

CONVERSATION # 1 5

Published for OMPA and a few others who I think might enjoy it by Lynn A. Hickman at 224 Dement Ave., Dixon, Illinois.

Earl Kemp and Jim O'Meara were over this past weekend (March 31-April 1st) and we ran off Earl's latest symposium. Earl & Jim left early Easter morning for Chicago where they will do the Coalition of the zine. Earl will send me enough copies to put through OMPA, so somewhere in this mailing you should find it. I don't really know the troubles Earl went through in gathering the information used, but I do know we were a bushed bunch after running it off Friday night until 4:30 am and then starting again Saturday morning and working into the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Some of you may think that running a Multilith is all fun and gravy, but remember that this machine uses an SF series ink and prints nothing but sf & fantasy fan material. That was bound to bring on complications and it did. My multilith is in the basement of an old, large house here in Dixon. The basement is split up into one huge room that houses the furnace, our washer and drier, the water heater and softener, a pool table and my multilith. There is also a coal bin and two other rooms that were originally fruit cellars.

We were merrily clicking sheets through the machine, when out of somewhere a bat came flying past us. We couldn't get him although all of us armed ourselves with tennis rackets to try and knock him down. Earl did give him one good swat but he got away and went into the back rooms. Now these back rooms have no electricity or lights in them, so we got flashlights and Jim O'Meara being the brave man that he is, went back in those rooms to flush the bat out. He couldn't find it. The rest of the night we kept printing just waiting for the beastie to make another showing. Jim kept glancing at the door that led to the two back rooms and said that if a man wearing a

black cloak came through it he was through with fandom forever.

That was a couple of days ago and I still haven't found that damned bat.

And, thank Ghod, no man in a black cloak has been found in our basement either.

C O M M E N T S

Random #2 -- Daphne Buckmaster. Hmm - - I used the nude on the cover of C #13 just to see if Daphne would object and then mailing #27 comes and Daphne features the nude cover on Random #2. That ruins the start of a good argument.

Gee -- if Bill's Viper hadn't arrived in time for the 27th mailing, my contributions to this mailing would have had a larger page total than the last mailing.

I more or less agree with you in regards to sex in fandom. I personally talk to the males more often at conventions because our interests are more the same and, of course there are more of them there. I have had very interesting conversations however, with such as Mary Martin, Dirce Archer, Bjo Trimble, Phyllis Economou, etc. at conventions and have stopped to see such as Betty Kujawa, Phyllis Economou, Nan Gerding, etc. at their homes because their conversation is so interesting. I don't think that the sex of a person has very much to do with whether you like to have them in a discussion with you. Its the personality, intelligence and interests that come through that you are looking for.

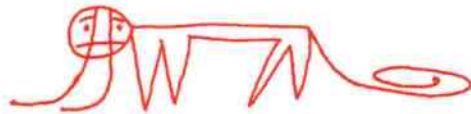
You use JD-Argassy, Void and Cry as examples of "group zines". I have never thought of JD-A in that term. Why do you consider it a "group zine" and what do you consider a "group zine"?

Bjottings -- Bjo Trimble. Interesting all the way through, but little for commenting. I see now why you never answered my last request for artwork. I do agree that when fanning gets to be work instead of fun, that something should go. In my case I dropped out of SAPS and FAPA.

Scottishe #23 -- Ethel Lindsay. Yes, I think you are a little out in regards to OMPA. I stay in OMPA for one reason. Enjoyment. I enjoy reading the mailings and hope that I in return, give enjoyment through my zines. I am not a writing critic and have no desire to analyze any members writing abilities. I do agree with you that members should say what they think of a zine as a whole. I would like to see the Egoboo Poll in OMPA so that each member can see where he stands in regards to giving enjoyment to the other members, but I wouldn't like to see OMPA turn into a critical review.

I like some mailing comments, but feel that comments on comments is going a little too far. There should be subject matter also.

