

Published for the 32nd Distribution of APA L, 27 May 1965, by Bruce Pelz, who is gleefully looking forward to the next fractional distribution. IncNeb Pub. 364.

IT WAS WORTH THE TROUBLE that the Fractional Distribution cost, just to watch the antics of Tom Gilbert, trying desperately to get something into the 31.5th Distribution and being frustrated at every turn.

The idea was originally Mike Klassen's, as he mentioned at lunch Friday that since the Picnic was an official LASFS Function, we ought to have an APA L Distribution during it. From there, the Committee To Annoy the LASFS took over. A call to the Labyrinth set a couple people to work on zines, and some comments to people taken aside during the shower for Virginia Schultheis Saturday night got a couple more; the main problem was making sure those told about the f/d would not fink to the collators. They didn't.

Sunday morning I did NV and Dian did the cover, and we hustled around making sure we had everything necessary for the distribution -- hecto, carbon, master, paper, stapler, staples, portable typer. Everything but the typer fit nicely into my briefcase (generally known as The Albatross, from the fact that I seem to carry it constantly.)

We had trouble finding the place, as I had left my copy of APA L 31 home, relying on memory of the 1961 outing to get me there. It got me to the 1961 spot all right, but there was no sign of a familiar face. We tried a couple other parts of Arroyo Seco Park, but finally gave up and called Al Lewis, who gave us the right directions, and about ten minutes we found the right park section. It took another five minutes or so to find the LASFS group, as that section is a big one, but eventually we spotted Len Moffatt, Don Fitch, and a couple others standing around a table. No sign of the collators.

I opened the Albatross to give Len his RATATOSK, and Don Fitch spotted the APA L 31.5 covers. "Why didn't you tell us there was going to be a Fractional Distribution?" he asked, with very little surprise. (But then, Don is the inscrutable Oriental type...)

Then up came Tom Gilbert, whose reaction was much more satisfactory. He did everything but scream and run around in circles. After spotting the hecto I had set out on the table, he thought it was the Fitch hecto usually used by the collators Thursday nights, and he tried to get its use from Don. Then he tried to find out if Don's hecto was available at all, but from what I gather, Fred had left it home.

Fred's first comment, when he arrived, was "What have you done to poor Tom Gilbert?" He had passed Tom at the entrance way, and been quizzed as to whether he had publishing equipment with him by a frantic Gilbert. Fred tried a couple legalistic maneuvers against the F/d, but it was pointed out that the collators held their posts strictly at the sufferance of the contributors, and the F/d contributors, led by Henry Stine, voted Dian Collatrix of the F/d.

With Stine had arrived Harness and Jacobs, and the trio had been greeted at the entrance by Gilbert squeeked "Did you know they're putting out a fractional APA L Distribution?!" To which they replied, "Why, yes, didn't you bring your contribution?" ...and they brought out their own zines for the F/d.

Tom rooted around in his stuff, and came up with a full-page illo by Joe Staton which he had run off in sufficient number that it could be used in the F/d, and he brought that back to the picnic area, where he declared that he wanted to include it as CARCASILLA #31 $\frac{1}{2}$. He would hand-write the title in ink. I objected that this would not make them identical, but I would be glad to include them, untitled, as BACOVER BY JOE STATON, CONTRIBUTED BY TOM GILBERT, giving some credit in the F/d. This wasn't good enough. He eventually declared that if I wanted them I'd have to list them as he wanted. As asst. collator of the F/d, I told him we didn't really

need a bacover. Fred commented that Gilbert was "getting pretty snotty for your fractional distribution." I laughed and went on with whatever I was doing.

The collators made a couple other attempts to get into the F/d. Finding a phone, they called C.A.T.S., hoping that someone could drive down with ditto masters, then drive back to Caltech and run them off and bring them back. No luck: Hollander couldn't be found, Gold couldn't get at a car. (Barry's later comment was that he would have been delighted to bring some ditto masters. He would then have done up an issue of _____, run it off, and the heck with the collators. Now there is a real proto-Cultist.)

The final attempt was made while the hecto master for the contents page was in the typer. We had typed the list of everything turned in, but hadn't totaled it in case the collators managed to come up with something at the last minute. So Fred put in a paragraph of his own on the contents page, and Gilbert was busily filling the rest of the page when I noticed and walked over from where I had been talking with Paul Turner. "Any objections?" asked Tom/ "Well, yes, as a matter of fact," I replied, and went back to my conversation. Tom typed on. (We had been planning an illo for the bottom of the contents page, as there were four LASFS artists at hand.)

Fred, however, changed his mind, and came up to ask me to delete his paragraph. Eventually, when Tom finished typing, Fred deleted it himself by ripping the lower half of the master off. As this conveniently removed Tom's paragraph too, I simply wadded the whole thing up and disposed of it. We went on to total the pages, and run the contents page, then assembled 40 copies of the F/d and distributed it to anyone present who wanted a copy. There were plenty left over for the regular contributors who were not present, so we put aside copies for both the localites and the out-of-towners who usually contribute. Tom walked off with about a dozen copies earmarked for other people.

In spite of the fact that we had more than enough copies, someone seems to have lifted a couple. One couldn't be accounted for while we were still at the picnic, and two more turned up missing later.

It was an enjoyable picnic in other respects, too -- it even had entertainment, as we sat around watching a nearby mob of Mexicans at a birthday party. They had a pinata, and it took quite a long time to break it completely. We alternated between cheering the blindfolded kids and cheering the pinata, which was shaped like a large duck riding a bicycle. Harness, representing the First Church of Donald Duck, Scientist, objected to the blasphemy, of course.

We left the picnic about 5:30 or so, and headed for the Labyrinth for another evening of Bourree, in spite of the fact that we had spent the previous evening, during the Schultheis shower, doing nothing but play Bourree. The game lasted until about 1 in the morning, with several changes of players.

In the course of the game I got rid of two of the three extra F/d copies, to Castora and Hannifen, and we found out why Hannifen and Jane Ellern -- and possibly others -- hadn't been at the picnic. It seems they had signed up for the picnic two or three meetings before the thing, and had not been at the meeting immediately preceding it. Therefore, they didn't get the 31st APA L Distribution, and there was no other announcement or notification of the location of the picnic. They wandered around various parts of Arroyo Seco Park, unable to locate the right one. I would suggest to Fred or anyone else organising an outing, that he not rely on APA L for notification -- especially when several weeks have been allowed for sign-ups. It should be definite that everyone who has signed up is notified of the location and time of the thing.

But, in general, it was fun, and I'm looking forward to another outing, maybe after the Westercon.

DIRECT CURRENTS Bailes: I haven't had time to sort the APA mlg's, or even to stencil the supplementary list of genzines that have been acquired since I first started the listing. One of these weeks... .

Bjo: If Gold can put in Frank Harris, what's wrong with illos of that ilk? Are you implying APA Lers can't read, but can only look at pictures?