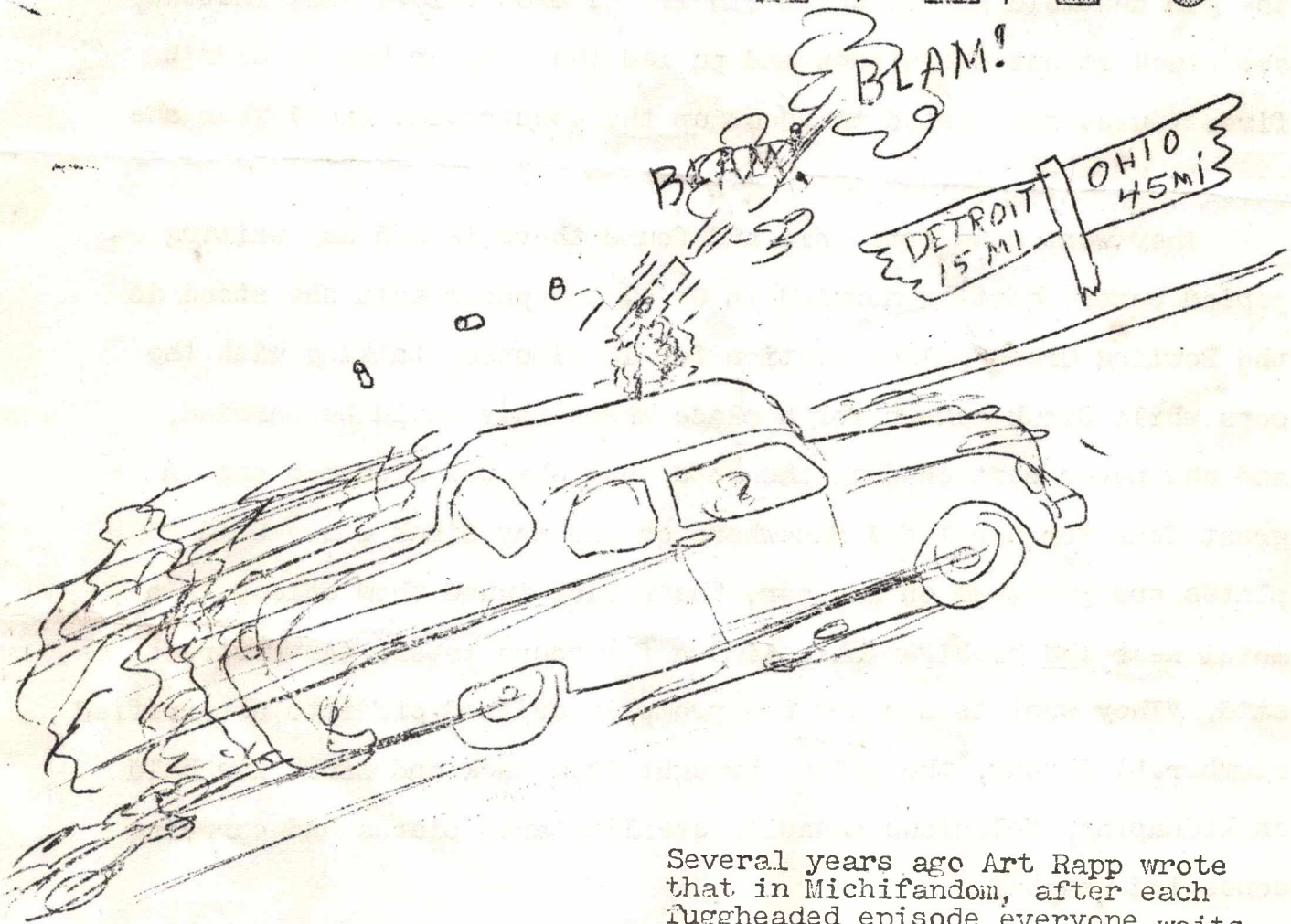


apt 214

FANDOM IN THE HEADLINES OR THERE GOES ANOTHER MICHIFAN!



