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The Crawlway

This fanzine comes to you courtesy of the Amalgamated Apathy Association, Hither and Yawn, Directors. (Sam Hither and Maria~~m~~ Yawn, in case someone wants to identify the reference.) If it weren't for the fact that I have this Ghu-damned 8-year string of unmissed mailings, and the other fact that I had to run off and mail Creath Thorne's membership-saver, I would probably miss this mailing. Then everyone could gloat.

The problem is that APAty is spreading all over LA fandom these days -- a few fanzines are still interesting to read, but no one is interested in actually publishing the things. Part of the problem is that LASFS has recently gone party-mad, and not a weekend goes by without at least one party, and usually two. Parties being much more fun than publishing fanzines, guess what goes by the board up until deadline time? Right. And when deadline does roll around, there is, in addition to the feeling of APAty, the feeling that the deadline is pressuring you -- and damned if I/you/he will let himself/yourself/myself be pushed around by a hobby! This is bad for getting fanzines published, it is, it is.

In my case, there is another push-pull problem: Dian says she has decided to quit all of her APAs. (Whether she gets a resignation in for SAPS on time or not remains to be seen.) So if I want to keep collecting the mailings, I most certainly can't let myself be dropped from anything. In fact, I have to pick up her SFFA membership on the strength of a 1-page contribution to her last SFFAzone, which Lon Atkins, the OE, says he will accept as the beginning of a joint membership. That would give me SAPS, FAPA, N'APA, Cult, OMPA (if it still exists), APA L, and SFFA. And I have an invitation from Stobcler, too... Eight of the things...that's ~~not~~ too many . . . I would be better off to drop 4, 6, or maybe all 8 of them and, like Dian, be free to follow whatever road appears. It's a puzzlement.

On the other hand, here I am, saving my string of mailings hit (and, if I turn out 6 pages, saving my string of not ever needing pages.) It would seem that my decision is made -- but don't count on it.

I must say that the 77th Mailing was little inducement to do a zine this time, what with the sack of garbage Fred Patten sent through, and the pile of trash Foyster dumped into the mailing. (A cursory check reveals it is impossible to get a good copy of WCB/GRYPHON 35 even by cannibalizing two copies - a good copy being defined as one having all pages legible and not run off the page.)

So much for Bitching and Whining, as we say in what used to be the Cult..

THE CRAWLWAY

NIFLHEIM 17 (Hulan) But Seattle isn't "bidding against one of the California cities for a worldcon," Dave -- it's bidding against two of them! So since the bidding is already competitive... SEATTLE IN 1968! (This is a personal opinion, and is not to be construed as a policy statement for any group or sub-group, such as The Blackguards. At least not yet.)

Hey, if you can't make it to the NYCon, who on the Committee is going to be able to? The Trimble's will be sort of "lumbered" with two kids, and we all know about Al Lewis... Seriously, though I'm supporting Seattle, I'm sure whoever wins will put on an enjoyable con, and I'll certainly support whoever should win.

ESDACYOS 3 (Cox) I seem to have the copy originally intended for Roscoe Wright. Is this significant?

SAPRISE! 8 (Van Arnem) OK, so where is the Progress Report that was due in November? I'm sure you've had many many people wanting to know, so I might as well join the mob. (I could ask Johnstone where the Westercon Progress Report is, too -- though copies were handed out at Tricon, and some handed out (equally randomly) at LASFS, no copies have been sent out to members.)

Buzz off on that Preferential Hiring bit you're attacking Kusske about. He's quite right that it is discrimination against non-Negroes. Equal rights, fine; Preferential Hiring of anyone for racial reason, no, by damn! If you feel guilty for historical reasons, you do what you want about it, but try foisting off preferential treatment of anyone on me just to assuage your feelings, and you've got a fight on your hands.

I'd be very interested in someone proving the source of that fake FOCAL POINT. So far everyone seems to be denying it -- for which I don't blame them a bit. In all probability it will go down on the records as Unsolved for a few years, anyway, and maybe for longer. But most mysteries of fandom eventually come clear, if you wait long enough.

