

The New Port News
205

"No, Hanson, You Didn't Find a Box of Bullets and Two Bags of Rice. You Captured an Ammo Dump and a Supply Depot."



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Cover art by Bill Mauldin from the Chicago *Sun-Times*, 1966, 1970

OO - Jeff - Got the mailing on August 5. "Quasi-waitlister"?

Yngvi - Toni - Ghad, I figured you would have dropped that PMB by now, quite a ways to go for mail! How did those Early Medievals know what Hank looks like so they could make a picture for your cover? I know he's old, but....

As far as I know I do not have *thalassemia minor* - my sister's kids are thought to have it from the Italian grandmother on their father's side. What I had was probably psoriasis - I still had it ten years later in graduate school. The doctor that did the physical at UVA said it was not ringworm but wanted me to exhibit myself to his medical students. The circular lesions generally appeared if I took a hot shower. It was only slightly itchy and didn't show so I never bothered much about it. The doctor gave me some ointment for it, which I used occasionally for years - still had some when I threw it out. Perhaps it cured me, I haven't seen a recurrence in many years. Whether either psoriasis or ringworm are a hindrance to giving blood I have no idea.

I had not thought whether I liked the Hildebrandt's colors or not. I am not that sensitive to color. Interesting that Rodin knew what he was doing to make his sculptures lifelike.

I have seen the ads for the Telezapper, and read a description somewhere about how it works, but I have not tried one. My subscription to the state "no-call" list should be in effect now. I don't recall but one telepest in the last month, one of those recorded messages. I get the occasional wrong number call but that doesn't bother me. Let us know how the Telezapper does - I wonder how long it will take the telepests to devise something to defeat it!

I had to replace the gazebo floor which was a lot of old bad wood, but saw only one spider and it looked like a harmless garden variety. I had to wear gloves anyway, it was all splintery pressure-treated plywood. When I moved here I was told the septic tank was under that floor and had been inspected in August 1997. I was not told that access would require destroying the floor.... The tank truck people tore it up, but of course I had to repair it. I put in a hinged hatch. Then I discovered that the trash people would not take the scrap wood. I could take it to a landfill in Lithonia and pay more than the new wood cost to be rid of it.... Shh, don't tell - I cut it up with a chainsaw and put the pieces in old Xerox paper boxes and put those in trash bags.

NASA said they had looked into it and the most sanitary disposable hand-towels were those brown borated ones, so all the restrooms at Langley Research Center were supplied with those.

I visited the Carlbergs in Tucker, just moving to Marietta - he gave me about 400 lbs of fanzines, mostly apazines. I will include a list here somewhere. Their dog is a very friendly mid-size mutt, but has a stuffed toy that it treats just the way a feral dog would treat a rabbit it meant to eat - it grabs it in its jaws and jerks it back and forth. This kills the rabbit by breaking its neck. They showed me pictures of the new house, looks very fancy. I asked him what he was doing, and he said that both he and Willella do "medical transcriptions" online.

You can't get pizza delivered?! Isn't that a violation of your constitutional rights?

I can read Spanish, but the high-speed gabble on the Spanish-language cable channel defeats me - partly I think because Mexican Spanish is full of slang I never knew.

The right to a fair public trial by jury specified in the 6th Amendment is in no way restricted to citizens, but mentions only "the accused". Nor is there any such restriction in the 1st Amendment, which applies only to the government itself. I see no conflict of interest in granting a fair trial to non-citizens.

The local NPR station played some of Nino Rota's music for Fellini movies and I liked it well enough to order a CD. Old records sound a lot better if you record them to cassette with a Dolby and listen to the cassette - saves wear on the needle too.

McVeigh was a citizen, and some of the alleged terrorists being held incommunicado by the government are citizens as well. I do not trust the government to abuse anyone "for national security".

Derogatory Reference - Hlavaty - Weird cover! I like Joan Aiken's books, but I wouldn't dare try to collect them - she apparently writes far faster than I read and I don't have that much space left here. Is there really only one of her?

