



"Well, we could try Railway Express next..."

"THOUGH HE MIGHT BE LESS HUMBLE..."

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There is no APActivity chart this time, as several reports have been late in coming in -- notable SFPA and APEX, the former of which I subscribed to, and the latter of which I have spies in. But this time around something has held up my SFPA bundle, and I'm missing two items of information about APEX. I suppose I shall have a double-helping of the things next issue. Aren't you glad?

The cover by Bjo overleaf was conceived upon reading F.M. Busby's remark in CRY that the ultra-inexpensive Library Rates at which I've been mailing out the SAPS mailings just wouldn't work for sending TAFF Candidates overseas. I am very much afraid he is right, and Railway Express probably won't work either. But in spite of the fact that it will be quite expensive to ship my rather elephantine self to the English convention next spring, I would still appreciate all of you using the ballot enclosed with this mailing to vote for me. Do It Now. Immediately, if not sooner. Remember, it will get me out of the country for a while, and if you get lucky I might now come back.

Okay, now that you've sent the ballot in, you can sit back and read the rest of the mailing. If I should win, I intend to continue the policies Ron Ellick has been following -- especially the issuing of frequent reports so that general fandom will know what the score is with TAFF.

And by the way: if for some reason you don't like me enough to vote for me, I hope you will elect Marion Bradley. I offered to help nominate Marion, and would very much like to see her win a TAFF trip (almost as much as I'd like to see me win a TAFF trip...). And, of course, if you're mad at me, and don't know Marion enough to vote for her (maybe you haven't read anything of hers?), then vote for Wally. He too would be a good TAFF Representative -- everyone likes Wally, and he's been around fandom a lot longer than I have. He's even been a member of N'APA -- but then so have Marion and I.

All in all, you can't lose no matter who you vote for in this race. But do vote, huh? Yours for more Sweetness and Light in campaigns... .

And speaking of running for various things, I'm considering running for the NFFF Directorate, in spite of the fact that I have been assured that a Director's prime duty is to sit around and get nasty letters from fuggheaded ex-Directors until he either resigns or is impeached. I'm sure there must be some other raison d'etre for the Directorate, and I figure I may have to become one to find out what it is. Now the question, my friends and loyal fellow members of this Elite Organization, is whether I could get elected. How many of you characters would vote for me if I went to the bother of getting up a campaign platform and running for NFFF Directorate? I think maybe the hard-core of N'APA publishers -- not you, you few free-loaders -- might be able to swing an election if they wanted to. Want to elect an elephant to the Directorate? I could always sit on said fuggheaded ex-Directors... .

See you in September, if I don't see you at
Discon first.

work with seeming ease. His wife Myra was a brunette perhaps a year younger than Ronn, a rather plain but very pleasant sort, who I gather took care of the organization of things (for instance, she handled the subscriptions for COMICCOLLECTOR and ALTER EGO.) They have since been divorced, and Myra has left comic fandom. Pity -- most all fandoms need more femmes.) The third of the trio was Richard (Grasshopper or just "Grass") Green. A vitally active negro of about Ronn's age, Grass is also an artist, and from the material I've seen he's a very good one. He had also been in the service recently, and had a trophy he had won in the Amateur Show they had held -- he won it with a variety act (I think it was accordian-accompanied singing, Dian thinks it was dancing; could have been both.) All three of them were quite impressed that anyone would go out of their way to visit them, and we sat around talking comics, SF, and both Fandoms for about an hour; I guess, finally walking off with copies of the latest COMICCOLLECTOR as well as a couple other things they had extras of. It was a very enjoyable visit, and perhaps on the way to Discon we can visit part of the Triad again: Grass is in Indiana, and Ronn Foss is in Ohio. There are others on the way, too -- Jerry Bails in Detroit, Parley Holman in Salt Lake City, etc. Comic Fandom hasn't yet experienced the Invasion of the Con-Bound Fen -- though Ron's trip East was a sample of what said Invasion might be like -- and I can think of no group that could better introduce them to the concept than the LA doublefans. Nicht wahr? And perhaps then we can find out what they are like "as people." If so we'll let you know.

