

.
° THE JDM BIBLIOPHILE No. 6, May 1967. (Biblio-File No. 7) Edited and °
° published by Len and June Moffatt, 9826 Paramount Blvd., Downey, Calif- °
° ornia, 90240. This is a non-profit publication devoted to the works of °
° John D. MacDonald. °
.

O U R P O L I C Y

When the circulation of an amateur magazine triples within two months' time, it would seem advisable to establish some sort of Policy, if only to clarify the situation for all of our new readers. And, as Pogo would say, "that ain't so only".

The basic question for most of you is: What must you do to remain on our mailing list?

Well, many of you have already done it. If you have sent more stamps than we have used on your copies, or more money for postage than we have spent on your copies, you will of course receive future issues--the number depending on the amount of your contribution.

If you have sent us information, you will receive future issues. If you have written a letter of comment or even a simple thank-you note, and continue to do so, you will continue to receive the magazine.

In other words, as long as you show interest, by some manner or means, we will keep your name-and-address card in our Active File. We are keeping records, because we want this magazine to go to those who are definitely interested. If you can help us with the project, so much the better.

Those of you who can't send information, comments, postage, articles, reviews, or whatever, can remain in our Active File by simply dropping us a note or a card each time you receive an issue. It's as simple as that.

We do not want to publish a subscription magazine--but we might be forced to, if the demand for copies continues to grow. The demand seems to be tapering off now; even so, we plan to print 300 copies of this issue, 250 of which are already "spoken for".

Consequently, we will stop sending copies to those who do not respond. Please remember that this is a spare-time, hobby project. We cannot afford to send copies to those who are only vaguely interested, or not interested enough to write a simple note or postcard.

So...Our Policy is simple: Hardnose--but fair. (What would you expect from a JDM fan?)

We will try to publish on a quarterly schedule. The next issue should be ready for the mails in August. The deadline for material for the next issue is July 1, 1967. If you feel that you owe us a letter of comment, or note, or card, better get it to us before that date, too.

The House Guests by John D. MacDonald, Doubleday & Co., New York, 1965
180 pages, photographs

This is not really a book review: It is difficult to write a cool, objective review of a book like this one. There is no other book like this one. It is not a MacDonald mystery type. It is non-fiction and is primarily concerned with the story of two cats that were/are part of the MacDonalds' lives for many, many years.

This story of Roger and Geoff appeals especially to cat people and JDM fans for reasons best explainable to JDM fans and cat people. There have been books and books written about cats; many of them too cute, too precious, too blah. This, of course, couldn't happen with a MacDonald book. It is a simple relating of how the cats came to live with the MacDonalds; their interaction with the family, life in the various locations in which they found themselves. It's basically that simple. And so fascinating that the 180 pages slip past all too rapidly.

It is also a veritable mine of information for the JDM buff. The legion of new McGee fans know that MacDonald has lived in Florida for a long time and is doubtless acquainted with other areas of the country. The long-time reader knows that JDM has written many stories set in Pennsylvania or upper New York. Here, as we follow the fortunes and adventures of Roger and Geoff, the scenery changes often. Initially, he relates of his early pets when he was a kid in Pennsylvania. Then, when he first met his wife-to-be at Syracuse University, she had a "cowardly black cocker spaniel". Its name was Chloe. I'm sure we've see her as "Marilyn" in The Executioners.

It was in Utica, after his discharge from the service, that they acquired Roger and Geoff, from the Mandeville Market, which may be the physical model for the Varaki Quality Market in The Neon Jungle (although I'm sure the people were quite different). It is obvious that JDM mentally photographs things, places, events, all with a lasting clarity which, at any time, he can recall and transfer onto paper with a few vivid, effective words. It is with this same clarity and immediacy that he recalls life with Geoff and Roger as they all met, coped with and experienced it together. It is often hilarious, never dull, and always entertaining. But there's more to the book than sheer entertainment. In the telling of their cohabitation on this earth, John D. MacDonald reflects often, with that same sharp profundity, flipping aside the chaff and needling a gem of a hard kernel of reality, on life and man's bumbling trail across the planet, as he does so often in the Travis McGee novels. (And he never uses a sentence like that, either!) He gives us a lot more of this observation in The House Guests. It's sort of like a fringe benefit. It just happens, along with the telling of one incident, trip, place, adventure or another.

You'll understand why he mentions Cuernavaca, Mexico, from time to time. It was also the site of his hilarious Please Write For Details. At least one early story probably originated in the setting of a lake like Piseco, where Roger and Geoff braved the forest and its denizens. For the MacDonald fan/cat people, this book has everything. Here, I've tried to give some idea of what all the JDM fans will recognize and delight in, but certainly haven't tried to impart how JDM feels about cats. Only he can do that. It has been done admirably in The House Guests. No JDM fan can afford to miss it.

--ED COX

.....

H E L P W A N T E D ! ! ! On the following pages are the final batch of "clue sheets" covering JDM stories sold to detective pulps. The Problem: As indicated, JDM knows that the stories were sold, but he does not know when or where they appeared. Those of you who have access to old mags can help by digging for this info, comparing the clue sheets to the JDM stories in ye old mags. Checking titles alone doesn't help, as we've said, for editors will change the author's title. (Not always for the better, either.) The Purpose of this story-hunt is twofold: (1) to make the checklists of JDM stories as complete as possible, and (2) to help JDM reclaim these stories for possible reprinting. -ljm

Situation: Jud Haber contracts to write a book about the decline and fall of a promising heavyweight, Dutch Jensen, who has been fished out of the river after a year of going downhill. He starts by interviewing Mrs. Jensen, a singer calling herself Stella April.