Moodling - Hughes - In some ways I regret missing the DSC - kind of you to say you missed me! I remember seeing ads for Pisco when we lived in Chile, but I was too young then and have never tasted it. I had a horse named Pisco though. Great graphics!

Variations - Lynch - I have yet to receive any mail that appeared to have been irradiated. A lot of it of course it wouldn't matter (quite a bit could be burned to a crisp and never missed), but I would hate to have a nice book toasted.

I read something current on BSE today - apparently the method of transmission is still a mystery. The damage is caused by certain brain proteins being *twisted*. They say we have no BSE in the US - but according to this article the highly prevalent "wasting disease" in deer is the same thing.

Twygdrasil - Dengrove - Well, the "Mormon State" hasn't worked out that badly - they are loonies, but a sane person can live there and people are free to come and go.

I have sometimes been told to turn off the anti-virus when installing software, but I have also installed stuff with it on and it didn't seem to matter. I have had no trouble with installations to this new PC which came with Windows2000 and Norton Anti-Virus Pro 2002.

I don't think any alchemist ever "made gold", but while there was no doubt false gold peddled, there were people who knew how to test for the real thing. The oldest method goes back to the classical Greeks - a careful determination of the density. I don't know just when the *aqua regia* test became available. Many people traditionally depended on biting a coin - gold was easily marked, and any base metal would have a taste.

So there is a collection of the Nigerian Scam letters! An important historical collection but I'm glad I didn't waste time on it.

My photos of the wedding were taken with an old Vivitar 35mm. I now have a digital camera but have not learned how to use it.

Murphy - Sheila - My old 486 PC has a Norton utility that could sometimes retrieve ascii text from a damaged diskette. Whether there is anything similar for current machines I have no idea. The diskettes haven't changed - I now have three PCs that can share data through the 1.44mb

diskette.

Peter Pan and Merry - Schlosser - Yes, that's the problem with the kiddy-porn laws - the evil is all in the eye of the beholder. There is no cultural or legal standard under which a naked child is "obscene" - after all, the Supreme Court ruled long ago that nudity *per se* is not legally obscene. Now, apparently, "kiddy porn" is whatever some government official thinks he can get a warrant on. I think there is a photo of me somewhere as a naked infant on a bear-skin rug - a common "cute baby" photo theme for decades. There is nothing to keep the authorities from using some images as partial evidence of child abuse - but that does not require suppressing images that only a pervert finds sexually stimulating.

What we call a fuel cell converts chemically stored energy into electricity. But in general a battery (of the lead-acid or NiCad sort) only *stores* electrical energy in chemical form - you get out a little bit less electrical power than you put in. Ideally nothing is consumed in the store/use cycle, but most batteries do degrade slowly with time and number of cycles. I have seen the reversible reactions by which the lead-acid battery stores and emits electrical energy, but would have to look them up. There are also, of course, the "flashlight" batteries (now mostly "alkaline") which come with a certain amount of energy stored in chemical form, and when it has been exhausted must be discarded as the reaction is not reversible. I don't know how the rechargeable alkalines work - whether they are really "recharged" or whether the recharger just heats them up so as to make more of the original chemical energy available.

It has been years since I read about Verne's *Nautilus* in what was probably a poor translation, so I don't remember whether he had it powered with rechargeable batteries (so that he had to have some source of electrical energy to recharge them with); or whether they somehow used salt water in a chemical reaction that made electrical power - if so, *something* other than salt water would have been consumed and would have to be replaced.

