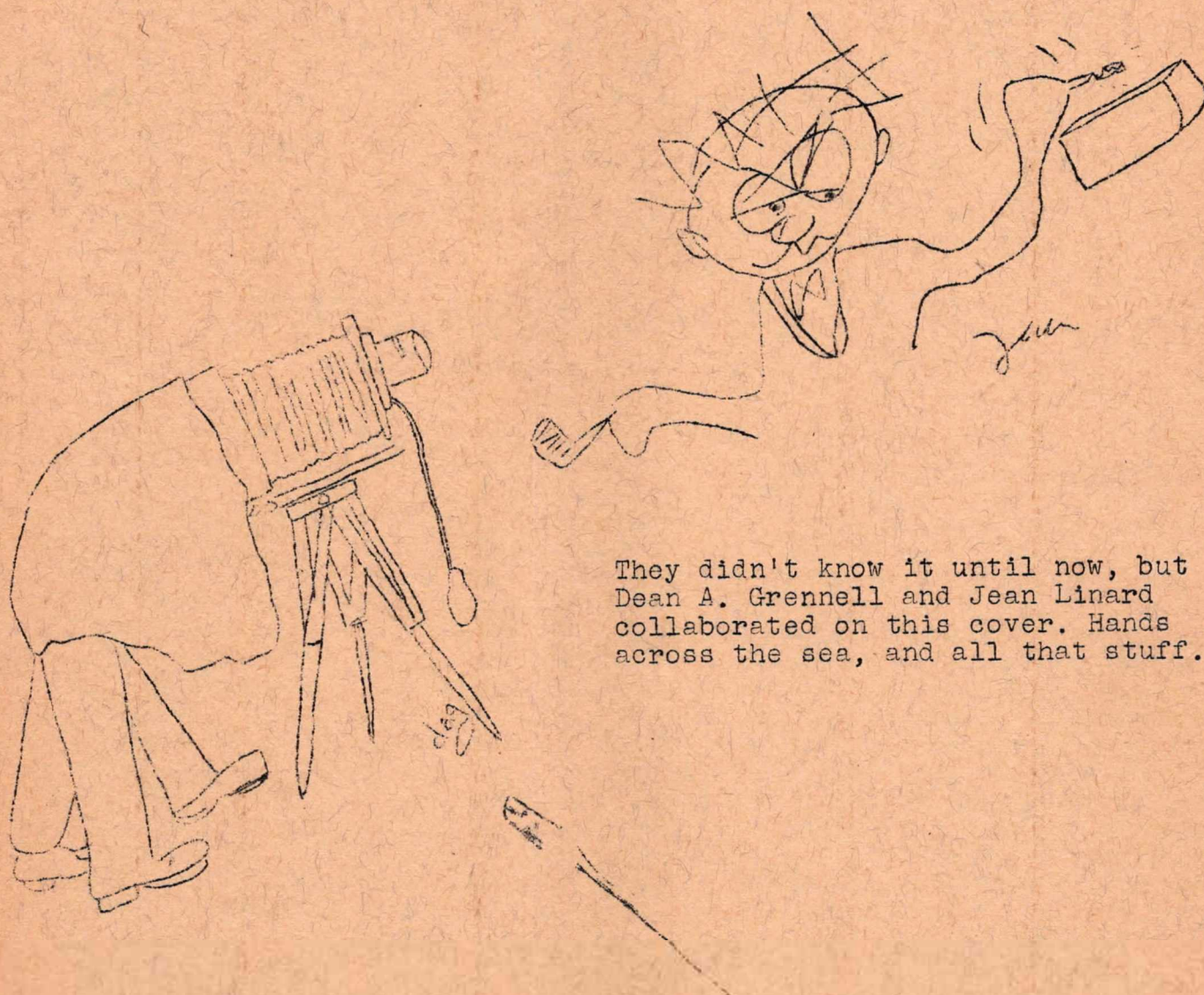


LARK



They didn't know it until now, but
Dean A. Grennell and Jean Linard
collaborated on this cover. Hands
across the sea, and all that stuff.

Perpetrated as usual by Bill Danner
at R. D. 1, Kennerdell, Pa., and
intended for the 93d mailing of the
Fantasy Amateur Press Association.



