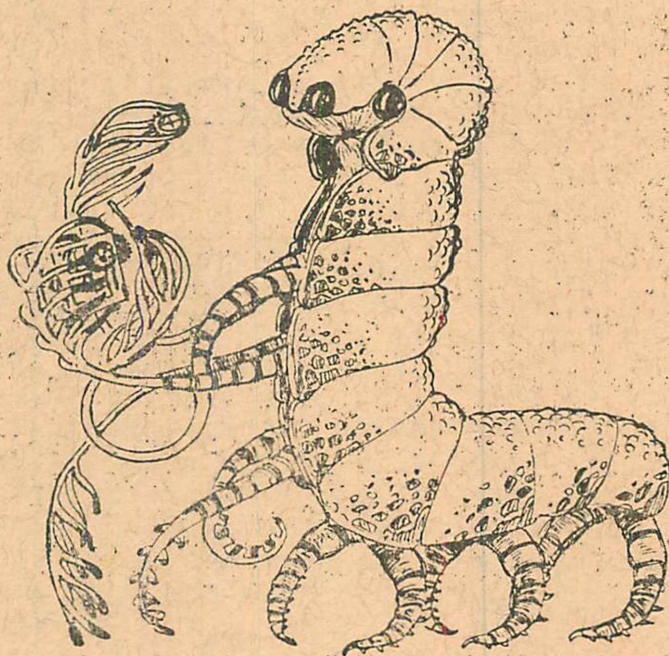


LARK

NOVEMBER, 1959



KENIAN WALL-MAKER

Published by Bill Danner, R. D. 1, Kennerdell, Pennsylvania,
being a repository for comments upon the 88th mailing
of the FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION, here-
after known as the FAPA, and including the
first (or White) section, the last (or Lost,
or Young) section, and all the little
in-between sections, I think.

This is the evening of 8-20-59, and this afternoon I brought home this '47 Smith-Corona from the franchised Royal dealer in Franklin. He now has the old Smith Premier on display in his showwindow, where it is attracting no little attention. He had offered me an allowance of \$30 for the antique Underwood, believe it or not, on a used Royal priced at \$80, but the only ones he had were with elite type, and I happen to prefer pica. So I decided to wait a while, but this is the only pica machine he has taken in. Apparently most business offices now use elite, so of course schools are using it too, and it is becoming very hard to find a used standard with pica type. When I first tried this machine a few days ago I wasn't much impressed, but I didn't realize that the type was badly filled up. Today when I tried it the only defect was the poor alignment I have been told is typical of the S-C because of the ball-bearing type-bars. The dealer preferred not to take the antique in trade on this, but let me have it (without the usual clean-up and new platen) for \$40, or about \$27 less than he allowed the previous owner for it. When I got it home I spent about an hour aligning the type, and now it is pretty good except for the l, which for some reason wanders up and down. One reason I decided to try it is Calkins' description of his own S-C, which I imagine is about the same model, and the excellent work it does. Of course, though, Gregg has a Rex Rotary and I just have the old ABD 77, so don't expect this to look like The Rambling Fap... By the way, Gregg, while the type on your machine is practically perfect, the alignment is bad. Why not take an hour or so and correct it? Fixing the vertical alignment is really easy, and a good tool for it is a "Vise-Grip", preferably with plain jaw-fronts rather than the knurled type. If a letter is too high squeeze the top edge of the type-bar; if too low squeeze the top edge. Obviously that should read "bottom" edge that you squeeze if the letter is too high. Lateral alignment can be pretty tricky, but fortunatley it never gets very far off...As you can see, this machine makes lines that are not quite parallel, but I think the trouble is in the pressure rollers rather than the platen, and the Saran film I'm using probably doesn't help any. The stencil is a Type-It with plastic backing sheet, and I'll try the next one without the Saran and see what happens... Appearance of this machine is very good; it appears to have had good care and not very heavy use.

I feel you should have some explanation of the foul-up on Lark, and since White didn't see fit to give one I will tell here what I have been able to discover. The package arrived at Ted's old address in plenty of time for even the advanced deadline. But Ted wasn't at home at the time and w-ler Rickhardt received the package and somehow managed, whether deliberately or accidentally I don't know, to hide it or bury it under some other stuff without even mentioning to Ted that it had come. This is not Ted's fault; I know that if someone were to come here and hide a package when I was out it might be years before I find it. What I can't understand is why Ted waited some three weeks after it turned up to let me know, despite my having written him asking if he knew what had happened, and then he wrote only after I had already been told about it. Ted apologized very nicely for the mixup (though not for the delay in letting me know) but I have had no apology from Rickhardt, nor do I expect one. His action is inexcusable but I don't suppose it can be classed as tampering with the mail, since he did his dirty work after the package was delivered to the correct address. No harm done, but my record for being in every mailing is broken.

Since cutting page 2 I have removed the platen from this machine and turned it down a few thousandths in the lathe. This page is done on a Tower stencil with plastic backing sheet but no Saran film. The platen is still soft but the surface was oxidized and indented, so the turning has made it almost like a new one. Now on to . . .



PULL NO PUNCHES

The more I see of people the better I like dogs.