Adventures in Graphic Design - Hughes - Snazzy mounted card! I guess that would have to be called stereo stereo. And the corners cut by hand? You are demented! You should have been a brain surgeon - I never would have guessed they weren't die-cut. Alas, if I put the card in an old stereoscope, I would just see the card again - my eyes do not converge well enough to get the stereo illusion. In spite of which, when I was in an antique store last month I bought a gizmo made for studying 9x9-inch aerial photo pairs. I can't resist precision instruments packed up in a nice case - apparently for jungle use, as the case contains not only dessicant, but an antifungal substance. Only one pair of photo prints, but several copies of the instruction manual - it's an ODSS II stereoscope made in Delft Holland by *De Oude Delft*. The instructions are in English and dated 1953. They apparently envisioned it being dropped from a plane or carried by elephant - it weighs 30 lbs.

This old typewriter - Poulette - Well - it wasn't done on an old typewriter, but on a PC using one of the simulated fonts available on the Net. On a real typewriter, the fine detail of the apparent flaws in the letter images would not repeat that precisely, because each one would have been made with a different bit of ribbon.

Frequent Flyer - Feller - On an individual level we have to buy gas because our society is based on the automobile - if you think the economy is bad now, just think what it would do if the oil was cut off. Drugs are a poor analogy - oil is the lifeblood of our civilization.

Kind of you to imagine that I would have contributed much to DSC panels! I don't know that

I ever did before.... I read much better than I listen, and I write much better than I speak.

Speaking of Bruce Pelz, Doris Beetem just sent me a box with some of the *WOOF* annuals he instigated - I will list them below.

Tyndallite - Metcalf - I had not heard of *Roads of Destiny* - sounds like it is based on the analogy between choices and the forks in a road system. This form of alternate universes would allow you to reach the same point in history through several different pasts. Has the Porter story been reprinted in any convenient place? *The Heads of Cerberus* sounds familiar, but I am probably confused with the Gene Wolfe book.

Yes, Tim Marion sent me the *Terminal Eyes* - he probably remembers the trip to Will Jenkins' house at Clay Bank better than I do. Almost everyone remembers things better than I do! I was there at least twice, and later (after he passed away) found in a thrift store some of the books with his home-made bookplate. Joyce Scrivner on the Net today gave the URL of a nice Will Jenkins website put up by Steven Silver.

I can well believe that Cyril Kornbluth had a satirical mind and was a contrarian - but a Stalinist? Just to be contrary, perhaps....

If I had a werewolf I would certainly use flea powder on it - nothing worse than a werewolf biting himself and turning into a werewerewolf! But would the powder persist when he transformed, or would you have to apply it again? Of course if he only transforms at the full of the moon it would be no problem, you would have to apply it more than once a month anyway.

Normally I would only put that sort of nonsense into a comment to George Waldo Wells rather than a sercon fellow like you, but it is the dark of the moon.

Oblio - Brown - Nice, uh, wings on your cover girl.... I guess that's why we're still in a drought here - you got all our rain.

Large planets as close to their primary as Mercury is to the Sun must have the astrophysicists scratching their heads - what about the gravitational stress? I wonder if these planets are as large as they look - maybe they are just very bright for some reason. I would be curious to know what error range is assigned to the diameters of these planets.

Dubya and his pals don't lose anything in the collapse of the economy - they sell out on insider knowledge and then have the cash to buy stuff cheap when the market bottoms, so they are even richer in the next cycle. I wonder if it has occurred to them that the economy can only take so much before we wind up like Argentina - I guess they figure they can always start a war and perk things up again.

Was the back of the *Lower case* page supposed to be blank? I couldn't tell if the thought under "Corrections" was complete. The footnote on the first page of mcs ends in mid-sentence, but I get your drift.

The three Robinson brothers were all prominent illustrators, and the sons and grandsons of illustrators. Charles Robinson (1870-1937) did mostly fairy tale art, while William Heath Robinson (1872-1944) also did Rube-Goldberg style cartoons as "Heath Robinson" and is probably the most famous as he is the only one to make it into my **Webster's Biographical Dictionary**. The dragon for the cover of NPN 203 was by the eldest brother, Thomas Heath Robinson (1869-1950) - probably the least remembered now, but also an excellent illustrator. I think Charles may have been the most prolific, and did the most detailed pen and ink work; but William had the most talent and the widest range of styles, from the luminous airy plates in books like **Bill the Minder** to the nutty Heath Robinson cartoons.

