

MANDATE 5



MANNDATE

Number 5

Manndate #5 is published by Richard Mann, 249B South Nevada Street (all this time I thought it was Nevada Drive!), Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota 58201, United States of America. It is published for the 17th quarterly mailing of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, August 24, 1965. This is ROMPress Publication No. 85 -- have at you, Len Bailes! This publication, or fanzine, if you must, appears on a quarterly schedule, and is available to outside persons at the rate of 10¢ per issue, which in the case of this issue is definitely Dirt Cheap. So buy one, somebody. I haven't sold a fanzine in ages. Cover by Joe Staton, and I don't really know if there's a bacover, so if you want to know, look and see. I'll make sure the signature is clear. This portion of this fanzine was presented courtesy the Acme Colophon Service.

ramnderings

As perhaps you can tell, this is being run off by my very own self, entirely and completely. I bought a mimeograph just over a week ago, and that same day cut a stencil and ran it off, sending copies all over the fannish microcosm. It was a mistake, perhaps, because the first stencil I ran on the machine was cut on my other typer, which won't cut a good stencil at all. Oh, well, let us hope that this zine comes out better.

I have troubles with the show-through. Part of this originally, was due to too much ink and too thick of letters. Now, I use a typing plate and no film top, and it comes out better. Now, if I could find some good thick paper, I'd have it licked. Unfortunately, all I can get in Grand Forks is similar to this pink stuff, which you can see gets too show-through. I have purchased some Gestetner brand Goldenrod (which is much brighter and gaudier than I would have thought) which I will use while running off Tom Dupree's zine. I don't think Tom used a typing plate at all, and his stuff is going to showthrough something terrible, unless the paper is a lot better than it looks.

A few notes on Tom's zine: I haven't run it off yet, but I can tell you right now that the tops of the pages will not come out completely readibly. On my mimeo, it's very hard to get ink right up at the top of the stencil, so I type from line 6 to line 64 or so, and bypass the problem. Tom didn't. I warned him....

Other repro notes: I also ran off Steve Barr's AUSTRAL #1 on the ditto. For some unfathomable reason, Steve wanted 106 copies of the thing, and I can't get good repro over that many copies. In order to even get that many copies, I have to run even the first ones at low fluid and keep them light. Therefore, you're getting some lousy copies in the mailings. There weren't any really good ones. Steve insisted, though, so there you are.

Along the same lines, you'll find another zine in here that I'm franking in and that I ran off. It's 'Why Am I An Only Fan?' #1 published by Alan Mann. That's my younger, comic-worshipping brother. It is composed of 2 pages, being a list of all comic fans that have had their letters printed in Marvel Comic from the state of New York. He did it for the first mailing of a group he's organizing, called MAPA, the Marvel Amateur Press Association, which has nothing to do with Tom Dupree's Monster Apa or the old Modern Apa. He's got 14 members now, and more coming, most likely. Included in the membership are such stalwarts as John Kusske and famous comic-bnf Paul Moslander. Or something like that. I was running it off for him last night -- he only wanted 30 copies. I kept right on going up to 55 -- I can't see wasting such work (I put in my share of the copying down the names of all 140 people on the list) on MAPA without putting through something legitimate. Send thank you notes in small, unmarked envelopes, please.

Now -- I'll offer to run off fanzines for any and all comers, any old time. I shall charge exorbitant rates for it, just slightly less than you would have to pay Bruce Pelz to do it for you. I still haven't figured a Set Rate for it, I just charge you for it when I see the shape of your masters/stencils, the urgentness of your deadline, my mood, etc. Whatever I charge, it isn't much more than what it costs for paper, if you want ditto. The mimeo is still new and strange, so I can't say for that.

If you take it to your mind to send me stencils, leave the first five lines blank and type from line 6 to about 63 or 64, and all will be well. Try to get as thin and sharp as you can get the copy. Like use a typing plate and no film tops, and that should do it. Mailing stencils works best in a tube, but I suppose folded one will work -- I don't know if I can run them yet, but Tom's were folded this time, and if they don't come out, I'll know.

If you send masters for something, be sure to leave me an inch or even two combined margin at the top and bottom. My registration is by scotch tape, so margins you forgot to leave at the top can be made up for on the bottom, etc. Joe Steton has a habit of sending masters that have too much on them to get it all on the page -- the first inch of the paper goes through the machine with no fluid and no print, so I need an inch.

* * * * *

Dave Hulan and I are having a pagecount war. This fanzine is my first attempt to out-page him, and it's a pretty good start. While only 11 of it is written by myself, there will be lots of pages in the mailing from my dupers. I shall be most anxious to see if I can take Dave. I have tried to avoid the dread Katz Disease, that of over-milking the mc section for a pagecount war, as Arnie did in SAPS. I hope your grotesquing points are sufficiently high that my mere nine pages will remain as they should.

And that wraps it up from me for this time. I hope for another mailing of approximately the same size as the last one, which, to my simple mind, was ideally sized. While Clarges made up 53 pages of our total, they were a fine 53 pages. Starling took up a lot of the pages, too, but it hurt nothing, though it certainly wasn't up to the standards of Clarges. And who could expect it to be? I'll see you all next mailing.

Stay Well,

Rich Mann, 1965

LOOKING OVER

THE PULPS

PART I: *Western Style*

By Rich Mann

The idea of this column is to take some random pulp zine -- I know I read at least one every three months! -- and read it, then write a review of sorts on it, going over everything in the magazine from the editorial to the letter column, and perhaps even mentioning the fiction in passing. This idea is brazenly stolen from John Boardman's *Apa F* zine, but I've managed to put a new twist into it this first time....

The pulp at hand is the current issue of Ranch Romances, the last surviving pulp fiction magazine in the country -- or so I'm told. It's the November 1965 issue, costing 35¢ and bearing a phrase that used to set our hearts beating with excitement: "A Thrilling Publication". The publisher is the Popular Library, the same outfit that published a *Wonder Stories Annual* a couple years ago, and more recently issued *A Treasury of Great SF* or some such title, both in pulp format. Pulpzines seem to run in the family. This particular issue runs to 98 pages, 10 of which are advertising, and 7 of which are illustrations. It is published quarterly, and has been in the business for 41 years, this being Vol. 217, No. 4.