* * * * *

Author's Title: AND REST BY THE FIRE (3,800 words)

History: Written in July 1947, and rejected by Good Housekeeping, Post, Colliers, Cosmopolitan, Redbook, American Legion, Today's Woman, Esquire, Woman's Home Companion. Accepted by Harry Widmer of Popular Publications, with rewrite requested. Payment received January 1948. Magazine, date and title used are unknown.

Opening:

The stone farmhouse, set on a knoll two miles from East Scodack, New York, was tight and sound and well-insulated. It had been snowing for three days--brittle snow that the wind swept into long deep drifts.

Alton Conner pulled the last sheet of the script out of the typewriter and sorted the sheets, read them over. It would do.

Situation: Conner, a writer of radio serials, is marooned with his young wife Ellen by a blizzard. It is a bad marriage. When he goes out to shovel them out, the blizzard resumes and he finds she has locked him out.

* * * * *

Author's Title: HEAD RECKONING (11,000 words)

History: Finished in April 1951 and sold in May to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications. Probably published in one of the mystery pulps in the summer of 1951.

Opening:

They caught Michaels down in the freight yards and cut his heart out. Literally. The coroner's man said it was done very efficiently. Incision right in the solar plexus where the ribs part. Somebody know just where to reach, just how to slip their fingers around it and tear it out. It is one way to make sure a man is dead. And you either have to dislike him very intensely, or be some sort of an animal to be able to do it.

I went to see Dobe Harris. I bulled my way through the clerks and kicked the

Situation: Sam Pike, a gigantic man, the narrator, gets involved in sabotage on the docks.

* * * * *

Author's Title: CROSS HER HEART (12,500 words)

History: Finished in April 1948, sold the same month to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications and must have appeared in one the mystery pulps in the summer of 1948.

Situation: Frank Bard, wine bum, ex-cop, goes into bars with his imaginary girl, Jeanie, who was killed by a bottle-wielding drunk a year earlier. Using the Jeanie-device, he traps the man who killed her.

* * * * *

Author's Title: WINTER DEATH (3,500 words)

History: Completed in September 1948, sold in November to Harry Widmer, Popular Publications, for use in one of the mystery pulps. Date, magazine and title used are all unknown.

Opening:

He found her twenty feet from the foot of the orchard after the second day of the January thaw.

Obviously she had fallen face down in the snow and had frozen there, her body arched. He saw the fleck of color against the snow as he came around the side of the corn crib. He was a heavy man, a big wide-faced unsmiling man in his early forties.

He recognized the color of the pajamas, the red rayon pajamas she had ordered from the catalogue, the ones which had both irritated and amused him. They had amused him because, with her wide eyes and unruly hair, the shade of fresh honey, she had looked like a little girl dressed up in her mother's evening gown. They were too sophisticated for

Situation: When Sam goes to the village in a blizzard to pick up a gift for his young flighty wife, Fran, leaving her at the farm, Harry Ludon stops at the farm. To evade him, she runs out into the blizzard and freezes to death. Sam thinks she has run out on him until he finds her body after the January thaw. He uses one of Fran's sisters to trap Ludon.

* * * * *

Author's Title: THE WIDOW WASN'T MERRY (16,000 words)

History: Completed in April 1948 and sold the same month to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications, for use in one of the mystery pulps. Date, name of magazine and title used are unavailable.

Opening:

She gave the crowded tables at the Morses Club a hard and insolent stare as she walked out to the mike. Her walk itself was the flaunting of a studied insult.

Juder Haber remained unimpressed until the overhead lights faded, and a baby spot outlined her against the shadows of the bandstand.

Then he found that his breath came a little faster. Stella April, she called herself. Actually, it was Stella Jensen. Before that, it had been Stella Marazek. Back in the days before Dutch Jensen.

Jud Haber, seated at the ridiculously small table, tried to regain his objectivity by inspecting each feature in turn. Her face was slightly broad, with heavy cheekbones, eyes of grey-green with a faint oriental tilt, a full, passionate pendulant underlip, jet black

Situation: Dr. Andre Spence, on the staff at Meadowbrook Retreat, having fallen in love with a nurse named Marianna Parnal, sets about to kill his old wife by first giving her a thorough physical and finding out what her weakest point is, and then giving her that medication which will enhance the ailment. Myra dies of congestive heart disease, and when the nurse figures out how he managed it and accuses him, he sets her up for a lobotomy to cure an imaginary mental disease.

* * * * *

Author's Title: MAKE MINE NURDER (10,500 words)

History: Written in December 1948 and sold in February 1949 to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications for use in one of the mystery pulps a few months later, possibly under the same title.

Opening:

To get around the rocky point he waded out to where the surf, smashing softly against his legs, dashed spray up onto his bare shoulders. The noon sun of the Mississippi Gulf Coast bit hard into his deeply tanned skin. Once around the point he moved back up to dry sand, hot against the toughened soles of his bare feet.

A hundred yards ahead he saw the long concrete pier of the Chez Shirley, standing tall above the reach of the storms, saw the tiny basin beside it, the

Situation: Stephen Archer, out after 5 years in a military hospital for head injuries, cons his way into the employ of Gerry Logun who operates the Chez Shirley on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a gambling setup, seeking to avenge Johnny Jermane who had the next bed to him in the hospital ward.

