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SIMON-PURE AND JOLLY GOOD

THE LETTER-SUBSTITUTE OF W. ROTSLEF

YEARS OF EFFORT ARE REPRESENTED

HONEST FANS AND POOPY-DO

KTEIC MAGAZINE

A PARA-PAPA PUBLICATION OF THE PERPENDICULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS WORLD-WIDE STAFF 1955

A BIG FAT LETTER FROM BOB TUCKER, NOTED SERCONFAN

...the "next" book still hasn't got a decent start, mainly because I'm lazy and//// also because we're still working on the house--but praise be, the end is in sight.// ...I have half a notion to try what may be a very foolish thing--work on two books/ at once. I want to do my Gilgamesh novel next, but the risks are very great. Rin- chart, on the other hand, would like to have another mystery, and the risks there// are much smaller. I could spend the winter on the mystery with an excellent chance of acceptance next spring, or I could spend the winter and maybe the summer on Gil- gamesh, with the risk of no acceptance at all. Which would mean a year's work lost. The only solution I see is to work on both of them in alternate moods, so arranging things that the mystery is finished first, and early. And then let Gilgamesh run// on into the spring and summer if necessary. Ah, such are the crosses we hacks///// must bear. ((Decisions, decisions...))

The most surprising things about science fiction books, as contrasted to mysteries/ (my own, anyway) are the foreign markets they unexpectedly find. The world is go- ing science fiction crazy. I've sold WILD TALENT in England (twice), Argentina/ (twice), Sweden and Italy. In point of sales, and income, it has far exceeded SILENCE, which had given every indication of being my best seller since CHINESE/ DOLL. ((Best book, too. Editorial comment.)) The Fantam people have struck off two editions of TALENT, making a total of close to a quarter-million copies...maybe//// more for all I know. All other editions, domestic and foreign, probably add on another forty or hundred thousand copies. It// is possible to figure the exact number of copies sold if one is willing to take pencil firmly in hand, go over every contract// mentioning terms, and figure out the ratio of copies-to-royalty. But I'm too damn lazy to do it because every contract carries// a different ratio and it's too much work. I'd sooner guess, as above, and bask in my fame. Considering all my books, in all// editions everywhere in the world, I believe I can honestly say two million copies of my immortal works have been in print.//// Which, friend, is a lot of wasted paper when you considered the trees that died for me.

