

december

1944

FAPA

VARIETY

fantasy amateur press association

bob tucker

box 260

bloomington

ill

THE KING HAS FALLEN: "Brains" Ashley made a most horrible mistake in the September issue of En Garde!, but by this time probably thousands of outraged scientists and scientists' assistants have pointed it out and demanded full retractions.

The trouble lies in his 'Science Fiction Quiz', a thing we helped to concoct and which now haunts us. Al's 25th question was "The nearest star is approximately 4 light years away." And the "true" answer he gives to that is: "True. Yes, Scharlie, ve vas dere!"

We humbly suggest King Al check his mileage meter again. The funny thing is, Al does know better, for he gives the correct answer in #17 on the same page. Ah well, the best of brains will give 'way.....

BOOK DEPT: This is to notify one and all that we fall in line with Mr Searles-Rosenblum-Warner's idea of the page-per-book reviews, that we want to be placed on the mailing list of everyone who intends to produce such reviews (state your price), and that we too intend to print such. Those desiring to receive our efforts, please drop a postal or state your request in the next mailing.

This is written in September, much too early to make definite statements; but there may be some such reviews in this issue.

THE BINDERY SHILL is at work again. At this writing we have 33 volumes bound and three others awaiting binding. Sixteen of the above 33 are fanzines, the remainder prozines and excerpts. Regarding a couple of questions asked about them:

All of the Unks are in chronological order except those regular sized issues which appeared after the large sized ones. The bindery made one of their infrequent boggles there and threw those post-giants in with the last of the pre-giants so as to save me money by not having to make up an 8th volume. I forgave them.

They recently made another boggle with Paul Spencer's Fan. Novels when they bound each issue separately instead of all five in one. However, outside of the cost involved (which I shared because of the mistake), no harm was done.

As to drip-sized offerings which pop up in mailings and elsewhere: They lay a thin line of glue along one edge of the sheet, glue it onto a full-sized heavy sheet of paper and insert it wherever I have placed it in the stack. It requires extra work where there are many such drip sheets but I have never yet been charged for it.

And Harry, I shall try to furnish you with a picture of Spys, the "monstrous" volume. It measures three inches across, my largest.

THE SHILL CONTINUED: To DAW and others who can't find local shops to do such work. Why not send your magazines to this place? This place is somewhat famous in its way, handling orders from all over the nation. I saw the statement on Spencer's order, and it cost him only 80¢ in postage to have his 5 FN's and 5 FFM's sent him. Address:

The Stappenbeck Bindery, 204 Broadway, Normal, Illinois. Tell them to ship the job to you COD by the cheapest way; after your first order they trust you to pay when billed. Suggest you mention I sent you to them -- not because I make anything out of it, but because it will get you the regular "library rate" -- quite a bit cheaper than full rate I assure you. I've made arrangements with the firm to handle the Battle Creek stuff at library rate, and this will be but an extension ..... Colors are: maroon, blue, green, black and a funny sort of brown.

OH HECK NOTE: We've just discovered that we have switched to "I" in the above department. Pay no attention to it. Ditto below.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Of recent weeks we've been playing with miniature photography, table-top stuff. Being lucky enough to purchase an ancient but very good "Seneca" 4x5 view camera for five bucks, we just had to put it to work on our favorite form of photography.....well, almost favorite form. In all truthfulness we must admit that taking nudes is our very favorite form.

Anyway before we interrupted ourself, we located some prehistoric animals in a hardware store (cast iron kind), set up a stage on the table, placed the animals and a spaceship in position, cut out and inserted into the picture some fan photographs, and banged away.

Discounting the extreme amateurishness of the shots due to our inexperience, the results are pretty fair. Our favorite pictures Walt Daugherty (in modern combat uniform and tommygun) aiming at the dinosaur on the hill above and between him and his spaceship.

Second best shot is Mari Beth Wheeler and Art Widner, each clad in bathing suits, Adam-and-Eve-ing it while the dinosaur eyes them. Because of the size of these prints, it costs 6¢ a copy to produce. If we can rake up the necessary mazuma between now and mailing time, you might find a copy enclosed. Others will be offered from time to time, it all depends upon the monetary situation. Of course, if anyone wants to angel a set of 65, I'll be more than happy . . . . .

INFAMY NOTE: Or, how we became ass. critic in the Lowndes administration. Some years ago we were president, a very bad president to be sure, but that is beside the point. At that time Doc wanted to be the official critic and same was handed to him on the promise that if, and when he succeeded in forcing his way into office, he return the favor.

He did.