Several years ago Art Rapp wrote that in Michifandom, after each fuggheaded episode everyone waits with bated breath wondering what will happen next. Well, on May 20th, 1955, we all started breathing again. It had happened! Huge headlines across the front pages of all the Detroit papers-- CAPTURE KIDNAPER WITH GIRL VICTIM --

GIRL TELLS OF KIDNAPING BY JILTED SUITOR -- KIDNAPED, GIRL SAYS,
SUITOR HELD. Splashed across the front pages were pictures of one
Murray Sinuk and his girl friend. (Murray Sinuk was a charter
member of the old MSFS. In fact, he helped me draft the club's
first constitution in early 1948. He had not been active in the
club in recent years.) To make a long story short, the girl said
Sinuk had kidnaped her from a friend's house, threatening her and
those in the house with a .45 automatic, and demanding that she go
with him to Ohio where they would get married. She claimed that he
went out the Expressway doing over 100 mph and firing the .45 out
the car window to prove it was loaded. At one point he handed her
the gun and told her to shoot him if she didn't love him. Instead,
she stuck it out the window and pulled the trigger but it didn't
fire. (Guess she wanted to shoot up the countryside too!) Then she
gave it back to him.

They went down into Ohio and found there is a 5 day waiting
period before getting married in Ohio. One paper said she stood in
the Bowling Green police station for 15 minutes, talking with the
cops while Sinuk hunted for a place where they could be married,
and she never mentioned to the cops that she was kidnaped and in
great fear for her life! Somewhere on the way Sinuk stole Ohio
plates and put them on his car. The police found them asleep in a
motel near the Michigan-Ohio line a few hours later. (As Devore
said, "They went to bed and she promptly drifted off into a terrified
slumber.") Anyway, the police brought them back and Sinuk was held
on kidnaping, felonious assault, stealing auto plates and carrying
concealed weapons.

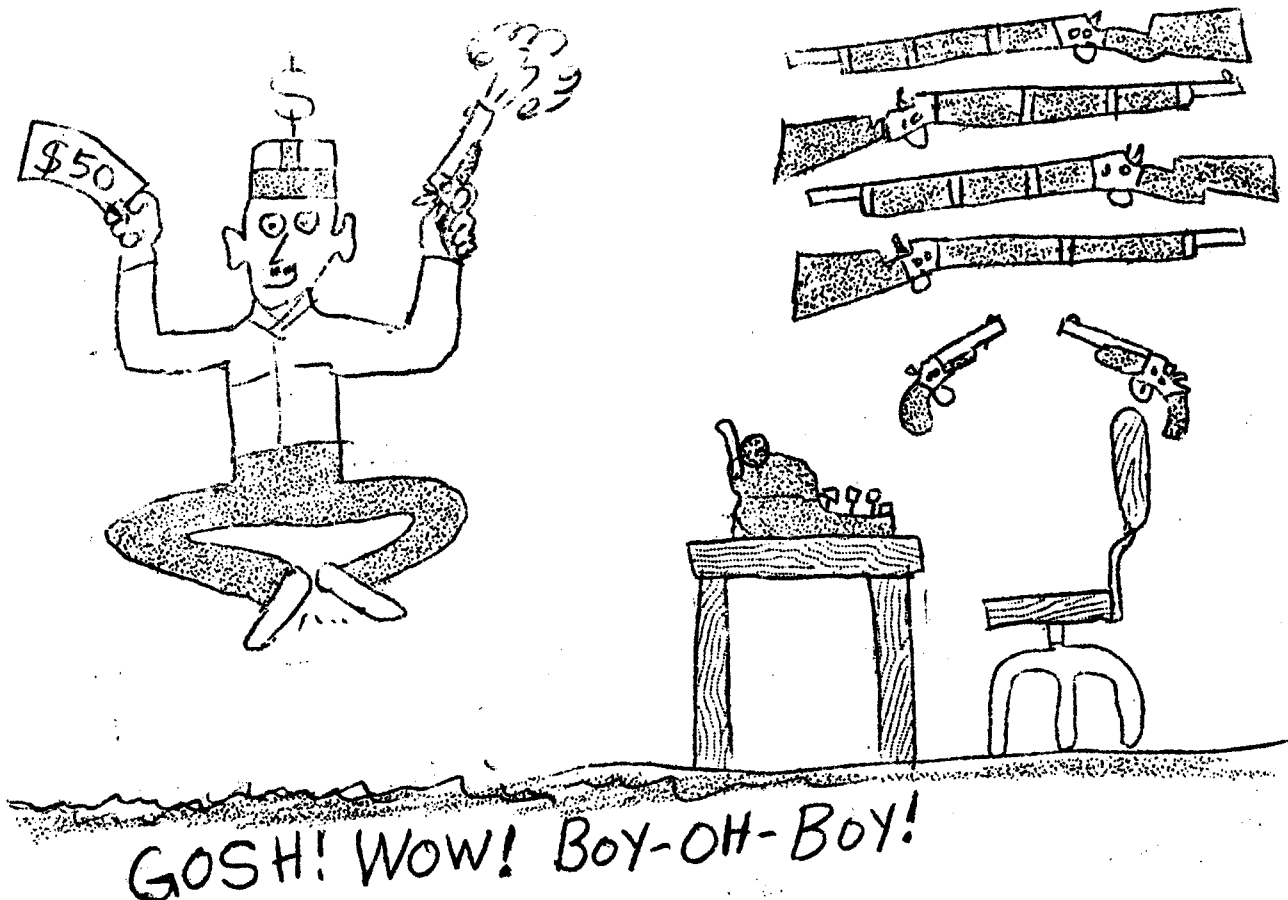
The next day, more headlines!! KIDNAP ROMEO RE-ARRESTED --
ARMS CACHE LINKED TO ABDUCTOR. It seems that Sinuk had stored some

