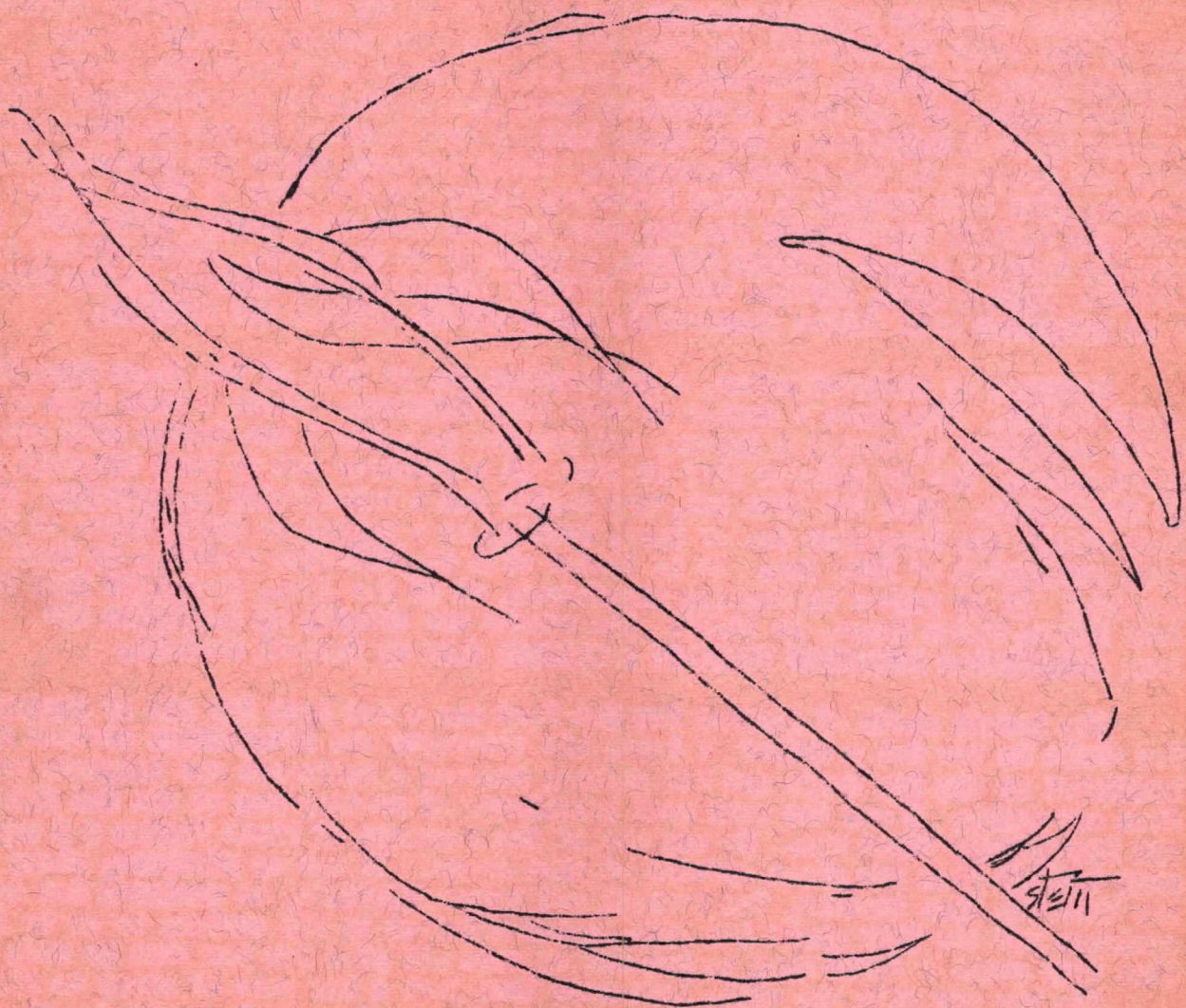


Phantasy
PRESS

No. 49



Fantasy PRESS

Dan McPhail
Editor

issue number 49

Volume 12, Number 3

July, 1965

FAPA 112

Smoke // Signals

I'm sorry I can't give proper credit for the cover illustration this issue, but I do not know the artists name. It is one of many drawings I received from Ron Parker before he vanished from the fannish scene. Perhaps some reader can provide the information.