* * * * *

Author's Title: YOU REMEMBER JEANIE (3,900 words)

History: Completed July 1947, rejected in September by Alden Norton for Popular Publications, accepted in September by Robert Lowndes of Columbia Publications, for payment on publication. Received payment February 1, 1948-- All Rights. Exact issue, name of magazine, title used are all unknown.

Opening:

For many years Bay Street was the place. Bar whisky for eight cents a shot or a double slug for fifteen. Waterfront street. The dirty gray waves slapped at the crusted piles and left an oil scum. A street to forget with. A street which could close in on you, day to day, night to night, until you maybe ran into an old friend who slipped you a five, and somebody saw you get it and at dawn an interne from city hospital would shove your eyelid up with a clean, pink thumb. "Icebox meat," he'd say. "Mergue bait". And maybe, as he stood up, he'd look down at your hollow gray face and the sharp bones of your wrists and wonder how you'd kept alive so long. So very long.

But something happened to Bay Street. It acquired glamor. Reading the trend,

Opening:

It was a big pale pink piano with a honky-tonk tone that sounded as though a sheet of tissue paper had been laid across the strings under the propped-up lid.

Molly finished a number and kneaded the fingers of her left hand as she gave the cash customers a dead-pan mechanical smile. This joint--this Raron's Cave--was lighted like a sepulchre. It was small, long, narrow--about fifty by twenty and the piano was at the far end from the door, back where the tiny tables were jammed close together. Heavy smoke and alcoholic conversations and waiters casting vast shadows when they cut the beam of the tiny spot that was focused on Molly's face and her bare white shoulders above the strapless gold lame gown.

Situation: Molly Maine, a pianist who got into trouble in New York has been playing the sticks for years under the name of Molly Marvin. When a politician recognizes her and trouble starts, a clown-faced detective named Burgan takes over and solves her problems for her.

* * * * *

Author's Title: PORTRAIT OF A MURDERESS (6,500 words)

History: Completed in June 1948 and sold to Fiction House for payment on publication. Received payment in April 1949. Title of magazine, date of publication and title used are all unknown.

Opening:

During the roar of the early Manhattan evening, the corpse in the suite in the midtown hotel had been very still--as is expected of corpses. Long after the heart stopped, tiny cells continued to live, dying at last of oxygen starvation. When the last of the cells was dead, it was after midnight. The heels of the polished shoes were on the neutral colored rug. The hips, shoulders, back of the head rested on the hardwood floor, the head nearest the window. The room was dark, and through the long darkness of the night a high advertising sign two hundred feet from the window clicked on and off, casting a faint gleam--sporadic on the dead face and the open eyes.

Situation: A thrice-married womanizer named Arnold Donavan goes on the prowl for a handsome slovak girl named Ingra Dvorek, who is in New York hunting for Doctor Lehar, an escaped Nazi war criminal. She finds him through Artur Karril, an old friend, and kills him.

* * * * *

Author's Title: MURDER IS A SURGEON (10,200 words)

(NOTE: This story has been identified--see note at end of Clue Sheets)

History: Finished in April 1948 and sold in May to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications for use in one of the mystery pulps. Magazine, date of issue and title used are unknown.

Opening:

Four miles from the outskirts of the bustling little industrial city of Denton, the gentle folds of the green hills so successfully enclose the quiet walls of Meadowbrook Retreat that passengers in the hurrying automobiles on Route 71 catch but a fragmentary glimpse of an ivy-clad tower.

Sometimes the small children of the neighboring farms creep close to the

Author's Title: MURDER IN MIND (2,100 words)

History: Completed in October 1946, rejected by Street & Smith, purchased by Margolies of Standard Magazines in February, 1947. Magazine, issue and title used are unknown.

Opening:

She was a plump blonde and she lay dead in the trail on her back. There were streaks of drying mud on the pushed up right sleeve of her pale yellow sweater. There was more mud on her white, freckled right arm. Death had flattened her body to the ground. Her tweed skirt was pushed up halfway between knee and hip. Her heels rested in the mud and her brown sandals toed in.

The black trees, stripped naked by autumn, stood high around her and the chill wind off the lake hurried the dry brown leaves across the trail. A leaf had stuck to her hair over the right temple, where the hair was sticky with new blood.

I would have guessed that when she was alive, she was pretty and vivacious. It's always hard to tell. Her lids were half closed, showing a semicircle of glazed bright

Situation: Narrator, Joe, is a state cop helping investigate the murder of a Mrs. Pennison at an Adirondack lake in November, apparently done by husband who has extracted most of the powder from a rifle shell, reassembled it, killed her at close range to create same kind of result.

* * * * *

Author's Title: MURDER FOR MONEY (15,000 words)

History: Completed in September 1951 and sold in October to Mike Tilden of Popular Publications for use in one of the PP mystery pulps. Magazine, issue and title used are all unknown.

Opening:

Long ago he had given up trying to estimate what he would find in any house merely by looking at the outside of it. The interior of each house had a special flavor. It was not so much the result of the degree of tidiness, or lack of it, but rather the result of the emotional climate that had permeated the house. Anger, bitterness, despair--all left their subtle stains on even the most immaculate

Situation: Darrigan, insurance investigator, flies down to Florida to check into the unexpected death of a Temple Davisson who had \$300,000 in life insurance.

* * * * *

Author's Title: A MURDER FOR MOLLY (9,800 words)

History: Completed in February 1950, sold in April to Mike Tilden at Popular Publications for use in one of the mystery pulps. Magazine, issue, and title used are unknown.

Author's Title: GUN IN HIS HAND (14,500 words)

History: Completed in July 1951 and sold to Mike Tilden, Popular Publications, in August for use in one of the mystery pulps. Magazine, date of issue and title used are all unknown.

