

IDLE HANDS #4 from Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 336, Berkeley 1, California and for the next few months to be found at Box 1262, Tyndall AFB, Florida (it's a large box, you see). This is intended for the May 60 shadow-FAPA mlg under the auspices of Russ Chauvenet. Crudpub # 23

WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING WARNING

You can expect the world to come to an end any moment now. Bob Lichtman, world's most dependable fan, fastest typer in the west, etc. has failed to come through with his column. Remember, you read it first in Idle Hands (if you don't read it, then obviously it's too late.)

The Fantasy Amateur Feb 61

Evans: Schultz', Baxter's & Demmon's credentials are all valid.

Lark Feb 61 - Bill Danner

In your comments to Dick Ryan you mention how cold it is and then give the date as '12-9-60'. My brainwashed mind read that as '12 Sep 60' which didn't seem probable. But my Broad Mental Horizons expanded across time and space until they encountered a geodesic where I had been using civilian dating. There is a tendency for ambiguity in numerical dating systems. Because of that I've been using the military system for many years. But currently the military has decided to become ambiguous. There are four different systems I have to use on various forms. For example, today's date can be rendered as 1 Apr 61, 1-04-1, 01041, or 1091. Which version you use depends on the particular form. You see, the military is standardized.

I haven't done much listening to KDKA lately. Since my duty hours have changed I've been listening mostly to WBBM, Chicago for "Music 'til Dawn". The broad bandwidth receiver I use can't reject adjacent frequencies too well so at times r&r stations in Houston and/or Richmond knock it out and I have to listen to WOWO, Fort Wayne, WCCO Minneapolis, WOAI, San Antonio, WHO Des Moines, WNBC New York or an occasional Cuban station. It's too bad the FCC doesn't regulate AM broadcasting to the proper extent. The clear-channel stations are being subjected to all sorts of co-channel interference. (Of course, if I had my communications receiver here I wouldn't be bothered.) Broadcasting some time ago reported that the FCC was thinking of doing away with clear channels altogether. Local service channels aren't even receiving local service anymore due to the excess number of stations on any one frequency.

There is physical movement in TV sweeps, the electrons in the cathode-ray tube are being physically deflected to produce the image.

You're the first one I've heard of who has had troubles in dealing with Radio Shack. Most of their merchandize is excellent and in any case you receive what you pay for. I've received one defective item from them but it was immediately replaced.

Jiffy bags can be re-used. I've yet to receive one damaged in transit. I pack apa mlg's, books, etc. in used ones and send them home. They've all arrived in fine shape.

The big spread in gas mileages between towns and countryside is probably caused by the constant accelerations required after stop signs, idiot drivers pulling out in front of you, etc. plus the fact your motor isn't running at top efficiency at the low speeds of towns. Even with my Triumph motorcycle gas mileage drops from 70 miles/gallon on the road to 60 around town.

Defining where the west begins is a tricky business. Walter Prescott Webb, in his work, The Great Plains, says it begins where irrigation becomes a necessity, about the 98th meridian. I don't consider the west to begin until you reach the Rockies. Anything between the Rockies and the Appalachians and outside the Confederacy is part of the midwest. So to me, San Antonio, Denver, etc. are all in the east (or the midwest or south vice-versa respectively) depending on what I wish to say at the moment. Since the geographical center of the 48 states is in north-central Kansas you can perhaps see the logic of my viewpoint. Convention rotation boundaries baffle me. If the country is to be divided into thirds why not be logical about it. Not having a really large-scale map with longitude coordinates I can't be too sure about this but the division points should pass somewhere near the meridians of Rock Springs, Wyoming and Indianapolis, Indiana.

"What a lousy way to run a railroad" is, I think, a paraphrase of the title to one of Peter Arno's cartoon books.

Tau Ceti Reprints #1, Feb 61 - Bob Tucker

If no one else will act on your suggestion to use the names of stars in titles you'll follow the modern vogue and do it yourself.

Someplace around I have the complete info on the Science Fiction Series plus copies of some of them. But that someplace is probably at home. If I ever dig down deep enough to find the dope I'll send it to you.

And this is one reprint I'm very glad to see. How about hitting every mlg with another reprint?

Sercon's Bane #5 - F. M. Busby

Evidently your not-so-thorough murderer who left remnants of his wife and daughter scattered around had never read Lord Dunsany's "Two Bottles of Relish". If he had read the story there wouldn't have been much evidence left. (Though I've forgotten how the skeletons were disposed of.)

I'm slightly amused (and even more disgusted) by the Florida law-enforcement picture. Saturday's paper announced that the governor was having Bay County (home of Panama City, Lynn Haven, Tyndall, etc.) investigated. Quoth he: 'I've heard numerous allegations of corruption in Panama City and Bay County among the officials. We will investigate.' So by the time the investigators arrive on the scene all signs of corruption will have been covered up. Shelby Vick was telling of Sheriff "Doc" Daffin's TV campaign for re-election, "I'll stamp out prostitution in Bay County if I have to tie up every man on my force to do it."

I'll agree with you that anti-anti-Communism is a bad thing but then so is any attitude carried to an extreme. I hate Communism and I hate those who taking away our freedom on the grounds that it's necessary to preserve us from Communism.

