



# LARK



Published by Bill Danner, R. D. 1, Kennerdell, Pa., for FAPA 91.



## FREE!



SUN.  
SUN.  
MON.  
MON.  
TUES.  
TUES.  
WED.  
WED.  
THUR.  
THUR.  
FRI.  
FRI.  
SAT.  
SAT.





Here we go testing again. For those of you who may have wondered why I do it let me say that if I could get the sort of results our Gestetnerographers do so consistently I wouldn't bother. But, now that I have at last remedied the trouble in the old C&P press, as evidenced by the last Stef, I can't be satisfied until I achieve with the #77 results that at least approach Gestetner work.

This stencil is being cut with Saranwrap as both topping and cushion sheet. I tried this on a scrap and the letters appeared to be not only clean-cut but finer than when using the regular cushion sheet, and almost as fine as with the plastic plate, which I can't use on this typer because it causes os and es to punch out.

I am also trying a new ink which I think will be the solution for me. It's "Magazine Black" printer's ink thinned with good old corn oil, and the price is around 60¢ per lb including postage. I was ordering some new colored inks (for the next cover on Stef, I hope) and noticed this stuff listed in Empire's catalog as being good on soft papers where drying is mainly by absorption. It comes in 5# cans for only \$2.50, and postage here was 53¢. A preliminary trial with an old stencil looks as though it should work well.

This is 2-26-60, by the way, and I haven't yet finished reading the 90th mailing, which came two days ago. So far as I've read it is an excellent one; I just hope I can keep my comments within reasonable limits. Much as I have enjoyed reading those gigantic Involutias (you hear, Yanke?) I don't want to inflict anything that big on you. And, while I'm talking about the mailing, let me thank you all for the large number of votes in the egoboo poll. I didn't expect such a rating, which is especially gratifying in view of the exceptionally large percentage of the members who voted.

The wrapper on my bundle was so tattered (the whole thing was tied together with P.O. twine) that I threw it out. I wish I'd saved at least the front, for I forget the date it was posted, which I noted at the time. I think it took ten days to get here, which is pretty good these days. The Empire Type Foundry is in Delevan, N. Y., only about 100 miles from here, and the invoice arrived yesterday, the day after it was mailed. The blank ink came today but the rest of the shipment hasn't come yet. I ordered a few sorts of type and am pleased to find prices haven't gone up any since the last I got in 1957, though inks have increased. I ordered the colored inks in  $\frac{1}{2}$ # tubes, as I use but little, at \$1.25 each. They are shipping 1# cans at \$2.55 each, and in the catalog these are \$2.00. But there is a note in red at the bottom: "Tubes discontinued as they raised the price to \$3.50 each." I guess the manufacturer doesn't want to make tubes any more; I can't think of anyone who would pay 95¢ more for a half-pound than for a pound.

My respect for the British automotive industry continues to get no better fast. There has been only one day this winter that the Met absolutely refused to start and, as always in the past, the next day it started quickly and ran perfectly, but-- A couple of weeks ago I had to have a new exhaust pipe installed. I'd have done it myself, but the first manifold stud snapped off when I started loosening its nut. So I had to take it to the shop to have the manifold removed and the stud drilled out and replaced. When the mechanic was removing the carburetor one of the four bolts holding it did the same thing. So, instead of installing the pipe myself (I replaced the muffler and tail-pipe several years ago) it cost me eight bucks labor to have it done. No sooner was this done than a sluggishness in the car that had been for some time began to get worse, and then I noticed the stop-lights were staying on all the time. The brake master cylinder is shot again, for the third time in less than two years. Girling is supposed to have a good reputation, but I'll take Lockheed any day. If I get another foreign car it



will be anything but British. Too bad, too, because the Met is a pleasure to drive, handles well on slippery roads, and is comfortable and economical. But the fact that apparently I got the only lemon ever produced in the make is no consolation and does nothing to endear the Austin Division to me.

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I ran off page 2 the day I cut it (it is now 3-1-60) and am much pleased at the result. The ink really is the best I've used yet, not excepting some ABD stuff that cost about \$2 per pound. I Have an idea, too, that the magazine black might work fine in a Gestetner just as it comes from the can. While it is a paste ink, of course, it is a thinner paste than the job and halftone blacks I've used before on the press. Any of you Gestetnerographers want to try a little? Surely ink at 60¢ a pound is worth a trial.