boxes and suitcases with a friend. After the headlines in the papers, the friend decided to see what was in them. He found, four machineguns, hand grenades, dynamite, about a dozen pistols and revolvers, with hundreds of rounds of ammunition for them. So, Sinuk who was out on bond, was hauled back on charges of possession of machineguns. So he had to post more bond to get out again.

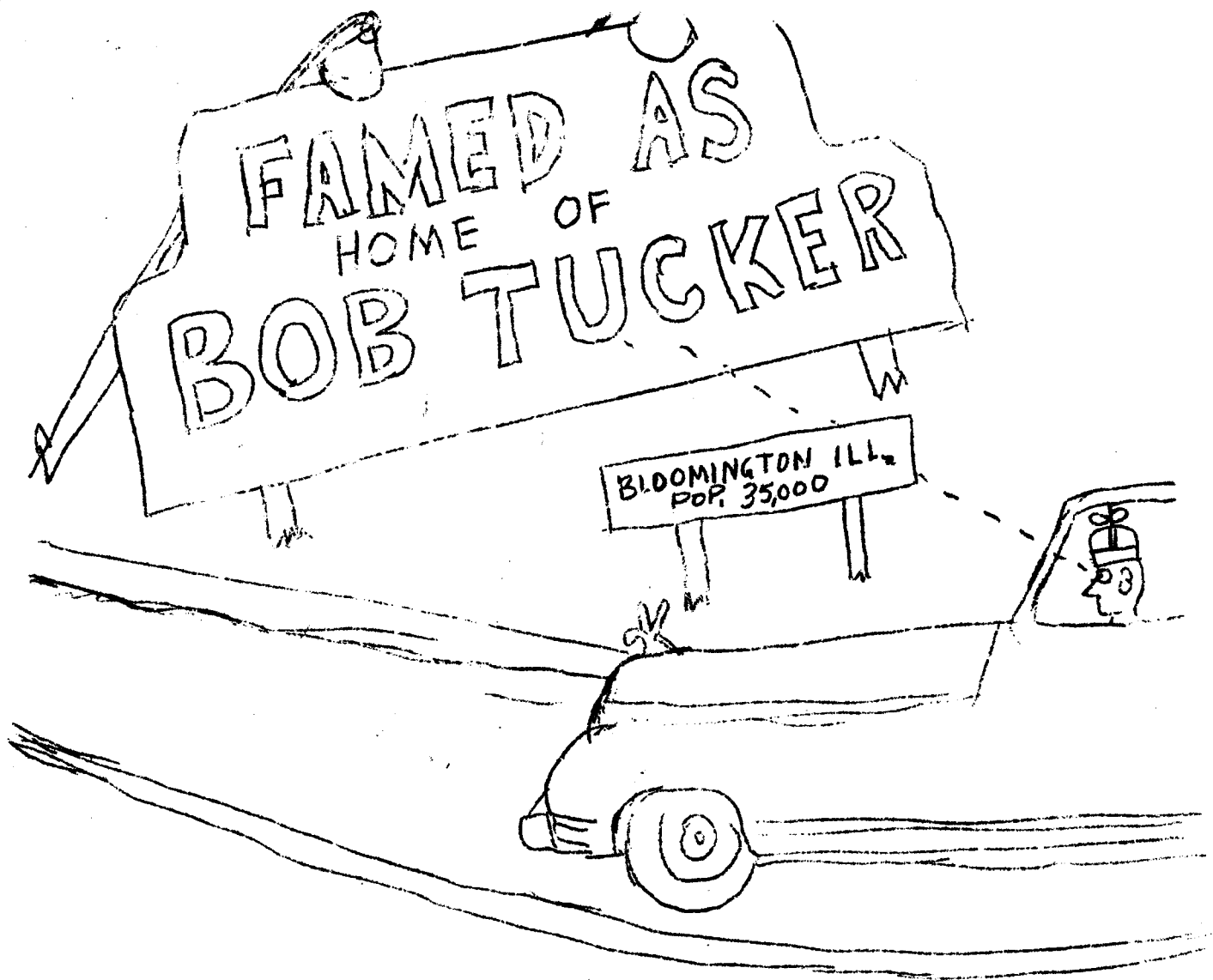
Was the incident closed? Not on your life! A couple of months later another item in the Detroit papers-- 'POISON' FAILS SUITOR FOILED AS 'KIDNAPER' -- It seems that Sinuk called up the girl and threatened to drink poison if she didn't marry him. She, being in great fear of him, naturally rushed right over to his house and knocked the glass out of his hand. A test showed the 'poison' to be harmless. Sinuk was held for observation again.

