

RICHARD E. GEIS

PERSONAL JOURNAL NUMBER NINE.

2-3-79 The last issue of REG, #8, was delayed by at least four days by a goof-up by the local printer I use, who managed to ignore what was coming out of the machine--blotchy print and shorting me 100 copies on one page, and 50 copies on another.

I begin to wonder if I should stick with them for further issues, and other work. Much will depend on what they say on Monday when I confront them with the evidence.

2-13-79 Permit me to intrude out of sequence here. The printer very kindly redid the print job of REG 8 but said as they delivered it into my hands that if I wanted them to use metal plates (and, I presume, a different, slower press) to insure fine quality work and no loss of detail, etc., they would have to charge me more. For their "budget" printing price schedule they use paper plates and a highly automated printing machine. The problem is I make larger than 8 1/2 x 11 paste-up pages, requiring a reduction, which means the character lines get thinner, which means the poor machine doesn't pick them up well, which means blotchy, hard-to-read text.

At first, in high dudgeon, I thought of getting out the old 17-character-per-inch Olympia and doing REG on stencils, running it off on the ol' Gestetner. But then...I decided to go to this 100% layout, no reduction, and larger type, which, I was assured, would present no problems to the machinery or the paper plates.

But this also cuts the amount of text per issue. So I have decided to cut the illustrations down to one per issue. So it goes.

So Khomeini is now back home in Iran after that long, long exile, and he isn't about to compromise with the govt. the shah left behind, or even, I suspect, with the army which is mostly loyal to the shah and the constitution.

Unless somebody blinks there will be an escalation to armed rebellion. Bad news for everybody.

The loss of Iranian oil, worldwide, is causing a very gradually increasing pinch in supplies. The spot price of oil will go up far beyond the scheduled OPEC price increases for this year.

The only "solution" to this problem is for people to pay more for the joys of driving and heating and manufacturing, which will be paid for out of income (and thus less money left over to buy other things), or it will be financed by more debt and a consequent disaster in the coming recession/depression.

If there is a real gasoline shortage this summer it could cut deeply into the tourist/vacation trade, which could add another unkind blow to the economy. Also, cars that are not used as much last longer, require fewer repairs, fewer new parts...

The Iranian oil wells are deteriorating and will need heavy repair and money to get back into full production. Iran may have to (or want to) settle for a 50% oil production once the new coming government gets itself in order.

Bakhtiar and the generals face deepening economic collapse if they don't give Khomeini a chance to set up his moslem socialist dictatorship.



Both Carter and Mondale attended the memorial services yesterday for Nelson Rockefeller...along with 2500 other domestic and foreign representatives of the establishment and the Rockefeller/Morgan financial empire (and its agents and fellow travelers).

The AP story only listed the most prominent government people attending, from the U.S.

Henry Kissinger, in giving the main eulogy, revealed both the closeness of his relationship with the Rockefeller empire, and his stature within it. I suspect that Carter and Brzezinski will take their foreign policy signals from him, now, since they seem to have screwed up so much in the middle east.

2-5-79 First we learned that the present government of Iran has cancelled at least 7 to 8 billion dollars in military equipment orders--being unable to pay for them, now--and now in today's paper a close economics advisor of Khomeini has said a new Iranian government would have the right to cancell foreign debts incurred by previous governments.

A great shudder must have gone through the U.S. banking industry upon reading that. Besides the loss of those military orders, the U.S. now faces the flat-out reneging on all those billions of dollars in loans granted to Iran by big and small banks.

Of course, the AP story did not mention those huge bank loans now at risk. It would never do to let the public know such things....people might get nervous and start pulling savings from banks.

But the financial world knows the score, and as I expected, the stock market took a severe tumble today: down about 11 points.