Fanaticism from Communists and anti-Communists alike is a dangerous thing. The "anti-anti-Communists" realize this danger. If I interpret the HUAC San Francisco incident correctly they're not protesting the rooting out of Communists but rather, the methods used. What they seem to be hoping for is that their fanaticism will cancel out that of the HUAC.

If I remember correctly the "Second December 1929" issue of S-F Times was distributed about Christmas, 1959 which, if correct, means that you're right and the S-F Times subbers received it a long time ago, indeed. I could be wrong on this, though.

"the Lancaster Cove" refers to Don Simpson (from Lancaster, California) who had what he called "The Lancaster Coven" there.

Okay, so you have little or no sympathy for those who haven't been drafted and complain about the service. You've been through it and look down on those who haven't. This attitude is analogous to your having crossed over a rotten bridge which was about fall into a mountain torrent and feeling superior to those on the far side who want to strenghten the bridge before crossing. Well and good I suppose but the attitude is still ridiculous. There's no necessity for a lot of the malarkey in the service (unless you wish to consider UMT as a surrogate puberty-rite). There is some validity in that idea but it's also a dangerous idea in that there are other methods of maturation. Besides which, using the military for such purposes is silly when you look at the damage done by the military. I've been through a lot and I do have sympathy for anyone coming after me. If the service could be remodelled to line-up with reality I'd be all in favor of it.

I'll agree with Danner's views on small town vs. city people. The city does offer greater opportunity to meet the kind of person you wish to associate with. I've lived in towns with 40 people and metropolitan areas with millions and for people I'll take the city any day. There just isn't enough diversity in a small town to find enough congenial people.

Here you go bringing up re-incarnation again and I thought that FAPA had thrashed that one out long ago. The way it was supposed to have ended was 'Where do all the extra souls come from?'

There's one other case than neos where fmz reviews are needed. That is the emergence of a new fanzine. But it seems the average faan reads fmz reviews for entertainment and not as a basis of judgment. Comments about 'lack of critical standards' indicate the commenter isn't thinking on all eight cylinders. Mainly because you can't use faanish standards to review a fmz because a neo doesn't have the same ideas on what fmz should be like as does your.faan.

Salud #5 - Elinor Busby

Your example of the Californian who was denied unemployment because he didn't have a car is probably true. I ran into scmewhat the same deal in Denver. The state employment agency didn't take kindly to the fact that my means of transport were either a bicycle or the bus. (The bus lines don't go everywhere in Denver. There's a large section near where Leman used to live that doesn't have bus service. But a bicycle will take you anywhere in Denver in a minimum of 45 minutes since it's so small in area. The transportation angle plus my being in the ser-

vice probably explains why I didn't get a job.

Celephais #26 - Bill Evans

Bill, Wyoming has spectacular mountains though most are invisible from the Union Pacific. Try driving some day and then you can see the Wind River Mountains, the Grand Tetons, etc. Leman can probably give you a better idea of what to see. While riding on the UP did you miss seeing pronghorns along the right-of-way? They are fairly common between Rawlins and Laramie.

The ferries to and from San Francisco were still operating when I left (I think) though the Southern Pacific was talking about taking them out and the citizens were protesting as usual. Bill Collins said they put one ferry back into service after the protests. I hope they're still running when I get back. It's great riding one across the Bay, especially on a clear, windy day. I used to ride my bike down to the Oakland terminal, take the ferry across and then cycle around San Francisco (again I say, not on Market or Mission, Miri).

Rather than detail who in FAPA & w-1 I've met it's shorter to list those I haven't. Alger, Ashworth, Ballard, Bennett, Boggs, Bourne, Bradley, the Clarkes, Coslet, Crutch, Danner, Evans, Grennell, Hevelin, Hoffman, Janke, Lewis, the Linards, Lyons, McPhail, Martinez, Morse, Parker, Perdue, Pfeifer, Ryan, Speer, Tucker, the Versins, Wesson and Wilson (30 memberships) + Martin, Chauvenet, Budrys, Durward, Berry, Donaho, Fick, the Ellingtons, Bergeron, Wells, Cochran, Locke, Baxter, Demmon, Toskey, Wilson, von Olbrich, Corey & Benford (19 w-1ers). If I attend the Seacon I expect to meet some more of these people, how many of you plan on being there? I haven't met 43% of FAPA + w-1. But 9.7% are overseas which means there are about 38 fen to go. Be yea warned.

Rather than using '###' to separate ideas why not sacrifice some paper to Mammon and use paragraphs. Quite a few fen seem to use that system to disguise the fact they have nothing to say. In your case you do have something to say. So why not use paragraphs?

You mention the Maryland vehicle code's confusion over 'rate of speed' vs. 'speed'. Have you heard the anecdote concerning Robert Wood, physics professor at John Hopkins University and one-time sf author, who was arrested for going through a red light. His scientific eminence and fast tongue 'proved' to the jury that the Doppler shift had made him see the red light as green. Someone in the audience pointed out that in order to accomplish this shift he would have had to have exceeded the speed limit by a mere trifle.

Our local "high-brow" station (self-proclaimed) just "finished" playing Brahms' 'Symphony #3 -- the Tragic Overture' ((sic)). They killed the record at 2000 hours, in the middle of the second movement of the third symphony. Their nightly 'hour' of classics is just that, 60 minutes and then off goes the program, bah.