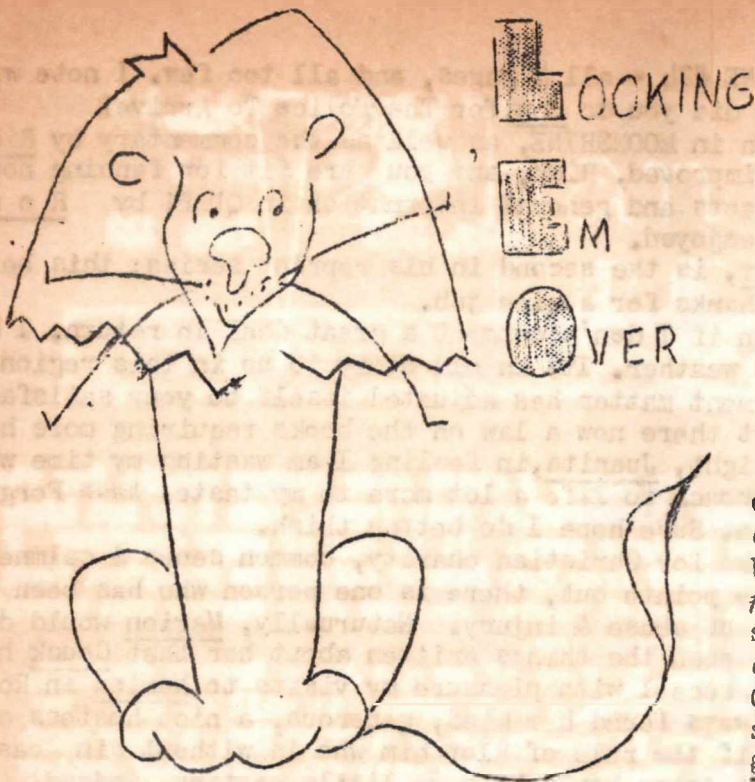
Inside there is another reprint from SF News of an old James Rogers drawing, and if the dummy is followed, so that there is a back cover, it will be one by Stephen Fears of Edmond, Oklahoma. Steve is co-editor of MASTERMIND, a very neat dittoed fanzine of 745 pages & provides their art needs, with the editorial duties handled by Paul McSpadden. From these lads, I have learned of yet another fandom, this one devoted to the comic magazines. Their fanzine, which has several comic strips, plus book reviews & other features, lists ads for many of their group. For example: FANTASY ILLUSTRATED (in the same general vein as Creepy), ALTER-EGO, an article fanzine & STAR-STUDDER COMICS, a take-off on the pros. Other titles noted include MASK & CAPE, POPULAR HEROES, TRIDENT (featuring an article on The Shadow & an interview with Julius Schwartz!), YANCY STREET JOURNAL and BATWING.

Speaking of sister-fandoms, a fascinating one is that of the Elgar Rice Burroughs groups. They have a number of very fine fanzines. Three I have seen & are truly excellent in design & layout, are printed in color & are loaded with art and photographs. One is ERB-dom (#13 is just out & features art by Reed Crandall and Al Williamson. With the 12th ish, they mailed out a wonderfully illustrated 28pp book titled The Forgotten Sea of Mars, written as a sequel to ERB's Llano of Gathol with permission of ERB, Inc. It is loaded with St. John-like drawings by Neal McDonald.) It is pubbed by Camille Cazedessus, at \$2 for five, from 2350 East Con-tour Drive, Baton Rouge, La 70809. The others are ERBANIA by D.P. Ogden and the long established BURROUGHS BULLETIN & GRIDLEY WAVE by Vernell Coriell.

The recent death of popular fan Don Ford was a sad loss for all of fandom. For while he was not a member of Fapa, his interests and friendships crossed many boundries in the fan world and his passing removes a dedicated and tireless worker from our ranks. I had the very real privilege of meeting Don at the 2nd Oklacon and immediately liked him. He was one of the founders of First Fandom & I enjoyed many letters from him about affairs of that group. It was my pleasure, along with Doc Barrett, Lynn Hickman, Ted Carnell and Norman Ashfield, to nominate Don as a candidate for the TAFF Award for 1959, which resulted in his getting to go to London. That trip meant a great deal to him and we were all glad for him that he made it.

The big guy with the smile left more than just a big pair of shoes to fill. He could think big and could do big things, but more important, could do things right, could lead, could guide, could cooperate. And he had a big heart - a most valuable asset in these troubled times. We will miss him.

(continued on page 11)



being one fan's opinion of the 111th quarterly mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Assn. for May, 1965.

There were 356 pages (34 items) in the regular mailing plus 3 postmailings of 70 pages. Grand total: 426 pages.

Artwork, and especially the cover appearance, is always a thing of interest to me. My pick of the best in the 111th mailing is MOONSHINE #33. Atom has, as usual, fine craftsmanship on display and Rick Sneary produced a very neat logo & lettering. KIM CHI #5 boasts a real eye-catcher in the striking figure drawn by Harold Krieger - I look forward to seeing more of him. I had a hard time picking third

best but decided on the unidentified artist for PANTOPON #11. There is not much to it but it imparts a feeling of distance with its few lines, like a quick, hazy view of a distant planet. CADENZA #11 has excellent front & back covers, again by Atom. A very fine bit of art that suffered somewhat due to spotty reproduction is that of Roy Hunt on DAMBALLA #7. This 1945 drawing is good, despite the artist's opinion. No doubt his work is much better now, but the subject matter & his rendition of it is most interesting to me. I hope, Chuck Hansen, that you can get the photos of his oils put onto stencils for future mailings and I'd like to see the bookplate also. Finally, I think the Bob Stewart cover on PHANTASY PRESS #48 was a very fine drawing and I had good luck on stenciling it.

As to interior art: I always like the sketches by Juanita Coulson in VANDY. She is especially great on stenciling eyes - a difficult thing to do anytime. And I am taken with the Sherlockian cartoons by Tom Walker in DAMBALLA. I hope we will see Sir Lacksalot in each issue! Bjo did a most appealing figure of a horse in PANTOPON and finally, mention must be made of the strange-titled zine by Miriam Knight & Bob Lichtman with a good Trina/Rotsler cover. Best illo was the Metzger cut for the editorial page. And while I don't care for the cover by Dian Pelz on ANKUS 15 (I'm sorry, Dian, I just don't go for sexy pachyderms) but the little animal cut is cute.