Again I feel that a member should try to put out a zine for the enjoyment



of the other members. From the comments I received on JD-A, I think I only partially succeeded in doing that. That is the main reason for my putting so many smaller zines in this mailing. Which will be received the best? What type of zine should I enter in future mailings? Should it be a partial combination of all of them? Were one or two completely disliked? So now it comes to the part where I agree with you. We do need to know what members think of the zines as a whole if we are to put out zines that the membership enjoys.

To sum up the above ramblings, I feel that each member should be able to find out from the other members if his zine is well received and why not if it isn't. I think we should do this from an all-over enjoyment angle, not as a criticism of individual writing.

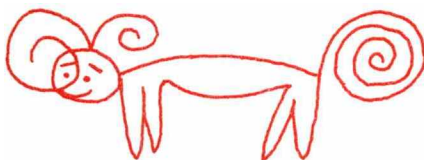
In your case, I like what you've been doing. Scottishe has always been one of my favorites. It is neatly reproduced and usually has very good balance. Lets have no talk of quitting.

Vert #3 -- Ivor V. Mayne. These reviews were enjoyed. I would especially like to see a copy of "The Naked Lunch" by Burroughs.

In your fishing for information department, I can help you a little. The Voice of America Willis Conover is the prewar fan. I used to receive some zines that were put through an amateur printers Apa. They weren't especially good and I didn't send for any more copies. I don't know why they were sent me in the first place. If I remember rightly, the O.E. at that time was in Battle Creek, Mich. I have no knowledge of Olympia Press nor of sf behind the Iron Curtain.

Round Robin Serial -- I get no special enjoyment from faaan fiction.

UL #2 -- Norm Metcalf. I'm not against mcs., but I don't enjoy an organization like SAPS where there is little else. I'd rather write letters to the people I enjoy and forget the rest. In SAPS



case, you almost have to have the 3 previous mailings at hand to know what anyone is talking about. I feel that mcs. should be part of a zine, not all of one. Maybe from my experiments in this mailing, I'll find just what the rest of you want or expect in an Apazine.

Burp! #19 -- Ron Bennett. I, too, usually type directly on master and have a hard time doing any fannish writing. I consider myself a rather poor writer and seldom go into detail on things enough. I guess I'm afraid I'll be boring if I do.

Erg #7 -- Terry Jeeves. Regarding segregation, I'm afraid you don't know our constitution well enough or what the function of the Supreme Court is supposed to be. Granted that negroes should have equal rights where applicable to the rights of equal population. I'm for it. BUT, the Supreme Court in its edict has disregarded States Rights, and as the States are rapidly losing the rights given them under the constitution, this is very bad. In my opinion the Supreme Court in the past few years has tried to set themselves up as a ruling body, which they are not. Their purpose is to interpret, not change. That is a function only of the legislative bodies. I'm not for the Supreme Court or its ruling as things now stand, and with the way the Court is acting.

Back Your Fancy -- Archie Mercer. Yes, lets do vote for Eney.

Amble #5 -- Archie Mercer. The amount one spends for something (as did Mary Martin at the auction) is in proportion to the enjoyment they get out of them. For example I enjoy my collection of original drawings and cover paintings. I get much pleasure out of looking at my Paul's, Cartier, Finlay's, etc. I don't give much of a hoot if a fan stops by and has no interest in them. They were worth every penny I paid for them ----- to me.

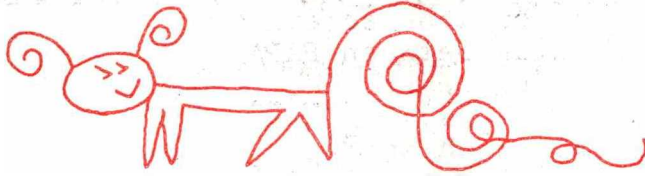
Topee or not Topee -- Arthur Thompson. Again we have faaan fiction, which I seldom enjoy unless it is exceptionally well done. John Berry is about the only fan who can really write the stuff. I take that back, add Wally Weber to that also.