I called a chimneycleaning company the other day and they are scheduled to do our fireplace chimney tomorrow morning. Also, I'm checking into professional versions of what I was thinking of doing on an imperfect, amateur basis---a com-

MOVIES-----

HARRY & TONTO is a charming, up-beat affirmative film about an old man and his willingness---and need---to break out of his "old" role. He opens up his life and finds new friends (when old ones die) and a new life.

Art Carney is perfect, and his cat deserved an oscar for best supporting role.

Carney's episodic journey from New York to the ocean front of Santa Monica was a delight--filled with characters and insights.

I suspect this film, over the years, will become a minor classic.

MOMENT BY MOMENT is a bomb. Lily Tomlin, surprisingly, shows she is the female equivalent of that Great Stone Face, Victor Mature. She has a very limited range. I think she killed the movie.

Granted, the plot is so old it creaks, but aren't they all? John Travolta as the ingratiating young drifter who is taken in by the rich, almost-divorced older woman who lives in a Malibu beach house, is pretty good, though his tears seemed phoney as hell. Still, he carried the film.

It's rated R because Lily gropes his genitals and their nude love scenes indicate some possible oral sex. You don't see anything: the interesting parts of anatomy are kept in shadow and skipped by adroit camera angles.

Skip this one.

(There was one person in the theater besides ourselves that night.)

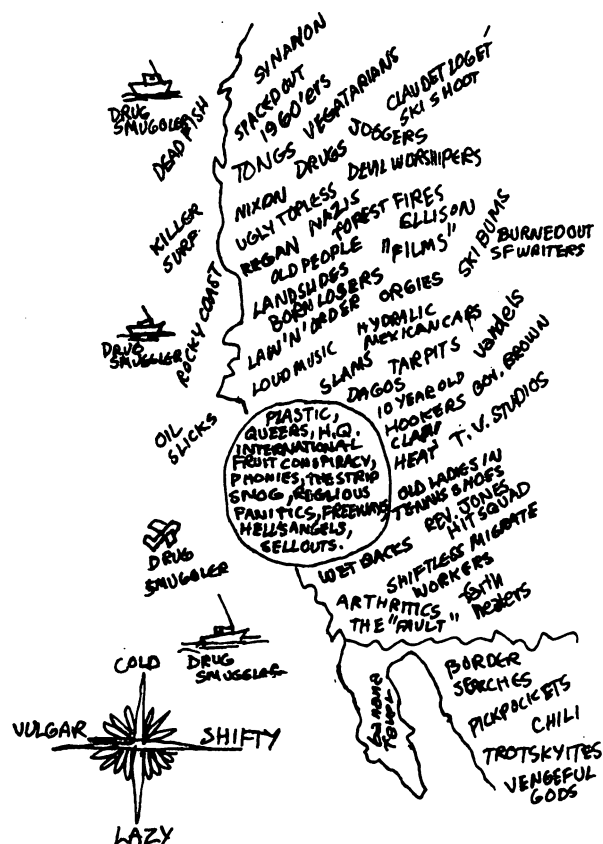
bination of glass firescreen and forced-air heater for the fireplace. I've been told the Airculator is the best, but we'll see.

The reason for this escalation is that with Iran's disappearance as an oil exporter, and with Saudi Arabia's limiting its production and increase of oil prices, and with a slowly developing oil/gasoline shortage on the horizon, next winter's furnace fuel oil will be (for us) in

the 55¢ to 60¢ per gallon range, a likely increase of at least 10¢ per gallon. That in turn translates to a cost increase, over a year, of at least \$50.

I had figured I could save about \$100. a year by using the fireplace to supplement oil heat. That savings now increases greatly if I have a top-quality, long lasting fireplace "furnace", and the savings would pay for the unit in two or three years, depending on how much wood I buy and how much I scrounge. (I include the cost of a yearly chimney cleaning in the figures.)

In case you're wondering why I don't put in a wood stove... It would project too far out into the room, and would require major changes in the furniture placement which, frankly, we don't want to make. The fireplace heater unit seems a good compromise. Not as efficient as a stove, but less obtrusive.



