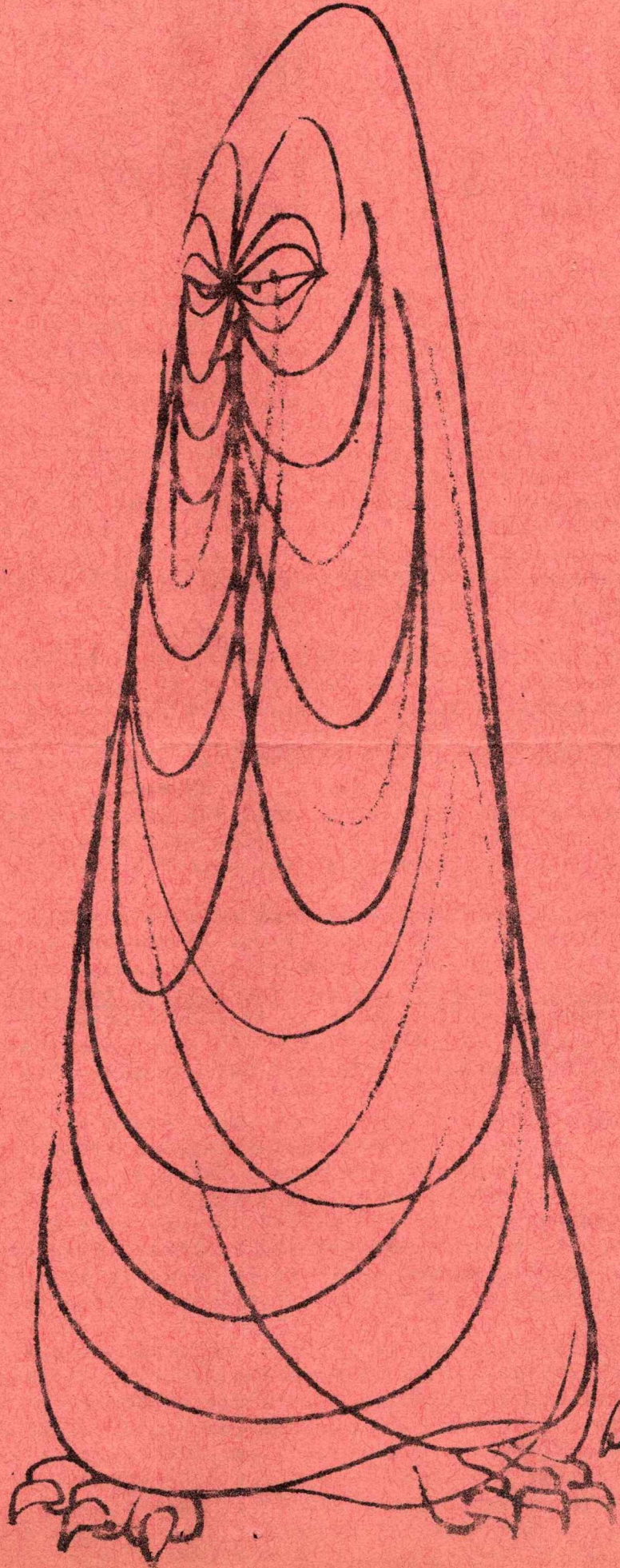
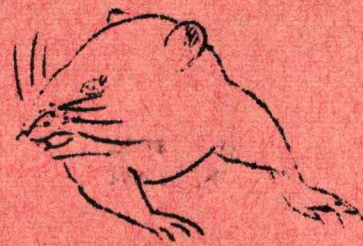


GODEN-NEBGG
405-CD
4:ND



bergson

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS



THERE ARE SOME BOOKS AND CHARACTERS FROM BOOKS THAT ARE SO MUCH A PART OF THE BRITISH LITERARY LANDSCAPE, APPARENTLY, THAT U.K. AUTHORS SEEM TO TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT REFERENCES TO THEM WILL BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL WHO READ. THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, BY KENNETH GRAHAME, SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THESE LITERARY ALLUSIONS TO WHICH A CRYPTIC PHRASE OR OBLIQUE REFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE UNDERSTOOD WITH NO FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. HOWEVER, THIS BOOK IS NOT SO WELL KNOWN IN THE UNITED STATES. IN THE PAST, I HAVE OFTEN BEEN CONFUSED BY THESE REFERENCES -- EASY ENOUGH, SINCE THERE ARE TWO FANTASIES BY THIS NAME. THE FIRST WIND IN THE WILLOWS TO COME TO MY ATTENTION, WAS THE MENDIGO-TYPE "HORROR" STORY BY ALGERNON BLACKWOOD (WHICH HAS BEEN SHORTENED IN RECENT ANTHOLOGUES, I NOTICE, TO MERELY "THE WILLOWS"). IT WAS NOT UNTIL I READ ELIZABETH GOUDGE'S "PILGRIMS INN" THAT I REALIZED FULLY THAT THERE WERE TWO, AND THAT THE SOURCE OF THE MOST CRYPTIC ALLUSIONS -- COMPLETELY INEXPLICABLE AS FAR AS BLACKWOOD'S TALE WAS CONCERNED -- WAS A CHILDREN'S FANTASY.

KENNETH GRAHAME'S WIND IN THE WILLOWS IS A GENTLE ALLEGORY ON A CHILD'S LEVEL. IT FOLLOWS THE SOCIAL PROGRESS OF A YOUNG-MAN-FROM-THE-PROVINCES WHO COMES TO THE CITY, IS TAKEN IN HAND BY A SOPHISTICATED MAN-ABOUT-TOWN AND RESCUED FROM THE SCRAPES CAUSED BY HIS NAIVETE. THEY BOTH ARE DEPRIENDED BY THE COUNTRY SQUIRE; AND ALL PROCEED TO RESCUE AN ADDLE-PATED-YOUNG-ARISTOCRAT FROM THE EFFECTS OF HIS EGREGIOUS FOLLY. AS AN ALLEGORY, IT NO DOUBT CONVEYS MORE AND DEEPER SUBTLITIES THE MORE CLOSELY THE READER IS ACQUAINTED WITH THE CHARACTERS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE IT PARODIES; AS A CHILD'S FANTASY, IT IS A SATISFACTORY TALE OF MINOR ADVENTURES IN A WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE.

THE STORY IS BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN -- WITH PROSE AS DELICATE AND COLORFUL AS POETRY. THERE IS LIGHTNESS OF TOUCH IN THE HUMOR, AND THE SETTING MANAGES TO CATCH AND HOLD MUCH OF THE SAME TYPE OF GLAMOUR THAT ENTRAPS ADULTS INTO RE-READING ALICE IN WONDERLAND AND THE LORD OF THE RING. BUT THERE IS ONE GREAT DIFFERENCE -- AND, BECAUSE OF THIS DIFFERENCE, I GREATLY DOUBT THAT THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS WILL EVER "CATCH ON" AMONG AMERICAN READERS TO THE EXTENT THAT IT SEEMS TO HAVE AMONG THE BRITISH. NAMELY: THE CHARACTERS ARE MISCAST.