BOBOLINGS / Pavlat / There is no possible reason for using the same size reel for supply and takeup on a tape recorder. It is a good idea to use reels as large as possible at all times, especially on machines such as Harry and I use which depend upon tape tension for adherence of the tape to the heads rather than pressure pads. Such machines are designed for use with a particular size reel (usually 7") and smaller sizes affect the tension in the tape. It is probably the other work done on Harry's machine that is responsible for any improvement you have noticed. I can't see that there has been any decrease in the flutter, but of course we use 1 7/8 ips. . . Your mention that Harry's place can be reached only from the west makes me realize that this one can be approached by car only from the north. The road does continue on south to Emlenton, but after a mile or so is just a narrow, rough dirt road. . . Is "Rembrance" the plural of Rembrandt? . . . Yes, the Fenrod stories are by Booth Tarkington, and another good one of the same type is "Seventeen". Have you read Twain's "Tom Sawyer Abroad" and "Tom Sawyer, Detective"? Even ole Mark wasn't averse to turning out sequels of a big success, but in this case the sequels are as good as the original. "Oscar Peyton Terhune, indeed! It's Albert. . . \$40 for a \$500 duplicator is quite a bargain. How do you do it? . . . I got 124, 10020316 and 80809 for divisor, dividend and quotient in your problem; could there be another solution to a thing of this kind? . . . Guess I'd better send you some of those aitches Dean sent me to stick on Pittsburgh when he left it off. Anyway, Pgh does have an rc bishop; I wouldn't know about it except that the papers were full of the appointment of a new one a few years ago when the old one wore out or kicked the bucket or something. . . Well, yes--telephone surveys are legitimate, but I think they ought not be. What right should anyone have to use a means of private conversation to take you from what might be an urgent task just to ask you a lot of silly questions? Such things are the reason I had an unlisted phone my last year in Pgh.

BULLFROG BUGLE / Hickman / You should take your own advice about learning to spell, Lynn; I'm afraid you offer more proof that the schools don't teach spelling any more. Dispite, prominete (excuse it--those are Sheedy's). But you use advise for advice, excellant, Cardinals, layed, and habitually omit apostrophes in the possessive. . . As somebody pointed out, the trouble with the idea of sponsoring would-be members is that there is always some soft-hearted (or soft-headed) member who will sponsor anyone. There's nothing wrong with the black-ball idea; from events reported in the 88th W----- would have no trouble getting a sponsor. Hey! That might not be a bad idea, at that. We'd find out who it is that's been passing stuff on to him. . . What the hell do you want with stronger state governments? We've got too much government of all kinds, and the main purpose of all of them seems to be to see how much money they can get out of the taxpayer. I'd be in favor of anarchy except that it would quickly lead to even worse chaos than we have now. They govern best who govern least, or whatever it is that

somebody or other once said... Apparently the one advantage of mimeo over offset is that mimeo stencils can be spliced invisibly.

BULL MOOSE / There must be as wide a variety of flatbed duplicators as
Morse of the rotary kind. Jim Guinane of Australia has what he describes as an Ellams Flatbed, which, from a sketch, is about as primitive a device as I've seen, and with which he does work as good as any Gestetnerography I've run across. If this had come from some people I can think of I wouldn't have tried to read it; as it is I strained my eyes and I'm not sorry... Smoking in Pgh trollies and buses is forbidden by law, as I believe it is in most American cities. ... I can remember when new 6.00x16 tires--good ones--could be had for about \$8 each, but then days, like the days of new cars for under \$600, are gone forever... That Black Frightening must be quite a machine. How fast has it actually been run? Do you have any of the Clymer "Motor Scrapbooks"? If not, I think you'd enjoy them, for each one has a section on motorcycles, Clymer having been a motorcycle racer when young. In #2 is an article about an air-cooled V-8 motorcycle built by Glenn Curtis in 1907 with which he did a mile in 26 2/5 seconds on Ormond Beach. That is the year, by the way, that a Stanley Steamer racer did an unofficial 197mph before becoming airborne and crashing. Pretty good time, even today! Fred Marriott, the driver, recovered from his injuries and died just a few years ago in Massachusetts, where he was still servicing Stanleys... The article on the English kings continues to be interesting, and so far as I can recall is in fair agreement with Dickens' "Child's History". At least, Dickens went into some detail about the massacres perpetrated by Richard I.

CELEPHAIS / The days are plenty hot here (this is 8-23) but except for
Evans the last two, the nights have been pleasantly cool. Even the last two I have been able to sleep comfortably without the exhaust fan that was a necessity most of the last summer I was in Pgh. Your mention of "...sweat, not perspiration..." (sic!) reminds me of an old Katherine Hepburn movie I saw on tv, called "Spitfire". I didn't see all of it, but in one scene a friend of Katie's, apparently not quite bright, came to show off her new dress, and said she'd help with the washing but she didn't want to sweat her new dress. Later she said "I don't want to unfreshen my dress--you sweat more when you're excited."... What is a PIT symphony?... Another reprint publisher driven out by paperbacks is Tower, who put out 49¢ editions, though the paper and bindings weren't nearly so nice as in the 75¢ books... Is regular ditto fluid methyl alcohol? If so I'll stick to the rubbing alcohol I've been using for my addresser. The less I handle methyl the better I like it... I can't see (or hear) that stereo discs have a "tremendous amount of crosstalk". Actually a slight amount of crosstalk is an advantage in discs that do not have a third center channel electronically mixed with the other two. I think your poor opinion of stereo discs is based on some of the lousy ones dubbed from monophonic recordings, and possibly played on inadequate equipment. Your comparison of lp's and microgroove 78's with 1 7/8" and 7 1/2" or 15" is a little far fetched. Have you ever heard music recorded at 1 7/8"? For frequency range it can't compare even with the 78's of the early '30s... Again I must remark that teachers in the Pgh schools must be better than average. I can recall only one who resented the above-average student (not surprising, since he was a lousy teacher) and at least one who resented the dumb ones. Most of them seemed really anxious to help those who wanted to learn. Of course, this was a long time ago; I don't know how they are now... We may not agree about musical instruments (I put the