Opening:

Voices that seemed to come down long tunnels, metallic, echoing. "Watch it!" "Get his feet!" When he was a kid they had put in new pipe under the road. They got on either side and shouted to each other, whispered to each other.

"I told you to watch his feet!"

Thud, bump, grunt, strain. Carried like a kid, like a corpse. Wounded? No, the war was long over. Drunk? Maybe. Wetness against his face for a moment. Rain. Night rain, and a streetlight gleam that stabbed his eyes. He tried to tell them to let him down, let him rest.

Situation: Barker, a milkman, is forced, after having been beaten semi-conscious, to hold a gun and shoot a man coming down the stairs in an apartment house on his route. But he is much less of a patsy than the assassins take him for.

* * * * *

Author's Title: THE GENTLE KILLER (4,400 words)

History: Completed in August 1947, rejected in August by Fiction House, accepted in September by Bob Lowndes of Columbia Publications for use in one of their mystery pulps. Magazine, date, and title used are unknown.

Opening:

We had hacked up the Cleveland purse, the short end of it, and a week later, after bailing out the convertible and paying the back alimony to Myrna, the leech, and catching up on my rent and adding a few necessary numbers to the wardrobe, I was down to a slim fifty bucks and the next bout for the Tailor set up for three weeks ahead, and my other bum, Joe Zamatchi, eating off me while his busted hand knitted.

As a direct consequence, I was giving the Beach the jaunty "hello" and making like I had an in on the sweepstakes which is standard procedure when you feel the wolf fangs, but usually fools nobody at all, at all. Everytime I thought of the fifty bucks it seemed smaller, and it seemed like every time I turned around there was fat Farney Gowdy clinging to my lapels and breathing in my face, indirectly

Situation: Danny, the narrator, manages fighters, and is conned into giving away a percentage of a good one to acquire a percentage of a very good one who, however, has a temper so murderous he cannot be controlled.

* * * * *

Opening:

She walked slowly, because walking is easier than standing, and attracts less attention.

Slowly from the Astor Bar entrance up the few short blocks to Lindy's and back. In the heart of the tourist crush. In the granular slush of December, by the corners where the lean scarecrow Santas warmed their fingers in their armpits and jangled the tired bells while the change dropped into wire-covered pots. Across the wet and sodden debris of cigar butts, gum wrappers, empty cigarette packs--

Situation: Al Barnard, after a successful armed robbery, uses a dumb innocent adoring girlfriend to transport the cash to Florida and wait there for him under another name, watching the Daytona paper for a blind ad she can answer and thus get in touch with him.

* * * * *

Author's Title: ANGEL OF DEATH (11,200 words)

History: Completed in November 1947, rejected in November by Alden Norton and Ken White of Popular Publications, purchased in December by Harry Widmer of Popular Publications for one of the books he was editing at that time, and must have appeared during the first quarter of 1948.

Opening:

The Castle Club was a nighttime place. At night it was raw and loud and brazen, with the colored neon painting lurid highlights on the hoods of the big cars that nuzzled up to it. Smoky music and bare shoulders and false bottoms in the shot glasses. At night Sam Losser's office was as strange as canvas work gloves on a chorine. It could have been the office of a hick lawyer. Golden oak and worn green carpet and a spittoon.

But in the daytime when the Castle Club was grey and dingy, when the tables

Situation: Ellen, the narrator, tries to help her brother, Johnny James, who is supposed to have killed someone in a robbery planned by his employer, Sam Losser.

* * * * *

Author's Title: THE GIRL WHO WANTED MONEY (20,000 words)

History: Completed in January 1951, sold to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications in March, and must have appeared in one of their detective pulps sometime within the next few months.

Opening:

Somebody had made a bad guess about the direction in which the city was going to expand. When I found the place, after ten o'clock on a hot August night, it turned out to be a duplex on a corner lot. There were lights in one half of it. The street light was just strong enough to disclose cracks in the pale stucco walls, some broken roof tiles. The neighboring lots were full of tall grass and noisy bugs. The asphalt had been laid thin, and it hadn't worn well. The nearest house was in the next block, and down the line there was a cluster of houses and some green neon saying GRILL.

Situation: Dib Hutcheon, narrator, goes to help the wife and sister of an old friend, Cal Barlow, after Cal has been murdered by his accountant, a man named Michaels.

* * * * *

Author's Title: DEADLY DAMSEL (13,400 words)

History: Completed in May 1948, and sold in June to Harry Widmer of Popular Publications for use in SHOCK MAGAZINE, and probably appeared in one of the autumn issues in 1948.

Opening:

When she had awakened that morning, she had looked at Howard in the other bed. His slack mouth was open, there was a stubble of beard on his chin and he was puffy under the eyes. It was at that moment that she realized she was bored.

Howard Goodkin bored her and so did the little city of Wanderloo, Ohio. As had happened so many times before, the plot and lines and scenery failed to wear well.

When he came down to breakfast she kissed him warmly, smiled up into his eyes and wondered if he should be buried in the blue suit or the grey one.

Situation: Psycho woman, slayer of 14 husbands, assumes new identity and goes to Florida, where she becomes interested in a younger man interested in a young girl.

* * * * *

NOTE: MURDER IS A SURGEON (author's title listed at bottom of page III) has been identified by Mike Wharton as:

DIME DETECTIVE

December 1948 No Grave Has My Love 10,200 JDM

(This was the cover story for that issue.)