The day after page 2 was done the new inks came, so I immediately tried them out on the cover of this thing. Yes, I know it's a fright, but what the hell--it's not intended as a work of art, but just as an exercise. It showed me that (a) more care in feeding is needed for multi-color work, (b) that with the new inks and the new rollers I can get nice bright colors and (c) that the Snap Set colors are just as good as the black. How they make ink that dries instantly on paper (it really does; an impression just out of the press must be rubbed hard to produce a very faint trace of smudge, and after ten or fifteen seconds it will not smear at all) yet will stand unused on the press for several weeks and still be useably soft, is hard to understand. My corn-oil-and-printer's-ink mimeo mixes are comparable, by the way. The machine can stand idle for three months after running off Lark, then when the stencils for the next issue are ready I need only put one on, smear a little more ink on the inside of the cylinder, and crank away. No petrified ink-pads as I always got with any store-boughten mimeo ink. Yet it dries as fast on paper as any mimeo ink, and this new stuff is faster than most. What more can I ask for 68¢ per pound, including the corn-oil?

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## PULL NO PUNCHES

The more I see of people the better I like dogs.

FANTASY AMATEUR / I like the new method of listing the mailing contents.  
Officialdom / It's so much more rational and makes reference so much easier that it's hard to see why the old system hung on for so long. Inertia, I guess, anyway, thanks... When I got down from the ceiling after looking over the egoboo poll I went over it again and was slightly croggled by that one vote for me for best poet. It's true that I have occasionally tried my hand at light verse, but I can think of no such cases in the past year. Is somebody kidding?

AD INTERIM / It's nice to have you appearing more often, Dick; I hope  
Ryan / you can keep it up... Speaking of VW's, a friend in Franklin who had one a couple of years old recently traded it on a new one. Coming back from Pgh in it with his wife (possibly on it's maiden trip from the showroom, but I'm not sure) he hit an icy spot going about 55 and turned it over. Neither of them were hurt, but the car was pretty badly bent. Within a few days another '60 VW was completely demolished on US322 a few miles east of here when it was hit by a truck. Not that I'm trying to discourage you, for I'd like a VW too. Of course, I'd rather have a Mercedes-Benz or a vintage Rolls. It's nice to dream, isn't it?



3-4-60 We are in the midst of "possibly the worst storm of the winter" in this section. With a foot or so of snow still on the ground from previous storms, we had another eight inches or so overnight and it's still coming down, with "snow flurries" predicted for tomorrow and Saturday. I'm keeping my fingers crossed, for around here "snow flurries" seems to mean a pretty steady snowfall, just as "occasional rain" means a one- or two-day rain which stops for a bit occasionally. The groundhog at Punxsutawney was right. Wonder how he knows?

As a kid I had one of those rubber-type rotary presses, too. A friend in the same grade at Sterrett had a bigger one, and we once conceived the idea of publishing a school paper, using both his press and a hektograph. I lost interest pretty completely after a journey to his house on the street-car one afternoon. I had only a couple of nickles for carfare and a few pennies (fare in Pgh is now 27¢!) and when I left to come home Rich told me to walk straight up Highland until I hit the wall and take a car there. He meant it literally, but since Highland ends at Fifth I just went to the corner and took the first car, which was bound for downtown. I'd been to town occasionally, and when we got to the corner of Ellsworth I suddenly realized I was going the wrong way and got off. I was afraid to get on another car without enough for carfare, so I started hiking. Since I didn't know much about that part of the city, I followed Ellsworth, along which runs the 75 line, because it was the one handiest to our house. But the 75 winds through East Liberty and is thus about a mile longer than the 76, which goes directly out Fifth Avenue. It was a winter evening with some snow on the ground, and by the time I got home it was long after dark and I was really pooped. I was ashamed to say I'd taken the wrong car and so just said that I had to wait a long time for one. I can't remember any subsequent activity on the school paper. Though Peabody High had (and probably still has) a printed weekly paper called the Civitan, I never did any work on it other than setting some of the type in printing class.

BLEEN / Perhaps the trouble you have with radios is that you haven't  
Grennell/ found a reliable service man. The typical ac-dc table-model squawk-box is a pretty crummy piece of equipment (something on the order of those "cap & ball" pistols) and is so undersized and crowded that a satisfactory repair job is likely to cost as much as the set did new. The same is true to a lesser extent of auto radios, but I suspect that if it were necessary to take a Hallicrafters to a shop it would come back good as new. Perhaps Les can confirm my suspicion that many repairmen, rather than charge for a good job on the little sets, will do only what is necessary to get some sort of operation. In radios, as in everything else (some surplus good excepted) you get what you pay for and no more. Ac-dc sets are made for one reason: they are cheaper to make than transformer-operated sets... Well, I think "The Lovers" is bluh, too. Harness lent me the issue containing it and insisted I read it, but I couldn't. I read the first few paragraphs, skimmed through and read the last few, and had no desire to read any more of it. I still have the mag around somewhere, Jack. Want it back?... If you mean the call for the Rembrandt Studio, look again and you'll see it was one of the last calls I got before getting the unlisted number... Is "Mimeo-tone" an ABD brand? I tried to get it at the Mimeograph Co. in Pgh once and was told they had nothing of the kind. If that's what you used this time I'd like to get some, for it looks like the old Masterweave... Interesting to know you have a no-slip differential on your new Olds. I think they should be standard on all cars, and that they will be before too many more years.