human voice at the bottom of the list) but we surely do about comedians. I never could stand Joe Penner, but can still recall some wonderful scenes from the pictures of Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd. I thought Keaton's lone talkie, "The Cameraman", excellent, but apparently it was a flop, for since then he's had nothing but occasional bit parts. I think Lloyd's single talkie was "The Sin of Harold Diddlebock", though it wasn't released until long after a paperback version had appeared, and by then I think the name of the movie was changed. It was spotty, as I recall, and not up to his old standard, though with some riotous scenes... Sure, I live out west. When we spent the summer of 1923 in Patchogue, Long Island the natives there referred to us as westerners. Also, when we were riding our bikes around the country, they often warned us to get ready for hills that we never discovered, being from a section that has real hills... Your definition of prejudices is a dandy.

DAY*STAR / Good ole Bob Bloch. Remind me to send him a postcard some-
Bradley / time, even if I never, so far as I can recall, read any
stories by Kelvin Kent, Keith Hammond or Paul Edmonds...
Well, anyway, if Max Polen ever starts a telephone commercial campaign,
as seems likely from his newspaper one, you have your answer all ready
for him.

DESCANT / Krazy's penchant for shocks is as curious, if not as danger-
Clarke / ous, as the pastime of a part-collie pup we had at a country
place when I was a small boy. This pup, the only all-white
one we ever had, loved to lie on the ties between the rails of the old
Harmony Route and let the big interurbans rumble over him. The sad part
is, of course, that he didn't realize he was growing all the time, and
he did it once too often. "Doodlin'" greatly enjoyed, but not conducive
of comment.

FAPOOSE / And I, for one, am glad to have you with us. In a preliminary
Busbys / glance through the mailing I ran across a revelation that El-
inor is an obnoxious character thoroughly despised by the
Nameless Ones, who nevertheless elected her president. This is a little
hard to understand, and her noxiousness doesn't show here at all. A
good thing, for we have all too many noxious characters in the FAPA now.
...I'm afraid one does not get on the FATE tape, for it's full up. With
nine participants it takes, curiously enough, nine months to make its
rounds. The two tracks are divided by leader tape into eight sections,
and it would be virtually impossible to increase them without gypping
someone on the present recorded parts, to say nothing of the increase
in time to get around. This inflexibility of membership is the one big
drawback to round-robin tapes. Should anyone drop out we'll certainly
keep you in mind.

HORIZONS / Thanks for your support. As a matter of fact, I warned the
Warner / membership about the sort of crap Myers publishes, but it
did no good. Now that we have the means to do so (I presume)
let's keep him out. That "misleading" that the D.C. does has nothing to
do with similar names. I once got a much-delayed package that had been
misent to a small town in Ohio with a name that didn't resemble Pitts-
burgh in any way... The concentration camp for Indians hasn't been a-
bolished yet, and even the concentration camps are being taken away
from them... There is, no doubt, much truth in what you say in your ar-
ticle about Dennis, but I can't believe he is the real menace you seem
to think he is. Many of his acts are far from cute, but kids do such

things before they begin to turn into human beings. As for the aging comment, how many strips can you think of in which kids have aged at all? "Gasoline Alley" and what others? Freckles grew from grade-school age to high-school age and is apparently stuck there. But the Katzenjammer Kids have been unchanged since time immemorial and Little Old Orphan Annie goes on, year after year, in her cast-iron bra and spouting baby-talk. I'm not especially fond of Dennis, mind, but I prefer even him to the insufferable Nancy... I preferred the article on the oboe to "The Fan Who Was Thirsty", which I must confess left me a little confused.

INVOLUTIA / Please, Curt--if you must use green ink, don't use that
Janke / green paper. Such color combinations are pretty, alright, but don't make for good legibility... Add to the evidences of the "never-waning ingenuity of man" his constant striving to make life easier and longer and to eliminate disease, the while he works even harder on newer and more horrible weapons to wipe out more of his fellow men at a crack... A head assembly for the Dixieland, when available, cost about \$17. But for the Magnecorder the price is much more: There are three heads in the assembly and the record and playback ones are about \$40 each; the erase head is so made that it lasts indefinitely. The company maintains a revolving stock of rebuilt heads which should be somewhat cheaper which I shall investigate when I need a replacement. But after 4½ years of intermittent use mine are still pretty good... I suppose that "Acres Of Clams" of the Coulsons' is a reference to an essay or book or something of some years ago called "Acres Of Diamonds." The title is all I remember about it... I love your explanation of the real manliness of Pelvis. I'll probably picture him that way whenever I see his name from now on, but I'm not complaining. ... There are at least two color systems such as you say you want--the Munsell and another whose name I forget. They provide a way to classify definitely any conceivable color or shade, but like blink and grink the names don't sound like "decorator colors" which seem to be requisite for any product to be sold to the Great American Public... Why do you keep griping about the results from your Rex, when they have very few superiors in the mailings and are better than most? If you don't look out I'll take you up on your offer and trade you my ancient ABD 77 for your Rex... Who is Mitchell?