ParaFANalia #7 -- Bruce Burn. An interesting account. I'll be looking forward to #8. Little I can comment on, but it was enjoyable.

Viper #2 -- Bill Donaho. Best and most enjoyable zine in the mailing. I'm glad to see that you are going to use sf slanted material in Viper.

You are not alone in your miseries with your car. I bought Carole a 1956 Cadillac last year and has caused much grief. The transmission has been taken out three times and still leaks like a sieve. It seems that a million little things have gone wrong. The wing frame broke, a new one can't be ordered and since it was made from potmetal, can't be welded. I can't fix it until I find another car like mine wrecked in a junk yard. Being a Lincoln man, I really bought it against my better judgement and it looks like the only way I'll get out from under it is to take my beating and trade it off on something else.

I too, am a serial lover. I guess that is why I became such an Argosy fan back in the '30's. I think I like serials for the suspense they build and actually I usually read books that



way. What I mean is, I usually am reading 5 or 6 books at the same time and switch back and forth to them. I seem to enjoy reading them more that way.

I enjoyed reading your memories of buying Astounding. I can remember how I would save my money when I was a kid until I got a couple of bucks. Then I'd hitch-hike to Toledo, Ohio and go to Campbell's Back Issue Magazine and Book Store where I could buy a complete year of Argosy or All Story for \$2.00. Would bring it home read it, save up again and back I'd go. Place went out of business during the war though, so that supply was lost.

Really enjoyed Alva Roger's article and the cover tracings. Would love to see that done on other pulps, including non sf ones. I used to be a great fan of most of them. Pete Rice Western, all the Air-war ones, all the Munsey's, Golden Fleece, Five Novels Monthly, -- Ghod, you could go on forever.

I have the Argosies with "The Harp and the Blade". This is the first mention of that story I've ever seen in fandom. Would anyone be interested in some reviews of old All Story or Argosy magazines? I've been thinking of doing some of them for JD-A for some time now and might also include them in my OMPazine if I thought enough of you would enjoy reading them.

Earl's symposium "Who Killed Science Fiction" and the one included in this mailing are certainly not mailing comments. Mailing comments in a zine are written by one person and are his opinions of things in the other zines. That's like saying that A. Merritt's stories were mailing comments on a letter from Bob Davis to him. Or for that matter that all the stories or material in a magazine or fanzine are mailing comments. Earl did a magnificent job on his symposiums.

I like Schulman. He is a master at slapstick satire,



although I feel his first 3 or 4 books were the best. He's too polished now for slapstick.

Bob Lichtman's and my tastes seem to differ. When I decided I had to cut back on something, it was easy to drop SAPS. When it came to choosing between FAPA and OMPA it was a little harder, but OMPA won out. The reason being that I like the contact and the zines of the British fans. OMPA has been more fun than FAPA even though the mailings are much smaller. There are some FAPAZines that I will miss reading, but by and large I would miss OMPA much more.

Romp #1 -- Les Gerber. This postmailing came while I was typing up comments on the mailing, so I'll be able to include it here.

Not too much to comment on here since your comments are old ones and I'm not going to hunt up the 25th mailing to see what you are referring to. One thing I can say though, is that a fan has visited W.S. Houston. Me. Can't remember exactly the date now, but it was either in 1951 or 1952 when I was living in Statesville, North Carolina....If you go to Charlotte this coming summer, be sure to stop in Gastonia, N.C. which is only about 25 miles from Charlotte and see Wilkie Conner. He is one great buddy of mine and of course helped me on TLMA and Stf Trends. A real great guy that I know you would like. Incidentally, W.S. Houston should be about 80 or so now. He was 70 or 71 when I met him. He has a real fine collection, especially on Doc Keller.

