



mi is the almost monthly, sometime almost-fortnightly, Sublimation from Eric Bentcliffe (Who comes to you courtesy of Ron Bennett) 47, Alldis St, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire, England.

#### 1961 POSTCARD SEASON OPENS EARLY

And from the looks of things this is going to be a vintage year. First arrival was a King-Size card from Puerto Rico sent by Betty and Gene Kujawa. Castro didn't sign it! This was followed in the next mail by a card from Dave & Ruth Kyle which extolls the virtue of using a Maidenform Bra!! And even more exotic still....

#### BOYD RAEBURN GOES BEACHCOMBING

But at Montego Bay, Jamaica - air-fare from New York 259 dollars, but the girls are willing (it says in PLAYBOY) - which sounds like a mighty fine place to both pick up lumber, and get yourself in it..... Boyd apologises for not commenting on the first BASTION and says that luxurious living and fanac seem to clash. But how long have you been at Montego Bay, Boyd!?! And can you get a double-brandy for the equivalent of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d ???

#### OFF SEASON FOR BEARDS

Following on the great tradition started by Dave Newman R.I.P. at Kettering, of only shaving once a year - which led unfortunately to Banishment To Bournemouth - Bob Parkinson shaved his beard For TAFF last year. This year we have not one beard to offer but two, to be auctioned for TAFF. The Parkinson Beard is a fine reddish-brown growth (a much superior crop to last years, which had been spoiled by green-fly!) and I feel confident that it will fetch a high price. Also to be auctioned is the black-spade appendage of Bruce Burn, a much travelled Beard this, all the way from New Zealand, a type of growth not often seen in this effete island. BOTH THESE FINE BEARDS will be auctioned for TAFF at Gloucester. AND, in case you are unable to attend the Convention, I am willing to accept postal bids and will promise to send the Beard post-paid in a sealed envelope should a postal bid prove higher than bidding at the Con. I feel that this offer will be of special interest to any young, and beardless, neo's amongst my readership. Unable to grow a beard ??? Not allowed in the Left-Wing Coffee Bars? Here is your chance to obtain a fully grown Beard without the mental stress of growing one. A suitable glue will be recommended! Roots are extra...

#### COMEDY FILM OF THE YEAR

VERY highly recommended is the French "Le Triporteur" (The Screwball). This is one of the funniest, zaniest films I've seen in a long long time. The star is one Danny Cowl who I've seen previously only as a character actor, in this film he's fabulous. A sort of a cross between Peter Sellers and Danny Kay, but with a style all his own. He sets out by tricycle to see a football match in Nice and...but the plot is uni,portant. The scene where he operates on his smashed up trike, in full surgeons rig, is worth the price of admission alone. See it.

## COLONIAL EXCURSION RATES

Pretty High... Due to sterling work on the part of both Norman Shorrocks and Eddie Jones it was possible to send off a pre-publication copy of EPITAFF to Ron a few days ago. A couple of days after mailing this I received COLONIAL EXCURSION. Like, SNAP, Ron! Your friendly SKYRACK editor was kind enough to send a swift letter saying that he was enjoying my TAFF report...and I'm more than ready to say that the enjoyment of TAFF reports is mutual. While TAFF reports are generally enjoyable to most fans, they are even more so to other TAFF representatives - having met many of the people that are mentioned in Ron's report, experienced similar happenings, and covered parts of his journey myself, I got a heck of a lot of enjoyment from reading it. All 93 Quarto pages of it. Atom has done some very fine illos for the report, and I'm rather taken with the photographic cover Ron has done. VERY FINE VALUE at 7/- or One Dollar a copy, and the only reason it didn't get Front Page Headlines in mi is because I'd already stencilled page one when it arrived...and if this issue of mi is too late to catch the next Bennett APA Mailing it's because I've been too busy reading COLONIAL EXCURSION.

## THIS IS YOUR LIFE ?

As you've probably heard by now, I'll be doing an Eammon Andrews again at this year's Eastercon, and this would seem to be an almost ideal time and place to spread a few more contradictory rumours as to this year's Fan Personality! One thing I like about doing TIYL are the Ploys inherent in it....last year I had the Person Himself helping to spread rumours, this year I've taken things a little bit further (and it's nice of you to distribute this, Ron), but with a revelation that must wait until after the Con. The Subject could be almost any well known fan, of course...Ron Bennett, perhaps? Arthur Thomson, mayhap? (Why do you think Ella wanted to get the Atomthology out in time for the con, Art...) And of course Dave Kyle, who will be at Gloucester with wife Ruth - Dave is so excellent at fannish ploys himself... But perhaps the most logical subject is a person well known to Fandom, Russia's Dreaded SMERSH, and the Foreign Office. Sir William Makepiece Harrison is flying in from Barcelona especially for the convention.... His right and left hand men, Hurstmonceaux and Faversham will be there, too. Of course, you say, all this may be just so much waffle to throw you off the scent...and you could be right!

## DOBSONS CHOICE

Dobson Books Ltd., have done the favour of sending along a copy of their latest s-f release for review; Fred Pohl's SLAVE SHIP. Unlike certain professional critics I only like to pan a book when I don't enjoy it, and I'm afraid I have to do just that with this title. This is the yeleft satire of training animals for 'warfare', and I find it a real drag. I didn't like it when it was serialized in GALAXY, I don't like it any better in hard-covers. It's just...muddy. In direct contrast is Robert Heinlein's STARSHIP TROOPERS which has just been issued (unabridged) by Four Square in a pb edition. This title has probably roused more comment in the fan press than any other novel of recent years, and it merits it. Whether you read this for its sheer entertainment value (as one of the best novels of Soldiering ever written) or for its underlying message, you should read it. Most people who have been in one or other of the Armed Forces will agree with its edict, those who haven't probably won't. The only theory in the book I really disagree with is the assumption that former soldiers would make better rulers, and be any wiser in judging when Controlled Violence should be used than Politicians. This is certainly the most stimulating s-f novel of recent years.

.....eb.