On birth certificates. You're supposed to have one to join the service. I didn't have one and had no idea if one was even issued to me. The recruiter telegraphed Sacramento and they sent a confirmatory telegram back. It's nice to know that you've been born. So my official records folder has a telegram in place of a birth-certificate photostat.

My last records check bothered the clerk. You're supposed to have one annually. My last one was in '58. You're supposed to have an Efficiency/Effective-

ness Report written up every three months. I've never had one written up on me yet. When they tried to have one written up on me it was discovered that it would be a violation of regulations. Yuk, yuk. It's little things like this which bring joy into a serviceman's life.

This 'Big Brother Is Watching You' bit is carried to extremes in the service. The chow halls, headquarters bldgs, etc. all have photos of the entire chain of command from Kennedy (they've just changed) down to Colonel Eagleston or maybe lower. Even the sentry shacks have them for some reason (to give the Air Policemen something to look at, I suppose.) Somehow our section has escaped the watchful eyes of a dozen or so Big Brothers.

Sorry I can't give you a synopsis of the Buchan stories. I've read them over a period of 8 years and still have a few to go. Unless one of the unread stories changes the order they begin with Hannay in The Thirty-Nine Steps and end with the death of Leithen in Mountain Meadow. What the order is between I couldn't say. One of my projects after discharge is to read through prolific series authors and establish the chronologies. Mundy and Rohmer have been done by Brad Day (as well as Burroughs) despite this it will be fun reading everything in the correct order. Buchan, Haggard and Edgar Wallace and probably others will be entertaining reading. But before I can read through Wallace I'll have to have a complete collection and that's an enormous task. My Wallace want list has 127 titles and there are probably others.

Yes, I'd dismissed the Civil War in my mind when considering 'violent political upheavals' in this country. To rationalized it one can consider the Civil War as not having changed anything. The south is still as ignorant and backwards as ever, politically and every other way. (Heh, heh, another sweeping statement to be blown apart.)

Whoa Evans, I didn't condemn everyone in government. I merely said it attracts the unfit. Some sections acquire more than others by their nature but I didn't say everyone was unfit. The military and the post office are everyday examples of the concentration of the unfit. Your National Bureau of Standards has a higher average caliber of employees than most other sections in the Federal government. But...compare the average NBS worker with his industrial counterpart. Statistically he's likely to be more of a misfit, both intellectually and psychologically.

I know what government service is like. I've worked for the U.S. Forest Service; the California Forest and Range Experiment Station (the state of California in co-operation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture); the U.S. Post Office and the U.S. Air Force. Admittedly these aren't representative of the rarified heights of the NBS or similar bureaus where more scientific personnel are concentrated but they're a fair cross section of the average government division. And I'm prepared to back up my statements with personal experience plus Congressional reports.

Agreed that better pay, better working conditions and a friendlier attitude would help out in improving the average government employee. But since these conditions are conspicuous by their absence, the more competent personnel go into industry (as a whole). It's a vicious circle and unfortunately it seems to have discovered perpetual motion.

To use the USAF as an example they became aware that re-enlistees weren't of the best quality (to say the least). So they tried to attract personnel of better quality by pay raises (on the order of 10¢/day, whoopee), slightly better housing, etc. This didn't help, the top personnel still got out. So now they've decided to boost the average by kicking out the utterly incompetent.

Stefantasy #46 - Bill Danner

Your letter to Nirenberg concerning post office baiting on fmz mlg wrappers should be taken to heart by some other fans. You're right, there's absolutely no point in tempting fate in the form of postal censorship. I've had particular trouble with this here at Tyndall. The volume of mail I get is considered excessive. Quite a few fmz have been opened though Nirenberg's haven't been. The Postal NCOIC has threatened to stop my mail completely some of it has been returned to the senders. It's rather easy to 'lose' a piece of mail or return it to the sender as 'undeliverable' both of which have happened to me.

Rogue Moon is correct. Some electronic components malfunction in vacuums or semi-vacuums. Space probes have special pressurization devices for some components.

Please don't drop Stef, many of us appreciate it.

Limbo #5 - Rike & Donaho

Rike: Your speaking of Betty and you possibly living in the Berkeley hills reminds me of a story told by a long-time resident of Berkeley. During the depression a family lost their home and moved into the hills. They lived under bushes rather than tents. Their only possession was a grand piano which the father spent all day playing while the mother taught the children ballet dancing.

Good luck on your Peace March. It's interesting to see someone with the actual courage of his convictions.

Donaho: I'm sad to see you don't want children. I'll agree that they're a pain to bring up but it's certainly worthwhile in the long run. Where would you be if your 'ancestors' had your views regarding the undesirability of children? The morons are increasing the world's population and you're actually helping them out. Shame on you, Bill Donaho. Of course, if you don't want them no amount of arguing from a racial standpoint will convince you otherwise.

If you want some authentic Spanish zarzuela (sp?) try tuning KFAC, 1330 KC at midnight. They probably still play zarzuela every night though it's been several years since I've listened to it.

You couldn't have really seen the stars from east Texas. The moisture content of the air plus the low altitude would render seeing far inferior to the west. Bob Leman and Stan Mullen, as fandom's two highest fans, probably have the best vision of the stars as long as the air over the Rockies isn't too turbulent. Mullen does have some more ambient light and probably a bit more turbulence to contend with.