CATCH TRAP / Of course I don't like singing anyway, but I share your  
Bradley/ feeling about Lily Pons. Singing off-pitch as she does, how



did she ever get so far?... Did your teacher, Ruth Bennett, by any chance have red hair? In both high school and Tech the best math teachers I had were red-haired. While the first was short and heavy-set and the other tall and thin, both were extremely sarcastic. It got me to thinking that red hair and sarcasm and the ability to teach math are correlative... A simple number at the top or bottom would make stencil-sorting easier than the running heads you use...

I like your comment upon  
The Cambridge Scene.

CELEPHAIS / I always felt sad, too, to see trolley tracks torn up. The  
Evans / reverse was true some years ago when a new road was built in Castle Shannon (adjoining Mt. Lebanon) and double tracks installed in it where it crossed a single track trolley line. There must be at least a possibility that eventually that line will be double-tracked... A microgroove 78 would certainly not last longer than an lp. At the much higher speed local temperature and consequent wear would also be greater. Nor were plastic 78's any quieter than lp's. A friend got the very first vinyl set produced by RCA-Victor, and we both agreed that it was by no means worth the double price, being no quieter than good shellac, and two of the surfaces were quite noisy... Washington still had two-man cars in '45? Pgh Railways had converted entirely to one-man operation in the thirties, for the first PCCs (designed by Dave Bell of Pgh Railways) were delivered in '36 and were not equipped for two-man use. I believe even the old end-door cars were operated by one man, with remote operation of the rear door, though I may be wrong. I know this was done with the older center-door cars, where the latter were used only in the city, where the change is made from pay-as-you-enter, to pay-as-you leave. (I mean that the center doors were used only in the city.) This system permits one to ride free across town on many lines, entering or leaving at either the front or the center. I wonder if any other city uses this system... The very first of the consumers' organizations is Consumers Research, Inc, which publishes the Consumers Research Bulletin monthly except July and August and the yearly CR Cumulative Bulletin. Consumers' Union is an offshoot, started by a former CR official who was kicked out because of communist tendencies, though I believe they are no longer held by the organization. I don't know anything about any other similar organizations. I too like those two-ply inner record jackets you mention. Is "polythene" anything like polyethylene?... I believe a publisher can get into trouble for including a copyright notice without sending in the requisite copies and fee... Well, let's forget it, now that it's established I was instrumental in getting Myers into the FAPA (according to Jacobs) but let me say for the last time that I did NOT myself publish anything by him... As it happens, I got out of going to that wedding by playing watchdog for the loot which was all spread out in my brother's place. If I had gone I'd probably have had the suit pressed before putting it on... If the convention stages a "visit-Danner tour, just for Fapans," somebody is nuttier than I think. ... Well, no. As I mentioned in the last Lark, there are some special scripts faces cast on a non-rectangular body; I know because I've seen and handled some of it. In addition to the sort of logotype you mention (AW), which is rather uncommon, practically every font contains logotypes of ff, fi, fl, ffi and ffl. The Kennerley I use contains in addition st and ct. The effect you mention for AW is frequently obtained by filing or "mitering" regular types; see the contents page of the current Stef. (Just realized that date on page 4 should be 3-3-60)... Falling-weight turntables may have had some use "even...up to tape recording" but as far back as the thirties there were excellent recording lathes with cast and machined turntables driven through a belt from  $\frac{1}{2}$ hp motors. I saw one.



... A separate school tax is the rule in Pennsylvania, but it doesn't lead to less frills in buildings. The state now has a requirement that all school rooms have running water, which is about as expensive and needless a frill as I can think of. Maybe the plumbers' union put it through. I found it no hardship to go through grade school, high school and college in rooms without running water except in the case of labs and shops.

THE DIRECTORY / There's not much I can say other than that it's the usual neat job and a very useful publication, indeed. But  
Bennett / I regret that it seems to be depriving us of your very entertaining writing. Wish you could find time to put something else in a mailing sometime, Ron.