There are two things of value in this issue: 1) the cover, and 2) a letter from some clod named Rich Mann, and its value is somewhat questionable to the rest of the world. First, the cover. It's really quite attractive, with a background that appears to be wooden, since it's the right color and has a grained look to it. Featured is a large cowboy character with a square jaw and modestly honest looks standing at the handle of what must be a gatling gun, turning the crank at some injuns or rustlers or something that isn't pictured. To his left stands a beautiful young woman, wielding a carbine meaningfully, wearing lovely red hair and a rather low neckline. I remember the women on the old sf pulps' covers, particularly those drawn by Bergey for the *Standard* twins. The doll on this cover makes the old Bergey women seem like a bunch of innocent young things trying to make out like they're sexy in their metal bras and improbable goldfish bowl space helmets. This is being unfair, of course, since the popular conception of a beautiful woman has changed more than somewhat since the early forties. The cover is signed by someone with the signature "Reader" which may or may not Mean Anything. The overall effect is pleasing in a subdued sort of way -- I was not even ashamed when the girl at the drugstore counter looked at the cover of thing for the price when I bought it, like I'm sure I would have been with *Startling Stories* back in the Good Old Days.

Number two is the letter column, the first thing in the magazine after the contents page. Entitled "Our Air Mail", it seems to be mostly lonely old people looking for "Pen Pals" and little girls who would like to write to "cowboys". However, there are a few intriguing exceptions. For instance, we have a letter that seems to be testing the discretionary powers of the magazine's editorial staff by claiming to be a Perfect Person and seeing if they'll print it. They did. Listen to the claims of Gayleen Evans: 16 years old, 5'6", 110 lbs, no doubt all of which is intriguingly curvaceous as can be, and she says she's nuts

about the following things: giving parties, cooking, baseball, hockey, rugby (!), golf, tennis, badminton, bowling, football, car, motorcycle and horse races, fishing, boating, guns, dancing, music, theater, murder mysteries, westerns, Tennessee Williams, Eugene O'Neill, Ernest Hemingway, and Richard Tregaskis. And then, in her most likely voluminous spare time, she writes short stories for magazines. Pardon my skepticism, Gayleen Evans, but I don't believe that you're all you claim to be. There's also a letter from one Euda Beckett, who says, "...you may not expect me to admit that I have a natural wiggle that took Jane Mansfield years to perfect, but that's me. It has something to do with the congenital formation of my hips, they tell me." In case any of you want to write this remarkable young woman (she's 18), the address is 1002 Logan, Helena, Montana 59601. She responded to a copy of this article (Hombren 41, Apa-L) in a most interesting manner....

The real exception is me, of course. My letter was the first one printed -- take my advice and don't get your letters printed in Ranch Romances -- I've received over 15 offers of correspondence so far from people ranging from 14 year old girls to some 60 or 70 year old biddy who writes illegibly. I wrote them for a couple of reasons: 1) To see My Name In Print, of course, and 2) I might have found some interesting new people. I have found a couple of interesting ones (Euda Beckett included), so it wasn't a total waste. The first letter to come in was from an Indiana girl who reads Walter Farley and Emile Loring. In spite of that, she's an interesting sort to me. Femme fen are few and far between, so I welcome any female correspondents. I haven't actually read any Emile Loring books, but it's a pretty safe bet as to what they're like, if you've ever seen any of the full plague of them that Bantam has printed recently. Farley is a good writer -- I read every one of his horse stories I could find in my elementary school library when I was in the fifth and sixth grades. I even wrote to her -- and included a copy of Hombren 41. She may not ever respond.

The next feature is called "Roundup" and covers the Hollywood angle of westerns, telling us all about up coming movies and Bea Benederet, *star* of "Petticoat Junction", a remarkably insipid television show about a ramshackle hotel out in the boondocks somewhere. I suppose the column is OK if you're the type that likes such television fare or loves Country and Western music, but for me it's nearly worthless. It serves one valuable purpose though: it takes up space that could be filled with fiction. Anything is better than that.

Then comes that fiction. It would be more kind to skip this portion of the magazine, but that would be unfair to the magazine's editorial staff, who deserve the comments below. First is a short story by Lee Martin, entitled "Cold Blooded Lawman". Imagine, if your stomach can take it, the very worst sort of sloppily moralistic tv program about a love-lorn sherriff who forsakes his True Love for the Law, and then finds she was just a crook all the time. He walks off with the town widow, to a Good Life at the end of the six or eight pages. Add the writing ability of Robert Lionel Fanthorpe, and you have an accurate idea of what this was like.

The other short story is "Lacey's Luck" by Gordon Redmond, who also seems to be a rank incompetent. The story concerns a boob of a hero that lucks into killing an outlaw (he was shooting rabbits), and then is Instantly Reappraised by his town, and becomes Mr. Big. Turns out it was his girl that shot the outlaw to save him. End of story. I think the plot ~~sprints~~ speaks for itself.

LOOKING OVER THE MOUNTS 0.3

The real meat of this issue is a novel by Wayne D. Overholser entitled "Mission to Sontag". Anything over 15 pages, of course, is a novel, in the great tradition of the pulps from the very beginning of time. The story claims to be a rangeland mystery, and it does try. The style and writing is not bad, but not good, either. It is professionally competent, salable writing that plods along mumbling to itself rather unimaginationatively, never getting even a glimmer of really interesting sparkle. It seems to me that if you're an unimaginative person, with a rather humdrum outlook on things, you could read this and maybe even enjoy it, though not very much. The mystery angle of the story is not handled well -- it's Western Plot #3, not even thinly disguised for the reader's sake, and anyone who has ever read or seen a western on tv can tell you the outcome of the story in 25 words or less after reading the third page of the story. This of course adds nothing to the nonexistent charm of the story, making it more of a waste of time than ever. The editors must really be in a bind for novels, since this isn't even original, having been copyrighted in 1951 by Best Books, Inc, whoever they are. I could almost see printing this if it came in as an original submission, because it is better than the rest of the zine, but as a reprint, it just isn't worth it. There must be better works available... I know there are because Ace is also reprinting short western novels that are good (for the most part).

