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being remarks inspired by, among other things, the 5th mailing of the Neffer's APA, and submitted, to the disgust of everybody involved, to the **6<sup>TH</sup> N'APA MAILING**

(distributed on or before 15 September, 1960), by one EDMUND R. MESKYS which creature resides at # 723A, 45 St., Brooklyn 20, NY.

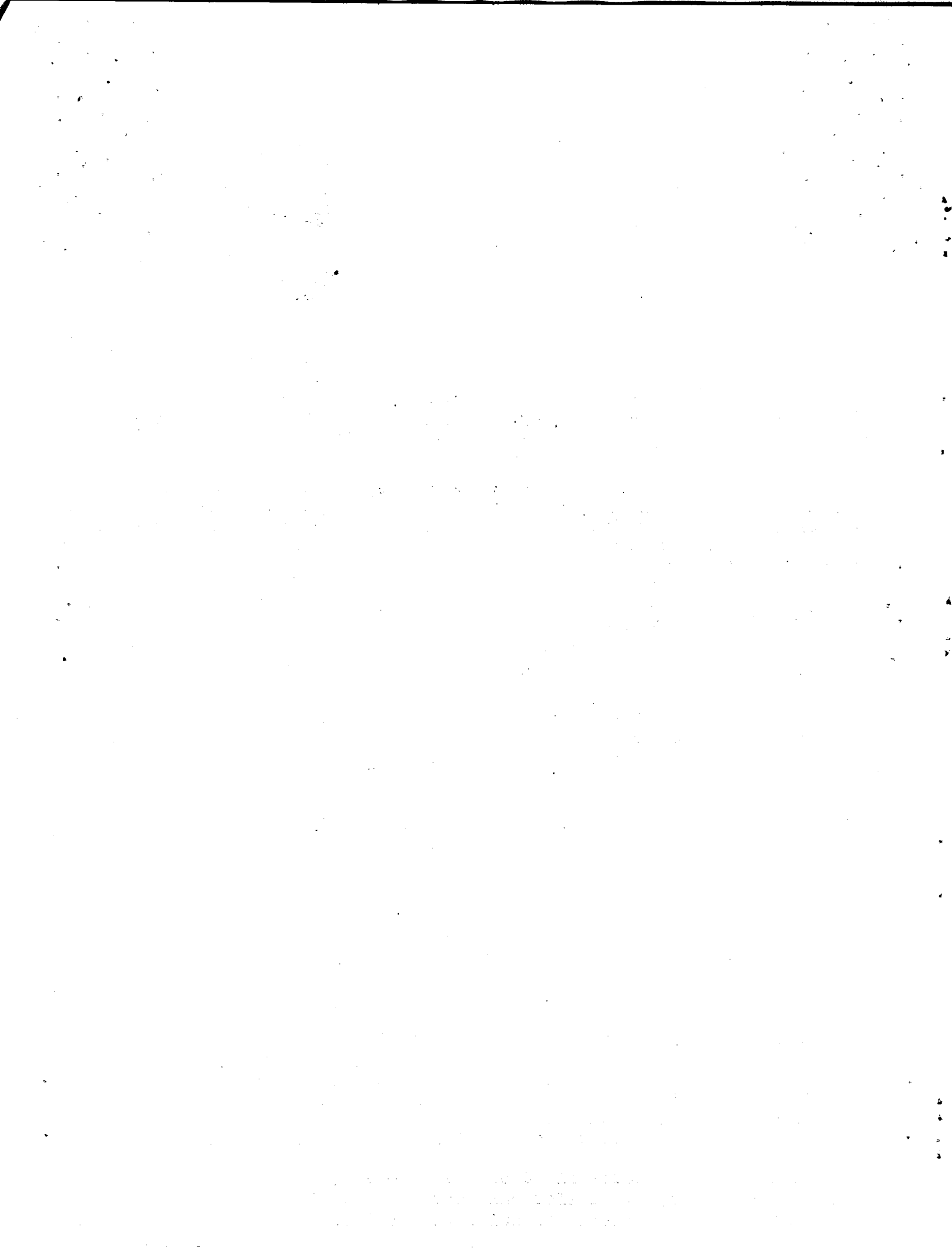
3:40 PM, Saturday, 27 Aug, 1960. springhurst beach, ONTARIO, Canada.

I've been here since Tuesday, visiting with relatives, & expect to leave for home tomorrow afternoon. If all goes as planned, I will be home Monday night, attend the Bentcliff party at the Dietz's Wednesday night, & be off for the Pittoon early and bright Thursday Morning in the company of Alma Hill & I hope a other fan, with Matt J. Chiupsa driving.

Untill now I've been catching up on my correspondence, & since I left home Monday morning, I've written 20 letters or Postal Cards. I still have some 10 or 15 msz I wanted to send LOC's to, but I guess that I never will. There were one or two other letters that I wanted to write, but I decided it's about time I hacked out my N'APA contribution. After all, I want to spread the crud out & not inundate you with 3 sets of MC's in one shot.

As for Folhode, it will be a race against time to get it done in time for the mailing, & altho I'll try like all heck, I doubt that I'll make it. It all depends on how much I can get done by when I get home from the Pittoon & whether or not the B'n'F press will be available to me. (Since the issue will be somewhat larger & have a larger run, to get all copies done on the QWERTYUIOPress would cost about \$20 for ink & work, & even if I were ~~###~~ willing to pay that much or decided on a smaller run TEWhite probably wouldn't have the time to do the job for me.) Alma Hill has presumably had my covers stenofaxed by Gestetner by now, & I have a 2 1/2 page article by Mike Deckinger, a 1/2 page filler article, and 5 pages of the lettercoñ on stencil, but these still need to have titles, cartoons, & fillo's put in.

When I wasn't writing letters or eating, I was out swimming in the local body of water 3 blocks away, Mattawasaga Bay which is a part of Georgian Bay which is a part of Lake Huron. According to the map, I'm about 1/2 way between Art Hayes in Bancroft & Richard Armstrong in London, both of which are some 150 miles away.



The water is rather strange here - there are no ripples, but the depth varies with the direction of the wind. Also, it is dead calm & clear unless the wind is perpendicular to the shore and then over the water; then the waves reach a height of one foot, and being still as dirty the water is the sandy bottom. And the sand is rather strange too. The grains are for smaller than those usually found on the beach. The entire the south shore of Long Island - from Jones Island to Regue. The entire beach, except for the last 2 or 3 feet before the private property starts, is so slightly packed & level that cars regularly use it. In fact, there are several signs at intersections with the regular streets, & at odd intervals, speed-limit signs (15MPH). When the wind is right, one of these is surrounded by water, which looks quite odd. I hope I remember to take a photo of it before leaving for home tomorrow. I did, since now that live out, I don't know what it'll be with.