* * * * *

Mike also identified two of the stories listed in the Clue Sheets of JDMB #5:

DETECTIVE TALES

September 1949 Poor Little Rich Corpse 16,000 JDM
(Ask For A Murder - p. 5 JDMB5) Lead story and cover story.

F.B.I. DETECTIVE

February 1939 A Coffin A Day 14,800 JDM
(Death's Agent - p. 9 JDMB5) Lead story and cover story.

* * * * *

WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL LISTINGS FROM MIKE AND OTHERS IN FUTURE ISSUES. -ljm

Please Write For Details

The Readers Write...

...((The Editors Reply - ljm & jmm))

Yes, this is a letter column cum editorial comment, and we do have Mr. MacDonald's permission to name it after one of his novels. We had considered "Nightmare in INK" because of the deluge of letters and cards that arrived, thanks to Tony Boucher's plugs in The New York Times, in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and on FM radio.

However, although we were kept rather busy for a while, catching up on all of the requests, it really wasn't a "nightmare" for us. After all, we had sent review copies of JDMB to Tony in hopes of increasing the mag's circulation.

The first five issues of JDMB were distributed in FAPA mailings, with a few extra copies going to interested persons who weren't FAPA members. FAPA is the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, and its members are primarily fans of science fiction and fantasy fiction.

This--and future--issues of JDMB will be distributed as a genzine (general circulation magazine) rather than as an apazine (amateur press association magazine). FAPA members who want to continue to receive JDMB must write directly to us for it.

At this writing we have received well over 200 requests for the mag. And, many of you have written again...comments...requests for future issues...information re missing titles...questions...etc. Please keep writing for (or with) details!

Only five of you wrote regarding the Alphabetizing Problem. Four favor the "standard" or "library" system. Two suggested we list the novels in chronological order. Actually, we did this in the first issue, and we will again, at some future date. In the meantime, see June's article in this issue.

Those of you who have requested biographical information about John D. MacDonald will have to be patient with us. We have some material (forwarded by JDM) which we hope to work into a biographical sketch for a future issue. It would be even better to have an autobiographical piece from the author himself, but as you can imagine, he is a rather busy man. Lately, he has been attending the second Coppolino trial; come next year we'll have a new book title to add to our index...

We wish we had the time (and space) to thank each of you, individually, for your wonderful response to our efforts. We do want to give our special thanks to Ed Cox, Bill Clark, Jack Cuthbert, Tom Powers, Mike Wharton and Robert G. Hayman, who supplied information on titles, magazine appearances, etc. Our thanks too to those who sent info we already have, but haven't had a chance to publish--yet. Which, more or less, leads us to...

Our Publishing Plan: This issue finishes up the clue sheets on the JDM stories that were sold to various detective pulp mags. Future issues will feature checklists of JDM stories in slick magazines, sport magazines, etc. Then, we want to list anthologies (detective and s-f) in which JDM stories have appeared. Then, there are the overseas or foreign editions of JDM novels, etc.

PLEASE WRITE FOR DETAILS *2*

When we have compiled all of the information we can, aided and abetted by our helpful readers, we hope to publish--in one fat edition--all of the checklists of all the JDM material ever published. As for JDMB itself, we will continue to publish it too--as long as we have reader response. Reader response includes not only letters of comment, but articles and reviews--so the future of this magazine depends on you.

Before getting into a sampling of your letters, we want to answer a couple of questions, or correct some mistaken impressions expressed by a couple of our readers.

First of all, John D. MacDonald does live in Florida. Secondly, he is not Ross MacDonald (or vice versa). Neither is he Donald Hamilton. John D. MacDonald is his real, legal name..

We aren't exactly TV buffs, so we have missed seeing the television versions of JDM stories mentioned by a couple of readers. We aren't familiar with movies based on JDM stories, either. Those of you who are familiar with the TV and movie versions of JDM stories are welcome to write something about them for these pages. We'd like to read about them ourselves, and are sure that others would, too.

And now, let's quote some of those letters...

GEORGE E. BERRYMAN, Washington, D.C.: Yesterday I picked up...a used copy of JDM's "A Flash of Green", a Crest Book reprint inscribed "First Crest printing Nov. 1963". I note that you do not list this reprint of the Simon & Schuster 1962 edition in your (checklist) of the Novels. I hope I am bringing new facts to light, and this was not simply an oversight on your part.

((Not exactly an oversight. We have the Crest reprint in our own collection. However, the list of Novels originally came from Mr. MacDonald, and I think listed only the first editions, plus the reprints extant at the time he made up the original list. We have attempted to update the checklist, but only by adding new titles. In other words, we have added on the first editions that have come out in the last couple of years, but have not attempted to cover all of the reprint editions. Ultimately, we may do this--with help from you all. -ljm))

DAVE STAMPFLI, Carrollton Democrat, Carrollton, Mo.: I particularly enjoyed June's comments on Death and JDM, and fully concur with her view of Nora Gardino being an "unnecessary corpse". If I may, I'd like to add three other gals to the list: Betty Dawson in "The Only Girl In The Game", Helen Wister in "The End Of The Night" and Paula Lettinger in "On The Run". Perhaps I let myself become too emotionally involved in Mr. M's vivid characterizations, but I think it's unfair of him to start mending broken birds only to push them out of the nest to an untimely death. Of course, I'll have to admit that he gave Barbara Heddon a second chance in "Judge Me Not", which helps even the score a little.

I'm afraid I missed JDM's short story era of the late 40's and early 50's, but if I should run across any of your clues, I will certainly pass the info along. One can only hope that perhaps Fawcett will be able to resissue some of these earlier tales as they did in "The End of The Tiger".