There are a couple more stories, ranging from horrid to merely unbearable. There's even a crossword puzzle for People Like That, but I found it far too easy for even my uninformed mind. The advertising is Fun, though. It's the same old stuff we used to see in TWS and such. There's a mystic swami, a couple of Cupid Clubs, trusses, good luck charms, and the works.

Even though there is a sense of nostalgia for me involved in going down to the neighborhood drug store and buying a pulp fiction zine, it is rapidly dispelled as you read their fantasy letter column and their unimaginative at best and incompetent at worst fictional offerings. Much as it pains me to admit it, I've seen better plotting in Rawhide Kid and Kid Colt Outlaw comic books than in Ranch Romances. It was a sad and rather disappointing thing to read this magazine -- I had hopes for some good western stories in a pulp zine I could develop a fierce loyalty to, but this just isn't it. Like I said in the beginning, it has a great cover -- that redhead really sends me.

-- Rich Mann, August 1965

DUST by Wayne Wightman

They all said Samuel was crazy. One day he went walking several inches off the ground: People said he was a genius. Later, he killed a small girl for no apparent reason: People called him a monster. Samuel merely laughed and turned all the townsfolk into piles of dust. Oddly enough, the wind began to blow and he suffocated.

THE CARTER BROWN COLLECTOR

I am a collector of the Carter Brown mystery series of books, and I need quite a few of the books to complete my collection. I would like to purchase the following books in the Signet-New American Library editions, in the best condition possible. The first of these books was published in 1959 or so, so they are fairly available. If you should chance to see one of the titles blow at your newsstand or something, I'd appreciate your buying it for me. The books are pretty recognizable ones -- they're the ones with those sexy covers all painted by the same fellow, and if you've ever seen one of them, you can identify the rest of them on sight.

- 1527 The Body
- 1565 The Blonde
- 1620 The Lover
- 1633 The Victim
- 1663 Walk Softly, Witch
- 1694 None But the Lethal Heart
- 1713 The Wanton
- 1722 Suddenly By Violence 25¢
- 1738 The Dame
- 1750 Terror Comes Creeping
- 1767 The Bombshell
- 1764 The Desired
- 1784 The Wayward Wahine

- S1801 Graves, I Dig!
- S1806 Tomorrow Is Murder
- S1817 The Temptress
- S1845 The Dream Is Deadly
- S1919 The Ever-Loving Blues
- S1924 The Myopic Mermaid
- S1950 The Unorthodox Corpse
- S1972 The Blonde (reprint of 1565)
- S2023 The Bad-Eyed Seductress S: 35¢
- S2033 Zelda
- S2094 Angel
- S2110 The Ice-Cold Nude
- S2122 The Hellcat
- S2148 The Lady Is Transparent
- S2180 The Hong Kong Caper
- S2259 The Passionate Pagan
- S2275 The White Bikini

- G2291 The Girl Who Was Fessessed G: 40¢

That's 31 that I need yet, mostly old ones. I have 43 of the books, included the last 25 in a row. I have read only 29 of the ones I have, but I'm working on it -- I read them in spurts of five or ten, then get tired of them, and set them aside for a month or so.

Anyway, somewhere along the line, this accumulation assumed the facets of a collection, and now I need the rest of the books to fill it out. Your help is humbly requested.

Thank you.

-- Rich Mann

GRUNT LINGS

Yes, it's time to embark into the fine land of the mailing comment again, and thistime I'm starting with lots of time to spare and lots of stencils and, of course, My Very Own Mimeo sitting right at hand waiting to be used. I've managed to run two things off with it so far, and the second one turned out fine, but I am having troubles with the typers I stencil things with. What I'd really like would be for some one to send me a really well-cut stencil to run off; then I could tell how much of the problem is the mimeo and how much is the stenciling job. Oh well, I'll just cut the best stencil I can with this typer (the other one is much worse for stencils), and hope for the best.

In light of our page-count war (we can be a Big Cheese apa, too!), this is the wrong typer to be using -- I could get another page or two total by using the pica typer. This doesn't seem to be possible, though, so we shall just have a lot of white (or pink or something) space in these pages. And most likely, we'll have a lot of blathering, more than usual, as I try for ten or fifteen pages of mailing comments. Remember, it's Dave Hulan's fault!

Have at you, Dave Hulan!

The Southerner 16 -- Dave Hulan

When you become OE, you really hit with a bang, don't you Dave? I must say that I'm disappointed to see The Southerner in ditto, though, but as you say, it's a touch better than Press'n'Print, though when you've got the Rex available to you. I've noticed that since the arrival of the ditto, you've almost completely given up the Rex, even to the somewhat drastic extent of using ditto in SAPS! I think that the arrival of a new toy in the duper line is insidious -- I know that since I got my mimeo, I've used it twice for Apa-L, which is sort of ridiculous, really. I'm just glad that my over-use is the mimeo and not the ditto.

I don't think I like the new system of page count requirements. I, for instance, could have skipped this mailing, and all of 17-22, and only hit 23 with twelve pages. No one should be able to stick in an apa through 6 full mailings without hitting it at all, especially an apa as small as this one is. I realize your penalty page system is designed as a discouragement to missing mailings, but a postcard every three months is not hard to write. And on the yearly system, it takes too long to get rid of someone who decides to quit and let his membership lapse when his dues or activity run out. You can freeload too long too easily.

The name of my fanzine is not MANNdate, but it is Manndate. Remember that when typing contents pages, Dave. What my cover artist thinks is his business, it's what it says in the colophon that matters. Whoops, the colophon has it all in caps, doesn't it? Well, let this be your notification of title form or some such.

