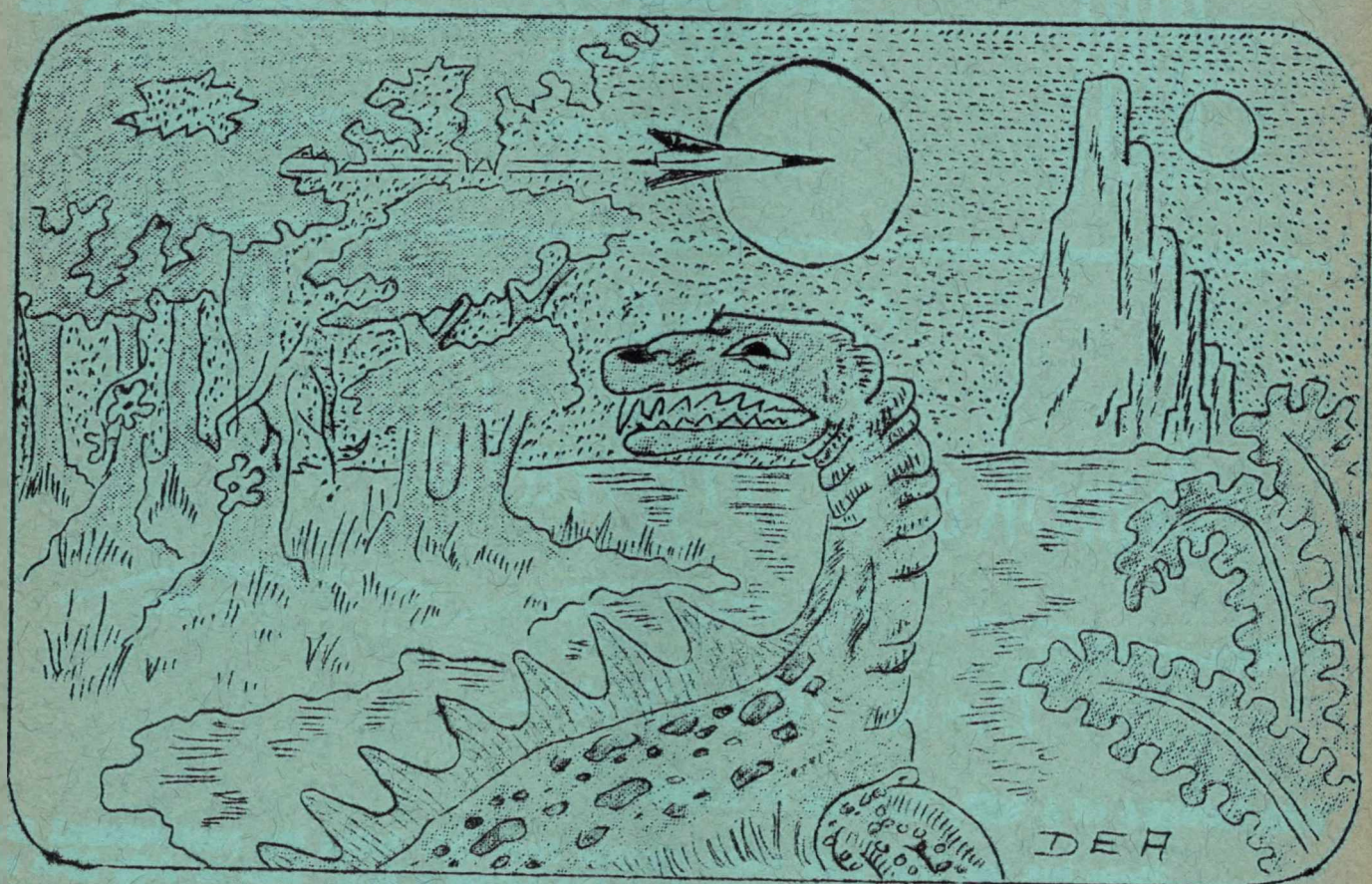


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DANIEL McPHAIL, Editor & Publisher

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Cover art is by Margaret Domnick

Smoke | Signals

by

DAN McPHAIL

IDLE THOUGHTS ON A HAZY, LAZY DAY OF SUMMER

There has not been many smoke signals from this lodge the past several issues, but this old warrior has been gone from the teepee a lot. This is July 15th as I write these lines (and July 25th as I stencil) & I would not be home & able to accomplish this much except for the misfortune of stepping on a piece of broken glass & cut my heel bad enough to miss a day or two of work. As a result I have had my first chance to go thru the mailing *except for a hurried skim when it arrived* so I hope I can bang out enough pages to make this issue a decent size.