In the fullness of time the Earth will be struck by a lump of space debris that will wipe out civilization - but then the Sun will eventually go out anyway. I seriously doubt we could deflect a lump that big now, but later - who knows? I don't think it would ever be a matter of global cooperation - if it could be done at all, a much smaller and more manageable team would have to do it. Would we have enough warning for something like a Manhattan or Apollo project effort? Depends on whether we are paying attention I suppose!

Organizing a collection cannot be done all at once - I have been years filing and indexing fanzines and doing an inventory of the typewriters. I was about caught up on the fanzines until Stven Carlberg and Doris Beetem gave me more, and I am still annotating the typewriter inventory.

All the Mailing Comments - Copeland - When I bought this 500S off the Gateway website I understood it to say that MSWorks was part of the package, but it was not included. When I asked about it I never got a straight answer. Not a big deal - occasionally someone sends a document in Word. The old PC had a free Word Reader I had downloaded somewhere, no doubt I can transfer it or download it again.

I don't think dark and temperature control are enough to preserve pulp newsprint - the stuff turns dark from the acid in the paper. I once read a formula for neutralizing the acid with club soda and Alka-Seltzer, but it was hardly practical on a large scale. Newsprint is so acid that bacteria can't live on it and it can be used to cover an emergency operating table.

Interesting about Rodriquez and the multi-purpose vehicle. The one I saw in Chile in the 1940s may not have been the first either of course. A fan there sent me a 1950 issue of *El Peneca* but the strips I remember - the one with the car/boat/submarine/plane and *Durga Rani, Reina de la Selva* - were no longer running.

I was forced to learn some rudiments of Unix, and compared to the DOS I was used to it seemed a great pile of useless aggravation. Fortunately I never had to use it much.

Your OED is out of date - the Supplement lists *fanzine* right after *fantods*. The earliest citation is from the January 16 1949 issue of *New Republic*, where *Fantasy Commentator* is said to be "the best of the fanzines". This hardly clears up the questions of who first used the term or what the first one was - or even the first one that was called a fanzine at the time.

The Sphere - Don - The famous TV duck here is the AFLAC duck, some sort of insurance thing. But I don't watch that much TV.

Congratulations on being *farked* - the perils of fame, eh. About all I get is the occasional e-mail wanting to buy a book mentioned in IGOTS - at the price mentioned in IGOTS, of course.

As to the use of "universe" for a specific fictional construct - who was it said something like "there's a hell of good universe next door - let's go"? I'm pretty sure that predated 1970 and might have inspired the other usage. Aha - e.e.cummings, in 1944. The OED shows the basis of the idea in the mid-19th century among mathematicians like Augustus De Morgan, but not the specific application to fiction.

Well, I mow my lawn in order to maintain a clear field of fire - and keep the *Gwinnett County Beautiful* Nazis off my back - but I don't water or fertilize it. And I cut the shrubbery as little as possible - the UPS man does have to be able to find the front door, after all. The guy next door wanted me to cut down the 8-foot dog fennel by the driveway but I told him I thought it the handsomest plant I had. And quite harmless, having no thorns, flowers, leaves, or enough weight

to matter if it fell or you ran into it. It looks rather like the business end of a feather-duster, green in the summer and golden-brown in the fall.

Well, I've played Hearts with Pat Gibbs (and he's pretty good) but I never played Hearts with Hitler so I can't say how alike they are. But I agree with you about Cuba - I wouldn't want to live there, but I don't see why our foreign policy is so rabid about it. The wingers used to claim that only the USSR kept Castro in power, but he outlasted them so now I guess it must be Satan that props him up. He came to power by revolution and if enough people there couldn't stand him, he could be replaced the same way. Whether we would like the next guy any better is another matter. Castro seems benign compared to some of the monsters we have propped up - if it was up to me we would normalize relations and get on with civilization.