I'm somewhat disappointed at my showing in the egoboc poll, naturally. Of course, this and a few of the other similar polls in OtherAPAs brought me to an abrupt self-analysis of sorts, and the result was the promise to myself to try and make things just a bit better. My life in Apa-L had corrupted me -- it's so easy to rationalize crud produced in a hasty one night session with homework pressing for that same night. Somewhere along the line, I lost my sense of balance about the whole thing, and my other zines became quick and hasty no effort only. I'm trying to remedy this as fast as I can -- now I just hope that there'll be an article in here justify this comment. There was one I did for Apa-L last night that I could reprint, I guess.

Loki 7 -- Dave Hulan

A fine issue of Loki this time, Dave. You know, I think this issue has the best Writing I've seen from Katya for a while -- perhaps it was just my mood today while reading it that did it. Up until the arrival of some friends of my parents with their bratty little kids, I was having a fine day. Now that they've gone, I can see that it wasn't really too bad away. I spent most of it in little nooks and crannies of the house, reading the mailing with a pencil for checkmarking the thing.

Your analysis of the Narnia books reminded me of something I haven't thought of for about a year. I once sent for all of the books in the series, through a book club -- this was back when we first talking about them in SAPS, but somehow they don't seem to have arrived here yet. I suppose they aren't coming, and after hearing more from your viewpoint on the books, I'm glad they never did, even if the whole set was free as an introductory offer or something.

Katya's comments on her Christmas tree that Christmas are bringing on an article on Christmas in Puerto Rico -- I can feel it coming.

Carbo 19 -- Benyo/Jackson SPECIAL APA ISSUE!!!

Well, all this seems to amount to is an ad for Pet-Rich, which is worth all that effort to advertise for, and some personal comments to the people you write letters to. I happen to find my own letters that I get in the mail to be quite interesting, but your letters to other people really don't concern apa45, SPPA, and NSAPA. Really, fellows.

No, Richie, Mannderings has yet to come out. I harbor vain hopes for its appearance even yet, but Redd seems to have absconded with the funds, and I shall no doubt someday compose and publish and mail the The Grac Boggs Boondoggle. To the entire FAPA membership. Maybe it would shame that nasty old man who claims to be so honest and upright and moralistic and all. But I doubt it, somehow.

Iscariot 16 -- Al Andrews/Bill Pettit

First, comments on your artwork. The cover, beautifully reproduced as it is, does not send me, nor do any of the other Burge covers I've seen. The detail work may be lovely in its attention, and the thought of all the work the man went to drawing this are certainly appreciated, but those silly bugs or whatever are not beautiful and they don't seem to be doing anything to cause much interest. I appreciate and respect the work, but as art it's strictly pfft! REG 791 on page six seems a bit unrealistic, what with those rubber nipples on her. REG 755, the full page thingie, is reproduced rather well, Bill, but I can't say that I care

for REG's method of shading his nude women. He usually does very well with the lines of the body, and the shading is rather well placed, but it seems crudely done or something. On this one, however, he's managed to get around what I've always thought to be his worst fault with women, that of their faces and mouths. Trouble is, I keep turning that page and looking on the other side for the front of the girl... Still, I think this particular drawing deserved the treatment it got.

Bill: Another Dylan nut? You and Arnie... I rather like his most recent one that you'll hear on the radio occasionally, "Like a Rolling Stone", which has a good sound to it, even if his voice is rather nauseating in itself. He has written some lovely songs, I'll grant you, though, and when performed like Peter, Paul, and Mary did "Blowin' In The Wind", he's great.

I notice some self-doubt towards the end of your piece. Don't worry about it, your section was most interesting, and I think I'm going to like getting to know you in the SFPA.

Invader 7 -- Joe Staton

Glad you liked "The Green Hills of Earth" so much. Heinlein is capable of much good writing, it's a shame that he has to stuff it with all the philosophy these days. I don't however, see any trouble in procuring a copy of the Signet collection of Heinlein shorts (gee, I didn't know they did his laundry...) of which GHOE is the title story -- they reprint it every other year or so, and have reprinted it just recently in their Great Heinlein Boom. I even managed to get a newstand copy in Puerto Rico, and nobody can tell me that Milan, Tennessee has worse distribution than Puerto Rico gets.

The girl in the illo atop your mc column bears striking resemblance to what I think of when I think of Dian Pelz -- could it be on purpose. (I don't see how it couldn't be, not with that elephant in the background...)

STAMP 1 -- Joe Staton

Hmmmm...I seem to have troubles remembering my own format. ##Very good thing to have on hand. I am Mighty Proud to be listed Bomb Squad Director, but there is one thing... You see, my copy of this mailing was opened en route and examined. Among other things, the Educational Matter was disallowed, but the important thing is that some narrow-minded official may have just read Stamp 1. If so, I can just see the way my packages of fanzines are going to look upon arrival in LA -- opened every time by the PO looking for Bombs that I may be planting in empty PO boxes throughout the country, etc. Somehow, I feel like a Marked Fan. I'd been wondering what all those mailmen had been doing skulking around my back yard this last month or so....

The Amazing SFPA-Fan 1(?) -- Joe Staton/Len Bailes

A mighty-fine piece of work fellows. I think you may have missed out for schtick by not using Dian, but my hopeful thought is that you're saving her for the next issue, which will be in this mailing, of course. Not so, you say? Well, it had best be in the next one, you two. While your plot wasn't too awfully great, it did give lots of action scenes (goshwow!) and many places for puns and good lines -- I shall treasure the line where Lannman uses his pressure control button to fade away. ##Do I really look like that, Joe?

Manndate 4 -- me

It is interesting to note that in the last mailing, the largest strictly apafanzine to appear was Manndate, tied with Utgard, a fine start to a pagecount war. Of course, not counting reprints and such, Dave had me beat All To Hell. Owell.