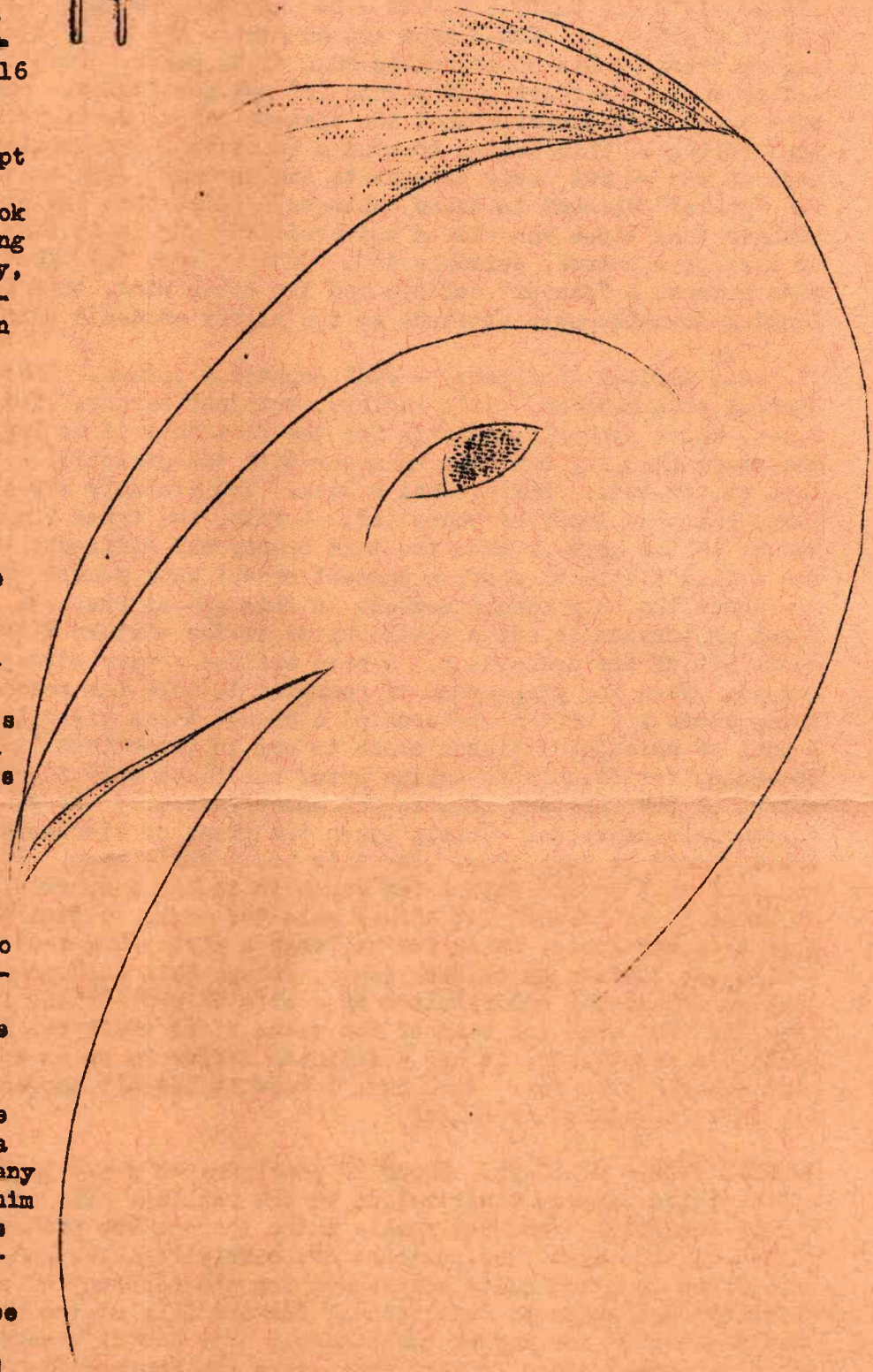
AMERICAN READERS, BROUGHT UP ON UNCLE REMUS AND MOTHER-WEST-WIND STORIES, HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED TO EXPECT CERTAIN ANIMAL STEREOTYPES: PETER RABBIT, BR'ER FOX; MR. SKUNK AND MR. 'POSSUM. THEN, TOO, AMERICAN JUVENILE FOLKLORE HAS BEEN AMPLIFIED BY GANGSTERS AND THE UNDERWORLD. THUS, A "RAT" IS A SYNONYM FOR TREASON; "MOLE" FOR SORDID, UNIMAGINATIVE GRUDDING; "BADGER" HAS BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH HARASSMENT AND BLACKMAIL (INDEED, "THE BADGER GAME" IS A RUTHLESS BLACKMAIL SCHEME WHICH STILL RAKES IN VICTIMS, IN SPITE OF THE PUBLICITY AND WARNINGS AGAINST IT). "TOAD" IS AN EXPRESSION OF CONTEMPT.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, THEREFORE, FOR AMERICAN READERS TO ACCEPT THE CAST OF CHARACTERS PRESENTED BY THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS. IT REQUIRES TOO GREAT A VIOLENCE TO THEIR CONDITIONING TO FIND A RAT PRESENTED AS A FRIEND AND PROTECTOR; A MOLE PRESENTED AS A GAY AND ADVENTUROUS YOUNG BLADE; A BADGER AS THE SOLID-CITIZEN; AND A TOAD AS THE LOVABLE YOUNG SCION... IT JUST DOESN'T WORK. ATTEMPTING TO ADJUST TWO SETS OF MUTUALLY CONFLICTING STEREOTYPES, IS ASKING JUST TOO MUCH OF THE AMERICAN READERS.. IT IS ENTIRELY TOO VIOLENT A READJUSTMENT OF THEIR CONDITIONING EVER TO BE WHOLLY COMFORTABLE. WHICH IS A PITY, FOR WITH DIFFERENT SET OF CHARACTERS, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN A DELIGHTFUL TALE.

AS I SEE IT

Mailing Comments N'APA #16

As usual upon receipt of an apa mailing, the first thing I did was look it over without attempting to read the mags. My, my, it sure is a pretty mailing this time! Covers on just about everything -- and what covers, too! Some of them real works of art, even by mundane standards. And only a couple of fluttering orphans -- redeemed in part by a hefty 20-pager from the same authors, to which they could be (and speedily were) stapled. Well, Bless You, my children! Look who made #1 place for Mailing Comments in the Egoboo Poll! (And me with such snide remarks about Polls, too!) I do thank you-all very much, and hope to do better than Minac MCs next year. Re the OE's query about the problem of members who drop out without ever having contributed anything: I think it is unreasonable to expect the new member to have something in the very first mailing that he joins, because sometimes a new member does not have any idea what is expected of him and could fall flat on his little ol' face. (For experienced apas like SAPS/FAPA such a ruling might be OK, but let's face it, we cater to the inexperienced trade, so to speak). But I do think we could demand a contribution in the second mailing after he joins, since by that time he's had a chance to see what a mailing looks like and get an idea, more or less, of what is expected of him. I agree that it is unfair to the rest of the membership to permit new members to become deadwood before they ever come alive, so to speak, and I would consider that failure to submit something in the second mailing (except for a valid excuse like total disability) should be grounds for dropping from membership with no dues refund. And no post-mailings to the second mailing, either! Incidentally, if we switch to NAPS, shouldn't our official communication logically be a SNORE?