((Are you listening, Mr. Burger? -ljm))

LAWRENCE MAROUI, Newburyport, Mass.: You may not know about the magazine piece in Mike Shayne's Mystery Magazine, but the Nov. '65 issue carries a novellette, "The Case of the Gorgeous Gams", which may be a trial balloon for The Last One Left.

((The Case of The Gorgeous Gams sounds like an Earl Stanley Gardner title, but then editors are well-known for their penchant for title changing. That's what makes it so difficult to track down the stories listed in the clue sheets. The title used in the magazine may be a far cry from the author's working title, which is why Mr. MacDonald has also given us the first paragraph and Situation to aid in locating the story.

In this particular case, The Case of the Gorgeous Gams appeared originally in the October, 1951 issue of Detective Tales, which makes it about 15 years too early to be related more than distantly to The Last One Left. -ljm & jmm))

MONTE DAVIS, Princeton, N.J.: Assuming you are more or less familiar with Robert A. Heinlein, have you noticed the same gift in his work and JDM's? ...the same gift for tremendous characterization in a few words, vivid description, and a pleasantly cynical outlook. If I were more suspicious, and had not seen photos of both men, I would begin to wonder. One of Heinlein's pseudonyms was Anson MacDonald, after all...

((Photos can lie; however, JDM and RAH are two different men. JDM is an admirer of RAH, though, and could be vice versa. Both men have been in the writing field for more than 20 years, both wrote for the pulps, both learned their business by working at it, and I'm sure by reading a lot, too. If I'm not mistaken, the "A" in RAH is for Anson, and MacDonald was Heinlein's first wife's maiden name. -ljm))

CHARLES L. HOYT, Amherst, Mass.: Have there been any film-adaptations other than CAPE FEAR (J. Lee Thompson; 1962) with Robert Mitchum, Gregory Peck, Polly Bergen and Martin Balsam; or DEATH TRAP (Edmond O'Brien; 1962) with Jeffrey Hunter, David Janssen and Stella Stevens? I'd like to research it myself, but the library facilities here are very limited. I would even be tempted to do my Master's thesis on MacDonald if they'd let me, although that, I must admit, is a rather uncomfortable compliment for most writers who would be much happier just left alone; and I, for one, would happily discourage any MacDonald vogue. For example, I'd hate to see Mattell Toy Co. offer a replica of The Busted Flush, even if it would bring Mr. MacDonald considerable wealth.

((We print the questions. We don't always have the answers. We hope other readers do have answers. MacDonald himself could probably answer this one; again, it's a matter of having the time. -ljm))

CLARENCE G. (Pete) PETERSON, Elk Grove Village, Illinois: I write the weekly paperback column for the Chicago Tribune and thru it have become the inadvertent but entirely willing unofficial chairman of the John D. MacDonald fan club in Chicago and suburbs. I even know John, and pretty well, too, a friendship which began right after the first McGees came out and I said something entirely loutish about them in the column. This inspired John to set forth a blistering epistle which in turn got a correspondence started that quickly turned friendly. Last summer when I was down there on vacation, I had lunch with him twice...and went out to his house with my family, there to be served Tuborg by his delightful spouse, Dorothy and to be nipped at rudely by his Goddam goose.

PLEASE WRITE FOR DETAILS *4*

I have written (so much) about him that my editors have begun to suspect that I'm on his payroll, which I'm not unless you count the Tuborg, and a couple of books he's sent me.

((We wish we had space to quote all of Pete's letter. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Pete would write an article on JDM for our mag? We can pay only in ego-boo, though if he ever visited the LA area, we'd be happy to supply some Tuborg, and make like tourist guides. -ljm & jmm))

PAUL KNIEPP, New York City: When Hollywood finally gets around to it, you can count on my support in the battle to keep Troy Donahue from playing Travis McGee.

((Hear, hear! See Press Release on the back page. -ljm & jmm))

PROFESSOR ANDREW HACKER, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.: Examination Question: Compare and contrast the fiction of:

- (a) Philip MacDonald
- (b) Ross MacDonald
- (c) John D. MacDonald

((We would be happy to publish our readers' answers to this "examination". -ljm))

ALAN APPELBAUM, New York City: I am delighted to know that there are so many "Busted Flush Irregulars".

W. L. ROHDE, Saugerties, N.Y.: Always enjoy JDM's work...although occasionally get the feeling (do you?) that he's going over the same route again. Enclosed postage... also a quarter for handling...if you don't charge, buy a beer.

((Thanks for the beer, Mr. Rohde. All prolific writers are bound to repeat themselves on occasion. Not all are always enjoyable, however. -ljm))

WENDELL V. HOWARD, 333 Wyoming SE, Albuquerque, N.M. 87112 has collected 43 of the JDM books, and wants to complete his collection. His Want List: Ballroom of the Skies, Border Town Girl, Contrary Pleasure, I Could Go On Singing, Planet of the Dreamers (Wine of the Dreamers), The Crossroads, The Empty Trap, The House Guests, The Last One Left, The Lethal Sex and Weep For Me.

The Last One Left is currently available in hardcover, and The Empty Trap was recently reprinted in paperback. Contact Mr. Howard at the above address if you want to swap or sell the titles he is missing. We hadn't planned on running a swap dept. or Want List column, but if it becomes necessary, we will. Come to think of it, we should publish our own Want List, though it is fun to seek them out in dusty old bookstores. However, Mr. Howard may find it easier to do his bookhunting by mail.