Zinfandel 1 -- Dave Hulan

Zinfandel #1 seems to be some sort of fabulous fannish one shot from a bunch of people who aren't prone to that sort of thing too often, with the notable exceptions of Dave and Katya Hulan, who attend SAPS one-shot sessions with Edco and LeeJ regularly; and Bjo and John Trimble, who appear in and often host the fabulous oneshot session parties given by the LA FAPA cartel so often. Who doesn't usually do oneshots? Why, Roy and Katwen, of course. (The babies, you uninformed boob!)

Melikaphkhaz 1 -- Lon Atkins

Another of those remarkably well-stenciled covers you seem to get so easily. I recall the cover of Clarges 1 had the same charm -- big, bold, thick lines giving proper emphasis to the figures. To see what I mean, compare this cover with that on Arnie's zine this time. Both were undoubtedly well drawn originally, but your cover, Lon, comes through with much more power and grace due to your good lines. Tell us, Lon, what is the secret? It could have something to do with the mimeo you use -- everything you run off is nice and thickly black.

I like your box score idea very much. I'm doing my best to beef up the pages contributed section of my listing, and what with 15 pages last time and an undetermined number this time, I may pull myself up to something respectable. Maybe.

I shudder at the thought of this mailing's entry under Atkins -- 1/1, 1,000, 64 pages, 64 pages per mailing. And actually, that should be 2 hit out of 1 of membership, or a BA of 2,000, which is hard to beat. Were this only SAPS, however, I could show you my 5 out of 0 record, which averages out to something astronomical, surely.

Stf magazine distribution can be awfully bad, worse than you'd expect. I suspect that you'll find that Chapel Hill would have lots of the magazines available because it's a college town. However, the distribution here in Grand Forks, which is also a going college town, is rather haphazard. In the magazine field, Gamma is never around, and the old Ziff-Davis now Ultimate twins were a come and go thing. Some months, you'd find them, other times you couldn't find a copy in town to save your neck. New pb's getsome bad distribution, too. None of the Ace Ring Trilogy books have been available in town -- I did find a copy of The Return of the King in Thief River Falls, where I bought my *new* *mimeo*, but they never showed up anywhere else in the area. I had gotten used to my lovely newstand in East Lansing, where promptly every Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, the new books for that week would be put out on a special section of the racks. This enabled me to see all sorts of things that I'd not been able to notice when looking for books in a pot-luck fashion -- I now know things like Gold Medal puts out two John D. MacDonald books a month, be they reprints or new ones. There's enough old ones to keep reprinting them right along. They seem to do this every couple years, so if you don't have all his books yet, just stick around and they'll show up sooner or later. Same with Signet & Heinlein

The five great princes of demonland? I don't know what the hell you're talking about, of course, I do, however, recall the names of the five Demon Princes. I mean, who could forget Howard Alan Tressong, Kokkor Helkus, Lens Larque, and ~~Viola Falushe~~ Viola Falushe? Trouble is, I've gone and forgotten the name of the first one, villain in The Star King, which I read in Galaxy. His name in the magazine version is Grendel the Monster, but I'll be d**ned if I can recall his new name.

Your bacover is pretty clever. Particularly like Joe Static and Al Android, but then I was always a fakefan at heart.

Warlock 8 -- Larry Montgomery

My basic reaction to seeing any cover that isn't strictly mimeo'd or ditto'd is to think "Goshwow, isn't that beautiful?" or words to that effect. It must be, or you wouldn't have gone to all that trouble and expense to get it printed some other way. Well, consider me disillusioned. Your cover just isn't any good. The face on the woman is grotesque, and the size of those breasts ruin the whole thing. Yeccccccccch.

"A heavy silence had fallen over the room, and the two figures lounging on the twin beds were deep in thought. Suddenly the fair-haired one jumps up and shouts, 'I like the idea, Let's do it!'" Aside from contemplated your odd tense change, there is wonder in that few lines. Picture in your mind a dark room, containing twin beds. There are two mysterious figures skulking about, looking for something. They are dark in the twilight of the room; both are wearing trenchcoats and large dark hats, which cover their faces nearly completely. The room is eerily silent -- with the heady silence that can only come at twilight in dank, deserted places. Then without warning, one of the figures straightens up after looking under the bed, and shouts to the whole world, "I like the idea, let's do it!" Then he scurries off into the darkness, dankness, and silence with his cohort. All is still. No one at all even noticed, for there is no one about, no one for hundreds of miles, or so it seems in the silence, the quiet of the dead. Goshwow, folks.

Congrats on your Hoax, though. It didgo over pretty well, but you waited just a little too long before revealing it. We suspected things -- there were inconsistencies in the story, like David Mitchell having read Larry's entire fanzine collection, but never having met Larry. I don't understand the necessity of having to claim you'd never met Larry, either. You did see, of course, all the people who told you you were a hoax in this mailing, though, didn't you?

What sort of egoboo poll had you SFPA types been using before the kind we had thisyear? You mention, Larry, that you don't like this form, which prompts all sorts of curiosity about what it was like before. Explanations, please.

Well, last issue of Mandate was better and bigger than #3 -- sometimes I wonder if little bitty minac issues are worse than nothing at all -- you don't notice an absence like you do a two page "nothing" zine. Still, it preserved the string of mailings hit, which is a good thing, for sure. I hope that this issue will make up for the minac and such.

In case no one else mentions it, your TT was an excellent piece of work, by far the best fanzine I've ever seen you publish. Especially considering that don't have the time this summer that you'd been counting on. Well done and thanks.

GRUNTLING p.6/

Golem 2 -- Larry Montgomery

The very best thing in this issue, outside of the Poe piece, is yours, Larry. Most of the others aren't even passable poetry, but I do like your piece rather a lot. The "Journey to Ptarth" is rather ridiculous, really. I get no imagery out of it at all, except for thinking about A.E. van Vogt whenever he says Ptarth -- I read THE BOOK OF PTATH just recently. The Morris piece, "My Mermaid" has some nice spots, but I just read a whole book about the drowning of a woman, written by John D. MacDonald (ALL THESE CONDEMNED). No fan can stand up to comparison with JMcD, and neither can many pro's. I have the feeling that I would have liked the poem, other than that.