2-15-79 A couple days ago I bought a glass-screen fireplace cover---tempered glass open-out doors surrounded by brass and black metal border... A good buy at \$45. I added some narrow foam rubber strips to the outer edges to make the seal almost air tight.

LAST NIGHT we went over to visit my aunt and uncle and learned of a neighbor who had made himself a fireplace furnace---metal tubes running into the fireplace, and out, with a blower to force the hot air generated in the tubes out into the room.

We went over and they demonstrated it for us. Christ! The hot air that came out at a good rate was enough to cook your hand! I was convinced and delighted. Because I had bought a \$55. furnace-for-the-fireplace two years ago made of iron pipe---and had never used it for one reason or another. Now I see that by adding a few more sections of pipe I can extend its heating surface in the fire area, and by cutting two holes for the in-going and outgoing pipe in the base of the fireplace cover, I can have a highly efficient fireplace furnace of my own and save enough between now and late spring to pay for the entire unit. That's about two-hundred gallons of heating oil. Next winter will be pure savings.

The Iranian situation has progressed about as I thought it would, with the U.S. suffering humiliation after humiliation---the embassy invaded, US employees held captive by communist guerrilla forces...and the marines forbidden to resist the attack in any real way.

#The ambassador to Afghanistan killed by a leftist gang...

And Carter making a patronizing, insulting joke in Mexico, thereby offending that nation...

The Saudis want a mutual defense treaty with us, but for political reasons I'm sure Carter and his bosses won't go for that. The Saudi's are virtually surrounded by communist/socialist states, now, and feel very vulnerable. Well they and the small oil states on the peninsula might feel so. They want hard promises and hard decisions from the US establishment, and aren't getting anything but wheedles about oil supplies and begging to keep the oil price down.

The entire region will end up socialist/communist and will very happily cooperate with Russia to dominate the world. Oil will be used with a vengeance for political/geo-political ends.

We have here a failure of nerve, a basic gutlessness that will have to be reversed or the US empire will fall and the country will sink into

The Mike Gilbert illo to the left is a reflection of his humorous prejudices about California, not mine.

long-term stagnation and misery and consequent internal struggles...20% inflation...

2-16-79 Rumors fly in the East that Nelson Rockefeller had his heart attack while 'in the saddle' and it took an hour for the lady to get him dressed and presentable.

Maybe. There plainly is something fishy about the altered stories given out by the family as to the circumstances of his death. Nothing criminal involved, just highly embarrassing, and the family would just as soon forget it. I understand that having a fatal heart attack while fucking is called "the sweet death" by the French. Well...if it happened at the peak of the orgasm, perhaps.

Way back in my twenties when I was reading anything by Jack Woodford, one of his sayings stuck with me: "The skinny rats bury the fat rats." For a longer life (all other things being equal) stay slim.

And I remember reading his telling of a Spanish man in the Middle Ages who advocated limiting oneself to ten ounces of food and ten ounces of liquid per day. He practiced this regimen and, Jack wrote, lived to be 90+ years.

Now in SCIENCE NEWS a story confirming all this: "Food restriction delays the occurrence of most age-related diseases." Why is this so? Blood chemistry changes relating to fat accumulation are delayed by limited calorie diets, and the formation of fat cells is hindered and delayed. (Fat cells around the kidneys are bad, apparently.)

So here I sit, 20 pounds overweight.

There are all kinds of stories in the media now that detail how smoking is harmful to the foetus and the mother. We now know that smoking while pregnant can

#Significantly increase the risk of miscarriage.

#Strongly increases the risk of fetal birth defects that are usually fatal.

#Increases the chance of a newborn dying from crib death.

If all this detail becomes known among high school girls, it may be used as an unadmitted form of abortion or escape from responsibility/motherhood after pregnancy is discovered.

It'll be interesting to see some stats on teenage female smoking in the years to come.

I suspect I am a cynic.