All of you know I have had very little production this year, but only a few know the reason. My mother is very seriously ill & is at a distant hospital and has been since January. Almost every Sunday I drive the 250 miles to spend three hours of visiting time with her; or I go to Comanche to look in on my step-dad who is in poor health. Such a thing doesn't help your state of mind & nerves either. It looks like a long haul still but I am thankful things are not worse. I feel there is real hope for Mom & am fortunate to be in a position where I can visit her often. I know letters are an important therapy & she receives the bulk of my letter writing these days. I apologize for my neglected fan correspondence & trust friends will understand & be tolerant. Mother is an interesting letter writer & we share many common

interests, especially history. To help occupy her mind, I began a series of "articles" based on her childhood in Texas and the Indian Territory of Oklahoma, as well as oil field boom days of my own kid years. She sends me notes and comments on adventures (and some of them were just that!) with outlaw bands, renegade Indians, of many phases of ever-day life in those years at the turn of the century. That was a fascinating time, the period between the Gay Nineties and World War I.....a period that saw the end of the "gas-light" era and the dawn of our current way of life. I say the current way of life because those years saw the innovation - and acceptance - of much that is commonplace today: the electric light, the auto, appliances that eliminated much household drudgery, radio, phonograph, hard-surfaced roads, the typewriter, etc etc. I hope this project is helping Mother combat the loneliness of being away from her home & loved ones. So I know you realize there are far more important things involving my time than fancish problems. I do appreciate the kind understanding of those who have known, and I thank them for the wonderful letters of encouragement and sympathy. I shall always be grateful.

THIS IS THE LATE MAIL DEPARTMENT

Back when Gregg Calkins, our present Exalted Leader, was running for Veep, and that was the year 1962, kiddies; yore old editor was the official teller and he received a ballot from Gregg after the polls had closed (GC said he sent it just so he could claim to have voted "eventually"). On the ballot he noted that he was not the fan from Monticello (as I had suggested) that sent in an unsigned ballot, and that he guessed it to be Speer. He also lodged a protest over being listed as "W. Gregg Calkins, USMC", claiming it to sound too stuffy. Now, at this late date.... please be advised, Gregg, that I did not prepare said ballot, hence Not Guilty.

BOOK WORM SECTION

My city of Lawton is the home of a new Museum of the Great Plains, a fine place, devoted to the history of the Great Plains that stretch from Mexico to Canada thru the central section of the US. I am a member of its Historical Society and as such receive an interesting brochure of books of interest, some of which I will mention as feeling to be of appeal to certain Fapans. For example, Bill Evans would enjoy FROM CAB TO CABOOSE: Fifty Years of Railroading, by Joseph Noble. Written from the railroader's viewpoint, it is a fascinating account of a half-century on the Santa Fe, before & during the transition from steam to Diesel. I think Bob Silverberg would like two books of "The Civilization of the American Indian Series" which are THE SIOUX: Life & Customs of a Warrior Society by Royal Hassrick and PUEBLO GODS AND MYTHS by Hamilton Tyler. And Sam Moskowitz would enjoy researching FRANK MERRIWELL: "FATHER": An Autobiography of Gilbert Patten ("Burt L. Standish") edited by Harriett Hinsdale as an intimate history of the king of dime & half-dime novels. Marion Bradley, Juanita Coulson & other singers would appreciate BALLADS AND FOLK SONGS OF THE SOUTHWEST By Etherl & Chauncey Moore, which contain 194 ballads & songs, 204 texts & 213 melodies. The text describes each song, traces its origin & identifies the contributing singer. A folk-singers gold mine! Finally, Jack Speer perhaps would ponder over THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES by Edeard Dumbauld. This well-known judge & legal authority delves into the origin & evolution of our basic document clause by clause plus giving an exhaustive analysis of Supreme Court decisions.

FREE GIFT DEPARTMENT

In line with book reviews, I would note that on your next stop at a Texaco service station that you get a free copy of their Farmer's Almanac. Besides the maps etc., there are pages of jokes (like: "The best flings in life aren't free"), unusual recipes (like: for elephant stew), quotes (attn: Rotsler), plus odds & ends.

SPORTS DESK

As summer ebbs away in a succession of cloudless days and hot winds here in southwest Oklahoma, the football season is not far off and your editor must needs be do his annual bit on the gridiron scene.