DamnYankee 6 -- Arnie Katz

So you're binding your mailings like I am, eh? I started binding them with those type of binders quite a while ago, did one N'APA mailing, and decided it wasn't right to do that. Since then, I've had a change of heart, and I can claim the following bound mailings:

SAPS 68, 69, 70, 71, 72
N'APA 21, 24, 25
SFFA 15, 16

OMPA 43
APA45 1, 2, 3, 4
Apa-L 1-5 (One volume)

That's 16 bound volumes thus far. There'd be more but for this silly town I live in. I could get real good binders in East Lansing for 39¢ each, but a complete search of Grand Forks shows them at 59¢ only, and then not in the colors I want. I brought a supply of them with me when I left EL just in case, but it wasn't enough.

I don't understand your equals signs scattered throughout this issue and your other recent fanzines. The use of asterisks is *keen* fun, of course, but the = sign? I know the model of typer you've got Arnie, and it does have an asterisk on it in plain sight. You're probably just trying to start an exciting new fannish *fad*, I betcha.

Revenge 1 -- Dave Hall

False statement there on page two. You were in Apa45 in the April 65 mailing, and didn't hit the SFFA until June 65. We had you first. Other than that I enjoyed the zine, but I suggest that you do something very drastic and change ink pad or whatever so you can use black ink. Your repro would improve 100% if you did.

Zaje Zaculo 6 -- Len Bailes

I have a Complaint, dear Len. My copy of ZZ has pages like thus: 1,2, 5,6,5,6. I don't like that too much. I even wrote demanding a good copy if you could spare it, but no response. Therefore, you will be deprived (what? That's too much of a typo to correct now -- should be deprived) of all comments that I would have had on pages 3 and 4, ~~and / you / edit / the / comments / on / page / 3 / and / 4 /~~. That oughta teach you -- I would have had two pages of comments on 3 and 4, I can just tell it.

I have a Staton cover that looks just like this one on ZZ. Joe?

You infidel, Len Bailes. My graduation from High School was a happy-sad occasion I'll remember for a longtime. Of course, my last year of high school was rather a 9 month party instead of an actual school year. What with our calss trip to New York by ocean cruiser, etc. We left a few days after I finished up the stenciling of Romanr #1, just when I was enough involved in fandom to realize that there were fans in New York, butnone of them were particular friendsof mine. When I got home, there was a pc from John Boardman asking me over for dinner. I could kick myself around the block for not having called him.

Oboe player...OE...candidate...election...gah, you don't maan it. Why Al, I didn't know you had it in you. You should have rum.

Such and Such 4 -- Hank Luttrell

Nobody knows it, but at one time there were Four People on the Apa45 waiting list. Come the next mailing, two were new members, andthe other two were Invitees. Damn, it wouldhave been great to have a wl that would have lasted a while.

You are learning about the business of reviewing, Hank. Your reviews of the Mag of Horror this time are much better than a lot of the reviews that you have done in the past. Still, there's a long way to go to perfection, but you've got the art to a state where the reviews are good.

Starling 5 -- Hank Luttrell

Odd. Like Harry Warner, I'd never thought of your title as anything but a little bird that gave a lot of cities a lot of problems. I was really shocked when I read his letter -- that Starling meant one from the stars is such an obvious idea, and I never even came close to it.

The color of the paper thisissue ought to really nauseate ol' Garry Hubbard. This time it was by choice, though.

You say in the review col that you can't understand why Wellheim would reprint the stories in Crashing Suns. It's obvious really -- the stories are a sort of loose set of sequels to Outside The Universe, which must have sold rather well, indicating that there was a market for such utter trash. What he doesn't know is that anyone stupid enough to buy Outside the Universe and actually read it would never buy the sequel -- I did, but then I'm a collector.

Clarges 2 -- Lon Atkins.

Joe can do such wonderful covers when he really puts his mind to it. This is about the best of his that I've seen. It's helped immensely by your lovely stenciling job and mimeography, of course. I particularly like the cover of this issue, too, and usually the wovers of Invader are excellent. Yet the stuff on Katz and Bailes' zines just doesn't look like the same artist. You folks should have seen the cover of Joe's Apa45 zine this mailing. Wow! Other art comments: The Jurgen Wolff illos you've got are the best I've seen from him, too. A lot of his earlier stuff didn't turn me on at all, but things like his Round Robin in this issue are delightful. Congrats.

GRUNTINGS p. 8/

Tom Dupree's article was interesting. I disagree very much, of course. Of Course. I no longer go to see SF movies because they are invariably lousy. The one exception I've run across, IT ** THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE, which Tom cites as crud, I rather liked for a movie. After a few of the others, it was a masterpiece of suspense and drama, and it wasn't worth the trouble of going to see. A lot depends, I think, on your own personal tastes -- I don't particularly care for most movies, no matter what kind they may be. Therefore, sf movies wouldn't turn me on like they would others. I am word-oriented, not visually oriented. I might make some nasty comment about people who need to see people act it out rather than reading about it, but I won't.

The faan fiction is a wistful sort of thing that makes me pine away for wishing it could be me that it happened to. It never is, though. Well written, Lon. Thank you.

Clarges, Lon, is an excellent fanzine, done to perfection. Your material is not all topnotch -- I didn't much care for Clegg's stuff, but if any fanzine ever prompted a contrib, yours will. I see a long and wunnerful future for you. Lucky dog.

Utgard 5 -- Dave Hulan

I recognize your cover. Hohohohoho. It comes from Apa-L 14 -- for a second there, I was wondering why it had no lettering on it.

People talk about neighborhood thieves like they were a Fact Of Life. Is it so? I've lived many places, and never had much trouble with people hiring airplanes to come and steal my typers or my spare tire kits or anything. For 4 years in Puerto Rico, I had an \$80 motor scooter sitting in my backyard all night without anything to keep it from being stolen, and we never had the slightest bit of trouble. Maybe that's because the base was so well patrolled and controlled. I mean, have you ever had a policeman stop in front of your house and come ring the doorbell to tell you you'd left your porchlight on? Still, I never had any trouble.