OLYMPUS / Perhaps you got that term "dissociation" from Philip Wylie's
Speer / "Night Unto Night" in which the protagonist uses it to refer to the duration of his epileptic attacks. I'm glad to know yours aren't anything like that. Occasionally I doze off in my easy chair and once or twice, upon waking, have been unsure for a moment of the time of day... At last report the Indians seem to have lost out, as I suppose was to be expected. There is an old expression, "Indian giver" for one who welches on a promise. I think it might more accurately be "white-man giver". After all, the white man came and took the whole continent from the Indians and now, for one reason or another, is taking the little parcels doled out to him "in perpetuity" by the government. So far as I have heard there is no "unearned increment" factor in the Kinzua dam case; the Indians live and farm there, and the government is taking it to build a "flood-control" dam of highly questionable value. As a friend remarked, it would be better to use the billions spent on flood-control dams to evacuate the sections of cities that are periodically flooded... But is Buddhism divided into hundreds of sects, all fighting one another, as is Christianity?... I can remember not caring for "Nize Baby" even when it was published... Lucy Stone

was an abolitionist speaker before the civil war, and afterwards founded the Woman's Journal, which advocated votes for women.

THE PAVLAT REPORT / One of the things I like about the FAPA is that an
Shaw "innocent-sounding" question like Bob's can arouse
members to turn out pages of interesting stuff like
this. I imagine Pavlat was both surprised and pleased to find in the
mailing this fascinating answer to a question he had probably forgotten
asking. What makes me tick? Well, that will take some thought.

PHANTASY PRESS / The old 77 seems to do much better than that thing you
McPhail used to use. Even the miniature Fapazine covers turned
out well this time. Keep it up... Why should the FAPA
waste money on an ad in the "worldcon booklet", whatever that is? The
best way to reduce the amount in the treasury is the one now being used
--cutting renewals back to \$2. Looks as though I was right in voting
against the increase in dues... Sorry, but I can't think of any other
comments, Dan. This issue must be milder, much milder.

There's only one i in despite. I'll learn youse guys to spell yet.

RAMBLING FAP / There's no appreciable difference between Masterweave
Calkins and your Twill-Tone, nor can I see anything wrong with
your results on the latter. The whole thing is so neat
that I begin to wonder if perhaps Janke isn't justified in his gripes.
I haven't run off any of these stencils yet, for the other day I sud-
denly realized I'm fresh out of paper and sent an order off to Master.
So I don't know yet how the work of this Smith-Corona will compare
with yours, but the stencils look to be excellent. The last three pa-
ges are cut on Type-Its with coated carbon and no topping. They are all
gone, and this is cut the same way on a Tower. I'm hoping these will be
in Sears' next sale, for they are very good and cost under \$2 per quire.
... Have you seen the new containers Royal typers are being shipped in
from the factory? They are made of compressed Styrofoam, and are about
the weight and consistency of cork, but much stronger, being said to
prevent damage even in a fairly high fall. They are molded in two halves
with interlocking edges that are secured by two steel straps in molded
grooves. Cheap, light, neat and easy to close. What's that about the
never-waning ingenuity of man?... Looks as though I may have to attend
my niece's wedding next month, in which case I'll not only have to put
on a suit and have it pressed first, but have to go into a church. But
I'll beg off the big fancy reception; even a convention would be better,
and I hate conventions... There is a way to get moving targets without
killing them. Haven't you ever heard of camera-guns?... The Rambler
American hasn't yet gone the way of all iron. 100" wheelbase and an ab-
solute minimum of gingerbread, good handling and amazing economy. The
mechanic at the Franklin AM agency told me of taking one on one of
those economy tests with a measured container of gas connected instead
of the tank. Gave its best mileage at road speeds of about sixty--30
mpg! This is almost as much as I get with the Met. But there are a lot
of fine foreign cars, too. Take a look at the Borgward, a beautifully
finished car on which I've heard no complaints of any kind. Bob Silver-
berg and Groff Conklin can tell you about the Peugeot. The Morris Minor
is damn near the best-handling car in the world, but is underpowered,
even by foreign-car standards. A friend who had one now has a Renault
Dauphine, which he says does everything better than the Minor except
corner. Look at them all, Gregg, and try them out. That "stereo set"
that is no more expensive than a "hi-fi" set is likely to give you an
entirely wrong idea of both stereo and high-fidelity. If it's the kind