The Oklahoma University Sooners are nationally known for their brilliant record under head coach Bud Wilkinson, but I would point out that our state has two other top-flight schools.

At Stillwater is Oklahoma State University, all-time acknowledged king of college wrestling. They recently joined the Big Eight conference and last year hired Alabama's Phil Cutchin, in hopes of returning again to their former days of football glory when, in 1945-46, they won the Sugar & Cotton Bowl games.

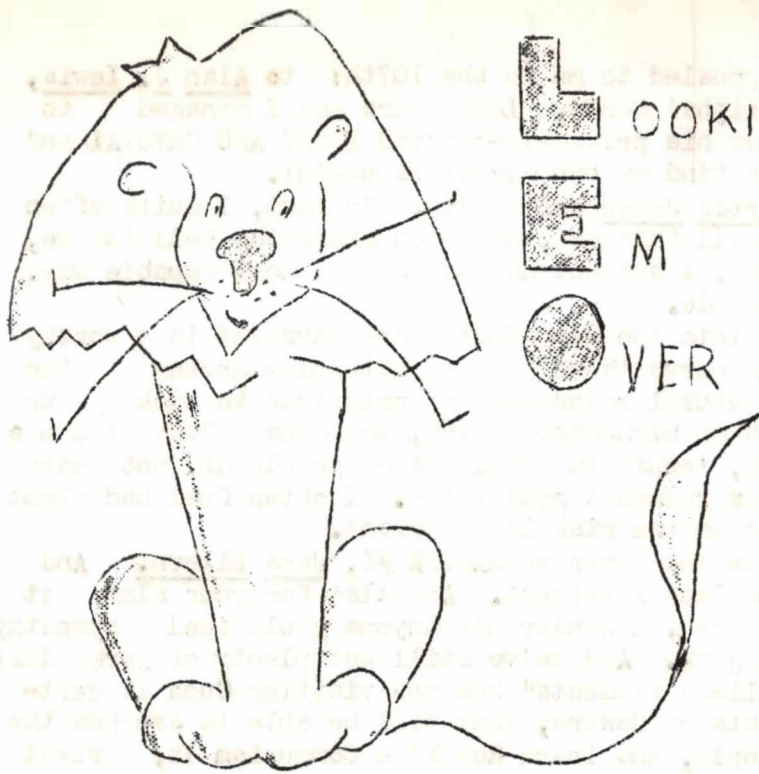
The Sooners & State Cowboys match power in the final game of each year. This ancient rivalry started in 1904 with a 75-0 victory for OU; but the game is fabled for its "water touchdown." At that time, the territorial capitol of Oklahoma was about halfway between the two schools, but the prairie village of Stillwater had no railroad, so the game was arranged by a commercial club to be held at nearby Guthrie. It was played on a cold, windy day on a field almost completely surrounded by a frozen creek. On the fourth play, the OU team (then dubbed the "Boomers") kicked off to their opponents on their 10 yard line. The Aggies - coached by the music instructor - ran two plays & wound up on their goalline. On the third (and then last) down, their fullback dropped back to punt out of danger. However, he kicked higher than he intended and a strong wind blowing carried the ball back over his head to the edge of the creek. Under the rules, the free ball was the property of the team recovering it, no matter how far it carried off the playing field; thus OU could score a touchdown, or the Aggies a touchback. The players scrambled after the ball, knocked it into the water and one of the Boomers, swimming in full uniform, returned the ball to the bank and gained credit for the strangest touchdown ever scored by any football player!

Over in the nation's oil capitol, Tulsa University will be shooting for its third straight national passing title. Their star quarterback, Jerry Rhome, ranked third nationally last year in completing 150 of 258 throws for 1909 yards.

The departure of famed Bud Wilkinson from the gridiron to the political wars moved his long-time great line coach Gomer Jones into the drivers seat & he has the horses to match or better last years team that lost only two games, and those to bowl-winners, Texas & Nebraska. Wilkinson, in his 17 years at Norman, guided the Sooners to 131 victories while experiencing only 25 setbacks & four ties. Among the more notable national records set by Big Red teams were: most consecutive victories - 47; most consecutive games scored in - 123; most wins of national scoring title - 1956 (46.6 points per game), 1952 (40.7), 1955 (35.5); most times players scored over 100 points in season - 4 (in 1949 George Thomas lead nation with 177!). The Sooners under Bud were national collegiate champs in 1950, 1955 & 1956. They carved out unbeaten seasons & competed in 8 bowl games, winning six. After tying in 1947, they went on to win 12 straight conference championships. 37 of the 47 players from Oklahoma who have been named All-Americans, played under Wilkinson.

