

LA BANSHEE 5

It's not Eney's
fault @ all. Blame:

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every time a banshee howls....

Friday evening, 10 September 1954 I'm getting way behind on mailing these things out-- reason being a drastic shortage of Gestetner ink (if one says Gestencils, should one say Gestink?), stamps and the wherewithal to purchase stamps. Either I have to talk the postoffice into putting me on a credit basis or else I have to find an angel who will provide quantities of 2¢ stamps in exchange for a 50% partnership in LaB, Inc., any takers? Anyway, LaB #4, such as it is, still waits running off but I raised the price of a tube of ink tonight and have maybe 25 2¢ stamps on hand. So maybe we can get this thing moving again. #If you are sweating out anything from 402 Maple...letter, contribution, comment, etc., the prospect is a bit bleak just now. From here on till the end of the year is the peak season in the heating business and I have two crushing sales-quotas to meet between now and the end of the year. Nights and weekends are very apt to find me hunched over blueprints and data-sheets for some church, school, store or house, pumping my slide-rule, rumpling my hair and swearing in a dull monotone. Just now, as far as the eye can see here in the basement there are letters and unanswered correspondence on every table, chair, shelf, etc. I'll manage to get Grue out OK--that seems fairly sure, 16 pages stenciled so far--but won't get much else done in the way of fanactivity. The letter-section will be back up to the usual size again and there's some nice stuff for it this issue too. But please understand if I don't do much correspondence for fun's sake these next few months...after all, the company pays more for my time than amateur journalism does so I suppose they have prior claim.

Sure: three or four copies of the cover will come in handy to show to my parents. --BT

I Don't know how many parents Bob Tucker has but since he wrote that I'm wondering. The cover for LE ZOMBIE is back from the lithographers and they did a beautiful job, and quite inexpensively too. 275 copies in dark blue ink on linen cover-stock with a line-cut and a screen cut of a 4-3/8x6-1/8 photo...all for \$10.00 or thereabouts. The address in case you're interested is: BADGER DUPLICATING COMPANY, 908 North Broadway, Green Bay, Wisconsin. Mention my name if you wish; no, I don't think they duplicate badgers.

The 1955 Con-site has been won by Cleveland, Ohio. This information reaches us via a roundabout route. Walt Liebscher and Mrs. E. E. Evans phoned the news to Bob Tucker and he relayed it up in a letter received today. Not receiving FANTASY TIMES, I don't know if LaB has scooped Taurasi or not.

Ted Wagner startles your editor more than slightly with a business card from a chap in Madison. Seems the guy does Furnace Service and Cleaning and Gutter Work and his name...that's what slays me...is: MELVIN GRINNELL. All readers of MAD comics will doubtless go ape over this. #A card from Dave Rike took a big load off our minds, "our" being Redd Boggs, Bob Silverberg and self. He said that the carton of WO3W Quote-Cards and LaB #3s arrived Thursday before the convention. Many of you will be getting LaB #3, 4 and 5 all in a bunch here. Sorry I ran so low on the cards that I can't include more than one or so apiece. Maybe I'll list all the different numbers in Grue #22. #How many of you believe in canadensis? #Just heard from the brave Galonians--I'm 4F.

Bansheepishly,

Dean

FITS & STARTS Got a whole bunch of little things left to fit in and I intend this for the last page this issue. Been wanting to mention that countless errors* have been removed from the Gestetnered work of Mafia Press through the courtesy of Norman G Browne who donated the bottle of correction-fluid that I've been using all this time. It was originally for the cutting of Filler #1. Thanks, too, to Norm for a number of little news items that I may or may not be able to work in here. One that I gotta use though:- "P. Howie Lyons has gone inactive to a large extent. Reason being a girl named Pat Patterson. He has an ulterior motive. Besides being beautiful, she is a top pro artist. The Derelicts twitted Lyons over his defection to the cause, even threatening to send out fake wedding-announcements but Lyons retorted, 'Laney would be proud!'" Thanks Norm...I'm convulsed over that one.

A chicken is an egg, but not foo yong.

SOLICITATIONS are in order. I'd like for all you budding poets to try your hand at finishing this limerick: "A noted pro-author named Bloch/ Likes to sleep in a grandfather cloch/ ..." You all know how a limerick goes, let's see lots of entries. I'll print all the funnier ones in Gnurrserly Rhymes nexttime. Grue #22 is practically full now, I think. Lyons agrees to do a column, I've got a screaming-funny fan satire from Gregg Calkins plus--I hope--another feature that should go well. Won't say what it is till it's in the bag though. Plus Miscellania, plus mucho letters, plus maybe more photos (majority's opinion was favorable on these--now if I can only make the pix and afford to get them 'faxed.) #Today (4 Sept) brought LYRIC, a poetryzine from Jim Bradley of Geisland, Oregon--wups!--Portland, I mean. The poems vary from so-so to downright good but the mag is plumb stolen by this chap Bob Kellogg whose superbly zany artwork you've marveled over in PSYCHOTIC (I assume you have--I know I have!). What this guy can do with the spirit ditto process is amazing. There's a comicized version of Robert Service's "MacPherson Held the Floor" which is much better done than most of the MAD comics-imitators and very nearly as good as MAD itself. And maahn--dig that cra-a-azy bacover! Jim's address: 545 N. E. San Rafael, Portland 12, Oregon. 10¢ a copy. Get it.

Didn't Dick Tracy once have a friend named Pat Patterson too?

REDD BOGGS in a recent WO3W despatch, said, "Check the 6Sep issue of Time for a nice dirty dig at sf authors and fans and for an item about "Pogo." I looked it up--even shelled out 20¢ for a copy of Time--something I very rarely do--and I read the articles in question. I suppose there will be those who take bitter exception to the article on the writers and readers of sf (some bloke name of Robert Plank pontifically proclaims that--in essence--all sf authors and readers are more or less dotty. He's from Cleveland...what have you been up to now, Ellison?). But I dunno. Sure, I could tear into him and I could doubtless convince LaB's limited and probably prejudiced audience that this Plank is practicing cruel and unwarranted persecution of an innocent minority for purposes of personal aggrandizement (egoboo in Time is not to be snoze at). But I suppose he's right to some small extent. Sanity is so tough to define and there are so many tints and shades of aberration that a person could probably say that we have some warped psyches in the crowd. But I doubt if all of the people who read and write for Time are 100% sane either. So there. This is too big a subject to cover in the few lines remaining so I'll expand my views elsewhere--me and umpteen others, I'll wager. Farewell, fellow psychos!

N. Bonaparte