WIKAS #4; A FNZ DEDICATED, etc - Ed Moskys. Even without the foreign-language novelty, Ed's 31-page WIKAS cops top honors as the biggest mag in the mailing. Including everything, his contribution runs to 40 pages. Beautifully repro'd, simply illo'd, and contents interesting to peruse (if not particularly comment sparking). I found only one: Ed's surprise that the elegant campus he described was built for a "junior" college. This brings to mind a question I have wondered about -- in a mild sort of way -- but never thought to ask anyone: Just what is it that constitutes the "junior" element in these colleges? Is it that the students who attend are younger than those who attend universities? Or is it that the subjects taught are of a simpler nature, suitable to a "junior"-type IQ? What is the essential difference between a "junior" college and the other kind, that gives rise to this faintly looking-down-the-nose attitude in the higher academic circles?

THE FREE RADICAL (& flyers) -- Judi Sephton & spouse. These 25 pages rate second-largest in this mailing. It's legible, but just barely. Ted White did the mimeoing. I see, which probably accounts for the fact that it is legible at all -- because if the mimeo-handling had been on a par with the stencilling, I'm afraid it would have been pretty bad.. Sorry, Judi & Dick. You probably weren't aware of it at the time, but that typer of yours (or, at rate, the typer you used) had a most peculiar bounce to the keys... made the text blurry and difficult to read. Probably that's why I find little to spark a comment except your remark that Judi, Belle and G&C are about the only female members in this apa at present. That's just about the right proportion to add a little spice to the mixture without overwhelming it -- about 1/6 of the membership. I have noticed a very strange thing about apas in this regard. When the proportion of femfem to male fem reaches a saturation point (anything above 1/5 of the membership) a change takes place in the nature of the fanac. A sort of chronic cattiness seems to set in (sometimes literally, with an all-out obsession for describing feline pets, sometimes only figuratively in the cat-claw nature of the MCs) and this is not counteracted by the general Kaffeeklatsche nature of the male comments. Gossip takes the place of discussion, and the "in-group" mentality seems to take over. Why this is, I don't know. But time and again I have observed that an apa with a few women in it has a sparkle, but too many women -- and it seems to go "Blah!" It either gets too cozy, or just the opposite. However, I hope that our group, being for so large a part young fans not yet encumbered with a wife who insists on sharing fanac, escape this husband-and-wife saturation. Not that an occasional contribution by a wife or girl-friend is objectionable -- far from it. But when too many of the wives start their own fanac while riding on their husband's membership, it has a definite influence on an apa -- and one that I do not particularly care for. As I say, I hope it doesn't happen here -- (and now listen to all those anguished protests!)

MAGAZINE 4/35 -- G.M.Carr. These 20 poorly-mimeo'd and inadequately illo'd pages make up the third largest contribution to the mailing. The cover is badly drawn and awkwardly designed -- and the female nudes thereon are probably as ugly as any ever depicted in this apa. The contents are barely legible, and even the use of several type-faces does not quite compensate for the monotony of such closely-crowded pages. No credit was shown to Judi Cornell for the illo at the bottom of page 4, and no credit deserved for any of the others.. For heaven's sake, when are you going to get some decent stencils that won't drop the centers from the "o"s and cut such ragged type that the text can barely be discerned? Outside of that, it wasn't bad.. what could be read through the ink blots and blurry type.

ERRR! #1 -- Red Avery. Beautiful color and a nice job of ditto on that lovely Bjo cover. Sorry I can't say the same for the interior, several of the pages in my copy were completely illegible. The pages I could read, however, were interesting. (Incidentally, the reason I use this paper is because there is so much static electricity in the refrigeration shop where I do my mimeographing, that ordinary paper clings to the mimeograph drum and this Fibretint paper is the only thing that will work on my equipment. Besides, I like it -- and it is a lot cheaper.)

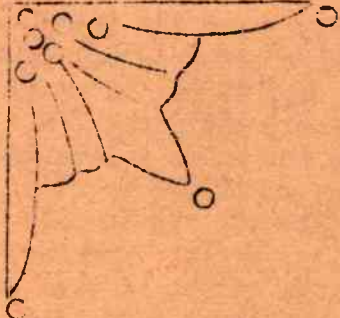
FOOTPAD #7 - Fred Patten. Well, Fred, it looks like your pep-talk did the trick -- this mailing is one of the best we've had. I like that Mike Hinge cover -- and en- the bacover illos, too.. stenafax, aren't they? The contents (all 15 pp, in fact) were swell. So much to comment on, I'm hard put to choose. That's the first I'd heard about the Pacific Ocean Park. Sounds just like the place for me -- I love to ride Merry-Go-Rounds. Used to take my Grandchildren so I'd have an excuse to ride myself. Now, alas, they've moved to Montana, and besides they are too big to need Grandma "hold them on"... Re your mention of Gormenghast and Titus Groan, I prefer them over the Fellowship of the Ring. Unfortunately, I do not own either of them -- and so I cannot re-read them as I should like to do. Maybe one of these days I'll run across 'em in a used book shop.. The movie and TV reviews tickled me. Now that "Twilight Zone" has an hour-long spot right after Perry Mason on Thursday nights -- my night to stay home while Mr. Carr goes to Elks -- I get a chance to see it. But that's about the extent of stf-viewing: haven't been to a movie for years. Not even a mundane movie. Why bother, when all I need do is wait long enough and I'll see 'em on TV!

PEALS #5 - Belle Dietz. These nicely bound and beautifully repro'd 14 pp makes it sixth in size as well as issue #6. Glad to have you back with us, even though it does cut down my chances of ever becoming the lowest number on the Roster... For a moment, it looked as though only Stan Woolston stood between me and the top of the list -- and Stan was awfully shaky... Re your pleasant panegyric to city sounds: "What sound in nature" you ask, "...could compare with the welcome roar of the sub-way train..". Well, I'll put up the low, mournful moe of a foghorn on a winter's night when one is snugly tucked in bed with a hot water bottle at one's feet. Even without the hot water bottle it's a mighty cozy feeling to fall asleep to a foghorn lullaby.

CINDER #14 - Larry Williams. That's a striking cover illo, Larry. Who is "R.G.C.Jr"? Some very good reading in these 13 pages. I find your comments about Salinger most enlightening. I have never been able to finish reading Catcher In The Rye and never before could understand why it bored me so unendurably when, judging by the enthusiastic reviews, other readers found it so delightful. Evidently Salinger's insight as an author enabled him to capture the adolescent mentality to the point of excluding non-adolescents. On the other hand, those short stories which you found pointless, delighted me. I could recognize the subtleties of characterization -- for instance, "A Nice Day For Bananafish" was a poignant interplay of personal tragedies... True, nothing happened. A man lay on the beach and talked to a small girl while his wife back in the hotel room telephoned her mother. But sketched between the lines were years of unhappiness and maladjustment. Probably the reason we both appreciated Teddy (which I consider the best thing of his that I have ever read) is because the insight is broad enough to reach all levels of understanding. In short, judging from both your reaction and mine, perhaps Salinger is a greater writer than I had given him credit for being. (But I STILL can't dig "Catcher..")

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST - Credited to Al Lewis. The cover is beautiful and the contents amusing. Thanks to Ray Nelson for thinking of it, to the Trimbles for executing it, and to you, Al, for using your franking privilege to send it to us. Guest contributions like these are a cogent argument in favor of permitting non-member material to be circulated in the Mailing.

DEADWOOD #1 - Ron Wilson. Well, if all our "deadwood" is as vigorous and alive as these 9 pages, we'll be fortunate indeed. The editorial chatter projects a promising personality to become acquainted with as an active member. The fiction wasn't bad at all, except for a slight confusion as to the young hero's age. In spots he acted like a 10-year old, whereas in others he came through as a youth much older. But that is certainly a minor quibble, considering the quality of the rest of the writing. I'll be looking forward to see what you do by way of MOs. (Chortle: So you spotted the pot calling the kettle black, eh?)