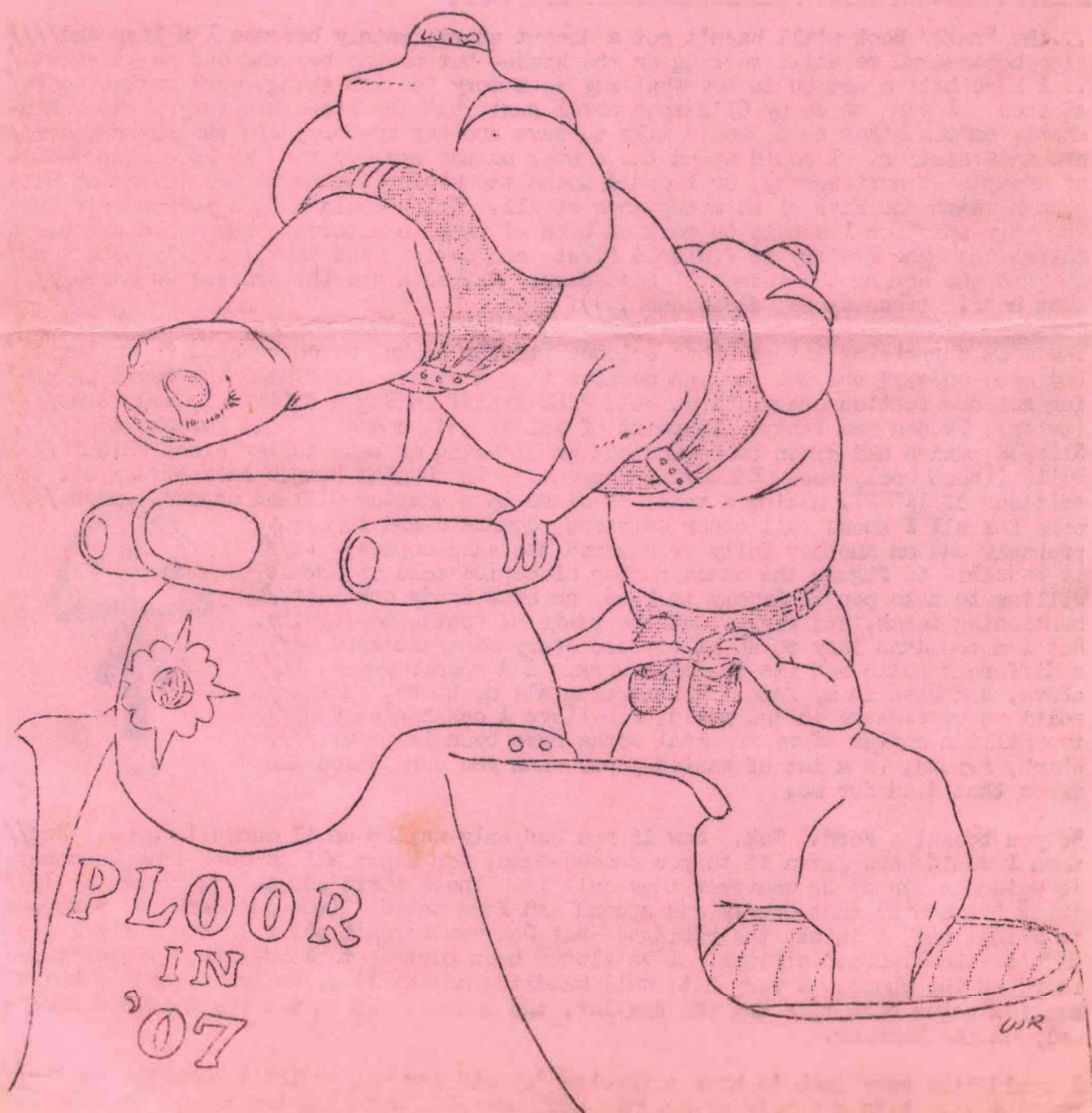


So you bought a Ford. Tsk. Now if you had only waited until consulting me. But// when I would have given it to you second-hand, for I got all my dope from Consumer- 's Guide or Digest or whatever they call it. Their first choice was Plymouth; I// think (remember) that Chevy was second and Ford third. ((We get Consumer's Repor- ts & that was, I think, the ratings. But Chevys weren't out with 56s yet & I just didn't like Plymouth styling. I've always been partial to Fords, too. Haven't/// regretted the choice. A very hot, well-handling machine.)) ...We too intend to buy a station wagon next time and the smaller, the better. Which was why I looked favor- ably on the Rambler.

I would like very much to have a foreign "sport" car but it isn't sensible at the// present time with a family of four to haul around. But then I'm always wanting// things. ((Damn, I have the same trouble...)) Now I want a telescope, I've found a \$125 refracting model which pleases me muchly, and I suppose some future royalty//

check will buy it for me. I also want a player piano, just like Burbee's. I've//
heard him talk about it so much, the similar desire arose, and I've been making//
gentle inquiries. I think I'm on the trail of one in Bloomington, but I have no//
idea how much or how little I should pay for it. Mayhap Burbee will give some//
general advice on the matter. ((Burb, you're our player piano expert...speak!))

My stargazing has been going downhill a long time ((a nice phrase)) while dwelling
in the dirty old city, but out here in the country it took a sudden jump. I think
I told you ((no)) that I can stand on my back porch and see the entire southern///
half of the sky, unimpeded by light or building. Brilliant, man, brilliant. So///
off I went for a round of the telescope catalogs, and finally found my neat. They
had a beautiful range of models from \$75 to \$800, but I curbed my richer instincts.
((How many want to bet on cornents on stargazing crop up in forthcoming Tucker///
books? Ruminating sections where our hero sits on a back porch and stares at the///
stars and mulls over his problems. Gee, Bob, next thing you'll be believing in///
life on other planets and that crazy stuff...))



Several weeks ago I sent a letter to BOXOFFICE complaining about all the crap///// shown in science fiction movies. Thundering meteors, rockets that don't brake,/// ships that miss the moon and hit Mars, battling dinosaurs and all the usual crud.// Two weeks after my letter was published, they printed an answering letter. Guess// what the answer was? Science fiction pictures are made to entertain, not educat. (That's what you get for becoming a letter hack to a trade magazine. Now me, I've had a letter in PLAYBOY.))

The Toronto faaaans, Raeburn, Lyons and Kidder, are frantic worrying about Kteic./ Can't make up their minds if it is a hoax or not. Give them a break sometime. ((It strikes me I threw them a bone with #29 but I've put at least one of them on the// list...they can fight over it or trade 1926 WEIRD TALES for it or some faaaaaanish service.))

