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SPECIAL STEAM ISSUE

Twentieth Century Unlimited





TWENTIETH CENTURY UNLIMITED

I've been a steam locomotive fan for several years, but the urge has been relatively strong for about the last year. What better way to combine stf and rf (railfandom) than in the cover and contents of my FAPAZine. If you hold up the cover until ultraviolet light you'll be able to see it's not a photograph at all but a cleverly disguised painting by E Chesley Bonestall...

There'll be an amendment up for vote shortly (next mailing or so) for altering the waitlist situation. Allowing young, intelligent and active fans in before Joe Stodge who has been on the waitlist for seven years and, by ghod, will be into FAPA in only 3 more, and who wants to contribute his 8 pages a year is what it's all about. Letting talented and creative fans in Now rather than after they've gotten old and tired and disinterested is what it's all about. Setting creativity and originality over the seniority system is what it's all about. Making FAPA something worthwhile for publishing fans who show ~~their~~ their worth now is what it's all about. If Congress is fighting to get rid of the seniority system and trying to establish a system whereby creativity, imagination and capability are rewarded for themselves, how can FAPA do otherwise?

A couple of weeks ago I recounted my SF collection. This is a chore which I've gone through several times, each time more infrequently as the collection grew. When I began to collect SF, about 13 years ago, I maintained an almost daily count of my collection; a fairly easy thing until I began to fill the gaps in my magazine collection, around 1961.

I even had a "race" with another collector, an isolated fan, Bob Adolfsen, living in Sea Cliff, Long Island (NY). I met him through the Amazing lettercolumn, when I was calling every SF collector I knew about, before Don Wollheim told me about fandom [in late 1961]. Adolfsen was several years older than I, attending high school at the time I contacted him. I would gleefully, in my youthfully egotistical way, recount the mad journeyings and trips through the labyrinth that still existed, best described as Book Row, in lower [Mid]Manhattan.

An aside: that wonderful world of used bookstores is, sadly, no more. Even while I was paying a weekly visit to the bookstores they were fast disappearing from the New York & literary scene. In a glowing evocation of old-time America I recently told rich brown (grabbing him by the tie at a recent insurgent meeting) about visiting Book Row,

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Design by Andy Porter; Back Cover by Alex Eisenstein (left over from the '65 MidwesCon)

totalling the number and variety of bookstores I used to visit. The total came to 31, in a broad and consuming sweep down Broadway, Fourth and Third Avenues, across Astor Place and East 4th Street, past Village Square (Prexies, schmexies, double pepsies, pipkins all agree), Cornelia Street, Sheridan Square and Sixth Avenue, and a final stop at Oscar Sorge's hidden away at west 10th Street and West 4th Street.

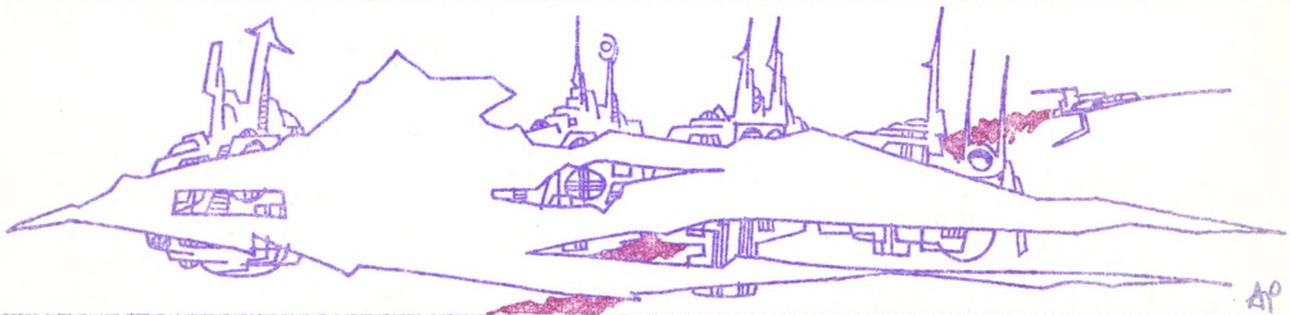
Thirty-one bookstores, capable of adding a hundred or more books to my collection in the space of a single month. That world sadly gone now. Oscar Sorge closed, as did the varied Paperback Galleries; Wex gone, and even Stephen's Book Service (Manhattan's sole SF Bookstore) gone mail-order. There are still excellent bookstores along Book Row -- Strand, Schulte's (with their large Rackham collection), Sylvan (recognizable by the Pepsi sign over the doorway), Biblo & Tannen (home of Canaveral Press), a few others. But not many; ghod knows not as many as there were. And the width of selection is correspondingly narrowed.