NEBULOUS #5 - Phil Harrell. Far be it from me to quarrel with an OE who is doing such a bang-up job as Fred Patten, but it does seem to me that this mag should have been listed as ten pages instead of nine, if for no other reason than how well that plain white bacover (against the grey inner part) enhanced the mailing... very nice. I like the Dumont illo on the front. At the SEACON artshow I was struck by the vivid and clearcut quality of Tim's work. Even in mimeo this characteristic stands out. Very nice mimeo and layout for a #1 publication. Even allowing for all the previous editing experience, the first

time one does it on one's own is likely to bring a few unexpected boobos.. like, maybe, not quite enough corflu! Oh, come now.. don't be so hard on Harvey. Sure, BE#1 was a really dreadful job of mimeo, but it did spark a lot of comment, didn't it? Besides, it was so lousy it gave me quite a nostalgic twinge... remember those Wansboroughzines? SAPS & FAPA didn't refuse to circulate THEM, so why should N'APA refuse Harvey? (Of course, if he keeps it up — that's another matter!) Your enthusiasm for a bigger and better N'APA (or NAPS) is much appreciated — and I hope we all can pitch in and do likewise. Re the MCs — my, my! It's a good thing I had my comments thus far already written before I ran across all this fulsome flattery! But thanks, Phil, thanks... fulsome or no, flattery is very tasty to the ego!

KAYLAR #7 - K. Martin Carlson. Is DEA still drawing, or are the illos which we still occasionally see, left-overs from the backlog of her enormous output a few years ago? I note you mention not having heard from her for a long time... Has anyone else, I wonder? I've always admired her art, and — strangely enough, considering we have both been in fandom so long — I've never met or corresponded with her. Enjoyed your 9 pp mag, but find little to comment about. Except that your mention of ERB reminds me of something that happened long, long ago when I was a kid in school. Our 7th Grade teacher used to read to us, just for fun, as a reward if we had been good... Tarzan of The Apes had just made its first appearance and I really loved it. So when Mrs. Kallander asked us if there was something we'd like to have her read next for our "reading periods", I brought my copy to school. It had no illos, as I recall, and the dingy, green hardcovers looked so staid and respectable that it fooled her into thinking that the "Burroughs" was the naturalist John Burroughs — a most respectable author. So she read it to us, a chapter a day... but just when Tarzan met Jane, one day, she stopped reading suddenly and skimmed the pages ahead quietly to herself. Then she closed the book — and that was the end of Tarzan for us! No amount of appeals would sway her. This wasn't a fit book for children and she was annoyed at herself for having allowed herself to read even that much of it to us... Poor Mrs. Kallander! I wonder what she would think now if she could realize that this "trashy novel" is regarded as a sort of Classic!

HIPPICALORIC #3 - Ted Johnstone. Glad you stayed with us (Thanks, Fred Patten — youse is a Ghod OE!) Those reminiscent items were interesting to read but nothing sparks a comment except your extrapolation of the possible historical position of "Middle Earth". I don't know whether I find it an aid to credulity or not to attempt to place a fantasy like the Fellowship of the Ring at a definite point in time... But it was a nicely logical position, at any rate. Hope you'll manage to make time for some MCs, next mailing...

NEOFAN #5 - Owen Hannifen. Congratulations on your move to California. Not that moving to California is so much in itself — it appears fans are doing it by the dozen, even Redd Boggs, last I heard — but because it required so great an upheaval, emotionally. (Wonder if that's the way a Hermit Crab feels the first time it has to leave its outgrown shell and switch to a bigger one?) Some very nice writing thish — although I can't tell for sure whether I am impressed by the writing itself, or the beauty of the typescript and repro on these 7 pages.. Especially appreciate that both front and bacovers have full page illos. Taking the trouble to put a definite bacover on a zine seems to give it a certain air of completion not achieved by those that just keep on going until they run out of space..

THERE MUST BE A HORSE IN HERE SOMEWHERE - Don Fitch. Real pro-type cover, mundane style. Very nice. I like. But then, I like just about everything in these "horses" except the teeny-weeny size of this one. Seven pages is quite a comedown.. Alas, you are SO right about my repro (sigh). But I don't know that the primitive equipment is entirely to blame for the lousiness.. True, it is a rusty, rickety, hand-cranked, hand-fed, hand-slipsheeted, stripped-down skeleton of a mimeo -- and my work-area never twice the same (sometimes a board across the top of a freezer, or piece of plywood stretched over several pieces of shop equipment) -- and then, too, using only the cheapest materials doesn't help. Brittle, bargain stencils and cheap smeary ink.. But I suspect these are just excuses. The real culprit is that I've been getting careless. Letting myself develop that insidious Fan-ailment "Chronic--
-----Dontgiveadamnitis."

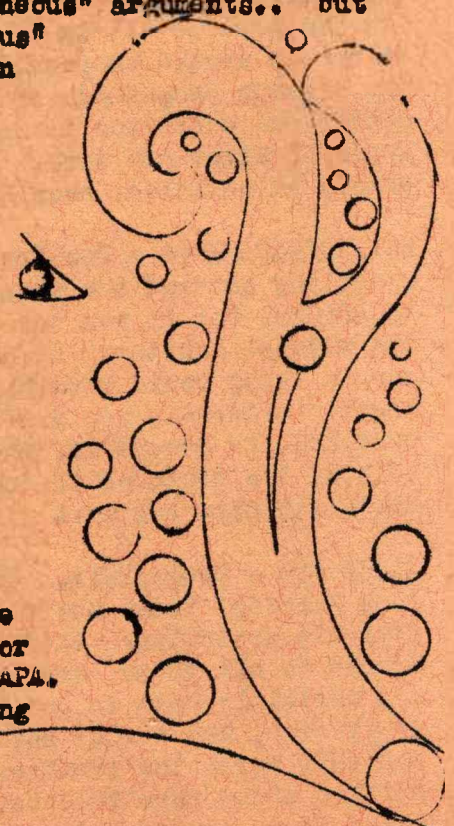
Re foreign matter circulated through NAPS: I rather enjoyed those papers Judi gave us (although I note some of the other members griped a bit about them) and certainly there can be no question about the value of the mag Al Lewis franked for us this time, ie, Ray Nelson's "Beauty And The Beast" as pubbed by the Trimbles. Walter Breen's FANAC 91 raised high hopes for a moment -- I thought at first that he had joined us and this was his initial contribution. One of the pleasant memories of SEACON is the chat I had with him at the lunch counter at Hyatt House. I particularly remember the vivid blue of his eyes -- such a lovely color in contrast to the sandy-chestnut hair and beard. (I am partial to beards -- my father had a beautiful sparkling white Santa Claus beard which predisposes me favorably to any male with hirsute facial adornment. Freud, anyone?) I also remember the sandals Walt wore -- so fitting with the Hair & Beard.. although I do admit I felt the terrain between should have been more suitably covered than mundane dungerees... Toga, or Burnous, or something similar.. After all, if one must be different, why not go All The Way? However, when I delved into FANAC, I found it practically unreadable -- pure crud. The imitation-TIME style of reporting was terse to the point of unintelligibility; sheer name-dropping, with little even to tie the names together in a semblance of sense. About the only value it had for me was as an item of curiosity: it happened to be the first issue of FANAC I had seen since it came under Breen's management. Even so, I do not begrudge the postage. It was certainly informative, if nothing else -- my respect for Breen's supposed status (a "Brain") took a sharp drop after that sample. Personally, I think the inclusion of extraneous material should be decided each on its own merits. It is impossible to guess what would appeal to everybody, but certainly it should be possible to spot an item that would appeal to nobody. Or that was blatant propaganda of one type or another. A good criterion might be that the member who submitted it had some tie-in with the material, although it was not necessarily hiser own work. And certainly novelties that would be of general interest should be admitted, even without a member-tie-in.