The kidnap trial came up shortly after and lasted about a week, it was livened up a bit at one point when the girl tried to grab and destroy some pictures she claimed Sinuk had taken of her and was threatening to blackmail her with if she went out with other men. He was acquitted of kidnaping. He had paid a \$50 fine for carrying an unregistered gun. He still had the felonious assault charge and the Federal rap for possession of machineguns to go. As someone said, seems like he should be able to go to court on and off for a year or so just on that one night's activity!

The Detroit papers were on strike most of Dec. and Jan. and I have seen nothing more on the case. However, at the New Year's fan gathering someone said they had seen in some other paper that he had been given 1 to 5 years on the felonious assault charge. Don't know if he appealed or what. Anyway, he still has the machinegun charge to face. It would seem to me that the MSFS could claim him as our most active and aggressive ex-member!



Yes, I have joined the ranks of the dirty old pros. In November I sold an article to The American Rifleman magazine. Not exactly a huge deal, being about one page length and besides they are going to rework it into an illustrated "comic strip" type of how-to-do-it feature. But they sent me a check for fifty bucks. They pay pretty good rates, five cents per word and six dollars per photo or drawing minimum starting rate. Needless to say, the fact that my first effort sold had an encouraging effect-- I almost dashed out to buy manuscript paper in ten-ream lots! At present I am working on the rough draft of a longer article, probably will run around three pages. A nice feature of writing for the American Rifleman is that they don't expect finished writing, they just "want the facts" in a reasonably well organized form. A good thing for non-literary type characters like me.



I BEARDED THE PONG IN HIS LAIR!

'Twas a a blistering hot day last July when I piloted the Purple Packard into the wilds of central Illinois in pursuit of that fabulous fake-fan Hoy Ping Pong. After an uneventful dash down from Chicago I managed to get lost in Normal, Ill. (Normal! Normal, hell! A fan used to live there!) Back on the route once more I rolled through town and turned off on Wood St. and pulled over in the second block and was looking for house numbers and wondering if I had chosen the right "smallish gray house" when a voice from the window announced "You're right, this is it."

The mighty Pong, looking very cool in shorts and "T" shirt, led me into his "den of a stf-nut". A very impressive room, well stocked with shelves of stf books, a good share of them by Tucker.

Considering that some of his books have been published in half a dozen foreign countries, a complete set of his books makes quite a display. The Tuckerlet was scampering around the house, trying to tear up fanzines and generally behaving as a fan's offspring should.