FAPPENDAGE / One-shots such as this are interesting to read but not conducive to comment.  
Busbys

GASP / The resurrected stencils did pretty well... I'd rather have a  
Steward / pair of Monotype machines than a Linotype. I like to set type and distribution isn't so dreary, for it goes about three times as fast as composition and becomes so automatic that I can think about other things while doing it. The answer to your first question is in Stef; I used to have to do a little makeready because of the uneven press bed, but it's no longer necessary. Illustrations are of several kinds. Those line-drawings by Culberson were, as mentioned on the cover of the August Lark, sent to me by Bill Rotsler in the form of zinc etchings. The halftones are Fairchild Scan-A-Gravings kindly furnished by Harry Warner, fellow hermit, of Hagerstown... For looks I much prefer the L-29 Cord to the 810 or 812. It's true that the V-8 engine made the later ones better-handling cars than the L-29, but I never liked the looks of the coffin-nosed jobs. If you care to restore one yourself you can probably find one for considerably less than \$2500, and practically any parts are available from ACD. But try to get parts for an L-29!... What's wrong with English speedometers? The one on the '50 Anglia went haywire after a few thousand miles and had to be repaired. The one on the Morris got so bad that it would register 50mph coming up the driveway in low, and it always used to swing violently at certain speeds as does the one on the Met. The latter two are both Smiths; the one on the Anglia made by Ford... Doesn't the condition of the rear tires also affect the accuracy of the speedometer?... Admittedly my troubles with the Met are atypical, but that doesn't help me any. I can guarantee that the starting trouble is not caused by the battery; whatever causes it is still as big a mystery as ever, and because of being intermittent may never be found... The Prinz sounds like a very interesting little bucket. It seems to have done quite well in rallies and races.

HORIZONS / Anyone who tries that dirt road from Emlenton deserves what  
Warner / he gets... I never see any of those comics you mention except the Sunday Mary Worth, and I don't read that. I realize that a number of strips have had characters suddenly age a good many years, but are there any others in which the characters have all grown up, year per calendar year?... I'd be glad to cooperate in the project of reproducing one of the early mailings, though I'm not likely to have the same type-faces the old-timers used. Let's try it sometime... I'm in favor of a smaller number of choices in each category of the egoboo poll, and of changing it to the February mailing. If we continue to have such a good turnout so many choices are not necessary to get a representative vote. ... You say that at Gettysburg "...the land looks much as it did during the fighting". You mean with dead bodies scattered all around, and all like that?... As mentioned before I was hardly aware of high school's journalism possibilities. I just remembered, though, that I got a C in



English 8 without reading or reporting upon "Ivanhoe", supposedly a requisite, simply by making a huge cross-word puzzle for the annual that contained the names of all the graduating class. You see, the teacher of that class was the faculty advisor for the annual. (I'd like to interject here that those logotypes mentioned on page 5--ff, etc--are usually termed "ligatures", because the two letters are connected by a little curlicue. Kennerley also includes AE, OE, ae and oe.)...I don't know about MGM, but in the Feb Schwann's Vox has a full-page ad for a number of what they call "Vox Boxes"--half a dozen or so records of one composer's music in a box at bargain prices. They are all monaural, and while this may be a plan to boost mono sales, it hardly looks as though their mono catalog has been destroyed... I'd like to know why almost all of those old 78s and lps dubbed from them are "infinitely superior in musicianship". Are there no good performers any more?... "Tv or Not Tv" was doubly interesting because in it you say much the same thing expressed by Ernie Pittaro in the Feb Stef. Just wait, Harry--maybe newspapers will be investigated next. Your co-worker Libby has quite a formula there. If portait photographers would just smarten up they'd never have to do any retouching again. They could just hire a guy to draw on the features, make a duplicate negative, and sell prints by the thousands... Have you noticed how the March of Dimes bunch is carefully hedging to be able to keep on going indefinitely even when polio is finally licked? It's no longer a foundation for polio, but one for "crippling diseases". Read "The Big Ball of Wax", people, if you haven't already... Eisenhower's aphasia seems to be only the amnesic type. I wonder if there's anyone who has not suffered from it once in a while... Those symphonies and concertos in the A&P set may be complete. Did you notice that, presumably as an inducement to buy them all, they are pressed in automatic sequence? The first movement of the Rachmaninoff Second is on the first disc, but the rest of it is on the second disc. When I realized this I didn't even get the first record, which is, of course, sold at a very low price as a come-on, ala the first volumes of those cheap encyclopedias... The Jason story is a good one this time... It seems to me that tennis and handball fulfill your requirements for a sport, though handball is by its nature not a spectator sport. But tennis is a wonderful spectator sport, and a doubles match has the advantage that one player (at a time) is pitted against a team, even though the teams consist of only two players. I've never watched any big-league baseball except for a few world-series games on tv, and it always struck me as being pretty dull.