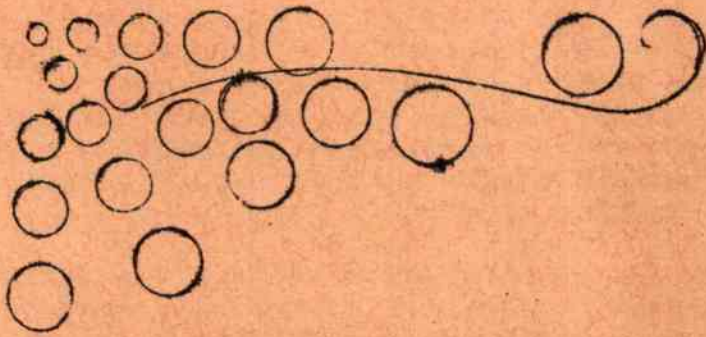
NEFFERVESCENT #4 - Don Franson. That "No Tigers In Africa" situation and postulated reactions omitted the possibility that both were true: ie, the man DID bag a tiger in Africa, but it was the very first wild tiger ever to have wandered that far from its natural habitat. My own reaction would have been to grab a map to see whether such a thing could possibly occur. This brings up an interesting psychological side-light: evidently you disbelieve a new statement until forced, by incontrovertible evidence, to accept it; whereas I, on the other hand, tend to believe that a man is telling the truth until incontrovertible evidence proves it a lie... Nice cover. How about some MCs next time? Shame to waste 2 pp.

RACHE #10 - Bruce Pels. Well, I for one am heartily in favor of accepting covers as Jack Harness' total activity requirements! His drawing is definitely an improvement over his grotching.. In fact, this is one of the nicest looking mailings we've had, thanks to all those beautifully illo'd covers and the general tone of the mimecing. I'd certainly hate to see the OE stuck with having to run off so much of the mailing every time, but I must say that Fred did such a good job of it that the final result was well worth the trouble. I'm puzzled to see that you say you owe 1 page -- with our low minac requirements, a mere 3 pp per mailing keeps a member current -- and it seems to me you've had more than that all along.. You've had a mag in every mailing, as I recall (tho I'm too lazy to look it up). Again, thanks for the WHO's WHO of Apadol.

DUBHE #101 - Ed Baker. Oh, I'm not quite that ambitious that I started stencilling the day after I got the mailing — just typing up my MGs. I'm not one of that happy band of on-stencil babblers who can sit down to an empty stencil and turn out deathless prose the first time around... My mag is all rough-drafted first, and sometimes the finished product bears little resemblance to the draft... (Saves money that way. I usually edit down to about half of the original comments). I see you are tired of discussing my objections to Esperanto as a universal language, so I'll lay off. Tho I still don't see much point in learning a language that has no literature. There is so little need for an artificial language that can serve only as a sort of verbal money — a medium of exchange — that it would hardly seem worth the effort. Maybe I'm unduly obtuse, but if one is going to take the trouble to learn another language it would seem to me it would depend on two things: Where you expect to use it, and the body of literature it contains. Esperanto can only be used among people who have gone to the trouble of learning it especially for that purpose. There is no background of incidentals. And certainly no body of literature to be opened up thereby.. for how could the subtleties of language be expressed? Or humor.. puns would be impossible in a language where each word has only one meaning.. No, I'd say the Japanese you mention would be better off to invest 12 years in opening the door to Shakespeare, Shaw and Salinger, than to waste 2 years learning to speak a jargon only an esoteric few can comprehend. But that's just my opinion.

CANTICLES FROM LABOWITZ - Gary Labowitz. Postmailed. Congratulations on the title. Nice cover, too. For some reason (probably oversight) I received two copies of #1. One copy in the mailing, and one mailed to my home... Could it be because I made the same mistake and mailed you a copy of the same GZ for a tradezine as the one you got in the mailing? I thought I checked the list very thoroughly, but we all make mistakes... Best thing in the mag, I thought, was Stanley Soblenz' poem, "Star Struck". Can't say much for the fiction — it is in that stage where it has lost the spontaneity of the crud-type first efforts, but hasn't reached the pro-stage yet. A sort of sickly imitation-pro; the writing too competent to be truly bad, yet the contents too thin to be any good. The Rev. Ziegelmeyer's article on Arianism was interesting to me, but I wonder how many others found it so. One thing I noticed, the "hind-sight" slant to the writing. He keeps referring to Arius's "erroneous" arguments.. but nowhere seems to realize that they weren't really "erroneous" until after the Council at Nicea had come to a decision in the matter. Until the Church had handed down an official pronouncement of Dogma, the individual Christians were free to believe either way. It is an interesting point because the Church still permits wide divergence of belief on any matter which has not been settled by official pronouncement from the Pope. Right now there is a controversy among prominent Churchmen that I wouldn't be surprised to see settled by such a pronouncement: namely, how far toward Socialism can the Church go without condoning Communism. Cardinals and Bishops and just plain Priests are name-calling like crazy in the Catholic Press, between those who lean to the Right and those who lean to the Left. The good impression made by CANTICLE #1 is almost destroyed by #2.. I don't know WHY it is that new members just coming into an established apa so frequently consider themselves qualified to offer suggestions on how to improve it. I can't make out if Gary's editorial refers to N'APA or S'APA, but if the latter it certainly is out of place in N'APA. Besides, whatever gives him the idea that a 235 page Mailing is a symptom of an apa that is "slowly dying"? I'd say it is a doggone active invalid, if it is!





EPISTLES & EGGOBOC

CLAYTON HAMLIN
Southwest Harbor, Maine
April 12, 1963

Dear Gem;

For any who may think you were exaggerating a bit to make a point in your GEMZINE, let me offer you what I consider most convincing proof of the extent that taxes - and government records - have actually invaded even the small business these days.

Just a few words first about the kind of place where I work -- it is necessary to get the full picture. This place could be called a general store though, granted, a rather odd one. The usual things, groceries, dry goods, hardware and such; add on to that a reasonably complete line of furniture, plus the distributorship for this island of the Dupont line of marine paints. We also install and service plumbing, furnaces, and that kind of thing -- plus selling and installing them. And, finally, we carry the Raytheon line of electronic equipment: radiotelephones, fathometers, and radars. It sounds fairly large, but only about fifteen people work for this store, and it covers a territory on this island with a population of something less than the city of Bangor -- less than 30,000 people.

Now, with that to start with, here are the various returns and forms - state and national - that had to be completed during the months of January and February this year. Hold on to your hat, this is likely to shock you.

(GMC: It may shock some of the readers - in fact, I certainly hope it does - but it isn't likely to shock me. I fill them out too. It just makes me angry that such things are allowed to exist in a land of supposedly "free" enterprise.)