Here it is 9-12 already; the years sure do go fast these days. It has been some time since I read the August mailing, but various things --keeping the goddam Met running, sewing up the cracks in the Nash head and getting it into good operating condition again, and now doing some repairing and remodeling of the "garage" in which the Nash is stored-- have kept me from starting this Lark sooner. Though I enjoyed the mailing as much as usual I made very few checks in margins, so this issue is quite likely to be smaller than usual. It might be anyway, for the work on the garage is just started and involves making new doors, covering two walls with tarpaper (the other two, which are visible from the road and from the house, already have insulating siding on them) and removing two rear doors (sloppily made like the other two and quite unnecessary) and installing a window before the covering job. Also part of the roof, damaged by an apple tree which has been pruned, has to be recovered. I hope I get it all done before the weather becomes too cold. Then the Nash radiator must be removed and cleaned out; the car now runs well but overheats badly. Well, on to



PULL NO PUNCHES

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

A PROPOS DE RIEN / Holy smoke--that "escape velocity" stuff still shows
Caughran / up! That oft-quoted escape velocity is meaningless except for a rocket which must receive all its energy from fuel that is used up in a short time after leaving earth. In a vehicle that can be given a continuous acceleration, however small, the escape velocity is whatever results from that acceleration. To get an automobile up a hill it is not necessary to get it to such speed at the bottom that it can coast up all the way; it can travel to the top at a constant speed if given just enough acceleration to overcome gravity and friction. The same is true of a space ship, though I should amend my statement up there by saying that the acceleration must be at least enough to overcome gravity and, while in the atmosphere, air friction. I hope that at this stage nobody thinks a manned rocket will ever reach any other planet by means of an initial thrust sufficient to get it to "escape velocity"... For you and anyone else who mentioned the matter, by "Checker Cabs" I did not mean cabs with a checkered band painted around the body and the words "Checker Cab" on the doors. These disappeared long ago from Pgh, though there were some at one time. Checker is the maker's name of a ruggedly-built sedan designed especially for taxi use and used exclusively by the Yellow Cab Co in Pgh and other cities. It is now being sold in a slightly modified version for private owners. At one time there was an identical car (in all but the name on the hubcaps) made by the Yellow Cab & Coach Co, a GM subsidiary... The Citroen 2CV is ugly, though from all accounts extremely rugged and dependable. I recently had a ride in a Citroen ID-19. It will never take any beauty prizes, though it is extremely functional in design and I like its having the wheels at the corners instead of under the middle. From a look under the hood I can well believe the statement that it is a mechanic's nightmare, though reportedly it is so dependable that it seldom needs attention. But its ride and, presumably, its handling (I wasn't offered a chance to drive it) are absolutely fabulous. On a road which I can take in the Met at about 45-50 if I don't mind the danger of going through the roof from an occasional unnoticeable pothole (Hi, Terry!) the owner drove his Citroen at a steady 60-65, around turns and all, and there were no bumps whatever! It's really uncanny. Moreover, the hydro-pneumatic suspension may be jacked up at the touch of a lever on the dash to provide enough clearance for the worst of country roads.

This same feature is used in changing a tire: the body is jacked up to the limit, a steel support slipped under the proper side of the car, and the suspension lowered, whereupon the wheels on that side are lifted from the ground.

BANDWAGON / The BMW 600 may be dying as you say, but other similar cars
Ryan / are getting quite popular. Just today in Titusville (where I went to look at the Renault Dauphine) I saw a Fiat 600 convertible, the first I have seen in use. Morris-Austin 850's are beginning to appear, and other smaller cars I haven't been able to identify. The Renault dealer said that the new American compacts have killed the market for such as the Volvo, Peugeot, Borgward, etc, fine as they are. Don't get a British car, Dick!... I scribbled a note in here while I was reading the mailing: the announcer on WLOAFM said that the next record would be "Meelhowd's 'Scaramouchy Suite'". The "ou" was pronounced as in "mousy"... The most enjoyable circus I ever saw was a small one-ring affair Dad took the family to one summer in a small town near a summer resort. But in general I feel much about circuses and Ed Sullivan as you do; I never watch the latter. Despite this I enjoy Marion's articles about the circus. When she is writing about something she is so deeply interested in she writes well, indeed... Have you heard stereo--with good equipment, that is. If not doing so might change your mind.