Loompanics sent along a review copy of UNINHABITED PACIFIC ISLANDS by Dr. Jon Fisher. The booklet actually gives the name and locations of dozens of rocks and atolls and a few actual good-sized islands which are not used to live on by anyone. There are maps, too.

So, if you've got some thousands of dollars to play with, get together with some friends...or if you really want to be a hermit....

The booklet costs \$4 from Loompanics Unlimited, POB 264, Mason, MI 48854.

2-18-79 Everybody is getting excited about China's attack on Vietnam. Will Russia attack China in turn to protect and help it s ally?

And the US government makes a silly ass of itself by importuning China to please stop the fighting, pull back....

That little fight is none of our business, and we have no right to give unwanted advice. It's stupid to ask China to stop: they won't stop because we suggest it, and will ignore what we say...and all it accomplishes for us is make us look nose-y, busybodyish, and helpless.

Yes, I know it was 'said' for idealistic, knee-jerk peace reasons, but it sucks, and everybody with any brains knows it sucks.

The time to worry is if Russia and/or China starts throwing nuclear bombs around. That would mean a fat dirty cloud of radioactivity coming our way in the north Pacific.

But short of that contingency, I see nothing wrong with three socialist dictatorships fighting among themselves.

But knowing the finger-in-every-pie mentality, plus the God complex that lurks in all national politicians' heads, Jimmy Carter and Co. will probably try to intervene and make brownie points for themselves in the eyes of the public by preaching peace and trying to act as intermediary. The poor man is desperate, after all. Camp David went to pieces on him, Iran was a disaster, his Mexico trip was a gaffe, and his anti-inflation policies and programs are a farce.

There are tiny significant signs that George Bush is being readied for the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1980. He's an Establishment/Rockefeller-

er man, and he'll be financed and given a good media exposure. They'll run him up the flagpole and if the voters salute he'll be the man to battle Ronald Reagan for the nomination.

Jimmy Carter is being revealed as a man without guts, coherent, realistic policies or good advisors. All Jerry Brown has to do is ask voters, "Do you want four more years of Billy Carter in the news?"

I must say I did a pretty good job of installing the fireplace furnace in the fireplace, with the tempered glass doors unit.... A slight problem. I was told when I bought the iron-pipe heating unit that it would send stinky air into the room at first---as the inside coating cooked out. [It's made of 2" steel or iron water pipe and I understand the manufacturers dip it in something...]

And it did stink. The folder said it might take a few hours to cook all that stuff out. This morning I built a good hot fire and didn't turn on the blower. A steady series of smoke puffs ---like a smouldering cigaret---was driven from the pipe at one end, and then at the other...for about three hours. I left the glass doors open and 99% of the noxious smoke was drawn up the chimney by the draft.

When I did turn on the blower the jet of hot air that came from the 1-1/2" exit pipe was so hot I couldn't keep my hand in it at a distance of almost two feet.

In short, the unit works. It lifted the livingroom temperature to 70° from 67° in a few minutes.

But it takes time and attention to tend the fire, and I still need to rig a wire/mesh screen just inside the glass door frame to guard against sparks.

The shape of the unit is an inverted, vertical U, so the flames can heat the pipe overhead. A two inch wide pipe leads into the fireplace on the right, and a smaller diameter pipe exits the heated air.

The unit would really heat the livingroom faster if we curtained off the diningroom and kitchen and hallway. During a critical energy shortage that is an option.

I spray painted the outside pipes satin black to match the satin black glass doors frame. Looks pretty good. I plan later to build a wooden box lined with acoustic material to enclose the

fan/blower and mute its sound. It's fairly quiet, but it could be quieted to a whisper, I think.

3-1-79 Here I am back in the saddle after getting SFR #30 into the mails. So let's look at the world.

For Carter a sea of troubles has pitched its tent in his lap, to mangle some metaphors.