I've seen advertised it has a couple of crummy 3-watt amplifiers (or even worse, a single two-channel amplifier) and two (or maybe six--so what?) entirely inadequate speakers. I'm not trying to be snooty, but I know the sort of crap that has been sold for years as "hi-fi" and that with the stereo effect to mask (at least partially) all the distortion. Don't just take my word for it; ask Leeh or anyone else familiar with audio equipment. Pre-recorded tape, whether stereo or monophonic, is not likely to replace discs, ever. Discs can be stamped out cheaply by the thousands, while tapes must each be individually dubbed, and even with machines that dub a number of them at one time, the process is more complicated and time-consuming than the stamping of discs. I see I left a sentence unfinished up there, something I do occasionally when composing on stencil. After "all the distortion" read "even worse junk is being used in stereo equipment". Amplifiers of at least ten watts output are needed for good speakers of average efficiency, which should be in large enclosures. The only speakers that will work properly in the tiny enclosures being sold for "hi-fi" are very good (and very expensive) speakers that are also very inefficient and require amplifiers of fifty watts or more. Someday this picture may be changed, but as of now it hasn't been, and the stuff that is sold as "hi-fi" may be hi-fi, whatever that is, but it most certainly is not high-fidelity.

RETROGRADE / I gather that you consider this a letter substitute, Redd.
Boggs / If so, it surely compares with other letter substitutes as a Rolls Royce compares with a Citroen 2CV. If you don't know what the 2CV is, it's the nearest thing to the Model T being made today. A letter substitute with carefully justified lines, numerous photo reproductions, and impeccably reproduced in two colors on a Gestetner is something new, strange and different to me. And I gather, too, that your typer is a Hermes, to judge by the distinctive type-face. I suppose it's an Ambassador; if it's a portable why can't I get stencils like that with mine?... I don't think I've seen Rumble, but are you sure it was launched in 1947?... The trouble with what Jim Harmon describes as dialsmanship is that one must be glued to the tv set all evening, every evening, in order not to miss something worthwhile. This I refuse to do, and so have long since decided to pass up all live and/or network programs in favor of the late movies, when and if they are good ones... Keep this one up, Redd. It's all enjoyable.

ROT / And so is this. For Pete's sake, Mal, don't you desert us,
Ashworth / as your fellow-countrymen have been doing in droves lately. Your "erstwhile secretary, Beryl" sounds like someone who ought to be in the FAPA, but why is it necessary for the two of you to exchange notes, like a couple of kids in school?... I saw "Dracula" on the stage many years ago, with, I believe, Bela Lugosi in the part. Despite having seen the movie since (and again fairly recently on tv) I found it one of the most completely un-memorable plays I ever saw... Jeez, Mal, stop making titles all in caps with those script letter guides. Don't you realize they are almost totally unreadable. Such faces should always be used in caps and lower case. Nevertheless, after spending five minutes puzzling out "Halfway House" letter by letter, I found the article very interesting. It seems odd that the U. S. legalizes alcoholic drinks, which can have such devastating effects, while banning innocuous drugs such as Mescaline. I suppose it's to be expected in a country founded by puritans, though, and is on a par with making gambling illegal instead of letting human nature have its way and taking a cut of the proceeds. However, I can't say that the results of your experiment are such as to make me want to try to obtain an illegal drug to try to duplicate it... Dave Wood's letter is amusing, as is your

colloquy with the dozen or two wise men... I was thinking of registering with the A.A.A.A. God Sponsoring Service but the rigorous test scared me away. I probably wouldn't make a very Good God, anyway... Hey! I see you're omitting the "Tong St." from your address now. Did your mail carrier finally learn how to find Makin St?

RUNE / There is something to be said for the point of view that
Mansborough / even with such reproduction, though everyone does not agree. On the other hand, it is safe to say without contradiction, but of course there are two sides to every question.

SAMBO / Getting covered with that purple stuff is one of my objections to the spirit process. It's an aniline dye and poisonous if it gets into cuts, and I'm likely to have a small cut somewhere on my hands almost any time... I don't agree with all he says but Robert Lee's Komments are remarkably well-written. It's refreshing to find a member of the younger generation who can spell. Do the Tulsa schools actually teach spelling or did he pick it up himself?... I can't imagine any government being perfect, since governments are made up of so-called human beings... Robert has quite a vocabulary for a five-year-old. Wonder what he'll be like when he grows up?

This is the second cutting of this page. I ran off some copies of the first one to get some preprints of the following item to enclose in letters, and then decided to give the mimeo drum a long-needed complete cleaning. When I put the stencil on again it had stuck to the paper it was on, because there was still a little of that damn Japan drier in the old ink pad. It is printable, but has a number of bad blots. Meantime I have received that postal from Pavlat about the postmailing of eleven publications intended for the bundle, owing no doubt to the OE's "clever trickery" when he "was not about to move", so there will probably be three more pages in this issue... I voted for the amendment and sent my ballot a few days after receiving the mailing.

At 5:45 pm on 8-24-59 I saw UFOs for the second time. I happened to look at the sky as I went out to get the evening paper, and there I saw two bright lights flying almost directly away from me toward the southwest. While there was no way to judge speed or height; an object has to be moving right along when it appears to be going so fast away from one rather than across the line of sight. I saw them against a clear, blue sky, and they were going so fast that they vanished in two or three seconds. They made no sound and left no vapor trails. They were certainly not birds, or balloons, or the planet Venus, nor were they jets or any other conventional aircraft. Planes go over here frequently, and even at heights where only the vapor trails are visible the sound of the engines can be plainly heard for even longer than the five or ten minutes that the origin of the trails can be seen. These were entirely different from the one I saw in 1950, which was a sharply defined solid object.