At one point I maintained a count, week-by-week, of my accumulations. This was in the days when every trip to Book Row would yield another stack of pre-1956 paperbacks, more copies of Astounding and Galaxy, F&SF and New Worlds [back copies of the British Edition were always fairly common in New York; my nearly complete collection comes mainly from New York's bookstores]. Once I walked into Sylvan to discover someone had unloaded a sizeable collection of Astoundings and Galaxy. I walked to Mike McInerney's, (then working at Book-A-Zine Company, a few blocks away [Ross Chamberlain was working there too, but these were his pre-fandom days]ø, and borrowed \$20.00; got home with the majority of a set of Galaxy and 10 years worth of Astounding.

There were other good places for SF. Midtown Magazine, now occupied by a porno-store, featured pulps and early digest-sized mags for incredibly low prices. Once I walked in, took a look around, and went over to Terry Carr at Ace (a block away); asked Terry if I could borrow some money. Terry, sensing a Good Thing, came back to the store with me, and, I think, completed his set of Unknown there. I picked up my own incomplete set of Unknown plus many old Amazings and Astoundings. \$1.00/copy, \$1.25 for pre-1940 magazines -- nearly all in mint condition. 1965 I think it was...

These dreams of what was came back to me when I counted my collection (standing on chairs with a notepad and pen in my hand). The thrill of having a large collection is still a nice thing (I can see Forry rubbing his hands and chortling every now and then), although Sam Martinez can show us all the bad side of collecting. "Large" is, of course, a relative term. A large collection for myself is small compared to some of those members have; large compared to someone's living in Austria or Australia. Still, my 4,000 books and magazines is a pretty good accomplishment for someone with the [chronological] age of 24. My mental age is something else. In some ways I'm positively doddering...

If a trip/to Mars you'd earn/remember folks/there's no return/Burma Shave



FAPA Is APA F Spelled Backwards

STEAM AND SUBWAY NEWS

INDIA: Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has commenced production of an order for 100 VC Class 2-8-2- steam locomotives for Indian Railways meter gauge lines. About 3 are being built per month and the order will be completed late in 1972. The rest of the works are now engaged on diesel and electric locomotive construction. Reason for India's continued construction of steam locomotives is the relatively inexperienced state of Indian locomotive building; steam locomotives are easier and cheaper to build for internal use, and most electric and diesel locomotives built in India are destined for overseas shipment to help in balance of payment problems.

CANADA: The Subway Division of the City of Montreal Public Works Dept. has been transferred to a new body, the Montreal Metropolitan Transit Bureau.

HONG KONG: A 40 mile rapid transit network estimated to cost an initial 103 million HK pounds has been proposed. First stage includes an under-harbor tunnel to connect Kowloon with Hong Kong Island. Completion of the system is expected by 1985.

BELGIUM: Antwerp has decided to build a segregated transit system under central city areas. Initial plans call for 13 km of tunnels in the central city with 22 stations. Average speeds in tunnels will be 24 km/h. Capacity will be 18,000 - 20,000 passengers/hour. Stations will accommodate six-car trains and will be spaced at 500m intervals.

CALIFORNIA: A D.O.T. Grant of \$300,000 provided funds for a feasibility study of a passenger carrying tracked/air cushion vehicle to operate beside the San Diego Freeway from the San Fernando Valley through an intermediate stop on Wilshire Blvd. and on to the LA intl Airport. Vehicles will have to seat a minimum of 60 persons and travel at 150 mph.

EASTERN EUROPEAN STEAM REPORT: According to the December issue of INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY JOURNAL, steam will have been phased out in Eastern Europe by 1975. POLAND: During the last 5 years diesel traction has increased from 2% to 16%. By the end of the new 5-year plan steam traction will be reduced to 20% of all Polish traction.///HUNGARY: Karoly R6d6nyi, Hungary's Deputy Minister of Transport, says steam accounts for 30% of Hungarian traction currently and will be used only on otherwise uneconomical lines and for shunting in the future.///ROMANIA: Complete elimination of all remaining steam traction as soon as possible.///CZECHOSLOVAKIA: All steam now eliminated.///BULGARIA: Currently steam hauls 39% of all traffic. This will be reduced to 7% by the end of 1975. By the end of 1976 all steam traction will have been discontinued.///YUGOSLAVIA: The current 5 year plan calls for 200 diesel shunting engines to replace 200 steam shunters at all stations and yards.

SOUTH AFRICA: South African Railways will be the last large user of steam by the end of 1975 other than ~~India~~ India, according to reports. However, no new steam locomotives have been bought in fifteen years. Steam now represents 61.7% of SAR traction as compared to 82.9% ten years ago (1960 - 2669 steam locos; 1970 - 2404 units).