He gave a summit and nobody came; how humiliating to invite Prime Minister Begin and get a turn-down. How stupid not to have gotten a private yes before the invitation was made public, especially since Sadat was not coming, and Begin would be in a position of dealing with someone less important in the Egyptian government.

It's almost as if Carter & Co. unconsciously contrived this situation.

Of course, to cover the goof and mask the rebuff, Carter invited Begin to a meeting in Washington with himself, to try to smooth things over and perhaps to apply some muscle. Carter is really desperate for a "triumph" now. The plans to arm Egypt to take the place (somewhat) of Iran are stalled until the Egypt-Israel treaty is signed.

The huge leap of the Consumer Price Index to 10.8% "inflation" rates in January is misleading. Prices HAVE jumped, but they are in large part real-cost increases, and are not fueled by government inflation of the money supply. This means simply that the value of the dollar has stabilized and that from now on (for a while) a true cost-of-living situation will emerge, and people will discover that their standard of living has declined. They will have to make choices now, more than ever. They have been unwilling to do this so far---by running up huge consumer debt that cannot be sustained---but the time has come to pay back and cut back.

Trouble is the tax structure is tilted to favor the debtor and penalize the saver. About a decade ago the government decided to put off a recession or a slowdown by encouraging spending and debt and discourage people from saving. There is a lot of inertia in the society, but gradually the sense of it penetrated: why save money at 5-1/2 to 8% when the value of the saved money was being leached away by government devaluation at the rate of 6-11%? And why pay taxes on the "paper" interest gains? On the other hand,

why not buy a house at 8-10% interest rates which only exceed devaluation by one or two %? Why not spend as much money as possible while it has its current value, and why not go into debt and pay off later with government devalued money?

This can go on only so long. And now the game has about run its course.

I added a sliding screen of brass coils to the inside of the glass door fireplace unit (adapted from an existing fireplace screen I owned) and now we can with safety and assurance use the fireplace with the doors open. You get a LOT more heat that way.

I have tried rolling up newspapers and burning them as "logs"....you've seen those newspaper-log rollers advertised, no doubt ...and found that they don't burn well. You have to have an existing wood fire going in order to use such logs. Then I decided to try rolling them with corrugated box sheets and found that combo works better. But I think logs made from all-corrugated paper will burn even better, and will try it. A problem around here is what to do with all the SFR and other book boxes that accumulate. Burning them as logs in the fireplace may be the answer.

In a weak moment I subscribed to NEWS-WEEK. My impression of the magazine is negative---far too many pages of ads and far too few of news and analysis. A rip-off.

But part of the sub is a free copy of a reprint edition of their first issue---February 17, 1933. In the depths of the Great Depression the news was grim, with states passing laws to save people from being dispossessed and foreclosed because they couldn't make payments on their mortgages. The reasons why so many were in this fix are: 'the hectic days of 1918-21, when farm land values skyrocketed...' 'Today farm land has lost between a half and two-thirds of its peak value.' '...taxes have been kept near their peak levels...'

'The lot of home owners with mortgages is no less thorny. Values for their property were booming back in 1928 and with the new era upon them, it was no effort to borrow easy money and buy land and living quarters at prices which now look fantastic. Since 1929 their incomes have been slashed, yet taxes and interest must still be paid. Corporations owning mortgaged real estate have likewise felt the pinch, for tenants pay less rent or leave, and their places are not filled.' 'So the dismal story

runs for all debtors, be they individuals or corporations. The promises to pay made cheerfully in flush times have become one of the major sources of international woe, resentment and despair.'

Contrary to what you hear on TV and radio and read in papers, the prime reason for inflation (devaluation of the money) is not the government deficit each year. It is the far larger accumulation of corporate and personal debt. The consumer has added 30-40 billions of dollars to his debts each year lately, and business.... also huge compared to past decades, in real-money terms. That much added purchasing power naturally drives up prices. Stopping the 40-60 billion dollar government deficit per year will go a long way toward cutting inflation, but curbing private debt accumulation is also necessary.