It is easy to understand why there are so few pictures of these things. I had a loaded camera just inside the house, but they disappeared in less time than it would have taken to run in and get it. If I had seen them as they appeared from the north I might have had a chance, but I didn't. Or if I'd had the camera in my hand ready to shoot --but ifs won't get me anywhere. I wonder where they're from.

This is 10-18-59, and I had just about given up hope of ever seeing those eleven mags that White promised to mail around 8-29 when the Youngs' card came with the information that they have been rescued and actually put in the mail. By the time they come I should have the platen for the Smith-Corona, which is out being recovered; meantime I am taking this opportunity to try the antique Underwood again, for I have done some further work on the type-bars that should give better results.

I wonder if ever before a FAPA mailing has been so badly screwed up as White's last one. It will be interesting to see if he is able to dredge up some sort of feeble excuse for his inexcusable delinquency, or whether he will just give up the attempt to hold his easily-lost temper and blame all the rest of us. I imagine plenty of others will be trampling all over him in this mailing, so I'll add merely that he has given a singular demonstration of instability and irresponsibility, which his determined silence the last couple of months has not mitigated the least little bit. If he hopes to make his way in the business world, I hope for his sake that no prospective future employer learns of it.

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The only thing I don't like about having to add more pages to this issue is that I must use some more of this lousy paper shipped to me as Masterweave. What I liked about the old Masterweave is that I could run almost anything on it with no noticeable setoff. This new shipment appears to be identical with the Twil-Tone about which I see now why he complained about it. My thoughts got ahead of my fingers again; ... identical with the Twil-Tone about which Gregg Calkings complained, is what I should have said there. To prevent bad setoff on this stuff I have to slip-sheet, which is a hell of a slow job on this old #77. I had some correspondence with a Mr. Bruce D. Hamilton of Master Products, and at his request sent samples of the new paper as well as a piece of the old. He agrees there is a difference in texture, and adds, "But I think the absorbency of it is just as good as ever - it is still of double opacity." He seems to confuse setoff with showthrough; the opacity is as good as ever (or possibly better, as it's a trifle thicker) but the smoother, harder surface makes setoff inevitable. Mr. Hamilton said to return the paper collect, but he couldn't guarantee that another batch would be like the old Masterweave, so what's the use? I'll keep this lot for printing Stef, for it prints well and is very easy to feed, but what am I going to do for mimeo paper? Do any of you know where paper like the old Masterweave can be obtained?

XX

The USPO continues to astound me with its inconsistency. Some time ago I ordered a surplus lens (a 7" f2.5 Aero Ektar) from a surplus house in Adams City, Cal. I had it nine days later, or two days less than it takes to get stuff from any of several places in New York. And last week I received a letter from an amateur printer in Hanaula, Hawaii. With only 4 cents postage it got here in five days. It must have come by air, of course, but perhaps you remember the airmail postal from Enay which also took five days to get here, and the airletter from Linard that took only four. Tapes from Ballard have taken variously 13 days, 9 days and 4 days. Some color film I had processed in LaGrange, Ill., took 11 days to wend its way back here. Well, if the ox-carts from Cambridge, Mass, make it any time soon, comments upon the lost eleven mags of FAPA will begin on the next page. And so, as the midday October sun shines pretty brightly and I prepare to go out and get some anti-freeze for the car, I take my leave of you for a day or ten.

I ran page 10 right after cutting it and learned a thing or two. First, I thinned the ink considerably and the paper took it without noticeable setoff. But I still prefer the old Masterweave; it would work well with any ink. Second, this old wreck doesn't do very good work using the plastic typing plate, which I've been using to minimise setoff. Third, I thought I had the type pretty clean, but didn't. And fourth, it looks as though there's still a slight depression in the middle of the mimeo drum. After this Lark is finished I'll sand it some more.

I was surprised to hear on tape from Harry Warner that Peg has been chosen for next year's convention. I'm glad I moved from there, but I'm wondering if I shouldn't have moved farther. I'm glad I have published no map or directions for finding this place, and that as yet I have no telephone. With all the visitors he has had from points as far east as Ireland Harry can no longer claim to be a hermit, so I may as well claim the title. All this, of course, is my delicate way of saying I don't want to be invaded in my rural retreat by hordes of wild-eyed convention-goers come next labor day. Maybe I'll spend the week-end at my brother's place, which is at the end of a two-mile private road that is navigable only in a Jeep.

And now I'll save the rest of this stencil for section two of the August mailing and the Smith-Corona. 10-17-59

This is 10-23 and the second section hasn't come yet. Of course, it's only ten days since it was mailed, and that's hardly enough for the ox-carts to make it this far. It will probably take them just as long to get from here to Cambridge, so I'd better finish this issue of Lark without commenting on the White-delayed portion, alas. I don't have the SC platen back yet, either, but this old clunker isn't doing so very badly.