Quarterly Federal Excise Tax (Form 720); Maine Employment Security Commission Employer Contribution Report; two of them, quarterly and annual. (This is what they call the unemployment report). Employers Annual Federal Unemployment (Form 940 plus Schedule A); quarterly and Annual; Federal Insurance Contribution Act (This is withholding, and employer plus employee social security, It is forms W-3, Form 941 and Schedule A). Form BLS 1418, Annual Work Injuries Report; Depository Receipt for January and February, this again being Withholding and F.I.C.A. Tax; State Sales tax return, - we have to fill out two different ones of these, for the two different kinds of business done, wholesale and retail, and it was done twice since this is a monthly return. State Use Tax return, one for each month, this being a small

thing showing how many light bulbs, paper towels and such, as well as gallons of gasoline were used during each month for store use and taken from stock. Forms W-2, for each of 20 employees. Corporate Federal Income tax for the year, complete with four separate schedules plus a personal income tax return for the owner from distributed surplus from corporation earnings and other income, this took five separate schedules in addition to Form 1040.

Those are the beginning, on top of this you will find the following licenses that had to be completed and paid. License for SeaFood Sales, for Firearm sales, 2 licenses for Plumbers, two for Electronics technicians, 4 Motor Vehicle excise taxes for company trucks (this is a local tax), also four registrations for the trucks, the plates that is, that being a state one.

Oh, yes -- another federal one missed back there; estimated income tax (to be paid quarterly) for 1963.

(GMC: You're right, Clay & it does shock me. I thought I had seen just about the limit of what could be piled on a small business without making it collapse under the sheer burden. But I guess I just haven't begun to scratch the surface!)

Do you wonder that prices are high? Consider this for one thing: for those two months, I as bookkeeper for this company and semi-accountant at times, was completely useless to my employer for nearly three weeks of those two months. That is the amount of time it took to do the bookkeeping for the State and Federal Government. Plus, besides this, it was necessary to employ an auditor, plus a secretary and typist, for two weeks (at high cost) to make the final tax returns and financial statements from them.

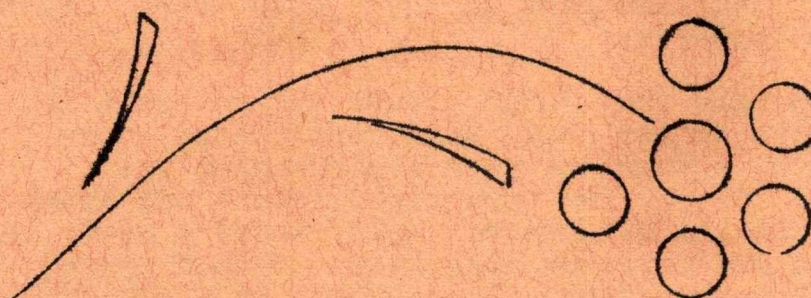
Without revealing anything which naturally I am unable to tell, it is quite possible to tell you that over one thousand dollars a year are expended in time - and other costs - to keep records for the governments. This, you understand, does NOT include the payments themselves (that is rather enormous) but only the time and costs of outside accounting. If you consider that the average percentage of net profit of just about any business is approximately 2% of total sales, this comes to approximately 25% of the net profit from the business for the year.

(GMC: There's one other hidden expense to be considered, too.. I mean the necessity of keeping books at all. Most of the modern bookkeeping systems seem to me to be set up solely for the benefit of the Government, not for the benefit of the business itself. It is my opinion that many businesses -- if not most of them -- could function very well with only a fraction of the bookkeeping and cost-accounting breakdowns they now have. The Government is more interested in accounting for every penny spent than the proprietor is. I know in our own case, the items we want to keep track of -- and those the Government demands that we keep track of -- have no relation at all to each other. The only reason we break down some of our expenses into certain categories is because we have to report it. Otherwise, it is just a waste of time. We have no use for that information ourselves. I dare say there are many other businesses gathering information for the Government's benefit that they have no use for, likewise. For instance, does the State of Maine demand a breakdown of the number of hours worked each day by each man?)

This, then, is a fairly detailed picture of exactly what a bureaucracy really means to you. Naturally, under circumstances like this, to make a profit any company has to make their markup of prices that much higher to keep from going broke. As always, you are the one who pays for it in the end. It is something to think over with care. Admitted, it keeps people like myself working, so I can't complain too much about that angle. You understand that these days it is next to impossible for an ordinary person to even know how and when to file their different tax forms, not if they are in business for themselves. It is a job for a specialist with considerable training. But as a private citizen who has to pick up the tab for part of this, like everyone else, it can sometimes be a bit frightening. You see, just last week I got a state form from the Employment Security Commission and they include a new form to complete - at least half an hour work to do so, plus a change in our records that will be needed to come up with these figures without too much difficulty. And this, not because of a new law passed, but a law now before the legislature which they ANTICIPATE may be passed, which will necessitate this new form. Carry this all the way, and apply it to your own state; when they do something like this on a state level, they will find it necessary to add a dozen more employees to the public payroll merely to compile the results of this form and use it. A few more people taken off the unemployment rolls, granted, but I wonder if you had realized that Government is already the largest employer of people in the nation -- and in most states individually. The thing that scares you here, though, is not that they are working -- but that they are on a job which must, by necessity, be considered as totally non-productive. Which is precisely what keeping and analysing figures and statistics is.

Sometimes this bothers me.

/s/ CLAY
(Clayton Hamlin)



ALMA HILL
465 Park Drive
Boston 15, Mass
April 11, 1963

Dear Gem,

GEMZINE here and thanks therefore. Who needs me in N'APA? Who needs N'APA? Who needs FAPA -- ooch, lightning just struck me on the head, and it stung for a moment. Okay; Somebody needs FAPA and takes care of Its own, will that stand? So far, no more lightning, but in case it is merely busy elsewhere, perhaps another topic.

Sticking to N'APA and letting the other apas lie as they like, then, I'm glad you agree that it should be something more than a "neofan's proving ground" -- a notion that bugged me from the start, since every apa is that, but much more. It was only lack of time that made me drop out before; sometimes my time jams up to where I can't think, and a fanzine seems extra. How in tunket does anyone find time to READ a big apa mailing, let alone read and enjoy it? For this reason, the few issues of my zire had all the pics and short

items I could get in. I enjoy discussion too, but it certainly does get thick sometimes. But as your zine came by itself today, I sat down and had it with lunch and would like to quote something back to you as being applicable not only to world politics but also to fandom, its apas, yea even the Neffer apa.

Seth says, and sagely too, that we should stop "looking for a commie under every bed and start actively working for an economy where every person gains a job with a decent livelihood as one of their rights...it can and will be done if our Politicians will ever take their ostrich-like heads out of holes in the ground and look at things realistically." I'm pleased to see that you agree, too.

(GMC: That depends on what you and Seth mean by "rights"... I am in firm agreement with the idea that every citizen has a "right" to a job in the sense of being entitled to work without hindrance at any job for which he is qualified. His "right" consists of equality before the law and freedom of action in obtaining a job on his own merits and holding it without paying tribute to someone else for the privilege. But if you or Seth understand a man's "right" to a job to mean that the world owes him a job -- regardless of his ability -- just because he exists, then I do not agree. No matter how idealistic we may wish to be in our dreams of Utopia, the sad fact remains that there ARE spongers and chisellers and shiftless bums in this world. The only thing a "job" means to them, is their name on a payroll. I do not agree that this class of citizen has any inalienable claim to permanent employment as a handout from either the government, or from society in general.)