I want to never have anything to do with teaching summer-school again for 6 weeks. From Tuesday, 2 July to Thursday, 11 Aug, I had to run the Freshman Physics laboratory for about 2 1/2 hours each day. That in itself wasn't bad, but when I also had to run out the apparatus every second day (which took some 3 hours a week) & grade 50 to 80 papers each night (which was intolerable). Now this wasn't the first time that I ran the laboratory (before someone else had set up the equipment) & then so now for the first few lab reports the students didn't have the slightest idea of what was going on. Therefore the reports were a confused mess, & it took about a half hour each to figure out what they were trying to do. However, before the 3rd session most knew what was going on & wrote clear reports, so it took from 30 to 60 minutes to grade the whole class. But now, they had such a heavy load of work (30 problems a night or written homework) that they just didn't have time to look over what they had done taken away from them, & their reports didn't become clear until the middle of the 2nd semester.

So the grading was one intolerable mess, which ate up all of my time, & I had practically none left for myself.

They had their first final exam on Friday, 22 July, so there was no lab that day & I had off. My parents decided to take advantage of this & to spend the weekend in Jamaica, L.I., using the summer home of some relatives who were elsewhere at that time.

I hadn't seen in that town for more than a few minutes in some 14 or 15 years, & it felt like something out of "Twilight Zone". All of the things which bring back long forgotten memories, & all of the things which have changed...

I'd been thinking of going into more details on this, but just decided not to bore you. Anyway, I was quite taken with the busy grading & had to spend most of my time catching up. However, I finished up late Sunday afternoon & decided to phone George Wallis who lived about 15 miles away. He said that his father would pick me up in a few hours & drive me down to his place for a visit, which he did around 7:30 or 8:00.

Well, we talked for some 3 or 4 hours about all sorts of things. Finally, I found him to be a rock & roll fan! (Shudder!) Of course, he showed me his collection, which was small because of the page C.D.s.

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I swear I'll never have anything to do with teaching summer-school again! For 6 weeks, from Tuesday, 5 July, to Thursday, 11 Aug, I had to run the Freshman Physics laboratory for about 2½ hours each day. That in itself wasn't bad, but when I also had to put out the apparatus every second day (which took some 3 hours & wasn't intolerable) & grade 20 to 28 papers each night (which was intolerable!) Now this wasn't the first time that I ran the laboratory (altho before someone else had set up the equipment) & then as now for the first few lab reports the students didn't have the slightest idea of what was going on. Therefore the reports were a confused mess, & it took about a half hour each to figure out what they were trying to do. However, before, by the 5th session most knew what was going on & wrote clear reports, so it took from 30 to 60 minutes to grade the whole class. But now, they had such a heavy load of work (30 problems a night of written homework) that they just didn't have time to look over why they had points taken away from them, & their reports didn't become clear until the middle of the 2nd semester.

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I hadn't been in that town for more than a few minutes in some 14 or 15 years, & it felt like something out of "Twilight Zone". All of the things which bring back long forgotten memories, & all of the things which have changed....

I'd been thinking of going into more details on this, but just decided not to bore you. Anyhow, I was quite fallen behind with the lousy grading & had to spend most of my time catching up. However, I finished up late Sunday afternoon & decided to phone George Wells who lived about 12 miles away. He said that his father would pick me up in a few hours & drive me down to his place for a visit, which he did around 7:30 or 8:00.

Well, we talked fir some 3 or 4 hours about all sorts of things fannish. To my horror, I found him to be a rock & roll fan! (Shudder!) Of course, he showed me his collection, which was small because of its ---page C,plyz

MIRA YAP & BALLOT (Diets) I voted yes myself, but with reservations. Once we have a decent constitution, & all of the necessary changes have been made, I would like 'simple majority' to be changed to '2/3rds' to prevent frivolous changing of the constitution, unless the change is strongly desired. I like the provision in the amendment that if a person doesn't vote on a given matter, his vote is counted neither as pro nor as con. In the interpretation of our current constitution, if a person doesn't vote, he is considered to have voted against which makes even less sense than the "non-reply" system; anything that can be said against the latter can also be said against the former, such as the APA is placed in the control of the marginal member who doesn't care about anything.

This "N'APAZINE #X" business I don't go for, particularly in the case of MEZB's zine. You'll undoubtedly get a number of test cases, now, of 4, 5, & 6 short-word titles & one or 2 VERY long-word titles, so what I would suggest doing is type as much as will fit one line (20 spaces, if you continue to use the same layout) & cut off the rest of the title, whether it be one letter or 50 that is cut off. And in the case of forin titles, like IDIOCY #'s 1-5 in the mailing under discussion, type as much as you can remember from one look at the title, & cut it off there.

I like GEM's idea of dues adjustment, except for one little point to be considered first. Every March mailing there is bound to be a larger than average drop-out due to non-renewal of dues, while otherwise it would be spread out thru the year. But contrarily, the total annual dropout is liable to be smaller for there would only be one set of dues to remember to send in, and it would be the same for everybody & perhaps easier to remember. Before deciding on how I'd vote, I'd like to see more discussion on this matter.

IDIOCY #'S 1-5 (Lambeck) Practically everything you said went against my grain, & I was considering a 5 page diatribe, but I changed my mind. The fault just might lie in my interpretation & not in your meaning, so I'll let things go for this mailing.

However, I feel that I must argue with a point made on the center of page 1 of idiocy-4. I doubt that the statement of "fact" ON WHICH the statement of opinion is made is true. See, for instance, the latest Shaggy--(51? 52? The one after the one with the blue cover)--statements of rather old history there make your statement most improbable. (I'm not being more explicit in the hope of avoiding embarrassment for the person(s) under discussion.) As for your statement of opinion..

"FANAG 55" (Gerber) A very nice job, & much appreciated in this corner. Now, let's try for a fake Safari Annual....

A FANZINE FOR KAREN ANDERSON (MEZB) inspires no comment, except that I liked the design running down the edge of page 2. # The text & "cover were mildly interesting.

NO PLACE #1 (Busby) Your whole issue makes very good sense. I agree with just about, if not actually, everything you

say( there might be something I don't remember.)

My comments on "barbarians" were inspired by the remarks of one Bruce Peltz, & I addressed that remark to you just because your name came to mind. I'm fairly certain that BP is just trying to stir up trouble, altho I'll admit that it's possible that he's trying to needle some intelligent discussion on the relationship of N3F & N APA. But from the nature of his comments, I'd assume the former.

Funny thing tho--he joined with the first mailing, which would imply that he was a Neffer before N APA came into being....

COMBURE # 3 (Deckinger) That "Jares" joke nonsense is no longer funny.