That ends the comments for this time. Next mailing there will be just one zine, bigger than most of these with some general interest material and some comments. I will also publish an issue of letters IF letters come in on C #14. Otherwise just the one zine. OK?

Eric Bentcliffe's TAFF Report Epitaff just arrived here and I can't recommend it too highly. Very much worth the money. Write to Eric or Don Ford. Send \$1.00 for Eric's report. I might also mention that I have finished printed Don Ford's report, TAFF Bae-deker, and it is available at \$1.25. A very fine report. Cover of the first section is by English artist Alan Hunter while the cover for section 2 is by Atom. Funniest cartoon of the year is in this report and is by Eric Jones. Get both of these reports. Remember that the profits from both will go to the TAFF FUND.

Typing on the master without writing ahead does have its problems. Read the first sentence in the above, and what I meant was this, it would be almost impossible to say enough fine things about Eric's report.

WAPFF?

by George C Willick

WAPFF was Tucker's hyper secret society with a limited male membership. It was the most exclusive club in fandom and the members were rumored to have signed their names in blood and sworn eternal allegiance to the cause. Probably the secret did leak out and I just haven't heard about it yet. But being a neo fan I charged the problem with great bravery and following are my conclusions.

I carefully cleaned my aura goggles, went into a trance, and began searching the deep for Tucker. When his very evasive mind was within my grasp, I began pumping. First came the letter W, here must be considered that the societ had more than one member. This simple little clue leads us to believe that the W represents the word WE.

Now WE must be something to exist at all and the next letter is A. And what word fits this A best? Why, ARE, of course. So now we have the first two parts of the puzzle... WE ARE.

Now what are they? The three F's follow. About here Tucker's mind took him to the bathroom and I respectfully broke contact. After half an hour I resumed. First of all they are FANS. One of the words must be FAN. But which one? Let's skull some more.

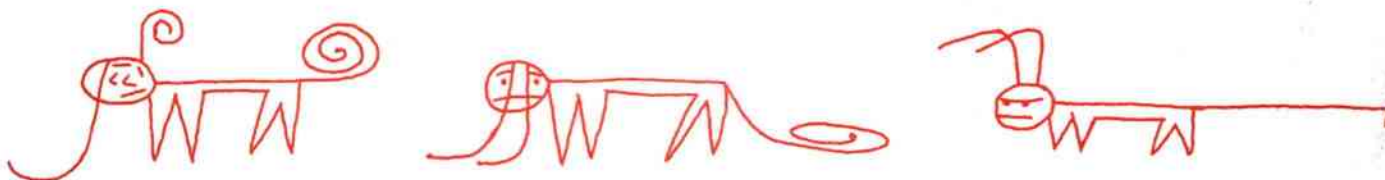
Next we know that the society is entirely male. So naturally where men amass the subject usually turns to skirts. So FEMALE must be another of the Fs. Putting it together we have WE ARE FAN FEMALE, which doesn't make sense. So reverse the Fs and we have WE ARE FEMALE FAN F..... There, now the entire meaning hinges on the last F.

I must admit that when I reached the last F Tucker faded out and I was unable to continue. The rest I figured out for myself. They are something with the words FEMALE FAN only describing what they are. Now they are writers, runners, goosers, hunters, biters,but none of these begin with an F.

We can assume that the remaining F has an ..ers on it's tail to show plural action. But what kind? That seems to be my limit. Come on Tucker, what's the last word? Be a sport. Tell fandom your secret.

Wait! Something is coming through.....Yes, of course. WE ARE FEMALE FAN FLIRTERS! Obvious wasn't it? Ain't I smart.

George c Willick



Well, Defilade #2 just arrived here from Bill Donaho, so it may mean a couple of extra pages on this one.