DOWN WITH CHALKER #1 (Chalker) I dunno if DGV will try to answer your question about why Syracuse was represented in NYCON COMICS as having Giant Chickens, but I suggest it would be: (1) Syracuse is a Hick Town; (2) the Co-Chairman is generally known as J.K. Cluck (Klein, of course).

RETRO 42 (F.M. Busby) I thought I went over the problem of What Is the Institute for Specialized Literature, but let's hit the high spots again. He and various others organized the Fantasy Foundation in 1946, but nothing was done with it, and it faded until nothing was left but a small collection of donations, ensconced in He's garage. In 1962 Schultheis began revivication proceedings, together with Trimble, Sneary, Patten, Al Lewis and myself, of the idea of such a foundation for the preservation of SF and fan materials. The FF name was dropped, to prevent confusion between the old organization and its troubles, and the new, hopefully trouble-free org. We went into Incorporation proceedings, and had to come up with a new name. The Govt. boys don't like Foundations that aren't giving grants-in-aid, so we became an Institute. We tried Institute for Speculative Literature, but were told that the Govt. boys think "Speculative" means dealing in money. So we wound up with the Instotute for Specialized Literature, Inc. Right now it isn't doing anything, and threatens to become another FF from the standpoint of inactivity, since no one has the time to devote to keeping it going and advancing it by means of publications, soliciting donations, etc. Perhaps, we figure, when LASFS gets its clubhouse in a couple years, there will be a lockable room that the ISL can talk LASFS out of, and then the ISL can actually get into operation, bringing together the various cartons of donations stored in various places -- He, as last caretaker of the FF, has agreed to give the FF collection to the ISL when it has a place to put it, too.

"April Dancer" still sounds like a racehorse to us.

MURIAS 3 (Jean Berman) Lennon's statement about the Beatles being more popular than Jesus was probably quite correct, as was his comment that Christianity would go. It was not, of course, particularly politic of him to say so, but that's his problem. I suspect rock-and-roll will go first -- the word from England is that it is dying rapidly -- but everything changes, even religion. The Catholics have been getting more and more liberal, trying to hold their followers -- and I think the Jews have been doing the same thing, haven't they? The trend from the Liberal view is to the Agnostic view, so everything is changing, albeit slowly. Whether it will go to atheism, or a new religion will spring up, I don't know -- maybe Science will be the New Religion, even. (It usually takes a new religion to drive out an old.)

AWWRRKK??!! You didn't recognize Carol Murray's column title, "Basingstoke"? Why, she obviously took it from my editorial column in PROFANITY, back in 1958-60. (Of course, I took it from a slightly obscure operetta called Ruddigore, or possibly Ruddygore, where it was used as a calming influence-word on one character called Mad Margaret, since it is the location of a mad-house in England.)

As Dian won't have a zine in this mailing, I'll answer for her: Her name is Jeraldine Dian -- both of them spelled that way. The former because her mother got a wild idea at the last moment when the nurse asked for the name, and the latter because her father liked Dian of the Lost Land.

Fan Hill Publications stopped when Fan Hill was abandoned in 1960.

The cover on YEZIDEE 16 was original there. (It was later used for APA L 103.)

I'll be interested in seeing how Johnny Chambers acts at the next Westercon. In 1966 he was too much the center of attention with his Little Green Dinosaur cartoons and stuff, but the newness of these should have worn off by the '67 Westercon, and he will have to re-evaluate himself.

TADAIMA (Don Fitch) I assume that by now you have discovered that the gentleman with whom you talked about New York Fandom is one Dave Pollard, who is quite interesting to talk to as long as you don't push the wrong button and turn on one of the speech-tapes you've already heard.

The relative Evilness of being a Fanzine Accumulator depends first on the care with which the zines are stored. If they are just dumped somewhere to exist as best they can in spite of mildew, rain, bugs and dirt, it is an Evilness indeed. If they are stored correctly out of the elements and natural enemies paths, then the Evilness depends on the second criteria: What is the Accumulator keeping out of circulation that I need? How Evil an Accumulator are you, Don Fitch?

If anyone wants to invest \$5,000, I'll sell my fanzine collection, bound volumes, filing cabinets and all. But I figure it is worth at least that much.