You have converted me from the NF<sup>3</sup> heresy instigated by George Raybin. I shall henceforth refer to it as N3F & make a public renunciation of my heresy.

(why not use chemical notation & call it NF<sub>2</sub>?) I met Ellison for the first time last night at the Bentoliffe-Sanderson party--he is small, isn't he? I just thot he was some loud fan untill his true nature was pointed out to me by Alma Hill.

(Incidentally, this is being typed at 11:30 PM, 1 Sept, in the "Park Plaza Hotel", Mifflintown, Pa, some 170 miles from Pittsburg. I'll bet the people in the next room just love the racket I'm now making!)

I remember that McConnell show myself, only from the radio. 'Twas also on a saturday morning, 15 years ago? As I remember it, they did adventure type stories, & closed the show with several ~~###~~ minutes of the antics of the minagire, of which P. was just one member. I think these antics might have been tied in with the ~~stuc~~ commercials the show had.

THE VAUX HALL FANATIC (Johnson) Yes, it is quite readable this time. Wonder how these now masters of mine will work out--well, I'll soon see IF the N3F does have that ~~ptended~~ ditto in its roon. (It's now 8 AM, on the 2nd of Sept.)

I haven't seen you at an ESFA meeting in Newark in almost a year--what happened?

I just recieved my first copy of Monday Evening Ghost--#6, I think--& it is a very good fanzine. I immediately send a trade copy of Polhode, & since he comes out 4x as frequently as I, a sub as well.

Instead of splitting N APA, ~~###~~ I think we should wait 'till it has a healthy waiting-list & then start up Clay's hecto APA, perhaps basing it on your Quadzines, but somewhat more formal & with a membership limit & if need be, a waiting list. Whether or not ~~it~~ be a Neo's APA can depend on who chooses to join it--no need to burden it down with any such designation. But I'd wiat at least 6 months, perhaps a year, to make certain that N APA is healthy. We'd want a big onuf waiting list to be sure that even if 6 people decided to drop out each mailing for 2 mailings, we still wouldn't fall below 40. If that happened, I think N APA would loose much prestige.

Why should the proeda give us, or any other club, publicity? 'Twas nice of Cele Goldsmith to include that plug in Fantastic--it braught at least 3 inquiries, & of these 3 people, at least one has already joined.

Hummm--I must somehow have missed that section Belle was complaining about--I didn't notice anything objectionable about your zine as I read it now. It was George Raybin who innitially read it # as we were putting the mailing together, & he passed it on to Belle for final judgement. Oh, well....

KTP # 2 (Lichtman) I don't know about N APA paying for the waiting-listers O-O....

I know it's done that way in SAPS, but is there any reason that it should be? I mean, why can't he pay for it himself--say a dime to cover printing & postage. Was origionally thinking of a quarter, but since

(7 PM, 8 Sept, 1960. Groat Ghol. I received Skyrack Newsletter from Ron Bennett in England, & it had a Pittcon report of sorts. It listed the Hugo winners, gave the total attendance (330), mentioned that Heinlein was there, & gave Eric Bentel's past & future itinerary.

Incidentally, since it would have cost the N3F \$120 to rent a ditto for the Pittcon, there obviously wasn't one. So I won't know for a while yet how these masters are working.

That Sci-Fi Times somewhere in the complete 10 page Pittcon ish of SFTimes (included in this mailing, I believe) was mentioned that the N3F had provided a pranked mimeo. Well, I never saw it, altho I did see a typer in the upper room.

this would amount to \$1 per year, which is too much. It's equal to the dues paid by the members.

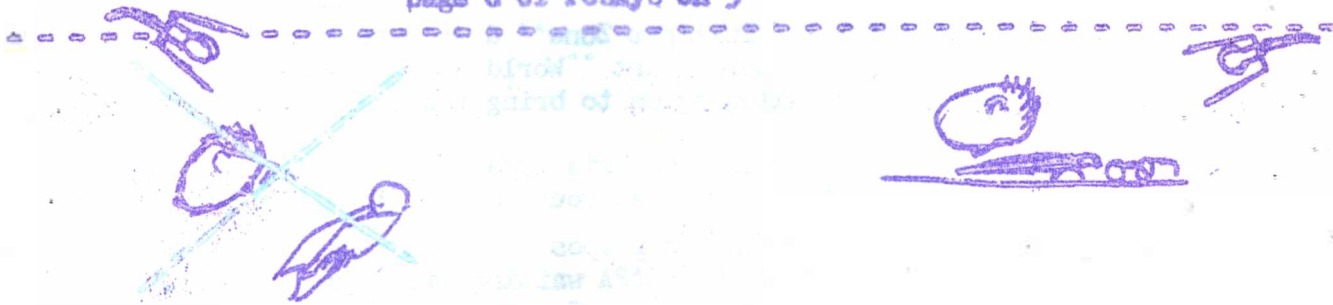
bundle-price, but think it should also set the dues. Since this is more serious, it (ie, the OE) should be subject to the veto of the membership. Thus, the OE could announce a tentative dues rate in mailing # X, & those who object can write in & bitch. If only a few or none do, the OE then announces the amount as final. If there is much bitching, the OE takes it into account in announcing the new rates, which however must be permanent.

(As I type this, I'm transcribing tapes from the battery to the large recorder. So far everything except the first 5 minutes of Hal Clement came out quite well, & it is all intelligible. I missed recording the science discussion, the words that went along with Sam's slide show, the musical show & just won't put on by various groups, including the Philk group which put on the last & (I think) the panel on local clubs. On second thought, I might have that last--well, I'll see when I get to it. Of course, I skipped the auctions (including Auction Bloch) & the business meeting.)

I'm transcribing them onto some old reels I haven't used in years, & I first play over the old tapes. Some of these contain recordings of 2 old science-fantasy radio shows--"X-1" & "Sleep No More". The former is from its good period, when it was sponsored by Galaxy, the latter consisted of Nelson instead reading sci or fay stories dramatically to the accompaniment of sound effects. They were quite good, especially the latter.)

SON O MA # 1 (Metcalf) Hi, Norm! I was glad to meet you at the Pittcon, & hope that New Frontiers #3 has finally caught up with you. Of the people thus far commented on, I saw B'n'F Dietz, Gerber, & Dekinger, & met for the first time Lambeck, & F.M. Busby. (He told me that #3's been ready for a while now, but that he kept moving & the bundle has been chasing him from place to place. Well, real soon now....) Norm, could you contact Harriett Kolchak (at 2104 Brandywine St./Philadelphia 30, Pa.) if you haven't already met her at the Pittcon? She tells me that she corresponds with someone in Colorado who would like to contact the CFS you keep writing about. (Or just give an address where to contact CFS in your mailing comments, & if I remember, I'll pass them on (which is most likely, since I see her at most ESFA meetings). If I don't, by some chance, Balle D. or Geo. Raybin surely will, for they see her even more frequently at Lunarian meetings.

