

2962 Santa Ana St.
South Gate, Calif.
Sept. 1, 1960

Dear Mel & all the ROTers,

Word is that I'm six months in writing about ROT #4, which means my rate of fanac is picking up. Some chaps I know have gone from neo-fan to gafia-er, and still think I don't write letters thanking them for fanzines. This isn't true at all. I almost always write.. It is just that some don't live long enough to read my letters.... -- For more details of my slow-down read MOONSHINE in the current FAPA mailing. (I'm sneaky-- if you are like me, you wouldn't have gotten around to that one yet

----One reason I don't get letters out is that "things happen." It is now the 6th. -- One of the things that happen was the 4th Non-vention (the first being in 1952). The Non-vention or Non-Con, is a Labor Day Weekend Party for local fans not able to go to that years WorldCon.. Some one with a big enough house opens it up, and all interested arrive Saturday, and stay as long as they want/can... The biggest names present were Ed & Leith Hamilton, and Mari Wolf. Fannish BNF included Burbee, Rory Falkner, Trimble, and a goodly host of local fans.. It was most enjoyable, and kept us to busy to miss being with the rest of our gang in Pittsburgh.

Well, lets get back to ROT.. If I don't, another issue will come along in about a year, and I'll feel so bad about not having written, I wont write again, hopping you will think I have died, and all the letters you see printed are by some other Rick Sneary. ---- Of your editorial I note one check by the remark "less of me and more of other people." This is pure balderdash. Why should one of the better English writers limit him self in his own fanzine? I believe editors should editorialize, as well as doing articles from time to time. This is as true of neo-fans as BNF.. The best fanzines that come to mind were extenstions of the personality of the editor. Editors who only injoy publishing, and put little or none of them self in their zine, almost always put out dry, dull, or atleast impersonal type zines.. So, don't save all your good stuff for FAPA.. (I enjoyed your mountain climbing zine very much.. Glad to see you being more active.. I wish I was.)

I guess this a good time to mention that I'm sorry you missed out on the T&F race this year. I voted for you, and might even have been one of the nomanators, except for a bit of confusion.. Walt wrote me, at the same time he wrote the others, asking if I'd sign your platform.. Which put me in a tight spot, because I'd do almost anything for Willis, and think of you as a old friend too--even is we have never corresponded much.. But I thought Atom was going to run, and one thing and another, I thought more indebted to him for his help on the LonCon-Solacon bez.. So I held up, and then it was

even in the heart of Banteliffesupporters.... And, everyone agreed it was a very nice thing you did with your "Few Words..." oneshot with PANAC. Others have congratulated the winner, but few have done it with such a show of good feelings..

Your remarks about old letters, strikes a famillure cord.. (To such an extent my pants fell down.) I too save my old letters -- pluss carbons of nearly all my answers.. These pile up, fall over, and get into all sorts of places.. Early in my fanlife I decided to run my correspondence like a office, and bought a box of file folders, and made out folders for everyone I was writing too.. Then my plan was to file the letter and my carbon in the folder as soon as it was answered... But you know how this goes.. And besides, there are always lots of people you don't really write enough to make folders... And there are the odd years when you don't do anything... so some are filled, some in order in shoe boxes, and some in piles.. --- But by an large (far to large for the buy), most of my correspondence is in some kind of order. Collected into old mailing envelopes, and files in order... But, there are still the boxes of letters from those years, that have not been put in.. And I don't have a wife to help me..

Birchby's story was good fun.. Not much else you can say about it though..

So too the article on witches. I'm not very well informed on such matters, so I can't correct or even argue. But none the less, I found it interesting..

The w.r. Portfolio was interesting too...as it recalled his Second Period, which I found the most enjoyable. (The First Period was better art, and the 3rd, funneyer.. I'm not really as fond of the current work as others are... I'm not even sure if it is Fourth or Fifth Period work.)

I.Potter is good too.. Most un-commentable stuff too.. None of your wroters say anything that anyone can take the least exception too.. What can you say about some one that tells you want they were like when little girls, or what pictures turned out badly and way.. You can laugh, or smile..and think that these funny people might be nice to have around for a drop-in-some-weekend.. You can't very well say they were wrong, or that you don't agree with them, or that you found it much better and they don't really understand it at all... Maybe they don't, but how are your poor readers going to know? Next time have some one write on why we all should burn our fanzines; hate W.Willis for his stand on taxation; write limerics on busses; or send jello through the mails.. (Not me, mind you.. This is all you will get from here.)

This oddly applies to Warner too.. I'd never noticed the importance of 1960.. I'd felt rather strongly about 1950.... but then it was a very importen year for me in many ways, and I wasn't so interested in what was happening to others.. I'm looking forward to 2000 myself though.. Lets see.. I'll be 73.. Huh! But that makes Warner only 38 now.. -- DNP this, but I'm

croggled to find Warner old five years older than I am. That also means he is younger than Ackerman and Tucker.. Warner is so serious and been in fandom so long I'd thought he was in his mid forties..... It seems the people I know are getting younger.. Burbee was at the Non-vention, and seemed to me, no older than when I first met him in 1945. Ofcourse to a teenager, a man with three kids would seem rather old. ---- I have already figgured out that I'd be 83 in 2010, and thus feel safe about not being asked to do anything on the Second South Gate Con. Committee... (Trimble said something about my being Treasurer of the MordorCon... and I flencked and turned green.)

As I've said before -- somewhere--we seem to have the same love for books--and the same kind.. Namely something written between to covers that might be interesting, sometime. But I am far behind you in collecting them.. I don't have quite enough to have even a good system of sorting them.. As my few, my sad few, have to be in two rooms, and the garage store-room-cum-den, the first brake down is according to how valueable it is, and/or if it is a eference type book. These stay in my room.. The rest of the good books, and my Mentor pbs, stay in the middle room.. The rest, along with most of the magazine collection (which I dare say is larger than yonds) are in the garage-den.. ---- Most of my books are eather free gifts I've gotten one hookey way or another.. They are both my best and my worst.. The rest are things I've gotten in Goodwill stores, etc., for 10 to 25¢ each, and thus nothing very old or rare..

I check you compleectly on the need for books I have never read and may never read.. For I to never know were my interest will turn next.. I resently read a French historical novel, and ended up reading three more books on the same period, and consulting two books of reference... I have a very poor memory, but am very good about being able to find information in books.

Please tell anyone you hear curse the kookie name of Sneary, for being a gafined fake-fan, that I mean well, and will try to answer my mail in time.. I'm not sure who's time... or even which life time...but in the time to come... And, save the stamps for that stamp collector you know...

Yours,,