Filling the shoes of the tall, handsome coach will be a job, but if anyone can, it will be Gomer Jones, the genial wizard who build the tough and fast forward lines behind which Sooner quarterbacks directed their potent split-T attacks that made the Big Red the terror of the midlands. This, plus the fact that OU lost only five of their top 22 men of last year, is the reason so many dopsters are rating them as among the top five football teams for 1964. I'll only add that - if they win their first three games, nothing can stop them for the remaining seven!

For eastern fans, I'd say Navy & Syracuse are best (but don't count too much on Slippery Rock), in the South it will be Alabama, L.S.U. & Mississippi (don't bet money on Austin Peay) while on the west coast Southern Cal will win (except for their trip to Oklahoma), as will Pacific University. A big year for P.U.!



Comments on the Cream of the Crop in the 107th FAPA Mailing for May, 1964.

30 members contributed 41 items to the mailing for a total of 354 pages, of which six items and 22 pages were postmailed. The previous mailing totaled 407 pages.

The return of the deadline information to the FA contents page is a much needed improvement. Considering the fact that Official Editor Bruce Pelz was a new bridegroom at the time, we'll forgive him for omitting the deadline date then.

The feature of this FA, of course, is the Egoboo Poll results. I regret my own votes got in a bit too late to be counted. Wow!....best articles, best fiction, best comments, best zine.....it's no wonder Harry Warner is (again) Top Dog! And deservedly, too. Considering how my activity declined in 1963, I appreciate being voted "Favorite Unsung Fapan." This makes the third straight year you have so honored me, and I thank you all. I was also pleased that I got a few votes in some categories, especially the 11th place tie with Rotsler & Warner for Best Editor. Anyone who can tie Harry in anything is going some.

At this point I want to publically offer an apology to F.M. and Elinor Busby for my error in not listing them in the Top Ten Publishers in the "X-Ray Report" for 1963. The listing in PHANTASY PRESS #45 should have had them in a 10th place tie with Ed & Anne Cox at 41 pages....as was credited in the Section C activity breakdown. Of course, this couple is such nice people I know they will forgive me, but I do hate it, and hope I made no other boobos. Finally, on the FA, a word of appreciation to waiting lister Don Fitch, for the neat blue printed headings.

Artwork and the skill of layout and design has always held magic attraction for me. I feel much too little credit is given to editors & artists for their efforts to make their publications more attractive, and I like to give praise when deserved. In this respect, I compliment Dian Pelz for her unusual & attractive style on the backcover of PERMIT ME VOYAGE. And, of course, orchids to Bill Rotsler for combining wit & pen in his TATOOED DRAGON & HIS ELECTRIC WHING-A-DING. Oops, I guess I should have given Dian the orchids and Bill a cigar! So be it.

Speaking of Bill Rotsler (and congrats on your new feature in Pageant Magazine!) I want to say here that my pick of "Best in the Mailing" goes to the word paintings in "The Strange Mind of William Rotsler." Truly beautiful. I know it has always been a point of personal satisfaction that I have been able to find beauty & interest in people, places & things. Travelling, I'm glad to be blessed with a curious mind, a roving eye (yes!) and an appreciation of what is indicated, attempted or attained in this wonderful world of man and nature. Thus a trip becomes, not a succession of hotel endless miles but a journey of adventure. And the same can be true at home, with the sound of rustling leaves overhead, the beauty of intricate design in blooming flowers, the majesty of ever-changing cloud formations, the pleasure of a tinkling ice in a glass of ice tea. Yes, the sights, sounds and smells around us offer a world of wonder and beauty for all who will but take the time to be aware of them. Those of us who have good health often fail to realize how much we have to be thankful for.

Now for a quick summary of what appealed to me in the 107th: to Alan J. Lewis, a thank-you for listing Clark Ashton Smith's works. Long years ago I managed to round up enough nickels & dimes to order his privately-printed EBONY AND CRYSTAL and THE DOUBIE SHADOW. And I'm pleased you find my own summaries useful.

I don't always agree with what Curtis Janke has to say. In fact, I quite often do not care for what he writes, but in all fairness, he often rings the bell for me, too. Especially when he writes on music, a subject he covers in a most capable way. His current bit on folk music is an example.

The travels about the country and into the deep South were narrated in a worthy manner by Andy Main. It takes a lot of nerve these days to hitchhike around the country, I would think, what with the natural reluctance of motorists to pick up strangers. It was different when I was in highschool (yeah, that was a long time ago) for hitchhiking was a common thing, 'cause an awful lot of people did not have cars then. That was before thugs & nuts ruined a good thing. I often feel bad about passing up someone, but judgement tells me the risk is too great.