I don't agree with you on Borodin's original music being duller than Kismet (with the possible exception of some of Prince Igor). His Symphony #2, Nocturne for Strings and most of Prince Igor come to mind and there are probably other excellent pieces. I enjoy the sound-track recording of Kismet and will see the movie any time it plays nearby but I'd rather listen to the original music.

To me women's clothes only enhance (or possibly detract) from the woman's attractiveness. So I'll go along with you there. However, there are some women who don't go gung-ho for fancy clothes and who can make nearly anything they've got attractive. I remember complimenting a girl on her dress. She always looked good regardless of what she had on but that one dress made her even more attractive. The dress itself was good looking but she was even more so. I felt rather foolish making the compliment and so stuttered and stammered around. I think this was apparent to her and I'm still wondering what she thought. I'd rather have a wife who dressed fairly well (if the situation demands it) but not self-consciously. The type who can make nearly any dress look attractive are doing so because of their looks and ability to project personality so they're the more attractive anyway.

For myself I detest "dressing-up". Like I can count the number of times I've had a suit on (exclusive of military Class A uniforms) on my fingers. Dress is rather casual here at Tyndall (more so than quite a few bases) both for uniforms and civvies. At work I run around in T-shirt, fatigue pants and brogans. Occasionally I've gone to work in civilian clothes, sport shirt, wash pants and shower clogs. Those who didn't know me thought I was a civilian, those that did just got a chuckle out of my defiance of the regulations. This new NCOIC we've got isn't one to mess around with though, so now I'm on the straight and narrow.

There is at least one other place than New York where public transportation is more efficient than cars. San Francisco, itself, is handier to get around in by the Muni than by driving. But once outside the city limits a car becomes a definite asset.

In detective stories I find myself in the short story camp as far as pure detective stories are concerned. The types that state a problem and solve it usually have little or need of characterization (though it can be introduced and is used to complicate the story (said complications tending to lengthen the story until it becomes a novel)). Evolution is proceeding in detective fiction and characterization and longer stories are becoming more and more common. But I confine most of my reading to the short story. In detective stories I'm analogous to a Gernsback 'sense of wonder' fan ignoring everything after 1937 as being 'modern pap'. The only detective magazine I read regularly is Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and most of the authors date back 40 or more years.

Target; FAPA OpCri CLXXXV - Dick Eney

Whoa Eney, where do you get the idea that overseas members cost FAPA less due to postal rules? How are you sending bundles, fifth-class? According to the postal manual third & fourth class rates are higher to overseas than domestic. (Though this might vary from post office to post office as the Vicks say it costs less to mail from Panama City than from Lynn Haven, six miles away.)

Ok, Dick "Winston Smith" Eney, let's not go crucifying Ted White with a biased report. White did have reasons other than suspecting Tapscott of being a hoax for trying to oust him from the Cult. Tapscott did manage to get under a few skins in other fashions than being a hoax.

No, VAPA's subscriber-membership wasn't like SAPS' setup for purchasing bundles. Subscribers were a separate and distinct category, not w-lers taking chances on getting a bundle.

The Directory of 1960 SF Fandom - Ron Bennett

A few additions and corrections:

16. Richard J. Armstrong, 26 Lonsdale Drive, London, Ontario, Canada
27. John Martin Baxter, P.O. Box 39, King St. P.O., Sydney, NSW, Australia
93. Bill Collins, 838 Shrader St., San Francisco 17, California
180. Emile Greenleaf, 1303 Mystery Street, New Orleans 19, Louisiana
402. Hal Shapiro, c/o Vick, P.O. Box 269, Lynn Haven, Florida

Driftwood Mlg 94 - Sally Kidd

An enlarging device used in drafting is a pantagraph. Said device is a conglomeration of levers, one of which has a tracing point and another arm holds a pen or pencil to make the enlarged drawing

Idle Hands (except for the second edition of #2) is done on a Smith-Corona electric portable. It's been in the shop for some time to have the type-rest bar replaced and has been worked on twice to have two separate drive belts replaced (evidently the local salt air doesn't agree with the rubber). Other than that mine works quite well. (It's been used an average of 20 hours or so weekly for nearly two years so I'd say it's a good buy.)

The contrast between your borrowed and office typers makes me wonder about the wisdom of using your borrowed typer. It seems to need quite a bit of adjustment. (So does this one. The second time it came back with the 'A' out of adjustment, now the 'o' and 'c' should be regulated.)

Matawatchan may be getting on your map but it certainly isn't getting on mine. I've watched for several minutes and seen absolutely no sign of it.

By Jingo, Richard D. Auerbach must have been influenced by G. M. Carr while he had the Seattle FBI office. Or is fuggheadism contagious?

I was rather surprised this year at the speedy return of my income tax refund. In civilian life I always filed on 2 Jan and received a refund in late April or early May. In the service we've been getting W-2 forms on 15 Jan and receiving a refund in early Apr. This year we didn't receive our W-2 forms until 31 Jan and my refund arrived on 20 Mar from San Francisco. Perhaps the Infernal Revenue Service has improved?

Ice Age #4 - Larry & Noreen Shaw

Are you sure you aren't pulling our leg about Robert Shea. I've always had a feeling he is -----.