I may one of the few people who has little or no difficulty finding a fanzine in my collection. My APA mailings stay together, and all other zines are filed alphabetically by title. Like your collection, mine has some quirks -- a zine with continuous numbering that changes title is filed under the most recent title (e.g., STF TRENDS followed TLMA, and later became JD ARGASSY, so the whole lot is in the "J" file); Coslet's zines are filed under "Coswalzine" in numerical order (when I have duplicates of his apa stuff), whereas Eney's stuff is under individual titles in spite of the fact that Eney uses a cumulative numbering. The main difference here is that Coslet never used one title more than a very few times, and changed them constantly. I just wish Lee Jacobs had a cumulative numbering system to take care of his multitude of titles. Or Leeh, for that matter. One other trick that helps keep my collection in order: the half-size zines are filed by themselves unless the majority of the issues of one title were full-size and only included a few 1/2-size ones.

My fanzine collection is bigger than I thought -- during my recent move, I had to carry the things in boxes, having taken them from the kitchen cabinet drawers and the filing cabinet drawers. (I sold off the two old wooden filing cabinets to Owen and Jack rather than move them) I then went out and bought two metal filing cabinets -- new ones. One is a four-drawer legal size cabinet, the other a five-drawer legal size. With some difficulty I managed to get all my loose fanzines into a total of eight of the drawers, leaving one for some of my comic collection. (Unbound apa mailings are in two single-drawer files until I complete them; they don't count.) So I still need another f-drawer cabinet to house the comics and leave some little room for expansion of comics and fanzines. A completist's life is complicated, to say the least. And have you ever priced those five-files?

So did you, as you had hoped, begin work on your next issue right after the mailing was distributed? (6/8/63)

HIPPICALORIC 3 (Johnstone) I had never really thought too much about the progress made in local fan armament

A Monograph On Ashes

FANAC 91 (Breen/Fitch): I wish to commend Walter for the polite way he handled the item about the LASFS Minutes using comic names. Such an item could have been used for all sorts of derogatory remarks, and Walter showed admirable restraint. Thank you, Superbeard. Perhaps it should be pointed out that the comic-character minutes are still continuing, but there is a second edition -- the "official one" -- with the regular names. The latter gives the club something it can understand without straining its collective pointed little head, and the former gives me an opportunity, since I publish both editions, to make personal commentary in the relating of what happens at the meetings, and slip in a few needles with the comic names. I.e., ALL-STARbegotten comics is published for my own enjoyment. (Copies of ALL-STARbegotten are available for 15¢ each, copies of the "official" edition are only a dime.) End of commercial.

Thanks should also go to Don Fitch for distributing this to N'APA members, most of whom wouldn't have seen a copy yet (6/8/63).

THERE MUST BE A HORSE IN HERE SOMEWHERE (Fitch) Some place in the ALLIANCE AMATEUR this mailing, you will find a referendum on the question of whether N'APA should or should not disband. I requested this referendum on the basis that I have heard all sorts of members, including some not active in any other APA, say that they thought N'APA should fold. If the majority of members think this, the club should fold. I myself feel it is not adding enough to fandom (or even to the members) to make up for the demands on said members. What about the new members -- especially those publishing their first zines? Do you people feel that N'APA is worthwhile?

I believe it is fatuous to expect the polyapans to devote their best efforts to N'APA -- there is little enough in the way of return for effort spent in the larger, older apas. It is, however, certainly within reason to expect them to do more than simple minac for the club -- six pages of inconsequential material every six months is not really participating in the organization, and every member should be expected to participate rather than just "belong."

My biggest question about the problems of N'APA is why the members who belong do no other apa, and profess to be 102% NFFF and at least 101% N'APA don't do more in the organization? -- examples of same being Franson, Woolston, Carlson, and Higgs. Kaymar isn't really too much of an offender on this account, I guess it just seems like he has 6pp/6months. (I just checked the issue of KAYMAR in this mlg., and find it's 9 pages, at least 5 of which are original.) But why should the polyapans be expected to do more than the "Old-Time N3F" members?

I like your suggestions for touring the Southern and Central Coasts of California. I think maybe even the residents of the area (e.g., me) might do well to follow that route some vacation. I am a bit astonished that you haven't been to Disneyland. There is a trip planned for right after Westercon, to accompany Ruth Berman -- will you join us?