Rich Brown continues to write me's for you--I enjoyed them altho they provoke no return comments. In all, the whole ish was interesting. I hope



SAVOYARD # 6 (Pelz) The above represents the positions from which the magazine can and cannot be read. Of course, I have an advantage in that when I take off my glasses, I focus only 3 inches away. This is quite helpfull, when I have to read small or vague type, altho I still can't read the names of the states, which are presumably printed on the back of a \$5 bill in some sort of micro-micro type. Well, onto the zine itself....

Excuse, please---I got kicked off the last typer and had to go find another. (I'm in school now, and it's the 8<sup>th</sup>--I hope to finish typing this today, and get it run off. Then I'll tell Belle that it's ready and give her the page-count, and take it down to her Sunday, on the way home from the ESFA meeting.) This sure is a weird typer--all of its numbers are subscripts (123456789), what symbols there are are in odd places ( with 1, \* with 2, ° 3, ( and ) appear after uiop, - and ;, = and + after jkl, and ? is with ,. It also has the extra symbols ℓ, η, μ, λ, √, δ, σ, Z, |, ω, Δ, ρ, ψ, Π, α, β, ∂, and γ. I guess that between these and the half space, I should be able to get some interesting effects in future fmz. Like and cetera. But what I really miss is the "and" symbol and quote marks. Perhaps I should use + for the latter--slightly different meaning, but now that I've warned you.... I'm making a lot of typos and I guess it will take a while for me to get used to the beast. And when I make future interruptions, I can now mark them

to show that they are interrubtions.

But the zine....You're right about the misinterpretations. For instance, as you can see from the previous pages, untill I met and talked to you at the Pittcon, I thot you were just trying to stir up trouble in N<sup>2</sup>APA. Now I know that that's what you believed, + that you'll now drop the subject. Funny on the impressions we get of the people you correspond with--untill I met you, I thot both you + Weber were small, heavy people, somewhat shorter than gerber. Incidentally, I owe you a 1/4; + you should have gotten it by when you read this (IF I remember to send it to you!). [Ugh! That exclamation mark!] [Humm, I think I can make any fraction I want by going up a half space, "5" hitting a hyphen, -, and X 7, like so: 5/7]

I keep having to remind myself that on THIS beast, the numbers are UPPER case symbols! Incidentally, were you in the NF<sub>3</sub> before N<sup>2</sup>APA got started, or did you join just for N<sup>2</sup>APA. [I hit that 3 by mistake, but it looks nice, ~~see~~ doesn't it? N<sup>2</sup>APA. | forgive my wanderings, as I play with this new toy. | On this typer I can't type N three F, it has to be either NF<sup>3</sup> or NF<sub>3</sub>, so since Mike Deckinger converted me from the NF<sup>3</sup> heracy, I'll use the latter while on this typer. | I suppose that you've seen the "fanzine" Fantasy Collector, whose address I gave last time; half or more of the adds contained therein deal with comics. Yes, some '43 Astoundings were bed-sheet size--4 I think.

Ghood Grief! Somebody in N<sup>2</sup>APA doesn't know when to stut up, does he?

KAYMAR (Carlson) + PITTCOON MEMORY BOOK (3<sup>rd</sup> or so unnumbered issue: postmailed) Well, as you saw by now, I only had one sheet



in the memory book, + I'll explain the reason for that in Polhode, which, the way things look now, will be postmailed. Yes, "Twilight Zone" does have some good stories on it, but it has some stinkers too. I'm sorry that "World, Flesh, + Devil" didn't win the Hugo. [That half-space is handy, allowing me to bring the . + , up.]

DREAM STUFF<sub>6</sub> (Carr) [No OIA\* number sign on this typer. Oh, well....you can't have everything!] I suspect that your "dream" is slightly alligorical. At the Pittcon NF<sub>3</sub> meeting, a proposal was made that there be a 3 month waiting period between joining NF<sub>3</sub> + the N<sub>3</sub>APA waiting list, just to avoid such confusion as mentioned by you. Nobody there objected, + I suppose Belle will eventually declare that as an operating rule, or will take a vote on it. I think /fmp/ is dead. I wrote / times in the past 4 months, last time a month ago, + included reply envelopes twice. Have yet to hear from them. At least I'm getting service from the NF<sub>3</sub> MssBuro, + good prompt service at that. You get quite good results with your common mimeo--no need to dream of a Gestetner or whatnot, altho one might, I suppose, cut the labor somewhat.

[UPS--I forgot:::::

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page R of Paskys on 8

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From seeing comments in other fms, apparently you weren't the only one stuck on the De-  
tention cards. In cubing "F", what numerical value are you assigning to it? And would NF  
have the same value?

I was under the impression that Gemzine recieves quite wide distribu-  
tion. I've never read a copy, but 2 ish of it or Gemtones are in a bundle of fms I  
got on approval from Martin Jukovsky. The idea was for me to browse thru (but not read)  
the mass of fms, + choose those which I want. Unfortunately, altho I've had them for 4  
some 6 months, I still haven't had time to do the sorting. By the way, do you think  
you'll be at the PuCon? [PucOn the PuCon?] [Much as I enjoyed the Pittcon--my first real  
worldcon--I just can't see spending 200 dollars on carfare + I highly doubt that I'll  
make it. Never can tell, tho....a miracle just might happen. I suppose that if I were  
to attend I'd meet just about every N<sub>3</sub>APAer I haven't yet met. Come to think of it, now  
there are very few that I haven't met.

FANTASY REVIEWS (Prieto) Saw you and Jimmy Taurasi at the Pittcon too. Many thanks for  
running of the Polhode covers for me. Now all I have to do is  
type 20 more stencils + find someone to run the whole

mess off. I think Jimmy should have mentioned that he was reprinting from here when he  
ran that stuff in SFT commenting of /shudder/ Beakon Books(?). I never fell down a man-  
hole, but I have on occasion bumped into a person or pole, or tripped over a hole while  
trying to read + walk. Who ever thought that in integral sign, ∫, would be used as a bracket?

Hope you have more than one page of text next time around, but since you're a CRYreader,  
you undoubtedly will. And since Jimmy reads your copies (he tells me that that's the  
only fanzine he has the time to read regularly. No wonder, with the bloated issues they-  
've been putting out.) I guess he'll be having more to say as time passes.