ELECTION RETURNS, / It's blank green paper on my copy.
Büsbys /

THOSE TWO EXPLOSIONS are both so entertaining that I wish these two would blow their tops more often, though I regret as much as any the occasion for the blowups...Dean, what the hell does "brisant" mean? I can't find it in the Century... One reason for the chaos in the F.C. Dept. is the alarming rate with which passenger trains are being discontinued. Much mail has to be entrusted to buses and trucks, and in view of the frequency with which these juggernauts crash into one another there's little wonder that so much mail is lost or delayed.

BANDWAGON / I suppose you call your Isetta "Bandwagon"? According to Ryan / Raeburn preliminary figures show Corvair is selling one to every three Chevrolets, instead of the anticipated one to five. Rambler and Lark sales keep climbing, and if the other two big 3 compact cars sell like the Corvair, we may begin to hope that the monstrosity has had its heyday and is starting a much deserved decline. I HOPE... Enjoyed the page of quotes on tobacco, especially the anonymous one (by Ryan?) Curiously enough, as I get older I seem to enjoy smoking less, and often stop for days at a time.

A PROPOS DE RIEN / How did Ron get the monicker of Squirrel, anyhow? It Caughran /

has made for lots of good fun, especially since Bjo started picturing him as Super-Squirrel, but how did it all start?... The first pocket books made in the US were 25 cents... The pages are all screwed up in my copy, Jim. The page with HAEMOGoblin misspelled is repeated, and a later page is out of order. I can't tell if anything is missing, since there are no page numbers

THE GREEN & GOLDEN GRYPHON / And how did you ever become a boat? Why
Trimble / don't you guys let us in on these esoter-
icisms, or is it just because I'm not a
fan that I don't know?... Upon first reading it I thought that as a
writer of fantasy Bjo is an excellent illustrator, and to some extent
still think so. But perhaps the lack of point would seem no drawback to
a child; it would be interesting to hear what any kids who have read
her little story or had it read to them think of it. Her spelling is
reminiscent of White's, but what surprised me most is that "hic-cough-
ing". Why the hyphen? I looked the word up in the Century (1914) and
found: "hiccup, hiccough (hik'up), n. (The spelling hiccough is recent,
being a forced conformation with cough, which is not related..)" Appar-
ently it never was hyphenated... Here we go again: John, if you must
misspell Caughran's title you ought to be consistent. One place you make
it "Appropos de Rein" and another place "Aprepos de Rein"... "Legarthy"
is a nice word; what does it mean? And for what does N'APA stand, and
why did any group pick a name with initials the same as those of the
National Amateur Press Association?... For title of ugliest car how a-
bout the '60 Cad--or any of the other '60 regular-line cars. Have you
noticed that Edsel, which, when introduced, made such a to-do about its
"classioal" front-end, has dropped that patchwork abomination altogeth-
er and is now as wide and squat in front as any of them? If sales are
any criterion I gues the Edsel is not long for this world, and serve it
right... Who on earth is Haniford Sour? Did you make all this up? The
other letters, of course, just point up the real need for the amendment
just passed by what must be the biggest turnout in FAPA's history. I
hope you didn't send this issue to GW.

BARBAN / How come there's no squirrel on the cover of this one?... You
Ellik / seem to have changed your mind somewhat between pages 4 and
12, for the amendment does make the FAPA a private organiza-
tion... Hey--how about telling us what the WM said after you said,
"Did she say which general?" No fair, Ron.

I suppose, now that I have finished this issue at last, that the
long-delayed second section will come tomorrow. If it should I suppose
I can add a few more pages and get the thing off in time, but if not I
shall print the cover and get the copies all wrapped up over the week-
end to mail on Monday.

I wish you could see what I have to do to make a " on this machine.
As I mentioned several mailings ago it was missing when I got the thing,
and I added one of type-metal, along with several other missing or bat-
tered characters. In unsoldering another character to improve the al-
inment I melted it down accidentally, so now I must lock the shift and
hit the ' key twice, moving the carriage a trifle between strokes. THE
shift lock is a lever on the right side that must be released manually,
which explains the occasional unintended caps as in the second line a-
bove. The original battered o is back again because the type-metal sub-
stitute became as badly mangled, but page 11 doesn't look so bad.

It never fails! This is 8-25, and the Lost Mailing did come yesterday, and I've just finished reading it.

UGLY BIRD / The ugly bird has become a phoenix, or something.
Boggs & Bradley / This is as fine stencil duplication as I have seen. There's no trace of set-off even with such heavily-cut stencils, so I suppose it must have been interleaved. I rather thought, Redd, that your Hermes must be an Ambassador, because, while the type-face is exactly the same as on my 3000, mine won't cut such uniform stencils as yours... I realize that the loss of passenger trains is largely responsible for the chaos in the P.O. Dept. (as mentioned elsewhere) but can you explain such wide variation in transit times as 4 days and 13 days for tapes from Wrai?... Marion, if you ever write a novel in the vein of "Mariontalk" I'll buy it. You give me a sort of nostalgia for a life I never had. When I was a kid we did spend two summers at a country place at Pine Creek, and part of another at Brady's Bend, where there was an abandoned church used as a barn. So I can say that the only place I ever rolled in the hay was in church; I do like the smell of hay, but can't agree that the smell of horses is pleasant. Why, I don't even use HSP66 in my barn here!

