any theories the rest of you may have about TAFF. I don't agree with you, myself, that "TAFF must have competition" to do its job, or serve its purpose.

...But just because I don't agree with you doesn't mean I won't help you. So I'm trying to get you competition.

...But let's get down to discussing exactly what my part of this campaign will be. As I've told all of you -- Miss Parker, Len, Harry and Roy -- one of the first things I did was call BOAC and ask the fare on their non-stop jetflights from here to London, via the Great Circle route; from San Francisco, it's \$765.80 ... it won't be much different from Los Angeles. If Rick agrees, perhaps Len Moffatt will check conditions and fares on both sea and air trips from there.

I'm still betting the Sneary Fund will be, as Roy Tackett put it, the Sneary Trans-Polar Fund -- that he'd best go by jet, non-stop, over the Arctic!

But what I've told all of you up to now is simply that this is what I want for Rick -- that I'm going to start up the Sneary Fund to increase the TAFF contributions by at least another \$500, making it \$1,000+ total. It was done for the Willis's, completely outside TAFF in a year which had two TAFF delegates, and I think we can do it for Rick Sneary.

But I think you're beginning to see that if we succeed in this, it will be just about the last year that TAFF's limit is so ridiculously low. Rick won't be the only one this Sneary Fund will help; every delegate that TAFF has from now on may benefit from it, indirectly. Rick may not be able to do it all, himself -- getting the Fund's limit raised may require Bill Donaho putting it up to fandom at the London con -- but I can't see that Fund staying unchanged, after this!

That's why I want Rick to stand for TAFF.

Other aspects of this came out in Len Moffatt's last letter to me, personally, which I quoted to you, Harry and Roy, asking your opinions about it. Certainly, some of that material belongs in this final report.

Consider Len's remarks on Rick Sneary as a TAFF trouble-shooter:

"Certainly Rick would make an excellent TAFF Administrator. No one is more careful or conscientious about such things than the Squire. (However, I'm afraid if you use his Solacon stint as an argument--to him--that he would be a whiz at TAFF administration,

"he will pooh-pooh the argument.) At this late date it is difficult to tell just who did the 'most' in making the Solacon the success it was. Standing back, and trying to look at it as impartially as possible, I'd have to say that most of the credit would have to be split between Anna and Rick.

"Be that as it may, he prob'ly can do much to improve TAFF, and here's another point. Rick has, at one time or another, been an officer in umpteen different fan organizations...LASFS...OUTLANDERS...NFFF...FAPA...YOUNG FANDOM...WESTERCON COMMITTEE (the third one)...SOLACON COMMITTEE..."

It might be enough merely to say Rick was Treasurer of the Solacon, and it was the first World Con to show anything like a clear profit in years.

I have mentioned, in DOSSIER ON TAFF, that the TAFF Administrator who does the job of raising the Fund's limit will not have a simple task. Rick can do it. Anna Moffatt could do it, too. But any trouble-shooter for TAFF must fulfill three basic qualifications -- they must be willing to make the trip, they must be capable of winning a TAFF election, and they must have plenty of prior experience in many phases of fan activity.

But the final consideration to be included in this report to you, Ella, is that no matter what reasons any of us have for wanting Rick to stand for TAFF -- Rick Sneary has the right to refuse.

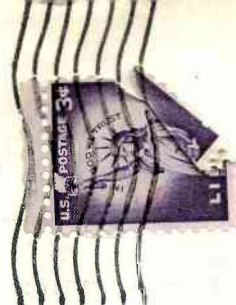
If he wants to refuse, it's going to be all right with me. I'd just like his answer in writing, to be published in the first issue of that Sneary Fund zine. But frankly, I'm hoping very much that it's not going to be any one-shot.

Anyway, there it is. You retained me, I believe, to investigate the problem of Rick's health in relation to his nomination for TAFF; I have done so, and it's solved insofar as that relationship is concerned. You then retained me as temporary coordinator/chairman of this venture. I accepted, and proceeded to line up Rick's American nominators and ride out what you must realize could have been a very disastrous situation with Bill Donaho; I am now publishing this final report, as well as sending it to you, so fandom will know the story as it happened and not as those blabbermouths you mentioned might prefer fandom heard it. Finally, I hope I've answered the questions you and others have put to me regarding the Sneary Fund -- answers which I will pass on to Rick.

If Rick accepts, of course, from now on this is his show.

There remains only the question of my fee to you, Miss Parker. You've heard my price to Eric Bentcliffe for handling that matter for him; I will not charge you a ha'penny less -- but with one, small stipulation:

If Rick accepts, you owe me a drink in one of those plush London pubs, under the same conditions as I quoted to Eric Bentcliffe. But if Rick refuses, well-1-1, forget it -- I'd not have much chance of coming to collect, a few years from now, in that case; now, would I?



Thus, I have concluded my services to you, Miss Parker -- and as I wrote once before on this backend of the 'zine, now it's up to him, down there. The fate of TAPP may well hang in the balance, altho I am always rather suspicious of any such grandiose remark when someone else makes it. No doubt we shall see.....

Respectfully submitted;

*Joe*  
Gibson

+ + + + +

This is a SPECIAL ISSUE of one hundred copies, distributed primarily to the subscribers of g2. And a Merry Xmas to you all, from both Robbie and myself, with a roaring good New Year to follow it up.

+ + + + +

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* This is a bonus issue (✓) \*  
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