SARDONICUS 1 (Milt Stevens) Welcome to the menagerie, Milt. If you want to offer that trade of a 1st class Yeoman and two seamen for three poker players as a general offer, I'll take you up on it. I have no idea what we'll do with the Yeoman and the seamen, you understand, but we'd like to get rid of a couple poker players around LASFS. You can have John Hartman, who wins too much; Hilda Hoffman, who annoys everyone at the table (she talks a blue streak, on why the last hand should have been played different, or why she played it so well as she did, or why she should be winning more than she is, or why she can't afford to lose, etc.) and who has a unique method of tamping the cards after shuffling; and the third can be Jerry Pournelle, who seems to object to playing poker the way we do, as he thinks we ought to be playing Real Poker. How does the deal sound to you?

And that brings me to.....

Poker For LASFSians PART 2

Leaving out the ridiculous sidelights of actually playing the game with LASFSians, let's consider some of the ridiculous variants of poker that LASFSians play:

1. Anaconda - You are dealt 7 cards, face down, immediately. It is played high-low. You pass three of the 7 cards to the player to your left, receiving three more from the player on your right. You then pass two of the new 7 to the left, receive 2 from the right, and finally pass 1 card to the left and receive 1 from the right. You make the best 5-card high or low hand and discard the remaining two cards (or all seven if you want to fold). Arrange the cards in the order you want to roll them, and play it as 5-stud, with simultaneous declaration at the end of the fourth roll.
2. Grodnikonda - Like Anaconda except that you are stuck with the original 7 cards and must make your best high or low hand from them. No passing.
3. Pass the Cabbage - Like Anaconda, but only the first pass -- three cards -- is made.
4. Schlange (or Snake-a-conda) - Like Anaconda, but you pass the three to the person on your left, the 2 to the 2nd person on the left, and the 1 to the third person on your left.

5. Black Maria - 7-card stud high only, but the highest Spade in the hole splits the pot with the best poker hand.
6. High-Spade, Low-Hole Chicago - Same as Black Maria, but your low hole-card is wild, as is each other card like it in your hand. Ace may be called low or high, but wild card may not be called a Spade for the purposes of the Black Maria part of the game.
7. Elevator (or was it Escalator?) - 5-card stud, but roll your own each time, and your hole card, as well as all others like it in your hand, wild. Played high-low, with a burn (replacement of either an up-card or the hole card) after the fifth card is dealt.
8. Pass or Pass it (alias P-o-P) - 7-stud high-low, but for each up-card you have the option of refusing the offered card and taking a chance on the next one in the deck. If a card is rejected by dealer, it is discarded out of play.
9. Buy-a-Card (alias Take-It-or-Leave-It, Take-It-and-Stick-It, etc.) - Like P-o-P, but you may reject as many up-cards as you wish. However, it costs you 1¢ to reject the first card on each (or any) of the up-card rounds, 2¢ to reject the second, 4¢ to reject the third, etc. Current record in LASFS is held by Chuck Crayne, who paid 64¢ to get rid of a card in one game. Then, after you have all seven cards (no chance to reject the 7th -- down -- card), there is a replacement round in which you may replace any card, up or down, for 5¢. A round of betting follows. A second replacement round, for 10¢ follows that, and a final round of betting. This gets lots of money in the pot, even at the cheapskate 10¢ limit, 3 raises limit that the LASFS plays, being composed of cheapskates almost entirely.

There are a few others, such as Yardarm, that even the LASFS won't play. And one or two new ones come up every couple months. Elevator was just introduced in the last week or so, and Dwaino hasn't been tried yet, though it will be. Anyone for poker with the LASFS?

Next time we shall introduce some of the players...

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DEPARTMENT OF SAPS I HAVE MET: Of the members, all but Brandon, John & E. Foyster, for a 92.9% of the memberships (90.6%, counting each half of the dual memberships separately (29/32). I've met neither of the Invitees, and of the W'ers, I've met only Atkins, Thompson, Stevens, Miller, Wolford, Porter, Weber, Hannifen, Gilbert, Pfeifer, Pearson, Ward, Brown, for 13/23. Grand total: 42/57, or 73.7%.

