

# HURKLE

## "The Happy Beast"

This is the informal publication issued occasionally for the Spectator Amateur Press Society by Redd Boggs, 2215 Benjamin Street N. E., Minneapolis 18, Minnesota. Volume I, Number 3, intended for the Autumn 1950 mailing. "The prettiest of Hurkle are blue." -- Theodore Sturgeon.

A Gafia Press Publication.

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### HELENA FANZINES PLEASE COPY!

Musing over Walter A. Coslet's attempts to compile a definitive Fapa Index, I am convinced that now is the time for someone to set to work on a companion index for SAPS. FAPA's early years are obscured because of the lack of an historical-minded member. Had someone in its first four or five years made a complete index -- a task far easier then than now -- FAPA's history could be more sharply limned than even Coslet's reconstruction can make it. Of course, when you come right down to it, what difference does it really make whether a mag appeared in the 6th or 16th mailing? Still it is nice to know, and, as a member of an organization, one is always interested in its history, especially its beginnings.

So, I propose that SAPS set to work to compile a SAPS index of its first three years -- or, perhaps, its first 14 mailings. Since SAPS admits no postmailings, the task should be very simple. As an appendix to the volume, however, it might be valuable to trace SAPS history that is not reflected in the index: how it began; the long delayed first bundle; how the first OE left for Africa immediately after the first mailing; a list of OE's to date; and other such material.

The SAPS index should be considered an official SAPS publication and, if possible, be financed by the treasury. I would undertake the job myself, but I don't own all the mailings. There is one member, however, who is eminently fitted for the job....

Are you listening, Coswal?

### ABOUT "PRO-PHILE"

Something I forgot to mention in the "Publisher's Note" of Pro-Phile, a publication also circulated in this SAPS mailing, is that "Don Lowell," the prozine reviewer, is really a well known stf writer. Outside of a letter, perhaps, I don't believe he has ever appeared before in the fan field. You are welcome to guess who he is.

### SOME NOTES FOR MY MEMOIRS

1941 - Saw Startling's review of Scienti-comics, contacted Phil Bronson...Subbed to Fantasite, Spaceways, Leprechaun, Southern Star etc...Began to write all the pro editors regularly...First fan - article "Fantasy on the Air" published in Spaceways...First MFS meeting -- met Simak, Saari, Bronson, Chapman, and other Big Names.



1942 - Wrote for Space Tales; yarn of mine beat one of W. L. Hamling's in readerpoll...Stepped up fan writing...Hit various fanzines with articles, stories, poems...Adopted the penname Don Gualtario for poetry...Fantasite accepted my "Alas, Poor Yorick!"...Drafted into AAF...Various fanzines received under Warner-Tucker fanzines-for-service-men project...Spaceways folded...I fell away from fandom.

1943-1945 - Stopped reading the pros after buying some of them while home on furlough in 1943...Thought often of stf and fandom, made elaborate plans for fanzines I would edit after the war.

1946 - Began buying the prozines again...Undertook a long-range project to fill up 1943-45 pro files...Sent for Star Rover, corresponded with Van Splawn...Contacted Coswal, wrote voluminously for NFFF MSSBu...Subbed to Vampire, Shaggy, Stellarite, Cygni, etc,...Heard all about Shaverism from Elsnor...Articles published by Scientifictionist, Star Rover, etc....Discovered Ember...Stein wrote me.

1947 - Extensive correspondence with Stein...Cut first fan-stencil for Astronaut #1, which I co-edited...Bought \$19.75 mimeo...Published my first fanzine, the one-shot, Caprice...Tympani launched...Visit to Milwaukee, Stein, Brazier, Schumann...Spacewarp and then Rapp came over my horizon...Joined SAPS and FAPA.

1948 - MFS revived...SkHk launched and Tym folded...Torcon trip...Preoccupation with writing for Warp and Dream Quest...File 13 begun...Chronoscope #1 issued...Tight-roped through Graham-Ackerman feud...New mimeo...Corresponded with Laney and Burb...FAPA treasec.

1949 - Much crud writ for Warp...The summer of the Fantasy Annual...Inaugerated column in Tucker's newsie...Coswal in Minneapolis...Reunion with Stein in Chicago...Cinvention...Gafia siege...The rental of wirecorder to hear Burb-ftl-Condra spool...Rejoined SAPS...FAPA prexy.

1950 - SkHk missed first FAPA mailing since its beginning...First Hurkle issued...Began Futurist...Korshak and Saari at "Death of a Salesman"...Bought wirecorder..."Feud" with Manly Banister...Dianetics...Second ann-ish of SkHk issued -- seven months late...Warp folded...And 1950's not over yet!

## HEINLEIN ON THE AIR

Since Robert A. Heinlein has been my favorite author (well, one of them, sharing that honor with Williamson, Doc Smith, van Vogt, Asimov, and a few others!) since "Lifeline" in 1939, I'm glad to see him making new successes for himself in the movies and especially in radio. Three stories by him have my vote as the best programs yet broadcast on "Dimension X." They are: "The Green Hills of Earth," the radio version of "Destination Moon," and "The Roads Must Roll!" Aside from these three, my favorite was "There Will Come Soft Rains" (Bradbury).

## THIS IS A FILLER

A quotation: "Poetry is the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge; it is the impassioned expression which is in the countenance of all Science."  
-- William Wordsworth.