JAPANESE GENESIS / Interloper or not this is enjoyable. For Pete's sake,  
Wesson / Helen, get those three extra copies to the OE. We  
don't want you tossed out of this august organization.  
Sounds as though the Japanese government is almost as nutty as ours.  
Let's hope the Indonesian Government doesn't get tough about the blouse situation... A lot of high school graduates today can't write as well as 12-year-old Christine Barker... Japan isn't the only place where the English-language press holds out the sequels to interesting stories. It happens here all the time... Hats off to the Brother Sewing Machine Co. Is that "Brother" a legitimate Japanese name? Hardly sounds like it, yet it's certainly not prominent among Japanese machines sold in this country. I've wondered about the name for years.

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Doc Bartlett rumbled a coughing chuckle.--Kenneth Bulmer in New Worlds.

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KLEIN BOTTLE / If all of "Kookie Jar" is from the Kteic letters, then  
Jarrrs / someone has been holding up my chain, too. The first and  
last sections I read before, but the other three, including "A Review of Lark, August 1959" are new to me. I think it's Tucker who said somewhere in the mailing that he has missed some letters, and



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He sneezed a lisping murmur.

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I believe we are not on the same chain... I vaguely remember William Boyd in "The Volga Boatman" and, as I have never watched Hopalong Cassidy, either in the movies or on tv, I think of him only as a once-fairly-successful leading man... Seems to me that to weigh breasts by the displacement of water one would first have to know the weight for some unit of volume. Perhaps a medical student or interne could supply this valuable data... I didn't care at all for the article by Dewey, and feel it might sell to the people mentioned in it, period. I could be wrong, of course. Burb is entertaining, as usual... Sure, there was a campaign to help the starving Armenians--right after WW1... Strangely enough, in this section one does not pay a premium for bread without preservatives. Super Value, a small chain, has its own brand of white bread at the same price as the A&P's, and it contains neither propionate nor "dough conditioner" (whatever that is). Hays have a line of bread at competitive prices free of the gunk, and one new fancy loaf costing two cents more that contains both propionate and dough conditioner... An excellent movie of Tarkington's "Alice Adams" was made in the thirties starring Fred MacMurray and Katherine Hepburn. It's making the rounds on tv now, so watch for it... Yes, "Mad Wednesday" is the name of the Lloyd film as finally released, and I remember it contained a lot of footage from silent Lloyd (not Diddlebock) pictures. I don't know what caused the delay, but the picture wasn't released for years after the pb of the story, illustrated with scenes from the movie, was sold... Well, Terry--In the province of Higo, Japan, is made a type of pottery that shows Korean influence. Defective pieces or those that crack in firing are broken up and used as surfacing for roads, which have come to be known as Higways. This may also be the origin of the term "potholes".

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The last couple of days my brother and I have shoveled tons of snow here. This is 3-4; on 3-2 we shoveled the drive to the barn in an unsuccessful attempt to get his car up to it, and finally had to leave it just above the house. Yesterday, after another 8 inches had fallen, we had to shovel out his 4-wheel-drive pickup, with chains, when it stuck in a drift. So last night I had a lulu of a wish-fulfilment dream. I dreamed that I got up and looked out and not only was all the snow gone, but a gang of men were excavating along the drive for a gas line. I woke up and realized it was just a dream, and when Jeff came a few minutes later I was telling him about it. "Some dream," he said, "but the snow is gone. I looked out and, sure enough, the ground was clear and the air warm. So I woke up again and looked out to find more snow than ever and all the paths we shoveled yesterday drifted full. I guess we've had 10" or 12" in the last few days, but the end is in sight, they say.

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LE MOINDRE / Got a good laugh from "The Menace of the Frozen Shrimp".  
Raeburn / Actually, of course, the only thing that endangers any nation's security is government by Bubbleheads, as mentioned by Ernie Pittaro in Stef. It seems odd, doesn't it, that no matter what party a political candidate may profess, as soon as he is elected he becomes a Bubblehead... Well, I was older when I first saw the movie of "Swiss Family Robinson" and I greatly enjoyed it. A few years ago I saw it on tv and still found it good entertainment. I've never read the book and possibly would find it as dull as you did.