When Fred Patten, Ted Johnstone, Dian Girard and I visited the three comics fans in Suisun last November, we really didn't see enough of them to get to know them very well "as people," so I can't answer your question to Fred in much detail. Ronn Foss is about 24 or so, and recently out of the service. He has been a comic collector for many years, and is an excellent artist, doing both imitative and original

until I read your comment, but on reflection there have certainly been some changes in the past four years or so.

When I came out here in January of 1960, the Plonker Rage was just starting, and about four of five fans were trying to collect as many Plonkers of different styles as they/we could find. I still have some 15 or so different kinds of Plonkers stashed away. But with the anti-Plonker rule passed in LASFS meetings, they went out of style rather quickly. There was a short period of non-armament, broken by the advent in summer of 1960 of the cap pistols. The filming of "The Musquite Kid Rides Again" was responsible for these, and for several months after the picture was finished, cap pistols of various kinds were seen around the Fan-Hill mob. I remember, as you may, a pair of lunatics taking an evening stroll from the Fan Hillton to the Unicorn coffee house and back (almost) -- about a 17 mile trip -- armed with cap pistols. As I recall, one of them was stuck into a belt, and the other was holstered, but both were generally concealed by jackets. It was fun, even though the guns were fired only a couple times...and the Dickensheets wound up with a "patriotic V R" -- in stick-em caps.

After the cap pistols, there was a hiatus until about mid-1961, when the cutlery began appearing, mostly in connection with Coventraniana. Knives, daggers, and short swords began showing up at all sorts of occasions, most of which involved some degree of costume. On a few occasions they were being warned with semi-lethal intent -- i.e. "if anyone starts anything..." I also remember one gal wearing a big hatpin with the same intent -- and using it on a couple occasions to ward off "unwanted attentions." The knives and daggers bit reached its height at Seacon, with a Coventranian group, most of whom were armed. (And for some reason, a large number of the non-LA costumes at Seacon included armament: Eney, Scithers, Sylvia White, among others. Parallel thinking across the country?)

Coventraniana has slowed down considerably since Seacon, and the cutlery has diminished accordingly. A few knives are still carried -- the Cuban scare brought out a few more for a while, but mostly there is nothing more dangerous than edged words around LA fandom today. This isn't to say that the few aichmophiles like myself and Rick Sneary aren't still interested in cutlery, of course. Anyone who thinks so is due for a surprise at Discon and Westercon. But our interests have increased in scope... . Have at thee!! (6/8/63)

KAYMAR 7 (Carlson) I'm afraid you may have to wait quite some time to get a complete set of the Burroughs Mars books in the Ballentine edition. As you probably know by now, Ballentine has skipped over books 4-7 (Thuvia, Chessmen, Master Mind, Fighting Man) since Ace had already published them. Ballentine has so far put out Books 1-3 and 8 (Princess, Gods, Warlord, and Swords); according to the latest news from the GRIDLEY WAVE (official Burroughs Bibliophiles newszine), Ballentine will publish #11 and 12, then go back and fill in the missing numbers, but I am greatly afraid that the editor, Vern Coriell, is whistling in the dark on that "fill-in" bit. It would mean that Ballentine's 50¢ edition would be battling Ace's 40¢ edition, with the latter having the advantage of months of prior distribution to the news stands. In addition, Ballentine has to pay royalties on all the Mars books they publish, per their agreement with ERB, Inc., while Ace, publishing only the ones in public domain, keeps all the profit. No, Kaymer, it looks like a divided Mars set is all that will be available, though I hope (as a collector, and not caring whether or not they make a profit) Ballentine proves me wrong.

Hmm, I see you're in the Bibliophiles yourself and already get the GRIDLEY WAVE. I wish to hell Coriell wouldn't pander to ERB and Bal-

lentine quite so much. To hear him talk, Ace is a bunch of bandits trying to steal the last pennies from the poor orphans of Edgar Rice Burroughs to enrich their overflowing coffers. Feh.

And as went the Mars books, I expect the Tarzan books to go, too: Ace has already published four of five of the things, and I'm willing to bet Ballentine skips them.

No, Armistead's use of PIED TYPE for a title merely indicates that he types only 3.14 pages of his own material for each issue.

Just out of curiosity, what would you suggest that I can do for the NFFF? I seriously doubt your idea that I could do "a lot" for it.