Now, about Neffer politics and your ostrich-like head in the - ooch, ooch, where did the lightning come from that time?

Look, if politicians thought they could trust the voters with the truth, what else would the voters get? Well, don't look at me. No politician, I... There you are on one page remarking on the importance of praise, and on another you turn right around and knock the Egoboo Poll lest it poison the neighbors. Well, there's merit in both views, but why not pick one more; my suggestion is that earned praise is nothing but honest description. Yes, egoboo is a ridiculous reason for doing anything -- but people do care about people, that's how we're made. Lassitude or no lassitude, I bet you're made that way too.

Here's a suggestion about N'APA, for what it may be worth to you: write to the old drop-outs and offer them their old numbers.. It might be just the nudge that would turn the trick, whereas pushing all day would only make them back up. Mention the value of good stuff and like that, if it's true. (If their zine was a crudzine, maybe you should thank Space and let it go?) Better a faithful few on mailing day anyway; I recall a big N'APA mailing all over the Dietz's floor as I happened to be in town and helped collate it -- whatta chore they must have had. If I ever got stuck with a chore like that, maybe I'd have a set of envelopes first and sit down in comfort with a carton and stuff the envelopes with one sine at a time. More motion but less commotion, and no bending over. You know how fans hate to bend over.

Here's another idea; why not have two kinds of membership as long as it's a double-dues apa already? Half-price retainer dues, and no mailing unless they --- but no, that would never work. No apan would ever know how many to run off... Well, I know this: As long as the apa has a set number of publications anyway, why not charge DOUBLE dues and get some circulation to noncontributors and get some funds out of them, spend it on special features in the apa's OO?

(GMO: Hmmm.. You might have the answer to Deadwood there... Anybody that wants to belong to the apa without contributing anything to it, could pay twice as much as the active members!)

As you say, the Reverend Harness has a bright, sour chianti sort of wit; even when people admire it they are bound to be somewhat repelled. Fandom is poisoned with these distilled essences of VOID -- we need more sense of wonderfulness. The wonderfulness of people, of events -- the truth that is beauty and vice versa. Corny? Sure it's corny; so are some of the best things in life. Pride, vainglory, and holier-than-thou are all Vanity Fair -- I'll get along with cornflakes, thanks. And what is more, Gem, you and every other fan probably feels the same way at heart. Look at Heinlein. Back before he went Ologist, was there a cornier writer -- or a better one? We are making too much of wit and using too little wisdom.

Well, off soapbox, better to do. You always get out a fine zine. These thorny remark are sent out of sparse time because of sincere appreciation, genuine sympathy and a viewpoint with side angles you might have missed, but most points, I think, coinciding.

One of these days, swelp me, I will get out a fanzine I have here several hundred beauteous multilith covers for ZZZ. But no mimeo, not even the price of paper, and if Art Hayes didn't say he needs "Mark" I wouldn't be doing that, as I don't like to ask him to pub a fanzine unless I put up the cost of it. Workaday lets one lend a hand, make a profit, have some fun, do a little something and let the egoboo fall where it may. As you say, concern about one's Public Image is a bit silly.

Wish I could be more help, but all I can do is my best from where I am.. Thing is, I like fans. When and if I can do more, believe me, Gem, I will. But at present, excuse me if you can, but whether or not, that's how it is.

/s/ ALMA
(Alma Hill)

(GMO: Well, Alma, you know your own circumstances best, of course. But I'm sorry you aren't coming back. An apa is a good place to let off steam, and I think you've got a good idea there about the need for more "sense of wonderfulness".. We hear plenty about the need for "sense of wonder" but not so much about the need to re-evaluate and perhaps up-grade the the quality of the ethical content of our fannish output. Humor does not have to be bitter or sarcastic; neither is there anything particularly funny about malicious wisecracks or smut. As The Christophers say, "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness...")



Dear Gem,

April 1963

Thanks for the issue of your fanzine GEMZINE. I noticed I had dropped your name from my mailing list for non-response, but I sent the last issue of FFF to you.

GMC: Well, I must have snapped out of my Gafia just in time.)

One of the big needs I have right now in publishing FFF is a more representative selection of news of the fan world. (This in addition to more cash subs, of course.) I don't know if you still have a club in Seattle, but surely there is something fannish going on in your section. I would appreciate your sending along anything of interest. A deal I would like to feature in FFF is a long column of fan news with correspondents from each city with activity. Perhaps only half a page or less from each correspondent. I would like you to do this for your area, or else con someone else there into doing it. I don't want to start this until I line up quite a number of areas, so this would begin sometime in the indefinite future. If I could get a fairly definite promise from you, that would be another step along the path.

Sincerely

Harvey Inman
1029 Elm Street
Grafton, Ohio

(GMC: I'm afraid I wouldn't be of much help to you, Harvey -- I'm so far out of touch with the rest of Seattle fandom, I didn't even know Wally Weber was running for TAFP until I read it in the N3F letterzine TIGHTBEAM. But maybe it might appeal to somebody else to take on the job of Reporter for you. Anybody interested?)

PHIL KOHN, Beth Krinski, Yokneam, Israel

March 1963

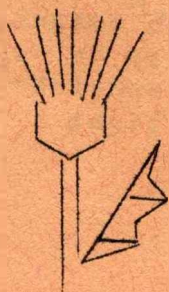
"Somehow,
I have a lot of
Sympathy
With thistles..

They are so
Unaggressive
Unless
You bother them."

(GMC: That's perfect! Let me write it up as poetry.. See?)

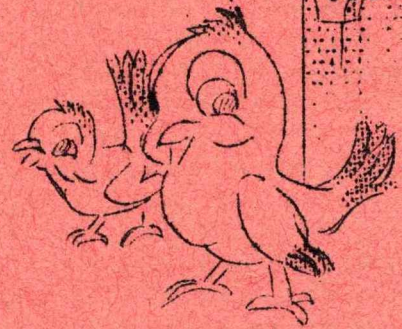
"I don't mind..
But if you cut
My sentences into poems,
You must tell
Who cut them up."

(GMC: OK - Just say
I did. But
So what?
They'll still be
Your poetry.)



MARCH 26, 1963: FROM WHERE I SIT AT MY DESK, ACROSS THE STREET I CAN SEE A COUPLE OF SPARROWS NEST-BUILDING IN A RUSTED CORNICE. SPARROWS NEST THERE EVERY YEAR, AND EVERY SPRINGTIME FOR THE PAST 14 YEARS OR SO, I'VE WATCHED THE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH THEY GO ABOUT THEIR SAME OLD BUSINESS. BUT THIS YEAR SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED -- THE RUST HAS PROGRESSIVELY WIDENED THE RENT IN THE ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENT THEY HAVE CHOSEN AS THEIR SITE, SO THAT LAST YEAR'S STRAW WAS STICKING OUT OF THE BOTTOM. THIS SOURCE OF MATERIAL EVIDENTLY INTRIGUED PAPA-SPARROW. HE BEGAN TUGGING AND TWISTING TO PULL OUT THESE STRAWS, THEN PROMPTLY FLUTTERED OVER WITH THEM TO MAMA-SPARROW. SHE GOT THE IDEA, TOO, AND BOTH OF THEM STARTED PULLING OLD STRAW OUT OF THE BOTTOM OF THE NEST AND TUGGING IT INTO THE ENTRY-WAY. THEY KEPT THIS UP FOR DAYS, UNTIL I NOTICED A FRUSTRATED AGITATION IN THEIR BEHAVIOR... THEY'D BEEN BUILDING THAT NEST FAR BEYOND THE USUAL TIME IT TOOK TO MAKE A NEST, BUT STILL -- EVIDENTLY -- IT WASN'T COMPLETE. AT LAST IT MUST HAVE DAWNED ON THEM THAT THEY WERE PULLING THE NEST OUT OF THE BOTTOM AS FAST AS THEY WERE BUILDING IT FROM THE TOP... AT ANY RATE, THE NEST-BUILDING ACTIVITIES FINALLY SEEM TO HAVE CEASED AND ALL IS NOW QUIET UNDER THE EAVES (SAVE FOR A LONG, DANGLING STREAMER STILL WAVING FROM THE BOTTOM.)