Noreen: I agree you've got a right to be irritated when someone crashes your party and then doesn't even thank you. I might have been guilty of this several times at the Pittcon. Several parties were attended but the only one where the host was known was known to me was Pavlat's and I think I thanked him. If not, "Thanks, Pavlat.". I remember being invited to several parties but whether or not the inviter was giving the party I couldn't tell you. So unknowingly I may have crashed several parties. If so, sorry, I didn't do it deliberately. And thus I may not have thanked the proper person.

And I don't see that anyone has any excuses for acting boorishly at any time. Room parties and eating are all private business and I can't see having intruders.

Monitor is something I avoid like the plague. I like to listen to certain items and only those items. Listening to a "program" with poor taste and a grasshopper's attention span is annoying. Last weekend I noticed that WCOA, Pensacola, WSM, Nashville and WNBC, New York were playing music when Monitor should have been presented. Has NBC cut down the hours on Monitor?

Bandwagon #8 - Dick Ryan

If your BMW is a built-up motorcycle then it must really be quite a motorcycle. From talking to the motorcycle fans around base it seems that the BMW is the best motorcycle made. Its two drawbacks are the high price and scarcity of dealers. That's where the Triumph shines, it's nearly as good as the BMW and dealers are far more plentiful.

You're right about non-pubbing fans being around for years and years without becoming known on the fanzine scene. Terry Carr recently wrote up W. S. Houston who's apparently been subbing to fanzines since The Comet or so. And this non-pubbing tripped up Carr when he thought I was the closest thing to a neofan around FAPA for many a moon. I've been active to fandom and subbing to fanzines since '54. If Terry had been active locally he would have known better.

The way I heard it the inventor of the typewriter arranged the keyboard according to what was supposed to be the frequency of occurrence. Too bad he goofed.

One of the men here at Tyndall has a go-cart strapped to the roof of his Renault... to go for help in case of breakdown, I suppose.

The Lurking Shadow V1#3 - Chuck Hansen

It might even be theorized that the longer the w-l the better it is for FAPA. By having such a long wait you eliminate necs from the ranks. (Of course, if the wait becomes too long you can eliminate many worthwhile fans who would drop out along the way.)

There seemed to be plenty of alcoholic beverages in evidence at the Pittcon. Perhaps Buz' 'poetic license' hadn't expired when he gave you that impression. If alcohol hadn't been available some of the people would have had a serious upset in their metabolism.

Since you, Ashworth (hi) and a few others are mountaineering fans you might be interested in George Sutton's Glacier Island. In case you haven't read it the book tells of a mountaineering expedition on South Georgia. Not only are the mountains tremendous challenges but getting to them is a formidable task. The weather isn't the worst in the Antarctic but it's doing its best to be the worst. The island is covered with glaciers making access dangerous as well as difficult. The peaks rise to nearly 10,000 feet in a matter of only a few miles. By contrast the conquest of Nanda Dēvi, Annapurna, Everest, Kanchenjunga, etc. seem like picnics. The narrative is well-written so all in all the book is well worth reading.

Sutton's account also makes Ernest Shackleton's feat of crossing the island without equipment other than an ax and a fifty-foot rope seem like a miracle. Shackleton had his Endurance crushed in the Weddell Sea. The men drifted north on an ice floe. When it melted they sailed in the ship's boats to Elephant Island. From there Shackleton sailed 800 miles across the Drake Passage (some of the worst sailing in the world, formidable even to a full-sized ship) in a whale boat to South Georgia. The boat was in such bad shape that he didn't dare risk sailing around the island to the whaling station. So Shackleton walked over the island to shelter. His arrival at the whaling station was comparable to Stanley and Livingston. Shackleton had returned from the ranks of the dead by sheer will power and the grace of God.

Yes, Ellis Mills sure can cook. I was treated to several samples of his culinary skill. The man is a wizard in the kitchen. He seems to have developed his talents in reaction to chow hall food. Myself, I eat what they give us and usually can't complain.

Idle Hands #3 - Metcalf

Lichtman: What makes you call Burbee a neofan in 1946?

I'll agree with you on dancing. It's a waste of time as far as I'm concerned. The only value I can see for it lies in that it's a socially acceptable means of meeting a girl. But, by and large, the kind of girls I enjoy don't frequent dances.

Perhaps the top fanzines are being produced by apa members but the top apa members certainly aren't producing genzines. Warner, Danner (Stef is a genzine, but he's not pushing it on the open market), Eccnomou and Grennell (all of these are from FA #90, the last egoboo poll I have) aren't pubbing genzines. If you go a bit further down the top FAPAN list in that FA you do find some genzines being pubbed. Whether or not this proves one should concentrate on FAPA I won't say. It's probably a matter of chance.

Last time you promised to cut down the size of your column and this time you certainly succeeded. How about expanding it a little next time? It's not too hard to become larger than zero.

Metcalf: Higgs is now preserving his NAPA membership with a single multi-apa zine. He also claims that his material isn't reprint (I have the zines he reprinted from) and that he didn't try and cheat his way into continuing his FAPA membership. I wonder if he'll have the nerve to try and re-apply for FAPA membership after his year is up.

