



is published by GREG SHAW (2545 Lexington, San Bruno) for APA L 65, and contains a recollection of my days as a megalomaniac.....

PART I

In the autumn of 1963 I was feeling restless. It had been a long time since I had done anything really wild and original. Then our school had an assembly at which a representative from Junior Achievement tried to talk us into joining. I was interested in the idea, and it got me thinking. Of course I didn't want to be a part of any such organized and nonprofit situation, but I did realize that some experience in the Business World would greatly benefit me and possibly give me some advantages that other kids my age didn't have. So I decided to start a corporation. (That's another thing wrong with JA; they let you start companies but not corporations--and never cartels).

To be successful in business you must have an original idea for a product or service that people need but isn't currently available. After much thought and consultation with friends I decided that a company specializing in conspiracy would be a lot of fun and might go over.

As a trial run to test the value and determine some of the practical considerations of my idea, I chose one of my teachers, a reader of stf and a very fannish and good-natured guy, as test subject. His house was but a few blocks from mine.

He began receiving literature with his morning paper (courtesy of his paper boy, my best friend and fellow-conspirator. First a circular announcing the formation of the company, a brief description of its goals, and an explanation. Then a couple of weeks later an announcement that we had received a commission from one of his students with him as victim, and a note explaining how he could avoid being plotted against by paying us off, and an elaborate procedure for contacting us. He didn't answer.

I decided it was time to do something drastic; it was also about a week before Halloween. I made up a letter out of letters clipped from magazines and left it on his desk at school. It warned him that he had until Saturday (Halloween) to do something, or else the plot would begin immediately. He didn't believe us, evidently.

Saturday night, midnight. Here and there a few teenagers wandering the streets looking for action. A black sedan pulls up before the man's house. Out of one door I emerge, dressed as a military officer, wearing dark shades, and carrying a plastic luger. Out of the driver's side steps a 6-foot kid with dark hair and cold eyes, wearing a great army winter overcoat and carrying a tommy gun. We march to the door, ring the bell, and when the wife opens I imperiously demand the victim. He approaches the door laughing. I warning him darkly that his time has come. He starts to close the door. I snap my fingers, and my friend leaps forward, jams the tommy gun into his belly, and mutters: "You'd just better watch out, buddy. We mean business." With a grim smile at him, I turn and walk to the car, my guard following. We get in, and with a screech the car turns a corner and disappears.

Next week I got a letter from him masquerading as a letter from a "ri val" company, warning us to lay off their client. I knew I had succeeded, and closed the file on my first case.

Of course I didn't plan to continue in this sophomoric manner. As I said, this was just a test case. I wanted to operate on a large scale. I knew, however, that I would need some kind of Big Break, so I waited; but in the meantime I organized the corporation completely on paper so I would be ready when the time came. The following quote is from one of my original forms:

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES OF PLOTS, INC.

Although we will perform any service required of us as long as we are paid for it, our specialty is plotting, naturally. For each plot there is the equivalent of 12 old men seated around a table in a locked room, thinking up ideas to carry out against the victim. They are known as the Activities Committee. Assigned to each is one squad of Plotpol agents to carry out the actual plot. Although details of our plot technique cannot be divulged to unauthorized personnel, it is enough to say that this proves sufficient to wipe out the sanity of the victim in a short time, the length of time determined by the type of plot.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF PLOTS, INC.

Within Plots, Inc. are many subdivisions. There is the Executive Department which handles paperwork, financial affairs, correspondence, etc. There is Mailplot which delivers our mail in areas where we are established. There is the Activities Department, split up into Activities Committees of 12 men each. Then there is Plotpol, our own police department. Their uniform is a trenchcoat and a Bag of Plots which looks like a briefcase and is filled with the supplies needed for whatever the agent is doing. The remaining department is Propaganda and Publicity. Their purpose is to distribute propaganda and advertising for PLOTS, INC. (The Intelligence Department, which has files on everything is one of the most important departments, and ~~xx~~ details cannot be given, for security reasons.)

Some other early forms were a full page form describing entrance requirements for each of the departments, a form to be filled out by applying employees, and a Plot Application Form. (I don't have any of these forms right now, but I am writing to the Western Headquarters to see if they have 50 copies of any of them that I can use in Apa L.)

Then I decided we needed a tradition to inspire anybody who might want to join. I invented the Firch Agency, as a traditional enemy. In a stirring 1-page form I described the great war between Plots, Inc. & the Firch Agency, which has always been one of our most popular forms.

The next thing I figured I had to do was organize the executive structure of PLOTS, INC. I took a map of the country and divided it into 5 large territories, numbering them 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, and 5000. Then using 1000 as a prototype I called California 1100, made a list of the counties, numbered them 1101-1158, and numbered the cities in San Mateo county with San Bruno as 1101.01. I figured that when I got an office in another state the officer could do the same thing, and as county offices are assigned, etc. so that eventually the entire country would be covered. Because for a plotting business to operate successfully, there should ideally be an office in every town of every county of every state. From there, I reasoned, it was also only a short step to taking control of the government...

NEXT WEEK: MY "BIG BREAK" and the snowball begins its long downhill roll.