CATCH TRAP / I've nothing against scotch-tape, and keep several forms
Bradley / on hand at all times, but there used to be a translucent paper gummed tape made expressly for mending book and music pages. Perhaps you can still get it... Like yours, my ears can make up for deficiencies in poor recordings of works that I have heard in concert. The fact that most orchestras have repertoires limited to the same old works with only occasionally something new, and that I like to stay away from such things in buying records, is another reason I like high-fidelity and especially stereo... I think you're confusing teetotalers and prohibitionists. I'm a teetotaler because I have no desire to drink; what anyone else does is his business. It's prohibitionists who try to decide what others shall be permitted to do, and having lived through the prohibition era I could never favor any such legislation... I've heard the first of the jokes you mention, with a couple of final lines apparently missing from your version, but don't think I've heard the other... You've long since received the Kennerley ligatures I sent you, but I must repeat here I'm surprised you have never noticed the ct and st in Stef. There are other faces with these ligatures and rarely a few others in addition to the standard combinations of f,i and l, and Kennerley is used some in England, but it was designed by the late, great Frederick Goudy, an American.

CELEPHAIS / Buffalo nickels do not carry the biased and unrepresenta-
Evans / tive statement about god. In contrast to the buffalo itself they are becoming extinct; perhaps we should save a few... When gas was 3¢/gal including a 3¢ tax it was given away, wasn't it?... Again let me say that in printing it's "register", not "registration"... Sterrett, the grade school I attended, was also built before the turn of the century, but must have been ahead of its time. It's a massive stone building of two floors, with several fountains on each, and I believe it has two toilets on each. It has a well-equipped manual-training room in the basement, and a dome containing a telescope built by John Brashear, who lived in the neighborhood. In my day, at least, the telescope did nothing but collect dust, and was traditionally looked at by graduating eighth-graders who sneaked up into the gloom a few at a time to do so... Nope--no UE in Kennerley. As mentioned above it's an American face... Why would the steel cleats in Pirelli tires tear the

streets to pieces? My guess is they wouldn't damage pavements nearly so much as do chains, especially those on trucks with their huge, stiff tires... Why would the Gichner books you mention "surely" be opened? Even if they wanted to do so, there aren't enough postal employees to open all book packages mailed, and there's nothing in the outward appearance of a package to tell what sort of books are inside... Mt. Lebanon is another town (or township) that doesn't exist. Though it has a population of about 30,000 it is shown on few if any road maps, presumably because of the township government, for the neighboring boroughs of Dormont and Castle Shannon are always shown. It has a Pgh postal zone of its own (28) and parts are served also by zones 34 and 16. It has a fire department with the most modern of equipment and paid officers, though otherwise on a volunteer basis. It has its own sewerage system and street-maintenance department, and a police department of some 30 men. Though largely residential it has two fair-sized business districts and some small factories, one of which makes gauge pins for printing presses. But you can't find it on the map!... I'm AGAINST raising the membership to 75...

DAY*STAR / The cam-follower in a distributor is a piece of micarta and
Bradley / it could not possibly show any appreciable wear in a day.
When it does wear the points will not open, but the result is the same as if they don't close--no ignition.*Your tough luck on the trip is further evidence that it pays to know something about the innards of a car, especially these days, when genuine mechanics are so few and far between. *and the coil might be burned out.

DESCANT / Some of those suicide methods in your quotation are horrible
Clarke / in the extreme, and make one wonder just how nuts the so-called human race is. Most of the clippings I have concern devices with which people have accidentally killed themselves, and none of them can compare with the methods in your quote of a quote of a quote... What the hell is Chatelaine, that it published such an apparently idiotic statement?... "Houses Built Too Well". Yeah. Silly to expect people who get a new car every year or two in order to have the latest in fins and chrome trim to live in the same old house year after year. Positively un-American. Let's pass a law requiring that all houses be torn down after, say, three years and new ones built in their place. Better yet (and quicker) just burn them down; it would be a much better example of conspicuous waste and get rid of our resources that much sooner.

EXPURGATED BOOB STEWART / An admirable job of editing and ditto production,
Carr / Terry, but in my opinion, and from an admittedly sketchy reading, the material just isn't worth all that work.