Offline - Koch - Sorry to see you drop out.

Guilty Pleasures - Eve - Ugh, a spider. I just killed one on the floor, maybe the same one that dove under the nightstand yesterday. And after working in the yard I found a tick behind my ear. Yechh... Fortunately he hadn't chomped on me yet. And two big roaches in the basement - but they were dead, probably from walking through the boric acid powder at the doors. Why are dead roaches always on their backs? Do they flip over as they expire?

Good reviews. I have the Lemony Snicket books but haven't gotten to them yet.

Comments - Hughes - Sounds like you need lightning rods. The old line about lightning not striking twice in the same place is hooey - it's *more* to strike in the same place as long as the conductivity pattern there stays the same.

That's all I missed, people saying "Where's Ned?".... I didn't know I was the first fan you met at a con - a wonder you were ever heard from in fandom again....

No, I don't think I ever knew what specific case it was that caused Justice Holmes to emit the oft-misquoted line about shouting "Fire!" in theaters. I was more interested in the general principle of possible limitations on free speech, but real examples are always edifying.

Zamboni - weber - Spectacular.... Has to be weber, even if I can't find his name on it anywhere.... I have folk albums with *Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye* - I have a vague notion that it originated in a period when Irish men were mercenaries in European wars of the early Middle Ages.

I hadn't thought of the thermal expansion of aluminum wiring causing the problems - I see from the CRC handbook that it's about twice that of copper. I knew of course that the surface of aluminum is always a thin layer of aluminum oxide - but isn't that part of the problem in its use as wiring? I would guess (though I don't find a figure for it in the handbook) that aluminum oxide is a rather poor conductor compared to aluminum or copper and that the continual tendency of the oxide to form wherever oxygen can get to the aluminum causes local hot spots in the contacts.

Last I heard, Ackerman was recovering and in physical therapy!

Unanticipated - weber - Someone else came up with the 400-mile length for Verne's cannon. I don't remember now why I thought a mile would be enough - your figures look right.

The netflix deal sounds interesting - I would have to see if the selections included three films a month that I wanted to see, or even thought I wanted to see.

The crappy Oritron I have would play the British DVD because it was Region 0 - but it was still unwatchable because of the PAL mismatch, the picture wouldn't sync. Other DVDs it might

or might not play some of - I stuck it back in its box and put it in the basement and got a Panasonic, which has given no trouble. I will send you the DVD to play with, if you can make a tape from it that would be great. I just tried it in the Panasonic and got a screen message saying "this type of disk cannot be played".

I had heard of the Swallows & Amazons books and picked up a few of them here and there, but I have yet to read all of one - the Golden Age is twelve, and all that.

Alien Cows - *George* - Well, that's disappointing - I had imagined that the Coptic Christians would a bit more tolerant than that. I'm glad to hear there are people who don't find my conversation unbearable.... I had no idea my attention span was limited to five sentences - of course they might be rather long sentences. Sometimes I don't know just what I think until after I've said it - but I can't have forgotten it altogether after five sentences, because my opinions do seem to be fairly stable (some might even say *ossified*, but they are just jealous).

I never even heard of *Frailty* - what was controversial about it? I used to know a British fan named Poole, haven't heard of him in years - Graham Poole, that was it. The index lists zines by him in the mid-70s. My uncle Oliver was a Methodist minister after he got out of the Navy and worked for one of the big tobacco companies for a while but if we had any other clergymen in the family they kept it a secret.

I think you should sell the alien cow plot to Hollywood, it sounds better than the description of *Signs* that someone sent to one of the lists I'm on.

Trivial Pursuits - *Janice* - I will have to look up *smofbabe.net*! So the Apex DVD player would play a PAL DVD on a US TV? Someone else mentioned Apex but I guess you got the last one with the hidden menu!

