

FEB

mi as usual comes from Eric Bentcliffe, courtesy of BAPA - Bennett's' near-
apa. This issue, will mainly concern itself with a recent excursion of
said Bentcliffe to Lunnon', and his adventures there. Space may also be
found to acknowledge the very fine recent fanzines received - XERO - CRY -
SHAGGY - SMOKE, etc, and if space isn't found, well...this is at least a
mention, and to the effect that these zines were very much enjoyed. As was
a HAPPY FEBRUARY CARD from Terry Jeeves, but...On With The Motley.

ELLA DOESN'T HAVE A TAPIR EITHER

On Wednesday, February 1st, I started the month off right by travelling down to London to spend a couple of days or so as a trustee at Ella Perkar's Penitentiary. This was the first time I'd been able to visit with London fans since 1957, and the experience was found to be highly enjoyable. One I'd like to repeat frequently if my job allowed. I got into Euston around two o' clock in the afternoon, then phoned Ella for further instructions (she'd previously offered to provide bed n' board by letter). We arranged to meet at 4.30p.m. and go out to Wellmeadow Road and spend the evening with Ken and Pam Bulmer. I asked her to wear a white-carnation so I'd recognise her...she said she would if I'd buy her one.

MINUTES OF THE WELLMADOW ROAD WEAPON MAKERS SOC. (Formerly the Bulmer Aqueous Vapour Co - all the resources of which have now been incorporated in a Steam Reactor named DEBRA)

I spent a couple of hours browsing through sundry bookshops in the Soho area, and made my way to Charing Cross Station to meet Ella at 4.30, buying a white-carnation en route. She was late, and I ate the white-carnation while I was waiting, but it was a nice thought! By train and bus we made our way to the Bulmer's, and were there made very welcome. Pam cooked us a pleasant meal, and the talk too was very pleasant - Ken, Pam and I compared Stateside experiences, and came to the inevitable conclusion that TAFF is a very fine thing. Later in the evening, Ted Tubb joined us and helped make the evening more memorable with the interlineation below, and several other fine shafts of wit.

...I hurt my back while gargling.....TT



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ALMOST-MONTHLY

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Ted and Ken showed me the collection of fannish armour in the Bulmer Museum, some of which dates from the Great Whitsun Joist of a while back...and some which has only recently been manufactured. It would appear that Ken and Ted are expecting An Invasion - of either Picts or Saxons, I think! Too soon it was time for Ella and myself to leave, to catch the last train, and Ted kindly drove us to the station after a very pleasant evening. The Evening wasn't quite over tho', Ella and I talked quite a good deal of the night away before we retired.

MINUTES OF THE KEN POTTER INSULTING SOC. Since this was the first Thursday of the month, a gathering at The Globe was imminent. After spending the day in more conversation at Ella's, and taking a few photos of London, I made my way to Hatton Garden in the early evening. There before me were Ella, Don Geldart, and Jimmy Groves, and before long Bruce Burn, George Locke, Ted Forsyth, Joe Patrizio, Frank Edward Arnold, and Ken Potter joined the party.

Ella and I had a pic-eating Contest, and there was some excellent fannish conversation to go with it. I, naturally, talked of my TAFF Trip and of Pittsburgh, and a couple of people subbed for EPITAFF (7/- or \$1.00 from Don Ford or myself, publication in about a month's time. Profits to TAFF), and voted in the current TAFF Election (Have You?). This was the last time George Locke would be seen in London for some time, due to his posting to Nairobi, and much helpful advice (!) was given to him....'and you can get a good price on replicas of Kilimanjaro in pink blancmange...' We also talked of the upcoming convention at Gloucester, and of s-f, but the greater part of the evening seems to have been spent in Insulting Ken Potter (Who Loves Thelonius Monk..). A pleasant pastime which Ken seemed to quite appreciate. It was all very fine, and I enjoyed myself thoroughly - both the company and Insulting Ken Potter! I also met Bruce Burn and Joe Patrizio in person for the first time, and found both very pleasant types - Bruce, indeed, would make an excellent Harrison Agent, what more can one say...

We finished the evening off by going to Mick's in Fleet Street for assorted meals and snacks. This was made more hilarious by virtue of the fact that the waiter understood only the minimum of English. Just before we left the waiter sat down at our table to try and sort out our checks, Bruce took the opportunity to wait-on him. In a prime broken-Italian accent he asked the waiter what he would like to eat, and I can't recall when I've seen a more bemused expression on anyone's face than on our Italian waiters!

VISITING NIGHT AT THE PARKER PEN. CHA-CHA-CHA. Friday night is, technically, BSFA night at Ella's, when she holds open-house to any of the BSFA members within visiting distance. This particular evening, due to my presence, it turned out to be a general fanning night. And another most enjoyable one. Attendee's were Jimmy Groves, Bruce, Ted, Joe, Pat Kearney and Roy Shepherd. Ted had managed to bring along his firm's tape-recorder, and I played the tape which Liverpool had made for me to take to the States over on it. The reception was great, and it provoked much merriment. We then proceeded to ham up a short tape to Liverpool, and had quite a lot of fun doing so. It was interesting to note that new BSFA members Pat Kearney and Roy Shepherd seemed to enjoy the whole affair as much as anyone - the BSFA is serving a useful function.

NEBBE YOU NEED A LICENSE TO HUNT THEM After the taping session, we got thirsty, so Bruce, Ted and myself set out on an expedition to the nearest off-license. We tried several before we found one open - or maybe they hastily closed-up when they saw us approaching with the dozen-odd 'empties' which Ella had managed to accumulate. I tried to trade-in Bruce Burns Beard with the empties, but the off-license proprietress was trying to give them up. The beer we eventually returned with helped the rest of the evening go with a swing, and I rather wish I was in a position to pop round to the Parker Pen every Friday. For anyone who hasn't already visited Ella at one time or another, it's worth the effort, alone, to see the fine Atom illos gracing the walls - and you are liable to find some highly congenial fannish company there. I had a very enjoyable stay there, and I'd like to thank Ella and The Gang for being so hospitable. Fred, too.

ZINESVILLE There isn't much room left for Fanzines, but I'd like to briefly thank Les Nirenberg (1217 Weston Rd, Toronto 15) for the swinging QUE PASADO. Dick Schultz (19159 Helen, Detroit 34, Mich.) for a good first issue of SATHANAS. Ted & Sylvia White for recent VOIDS & GAMBITS (107 Christopher St, NY14). George Locke for SMOKE. N' CRY n' SHAGGY n' the very fine XERO (the third ish of which has just come from Dick & Pat Lupoff, 215 E.73rd St, NY21.) Phew....