Other Voices, Other Rooms (down, Truman Capote)
Other Worlds, Other Universes (down, Ray Palmer)

Getting back to this Other Pittcon it seems in one of them Ellik wasn't on the Fanzine Editor's Panel while Larry Shaw. Which Pittcon did you attend? (Some people will do anything to rationalize an error; you listening Metcalf?)

Pariah #2 - Al Fick

Budrys' plan is quite admirable for eliminating his wait for membership. However, I've taken some algebra and otherwise prepared myself. Algebraic expressions can be permutated you know. You are hereby warned. Be prepared to vanish yourself.

Spinnaker Reach #4 - Russ Chauvenet

Coulson is being his usual cynical self laughing at society but I think it's somewhat of a pose. If Coulson were as asocial as he claims I don't think he'd be living in Indiana. A remote cave in the Rockies would be more fitting.

I'll agree that Mountain Meadow is probably Buchan's best novel. The characterization is better, you're presented with something more than an adventure. Leithen was concerned with himself and even more so with others.

It's not too unusual to see G. M. Carr in error, she is quite adept at putting her foot in her mouth (an odd position to use while typing). Besides the fact that she doesn't think words can be harmful I also think that she and Noah Webster don't get along too well together.

Cadenza #1 - Charles Wells

"Alas!" is an excellent satire. Which genzine is going to be the first to reprint it?

Bringing William Blake to further notice is worthwhile. I'll have to add him to my list of 'those to be read sometime'. Like most people I'm familiar only with "Tyger..." and a couple of others.

To the best of my knowledge Islam hasn't had anything comparable to the Protestant Reformation in recent years. But they're still dynamic. They're supposed to be winning more converts in Africa than any other religion.

Miss Jane Ely has my utmost admiration for having sufficient nerve to write "Thirty days hath September, / April, June, and no wonder: / All the rest have peanut butter, / Except Grandma, who drives a bright red Buick." You call yourself a 'modern, progressive Faaan' but you've just set poetry back a few eons.

Dear and Gentle Reader: The lettercolumn starts on the next page and you'd better be prepared for the first letter will be condensed down from a Schultz-epic.

LETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSABCDEFGHIJKLMNPOQRSTUVWXYZLETTERSLETTERSLETTERSLETTS

Dick Schultz, 19159 Helen ((of Troy)), Detroit 34, Michigan

Dear Norm;

The biggest argument against raising the membership that I can see, is that it wouldn't solve anything, not really. There are fifty people on that present w/l. There'd still be forty after raising the membership, and would quickly swell to more than sixty once the news got around that ten people were swallowed at one quick gulp by FAPA, 'the organization that one faunches for'.

I told all of you cats at the Pittcon that tougher measures against the w/l would not cut down the size of the w/l, but rather increase it! Now, I'm not much of an amateur psychologist, but I know enough about human and fannish nature to correctly figure out what would happen if these 'get tough' proposals went into effect. The waiting list swelled. Fantastically. Or at least, it did relatively. Don't forget, this credentials bit was supposed to cut down the w/l some. It sure did. Three w/lers went into FAPA, six went into the non-credential limbo, and the w-1 stood at 43 (with corrections). You realize that this is a drop of only w-lers, and they're still in the limbo, liable to come back.

And don't forget the effect this will have on the non-w-lers, outside of both the elite and shadow realms. They'll say, "Why, with this new get-tough policy FAPA has become something to faunch for and it will cut the membership down and I'll get into FAPA quicker now and I think I'll join the w-1 Right Now" and so he drops his postcard in and away he goes into the shadow realm. Confident that the 'get tough' policy will shorten his stay in the shadow realm.

And it seems to be doing no such thing *sob*.

By the way, I've had a novel thought. About changing Sathanas into a revolving kind of genzine-apazine. Just put out a nice thin Sathanas whenever I have an apa deadline to meet, and send the same copy to readers other than those in the apa. Say I did one for SAPS. Then the readership other than the SAPS members would get the zine through the mail. Comes the OMPA deadline, another Sathanas is produced, this time for the OMPA deadline. This time the SAPS membership wouldn't get the Sathanas unless they were on my mailing list.

This would work well enough, I suppose, and would guarantee at least four issues of Sath a year. Of course, some fen might not like the idea of a genzine going through an apa, but they should be in the minority. I hope. Of course, it wouldn't work for IPSO, would still have to make up a special zine for that, but that's only a small consideration. It is an idea worth considering, at any rate. And would at least give my readership a goodly number of issues a year... nice, yes?

You know, fapa was originally created to eventually absorb fandom. It is quite obviously on its way to doing so right now. Sixty-five members in the apa itself, and forty-three plus in the waiting list, and more to come. FAPA may yet absorb fandom, like some monstrous amoeba, a blob from another dimension, come to absorb us all in its slimy caresses.

A rather frightening thought, what?

Did you know that Warner lives on the site of the Battle of Antietam, or Sharpsburg, as it is sometimes called? I just realized it when I noticed exactly where Hagerstown was, on a map of Maryland.