And that's just a sampling of the letters received to date. Several readers would like to see checklists and other info on other writers, such as John Creasey, Agatha Christie, Leslie Charteris, Ross MacDonald, Donald Hamilton, Carter Brown and no doubt others... If any of you can supply said info, let us know, and we'll print your name and address so that interested readers may contact you directly.

We are capable of only one Great Checklist Project at a time, but we are willing to use some of our space for the exchange of information in the mystery field in general.

Again, our thanks to all of you for your help and information.

Good Reading! -ljm & jmm

When I was a small child in short skirts, I didn't think that someday I would become the wife of an Amateur Scholar. Indeed, this was the furthestest possible thought from my young mind. My young mind was occupied with more immediate problems--such as, did the wolf really eat up Red Riding Hood and grandmere?

Yet, in the reading of Red Riding Hood, the Three Billy Goats Gruff, etc., I was laying the groundwork which would in future years enable me to embroil my Amateur Scholar husband in a Ferocious Controversy. My favorite set of books at approximately age six was the six-volume My Bookhouse. Book One, for those whose childhoods were deprived, is mainly nursery rhymes and tales. In Book Two, we get into the meatier tales--Snow White and Rose Red, The Twelve Dancing Princesses, the Highly Moralistic tale of The Pony Engine and the Pacific Express, Master of All Masters--to name only a few.

Naturally, I had favorites among all of these. Obliginglly, the Table of Contents was compiled in the form of an alphabetical index--which I thought was very nice--until I began looking for a favorite title--The Battle of the Firefly and the Apes, let us say. The title begins with "The". I looked under "The". I not only did not find the title I was looking for, I did not find ANYTHING beginning with "The". I felt downtrodden and betrayed. I KNEW it was there--where were they hiding it?

Eventually I found it, by going down the index, and there it was--listed as Battle of the Firefly and the Apes, THE. What a dirty trick, I thought. Almost as bad as indices which do not list First Lines. Eventually, I comprehended the fact that these Eviol Editors always list titles this way. I went along with the gag, because there wasn't anything else to do about it, but a Resolution Was Born. Someday--ah, someday!

So, there is the answer to Why The Titles Are Listed That Way in the JDM Novel List. It was the Trauma of my Early Years cropping out. And, like the Gentleman he is, my Amateur Scholar husband stood between me and the slings and arrows of outraged Fortune--pretending it was all his own idea. (He keeps the JDM Novels alphabetized on our bookshelf according to the system that Everybody seems to think is correct.)

* * * * *

Len has mentioned Response as being the key to remaining on our mailing list. This response takes interesting form, at times. Not too long ago, we received a request from Harald Mogensen of Kopenhagen, Danmark. He sent "international reply coupons" in lieu of stamps, which, to our rather provincial surprise, our local post office accepted with easy Continental sophistication. (Our local postmaster seems to be on the calm side anyway--when we were mailing out JDMBs in the most hectic period, we took about 76 be-enveloped JDMBs and placed them on his counter, half expecting to be told to take our business elsewhere. All he said was "All ready to go?" We replied in the affirmative, and he swept them easily into a large canvas sack that hung from a rack next to him.)

The JDMB to Mr. Mogensen was, of course, airmailed. We have had some experience with the 6 to 8 weeks required for surface mail. The other day, we received our response from him. Two paper-bound booklets, one for 1965 and one for 1966, of a club named after Edgar Allan Whatsisname and printed almost completely in Danish! Now, in spite of having been born to the name of Poulsen, I neither read, write, speak nor understand Danish (which my grandfather would no doubt find disgraceful).

In the upper right-hand corner of the cover of each of these booklets is the word "Årbog", with the date beneath. (Årbog? Abrog and Gorba are one and the same--a prophet and wizard wrapped up in one name! --but I digress...) The word (or words) "Poe-Klubben" appear next, and in the lower right-hand corner is the word "Spektrum".

Since about all we can do is guess, we will guess that "Årbog" means "yearbook" or something similar. Inside, there is a page titled "Indholdsfortegnelse" which apparently means "Table of Contents". (Mr. Mogensen may well reply ((and I wish he would)) with an account of the fun and games he went through to learn English--but at least he had a teacher and/or textbook at hand!)

It is in the perusal of the tables of contents of these two booklets that the real frustration begins. A few samples may suffice to give you an idea of this:

Jorgen Elgstrom: Vad hande 1964?

Jens Kruuse: Hvorfor Maigret er stor og tyk

Annelise Schønnemann: Josephine Tey, en omvurdering

Julian Symons: Detektivens fremtid

John Dickson Carr: Det fornemste spil i verden (med en introduktion)

Harald Mogensen: Eksperimenter med hjørnestene

Henrik V. Ringsted: Edgar Allan Poe og filmen

Kaj Engholm: Baker Street Mysteriet

Jan Broberg: Samtal med Margery Allingham

George Orwell: Raffles og Miss Blandish

And so on. There is just enough English--or words similar to it, to make the frustration complete. What about Josephine Tey--one of my favorite authors? The "Baker Street Mysteriet" was a little better--it turned out to be in comic-strip form.

It opens--if I interpret correctly--on a cold November afternoon in 1895. Watson is promptly hit on the head with a brick which has been tossed through a window, note attached. Holmes and Watson hurry down the stairs and into a hansom-cab. There follows a pictorial reference to The Adventure of the Six Napoleons, then Watson plunges abruptly into liquid ground of some sort, with the legend: "Holmes! The Grimpen Moor!" (The use of the word "the" in this sentence leads me to believe that the whole sentence may be in English, whereupon I would point out that it was the Grimpen Mire in The Hound of the Baskervilles. The moor was a different kettle of fish entirely.) (It isn't often you get to nitpick at something in a furrin language.)