The last-listed sapszine of mailing #12 will fittingly lead off this review section: Alpha and Omega. This fascinatingly naive fanzine causes me to revise the ancient question (asked whenever a new mag rockets up like this): "And who is Meg Johns?" Some of the stuff in "Just Spekulin'" (example: "I'd just die to be shut up in a space ship with you!") smacks uneasily of Jay Gibson, who issued that snap-zine, so-called, Crackle. # What's messier than mimeo ink? Hekto-graph ink, by 20 times. # Whenever I see one of those "believe-it-or-not" items about the chemical components of the human body, I think of Ogden Nash's lines, which alas are not as popular as the item itself, to wit: "I hereby bequeath to the Bide-a-Wee Home all people who have statistics to prove that a human/is nothing but a combination of iron and water and potash and albumen./That may very well be the truth /But it's just like saying that a cocktail is nothing but ice and gin and vermouth...." # A & O needs some integration for maximum effect, but I hope it becomes a regular.

Question Mark is a typical WSFA product -- chaotic in format but generally interesting in content. Ditto Snake Pit, Washington Dispatch Case, and Draw One. Our boy Briggs must have money to burn, using a whole page merely to print the title "Comments on the Elevinth Mailing of the Spectator Amateur Press Society by Robert Briggs"! And all the white space on the other pages in the same mag (W.D.C.)! # The power of those inspired lines on beer in Draw One is reminiscent of Thomas Wolfe (as in the "We are the sons of America" section of Of Time and the River). The frothy contents of this mag are seemingly only a casual example of what Jacobs could do if he really worked a little at an ayjayzine, but they're diverting enough to prompt me to vote Draw One second-best mag in the mailing. The first-best mag? Read on...

Repressing a shudder at the hekto cover of Gnuoy, which title is equally repulsive, I waded into the Beercon report. Despite the lapse of two years, this read wonderfully well, and was easily the best and most amusing account of that affair that has seen print. Excellent!

I wonder if anyone else besides Don Bratton previously used Gos-tak as a title? I imagine so; it would seem to qualify as a rather perennial choice. # You're back from Panama, Bill? And I didn't even know you went. That's not levity; I'm astonished that a person can travel to Central America and return with only a few fragmentary comments about the place. What kind of slannish observation and reporting is this: "The natives are all either negros /sic/, Indians, or half-breeds. They run around in their bare feet...having bloody revolutions and climbing coconut trees." Yeah, and the people of the U. S.



are all either whites, Negroes, Indians, or half-breeds and run around in overpowered automobiles, drinking too much and eating too much, and getting more excited about something called baseball than about the elections. Now. Is that a fair summary of conditions in the U. S.?

Etaoin Shrdlu's report on how Samuel Merwin chooses letters for TEV was excellent in content and writing. Too bad the rest of the mag didn't measure up to this. # Ah yes, "Atom Man vs. Superman"! The last episode I happened to catch was the one where Atom Man got Superman into the infernal machine that was supposed to scatter S-m's atoms all over outer space. I hope it did. Far as I'm concerned the serial ended right there. # Magazines contributed to SAPS mailings cannot be considered a "complete loss." They are, in effect, exchanged for the other mags you receive in the bundle. Where else can you get 100% return in exchange copies?

Sapien: Sneary's distinguished reporting of "A Trip to Mars" is the type of thing more fans should attempt. If Rick can make an afternoon trip to a planetarium so interesting, fans who take longer trips -- Venable's to Panama, for instance -- should be able to glue us to our chairs for an hour or two. Of course, everybody's not a Sneary. # The rest of this issue was interesting, too. Keep it up, Ray.

Coswal's publications continue to shrink in size and interest. Paramicroscope was a minor item, though of some merit. I sometimes think walter lost most of his ayjay enthusiasm about 8 months ago, and has been coasting along on sheer momentum. Maybe the FAPA OE-ship is consuming too much of his time. If so, now that he's (at least temporarily) SAPS OE, too, farewell, Box 6... I hope not!

Not much excuse for that title, Revoltin' Development, but the mag itself was a notable addition to the SAPS bundles. More, please.

Best mag this time was Timewarp, which I trust won't be the last Rappzine we'll see. I find little to quibble about in that lengthy, juicy "Gripes of Rapp" section, except that if either imitated the other, "King Kong" probably imitated "The Mysterious Island," not vice versa. # Gad, I haven't tried to solve the cryptograms yet, but as I write this, it's still 5 weeks to deadline time. I should be able to solve it in 5 weeks. Shouldn't I? # I loved that "Raven" parody, especially the lines, "Ah, distinctly I recall it, it was in the early Fall yet, / And the next Spring's ish of Planet lay, long read, upon the floor..." Even the fact that Planet's gone bimonthly cannot tarnish the grandeur of such immortal lines.

#### BETTER EARLY THAN NEVER!

I am writing this issue of Hurkle in mid-September; you'll read it late in October or early in November. It seems a strange time, for that reason, to be thinking about Yuletide greetings. But since the next SAPS mailing is not till January 1951, this is the only chance I will have to wish you the best of Christmas cheer. So ... please save this up till the appropriate moment (it won't grow stale before then, I am sure!): A very merry Christmas and a happy 1951, everybody!

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But are flying saucers adult?  
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