Lichtman can soak his head. I have absolutely no sympathy for his proposal that every year the w/lers should renew their credentials. That is just plain harassment of the troops, thar bwah!

yos,
the ancient antagonistic anamese,
dick schultz

((As I said in remarking to Chuck Hansen, what's wrong with a long w-l, as long as it's not too long. FAPA's seems to be working about optimum right now. ## Your revolving genzine idea to keep up apac is by no means new but I doubt if it would work. Your general readers would dislike the mlg comments and the apa members wouldn't do too much commenting on the general material. You'd be under attack from both ends. I've been thinking of the same thing seeing as how I'm pubbing a fanzine about once every two weeks but it would soon backfire on me. ## Go ahead, I defy FAPA to take over all fandom. ## If Warner lives on the site of Antietam then you'd better inform the National Geographic Society, their map places the battle some distance away.))

Dick Ellington, 2162 Hillside Avenue, Walnut Creek, California (being excerpts
Dear Fellow Shadows: from a shadow-carbon)

You on Driftwood: It's been a long-standing, albeit ridiculous rule, in a land where religious freedom is much touted, but the only way you can get exemption as a conscientious objector is by first stating -- and proving -- not only belief in a supreme being but membership in a recognized religion. Otherwise you can most definitely count on doing jail time. An atheist or agnostic who is conscientiously opposed to war on simple moral grounds will go to jail, as will Jehovah's Witnesses, (because the government does not recognize their contention that every member is a minister) while Mormons, members of the Church of the Brethren and several other more established sects can obtain exemption without too much trouble. Silly, isn't it?

I don't think Bob's idea of yearly citing of credentials is bad at all -- would certainly keep the w-l whittled down and at present, that isn't really a bad idea. ### I used to have this habit of just taking any foreign money I happened to receive (including Canadian) and just piling it away in a drawer for emergencies, at which time I would rush around making a pest of myself at the bank -- \$3 worth of French francs and things like that. The Canadian paper money bit progresses quite naturally the farther you get away from the border. There are plenty of people in New York City who won't touch it -- not realizing it is good legal tender and worth more besides. It's like some sections of the country where people won't accept \$2 bills. ### I wouldn't try and recruit anybody to fandom. I still think such tactics are unnecessary and a waste of time. ### Franson's comment on conchies annoys me -- Bible quotes indeed.

Alors,
Dick

((It certainly is ridiculous that agnostics, atheists and minority religions aren't given full benefit of the law. It seems that the government doesn't consider that 'freedom of religion' also includes the freedom not to have religion or to believe in a small denomination. ### If Franson wants some more Bible quotes there is always the one about respecting authority, another one about how all authority comes from God and since the military is evil then they have no real authority and therefore there's no necessity to obey the military.

Donald Franson, 6543 Babcock Avenue, North Hollywood, California

Dear Norm,

Idle Hands #3 received Feb. 15, 1961, according to my rubber stamp. I see up there it says, "deadline for the next issue is April 1", so I timed it just about right, apparently, as I am going through a bunch of fanzines and writing short notes, for the first time in a month or so. IH has so many check marks, though, it will take more than a short note, so I have selected a larger piece of paper.

Of course some of these checkmarks don't seem so important except as comments on comments, and don't deserve printing for all FAPA to yawn at. For instance, you mention gafia years. Though I was never gafia in my own estimation, continuing to be a goshwow science fiction fan ever since 1930, I didn't get involved with fanzines, clubs or conventions until about 28 years later. I'm not likely to gafiate at this late date, but if I ever leave "fandom" (in the narrow sense) I will not lose my interest in science-fiction. The less "fandom" has to do with science-fiction, the less interesting it is to me, in direct ratio.

I always used to listen to KFAC, before I got an FM radio. Now there is quite a choice. My main use for a radio is as background music, and where can you find that on AM? I want to drown out the TV in the other room, so I can concentrate, and this is not possible with screaming commercials on the radio too, and nauseating disc-jockeys and their revolting wares.

Imagine Lichtman saying "LA is one of the main centers of fandom today". This has always been the case, but a few years ago it would have been laughed at as a serious statement, since Berkeley talked the loudest about their domination of fandom, etc. Now they are getting some of their own medicine from Lupoff and company. I don't see the sense of having so many different apas so that all fans can participate, and then having them join all the apas anyway. There are too many apas, in the view of this outsider. I foresee the end of all apas because of this. Goodbye, FAPA, you were an interesting facet of fandom, if ephemeral.

In your question re "The Adventure of the Highbury Plot", Sneary and Donaho, I think.

I don't know who put in these checkmarks, some of them don't mean anything to me. It doesn't pay to comment too long after reading a fmz.

Your list of books on hand unread is interesting, but I don't see how you have room for them in your ~~Army~~ (oops) air force quarters. I carried one book around with me in the army, The Pocket Book of SF. Read The Catcher in the Rye

if you haven't. It's very realistic and interesting.

I'll bet the club that reader you mention wrote to was the Little Men, who were mentioned in ASF letter column one time, I believe. I think just any kind of notice, of one club, one fanzine, in every issue of all prozines would open the gates of fandom to many fen. It's important that it be every issue, not just once a year, as before I subscribed, I was getting only about three or four Astoundings a year, depending on when I happened to think about getting them, and other mags which I preferred I also sometimes missed. Thus readers who are as steady as it is possible to get, might still miss notices of conventions, fanzine ads, etc., if they are not often enough.

What, are you (as well as Bob Leman) talking about "Universe" as if it were a fact that it was never published in hard covers? What about The Best of SF, one of the first anthologies? Someone made this statement, apparently, and a discussion grows as to why without examining if.