Then, we see Miss Violet Smith, pedaling calmly along as she did in The Adventure of The Solitary Cyclist. Next, Watson spies The Dancing Men, scrawled upon a milepost. Immediately thereafter, we see Silver Blaze and The Creeping Man, followed in the next panel by a reference to Blessington Hall (?) and what is no doubt a hilarious remark at the bottom of the page. The last page of our story shows that Danish dogs bark "vov-vov" instead of "bow-wow".

On the way home, Watson again plunges into the mire, to the accompaniment of a dry remark from Holmes: "Pas nu på det mudderhul, Watson!" They return to their Baker Street lodgings and find it ransacked, whereupon Holmes' calm deserts him and he tells Watson to call the police.

A delight--or it would be, if I could understand all of it instead of just a word here and there!

OUR THANKS TO BILL CLARK,

A REAL BIBLIOPHILIC DETECTIVE,

who supplied the following information:

	Author's Title	Mag	Date	Published Title
JDMB 3:				
p. 6	Death in Small Letters	?		
JDMB 4:				
p. 5	Paint in Her Hair	DD	1946 Oct.	Female of the Specie
	Death For Sale	DD	1947 Nov.	My Mission is Murder
6	Stake Out A Lamb	DD	1949 Mar.	I'll Drown You in My Dreams
	His Way To Die	DD	1949 Apr.	The Corpse Belongs To Daddy
7	State Police Report That...	DD	1949 May	You'll Never Escape
	Body of An Unhappy Wife	EM	1949 May	Murder In One Syllable
8	Survivor	DD	1949 Sep.	Mad About Murder -"Scott O'Hara"
	Glint of Silver	DD	1949 June	Too Many Sinners
	Unmarried Widow	DD	1949 July	A Corpse-Maker Goes Courting
9	Sellout	FBI	1949 Oct.	Warrant For An Old Flame
	Death For Three	DD	1949 Sep.	Murder Run-Around
10	An Arrow For My Love	DD	1949 Oct.	Target For Tonight
	The Durable Corpse	DD	1949 Nov.	Same
11	Check Out At Dawn	DT	1950 May	Night Watch -"Scott O'Hara" (See JDMB 4, page 3)
	The Affair of the Dancer's Body	DD	1950 May	Yes Sir, That's My Slay-Babe!
	Murder Is A Floor Show	DD	1950 Sep.	Exit Smiling
12	Death Runs In The Family	DD	1951 Aug.	Same
	Terror In The Town	DD	1952 Apr.	The Man From Limbo
JDMB 5:				
p. 4	Dry Cell Murder	?	(Maybe Sep./Oct./Nov./Dec. 1947?)	
	Handmade Murder	DT	1949 July	Swing-Time Sucker
5	Bluedeath For My Lady	DT	1949 Oct.	Blue Stars For A Dead Lady
	Thumb Game	DT	1949 Aug.	What Makes Sammy Laugh?
	Ask For A Murder	DT	1949 Sep.	Poor Little Rich Corpse!
6	A Knife For Katrina	DT	1950 Apr.	The Sitting Duck
	Unbroken	?	(Maybe DT, Dec. 1950?)	
7	Killer Cop	ND	1950 Jan.	Stop, Look--and Die!
	Fall Guy	ND	1950 Mar.	Same
8	Death Writes The Answer	ND	1950 May	This One Will Kill You
	Because My Love is Dead	ND	1948 Jan.	Come Die With Me!
	Vote For Murder	ND	1948 Mar.	One Vote For Murder
9	Help Me Find Judy	?		
	Death's Agent	FBI	1949 Feb.	A Coffin A Day
10	All The Money In The World	FBI	1951 July	Death Takes the High Road
	The Dear and The Dead	?		
11	Even Up The Odds	?		
	Veil of Terror	?		

Note: For those who did not receive the JDMBs in which these clue sheets were listed, we append the following key:

DD = Dime Detective EM = Black Mask DT = Detective Tales ND = New Detective
FBI = FBI Detective

PRESS RELEASE - May 15, 1967

Director Franklin Schaffner and producers Jack Reeves and Walter Seltzer have formed Major Pictures Corp., with headquarters in Hollywood and in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for the purpose of producing a series of theatrical motion pictures based on John D. MacDonald's celebrated "avenging investigator" Travis McGee. The company has acquired rights to nine McGee novels with a combined circulation of fourteen and a half million copies.

Focal point of the romantic adventure stories is a houseboat anchored at Florida's famed yacht harbor, Bahia Mar. MacDonald's suave hero has become one of detective fiction's most popular practitioners, with publication agreements now in effect in 32 countries throughout the world.

Schaffner, currently readying "Planet of the Apes" with Charlton Heston at 20th, and Seltzer who has just completed "Will Penny" in association with Fred Engel and Tom Gries at Paramount, will respectively direct and produce. Reeves will be executive producer. Negotiations for distribution by a major company are now in progress, with production on the first project contemplated for early 1968.

MacDonald will act as consultant on the preparation of screenplay for the initial film. He has, for the past twelve months, been engaged in a day-by-day study of the Dr. Coppolino trials as the basis of his forthcoming book. His current best seller, "The Last One Left", was recently acquired by United Artists.

Len and June Moffatt
9826 Paramount Blvd.
Downey, Calif. 90240

PRINTED MATTER

TO:

Karen Anderson
3 Las Palomas
Orinda, Calif. 94563



RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED