



30-12-81

Well, well, well! I bet you didn't expect to hear from this end of the magazine world again for a long time! Nevertheless, here we are. Just two pages, but well....that's better than nothing. You can count yourselves lucky that you're even seeing this.

As you know, A-F & M-B are being suspended for some time - probably six months or so. I am keeping the best of the material I have in hand and am distributing the rest round the rest of the fan mags. Actually I intend to keep enough stuff for one issue of M-B and one of A-F, so that if I suddenly decide I've got the time to put an issue of one or the other out I won't have to scratch around after material. With no mags for exchange, naturally enough I'll have to start subscribing to you other fans. I ask you to keep sending your mags, keeping track of how much I owe you. (Including what I already owe.) Keep me well informed how much I owe --I don't want to let my debts go as far as the amount I owe Hoden for Reaper at the moment. And to Fong and Michael Rosenblum...thank a million! Your mags continue to arrive regularly in this God-forsaken dump.

Keith Taylor is in hospital, and has been for the last fortnight. While we (MDF & self) sweated in a temp. of 102° on Xmas day, he ate turkey in an air-conditioned room on the third floor of one of the best hospitals I've seen. He lies on his back and reads my Fogwill's Book & Fix, while I sit on the floor and eat his Minties. Don't feel sorry for him, mags....he's in the best place.

Oops, I forgot. A belated Merry Xmas to all of you, and a ditto New Year, the I'm typing this on the 30th. Whither funkind in the New Year? God only knows.

Most notable event in this last month of wacky old '81 (as far as Apeey fandom's concerned) was the arrival of Mickey Mouse--pardon Donald Duck in Melbourne's fair city. Since he's written up his version of our -er..meeting, I might as well do the same. Biggest and most forbidding stock I got was his elderly and serious look: he apparently formed the latter opinion of me, also, but I think we've both been disillusioned. Keith & I usually get quite hilarious when we visit Luna Park, and Don didn't seem to be terribly shocked. Ah, no. Don, by the way & before I forget, has shifted. You can now get in touch with him at 68 Market St., Wth. Essendon. This new address is nearer to his work at Maribyrnong.

The very first night he was in Melbourne he aroused my ire by buying everything in sight. As you know from Reporter, he promptly purchased \$1 worth. Since then, by the number of mugs that have arrived at our flat, he must have bought about 3 times that many. Probably it's just as well Bob Geppen may not be able to come up here; if you get what I mean. I'd like that to leave some for me. I don't blame Dan for going mad, however. We're getting *Air Wonder's & 1929 Amazing's* for a bob each. Not at McGill's.

Had another from Harold Pettliffe recently. He is still in hospital in Egypt. Excerpt from his letter follows.

"Your parcel of fan mags arrived today (17th October) and I really can't thank you enough; the separation from fan activities is probably the worst part of the war (at least to me). \*\*\*\*\* I can't help comparing Australian fandom with Anglo-American conditions from 1935-1938; the same multitude of minor publications (I don't mean that as an insult), the same juvenile squabbles and the same seeming co-operation. I only hope it doesn't end the same way.

This is No. 9; and we aint charging for it. Generous, huh?

A while ago Marsh McL. told us of another fan whose whereabouts he knew. We haven't seen M.L. for ages, for he's been terrifically busy, so we don't know whether he's got in touch with the gentleman or not. However, I you not worrying. At the present stage of Mel-bourne fandom (see Reporter, no 20) another fan would be rather more of a hindrance than a help.

And this will be the last M-B you'll see for some time, I'm afraid. Maybe I'll get another job someday, but it won't be soon. So....Bartagewell Haste la Vite!