And with ANKUS, I'll kick off my mc's. First, I must grant I can agree with your opinion that beauty & interest is in the eye & mind of the beholder - IF one is willing to look for it. Also that everyone is a product of his environment & his interests are fashioned as a result of that environment. With that in mind, I can see that Metzger would feel exiled here in the plains country after coming from the metropolis. It's OK to say one does not like a place & give his reasons; but George did little but pour our ridicule & scorn without a single mention of the good things that are here, as in any place. Yes, I think I can have some tolerance for him, but I'm yet to hear any from his side. **** You give good reasons indeed for being OE. I'd like to be for the same reasons. **** Of course, I hope to stay off of that list you mention! **** Thank you for running "The Bright Land" by Walt Willis. It is most interesting and I look forward to the next installment.

I'm glad Elinor Busby was able to hit the mailing with SALUD #21 even if it was only four pages. I had an experience similar to yours with the unexpected check. It was a great-aunt in Mississippi who died childless & her property was being divided up. It came to about \$10. An odd feeling to receive money from someone that you knew nothing about before, although I did find out some info later.

Also of interest is SERCON'S BANE #24 - all 4 pages, and all too few. I note with interest your query to Boggs: "What did you do now, for The Police To Arrive?"

Enjoyed Ian Moffatt's Den column in MOONSHINE, as well as the commentary by Rick Sney. Sure hope your health has improved, Rick, and you are fit for fanning now.

A lot of interesting British facts and general information in QURP! by Ron Bennett, plus a funny cover. Much enjoyed.

A special treat, via Bob Tucker, is the second in his reprint series; this being concerned with the first Chicon. Thanks for a nice job.

VANDY always interests me, even if I don't comment a great deal in return. I hope you had no more trouble with severe weather. Its an old story to us in this region & its no fun. I also hope the employment matter has adjusted itself to your satisfaction ***** re slaughter houses: isn't there now a law on the books requiring more humane methods? ***** I think you are right, Juanita, in feeling I am wasting my time with Metzger. I, too, find Rotslers approach to life a lot more to my taste. ***** Forgive me, Bob, for the faulty reproduction. Sure hope I do better thish.

Chuck Hansen - a Good Man - asks for Christian charity, common sense & calmness in the controversy over Walter as he points out, there is one person who has been the unoffending target for a great deal of abuse & injury. Naturally, Marion would defend her husband. While I have not seen the things written about her that Chuck has reference to, I feel as he does. I recall with pleasure my visits to Marion in Rochester & her visits to Lawton. I always found her kind, generous, a nice hostess and a welcome visitor. I imagine that if the rule of "let him who is without sin cast the first stone really applied, that there would be very little casting, indeed! ***** 17 years ago was quite some time back, and the 42nd mailing was a long time ago (of course not as far back as the First!) and it is interesting to read your remembrance of it. I always regretted circumstances (another word for finances in those dismal days of 1940) forced me out of FAPA after being a charter member through the 12th mailing. Most of all I hate the gap in my files - from the 13th through the 54th. ***** It appears several Fapans like The Man From Uncle. Me, too. ***** Congrats on the birthday, Chuck. You and I are about the same age.

A pat on the back for old pal, Jack Speer. Your new duplicator is turning out a much more legible SYNAPSE. All 18 pages of this very interesting ish were clear. Yes, Walter Sullivan was a native Oklahoman in the old days, but at the time of the Southwestern Fantasy Conference planning, he was attending school at the university in Albuquerque. He entered in the fall of '39 and was majoring in anthropology. He was a native of Bristow. However, as you will recall, he lived some time in the east & was on the first con committee & had invited you, Dale Hart and myself to go to the con that July & stay at his place in Richmond Hill. ***** Yes, there is a Strategic Army Corps, established in 1958, of 100,000 mem, airborne & highly mobil ***** I was especially interesting in reading your opinion of "Slattery's People" on tv. It is a series I greatly enjoy & I am pleased your stamp of approval is on it ***** your mention of buying a model plane made me recall an order I sent off when I was about 13 for an R.O.G. (which stood for Rise Off Ground; believe it or not) model with a rubber band inside to power it. I think it cost about 50¢ & I could hardly wait for it to arrive and when it did, I cut & glued & took infinite pains with it and it slowly evolved into what I thought was a beautiful craft. It had about a 12-inch wingspan & a wire landing gear with small balsa wheels. Finally it was finished & I carefully wound the prop a few turns, tried it out for short runs on the ground and at last I cranked it up for its trial flight. When the band was tight, I set her down and let her go. It rushed down the "runway" - a thing of fleet beauty - lifted quickly into a banking turn that carried it headon into the garage wall & it fell, a stricken bird - a crumpled mass of canvas and wire. That was my only flying model venture, but I made scores of solid wood models & became pretty darn good at it, too! ***** I concur in your comment re your phasing of the IFD question. ***** I found much interest in your piece on Solecism. I have often noticed that trait in others, including some fans. Upon reflection, I realize that perhaps often what I thought was solecism on the part of a writer or speaker did make sense to some & perhaps I was the one in the dark!