That's a neat linoleum-block cut on the cover of KARUNA #2, Jane Ellern. And orchids to you for your comments re our late President. And also for your slam at Dick Ellington — he deserves it. Like you, I wonder how anyone could feel sympathy for "poor Oswald." Poor Oswald was a jerk. And we've still got plenty of jerks left I'm sorry to say. The group of US "college students" who are visiting Cuba is certainly a prime example of this. As guests of Castro, they will be able to see how the Great Beard has did so much for His People, and learn How Fine Communism Is, right Next Door. When I read that last years group to Cuba actually cheered pictures of the Reds shooting down an American pilot, I couldn't believe my eyes! Are these so-called "students" Americans? Hell, no! They are a bunch of scum and the yellow-bellies should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law! Yes, the very laws that they take advantage of; the laws of a nation that gives them freedoms & privileges that they would never have if the communist type of government they so admire should ever take over. What a pity they can't be forced to live behind the Iron Curtain for a while and learn, first-hand (even as Oswald did) that the red hue is not the least bit rosy. Excuse me for shouting here in your space, Jane, but I think it is a pretty sorry thing when Americans won't speak up, and stand up for their country. Sure, some will say you are flag-waving, that you are not tolerant — but the US has tolerated, and given away, and turned the other cheek, and paid out, and suffered humiliation, misery & financial drain ever since the end of World War 2, when there never has been a need for it. I think it is long past time for us to tell our so-called allies & friends around the world, to start carrying their own loads, contribute their fair share to mutual responsibilities & stand up, with us, against red pressure. Its long past time for Uncle Sam to quit being the fall guy & patsy for every two-bit dictator who wants to insult us, or dip his hands into our money bags. I think our State Department needs a housecleaning, a new build-American image and, if it is not asking too much, enough courage not to panic when a third-rate, pro-red country frowns at us. I think the American press & public has long been too tolerant of the Pinks here at home. To a degree, the same thing can be said of FAPA. Okay, Jane, I will tone down and only add that I think waiting-lister Owen Hannifen is nuttier than a fruitcake to duel with swords. So is Phil who-ever-it-was.

Continuing the same trend in condemning Kimchi last mailing is Russell Chauvenet in SPINAKER REACH #3. As you say, the networks tried, at considerable financial sacrifice, to put national interest ahead of private affairs. Any one who felt slighted because he didn't get to see his favorite soap opera or stand up comedian sure is lacking in something. Glad you like the summaries in PPress, Russ. Yep, I'm aware this old Royal needs an overhaul & first time I get the money, it will be.

Mike Deckinger contributes another journey-journal to the Southland, and a good one it is, plus a brief coverage of the last mailing.

A most interesting glossary of the Merdinian-Darkovan terms makes up Marion Z. Bradley's DAY*STAR #22, which is combined with CATCH TRAP to give a total of 31

pages and makes it the largest zine in the mailing. Thanks for the compliment on Danaline's artwork. The current skimpy size prevents use of much art, regretfully.

A proposal to move the egoboo poll back to the November mailing is advanced by Veep candidate Jim Caughran in his six-page A PROPOS DE RIEN #12. I grant you do have a point in having the poll closer to the time of publication of the items to be voted on, but on the other hand, the use of the statistics I have been compiling for the past six years (1957 was first) serves as a guide in knowing who did publish during that year, how much & in which mailings, in case you want to hunt it up. I have pointed out many times that the summary is only an activity count & does not represent the written material contributed by members, much as I would like to. Many members, such as Harry Warner, had urged the changing of the poll to the February mailing in order to take advantage of the X-Ray Report; to use it as a reference guide for their own re-searching thru the mailings - a job when you consider the mailings average from 350 to over 600 pages. Veep Evans did make the change-over in '62, in order that the voting would cover a full calendar year & make for a more realistic time period. As you say, it is hard to remember what happened 9 or 12 months ago....I hope the Report helps in this respect.

Even when only four pages, CELEPHAIS #39 is good. Bill Evans usually hits a responsive note with me on his comments, as in his urging of Helen to give us more of her delightful memories of Japan and her distinctive artwork -- I heartily second the motion! I do hope you can someday print the pics of locos and streetcars. I take an extra line here to say I was referring to Helen Wesson above. I had stopped to put the correction fluid to a mistake on "Helen" and then went on & left out Wesson!