FANTASY-COMICS N<sup>o</sup> 1<sub>3</sub> (Taurasi) Well, at least there's more to read in yours. So today's  
comics only run to 32 pages. I think that way back when I used to buy them they ran to  
something like 66. If you printed up extra copies + sold them after the N<sub>3</sub>APA mailing, I'm  
sure that you'd have customers among the comic-fans. Especially if you took an add in  
Fantasy Collector. Or don't you have the time to do so? I suppose that comics, + then the  
hard-cover juveniles (or ultra-juveniles in Grade School) in High School are what bring  
readers into the field today. But as said in the SFT annish, we don't have today an



want to change the club into. I hope you have something to say about ~~that~~ that in this mailing, for I suspect the next will be after the elections. If you don't, perhaps you could drop a note to the next Tightbeam explaining in detail what you're trying to do?

(Speaking of Tightbeam, I still haven't gotten my copy of the Sept issue. Whose turn was it to produce it? Yours, MEZB? WHERE IS IT????)

That reminds me of the welcome letters I got way back then. I wonder if it was because I put down on my application blank that I'm a graduate student in physics or what, but I got the weirdest assortment of cult mail imaginable! Zen & spiritualism & so-called philosophy & heaven only knows what.

The subject of welcome letters came up at the Pittcon N3F meeting (some recent members complained that most were carboned or dittosed, but I mentioned that I'd received only one such) & when I brought up the heavy emphasis on cult, no one else had said that he received the stuff.

PICTURE TRICK 3 (MEZB) Well, I'm eagerly awaiting the results of your new paraphernalia such as border-masters (whatever they are!) When I did the one-sheet for the last mailing, N'APACON, I had little trouble putting that drawing onto stencil with a very-fine pointed stylus & mimeoscope, & I used a wheel-stylus (wide) for the stairway & (narrow) for the shading. However, at the Pittcon, I visited the SFTimes room to borrow the lettering guides & stylus for Polhode-3 & ran into all sorts of trouble like tearing the stencils. (One trouble was that I didn't have a mimeoscope, but since I had the heavy-cellophane sheet, I figured I really didn't need one & it would have only made things more convenient.

Well, tomorrow after I run off this, the previous 2, & any other pages I type, I'll go up to the Dietz's to turn the mess over & Sandy Sandersen promised to help me get the stuff on Polhode fixed up while I'm there.

ALV SUBSTITUTE (Michael Lewis) See my comments to Cal Lewis about use of that name. Since you put in a substitute for a regular APazine, perhaps I should put in a substitute for MC's. Namely, a blank space.

Why not continue complete MC's from the current mailing, & go back to comment on what you consider to be most commentworthy in the skipped ones as you find time. I'd done Po4 long ago, but just never got around to putting it in. When I missed the 4th mailing, I immediately started Po4, & only after I finished that, I printed it up, & turned it over to Belle, did I go back & do Po3. Finally, I still had more time & had some afterthoughts, so I did more Po4, & N'APACON.

It's a very long time since I saw a Fantasy Aspects--vshappin? Fold that too? As I mentioned in a letter over a year ago, if you've given up hope of getting Portals #2 out & still have those pubd sheets, could I have a set? I'd like to read them. I have that issue (Sept 43) of ASTOUNDING myself, but I never got around to reading it (Blast school!); but that's nothing unusual--I can say the same thing about some 150 ASF's between 35 & 50.

PEOPLE ARE CRAZY (Raybin) what did you do with the other 55 copies? You originally intended to take them down to the Pittcon, but I didn't see them there. As I remember it, you had so many because that was the smallest the agency would print.////





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be replacable by a simple majority of those who vote. However, since the ammendment was presumably passed, the matter is now purely academic.

Very well put about those who complain about having to pay \$1.50 N3F dues in order to join N'APA--there are other groups in existance for them to join or they can start their own group.

I wonder if that "obituary" you refer to is Earl Kemp's Who Killed Science Fiction?, & if it is, where you got a copy to read. Your remarks about it I find quite interesting, but nothing to comment on.

Well, that finishes the 5th mailing except for Dan Blackburn's postmailed Tiamat # 2, which I never recieved, despite several proddings. Wonder how many others never got their copies.

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Well, it's just about a week since my first real world convention ground to a halt. (I'd been to the Newyorkon, but attended nothing but the sessions, many of which were horribly boring. I remember practically falling asleep while some character mumbled about the Vanguard, despite the fact that I was extreemly interested in Astronautics at the  $\frac{1}{2}$  time.)

I guess that the Pittcon really got its start, as far as I'm concerned, with the Bentcliffe Party at the Dietz's Wednesday night. It was a pleasant affair & I met a few new people, but Bentcliffe was not among them. (I'd never seen his fanzine, corresponded with him, or even sent him mine, so I figured we had nothing to talk about, & if I'd have gone up & introduced myself, it would have been followed by an embarrassed silence.) It was practically a con, what with the presence of Avram Davidson, Hans Santesson, Harlan Ellison & Randall Garrett (& perhaps some others I didn't recognise or have pointed out to me). Any how, after much fruit punch & a can of ~~dark~~ dark beer (which Belle induced me to try--it was good altho I don't care for beer) & very much chatter, Belle called the party to a halt pleaing the necessity of going to work the next day.

Got home 2 AM together with Matt Chlupsa, who was staying over that night, & left on the first stage of our journey to the Pittcon at 9:35 the next morning. We arrived, as planned, at just about 10:00 AM in front of the State St. YW, where we were to meet the rest of our group. As planned, Jack Dittrick was waiting in front of the place where he'd just arrived by Long Island R.R. & Subway; however, Alma Hill was still inside packing. In fact, she didn't get down for another 40 minutes, & then she had so much luggage that she & it wouldn't fit inside the car. She suggested that we drop her at the Port Authority Terminal, where she'd catch a bus, while we braught everything but ~~the~~ suitcase down with the car, & we somehow got everything into the car with a minimum of discomfort. Since we weren't going thru the Lincoln Tunnel, to pass by the P.A. terminal would have meant a 50 block trip thru heavy traffic in each direction which we didn't want to make, so I suggested that we go right out into Jersey thru the Holland Tunnel as planned, & drop her off in one of the larger cities, where she could pick up a bus (especially since she had a complete Trailways timetable). She hedged on that, & we wound up taking her a grand total of 3 blocks to the subway, which she took to the P.A. Terminal, & we were off, almost an hour and a half later than expected. Apparently one reason she wanted to go to the P.A. ter-

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minal was that the 2nd issue of Logic At Work (the IES newszine) was ready at the printers located in the terminal, & she wanted to distribute it at the Pittcon altho she hadn't had time to pick it up earlier.

Anyhow, I gave her my Pittcon membership card & asked her to fix up the hotel reservations for us (the 3 of us were to share a room) for we hadn't recieved a confirmation from the hotel, & we were finally off.