LONDON: Heathrow airport will be linked to central London by subway. The Piccadilly line will be extended from Hounslow West to a terminal at Heathrow.

LAST LINE: Melbourne, Australia will begin construction of a subway in 1971.

AUNTIE EM SEES ALL

The above heading is left over from my SAPSzine, SOUTH NORWALK, which never got around to using it. Just hope it'll reproduce since I put it on master two years or so ago...

JOHN KUSSKE: It's not that people who disagree with me are uncool and therefore "non-good" people; it's rather that a lot of people are only concerned with putting their 8 pages a year into FAPA without any concern for the good of the group. If everyone did that, then you could look forward to seeing only 65 X 8 pages every year in FAPA. Thank ghod we've got people like Harry Warner who have this compulsive desire to fill 24 pages a mailing with witty, interesting, informed and fascinating writing. I'm not going to be doing this every mailing, mostly because I'm Old and Tired, but at least some members are.

SAM MOSKOWITZ: The 205 East 42nd Street Scientifiction Club ~~meek~~ marches onward. Besides Sam, Arnie Katz, myself (and Edith Ogutsch, who was at OFF only a Short Time), Frank Prieto and Friedly Benson as SF fans at that address, OFF's Midwest Space Salesman, Dick Bousquet; the President of Cahners Publishing, Saul Goldweitz; Karen Baroni, Secretary to the Production Manager of Conover-Mast; Jeff Malester, OFF's Associate Editor; and ghod knows how many others in the building are SF freaks and/or fringe fans. And the room-mate of OFF's Editorial Assistant, Galen Gart, who attended the MondoCon certainly qualifies. And of course we're neatly sandwiched between MacFadden-Bartell downstairs and Popular Publications upstairs (from whom I got the cover photo). Certainly is a wonderful thing...

HARRY WARNER: Re: your comment to Fred Patten, resort hotels are good places to hold cons, provided you're not at the mercy of hotel fooderies. The BayCon was held at a resort hotel where just this happened. Most of the midwestcons have been at resort hotels/motels; the '65 Midwestcon was a good one as far as inaccessability to mundanes, but we were at the mercy of the Holiday Inn's eateries, which were terrible. Same holds for the '66 WesterCon, at the Fabulous Stardust (of course, Fred wouldn't know about that -- he stayed in his room the entire con running and collating "The Best From Ana L".) From the pictures I've seen the Dormitory/WesterCon looked just like a high-rise hotel in appearance.

I'd like to see a WesterCon/WorldCon at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego (that's where they filmed "Some Like It Hot"). Besides being a large resort/convention hotel, they've just built a bridge to the mainland so accessability to downtown San Diego is fast and easy. And the place is at the same time largely inaccessible to mundane types (also a great place for a tournament -- and how about an outdoor costume ball on one oth the verandas?). Other good places for cons include these resort complexes in Pennsylvania, the Midwest and some of the more inaccessible areas of California.

Re: your comments about fans constantly leaving the Big Apple (NYC) for parts known and unknown, there should be an influx this August of fannish types including Jerry Kaufman, Ginjer Buchanan and Suzanne Tompkins. And from EdCo's rotten one-shot PM I just got, it appears the Shaw's will be moving back here in several months. Ted White was commenting that he'd left just when a major influx of fans seemed to be in the offing; serves him right for running on about the coming upheaval in the cities. Upheaval, yes; but think of the fannish good times he'll be missing by staying alive. Hell, FIAWOL, gang...

I've picked up CBL in Toronto every Sunday night, but I seem always to tune in just as they give the Temperature and News and then sign off. In these cold months I'm comforted by the news of the temperature in Eastern James Bay and Western Ontario ("And now the forecast for Northwestern Ontario and the Eastern James Bay Regions. Temperatures in the low figures, with a high tomorrow of 10 above with occasional snow showers; the low tomorrow night 15 to 25 below zero; lower in inland valleys") and realize that I have it better than that here in New York. The trouble is that when the sign-off comes they play the Canadian anthem, which has always impressed me as nice music, followed by either the British "God Save The Queen" or "Of Thee I Sing." Same melody; very confusing. Which is it, Boyd?

Rosemary's Fanzine is a classic piece of writing; it is, in fact, a lot better than some of the SF I've been reading in recent collections of Great SF.

Your recollections of the H & F Ry. are inspired; they tie right in to this issue of TCU... I'll have to pick the book up. I know there are a large number of trolley and traction fans in fandom, including Ted White, myself, Fred Lerner, Elliot Shorter (who has promised an article about the NYC Subway system for ALGOL) and, I think, Larry ~~Smith~~ Smith of forgotten Columbus fandom.