This is indeed a bonus mailing, what with two zines by Lee Hoffman! I hope you came thru the dental ordeal OK & everything is fine in that department now. **** Glad you enjoyed my bit about my first airplane flight, Lee. Guess I was naive - I know I was filled with an exciting sense of wonder then. I can still recall the kind of a day it in that little country town: hot, dry, with a sprinkling of fleecy white cloud here & there. I can remember how we two boys scrambled up on the wing & then up into the front seat, the feel of the taut canvas of the fuselage & how we wiggled down in the seat and with what mixed emotions we studied the instrument panel. How powerful the engine sounded as the pilot 'revved' it up & we slowly moved out, the tail skidding around rapidly as he applied full left rudder. Then with a roar we raced down field & the grass below became a blur & then suddenly the rumble of the wheels ceased and the biplane - along with our hearts & spirits * soared into the high blue yonder. Yes, Lee, things like that didn't happen to every kid in the "Good Old Days" so I was lucky - lucky that I could outrun the other kids to where the plane landed! **** I appreciate your fine research on the Gilgamesh Epic, and hope we see a 2nd Project Report soon.

I would have a word with one Gordon Eklund, commentator for ASP #5: my first flight did happen, just as I related it. Your remark on the general intelligence of Air Force maintenance mechanics prods me to mention that I put in five years on line maintenance at Tinker AFB & I seem to recall our work was A-OK. The military & civilian crews there turned out a tremendous amount of overhaul during World War 2 & were usually top-rated. I ~~assume~~ you meant the efficiency level of the USAF has dropped in recent years. By the way, what is your job in the Air Force? **** Chum, are you really serious in saying Oklahoma is constantly declining in population? Surely you are not just shooting off your ~~big~~ mouth about something you don't know anything at all about? Naw, you wouldn't do that, for a simple matter of taking time to check would have shown Oklahoma is on the upswing. But for those aside from Gordon who do not know, let me say this: the population of the Sooner State did decline after the terrible drought years of the 30s & many families were literally blow away -- a fact generally understood by everyone. But the past two decades this trend reversed itself. The 1960 census showed a 95,000 increase over 1950 & it has climbed steadily the past five years as more and more industry has moved here. Of course you admit you have never been here, so you wouldn't be downgrading us for some personal reason. Do you know any more "facts" about us, fly-boy?

I did enjoy Mike Deckinger's GODOT #5. Good phrasing: "the past teaches, the future merely presents uncertainty & doubt." I must agree with you that most mail carriers are honest, dedicated, hard-working men who often do go out of their way to see that the mail is delivered. Especially so with the rural mailmen.

My belated but deepest sympathy to Anne and Ed Cox on the loss of her father. Friends can say little, I know, but what we do say is said in hopes it will be a comfort. Also, I sincerely trust little Kevin is progressing well & that the future will be brighter for him. **** enjoyed "The Owl and I" and found it interesting to read of the owl figures since I have helped my wife & daughter collect elephants & horses for years. **** My appreciation for a fine bit of writing, Ed, in BU879B re you boys & your dad building model planes. It sounds like you had a real fine father who was also a pal. Enjoyed the details of the contest & your first plane ride (in a seaplane, no less!) and would like to read of the wartime experiences.. I have a full page of notes about the aviation world of 1928-35 (or my impressions of it) that I hope to print & I've started a thing titled The Night We Saw The Dirigible Go Over;

Another great (meaning normal) issue of HORIZONS is #102. Harry Warner, I find I am like you in many respects, but without your great ability to describe things. Your article on growing old brought forth much tongue-clucking & head-nodding on my part - sometimes in surprised recognition, I must add. Example: our mutual trait for not throwing anything away. I am looking about my den as I type this; which you will recall is a converted garage in our back yard. The one room is filled with stuff some needed, true; but much is dust-collectors & space-fillers like in your attic. The non-essential items I can spot with a quick look includes a box of things Danaline had for a club rummage sale which did not come off & which I should throw away; a box of rocks to be sorted; a stack of Newsweeks; a shelf of empty (or almost empty) mimeoing

cans; a sombrero hanging on the wall; two big (commercial) spools of twine; numerous rolls & stacks of wrapping paper & other stock; and many things "temporarily" put in the den while on their way to the storage area in the attic. A lot of stuff I'm gonna clean out any day now. Make that "day" read month! **** Guess I really agree with your feeling about Metzger **** Who was the Fapan edd fanzine editor was wanting info on, huh?