"H.M.S. Pinafore" is not a play, in as much as it includes music. At the very least it would be a musical comedy, but it is generally considered as a light opera, or operetta. And considering its continued popularity over the years since it was written -- 1878 -- I think it deserves better consideration than being called a musical comedy. Yes? (6/8/63)

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Nelson/Bjo/Lewis) I have never cared much for Ray Nelson's cartoons, but I do like most of these -- especially the "Sweeping black capes" one. And the Bjo cover is a marvel of intricacy and fairy-tale tricksiness. Thanks for including it, Al. (6/8/63)

DUBHE 5 (Baker) Edrigar, if you can find me three people besides yourself in N'APA who found the LASC Library booklet interesting, I shall be very surprised. As far as I was concerned, it was simply another piece of junk cluttering up the mailing. It didn't even have anything to do with SF or fantasy -- and I don't care if the library does have a collection of the stuff someplace!

You know, I think I may have started something when I listed my publications back in SPELEOBEM (SAPS) 8 or so. Since then there have been lists from Terry Carr, Lichtman, Kaye, Hulan, and Ghu knows how many others, so I'm sure I should, in proper Joe Gibson attitude, take credit for this trend. However, I'm not sure I want the blame. Anyway, I have compiled a new list of my publications since I began with PROFANITY 1 back in March of 1958, and when that list gets to 200 I shall publish it. This here publication leave only about 20 more to go before I hit that number, too. Be warned.

Admittedly, the waiting period for FAPA is something fierce, but the SAPS WL is both small and fast-moving, as you should know. It takes about a year to a year and a half to move into SAPS membership. And as for N'APA training neo faneds and giving the rest of fandom a chance to see what said neo faneds do in an apa, I'm not sure it's a good idea from either point of view -- what if we judged your ability by your efforts for N'APA, hmm?

"G&S" is standard; not "GandS." And the ampersand is usually identified, too: Richard D'Oyly Carte, the man who made Gilbert and Sullivan into GilbertandSullivan.

I don't know about the present availability of foreign G&S translations, but they were definitely translated, even in the partners' lifetimes. Consult Leslie Bailey's Gilbert and Sullivan Book for some of the references. I remember the German title of "Pinafore, oder Amor am Bord," and the beginning of the German translation of the Sergeant of Police's song from Pirates: "Wenn die Schurke grad' beruflich unbeschäftlich, unbeschäftlich..." Maybe it would be interesting to ask some of the foreign fans for copies of the translations, if they are available. Why, I might even be interested in an Esperanto translation as a curiosity. Totally useless, of course, but... Oh, well, I wish you a TV re-run of a Lillian Gish movie -- Gish la re-video. (6/8/63)

BUFFERING SOLUTIONS 4 (Sephton) Interesting to see your comment about "Elliot Shorter will hear from my attorney... ." I had thought that Old New York Joke was dead now that the Wh*t*-M*sk*w*tz thing had cooled down. You are continuing a well-begun tradition. (6/9/63)

RACHE 10 (me) Having run Jack's cover upside down (it was so vague I couldn't tell which way was up when I looked at it in a hurry before running the back side), I showed it to Jack, who was understandably annoyed. He requested repayment of the stencil on which the cover was drawn, and I asked whether he wanted page credit for the cover, and yes, he wanted that too. I gave him a choice: credit or the stencil; he took the stencil. So I got six pages credit and Jack only got three. Cheapskates never win... (6/9/63)

NEFFERVESCENT 4 (Franson) Well, at least you didn't quit. The presence of any zine in a mailing is better than its absence, no matter what the contents. (6/9/63)

NEBULOUS 5 (Harrell) Just how would you intend to impose a "quality" standard on N'APA? Legibility is one thing, but it is a good deal less subjective than quality. And I can assure you that should you, as a hypothetical OE, throw out my zine because you consider it of low quality, I would postmail it to the members to demonstrate its legibility, and immediately begin proceedings for impeachment. If a zine is legible and substantially the work of the member, it is eligible for circulation with the mailing. If it is not reprinted material, it is eligible for credit. All this per the Constitution which so many nit-pickers haggled over for so many mailings. I may be just a confirmed old cynic, but I think you're ill. If you really enjoyed all the N'APAZines as much as you say you did, it might be dangerous to improve the mailings -- you'd probably die of ecstatic paroxysms.

At least you may be comforted by the fact that one of the "cornerstones of N'APA that you thought we lost is still with us; take a bow, Harness!