The trouble is, of course, is that the economy has become a debt junkie, utterly dependent on debt, more debt, and still more debt each year.

As noted, this cycle can only go so far, and the signs (social, cultural, economic) suggest the great deflation is upon us.

3-3-79 The fireplace logs I made from corrugated paper did burn well. Too well. So I am now rolling them with one section of the daily paper to slow down the burn rate.

One other option I haven't tried yet, but will this summer, is to put newsprint into a pail of water and let it soak and lose cohesiveness. Then you squeeze and mold the stuff into logs and put the logs aside to dry. Thus you have wood pulp logs, which may burn as long as a Presto-log.

The president of the Iranian national bank said today that Iran will pay its debts, and so a great sigh of relief went up in financial circles worldwide, especially in the USA.

As to long-time debts, not forgotten... I see that China had to agree to make some restitution to those companies in the U.S. whose assets in China were taken over when the communists took over in 1949. At that time all Chinese assets in this country were seized and held in limbo.

Now it has been agreed that the creditors in this country will divvy up the old Chinese assets and settle for about 50¢ on the dollar.

Now trade and aid can begin.

But creditors never forget, and capitalistic governments always try to protect their huge corporate citizens against loss. There is always some leverage against a state's refusal to pay its debts---its assets overseas can be attached and held or divied up. And capitalistic governments help each other in this respect.

Reading book reviews of novels structured on a terrible plague sweeping the country made me think again about that strange thing called Legionaire's Disease which pokes its head up here and there every once in a while....

It struck me some time ago that its favorite lodging place---air conditioning systems---made natural a possibility that it was planted for swift distribution to a limited area...and that the outbreaks of the disease are tests for potency and effective life.

Frankly, I think the disease is being tested in this country by the Russians, I think the government knows it, and dares not surface its knowledge. For all we know there is a retaliatory "strike" of CIA-planted disease in Russia, and that we are into a top-secret biological war with them, on a very limited scale.

A clue that I may be right is that nobody has said in print the obvious suspicion that air-conditioning systems make perfect test sites. Drop a capsule of the disease in a certain place and wait to see how many people are stricken, how many die, how it is treated.... And whenever a communication "black hole" appears like this, I get suspicious.

3-4-79 There are 'studies' being made and published by ruling-class think tanks full of academics and assorted think-alikes who are clued into what the financial biggies want.

The latest surfacing of The Plan is a drumbeat of media exposure for a resumption of the draft because it is said that the peacetime volunteer army is too expensive, too low-grade and (unstated) too full of blacks.

Gotta get conscription going again to upgrade the army and navy and air force with some intelligent white boys... The white upper class isn't comfortable with

what promises to be an 80-90% black army.

The 'too expensive' reason for abandoning the all-volunteer army is a crock of manure; do the powers-that-be expect to pay draftees less money, feed them lousier food?

We are also seeing a mid-east crisis developing---and a call for a 'military presence' there by the USA.

A nice little war in Arabia or Africa would drain off a lot of troublesome male youth (who are due to make lots of trouble in the coming recession/depression due to unemployment) and would give the staggering economy a pick-me-up from huge "emergency" government spending (and the necessary controls and regimentation of society would employ a small army of middle-class whites and blacks, too!). Everybody would be happy.

The think tanks are also thinking about something called "National Service"---regimentation of the civilian population to perform good deeds for a limited period... a year or so if young, a few hours a week if older.

There are such programs now, but they're volunteer staffed, and the Establishment and their toadies and agents prefer forced work and mandatory "volunteer" community service.

Seems obvious to me that our government is scared stiff now and is finally moving to protect the Arabian peninsula oil fields from Russian control. We'll try to use client state troops (Egypt, maybe the Israelis) but it may require considerable American advisors and technicians, and we know where THAT road leads, don't we?

I've always had this urge/dream/yen to live on nothing (or very, very little) and be scott free of government and obligation.