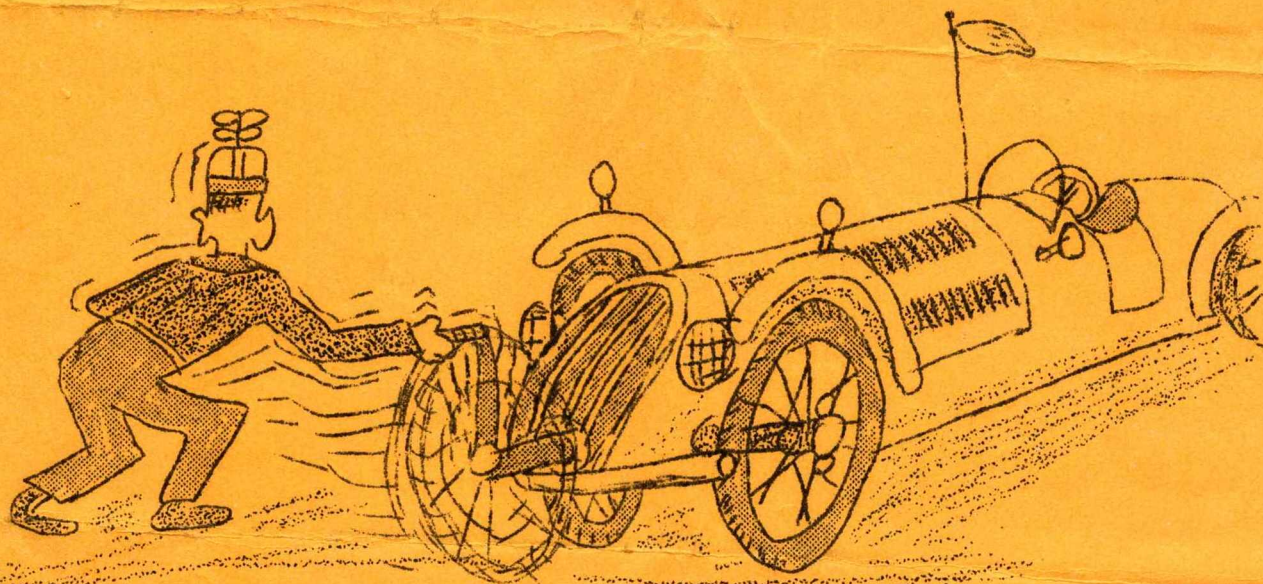
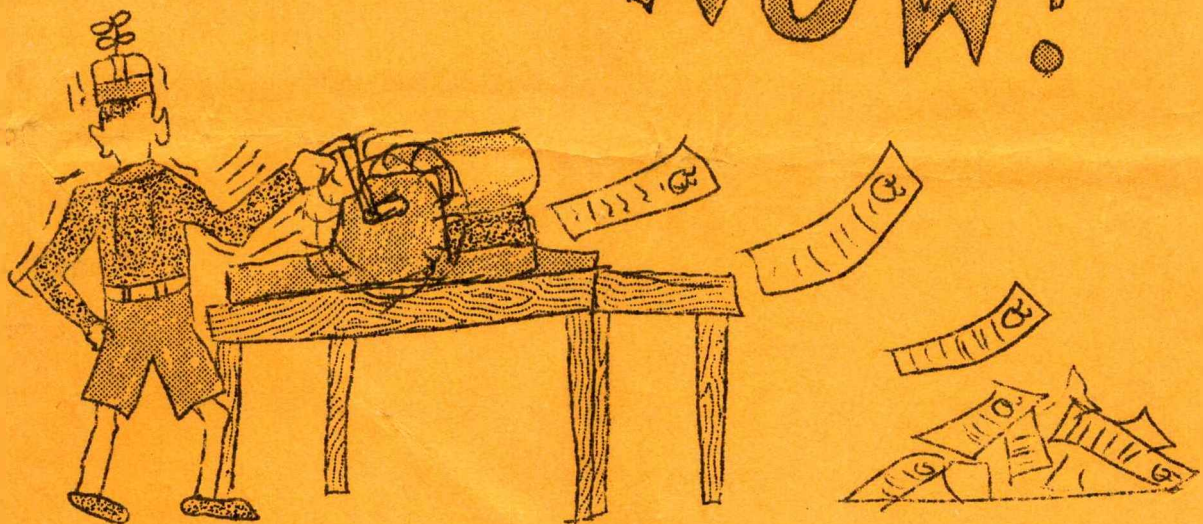
He explained his system of keeping fan-type characters from invading his home. Seems he got all his mail through the P.O. Box and didn't let fans know his street address. He was about to move to a new house a few miles from Bloomington, in a small town which doesn't have street numbers and he was still going to get his mail through the Bloomington P.O. box. So I guess he will still be safe.

We spent a hour or two chewing over various fabulous fans we have known and their various brushes with law and order and the mores of our society. This was only a few months after the Sinuk adventure (see Fandom in the Headlines) and I pointed out that Sinuk had been headed in Tucker's direction and perhaps had been on the way to drop in for a visit!

He tried to give me a bundle of free fanzines but I was too smart for him, I just mumbled something about having most all of them home. He explained that fans keep sending him copies of their fanzines and when the pile gets too big he pushes it off on the next innocent neofan who comes to the house. A fine system.

And now I'll just let all you fans in on a deep dark secret, the mighty Pong is domesticated! As we got up from the dinner table he turned to his wife and asked "Can I help you with the dishes or anything?" Let me tell you I was staggered, dumbfounded! Could this be the mighty Pong of yore, famed as the raffish rogue male of fandom? Shortly after, Bob had to go to work (he was working at a drive-in theater at the time) and I headed back to Chicago, musing on the power of a woman. A domesticated Pong!!!

LEE JACOBS, THEN AND NOW!



PIERRE POUJADE, FRANCE'S
ANSWER TO CLAUDE DEGLER!