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THE FELLOWSHIP OF NOTHING

Chapter 12:

BY BRUCE PELZ

A Policy of Len-Lease

"Position is everything in life," said Tejon, "so here is my Pro-Position: Baron Philz needs someone else to help him in his fight -- someone who's not afraid to enter combat with Treachery, Villainy, and Underhandedness. Who you'll be fighting against is something else again, of course, but that's what you'll be fighting with. Anyway, if you

agree, you shall weild the Ring of Ditur, one of the mightiest Rings of Power -- it can change the terrain into whatever kind of land you wish. You seem eminently suited for the job. As Bailiff of this town you are well versed in scheming, trickery and the finer points of social customs of the country, and this will be an opportunity for you to advance downward, sort of. What do you say, will you take the job?"

"I'd like to," his listener admitted, "but I have a contract to fulfill, and the Township of Pylo might not let me go. But if you could get the Mayor to release me from the contract, I would be glad to take on the job you offer. Hissoner's office is right this way." And the two of them went to hear what the Pylo Mayor'd have to say on the subject.

"It's all right with me," said Mayor Norman, "and I'll be glad to release you from your contract temporarily -- or rather, to lease you from it. But who will do the job as Town Bailiff?"

"It isn't that difficult," said the Bailiff. "In fact, I've made a sort of game out of the job, and I'd be willing to teach it to anyone you thought could take on the job."

"Well," admitted the Mayor, there are a few people around here that could use the job. They've been here for years and haven'd done much of anything but wander around Schnapps and give our Town a bad name by claiming to come from here. They're generally known as Pylo Dave and Pylo Jack. ~~Either~~ of them should be able to do the job if you can make a game out of it, since they are always playing Casino or some other card game. Which of them --" the Mayor pointed to a couple of men playing cards near the front door of his office -- "would you like to take your game to?"

"Well," said the Bailiff, "let's take Pylo Jack the game."

Several hours later, Tejon and the ex-Bailiff arrived at Philz's Black! Castle. "Here's the replacement," Tejon told the Baron. "He's on lease from the town of Pylo, and his name is Len. I'll be around if you really need any help, but now I have some plots to write instead of to plan. How about sending me back?"

"All right," agreed the Baron. "But before you go, how about seaving us some of your television treatments? We may need money."

"Fine," said the flattered Tejon, giving the Baron a sheap of papers. "You can sell them to collectors?"

"Not exactly," said Philz. "Some places accept sprip' ~~instead~~ of money. "Damnation!" Tejon vanished, and the Baron turned to his new conspirator. "We must first work on regaining the Ring of Gemkhar before the Others do, and in order to do that -- wait, you will need a title. Everyone on the Staff of this story gets a title of some kind."

"I've got a title," said Len, bringing out a thin publication and presenting it to Philz, who handled it carefully by the edges.

"~~Hum~~. THE CHARLOTTAN -- aha! You are a Conjuror? A Wizard? Even a fake Wizard might be useful. Your title could be Master, I guess. In any case, you must take Prince Arness's task of dealing with exchanges and barterings when we need things."

"Just as long as I don't have to deal with the Catholic Sisters in the local convent," said Master Len. "I'd hate to be Jack of all trades and Master of Nuns."

"Urk!" said the Baron, "Let's get on with the problem of the Ring of Gemkhar."

CHAPTER 13 -- Lucky or Unlucky -- to be written by Len Bailes, who conned me into writing this one at such an early date. After all, the last Chapter was only last mailing, and two consecutive Chapters may be Too Much for the remaining sanity of the members.

BEP -

January 9 1967

V o t e
R E P U B L I C A N

They kept us out of Space

I
LIKE
F A L L O U T

It is a policy of the

AEC

to provide every child

with a hot lunch

Y O B B E R!

This is a Lambeck & Lewis Do-It-Yourself Project. It consists of a multi-graphed [Yes! I finally got one!] collection of the badges Bob and I wear around school in our DETENTION name-card holder. Just cut them up and PRESTO! you can do the same yourself. On an accompanying sheet you find further material. These sheets are being distributed through the 4th mailing of the N'APA. They're GPP#29 [or so]. For obvious reasons I call this:

A FMZ FOR ZWIEG