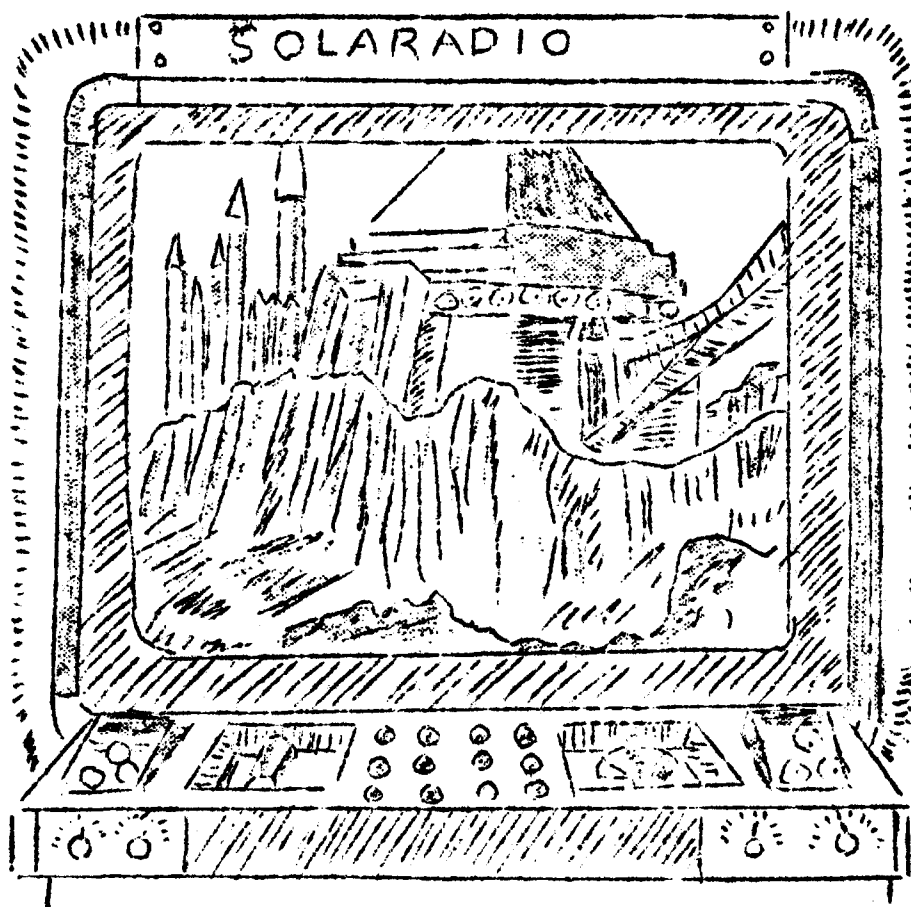
Okay, Dick Ellington, I guess I was too hard on Metzger, but he burned my tail with his blanket redicule & scorn for my town & state. I grant your surmise that a man in service who is just passing through or doing a short hitch at a military post is not necessarily going to fall in love with the place, but I object to having to hear nothing but a bunch of gripes (and a lot of inaccurate claims, to use a polite phrase). I talk to many servicemen (including grippers) in my office, at community activities & sporting events, at church; and the vast majority are far more subdued in their criticism & many are pleased with the post & city -- as compared to others they have seen.

Bob Lichtman goes on at some length regarding the war in Viet Nam, printing a letter from some bird who claims our course of action over there "affronts both our practical judgment & our moral sense." He reprints an article re Viet Cong units being on dope when they launch human-wave assaults and infers such items are deliberately fabricated by our government -- although just how he determined this story was untrue and that really the Commies are all cold-saber Joes, he forgets to tell us. Bob is facing the draft, and he is understandably upset. I regret his circumstances just as I regret them for any of our men (my own son is in the reserves, with what is likely a high priority MOS) but I decry an attitude and outlook that ignores that our men in the battlefield and those who will reinforce them are helping to honor a national commitment -- and are doing a days work in the war against Communism. Bob, you are bothered because you read about us bombing (you say) villages & industrial complexes. That's odd, when all I read is about us hitting only selected fortifications, naval installations, bridges, army convoys, army barracks, as directed by the White House. In fact, the President turns down the constant requests from the Chiefs of staff that we bomb industry at Hanoi, smash the missile bases going in there, hit a main bridge near the Chinese border, blast ports & really hit 'em where it hurts. What's with you, boy, that you worry over them getting hurt, but it doesn't bother you when your own embassy is bombed in Saigon & American men and women civilian employees are killed & injured??? Or the terror bombing of the restaurant & similar acts against civilians in Saigon??? Can't you get it through your head that the North Viets have invaded the South and that its not the other way around -- that a full regular North Viet Nam division is in the South reinforcing the Viet Cong -- and, most important, they have no interest in your negotiations and have so stated???? You bring in the old saw about our use of gas -- an incidence clearly shown to have been tear gas, just as is used constantly by police in the US and other countries (including the Iron Curtain boys, Bob) for riot control. I think I'd rather be gassed out of a place than blown up, wouldn't you??? You say you would like a Fapa dialogue on this matter. Well, I can state my stand in a few words: I endorse 100% the opinions and writings of Andrew Tully. This Washington columnist expresses his disgust at every ivory tower editorial writer and the vaporings of committees who tremble in their boots for fear that we will escalate the war in Viet Nam, ignoring the fact that the Cong started the war & they escalated it when they stepped up their terrorist activities against the independent, established government of South Viet Nam. When our embassy was bombed (we had no troops there) it was an act of war against civilians; yet even in America there were no demonstrations by the ineffable do-gooders & sit-iners who insult our President whenever some Red fanatic gets shot up. And of course these characters are backed up by the Commie press, by good old Charlie DeGualle & his captive government (who lost French Indo China by trying to fight the war from the sidewalks of Paris) and by the leftist in Britain House of Commons. No, they were not concerned with our dead & wounded; they were upset for fear the bombing would be a blow at hoped-for negotiations. Which is a bit laugh, because Hanoi laughs at such a dream. You must remember that the U.N. had a

negotiated peace in 1954 - and thereby gave the Commies their chance to build up subversive forces to the point where they could launch their full-scale war. Peking warned us there would be no place to hide, even if we die. Well, there will be no peace in South Viet Nam until the Viet Cong are driven out & we must make it clear to North Viet Nam & to Red China that there will be no place for them to hide, either. The war cannot be won if these countries are permitted to give aid & comfort to the rebels (and they are rebels against an recognized government - and our allie to boot) without paying the price for that aid. On ABC the other day I saw several US Marines interviewed after a patrol near an American base. One soldier said he would rather fight the Commies there instead of pulling out & having to fight them later and closer to home. Another boy said their only morale problem came from reading about demonstrations & parades back home against their presence in Viet Nam. He said a few demonstrations & letters from home folks expressing their support would be appreciated. I think those boys demonstrate not only valor but a greater degree of responsibility and understanding than some of us at home. However, I think most of us do appreciate them and we feel pretty much like Andrew Tully does.