I often speculate on how it could be done...

The thing that strikes you if you think along these lines is the contrived structure of society/laws which make rent-free living virtually impossible! Even if you own a piece of land and a house on it, you are forced to pay rent to the county in the form of taxes. The only possible way to manage it today is to own a camper or motorhome and keep a very low profile as you park on the street here and there... And, of course, a tramp with a backpack can manage it but that takes a lot of savvy and presents all kinds of social

and security problems.

Living in this society without a "known address" is probably immoral and illegal.

Could you keep (or open) a bank account with no home address? Could you get a P.O. Box without a home address? No. The P.O. checks you out. The bank would think you're trying an illegal scam.

You'd have to lie about a home address or make arrangements with a friend for a "front" address.

Could you get and keep a job without a home address? Not likely.

But, by using the government's own rules and regs and programs, you can live on an absolute minimum. There are all kinds of "low income" programs to help people, from rent and property relief to food stamps and low-cost to free medical programs.

The trick is to arrange your affairs and your assets so that your visible public profile conforms to their rules. Welfare families have known this for generations. The middle-class knows they know and resent like hell what the welfare people get away with.

But most people will not "demean" themselves to live by these rules of the poor until they are forced to by a financial disaster.

Well, the disaster is coming. So it might be a good idea to save enough money to buy a used camper-and-truck or mobil home when these recreation vehicles are sacrificed by middle-class owners who will try to get money for house payments. They'll lose the house anyway, and have nowhere to go. But at least you'll have a rolling home and (if you're smart) a supply of parts and a skill you can sell on the underground, cash-&-carry market.

Gad, how this entry wandered!

3-12-79 I have the distinct impression that this personalzine is going downhill; I am repeating myself, diatribing too much, and not doing a good job.

To really pursue my worldview and comment with facts and background information, I'd have to devote full-time to the magazine.

I'm not that fanatical or sure or warped that way, enough.

So I've been doing a surface job, seeing broad trends, outlines... But I tend to repeat and to not do the homework, except in economics.

The trouble is, I'm a bit bored with boring most of you.

I want a change, and you probably do, too.

So these changes will become operative in REG #9:

#A de-emphasis on politics and economics.

#More attention to personal matters---especially energy-saving experiments and systems, gardening philosophy and tips, food preservation, etc., and nutrition.

(Maybe I'll be able to figure out a system for losing 20 pounds....)

#The first 12,000 words or so of an uninhibited, violent, sex-drenched fantasy novel dealing with alternate Earths, ultimate evil, swords-and sorcery.

#The shift to mimeographed issues, the use of the Olympia 17-character-per-inch elite, and an increase to 16 pages per issue (from 8) and mailing by third class instead of first class. Continued use of envelopes, sealed.

#An irregular but probably approximately six-weekly schedule.

#No illustrations; they're too much trouble to glue into a stencil.

The novel to begin next issue is titled MASTERS OF DEATH. I published the first chapter or two in...uhh...I think in THE ALIEN CRITIC #4 in 1972. I'll be rerunning that opening [with some changes] next issue and continuing it. The novel has lurked in the back of my mind for years.

Anyway, if you liked ONE IMMORTAL MAN, you'll like MASTERS OF DEATH.

This REG format change will give you up to 22,000 words of Geis...if you want it. Price is the same---60¢ for a single copy, \$3.00 for five issues, \$6.00 for ten. (What I save in going mimeo and not using illos I will have to put into larger envelopes and 5¢ extra postage per copy. It balances out, roughly.)

3-13-79 Final entry this issue. It is reported that Carter pulled a last-minute rabbit out of his peanut shell game and contrived a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel. Probably, if true and not just a cosmetic face-saver for Carter, the deal involves all kinds of U.S. guarantees and all kinds of payments totaling billions. He has been forced to buy a peace treaty so that Egypt can be armed and used as our Cuba.