Of Doc Smith's works, the "Skylark" series is almost as good as "Spacehounds" I read all of the Kinnison "Galactic Patrol" and some parts of the Lensman sequels but they didn't send me. Skylark Three was the best of the lot.

In this Other Universe Pittcon you speak of, I was there, according to the N3F, anyway.

I am really faunching for that Index to the Science Fiction Magazines, 1951-1960. What's the latest word on it? Remember, I have been a paidup customer for years now, and have a receipt from Don Day to prove it. I suppose it is in his hands now, for publication.

Yours,
Donald Franson

((In order to have room for my worldly goods I used my authority to commandeer an extra locker when I first moved in. Ever since then I've had two lockers and a dresserful plus an overflow in the attic. One of these days I'll find out just what's down in the bottom. If we ever have another inspection something will have to be done and I'm a little leary as to what. It's mostly books, uniforms and fanzines though I sometimes wonder. ## I blush to not have recalled "Universe" as having appeared in The Best of SF. I remember he had "Solution Unsatisfactory", "Goldfish Bowl" and "Blowups Happen" in it but apparently they weren't enough for Conklin. ## As for the Index Day should have received all the cards by now though I haven't heard anything from him. (That doesn't prove anything, years can go by without hearing from Day and suddenly he wants the Index expanded.))

Having a little space left over and a slight inclination to continue the tradition set forth by John Roles in OMPA I'll list the books acquired since last issue:

Eric Temple Bell - ~~Gr~~ G.F.666 - Green Fire - The Iron Star
M.L. A. Gompertz - The Voice of Dashin
Talbot Mundy - Her Reputation - The Thunder Dragon Gate
Morton Cohen - Rider Haggard
Alexander Klein - The Counterfeit Traitor
Dudley Pope - 73 North

Terence Robertson - Channel Dash
Bruce Catton - This Hallowed Ground

John Dickson Carr - The Devil In Velvet - Fire, Burn - Scandal at High Chimneys
Ray Cummings - The Man Who Mastered Time
Thomas B. Costain - The Darkness and the Dawn
Vardis Fisher - The Golden Rooms - The Divine Passion - Dark Bridwell - We Are Be-
trayed
E. M. Forster - A Passage To India
Steve Frazee - He Rode Alone
Dashiehl Hammett - The Maltese Falcon - Red Harvest
Evan Hunter - Tomorrow and Tomorrow
Jack London - Burning Daylight
Alistair Maclean - The Guns of Navarone
Nevil Shute Norway - In the Wet
Rafael Sabatini - Scaramouche
Samuel Shellabarger - Lord Vanity
E. L. Voynich - The Gadfly
Arthur Sarsfield Ward - The Insidious Dr. Fu Manchu
P. C. Wren - Beau Geste

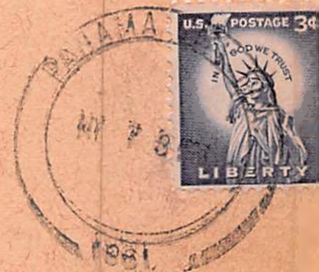
Most of these were given to me by a buddy when he shipped out and they were selected from a sack full he was going to throw away. So one of these days I'll catch up on my reading, say about 20,000 AD.

Deadline for the next issue is 1 Jul 61 unless I'm taking over the Shadow mlg's in which case it's 15 Jul 61. You, you and you are hereby warned.

Idle Hands #4 from
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The Lurking Shadow #2 (Hansen): You must not have a low opinion of anyone in the FAPA. Looking over the list in the November FA, I can find at least eight people whom I'd not mind seeing out of the club. The fact that this is exactly how many people who would have to drop out to allow me to get in is beside the point...it just turned out that way.

Though I have nothing in particular to add, I must say I dug deeply and agreed with your comments on capital punishment and the like, directed to Elinor Busby.

erethere'sharmonysowhenwecelebratetheendofwarinragtimebesurethatwoodrowwilsonleads

Spinnaker Reach #3 (Chauvenet): I wish in the future, rather than publishing a loose page with a mailing listing and wrapper, you would add an extra page to SR and put the wrapper on the back of this. As it is, now I have to include that for all purposes useless sheet in with this mailing when I get around to filing it away somewhere.

I believe that very shortly, possibly in the SHAPA mailing in which this sees print, there will be at least a temporary increase in the size of these mailings. I know of at least one person who has been reported to be preparing a magazine for the Shadow Mailing just to get his credentials, so that he can stay on the FAPA waiting list.

Well, of course, the Fanzine Hall of Fame would include early efforts such as Le Zombie, The Fantasy Fan, The Fantasite, and much etc., but there's a limit to how long one can make a sample list, you know. You could have filled up an entire page in Boggs' magazine with titles to include in that Hall of Fame and still not have come close to naming them all. Some fanzines wouldn't be included on the worthiness of their material, too; items like The Time Traveller, which are musts for inclusion, didn't have very good material at all.

theband

I can see that something is going to have to be done. I can't expect Norm to publish such a long column every time except when I am in a position to do it myself. Next time, then, I'll try to cut down things somewhat. See you then.

-- Bob Lichtman

THE ELITE CROP

The Fantasy Amateur - Officialdom

It's interesting to see that Silverberg is represented with Richard E. Nixon,

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