Before closing, I'd like to extend a welcome to young Patrick Russell Breen (Begorra, what a fine Irish name!) and send my congratulations to the proud parents. The letter to the newcomer was real cute, as was the "reply" from Pat.

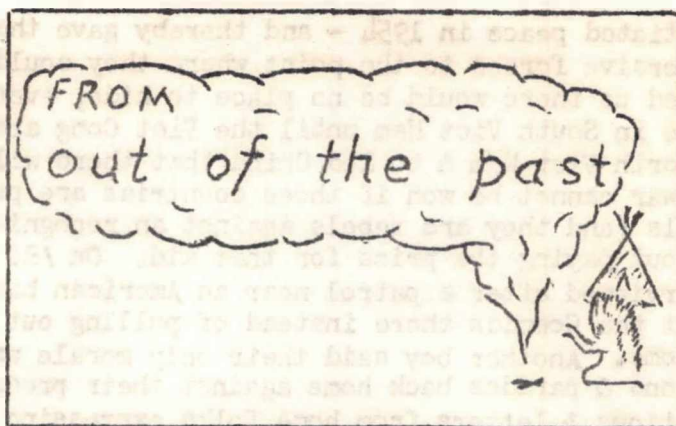
Thus ends another good mailing, although smaller than the winter bundle. The 111th totaled 34 publications and 426 pages (of which three of 70 pages were pm's). The previous mailing totaled 572. Again 30 members contributed; which shows the same degree of interest, but less energy.



A SCENE ON MARS by James Rogers
(Reprinted from Science Fiction News, May, 1936)

BY WAY OF EXPIANATION.....

Once upon a time (as all good fantasy tales begin) my principal claim to fame lay in the fact that I was the only fan who owned a working time machine. With it, I made many flights into the distant past, observing many things, among them the first years of FAPA. From these trips I gathered material for a series of reviews of the early mailings which appeared in this department. I had progressed through the 9th mailing (presented in Fantasy Press #22 in mailing 92) when my time machine broke down.



Now there are no time machine mechanics as such, and parts are almost non-existent (or exist only in time) so I have had a non-operating tt machine sitting in my garage all this time. The trouble lay in the loss of the calendar-distorter on the time-roll-back shift. This, of course, left the tempus-twister permanently locked in a neutral position; hence no forward, no reverse - not even for a minute.

But I'm happy to report the time travelling machine is back in working order - all as a result of a slick bit of sleuthing on the part of this agent. I was convinced that when I returned from my last trip - which was to the fall of 1939 - and found the distorter knob missing, that it had worked loose & fallen off back in that time era and remained there. I went to the old room where I had kept my fan mags (that was the word we used then) that 25 years ago and searched but to no avail. I realized that if the 1939 Dan McPhail found it he would not know its origin, and knowing that he was the pack-rat type of collector; never throwing anything away; I searched through the many boxes of souvenirs & odds and ends that I have accumulated through the years and lo and behold and will miracles never end, there it was in a box (along with my Science Fiction League button and my Space Patrol badge and a post card from Hoy Ping Pong) and I made haste to attach the knob back in place.

All of which accounts for my being able to zip back in time to March, 1940 and bring you this review of the 10th FAPA Mailing.

Much conjecture has been made by fan historians about a missing mailing in the early years of Fapa. For the record there was no Winter, 1939 mailing following the Fall, 1939 (#9) bundle. In regards to that, let me quote a letter dated Jan. 31, 1940, that I received from President Milton A. Rothman:

"Dear Dan,

I must ask your pardon for the fact that the winter issue of Fapa will not appear, but will be combined with the spring mailing, out the first of March. The reason for this is simplicity itself:

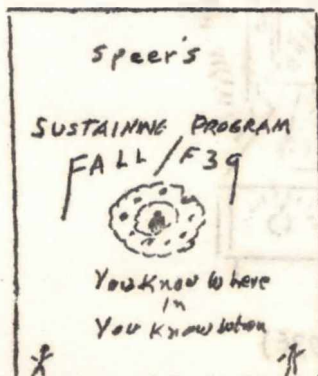
James V. Taurasi,

who has not turned the club records over to Madle, despite the fact that three elections have been held, and he publicly promised to abide by the results of the last one.

A hint to Mr. Taurasi that patience begins to reach its limits, and plenty of material to the editor will be appreciated. Yours, Milty.

In the above-mentioned elections, Walter Marconnette was tabbed as offical editor; and immediately resigned, claiming he never ran for office in the first place, and that his name was placed on the ballot without his knowledge! Thereupon, Rothman appointed Jack Agnew as the new OE.