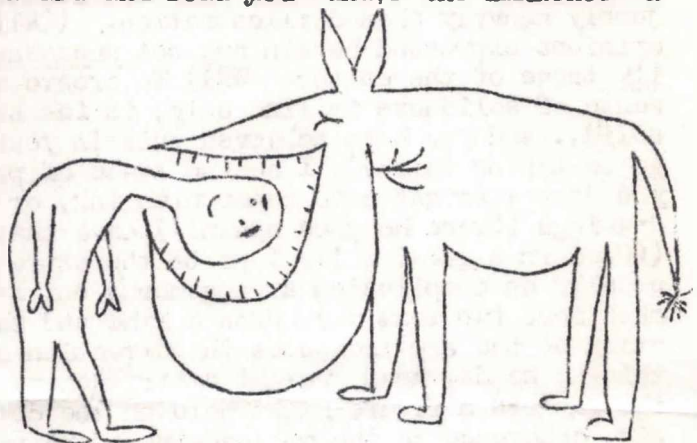
Got a coverline for you: He likes to walk in hardware stores and ask female clerks for a Phillips screw.

I tasted that Champale and then went searching for something better. Found Gluek/ Stite and am still with it. ((I've both heard and read you "under the influence" & son, it sounds potent.))

I pass,
Bob

A FEW MORE NAMES

Hoffwoman: Novadene Thomas. A local// newspaper had an account of a murder, and these concerned were Lucille Myrtle Blunk and Buster Allen Shirley. I am now submitting gags to Vahan Shirvanian. Bill Danner looked thru a/// local phone book ((Pittsburgh?) and// found 19 Abts, 3 Africas, 3 Agues, a/ John Pest, a John Baptist, ten Fairfoots, (these "s"es are plurifications and man, is that a word?), 2 Abneys, an Aziz, a Babel, a Joe A. Lover, a company called//// Love's Hauling (Bill, call them up & say you have some ashes you want nauled and// see if they scream) and he also turned up a Rotzler, which is the way it was///// spelled a few generations back, just after it was changed from Rathskeller, or so/ the story goes.



NOTES AND COMMENTS

I received a letter from Boyd Raeburn, who I understand doesn't exist so it's not/ too hard to understand not finding anything in it to quote. However, Boyd, I dont understand not using illos unrelated to the text...if it's good enough for the New Yorker it ought to be good enough for you, you un-American Canadian, you. KTEIC is not is the forthcoming FAPA mailing, to my knowledge. If thereis one there it's/ a fake and a fraud. We're speaking of Mailing 73, which in actuality is behind me. I made a grammatical bubu and I'm stäck with it. # YOU JUST ROPE-BURNED MY TOE. #/

Chen Day sold the gag of the rocket landing on Mars or the moon and the greeting/ sign: YANK, GO HOME to the Detroit Athletic Club News and my cut was \$18.75. Old David Pascal sold a girly mag called Pack O' Fun a Ballard/Rotsler gag (#1444) the "That's a bull?" gag about the cows looking at the panel truck labeled BOGGS COUNTRY BREEDERS ASS'N. I owe you \$1.25, Wrai. Want it in cash or money?

Dean Grennell predicted KM would reach/// thirty issues before the end of the year// and I guess he's right. # LAXNESS WINS/// NOBEL PRIZE is a headline sent by Richard Ency with the comment, "Heck, I could have done it myself, then." # A very good lot/ of Canadian fmz arrived recently. Comment elsewhere.

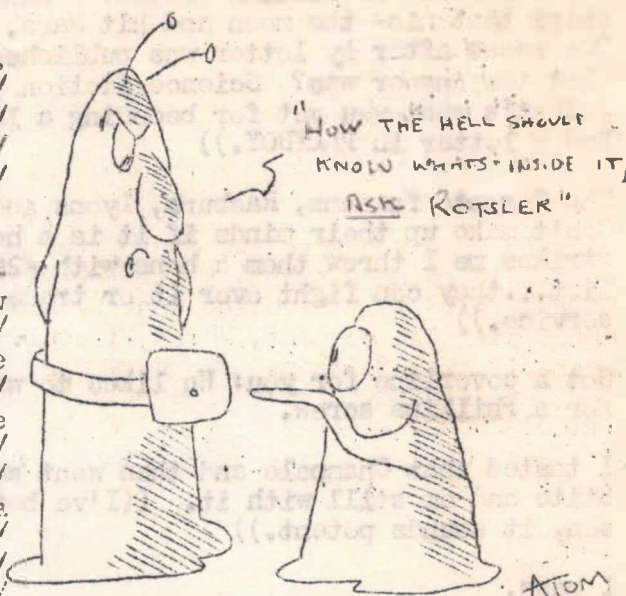
"Now there was something I came down here for..."