Oh well, here goes: About Benyo's column. This was a misunderstanding. The way it happened was thus: I accepted Richie's offer of a book review col for my genzine, Mannderings, about two or three months before I put the issue on stencil, even. Richie, if you know him, is an enthusiastic sort, and before I knew what had happened, I had a ten page book review col for Md 1. I accepted with thanks. Then about two weeks later, before I even stenciled Md 1, I got ten more pages. I accepted them again, thinking it wouldn't be long before I was ready to do #2. Well, I waited and waited and waited. Soon came 10 more pages from Richie, and I was beginning to realize that Redd wasn't coming through with the mimeo'ing I had paid so handsomely for. So I wrote Richie and told him to hold off for a while on the column -- at that rate, I'd have 200 pages of book reviews before #2 was ready to even be thought about. I couldn't use all the first installment of the col in #1, so I used the overflow in Manndate 1. I fully intended to use the overflow of #2 in Manndate the next time I did a Mannderings.

The thing is that I have nothing at all against reviews of old books. It's just old reviews of any books soon go out of date. There is a portion in one of the cols that says something about there being no reprints of the

Eric John Stark stories. Well, since then, there have been several reprinted here and there. In the other col, he talks about the James Bond books. Since it was written, there have been two more Bond books out, Fleming has died, and other things have happened. The reviews are just old.

I would have thought that you wouldn't want me to waste the reviews in the SFPA that you wanted into the genzine only, or I would have gone on and used the reviews you sent -- because, Richie, I like your reviews better than anything else you write, and better than most reviews in fandom. Therefore, since I didn't know you felt that way until just now, I'll just reprint or rather print one of your columns -- or part of it, anyway. Right here and now. One problem, though. I am almost out of stencils now, and there's no chance of getting more until Too Late. I may even ditto your column and put it on the back of this zine's mimeo section.

Richie, I'm extremely sorry that we didn't quite communicate, and that I've hurt your feelings. I meant no harm, and agree with you entirely.

Odd, Dave, that Ted White comes over in print (at least to me) as older than you. I would have imagined him to be 35 or 40 by now, for no good reason other than I got that impression out of his having been in fandom for so long. I think I tend to age you people in the 20-30 age group by how long you've been a fan or something.

The Fan of Bronze not as good this time -- nothing happens to retain the interest of the reader -- you've got to do more than set the scene in installments of a quarterly serial. It looks promising, but I was disappointed in that there were no major developments in the plot.

Kabumpo 3 -- Dian Pelz

A LASFS-only genzine? Geez, why did you have to go and tell us so that we can eat our hearts out wishing we could get copies of the thing? Oh well, it's too late now, I suppose. I shall just pine away quietly.

I still have a cover illo that you did for me about a year ago, I think, that I've been saving for Murders 2. I doubt if you'll object to my using next year or whenever Redd decides to send my stencils back.

Sentinel 2 -- Dave Locke

Hi, Dave. I'm rather glad you haven't given up completely, even if your only fanac is the SFPA. No other comments, worse luck.

A Portfolio for David Mitchell -- Dian Pelz

Hilarious. Still, you say this is to prove that Sex and SFmix, where only 2 of the 6 scenes I've read the book of have anything to do with sex. In, for instance, The Naked Sun, when she comes out of the shower, she's just as good as fully dressed in her opinion. In The Long Loud Silence, there is no sex in that scene, or really in the whole book, to any extent. In 5,271,009, however, it is sex, pure and simple.

Other PM's: Thanks to the principals for them. They are: Noted.

WOW!

I have now run off this entire issue with the exception of this sheet and the ditto'd portion of the zine, and it occurs to me that an apology is in order here. This, friends, is what is known as a crudzine, pure and simple. I had such high hopes for this issue -- mimeo'd, carefully stenciled, lots of mailing comments done in no hurry, an article re-printed from Apa*1, and a good book review column, all with a fabulous Staton cover, the very best thing he's ever sent me, and one of the best I've seen him do.

And then I ran it off. And I am sorry. I do as Joe suggests -- I moan and beat my head on the desk when I see all that horrid show-through and those ugly ink splotches all over everything.

I cry a lot.

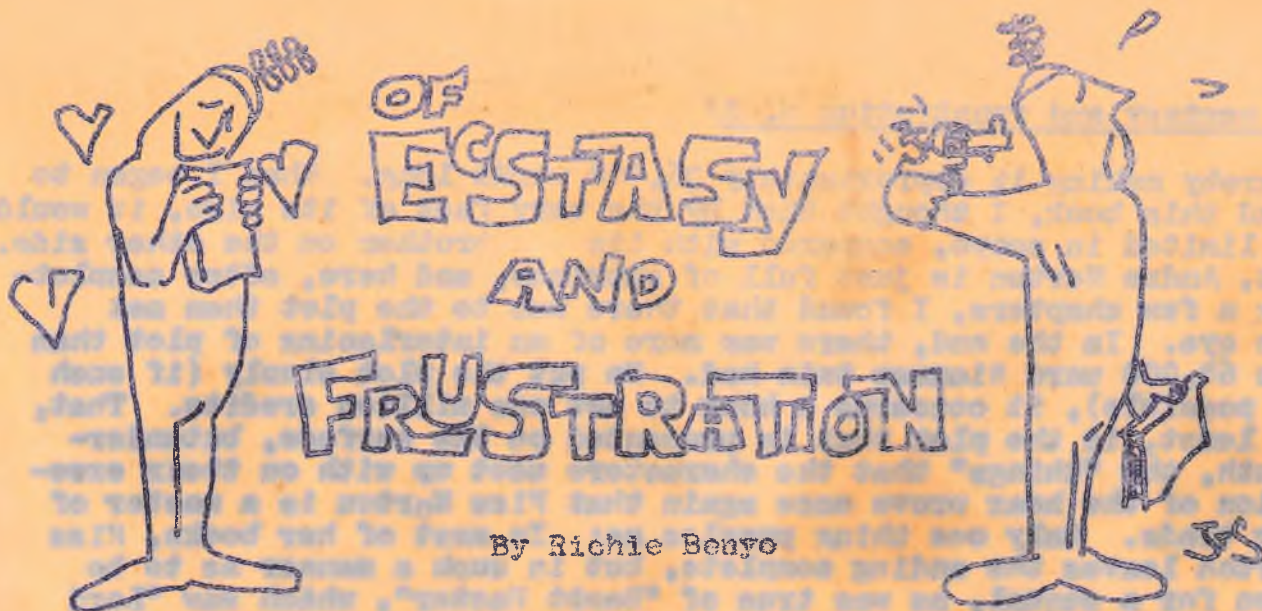
But there is nothing to be done about it, I fear. I am learning the use of the machine as fast as I can, and I've overcome 2 and a half major problems already. One, the impression roller had a soft spot, which you can see on the first few pages of the mc's. Two, I got the faulty feeding mechanism fixed. Now it only feeds in five sheets at once, if I'm lucky. With these problems "fixed", I can run off things with a modicum of order and success, but the results are not right. The show-through is still terrific. It spoils the effect of the entire zine.

