

A surrogate letter from:
402 Maple Avenue,
Fond du Lac, Wis. US of A

12 August 1954 Gosh, here I am with only a few of the copies of LaB #1 mailed out and I'm starting out with #2...permit me a question--so what? I have a bit of fresh news though so I'll get that out of the way first.

Grennell's Ramblings, Utterly Extemporaneous: Don Wegars sends a clipping from the "Berkeley Gazette" for July 16th headlined "Top Science Fiction Authors to Hold SF Meet in September." It's good press, with the exception of one inaccuracy: "Other personalities will include Anthony Boucher, Ray Bradbury, and H. L. Gold, editor of Galaxy Science Fiction." I can say with full authority that H. L. Gold will not be there but at present his wife, Evelyn Paige Gold plans to attend. This was somewhat in doubt till quite recently when Guinn, publisher of GSF, okayed the trip. #You've no doubt read something of the hullabaloo around Chicago over the mysterious death of Montgomery Ward Thorne, heir to the mail-order fortune? Well, Denis Moreen sends up the front page from the "Chicago Daily News" for 13 July with an item encircled. This I note with amused fascination: "On most of his stops, the coroner's investigation showed, he used the alias "Doug Stevenson," /are you theah, Graves old boy?/ and gave his address as 219 W. Oakdale, Elkhorn, Wis. #Sometimes he used that name but gave his address as 219 W. Main St., Fond du Lac, Wis." This gives me to snort because Main Street in FdL runs north and south. Wonder what significance lurks behind the number 219? Tnx DeMo! #Ted White wants to know the meaning of "FB" as used in these pages. Lee Jacobs could tell him that it is hamese for "Fine Business" indicating approval of what has gone before. QX, Ted? Ok, FB. In case you've never got it, Ted publishes a really excellent fanzine called "Zip" which he sells for a platry 10¢ a copy (that's pretty paltry, you know) from his home at 1014 N. Tuckahoe St., Falls Church, Virginia. Assisting him is Bob M. (Texas) Stewart; One of the outstanding features of it is some of the finest multi-color mimeography I have ever seen...and what makes it really unusual is that the pictures justify the effort. You ought to try a copy and see. Permit me to quote a card in the public interest:

Dear Dean:

Have you already mimeoed Grue and sent it to Burbee? /Yes, friend--weeks ago/ If you haven't, I have a small ad which I would like very much to put in your zine. It reads thus:

FOR SALE: Speed-O-Print Junior duplicator. Mimeographs material from postcard to 6x9½" size. Two years old. Sample of work available. Excellent for ½size zine. Costs \$29.50 new, will sell for \$10.

Joseph W. Miller,
19 Newcastle Road,
Rochester 10, New York.

Sorry I couldn't get it into Grue, Joe, but if you haven't sold it by the early part of October, drop a line and I'll insert it in next issue. There's no charge for the plug, Joe, because a \$10 duper is news and LaB prints news. Try Hal Shapiro as he was looking for one the last I heard. #A delightful bit of fanzinia is at hand. It's called "Devoir" (I think) and cometh from Dick Ryan, 224 Broad St., Newark, Ohio. Older fans will remember that Dick published a mag called "Mad" before E-C thought of the idea. Now Dick's returning to FAPA and this is his entry requirement. Always glad to see a wanderer return to FAPA, Dick! Whyn't you try to talk L. Shaw into coming along? #speaking of Shaw, did you read "Superstition" in the August ASF? Lester del Rey has stolen a leaf from Tucker's book and named a whole bunch of characters after oldtime fans. There's "Siryl" (Kornbluth?), (Will?) "Skora" (Sykora), "Michla" (John B Michel?), "Lari" (Larry T Shaw?), "Ferad" (Fred Pohl?), "Wolm" (Donald A Wollheim?), "Aevan" (EEEEvans?) and two others, "Kayel" and "Derek" which I haven't been able to correlate as yet. Someone, I think, was called "Dirac"...who? #Typical ASF proofreading: Spaceship Waraok becomes Waroak later in the story. Tsk, JWC, tsk!

YOU'LL BE GAD YOU DLID?