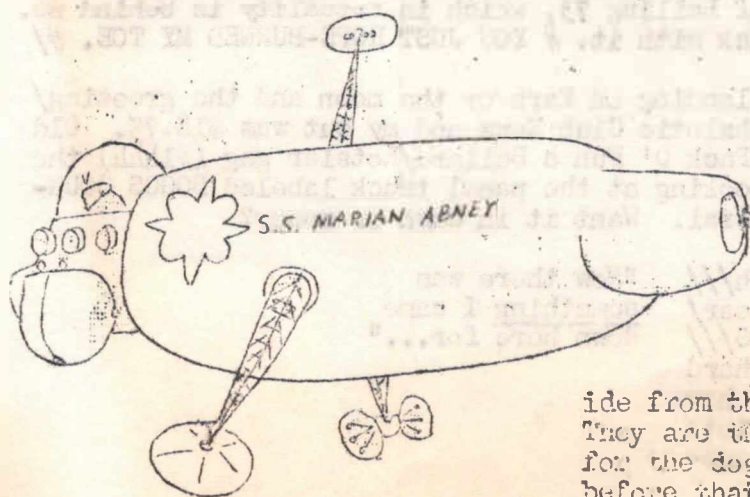
A LETTER FROM ARTHUR M. THOMSON

Many thanks for your kind letter and MASQUE. Fitzgerald is a terrific writer. I started reading Masque and like a rabbit mesmerised by a light went right through the pages till I fell out dazzled and dazed at the end.//// how!

Walt passed across to me some of those wonderful illos of yours... I'll be getting a few into Hyphen when the chance turns up... but you know Walt--he usually fills up the whole stencil with type... Honest, Bill, I think your drawings are beautiful... terrific... the line work is superb... I go for this type of illoing... a beautiful conservancy of line with minimum of shading is far superior to a jumbly heavily shaded illustration. ((All opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the editor. WR)) To create a sense of solidness in line only, is far harder to do than using shading to show a solid... and you have achieved this in your lines to perfection. ((Oh, how I can I go on typing this?)) I see no trace of pencil layout on the illo I have here... do you draw straight onto paper with ink, or do a pencil rough first then trace? Your drawings ((were he goes again!)) have that beautiful 'clean' look I admire so much. ((Once in a great while I go to the extreme of doing a very rough pencil outline, usually on complicated arrangements but I'd say 99% of my stuff is ad-libbed. It is much more fun that way. Draw a line and that indicates a back or an arm. The direction of the arm indicates the direction of the body; that in turn dictates other things-- hands, head, weight distribution. A casual line will give me a clue as to the gadgets a figure might hold on the devices on a spaceship. I try, usually, to give coherence to the man/machine coordination. I'll not make this into a big theory, but a few simple examples will suffice: beings with 2-fingered hands would have controls that could be operated with 2 fingers. Creatures with jointed, worm-like bodies would require certain type openings, certain type furniture. Beings with a certain shape head would have helmets that reflected this as well as reflections in anthropomorphic machines, much as convention robots reflect 4-armed humans. I go on many a binge of exploring facets of a certain expression, a certain head-shape, a particular rocket idea, like the nullified gravity ships I've been doing lately. Only ships that could float to a landing could be built that way. Follow me? WR))



Did you see the latest Hyphen No. 15?... I worked in a cartoon of one of your type/bems and put a couple of my own characters in to form a moon. I didn't actually copy one of your drawings, but drew the bem to faintly look as your style. I might do a couple more like this... but using your illos and working in some of my own to form a cartoon... ok? ((Sure, but try some of your own ideas of my bems. It is always very interesting to see what other people think are your characteristics. WR))



RICHARD BNEY QUOTES W. BALLARD

"Blanchard is quiet, seldom much happens in Blanchard. Think a car drove thru there yesterday, and also the train came, but aside from that and a dog fight, no excitement. They are thinking of putting in a fire hydrant for the dog, but it will take years of argument before that is settled."