I have some twill-tone paper on order, and perhaps it will aid my sad plight, but I am not overly optimistic about it. Investigation of all the local suppliers shows only the type of paper like this you are now holding. I've got some Gestetner brand goldenrod on hand upon which I shall run off Tom Dupree's fanzine, with luck. Perhaps it will be better. I can't really say.

The ink may have something to do with it. My ink that was used on the first few mc pages was the celebrated axle grease, but now I've bought some of Speed-O-Print's best ink, and even it doesn't help much.

So I cry a lot, and beat my head on the desk. And I'm sorry about it all, really I am. *Sob*

rom



ESCAPE ON VENUS -- Edgar Rice Burroughs -- Ace Books #F-268 -- 40¢
original copyright 1946, released 1964 -- classification: adventure
fantasy.

This is, as the title implies, a series of the escape that old ERB was so famous for. These adventures, although I'm not too well versed on Burroughs history, seem like they were originally magazine novelets, which were later put together into a novel. I could be wrong, but, were I an editor, I would have found no problem running them as such. The novel is simply of various types of captures, cultures, escapes, and the trivia of Wrong-Way Carson. It is not one of Burrough's better books, as most of his later ones seem to strike me. There is, due to the very quantity of his output, much pepitition, but it is sprinkled just thinly enough, and alternated just enough, to keep it up with Burroughs' tradition of swashbuckling adventure on an alien world. Perhaps the most striking feature of the entire book is the variety of cultures featured. But, for anyone who wants some good hours of relaxing reading, at a fast pace, this is a good book to fill the bill. Again, not the best, but far enough above many of today's stories, to warrant one's buying and enjoying it. Since there is such an abundance of ERB reviews lately, I'll keep mine shorter than my others in the col. Remark: Recommended.

STAR HUNTER -- Andre Norton -- Ace Books D-509 -- 35¢ -- copyright 1961 by Ace Books, first publication -- classification: adventure science fiction.

It is no secret that I'm a stout Andre Norton fan, and by that very fact, I'm more or less prone to pick out the worst, as well as the best points of her writing. This is, perhaps, one of her little-known works, as it was the short end of an Ace Double, the now-famous BEAST MASTER gracing the other side, and that having first seen hardcover publication. Another fact that works against it is its length. It's only 96 Ace pages long, constituting 13 chapters,

thereby making it approximately 36,000 words long. When I began to read this book, I thought that by the very fact of its size, it would be limited in scope, compared with its brother on the other side. But, Andre Norton is just full of surprises, and here, after completing a few chapters, I found that there was to the plot than met the eye. In the end, there was more of an interlacing of plot than the 60,000 word Siamese twin had. To put the plot simply (if such is possible), it concerns a hoax to net one million credits. That, at least, is the plot that is presented on the surface, but underneath, the "things" that the characters meet up with on their execution of the hoax prove once again that Miss Norton is a master of her trade. Only one thing puzzles me: In most of her books, Miss Norton leaves the ending complete, but in such a manner as to be open for a sequel, as was true of "Beast Master", which saw "Lord of Thunder" follow up the adventures of Hesteen Storm. But will there be a novel to follow up the adventures of Vye Lancer and Ras Hume? Personally, I doubt it, but it sure would be fun to get one, as the two heroes work quite well together. Again, like most of Miss Norton's early works, this is a juvenile work, so that there is another surprise in the ending, showing that the hero, who was as crooked as a snake's tongue, turned...heek, I'm not going to spoil it. This book may be a little scarce right now, what with s-f readers getting the Norton-bug, etc., but a second hand book store or dealer might have it. It might very well be worth looking into. If you haven't read an Andre Norton book yet, try this one on for size. Remark: Highly recommended.

TIME AND STARS -- Poul Anderson -- Doubleday Science Fiction -- book club edition, \$1 -- 1963, 1964 -- anthology -- classification: science fiction and fantasy.

As an opening remark -- I didn't that I'd read this book. I usually shun anthologies, as they don't strike a strong chord in me. Novels are usually my meat. But, upon seeing No Truce With Kings up for a Hugo, and since it was the first story in the collection here, I figured that it wouldn't hurt me to try it -- so I did. I'm not sorry, either. It is really Hugo material, as are most of Poul's. He certainly is a master of his craft, and develops his story quite deftly, as Heinlein did, at one time, and as few authors today do. For interested parties, and there are probably quite a few, the six tales in this book are: "No Truce With Kings", "Turning Point", "Escape From Orbit", "Epilogue", "The Critique of Impure Reason", and "Eve Times Four". My favorite was the Hugo winner, and I wouldn't put it past Mr. Anderson to do a novel on the theme, as it is a darn good one, and a darn realistic one, of post-WAR America, as it struggles more with itself than with anyone else, to get back on its feet. Really good reading material, from cover to cover. Look for it.