HORIZONS / Well, I haven't read the Oz books either, for that matter.
Warner / When I was a boy my sisters had several of them and I believe I even glanced into one once. You know what? I didn't like it... That statement about all cars being ugly is a little sweeping, Harry. Is there anything that isn't offensive to your eyes? Get hold of the Sept (I think) issue of Road & Track and look at the pictures of the Rolls-Royce Henley and let me know if you think it is ugly... I rather doubt that those patterns in the Russian moon pictures are "severe grain that the conditions of processing might have produced." I have some surplus (about six years out of date) 70mm Super XX film. It is fairly fast, fairly fine-grained, and will not reticulate. If we have had this film for years (it's designed for aerial reconnaissance, by the way) it's silly to suppose the Russians don't have something similar... Correction: The mailings are already too big... During WW₂ the Met Dept at J&L got a brand-new electric Mimeograph, complete with cabinet stand and automatic slipsheet. I often saw it in operation and can state posi-

tively that it works flawlessly... Another peculiarity about Mt. Lebanon is that apparently it has its own private music association. Instead of either of the names you mention it is called "Music For Mt. Lebanon" and the artists are engaged and the dates announced before the subscription campaign begins. I suppose this is made possible by the fact that, so far as I know, the thing is a complete sellout before the first concert of the season. I don't know how many of the subscribers go just because it's the thing to do, but whatever the reason it's a pretty healthy concert association. One of the concerts each season is, of course, by the Pgh Symphony. In this case the orchestra can hardly be said to make a trip at all, since many of the members could no doubt walk from their homes to the high school auditorium. I heard only one of these concerts, as a last-minute substitute guest. It was by Van Cliburn before he ever went to Russia. There were standees at the back of the hall... One trouble with not being a fan is that I never get review copies of books, as practically everybody else in the FAPA seems to do. ... I'm afraid I can't go along with your premises in "The Death of Jason"; so the whole story is spoiled for me.

LE MOINDRE / So Hubbard is a multi-millionaire? I imagine it's fun to
Raeburn / be rich and nutty... Good Ole Pierre Berton. Don't ever stop these quotations from him... The Century agrees with you about "titbit", which is given as the preferred spelling and "tid-bit" as a sort of also-ran. It also states that the derivation is from tit, meaning a bit or morsel, plus bit, so those of you who prefer euphemistic terms might start saying "bitbit". That word "tit" is used in many combinations having nothing to do with the female anatomy. There are 13 kinds of birds called tits, with different qualifying names, to say nothing of one called the tit-babbler. So there... Your description of controls and regulations and the "let's pull 'em down to our level attitude" sounds as though you were writing about the U S and A. If it's not that bad here yet it's not far from it.

LIMBO / There are other ways to repair the mimeo crank than by
Rike-Donaho / brazing. Try drilling and tapping a couple of holes in each of the pieces and holding them together with a plate bolted to each side. Or, for that matter, a tubular clamp arrangement might do it. Use your ingenuity... I, too, prefer Iceworld to Mission of Gravity, Bill... For some years I got a thing called the Boys' Magazine which was published in Smethport, Pa. It folded and for a few more years I got The American Boy which I agree was about the best of its class... Twain's description of the ship in "Tom Sawyer Abroad" may not be clear, but the edition I have shows it as a peculiarly-shaped balloon with wings on both the balloon and the gondola, and a dimly-seen propeller of some sort. This seems reasonable enough, since the occupants were able to make it go wherever they wished... Did you ever have any of that white chocolate? It's a fooler if you take a bite without knowing what it is. The taste is familiar, but since the color is wrong it never occurs to you that it's chocolate.

PHANTASY PRESS 28 / Interesting, but it would be more so if it included
McPhail / some of the contents of the mailing. Are you and Harry still interested in reproducing an entire early mailing? If so, I'm willing to do what I can on the printed things.

PHANTASY PRESS 29 / Once in a while, Dan, I think you're snapping out of
McPhail / the mailing-comment rut you're in, and then you go right back to what might be called colorless, tasteless comments. Express an opinion once in a while, why don't you, instead of agreeing with everybody about everything for page after page... I wish Glen Pray, whomever he is, the best of luck, but he'll have to have many millions of bucks to bring out any new car, let alone a pres-

tige job. Kaiser couldn't succeed at it, even with a government loan.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE SKY DEPT.