(Incidentally, Matt Chlupsa is a non-reader who has become interested in the social aspects of fandom, & Jack Dittrick is an ex reader that Matt convinced to come along. Jack once did a few illos for one or 2 issues of a fanzine called Infinity a number of years ago, which he signed "Ditt".)

So things went all right 'till we crossed the Pennsylvania border traveling on route 22. No Matt had given some cock & bull story about wanting to take back roads to cut the total mileage of the trip, save gass, & save some time, & in trying to do so we got lost several times & wound up going around in circles. He admitted later that what he really wanted to do was actually see some of the country by taking back roads instead of just seeing a green blur on the main ones, which is ok with me--but why he had to give that "phony story" (to avoid using impolite terms) I don't know.

Well, he meandered around for such a long time, that a ferry he'd intended to take some 40 miles north of Harrisberg closed down for the night, & we had to go down almost all the way to Harrisberg to get across the river. That done, he stuck to 22 for a while to make up some time, & we stoped for the night in a place called Mifflintown.

Next morning Matt announced that he'll have us, as promised, in Pittsburg by 3 PM, & we went off for breakfast. There Matt spent a half hour yakking with the waitress (& she was a fairly old woman!) & we're off on another back road--it was a dirt one this time. Well, when we crossed 22 again, it was about 1 PM & we still were some 150 miles from Pittsburg. By when we finished lunch a little further down the road, it was 2, & then he took off like a bat out of hell.

In order to get to the hotel by 4, which he said was the latest they hold reservations, we went the rest of the way at about 90 MPH on a narrow 2 lane road, & for a while he was playing tag trying to pass a dynamite truck carrying you-know-what to a local road widening project.

Well, we somehow made it to the hotel alive by 4:30 PM & the reservations were still waiting for us, no thanks to Matt's sence of priority in allotting time! Two hours later, we had somehow succeeded in registering, getting uor luggage to our room, Alma's to hers, & the car into a garage, so I wandered off in search of fen.

The first person I'd seen was George Nims Raybin, who was in front of me on the line to register, & ~~Bob~~ Bjo & Dick Schultz who were after me. After I was settled, I found Earl Kemp & Ed Wood talking in the N3F room & information center, & sat down to listen. Now for various reasons I'd gotten the impression that Earl was an unholy terror & not to be approached, and was very surprised to find him most pleasant & friendly.

After that session broke up, I went down to the other N3F room for some of the free coffee & cookies (didn't have time for dinner outside--this waen't the last time that I would have a meal there) & headed back up to the 17th floor for the IRE panel on "What is Scientific?"

It was the typical session of Campbell against everybody, & Him outshouting everybody. I wonder if he let one person finish a sentence. Anyhow, as usual, he got his opposition confused & tangled up, but real-

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The first person I'd seen was George Nims Rypkin, who was in front of me on the line to register, & Dick Bjo & Dick Schultz who were after me. After I was settled, I found Earl Kemp & Ed Wood talking in the NSF room & information center, & sat down to listen. Now for various reasons I'd gotten the impression that Earl was an unholly terror & not to be approached, and was very surprised to find him most pleasant & friendly.

After that session broke up, I went down to the other NSF room for some of the free coffee & cookies (didn't have time for dinner outside--this wasn't the last time that I would have a meal there) & headed back up to the 17th floor for the IRE panel on "What is Scientific?" & Him. It was the typical session of Campbell against everybody, & Him outlasting everybody. I wonder if he let one person finish a sentence. Anyhow, as usual, he got his opposition confused & tangled up, but really



proved nothing.

Just as the talk (or fight) ended another group of friends arrived from NY--Carl-

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and Frederick, Norman Witriol + a third person. I believe they said it took 1 1/2 hours to get there because their automobile broke down + they accidentally passed Pittsburg on the Turnpike + found themselves in Ohio.

After a little chatter, I went looking for parties, but not much was doing that night. In one room, First Fandom was having a shindig (which I didn't enter for somewhat vague reasons which I'll bet you'd never guess), while in another about a score of people were singing old labor union songs. I finally settled down in the 13th floor MF<sub>3</sub> room which seemed to be the only really live + non exclusive place that evening.

I knocked off early (about 2) to save my strength for the real con, + was up bright + early the next morning. In the huckstering room, Fantasy Press had a table where they were selling new copies of Triplanetary, First Lensman, + Second Stage Lensman. I saw a Fantasy Press edition of Vortex Blaster. It seems that the ex director of FP found some 20 copies of each of the first three books in his basement or somewhere, + since they were unbound, he had them bound + was huckstering them at the con. As for Vortex Blaster, the way I understand it, he was supposed to bring it out when FP went bankrupt, + he'd already taken a number of pre-publication orders on it. Well, when Gnome finally brought it out, he was allowed to have a special printing of (I think) 300 copies with the FP imprint made to take care of the advance orders, + he had a few copies left over which he was selling at 2 dollars. These were printed on better paper than the Gnome edition, + had different d/w design, + the pages were a little smaller. Both editions bear "First Edition<sub>38</sub>", which I don't like, even if they were printed from the same plates with just different title pages. Anyhow, despite the fact that I'd already purchased a copy thru the Pick-A-Book standing order plan for \$1.20, since one had a print of ~~1000~~ 2000 + the other of 300, I purchased a copy as a collector's item.

Ducked out for lunch at a luncheonette across Grant (or Grand?) st. from the hotel, + found myself sitting next to Lq Sprague de Camp. We had a pleasant half hour chat, + I don't suppose that he'd object to my mentioning some of the things he'd said. ~~HE~~ He mentioned, in reply to a question, that the new book announced by Avalon for this winter was the 3rd + final one of the Harold Shea series, which hadn't been continued further for two reasons. First, there wasn't a market for it, + second, if he wrote it alone, without Pratt, it's style would have been different from that of the rest of the series. (He said that he had one style, Pratt another, but when they collaborated a third different one emerged.) Otherwise, he said, the series could have gone on endlessly as the heroes explored different mythologies, + he mentioned some or so ones that could have been so treated.

When I wondered out loud when the con would get started, he said that it started on time at least once. That was the time he was the first speaker, and altho the hall was almost empty, he started promptly, + it filled up rather quickly. In answer to a question, he said that he had no part in the main sessions, but as usual, he was parliamentary for the business meeting. He said that somehow word got out that he had experience in such matters while in the service, + they kept picking him to run the things at the cons. This, he said, was probably the last time that he'd so get for a while--~~XXXXXX~~.