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LIGHT / I think you're probably right about the sort of service found  
Croutch / in small towns as compared to cities... I think one of the main factors that drove people away from theatres is the impossibility of finding a seat where one is not surrounded by people chomping popcorn... Not long ago I saw an item in the paper about a city cop somewhere whose job was going about to schools and other groups lec-



He laughed a simpering snarl.

turing on safety. It was discovered accidentally that his driver's license had been suspended years ago for reckless driving and he had never gotten another one... Do any men still wear garters?... Who wrote "The Saga of Captain Harry Dockett"? It sounds a little like "Strange News From Heaven", by Alan Griffiths... Come again, Les. We don't see you often enough in the bundles.

OUTFINITY / Don't think I've seen a 1960 Edsel--just a picture in an ad  
Silverberg / shortly before they were discontinued. But I saw two Tuckers in the Pgh showroom at once, despite the very small number built.

PHANTASY PRESS / Take off the inkpad, Dan, and examine the holes along  
McPhail / each side of the drum. When I got my #77 most of these were completely plugged up with hardened ink and had to be reamed out one at a time with a twist drill the same size. You'll probably find the same condition in yours... I used NLK's "Wall Maker" in the Nov. '49 Stef and on the cover of the Nov. '50 issue, which was the first in a FAPA mailing. It's a sketch Norm made to visualize the critter while he was writing "Once In A Blue Moon".

PHLOTSAM / Does Elron actually say that he would discard thousands of  
Economou / seedlings, despite the worry and pain it would give them? I suppose the Scientology racket has to struggle along without him now that he has a new toy to play with... "Tom Sawyer Abroad" and "Tom Sawyer, Detective" are short novels, both included in one volume. The first of the two is science fiction of a sort, since the foreign trip is made in a dirigible... I dunno--I've had no trouble with spliced stencils coming apart, though the splices in that one in the last Lark overlapped no more than 1/16"... Havene't heard about the two kinds of sweat, but of course I don't see the women's magazines... What are these Exchanges that bar women?... My mother held ideas something like those you were taught. She sincerely believed that we are on earth only to help others. I asked her what the others are for, but never got a reasonable answer. ... That Guinness picture you mentioned is "The Captain's Paradise". It's on the tv circuit now. Look for it... Bill, that talk about Michelin X and Pirelli tires sounds like so much doubletalk. What's all this about slipping off one tread and putting on another? Explain, please... Those motorcycle speeds you quote are fantastic... I wonder if the "Hubbard Electrometer" is the same gadget mentioned by Harness which shows the creation of energy (sic!) when the leads are gripped tightly. A sensitive electronic ohmmeter can be made to prove all sorts of things to someone who knows no better... I suppose you've read "1066 And All That" and the other agreeable nonsense by Sellars and Yeatman?... The first Lord Birkenhead was a Gentleman after my own heart.

PLEIADES PIMPLES / All very interesting, Bob. I'd read some of the in-  
Tucker / formation before in Woodford's books, but nowhere does he go into such detail as you do. This should be a real help to anyone who attempts a first book.

QUOTEBOOK / This is far better than I had anticipated, Bill. It gave me  
Rotsler / a lot of chuckles (not the rumbling, coughing kind) and a few belly-laughs... Are those spot illustrations linocuts?

RAMBLING FAP / The example of an asterisk in the Century is the usual  
Balkins / six-pointed variety. I don't think I've ever seen an eight-pointed one... I'll admit I had a hard time getting the letters to overlap in the comments to Wansborough. The illegibility was achieved by using a piece of this Masterweave over the stencil and pounding some of the keys as hard as I could... Apparently enough other people



He rasped a lilting gurgle.

DID vote for oblivion for Myers. Hurrah!

REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT / Where'd you get that original spelling of or-Alger  
Alger / original, Mart?... This is all interesting. I'd heard that the '49 Packard is a really good car, despite looks that earned the name "Pregnant Elephant" (though it's no more repulsive than today's finned monstrosities) and you seem to have proved the point. I wish I could get another engine for the old Nash, whose head is cracked for about the fourth time, and I've no desire to throw more money away on it. But finding an engine for a '30 is pretty hard. Thanks for the pictures; they show that the hearse does indeed look like a station wagon, and is more attractive than the--well, I said that before... The dope on cartridges is interesting though I've never fired one.

ROBIN HOOD / Jonathan William Yost appears destined to be a tv script  
Potsler / writer getting an early start. With such original ideas and the ability to express them so lucidly both by word and by picture he should be a natural.