I suppose most of you have seen the balloon satellite. I saw it several times during its first few days and then stopped looking. But about 8:30 tonight while I was walking Prince I glanced at the sky and saw something that sent chills down my back. At first I simply thought "Well, that's a funny direction for it," for what was apparently Echo was moving at its usual stately pace from approximately southeast to northwest. I watched it for some minutes while it traveled fifteen or twenty degrees of arc. And then it stopped! Either that or it vanished while near a star that took its place to my vision. A few minutes later something moved from east to west which for a moment I thought might explain what I had seen. But it was quickly discernible as a high-flying jet, for I could not only faintly hear its engines but as it went on its way I could distinguish the steady white light and blinking red light of a plane. The previous thing was exactly the color of Echo and perfectly steady, though perhaps not quite so bright as Echo when I saw it. I watched what is presumably a star at the point where it stopped for almost a half-hour. Several times it appeared to oscillate a bit, but this could have been imagination or an optical illusion from such intent staring. The thing moved much too slowly for a meteorite and lasted much too long; while I was watching I saw some half-dozen meteorites of varying brilliance. Until some explanation is forthcoming I'll just have to add it to the solid object I saw back around 1950 and the two lights I saw last fall. I saw something, though. Anybody know what it is? For the record, this is 9-16-60.

PHLOTSAM / Yep, it's been a cool summer here, too. It's been a funny
Economou / year, for that matter. Now if only we'll have a mild winter
to make up for the heat we didn't get this summer I won't
mind at all.... Is anyone else making those detachable-tread tires? I
was talking to a dealer who sells Renault and he says Firelli has never
been able to make a tire that is round (like our U.S. manufacturers)
and that if Michelin makes them they might be OK... I don't wonder that
the detective was incredulous in that B picture you saw, Bill. "Cydro-
HEdrate" makes a big question-mark form over my head, too. Wonder why
Hollywood must make up names for poisons when there are so many real
ones... The answer to Berry's question is, of course, that they think
we are the sort of dolts who watch commercial television. Just to show
I'm not that kind of dolt I've never seen The White Hunter and don't
know whether it is perpetrated here or in England. Anyway, John, let
that be a lesson to you... Yeah, Phyllis, I would say that politician is
an especially expendable occupation... Prince, too, barks whenever any-
one comes to the house, but for those he likes best he reserves a long-
drawn-out sound that is almost a scream, while trembling all over.
Damndest sound I ever heard... I frequently read a magazine from the
back, too, and so does Fran Allison of Kukla, Fran and Ollie. (Are they
still on the air anywhere?) It was Fran's expounding on the advantages
of starting at the back that led me to publish the Bassackwards Issue
of Stef some years ago... I don't have to ream out holes in the #77 any
more. One of the advantages of my home-made ink is that it never clogs;
after standing idle for three months all I do is brush on a little more
ink and the things's ready to go. Great stuff!... Corflu is fine for
splicing stencils if you work fast enough. Stencil cement is so slow-
drying (or at least it stays tacky so long) that it's annoying, but that
is what I used... Maybe the exchanges feel that there should be someplace
other than a turkish bath where the members can get away from women...
Ken Cheslin (who he?) is nuts. If it were insubstantial, how could

Phlotsam so often be the best thing in the mailing?

SALUD / Don't you know when I'm kidding? Out here in the sticks I'd have
Busby / a hell of a time trying to get along without a car, and I like to drive. As for the cleaner's bag situation, I've never even seen one of the plastic ones, but I remember that the brown-paper ones used to tear very readily, and weren't much protection if caught in a heavy rain. They've had so much publicity that surely everyone in the nation knows of the danger; it's no harder to keep them out of reach of children than to keep a bottle of poison from them. What I was trying to point out is that there are so many valuable things that can be lethal that if we save kids from them by banning them we're likely to be back in the middle ages. Of course, we're likely to go farther back than that almost any day, but that's a different problem... Elinor, for shame! I understand you and Buz don't like to be referred to as "Busbies" and I don't blame you. What is your excuse, then, for saying "There are indeed two John Berries"?... There are two Doubs (and a number of Daubs) in the '57 Pgh phone book, and 19 Newcomers.

SAMBO / You mean to say that methylene blue is used as medicine? The
Martinez / stuff's pretty poisonous in the bloodstream; isn't it poisonous to the innards too? It must be tough to be an Oscar and go through life forever having practical jokes played on one.

SERCON'S BANE / If you used the Magazine Black anywhere it must work
Busby / exactly like your Gestink. Did you?... Funny about the feeling the Prinz gives you. I've never even seen one, but from the way they have performed in rallies and such it must be a feeling one gets over with familiarity... Somebody had better use a Fault Piece on the universe--or at least on this part of it--pretty damn quick, or there may not be any universe, far as we're concerned. The case of Rickhardt is a strange one, indeed. I hope he never has the crust to try to get into this august organization again... Helen Wesson reported a case in Japan of a civil servant who changed his sex, causing the bureaucracy to print up 100,000 forms for such cases. Can such a thing actually have happened twice?... Elmer's pages very much enjoyed. I hope he does something like this often, thus making unnecessary those yearly narrow squeaks he's been having.