Well, this year the con started only fifteen minutes late, but just after it did, the committee + most of the pros were called away to have their pictures taken for the local tabloids. Sam quite ably filled in until the others got back, + things got rolling again with the Auction Block. Isaac Asimov gave the spiel, + then Sam sold them this year, and except for the first pro (de Camp) who went for some \$25, most prices were ridiculously small. Dr. Asimov told the same joke over + over again for some 15 minutes, + the whole thing became rather unfunny after a while; with every pro, ~~XXXX~~ including himself but excluding Judith Merrill, he urged the Fenne to bid on these persons because they were quite verile + the fenne would have an exciting hour. He

made appropriate changes when he auctioned off Judith Merrill. (The auction block was the first thing I'd made a tape off, but I since decided that I don't want to keep it + have erased it.)

After this was the panel on collectors' items in SF, where both Sam + E Ackerman talked of such scarce items that they are impossible to obtain until one of the top collectors goes the way of Casuel or dies. (I later overheard Sam say that he mentions the July '36 Satellite + its contents every opportunity he gets because he wants this information spread as widely as possible so that future researchers in the field would know that, for instance, a certain story by 'flash' Farmer was accepted for publication by this mag before it went kaput. If this is a valid reason, which I suppose it is, then E ought to likewise publicise the contents of the abortive first issue of George Pall's Tales of Space Conquest.) Some other items mentioned were: a hard-cover book called Some Women of the University, of which only 2 100 copies were printed (this is a retitled second edition, + the first edition is not rare), a Canadian professional magazine called Bizarre, most of whose copies were destroyed for unauthorized reprinting of US stories (this is one of 3 different promags so named), a French mag called Conquest, only 3 copies of which are known to be in the US for the "tentative" issue numbered "0-0", a few stills of the movie Shape of Things to Come with Ernest Thesinger in the place of Sir Sidrick (the film was first made with ET in it, but it was then decided to replace him with a big name + the appropriate scenes were reshot, but some of the wrong stills were distributed), an unauthorized Russian translation of a book known variously as Metal Emperor + Metal Monster under the title Lightning Witch (no known copies in the US) + what is probably the first fan-published hard-cover book, Mars Mountain published by Crawford around 1934 (approx 200 copies printed, of which about half went to the author). Sam also spoke of SF in the dime novel.

There was one more talk before the first regular auction--Hal Clement speaking on "Interstellar Stage Setting" where he invents a solar system where the space operas of the '30's could actually take place. I have tapes of this, + if I see on further investigation that these stand up without the models + nobody beats me to it, I'll print them in Polhode 4 next Summer. (Another IF--IF Mr Stubbs lets me do so?)

As for the auction itself, the prices paid on the items were quite high. A number of items went for more than \$ 20 + two went for over \$100! (101 for an unpublished "flash" Farmer story + 125 for Hal Clement's globe.)

After dinner was the "costume cabaret", which, according to the program, was MD'd by Bob Tucker, but it looked + sounded like Ed Wood to me. (But then, I've never seen Tucker, + the two might look alike.) He sounded thuroly bored as he called the individuals onto the stage to be examined by the panel of judges.

The floor-show was quite good, + I wish I'd recorded it. I later saw notices that someone did + was selling copies of the tapes, but I forgot to take down his name + address...wonder how much he wants for them. (It is the first two items on the program that I want--Misfit's Glee Club + Tremendous Twosome. One item, "The Hi + Lo Of It", was cancelled.)

Because I stayed for the floor show, I missed half of the film showing, including The Canie (which I'd already seen at an ESFA meeting), Rock Fight, Ridinghood, + the first half of Mesquite Kid. Also a series SF film whose name I forgot. The previous night, I'd missed most of Don Ford's slide show because I stayed on at the IRE meeting till the end, + I rather dislike the idea of starting one event before another has ended.

During the floor show, a number of copies of a "SF + FSJ Song Book" were floating around, which contained the words being sung, + I picked ~~11/15~~ one up. I later saw that they were being sold for ONE DOLLAR EACH for the benefit of Taff + a booze party (that is, I saw the notice in the book, not someone actually selling them) so I decided to give the thing a lookover + either return it or pay the \$. Well, I never got around to it. I suppose that even if the price is a little steep, since it's

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Clement, the IES meeting, & Willy Ley). Mr. Santesson said that "we hope meetings will soon get underway in NY again", in which he was referring to me. Alma had more or less committed me to try to get a NY group going again, but it now looks like I'll be taking a heavier load in graduate school than I intended to, so I'll set up one meeting sometime this fall, & hope the group takes off on its own. I think I'll call it for a Friday or Saturday evening in the Donnell Branch of the NY Public Library, if things can be worked out that way. Just looked at the 2nd ish of Logic at Work, but could not find the publishing deadline for meeting notices & the time the members would get them. Well, I'll have to phone Mr. Santesson & check with him.... But it's probably too late to get an October meeting, & November would conflict with the near-by Phila Conference.... Well, I'll hold that meeting, Real Soon Now, & probably get up some sort of a program to bring down the mildly interested. Say, the meeting of "The Film Group" a few days ago showed some quite good science films...perhaps these could be shown at some meeting. UPS-ALL PAT'S OFF! Just found out that Todd's bakin' over again.

But back to the con.... Mr. Santesson said that this was not the place for Flying Crockery & spiritualism, so there would be none, but that if he were to ever edit another stf mag (& he might, he said, sooner than any of us might think, have another stf mag) he would feel no need to leave it out of there, because it wouldn't be out of place then.

After a healthy amount of money was collected (some said that it was paid out of sympathy for Mr. Santesson, but I don't think so. Paying \$7 a head out of sympathy?) the convention proper got rolling again.

The first event was the panel, or as they called it, "symposium", on "Who Killed Science Fiction". Things got off to a quiet start, with Avram Davidson reading a mildly humorous dissertation + Martijn Greenberg making a few pertinent remarks, especially about library sales (which were confirmed + amplified upon by Bruce Pelz). Then JWCampbell made some quite appropriate remarks about growing up + losing your "sense of wonder" (like, "When I was a small boy, apples were much bigger than they are now--why some were almost as big as my head? And back then, the snow was deeper--way over my head?"). But then he got into an argument about the Dean Drive with Bruce Pelz, with many from the audience joining in. Mostly, it concerned who tested the gizmo + how, but JWC did make his point that there were no tests till after the editorial. (Or perhaps there was one--I'm not sure now, + the tapes are inaccessible.) Well, things were going fast + furious when the committee cut it short because it was time for Harlan Ellison to begin his talk on stf in the queers magazines. This was resented quite strongly by the audience, + they clustered around JWC to continue the argument. The committee, after trying to get the program started for some 15 minutes, finally chased JWC + his satellites out of the room, + Harlan found himself with less than half of the original audience.