BAITBOX



MAY 16, 1963: TODAY WOULD HAVE BEEN MY MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY -- SHE WAS BORN 101 YEARS AGO ON MAY 16. QUEEN VICTORIA WAS RULING THEN -- AN EMPIRE WHICH STRETCHED AROUND THE WORLD, AND LED THE PARADE OF PROGRESS IN TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT. LIGHTED STREETS AND STEAM LOCOMOTIVES REPLACED RUSHLIGHTS AND HORSE-DRAWN COACHES IN QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN.. TODAY, I SEE BY THE PAPER THAT COOPER IS STILL IN ORBIT AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.. RADD AND TV HAVE KEPT CLOSE TRACK OF HIS PROGRESS -- NOT THAT I HAVE BOTHERED TO LISTEN. I'M AFRAID THAT 30 YEARS OF READING SCIENCE FICTION IS NOT A GOOD PREPARATION FOR APPRECIATING THESE FIRST FEW FALTERING STEPS INTO SPACE. I'VE BECOME SO ACCUSTOMED TO THE IDEA OF GIANT SPACE SHIPS HOPPING ABOUT CASUALLY AMONG THE PLANETS, THAT I CAN'T SEEM TO GET EXCITED ABOUT A TINY CAPSULE ORBITING AROUND THIS ONE. I SUPPOSE THE "SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF" WAS SO COMPLETE WITH REGARD TO STF THAT THE FICTION SEEMS AS REAL AS FACT. NOW I AM JUST WAITING FOR THE TECHNOLOGY TO CATCH UP WITH ITSELF SO THESE INTERPLANETARY SPACE CRAFT CAN GET INTO ACTION, AND THERE IS A FEELING OF IMPATIENCE WITH THE DELAY RATHER THAN A SENSE OF WONDER AT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS. PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE COMPARED WITH WHAT ONE OF TODAY'S GENERATION MIGHT FEEL AT SEEING LINDBERG'S FIRST SOLO OCEAN FLIGHT... A FEAT WHICH WAS, IN ITS DAY, JUST AS MOMENTOUS. MY MOTHER'S LIFETIME SPANNED THE YEARS FROM THE FIRST STEAM LOCOMOTIVES TO LINDY'S HOP. I WONDER IF MINE WILL SPAN THE YEARS FROM THE WRIGHT BROTHERS' FEEDLE FLIGHTS TO LANDINGS ON OTHER PLANETS?

MAY 20, 1963: TODAY, MAMA AND PAPA SPARROW ARE HAVING A TIFF. SHE SITS ON THE GUYWIRE THAT SUPPORTS THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY NEON SIGN FRONTING THEIR CORNICE APARTMENT, HER FEATHERS SLEEKED DOWN TIGHT AND ANGRY. PAPA-SPARROW FLUTTERS UP TO HER COAXINGLY, BUT SHE PECKS HIM AWAY FROM HER... YESTERDAY WAS THE HOTTEST DAY WE'VE HAD YET THIS YEAR AND TODAY PROMISES TO BE EVEN HOTTER. THE SUN BEATS DOWN ON THEIR LITTLE NEST-CHAMBER AND IT MUST BE A HUNDRED DEGREES INSIDE. IT'S A WONDER THEIR EGGS -- IF THERE ARE ANY -- AREN'T COOKED. NO WONDER MAMA'S CRANKY, IN THAT HEAT!

MAY 22, 1963: WELL, FANS, HERE IT IS! ANOTHER GEMZINE WRAPPED UP AND READY TO GO -- OR WILL BE, AS SOON AS THIS LAST BIT OF BAITBOX IS RUN OFF AND STAPLED. I MADE A CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT THIS TIME TO DO AS GOOD A JOB AS I CAN (ALTHOUGH I DO AGREE THAT THIS PUNY 16 PAGES IS, INDEED, AS BERGERON TRULY CALLED IT -- A 'PARODY' OF WHAT IT USED TO BE). PERHAPS I OUGHT TO CHANGE THE NAME TO ICHABOD -- (AND IF ANY OF YOU DON'T KNOW WHY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP IN THE BIBLE!) I'M SORRY TO SAY THE REPRO ISN'T TOO HOT, IN SPITE OF REALLY TRYING.. EVEN FRESH INK AND NEW PAD COULDN'T WHOLLY CONTROL THE UNEVEN OIL-INESS - THO SOME OF THAT TR UBLE MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE HEAT. THIS TIME, MY WORK AREA HAPPENED TO BE RIGHT UNDER THE SKYLIGHT, AND THE SUN WAS BEAT-ING DOWN ON THE MIMED WITH DIRE RESULTS TO THE INK... ALSO, I NOTE THAT THE STENCILS ARE NOT ENTIRELY TO BLAME FOR LOSING THEIR 'O'S.. MY ELECTRIC TYP-ER CHOPS THE CENTERS OUT OF EVEN THE BEST GRADE OF STENCILS. I GUESS I CLEANED THE KEYS TOO THOROUGHLY -- MAYBE I'D BETTER PLUG THE CENTERS OF THE 'O' KEY SO IT WON'T STRIKE SO HARD. BUT MOST OF ALL, I SUSPECT I REALLY DO NEED A BETTER DUPE. OF COURSE, IF I COULD AFFORD SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS WORTH OF GESTETNER OR ABDICK, THAT WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM. BUT WHAT IS THE MOST FOOLPROOF INEXPENSIVE DUPLICATING EQUIPMENT? (OR ISN'T THERE ANY SUCH?) -- GEE, WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD SOMETHING LIKE XEROX? PASTE UP YOUR COPY -- USE ANYTHING YOU LIKE, FROM PENCIL SCRAWLS TO PHOTOGRAPHS; LAY IT ON THE GLASS, SET THE DIALS FOR THE NUMBER OF COPIES, AND JUST WALK OFF AND WAIT... NO BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS REQUIRED, JUST MONEY! OH, WELL, IT'S NICE TO DREAM, ANYWAY.

THIS IS GEMZINE 4:36, PRODUCED FOR THE 17TH MAILING OF N'APA (WHICH I HOPE TO LEARN IS NOW CALLED "NAPS" WITH A QUARTERLY "SNORE" AS OO) BY

G. M. CARR
5319 BALLARD N.W.
SEATTLE 7, WASH. 98107



(121) WASH

MIMEOGRAPHED MATTER ONLY

- WE TRADE?
- WHY NOT JOIN US?
- EGGOOO INSIDE

Dick Schultz,
19159 Helen
Detroit 34, Mich.