SISYPHOS / If that letter from Don Bratton is bonafide, he must be in
Speer / as bad a way as the guy who used to put pamphlets on windshields in Pgh telling how some organization was "megaphoning" people, reading their minds and putting words into their mouths... Is any proof needed that any government is less than ideal?... Your ditto work with the rubbing alcohol looks as it always does--pale and spotty, with some completely illegible parts... No, the typewriter keyboard, which is a pretty lousy arrangement, is completely a happenstance. There have been numerous rational keyboards developed, but they have about as much chance of being accepted as the metric system in this country. Too many conventional ones in use and too many millions of people accustomed to them.

SMALL WONDERs / I'm beginning to have an inkling of what pataphysics is
Linard / all about, I think. It seems to be the science of tongue-in-cheekmanship.

STYLE SHEET / This is wonderful. If I may coin an old expression, Jean,
Linard / you're nutty as a fruitcake, but keep it up, or, as you yourself put it, "Keep being the same".

TARGET: FAPA / Why do you put Chauncey Depew in quotes? This is not one
Eney / of the names Bierce made up. Look him up.

TIME FINDER / You can't possibly damage your speedometer by going faster than it will indicate. While you were going fast, an indicated 100mph is probably an actual 90 or less.

TUMULT & THE SHOUTING / That guy Severin has the right slant on life. Of course we don't all have the money to indulge such a viewpoint, but it would be fun.

VANDY / My parents were like yours with regard to stealing, and I'm glad to know there are still a few of that kind around... Vinyl records can be virtually noiseless, whether 78 or 33. Most aren't, but the recent stereo records I've gotten are very close. ... Hey, Juanita, doesn't your mimeo have a counter?... Can you see resemblance between people when you don't know they are related? Max Schoen, under whom I took a couple of courses at Tech, said that when he and his daughter were both in a large gathering of people who didn't know both, nobody ever noticed a resemblance. When told of the relationship, however, they could immediately see all sorts of similarities.

XTRAN / Your conspiracy is a success; these look like first-class Linards/ mailing comments. And, though my copy is marked "3d surplus copy last page paler no. 68," every page is quite legible, something I can't say about Jack Speer's mags, whether done with ditto fluid or with rubbing alcohol... I've been wondering about those wooden apple crates everyone in California uses for bookshelves. The last I saw any in this part of the country was sometime in the mid-thirties... I drove a Dauphine last week, and would very much like to have one. In contrast to what you say, a friend in Pgh who drove one 10,000 miles says it gets around easily without chains on anything but glare ice, and I'd never be likely to have enough of a load in back to cause instability. "... a measly Porsche." Hah!... In Fisher's Chemical Index it's trichloroethylene, but what's it used for?

FIRST SHADOW FAPA MAILING / I found all these enjoyable, but have nothing checked for comment. I especially like Chauvenet, Hansen, Metcalf/ Chauvenet's reprint from The Rudder and Hansen's wonderful made-up word "illegitibility". This ought to be in the dictionary, but I don't suppose it ever will be. I don't think it can properly be applied to Horizons, either, or at least not to any of the issues I've seen. By the way, Hansen, you didn't mention what speaker you're using to blow the side of your house out with that WE amplifier.

As of now (9-19-60) I don't know whether the next Stef will have any color work or not. I should have started it by now, but I've been to busy fixing up the garage so the old Nash won't get snowed upon again this winter. Just finished building new doors and giving them a prime coat, and still have to (I just remembered I mentioned this at the beginning) put on the tarpaper, install the window and fix the roof. This last is a job I hate the thought of but it has to be done. And the radiator hasn't even been removed from the Nash yet. And it's more than half-past September already. Where in hell has the year gone to, anyhow?

I have succeeded in getting out of the Columbia Record Club but am now being deluged with junk-mail addressed with its automatic typer and advertising high-priced snob-appeal stuff like Horizon (Hi, Harry!) for only (!) \$16.95 for six copies and a pictorial history of the civil war (something I wouldn't much want as a gift) for only \$15 instead of \$18, or something like that. I suppose this is how CRC gets even with those who get fed up with their meagre selection and abominable service.

That's all, folks!