HORSE AND BUGGY CONSTITUTION: We wonder how many of you read care - fully that proposed addition to the constitution presented in the last mailing -- before you voted on it? If you didn't, and if it is passed, and if the Editor takes his duties seriously, some of you are going to be damned surprised when your fanzine is rejected from mailings. That addition bars you from saying the Japs are a bunch of little b's..... If you don't believe it, read section "B" again and think---



FLORIDA COMMUNIQUE: (Aug 7) "Last Friday while working at one of the local tobacco warehouses, I made a horrible mistake and forgot to check one row of tobacco, altho I had insisted that I did check it.

One of my superiors (( of the capitalistic system only we presume)) called me down for this piece of inefficiency, and as a result I am very sure that GRAVE REPERCUSSIONS will occur, and that ALL FANDOM WILL BE PLUNGED INTO WAR!"

(Aug 9) "Due to business slackage, my employer laid me off for several days. In addition, I have recently had an attack of boils and sore throat.

Beyond the faintest shadow of suspicion, these awesome occurances are bound to result in GRAVE REPERCUSSIONS and I am now very positive that, before long, these conditions will change for the better, or ALL FANDOM WILL BE THROWN INTO DEVASTING WAR!"

-Raym Pong

"... Wars and rumors of wars... "

POEM:

Each Day

Each new day, be it cloudy or fair,  
Brings its own work and worry  
Some that you can shair  
And some you can not.

Each new day with its load of cair  
Is sure to bring some joy,  
Some unexpected beauty rair  
To brighten even the dullest task.

Perhaps you cannot change fate  
So make the best of what comes,  
Do some good now, never wait  
'Till tomarrow to begin it.

Each day can be a new beginning  
To your life, you can improve it  
If each day you keep trying,  
Always do the very best you can.

- Florence Stephenson  
Nephi, Utah

POETIC NOTE: Variety seeks first publication rights to tender, moving passages of poetry. Let your hair down and join us in these pages. We are all poets of a feather, as some prosaic person one said.

FANZINE YEARBOOK: (Not an advertisement) The 6th anniversary issue of Le Zombie will carry, as usual, the fanzine yearbook, listing all the fanzines published during 1944. All the fanzines. This year we are including FAPazines as well.

Those interested in getting the anniversary issue contact BT at the address on the first page. To those not interested: the fanzine yb (only) will be distributed thru the FAPA, probably in the March mails.

NEWSPAPER STUFF: Presenting for your edification and approval, some of the more eye-catching headlines to appear in local and Chicago papers of late: First, from the Chicago Daily News for September 30th, under a London dateline:

British Unveil Rocket Ship  
in All Its Glory

And the same paper, date October 12th, from Essex, England:

Freed Spook is Authentic,  
Expert Says

The former dealt with the landing barge mounting rockets as used in the Normandy invasion; the latter with a poltergeist unearthed when a Yank on a bulldozer tips over a gravestone while widening a road. Go ahead and gasp--I read Theodore Sturgeon's "Killdozer" in the November Astounding too.

Next comes a bit from Dale Harrison's column in the Chicago Sun, for September 26th...and in a radically different vein:

"There's a placard on Cottage Grove ((avenue)) showing a nifty looking dame in what seems to be a bathing suit, and the legend reads 'Meet me at the Bible School'."

We had one more clipping to reprint here, but we've misplaced it alas. It was from a Washington DC paper, passed along by Les Tina, and told the tragic story of an obscure clerk who died at about forty-five years of age, begging only to be let alone, and content with as simple and un-responsible job as they could possibly give him.

It seems that as a child he was one of these infant geniuses, one who was interviewed by famous scientists and newspaper reporters, one who could do astonishing problems in his head, and in every other way gave indication of being a true slan. His parents so overloaded him... (or nature so overloaded him) he burned out in his youth and died an almost ignorant, helpless creature content to push a pencil.

The same week we read in a Chicago paper of a young boy, interviewed by reporters, who could, with accuracy, call names of all the strangers present, and check off the contents of their pockets.

Campbell's mutants are appearing.



THE BIG MYSTERY: Perhaps you recall reading, some months ago, of the very mysterious explosion and flash seen in the southern Illinois and Indiana skies-- of a silver, streaking something that exploded high in the air and crashed to earth no one knew where.

It hasn't yet been solved, or if it has, the answer is being very carefully guarded. Whatever it was, it was high, and high, because it was seen as far away as Chicago...nearly 300 miles distant. Everyone of course aired their pet explanation....even suggesting it was the newest Hitler weapon, fired from Germany.

No one suggested a space ship.