Finally the long-awaited envelope arrived, festoned with



six 2¢ stamps but containing, despite the long wait, only a score of items.

In FANTASY AMATEUR, Vol. 3, No. 2, President Rothman elaborated on the difficulties he had written me about & discussed the near-empty treasury; urging members to pay up. He also advised that hereafter there will be a membership list



published each mailing which will indicate those whose memberships have expired that mailing. Those members will have two months to pay, otherwise a vacancy will be considered to exist. "This is a Presidential order which I suggest be adopted as a regular custom in the Fapa", he urged. Further, he appointed Jack Miske as "Chief Critic" and continued Jack Speer as Chairman of the Laureate committee. Finally, he took the occasion to commend a specific magazine - "Sweetness & Light" & suggested a special Oscar to them for showing the need for all members to have a sense of humor.

Jack Speer gives results of a postcard ballot. Of 22 Fapans at the Philcon, 17 approved the de facto Fapa administration, with five abstaining. Word of this action was sent to all members and 18 replied all approving. (That is, those not attending Philcon) He also reveals Jack Gillespie has dropped out and a new member, named Harry Warner, has been taken in. 44 members are shown on the roster, including these present-day names: McHail, Moskowitz, Speer, Tucker, Warner and Ferdue.

The lower case letter "a" was the title for a 10-page hectoed project by R.D. Swisher, and was a deliberate effort to cop first place in the list of titles in the famous "Check-List." The issue featured a conversation between John W. Campbell and one Louis Russell Chauvenet, as carried out on a typewriter.

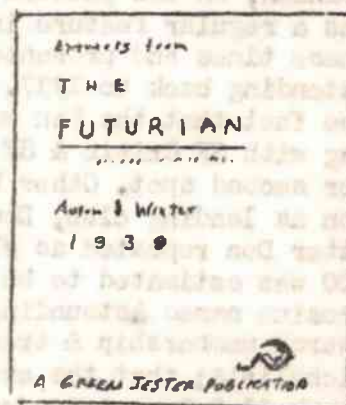
Larry B. Farsaci mimoed a single sheet titled Tales of Infinity, with a good cover & a one-page essay on the flip side on 'the Riddle of Infinity'. He also had a sheet advertising The Golden Atom & a projected "Science Fiction Fandom." There was an odd thing about this title. I had planned a mag with the same name as a subzine & had advertised it. In fact, I had already ran off some pages (and I still have them) when Farsaci wrote me, protesting the use of the title, claiming it as his own. I can't recall why I gave into him, but I did. I had planned Fandom as a successor to Science Fiction News, which I had issued over many years during the Thirties.

English member J. Michael Rosenblum sent a booklet of printed excerpts from THE FUTURIAN, including drawings of a projected moon rocket as designed by the British Interplanetary Society. Mike also enclosed a seasonal "Best Wishes" card.

H.C. Koenig of New York had 12 pages of his printed READER & COLLECTOR #4, featuring comments & quotes from the fan press & book reviews. A special coverage was given to the release of the Lovecraft Memorial Volume, "The Outsider" by Donald Wandrei & August Derleth. The editor reveals the two men spent \$2500 to publish 1200 copies of the 600 page book & at the time of the writing only 200 had been sold. Arkham House priced the book at \$5 with jacket by Finley.

In S.F. DEBATER, Wilton Rothman discusses the 1939 Philly Conference & debates with Sam Moskowitz on propaganda put out by the Michalists.

Young Harry Warner submitted a sample of the contents page of his subzine SPACEWAYS (issue #9) and on the reverse side had hectographed an appeal to Fapans to subscribe. While extolling the many features of the zine, Harry points out that the small pica type they use gives them 25% more page wordage; and while most other fan mags waste valuable space by double spacing between paragraphs "and other useless things", that he utilizes every bit of space & has 24 or 25 pages each issue. An editorial custom still in effect to this day!



Harry Warner hectored a second contribution, his small-siz FAPA CORRESPONDENT #1 - filled with excerpts from his mail bag (he credits Speer & FJA for the idea.) Among these quoted was Wm. Groveman: "When I met Wollheim he gave me a copy of the constitution...first two issues of the FA & even a membership card....marked VOID. So I am not a member and have a lot of stuff you need." Or this astute observation by Leslie A. Creutch: "Why do wimmin write for about three letters then crawl



away somewhere and die? Ain't there a blasted female who'll write like a male?"

SWEETNESS & LIGHT #4 - "the friendly magazine" - contained an excellent article on the subject of sex, or the lack of realism connected with sex, in stf (ha.) by Henry Kuttner who concluded by saying "pornography is unnecessary. Human beings are vital. But we shall have no human beings in sf til readers outgrow their opinionated adolescence and become more adult & sophisticated in outlook." Other highlights was a piece on Esperanto by E. Hoffman Price and a number of cartoons by Jim Mooney.

Dale Hart at this time was attending a junior college at Goose Creek, Texas, and as a staff member of the school paper was able to get some of his poetry printed therein. Same was distributed in this mailing. It was a two-column, full page length titled Pastels on Gray Canvas. Of interest to fans were two of the dedications: to Morojó and to Lowndes.

Johnny Baltadonis of Philadelphia ranked near the top in first/second fandom as an excellent layout man. His FANTASY HERALD #4 was an example of this. He, like Morris Dollens, was a master with the tricky hectograph pan, and this issue was a rainbow of reds, greens, purple, yellow & blue. It contained a couple of humorous articles and an autobiography of member Percy T. Wilkinson.