SALUD / I wonder if children would like school any better if told they  
Busby / must not go. Has this ever been tried?... I've a collection of little news items about the multitudinous ways people find to kill themselves, either accidenatally or on purpose. Someday I'm going to print them in Stef along with the item about the Pennsylvania legislature banning plastic cleaning bags. If these are to be banned we should also ban a long list of other things, starting with automobiles... Is there some particular type for people born on July 16th? Am I the type for July 20th, and if so. why?... Why on earth do you want white-side-wall tires? They look nice when clean but terrible when dirty, which they are most of the time. Buz has the right idea there. I have a friend in Pgh who won't have any color but black on his cars. I'm beginning to think he's wise.

SERCON'S BANE / In Pgh the most consistent cutters-in-from-the-curb are  
Busby / taxi drivers. Don't they do it out your way?... Some say punctuation marks should be inside quotes, and some say they should be outside. You've found a neat solution for the controversy there on page 5 in that "Gettysburg!" This should become standard... Sure I'd be glad to let well enough alone if I could get the sort of duplication you do. This stencil I'm using no film and a piece of Saran for a cushion, but have to be careful to keep from punching os and es. The new ink is a big improvement... Well, anyhow, I knew Terhune's first name isn't Oscar! I realized the mistake in the middle name only after the whole issue was run off and stapled... Your description of the shift-lever in the Goliath sounds like the one in the L-29 Cord. This gave no trouble, but took a little getting-used to... You're not kidding about dandelions. All one summer at 720 Rockwood I sprayed the lawn with 4-D or some such weed-killer. It discouraged them that summer, but ever after I had the biggest and best crop of dandelions on the street... That Fault Piece you dreamed up is a fine idea, and your conclusion from it a sensible idea... Dan should have the idea now. Perhaps he can break the story that Harry Warner and I are going to the convention in Boyd Raeburn's Buick... The corner of E South and S East streets in sothing. In Pgh Fifth Avenue crosses Sixth Avenue. I don't have a picture of the signpost, but a friend who visited in '49 does, and I'll get a print from him sometime... You need an Isetta 300 at \$600. Why, the model T used to sell for \$275. Hardly seems possible. But even the model A sold for about \$450 and up. Them days, as somebody has already pointed out, are gone forever.



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He whimpered a tittering guffaw.

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SHIPSIDE / What are the VAPA "mix-ups" you refer to, John?... And what  
Trimble / was good about the Edsel, anyway? Aside from the Ford company  
and its dealers you're first I've known to have a good word  
for it. Some official of the Ford company announced, by the way, that  
if Falcon sales get to a certain point it will be named the Ford and  
the present Ford will become the Falcon. This would be a most sensible  
move, considering the history of the Ford up to WW2. There is, of course,  
the danger that the new compact cars will commence getting longer, lower  
and more powerful. Detroit just can't seem to stay away from that ridic-  
ulous merry-go-round... Howcome the LA Yellow Cab Co. doesn't use Check-  
er cabs? I thought these were universally used by Yellow, though I know  
independent cabbies and small-town companies usually use regular sedans.  
... The lasting property of a car depends largely upon the sort of use  
it gets. Those that are going constantly, such as cabs and some fleet  
cars, last a lot longer than those that get average intermittent, stop-  
and go use. Each cold start is harder on an engine than hundreds of miles  
of hard driving.

TO VISIT THE QUEEN / It has some pretty obscure spots in the beginning  
Schaffer / but after I got into it I found it interesting and  
quite well done.

TARGET: FAPA! / That couplet about the cheese is familiar but I can't  
Eney / recall the author. Leacock? Shaw? Who, then?... I've no  
complaint about Master's service, only about this pecul-  
iar new Masterweave paper. As a matter of fact, I too ordered a bottle  
of stencil cement a couple of years ago which arrived empty with the  
contents all over the other stuff in the package. Luckily nothing was  
damaged by it and Master sent a new bottle without question that is OK.  
Come to think of it, I do have one complaint about Type-It stencils. I  
had to cement every one in the two-quire package to its stub, the cement  
used at the factory having let go... Well, by now you know about type  
with non-standard body, so let me coggle you further by saying I once  
knew an old printer who put the stick in his lap and set type with both  
hands... In those cars with the hyphenated names the name of the engine  
and running gear is given first, followed by the name of the body manu-  
facturer. Of course this does not include the Mercedes-Benz, and in the  
case of the Karman-Ghia, Karman designed the body and Ghia builds it.  
the car itself is a VW... Well, I read "The White Company" some years  
ago, but don't remember anything about it... The antique and idiotic  
blue laws are being given stepped-up enforcement in Pa., too.