Funniest thing in the bundle is the announcement of details of the new publication "Anthropophagos" in Dick Eney's TARGET: FAPA. However, I'm like the TO&FMESR Gazette, in wondering if it will be safe to go out at night if the magazine really catches hold.

SERCKEN'S BANE #20 devotes itself almost entirely to the Walter Breen case. It is regrettable that a matter of this nature has become a public issue. I have not expressed myself at all on this matter, as Fapans may have noticed. I did not vote on the petition. I have not replied to letters soliciting my endorsement of one side or the other. Due to far more important (to me) personal problems, I have not had time to go into available printed pros & cons of the case and as a result, I have not been able to crystalize my thinking on the matter. However, one dominant thought prevails & that is the fact that our constitution, as presently written, does not in any way indicate that a members personal life has any bearing on his membership. Of course, the clause on Special Rules could be applied to expel members or refuse applications, but that is another thing. It appears, at this late date, that at least 39 members have voted to override the veto, so the problem has been resolved at the polling place. Considering that 14 voted to blackball, it would appear that only a dozen members, including myself have failed to express an opinion. I hope to find time to look into this more, but at the moment I feel I will likely endorse the petition to remove the blackball -- not for any particular feelings for Breen and certainly not as an endorsement for his alleged actions. I note that Special Rule 9.1 reads that a majority of the members, and not a majority of the ballots cast, must endorse a proposal before it can adopted. Therefore, it appears a majority officially overrode the official act of suspension.

My thanks to Ron Bennett for both the article on British schools & the vivid description of soccer in QURP #3.

Was surprised to learn that Chuck Hansen is concerned with snakes in a professional sense. I bet you do get a workout during warm weather. That's a good cover by Walker on DAMBALLIA #3. Glad to see you join the others in condemning Ellington for his poor taste in griping about the Kennedy assassination being an inconvenience to him. You echo my thoughts & I'm sure those of any normal person when you point out that the utterly senseless crime made you nauseated. I would think that the murder, from ambush, of any human, should be a matter of shock & concern to anyone who cherishes the ideal of law and order for our society. Likewise, everyone I know thought the networks did a magnificent job in their coverage; not to mention the cost to themselves. Well, most

everyone thought so. There are always a few kooks in every crowd, Chuck. A few odd-balls, like the one in the window of the Dallas book depository. Your description of yourself, fanwise, sounds like me. And we are both the same age & in neighboring states. I greatly enjoyed the nostalgic bits you wrote.

Old Comancheite and charter member Jack Speer joggles the old memory about the metal-punching Hotchkiss stapler he had in the old days. When we were both at Comanche in 1937 I bought a stapler from Wards & had it until we moved to Lawton in 1950, where someone stole it from me. My sister, Maurine, has an old stapler that is a real antique, but I can't get her to give it to me! Glad you also like the X-Ray Report & am sorry it was an issue late in appearing but, as you know, conditions forced its delay...I trust better late than never. Most interesting to get your thinking on Preen matter, although page 2 was very faint (in fact, every other page reproduced very poorly). Do you still have copies of the old STF & NONSENSE we pubbed long ago?

Number 98 of HORIZONS is the usual number of pages & catchy cover. Harry Warner always gets my attention and egoboo votes. Your encouragement did the job on my getting out the summaries, even if a mailing late. What's this I read about your changing the name of Horizons?? I hope you will run the string to an even Number 100 before you do so. What more appropriate place to ease off of the strain of making every mailing? After 20 years, I think you deserve a break — if I may make a pun! There is a pocketbook out that deals with the trait of causing damage or injury. Its true, there is a lot of rudeness & thoughtless acts, but such things are not confined to the USA alone. The patterns of life certainly change. I remember when every man bared his head when our flag passed in parade, a thing not seen as much now. But you still see a lot of nice things: people pulling over to let a funeral procession pass & removing their hats; men holding open doors for women or rise when they seated & a woman approaches; or stop their car & motion a small child or elderly person who has ventured from the curb, on across the street, etc. I recall a fire threatening a home for the aged near here & myself and other men helping carry the feeble and bed-ridden oldsters to safety before the fire trucks arrived. Yes, there are a lot of good things did, but most of them never make the news media.

So ends the regular mailing — except for PHANTASY PRESS #45 (say, I better start planning a "special" for #50!).....which gives me another opportunity to beg forgiveness from F and E Busby for the X-Ray goof — and any others, if any.

SERANADE by Richard Bergeron was the largest item postmailed — eight pages.