I don't think JRRT would have cared for the movie Galadriel. But then his Galadriel was not my favorite character either - small as the part is.

I looked up the news stories about Rick Norwood's son on the Net at the time but had forgotten it since - as of August 7 the two bank robbers found driving his car are in jail and he is still missing. Sad.

Trans-Pacific - *Janice* - If I had know you were going to Wellington I would have given you Tom Cockcroft's address.... It would have made his day, and you might have liked his antediluvian abode.

Spiritus Mundi - *Guy* - Nice cover from 20 years ago. What ever happened to Jerry Collins? I have several of his color pieces framed. You got that close and didn't even call me? Tsk....

In a way my failure to make DSC was like the shoulder problem I had a few years ago - my right arm just wouldn't go above shoulder high. There was an operation for that - though it took a while to get to it.

My collection of Verne is very small and acquired just in case - I don't think I've read any since I was a kid. What I remember is mostly the movies.

Mel Brooks is probably no closer kin to me than the Joe Brooks I shared an office with at NASA. I don't much care for Mel Brooks as an actor, but I enjoy *Young Frankenstein* every time I see it - I like the gags, I like the cast, I like the violin music.... Even *Puttin' on the Ritz* the way it's done here is not as annoying as most pop music.

I think the judge was right about "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance - but it isn't much worse than the rest of that twaddle. I have no use for such stuff, and I don't believe reciting it

does anyone any good. "Allegiance" to a "flag" sounds like idolatry to me. I will admit to being in favor of "liberty and justice for all".

Purely by chance while surfing the cable at my mother's house I stumbled on the Leslie van Houten parole hearing. I was surprised that it was televised, must have been a slow day.

Nice con photos - except the one of Hank, who looks like he suspects the bear is crapping on his head.

Tennessee Trash - Robe - Nice color photos! I gave up on the idea of making ditto juice and bought some from the ABDick website - haven't tried to use it yet. I thought of doing a small zine but the dot-matrix printer was cantankerous. Ethylene glycol is easy but I could not find any methanol at Home Depot or Lowes.

Too bad about your cousin. I like classical guitar and know who De Falla was - he wrote *El Amor Brujo*. My favorite guitarist is John Fahey though.

MoviesUnlimited will sell you *A Boy and His Dog* on DVD for \$19.99, but I feel no great urge to see it again.

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Stven Carlberg kindly gave me ten boxes of mostly apazines:

SFPA (1977-91) - 75, 95, 96, 99-114, 116, 120-123, 125-130

132-134, 141, 146, 147, 150, 151, 155-160

Some of 158 and 159 at least is missing - I have not checked the rest against the OO. These are all duplicates to me and will be given to members or ex-members or whoever.

Myriad (1970-90) - 14, 17, 33, 77-80, 83, 85-89, 90, 93, 119, 133-142

ALPS (the Amateur Long Playing Society, 1990-95) - 37, 50, 52-54, 57-59, 61-73, 75-84

LASFAPA (1981-85) - 56, 57, 86-99, 101-103

FAPA (1985-91) - 191-196, 202-208

There is also 2-3 feet of unsorted fanzines, including Michael Bishop's signed limited poetry collection *Windows & Mirrors* (the Moravian Press, 1977, 63/150) from DSC 15.

Doris Beetem kindly sent me:

The National Tank Co. Handbook, Tulsa 1959 - Technical reference

W.O.O.F. #1, 3, 6; *Yandro* #36, 100, 105, 204; *Le Zombie* #67

Fanthology '75; and also by Bruce Arthurs his 1977 MileHiCon GoH speech

and *The History of the HUGO, Nebula, and International Fantasy Awards* (Howard DeVore, 1971)

of which the *W.O.O.F.* (Bruce Pelz's annula WorldCon apa) #1, 3 and the *Yandro* #204 and the *Le Zombie* are duplicates.

The Strategists