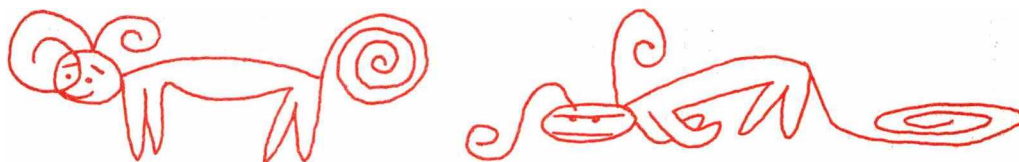
I filled out the Pillar Poll (I like things like this) and only put down a couple of things in a joking manner. Other than that (and I wouldn't have voted in those spaces otherwise) I voted for those that I enjoyed the most. I would like these pillar polls to continue. Preferably as an official thing, but if not, I hope Bill and Bob will continue the practice.

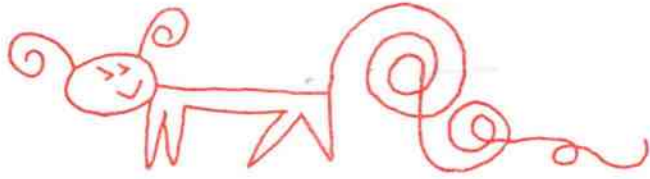
One thing on the Pillar Poll (I guess the name I should use here is Egoboo Poll) that I'm not in agreement on is where it states "Why do you think that OMPA has deteriorated and what do you think can be done about it?"

I don't think that OMPA has deteriorated. True it is down somewhat. But that could be easily taken care of with just a little more activity on the part of the members. It may be fine to read huge mailings such as SAPS and FAPA have, but personally I like smaller mailings. They are easier to read and easier to have something to comment on if they are of a good quality. I think that the OMPA mailings have been of good quality although the page count is below what I would like to have it. I for one am going to do my damndest to have a zine in each mailing from now on. It may not be huge, but I will try to keep it interesting. If all the members would take the pledge to try and hit each mailing and never miss more than one in a row, we'd have the best Apa there is. Why don't we all try to do that?

I would not like to see the membership increased. I am against all the proposed amendments with the single exception that I would like to see the Egoboo Poll be official.

I don't ^{THINK} the Apa needs doing over, I just think we need a little extra push by each of the members that we have. I hope the rest of you feel the same way. I'd hate to see OMPA grow into some oversized monster that had to have 500 page mailings all the time.





BOOKS WANTED DEPARTMENT.....

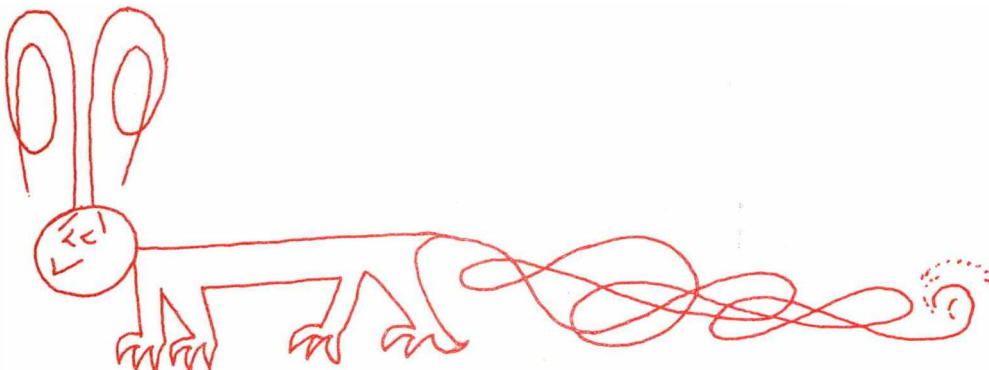
If any of you have the following books that you would like to trade for science fiction or old Argosy or All Story magazines, please let me know.