WINGS OVER BLOOMINGTON DEPARTMENT Stork-type wings, that is. La Banshee howls greetings to fandom's youngest member, David Roger Tucker, aged five days at date of writing. He dropped in upon parents Fern & Bob Tucker last Saturday morning (7 August) after very considerably waiting till his Pa's Blue Cross Hospital Plan would foot the bill. Deadline was 1 August for that. Fern and David reported doing very well but sire sounds bushed. Hearty congratulations to all! Esp. to Le Littlest Zombie.

INTRODUCTIONS DEPARTMENT Newly-found member of Wisconsin Fandom, Curtis D*. Janke, of 1220 N. 14th St., Sheboygan, Wis., commenting on Grue 21, asks: "The several articles in your summer issue mention a Boyd Raeburn. Is this the same fellow who had a band that recorded a few collector's items a few years back but never made any money because the stuff wasn't commercial? If so, he's now in congenial company--who's getting rich in science fiction?" Answering in order, yes, I'd say that it probably is the same Boyd Raeburn (that can hardly be a common name!) because he makes some lengthy mention of Jazz items on the last page of his mag, A BAS #2. Boyd's address is: 14 Lynd Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I will pass my copy of this along to Curt and I hope you two will be very happy. Janke writes and arranges Jazz, among numerous other accomplishments. He's 37 (I think), read his first sf in 1929, the same year that Bob Tucker and yrs trly did. "By the way, the 'D' in 'Curtis D. Janke' is for 'Dean'. Of what significance is that?" he remarks in closing. I dunno but welcome to the Dean Club. Have you met Messrs., Boggs, Bergeron, Atchison and Martin?

& STILL MORE WiS-Fen: Ralph Hickok, of 1869 Preble Avenue, Green Bay, Wis., heads up a group of high-school students who are forming a sf club. They plan to issue a bulletin, maybe a fanzine, and I don't know what-all. Add the lad to your mailing/swap list if you wishes.

BY HIS BOOTSTRAPS: Grue #21 is out. If you haven't received your copy, it either means it went astray in the mails or it is waiting for you to send 15¢ in payment for it. Unsolicited fanzines will receive La Banshee in trade, rather than Grue unless swapping arrangements have been made. Grue #22 will appear around the central part of October and will feature a hilarious article by Anglo-Fan A. Vincent Clarke which is called "The Ultimate Fanzine". Inasmuch as it'll most likely hit 50 pages or more, the price will be back up to 25¢ but I hope to have enough in it so you won't feel cheated. #Copies, very much for sale, still remain of a magazine called "Filler" published by Norman G. Browne and myself last summer. A 25¢-piece brings you a copy of this gag-mag containing more than 500 quips, jokes, poems, epigrams & nauseous nothings. Postpaid, yet.

A TRULY UNIQUE EXPERIENCE was mine last Monday. I presented an author with a copy of his new book which he hadn't previously seen. I had written to Bloch that his new Ace book, "The Will to Kill" was on the stands and he replied that this was news to him and would I get him a copy? I did and inscribed it, "Compliments to the author, Dean A. Grennell". Such a chance may never come again. Wait till you see the page of ads Bloch nightmared up for G#22!! Die?--I like to laughed! More news from the Warlock of Weyauwega (which, in the Indian tongue, means "today", nearby town of Waupaca means "tomorrow"...pity Bloch didn't move there...could do "Man of Tomorrow" dept. for Palmer and peanuts!) wherein he confides that he just sold the Dutch rights to the very-popular "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper". He says they plan to re-title it, "Hans Brinker and his Silver Razor." Also narrates how a friend of his goes around Milwaukee buttonholing people and asking them if they belong to the Stomach Club. "hen they answer no, he snorts, "Then turn in your belly-button!"

CORRESPONDENTS, PLEASE NOTE: I would appreciate it no end if you would see that your address and the date you write the letter appears somewhere upon the letter itself. Facilitates answering. Also, please, omit the funny stuff from the outside of the envelope; just your return address and my name and address. I would sure appreciate this, so thanks.

Yours for the Brave Galonians, --DAG *DAG*