I'm quite sure that being an OE is all Rhoot Bheer and Marshmallows, and have a 2-year stint as SAPS OE behind me (and a third in front of me) to prove it. Wanna argue? All it takes is a bit of organization and a liking for records. If this organization is still alive come September, I shall run for CE. (6/9/63)

ERRR! 1 (Avery) Yes, the cover on RACHE 9 was 18 years old. Ackerman's garage is full of such things, and if I run out of covers I'll use some extras from CENTAURI that are over 20 years old.

Harry Warner's article on making pressings from fan-tapes embodies a good idea, but there are so many projects kicking around fandom now that few fans would have the time to work on a new one -- especially one that requires an outlay of about \$200 or so. I suppose a club like the LASFS could afford the money, and might find a couple fans to do the work, but it's difficult to get even clubs to work with coordination on projects. The other possibility is that one or two fans might manage the deal by taking advance payments. I don't like this arrangement myself, as it is somewhat like the old sailor's system of "working off the dead horse," but it is one way such a project could be done. Now, who would have the time... ?

A very nice Bjo cover on this issue, and in general a well-done first issue. (6/9/63)

NIEKAS 4 (Meskys) I am willing to concede that either an attempt at humor or a typographical error is responsible for your comment that Lady Jane in "Patience" sits "bemoaning her faith" and later comes in banging on a "set of symbols." But you are in factual error in stating that she finally goes off with Bunthorne's solicitor -- she is chosen by Lt. the Duke of Dunstable as being "the only one among you who has the misfortune to be plain." He's tired of all the pretty ones, and so marries Lady Jane.

The bit in "Pirates" about the Major-General having to be reminded of possible rhymes for his song is fairly standard. One version I saw had one of his daughters suggest the rhyme for the final verse, tho the Major-General himself, after some cogitation, was able to come up with the rhymes for the first two.

I am one of the folksong buffs in fandom, but I have no particular desire to answer Betty Kujawa's charge that we are sadists or masochists who "can't bear music with a pleasure-to-listen-to melody." If she wants to consider that folk music has no such melody, that's her prerogative -- as it is mine to think her opinion erroneous. But I suggest she avoid most con parties, as there are an awful lot of us sadists or masochists around at cons. (6/9/63)

GEMZINE 4/35 (Carr) The idea of working on our NFFF officers to join N'APA is a fairly good one, but I'm afraid it is doomed to failure. The Rapps and Devore are in SAPS, the Tacketts have a genzine and the carbon-apa CAPA. Lee Riddle doesn't even have time to get TIGHTBEAM out on schedule, it seems. And the two officers we do have in the membership do only minac. Pfui. I'm rather afraid we can do nothing more than put our own zines in order and let things fall as they may. The fact that I'm on my sixth page of mailing comments already is somewhat surprising to me, as I do not usually have that much to say to N'APA, even in the form of gripes, but perhaps it will encourage some of the other members to say more.

Dian Girard, who is already publishing for both SAPS and the Cult, in addition to an occasional genzine, really doesn't need N'APA to pick up on any little errors. Either of the other two APAs will be quite happy to tell her about any such faults.

I agree with you completely about the worthlessness of an Egoboo Poll for N'APA at the present time. (6/9/63)

ALLIANCE AMATEUR 16 (Patten) With a roster of 29 members, perhaps the organization can continue for a while, even if some of those 29 are as yet non-participating members.

I object to the re-issuing of an ex-member's membership number when he returns. He should get an entirely new number, as he has in effect begun a new membership. There is precedent for this, too: Ellick's FAPA roster for the last 25 years gives returnees new numbers. Of course, it depends on whether I am going to keep up the list, or you are, I suppose.

I did not vote in the Egoboo Poll because I think it pretentious for an APA of the small size and low quality of N'APA to try to ape the big APAs. I'm not sure even Jack Harness will go around boasting that he is the "best humorist by a 3-to-1 majority, in N'APA."

I also voted against the name-change, mostly because "NAPS" would lead to all sorts of "tricksy-cute" comments (one of which -- calling the OO NAPSACK -- has already been suggested), and I am allergic to such things. A secondary reason, of course, is that it would make changes in my file of bound N'APA volumes.

A well-turned-out AMATEUR, in general. (6/11/63)

And that is all for the MC section this time.