At the moment I find myself subscribing/and/or reading all the train magazines coming out, including RAILWAY AGE, MODERN RAILROADS, INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY JOURNAL, TRAINS, RAILROADS, TRACTION, RAILWAY GAZETTE; the first three and last are professional magazines of which we publish MR at work and, through IPC Publishing Ltd., Railway Gazette. I'm very heavily into Railroads at the moment; it's an interest I've always had but which has been dormant until the last year.

And I've always wanted to publish a fanzine with a locomotive on the cover.

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WALTER BREEN: The Mercury Press Mag, INNER SPACE, has taken a pretty bad beating and isn't going beyond the initial first issue. Joe Ferman tells me that things are pretty bad for Mercury Press, but that things have been worse in the past.

My Selectric, with \$210 yet to be payed on it, now sometimes makes Funny Noises and loud humming sounds. This being a Technologic Age, I rap it sharply on the side and the sound goes away. Fortunately I've got a service contract on it, though I haven't had to use it yet.

DICK LUPOFF: Sure was a nice thing talking to you on the phone (when it works, it works real fine) about all sorts fannish and mundane matters. See my comment there about the Selectric. And Horib is nice, even if it is late (The new ALGOL will be out this summer, Dick).

F.M.BUSBY: Some of your comments on comfort at the hotel apply to some of the fans some of the time. There are a lot of fans who sleep ten in a room, even now (the Pittsburgh crew lean that way, tho they segregate the male and femme types in two rooms) though I think that having one's own room is the only way to do it, nowadays. I hope to get a poolside room at the NoreasCon and just have a Good Time; hang the

expense, I'm tending to say nowadays. I've passed the point where the con is a time to run frantically around seeing people and feverishly talking and reading. The con has become someplace to have a good time at, even if I don't get to see the program. (A couple of years ago I totalled up all the cons I'd been to: the amount came to about 40. I'd begun to get to the point where anticipation of the convention just about killed the at-con enjoyment. Now I just let them sneak up on me from behind.)

Some of CS read sort of weird after I'd come out of my fever; but the thoughts rang true, just the same.

The response to CONVENTION has been nil; after a couple more issues I'm going to kill it off (the Grandiose Plans I'd discussed in LOCUS haven't, and won't, happen).

JUANITA COULSON: Your account of your sickness, medication and the results in Earl Evers' ZeeN are incredibly crogging; I wouldn't get a chance to tell you anywhere else. Thought you'd like to know here. Incredible, amazing, and scarifying; not necessarily in that order.

HOLMBERG/INSULANDER/WESTBLON: The trouble with a Swedish WorldCon in '76 is that it would come right after an Australian WorldCon in '75. I doubt very much whether two foreign worldcons would be voted for one after the other; in any case, supposing that there is an Australia - Sweden vote, I will have no money left after going to Australia in '75 (a WorldCon and country I promise to go to). Any solutions?

REDD BOGGS: Jerry Sorek, 23671 Larkshire, Farmington, Michigan 48024, writes "As for Scottishe and Haverings, if you are the agent, I'd be glad to subscribe for \$2 worth if you can explain to me why I couldn't get anything for the \$2 I sent Redd Boggs, whom I thought was supposed to be the agent. He hasn't answered 3 cards I sent asking about it." How much money did Ethel Lindsay have to write off when she asked me to become her USAgent after failing to get anything or any response from you?

"Politically naive New Yorkers" -- Redd Boggs

TERRY CARR & BOB VARDEMAN: I shoulda gone to Heicon; I had the money, but my company wouldn't wouldn't give me the time off. I have a feeling that even if I'd gone for just the Heicon weekend alone, it would have been worth it. Unfortunately, my boss convinced me that I was indispensable; unfortunately this meant that I really didn't get more than 4 days of vacation at any one time; not enuf time to really Do Something in. Hear that, Sam?

GREGG CALKINS: I thought I met you, Gregg, either at a WesterCon or afterwards in 1966 when a bunch of New Yorkers visited the Bay Area. There were a number of parties I went to and a lot of people I was never really introduced to. There was another party after the BayCon that a large and indeterminate group of people were at.

I'm right now doing this on master (convoluted sentences are part of writing on master/stencil) because my initial comments come out clearer when I put them down right from the brain pan. I've gotten into the habit of pre-thinking sentences before I put them down to see if they go where I want them to. This is, I suppose, a carry-over from the days when I was doing SFWeekly, organizing news items in my head and pre-thinking the flow of sentences and paragraphs before writing them. In most cases I know what I want to say beforehand; first drafting is only when I want to make something very ~~clear~~ clear and have the time to waste on typing it out beforehand (I don't touch-type). And now, a fabulous interlineation to end this page (pre-thunk out).

"Better Dead Than Redd?"