Bob Davis At Large---Appleton, '34
Canada Cavalcade: The Maple Leaf Dominion---Appleton '37
Islands Far and Near---Appleton '33
Oriental Odyssey---Stkes '37
People, People Everywhere---Stokes '36
Tree Toad: The Autobiography of a small boy---Stokes '35
Bob Davis Abroad---Appleton '29
Bob Davis Again---Appleton '28
Man Makes His Own Mask---Huntington Press '32
On Home Soil With Bob Davis---Appleton '30
With Bob Davis Hither and Yon---Appleton '31
Let's Go With Bob Davis to India---Appleton '40
Bob Davis Recalls--60 True Stories---Appleton '27
Over My Left Shoulder, a panorama of men and events---Appleton '26

All of the above books are by Bob Davis or Robert Hobart Davis. I am anxious to secure any of these to fill out my Davis section so will make good trades for them.

ARTWORK DEPARTMENT.....

Starting with the #58 or #59 issue, JD-A will be featuring a 6 page art portfolio in each issue. This will be the work of a different artist each issue. It will be printed on one side of the page only and will feature the best work that the particular artist can do. It will be original work and not have





been published before. Any artists that are interested in being represented in this should contact me as soon as possible.

I also need additional filler artwork for JD-A and Conversation.

ARTICLE DEPARTMENT.....

I am looking for articles on the old pulp magazines, science fiction, fantasy and others. This can run the gamut from Wild West Weekly and Pete Rice Western to Spicy Mystery Stories. I would especially like to see something on the old air-war magazines. Lone Eagle, Sky Fighters, Wings, Aces, Dare-devil Aces, G-8 and his Battle Aces, etc. Any takers out there?



As I have mentioned in the previous Conversations, I am intending to have the theme of my next JD-A annish deal with sf stories old vs new, and I think a series of articles on some of the old pulp magazines would be of value leading up to the theme of the annish.

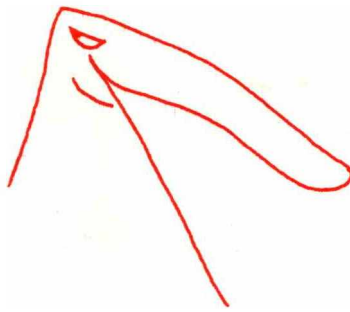
Speaking as I was, in my comments on Viper, about the leaky transmission in the Cadillac, it is now completely out again. I drove into Chicago last Wednesday for an appointment I had with a man from Albany, Ga. and as I left the Conrad Hilton Hotel the transmission growled a little. I was going out to spend the rest of the evening with Earl Kemp, so stopped at a gas station on the way out and had several quarts of transmission fluid put in. After leaving Earl's late that evening, it started acting funny again when I hit the town of Sycamore. Added several more quarts and as soon as I started the motor and got oil pressure in the transmission it really started spraying out again. Seals completely gone and I don't know what else. Of the three General Motors cars that I have owned, Olds, Buick and Cadillac, only the Buick was a good car. The other two were complete dogs. Of the 3 Lincolns, 4 Mercurys and 6 Fords I have owned, all of them were fine cars. I also had several Studebakers that were very good. I guess I'll have a Ford product again next time.



Had a fine time at Earl's sitting around drinking Bock Beer and chatting about things fannish and not fannish. Books, school, cats, fans, etc. Looked through Earl's copy of the Pittcon Photo annual and thought it to be an exceptional job. Will send for a copy of my own when I get some money.

We also talked about the book markets and the semi-filthy paperback market and the amount of money that can be made off of them in a short time with any kind of distribution at all. Noted that sf artist H.W. McCauley had done a number of covers for Nightstand Books.

Most of these, Fabian, Saber, Vega, Nightstand, etc. have been pulled off the stands in this area due to a self-styled censorship by the local do-goods.



Conversation #15

Written material by Lynn Hickman and
George C. Willick

Artwork by: George Barr (pp 1), Wm.
Rotsler (pp 3, 5, 8, 9, 12), Joni
Cornell (pp 10), and Terry Jeeves
(pp 11).

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Lynn A. Hickman
224 Dement Ave.
Dixon, Illinois