THREE-CHAMBERED HEART / It's unusual, I think, for a new member to have  
Champion / so interesting a publication in his first mail-  
ing as a member... What are JD's?... I suppose  
it's hardly necessary to point out that the story excerpt is a little  
far-fetched. Sustained high-frequency tones can break thin glass, it's  
true, if it is free to vibrate. But a glass eye, whether solid or hol-  
low (and I don't know how they're made) is so relatively rigid and so  
well damped in the eye socket that it couldn't possibly be broken that  
way... No doubt I was a little sleepy anyway, but those quotes from Pop-  
per put me under and I haven't...the vaguest idea what they're about.

THE FLOWERS THAT BLOOM / Heyjean, you know better! Why inflict upon us  
Young-Stark / such mangled English as "...let them lay wher-  
est they falls"... The last sentence would be  
perfect justification for "Dai of Dim Corners", even if the sketch were  
not interesting in itself.

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He belched a crooning whisper.

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VANDY / Buck, your remark on speaking of the dead and of the living  
Coulsons / expresses my sentiments exactly. I suggest that Bill Rotsler  
enshrine it in Quotebook 2... Now that I think of it again,  
I'm not sure whether it was Brady's Bend or East Brady where we spent  
that summer when I was a boy. I rather think it was the latter, but in  
any case they're only a mile or two apart. Thanks for your offer to copy  
some of Keller's ballads, but I don't care much for poetry or for his-  
tory. I imagine the Franklin library has the book, though, and if I ever  
make it in there again through all this snow I'll look it up. Speaking  
of snow, by the way, a tv news program last night showed three Eskimos  
who got snowbound on US40 on their way to some affair at the Buhl Plan-  
etarium. They were quoted as saying they'd trade any other vehicle for  
a good dogsled... Someday when it warms up I'll dig through the junk up-  
stairs and send you some Fred Barker... My father was a Mason until he  
died, but for years attended no meetings and told me he thought it all  
a waste of time. I agree... Well, Juanita, we agree on another thing.  
I've always laughed up my sleeve at dotting mammas who look at weeks-old  
babies and rave about how beautiful they are and how they have so-and-  
so's eyes or nose or--ugh.

WRAITH / Though farms here are small compared to yours, little or no  
Ballard / farm work is done by horses... Very glad to hear about the  
parental protest about bible reading in your school. See the  
Feb Stef for what it led to in Pa... Now that Betty Kujawa has mentioned  
them, I do remember all those Lloyd movies, though I'd forgotten he'd  
made so many talkies. I think "Welcome Danger" was a talkie; "Safety  
Last", on a similar theme, was one of his most famous silents. But "Mad  
Wednesday", the release title of TSOHD, did not get to the theatres un-  
til around 1950... I used to have that trouble of my glasses sliding  
off if I was doing hot work. The remedy is simple: have the ear-pieces  
changed to the old-fashioned kind that hook around. They're just as com-  
fortable and a lot more practical.

X TRAP / These stories are amazing. It takes a real command of English  
Linard / to write so well as this and yet be so almost completely ob-  
scure. I have the feeling that if only I read them a couple  
more times (as I probably shall) the plots will clear up magically and  
all those Pauls, Rudolfos, Guillaumes, etc, will drop into their proper  
places. Because of his well-known troubles it has been some time since  
I have read any of Jean's prose, and, unless this has been extensively  
edited, he is still making tremendous progress. I wouldn't have missed  
this for anything, Jean, but look forward to your complete recovery and  
more frequent inclusion in the mailings. Take care of yourself, dammit.  
My thanks to whoever it is that made this possible, thus preserving  
Jean's membership. Eney, do I recognize your Varityper?

A PROPOS DE RIEN #4 / Though not inspired to comment, I read A Propos de  
Caughran / Nothing and never suspected that you had not writ-  
ten both pages... Are the hundreds of sects of  
Buddhism constantly bickering as are the Xtian sects? As Buck Coulson  
says, it seems likely, but one never hears of it... Well, sure. That  
thinking you do as you are waking up is a sort of dreaming. I think if  
you were to remember it you'd find it's pretty inane if not actually  
senseless. Aside from Buz and his Fault Piece, the only really construc-  
tive dreamer I ever heard of is R. L. Stevenson, who claimed in one of  
his essays that "brownies" originated most or all of his story plots  
while he slept.

For those as amazed as I at the near-Gestetner quality of these last  
two pages, the stencils were cut with a piece of polyethylene under the  
stencil and no topping. For some reason no type-cleaning is necessary.