The balance of the mailing was contributed entirely by tireless Jack Speer and totaled 60 pages (compared to 90 pages by all the rest!) His output ranged from a tiny item titled "A" which measured only 1 3/8 by 2 1/8 inches (true!) and numbered four pages but complete with editorial and a page of poetry - to two twenty-pagers.



Jack's famous "Oklahoma Institute of Private Opinion, on the pattern of the national Gallop Poll, was a regular feature in Olon Wiggins S.F. Fan during these times and presented here was a recap of polls extending back to 1937. Included among results was the fact that the Fan was picked as "strongest" fan mag with SF Critic & SF Amateur Correspondant tied for second spot. Other ballots named the SF Association as leading club, Don Wollheim as top fan (a year later Don repeated as #1, followed by Moskowitz & 4SJ; 100 was estimated to be the number of real fans; best prozine named Astounding; did not think FAPA would replace sub mags; it checked church membership & traced nationalities; discovered that 9 of 24 polled were Michalists; that the average fan then averaged 20 years of age; favorite authors Campbell, DeCamp & Binder; best fan writer tied Lowndes & Moskowitz, followed by Wilson. Best fan artist pick went to Oklahoma's James Rogers, followed by Baltadonis & Morris Dollens. Rogers' sister, Mary, was named fifth. I think of special interest now is a poll taken December, 1938, asking what year fans felt the first rocket would reach the moon. 25 answered out of 40 cards mailed out. It showed that back there, over a quarter-century ago, the keenest advocates of space travel one could find submitted dates ranging from "25 years after the world Soviet has finally been established" to "probably never." Fans in the east picked 1950, 1950, 1970, 1975(2), 1976 (on Aug. 18th), 1980-(2), 1999, 2011, 2050 and 2000-2500. The central states guessed:

1975, 1990, 2025 & 2029 (on April 1st!) The west chose 1960-75 and 1975, while a lone British fan chose 1953. If our NASA plans work out, it looks like some east coast fan chose the correct date of 1970. It would be most interesting if Jack could identify, at this late date, just who this remarkable prophet was. Jack?

In a four-page RAMBLINGS #5, Jack suggests a laureate for photography. In SUSTAINING PROGRAMs (one delayed from previous mailing) he fills a score of pages in the delightful confusion of odds & ends that have always made the speerzines so much fun to browse thru. He has mailing comments, quoteworthy quotes (long before Rotsler) several pages of review of sf comics & even a photograph (now faded but). In his "Little Lessons in Grammar" (yes, he was giving them way back then) he took me to task - which I deserved - and got going so good he tied into Bob Tucker, Jim Avery & Milt Rothman while he was at it. I found interesting a mention of a short filler about the Skylark stories, which he says was rejected by my S.F. News.

The other SUSPRO sported a coat of arms on the cover with the slogan "I may be wrong, but I will be Honest," plus a bit of poetry ("Get in your Olds, or Ford V8, Visit the Chicon 'fore its too late"). Inside, Jack describes a Xmas trip home to Comanche from the west, reviews more "scientificomics", gave a description of an Outsider's banquet with Seabury Quinn as guest; and a good coverage of the First sf world con, complete with a good snapshot of several fans, notably one Ray Bradbury. This issue has many of his distinctive "stick-men" drawings, plus a full page of a world con in action. I got a grin in the part that shows a display of flags, designed to please everyone: American, Confederate, Soviet, German, Texas, etc. He shows Walt Sullivan and myself in indian war bonnets & complaining "Ugh! You forgettun ancient flag of Choctaw nation!"

This mailing contained 151 pages, composed of ten mimeoed, six hectoed and four printed. 12 members contributed.

Well, friends & fans, that completes the journey back to 1940. It was a period of fandom that was drawing to a close, because the then slow pace of life in America was also nearing an end as a new world war was about to engulf us. I've got to take a look at my time machine - it seems to be overheating or something. For one thing, that time-roll-back shift is not operating smoothly, but I really think all it needs is to change the con-oil. All in all, it's not a bad old timecar and I must say I get pretty good timage out of it.

Smoke Signals

(continued from page 2)

Do you recall the original Indian art of the dancer that was featured on a Phantasy Pffess cover (July, 1961)? It was the work of a Kiowa artist, Raymond Darby, a grandson of Hunting Horse, great Kiowa chief. In addition to his artwork, he is a talented musician and singer.

Ray, whose Indian name of Thay-hai-ya means "Pierced Buffalo Ear", came by to see me recently, while on vacation. He is now in Nashville, where he has an all-Indian band, known as Darby and the Real Americans. He tells me they have recorded for RCA and their first disc should be out soon.

Have you seen the new Amazing & Fantastic? Sol Cohen has bought them from Ziff-Davis, added 32 pages and has cover art by Alex Schomburg plus a reprint of a Frank R. Paul great cover out of the past. For anyone who might be curious, the Paul oil & descriptive text of the Mars giant is taken from the very first Fantastic (then called Fantastic Adventures & large sized) dated May, 1939.

Last issue we erred in assuming Greg Benford would become a Fapan, but we sure hope he is "in" this mailing.

A "thank you" to Papa officers, winding up their administration this mailing.



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YEARS