DEMI-PHLOTZ / I know what you mean in that first paragraph (typed on my
Economou / birthday) for the August mailing contained very few acknowledgements of my existence, thanks to Rickhardt and White... The Century gives for ilk the definition you mention, but also the one more commonly understood: "Hence, blunderingly-- (b) Of that sort or kind: as, men of that ilk. [Colloq.] A second definition is given as being "each" or "every"... Apparently Comstock's banning of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn didn't have much effect. I have a set of Twain's works published around the turn of the century by Harper's, which my parents probably bought in the first decade.

VANDY / I have reams of such esoteric stuff as you mention, Juanita,
Coulsons / most of which was sent me by Norman L. Knight. Have you ever heard of Koresh, who claims we actually live on the inside of a large sphere, and has made measurements of the earth that "prove" it? Or Fred Barker, who used to publish little pamphlets of all sorts of information (and misinformation) in a peculiar phonetic English of his own? If you'd like, I'll dig some of the stuff out and send it to you. (Sorry--you're Bob, aren't you? Those initials always confuse me. I look at them and say, "JWC--John W. Coulson; RSC--Roberta S. Coulson") ... General Telephone is pretty prevalent around here, too, but right here in Rockland there is still a small, independent company. The people across the road from me have phone #6. They have a modern cradle-type phone, but it must be hand-cranked to get the operator... One of the last calls I had in Pgh before I got the unlisted number was a dame who said, "This is Rembrandt Studios. I have three questions for you. What--" I interrupted her and said, "You know what you can do with your three questions, don't you?" and hung up. The bathtub here is the only one I have ever seen with the faucets at one end and the drain at the other. Fortunately, though, it slopes the right way. Why don't you try a plumber's helper on that wot that overflows?... I'm glad there's a female-type housekeeper who doesn't see a need for having everything spic and span at all times... Your typer cuts excellent stencils for a portable, but the reason standard machines cut better ones is that the longer type-bars give a heavier, more uniform impression. Actually, your stencils look better than Buck's, because the ball-bearing type-bars in his Smith need tightening up. It can be done, but it's a tricky job, as I found out on mine. What on earth is Dress?

GASP! / I can well believe that racing makes for a better driver on
Steward / the highway, in spite of that fatal error of Mike Hawthorn's
that you mention. But I'm not going to take it up at my age;
I imagine the Grime Reaper (and I'll bet he does get grimy at a race)
would catch up with me pronto... Racers aren't the only ones who get dis-
counts on parts. For years I got about 40% off at Dyke's in Pgh, and the
first time I took the Nash around to Cohen's in Franklin and got a few
things things I asked about a discount. "I don't see why not," the clerk
said, after he and everyone else in the store had come in from looking
the car over. He made the bill out to "Danner's Garage".

LE MOINDRE / Thomson's article is wonderful... In the thirties there was
Raeburn / a protracted gas-war in Pgh, during which the price got as
low as eleven cents per gallon. The dealers' association
took the same ineffective steps... I take a very dim view of farm price
supports, but what good does it do? We pay tax money to support a bureau
which hands out more tax money to farmers to grow less so we pay more
for what we buy. It's all part of the creeping socialism started by FDR.
But what the hell--we'll all die of radiation poisoning some of these
days... Pierre Berton's article about the dopes is another dusic... Did
you see the movie of Swiss Family Robinson, Boyd? It's excellent... As
I've pointed out before, Bob, RCA has frequently brought out regular
Red Seal lp's dubbed from ancient 78's. Some were subsequently put on
the LCT lable; others just dropped before getting into the catalog... I
subscribed to Infinity and got no refund, though I'm pretty sure I did-
n't get a full year's issues. Makes me leery about subscribing to any
sf mags.

AVALON / When I was a kid the clay marbles were called commies, but I
Speer / suppose that term would be frowned upon now... Seems incred-
ible, but that's all I have checked here. I liked most of the
rest (but not the story) and the same is true of Moonshine, in which
nothing is checked.

H-1661 / I enjoyed what parts of this I could read, but I certainly
Hevelin / hope you can make your duplicator behave next time. Or maybe
cleaning your type would help... That "...couldn't afford to
go deep enough" sounds suspiciously like a poor excuse. I imagine if
one goes deep enough he'll find water almost anywhere. Has any dowser
ever told not only where to drill for water, but how deep to drill, and
come at all close?

CLEAN BOTTLE / You bring up a point I've wondered about: Will Wetzel
Coslet / get on the waiting-list under still another name and keep
quiet until he gets in? Of course, he would probably use
an address somewhere near Owens Mills, which might give him away. I just
looked in Bennett's Directory and, while Lance is listed there, neither
Wetzel nor Arlene Harvey is included... I've been getting mail lately
addressed to Kermerdale, Pa., and some time ago got several letters from
England addressed to Kennerdale, Pa... The Goliath has been around for
several years. It's a nice-looking little car with a four-cylinder op-
posed ohv engine somewhat bigger than the VW's, and (I think) water-
cooled and located in front.

EDITORIAL / all, yes, but I don't see how. It's not a good idea, I
Vansbrugh / never saw it, but I don't see how. It's not a good idea, I
don't see how. It's not a good idea, I don't see how. It's not a good idea,
there: DEMY DEMY