I suppose that the committee wanted to keep things on schedule + not have to postpone any events to later sessions or cancel them, but there was considerable bitterness on the part of the audience for having something popular cut off "just to listen to Harlan Ellison". Same way with "Hal Clement's" talk--he used some models to illustrate some points, + invited the audience to take a better close look at them after he finished. The people just got there, when the committee chased them away in order to get on with the next event, an auction.

Anyhow, once Harlan got started, I was quite glad that I hadn't followed JWC--he was quite interesting. After it was over, later that day, I told Harlan that I had it on tape, + if the tape came out clearly, I'd like to reprint it in Collected; he told me that I was the FIFTH person to ask. Well, as much for that.

After the con, I showed some slides of all over the con. I saw a lot of slides of the con + JWC + Bush spoke on "Science Fiction's Future" to the audience. I didn't have copies of the art, I didn't record Sam's or any other remarks, but I did take down the "panel", including Sam's interjections.

EMSH said that he prefers to have a free rein while JWC said that he gives one. Mr. Campbell also said that experimentation revealed that all forms, except abstract, of cover art sell approximately the same number of copies. Then he jumped upon a remark of SaM's, when the limitations of the printing processes were being discussed. (At a Lunacon SaM once talked about the lousy printing process Street & Smith used in the early '40's, & showed a number of slides to illustrate his point. One was of a Jovian "landscape" which was an Air Trails cover and an endpaper of the Ley-Bonestell Conquest of Space. The difference was Astoundi--er, sorry--Analog!)

When SaM made a passing reference to this, JWC said that S&S did NOT use a 3-color press, but a 4-color one, and that SaM must have had a poor copy from towards the end of the run. There were then some remarks about the technical nature of color printing, & SaM later (at the next week's ESFA meeting?) commented more on this, particularly with reference to JWC's remarks about not being able to print many clear copies in color (the presses become un-aligned) & cited Life as an example, for more than 3 color processes.

What can be said about the next item on the program? (The Lasfas, Chiac play, Carl Brandon's "Purple Pastures".) It was quite humorous, & the presentation was quite good. As you know, it was based on the rather obsolete theme of "Who reads that stuff?"

As the last item before dinner-intermission, Willy Ley spoke about animals whose existence was doubtful. That is, not ones like the Abominable Snowman or Sea Serpent, but animals of which one or 2 specimens (or parts thereof) have actually been found, but no other hint. Again, I might try contacting Mr. Ley about reprinting his talk, but I want to publish an SF fanzine, not a science one. Also, I sort of doubt that I could get this permission, even if no one beat me to asking permission. After all, Mr. Ley does get very much money for his articles and lectures, & I don't think that he'd want this stuff distributed free in some fanzine.

Then there was an intermission before the banquet, & Pete & I broke up--he went to look at the huckstering room, while I was off to change. But before going down to my room, I wanted to find somebody, & wandered into the Huckstering Room. And there was Advent Press, in the form of Ed Wood & Earl Kemp, selling a paperback edition of In Search of Wonder! Enquiry brought out the fact that only some 60 copies were prepared, to sell at \$1.65 each, as a test to see how they would sell. Apparently this was done on a whim by Earl, for Ed said that he knew nothing of it until Earl brought out the boxes! Anyhow, since the print order was so small, & the price wasn't bad, I picked up a copy for my pb collection (incidentally, Earl said that his pb index will also include the quality paperbacks like Dover.) Apparently the test was a success, & I guess that there will be other Advent paperback reprints. If there is another pb edition of In Search of Wonder, I hope it is somehow differentiated from the first trial offering, such as by the use of a different color ink on the cover. I had a first printing of the book, & the only reason I picked this up was the size of the printing; I'm sure others did likewise, & for one would be unhappy if the scarcity of this test-edition were to be destroyed.

Well, I did eventually get back to my room to change, & got up to the banquet. The tickets were quite available, despite many announcements to the contrary. First the Prog Repts announced that all money must be in the committee's hands before the con begins, then the program announced that banquet ticket sales end at 5PM Saturday, & Peter had no trouble getting one Sunday around noon, when he registered. And I wonder if he could have gotten one just before the banquet itself....

Well, we finally all sat dāwn & started eating. Present at our table were, Pete Shulin, Bjo, Earnie Wheatley, Julius & Naomi Postal, & another couple whose names I've forgotten. The woman was blind, & had to leave just before the speakers got started in order to walk her seeing eye dog, but she was back quickly & didn't miss much, if anything. The food wasn't bad, particularly at those prices. (I've had horrible experienced with banquets--both various school affairs & the Newyorkon one.)

Dr. Azimov toastmasted as usual, & was quite humorous; (That's how the newspaper article that morning spelt it. I only scanned the write-up, but it seemed quite horrible. The typical fabloid reaction, with references to "Space Bugs" in the headline.) far more so than at the "Auction Bloch". After Don Ford & Eric Bentcliffe murmured a few polite words, James Blish gave a knockout of a talk on S.F. stories that say something & mean something, which he called "A Question of Content!" I pounced on him for reprint titles, but that #@% Norm Metcalf beat me to it again! It looks like New Frontiers will have a real good 4th issue!

And finally, came the Hugo Awards. Of course, I was happy that Cry got it, along with Starship Troopers, EMSH, and "Flowers For Algernon." Well, I'm not so sure of FFA--it was the best of the nominated stories, but I think that the very same ish of F&SF that it appeared in had one, perhaps even two, better stories. When it came to voting on mags, I couldn't decide between FU, ASF, & Amazing, & finally gave it to FU. Well--F&SF won. Finally, Twilight Zone walked off with the last tin rocket. I'd voted for "World, Flesh & Devis" myself, but wonder if this category really means much. What the hell do Sterling or Belefonte care about our little tin rocket, despite the pretty letter from Sterling read at the awards? Then, some sort of special awards were given to Sam & Hugo Gernsback (the latter in absentia). Sam's was the LEE Evans memorial award.

Heinlein walked in the back door just as his award was read out, & made a number of remarks about M/M how tired he was after some 3 different airliners. His arrival did seem to be a bit too much of a coincidence, & I've heard someone remark that he thinks he saw Heinlein standing in the back about a ½ hour earlier, & that he left just before his award was announced in order to make a grand entereence.

By now it was quite late, + Pere had to go home. Altho we'd been together for some 12 hours, we were so busy + so many things were going on, that I doubt that we exchanged more than 100 words. (I'd decided to try typing without a ribbon, but I just punched out half the 'o' s, so it's back in.) Well, next was the business meeting, chaired by L. S. de Camp, + he really held things in his controll! I heard one person comment "I've never seen 'Robert's Rules of Order' used as a weapon before!"

Well, after much wrangling, the \$<sub>3</sub> registration fee was approved, with \$<sub>2</sub> for North American ~~attendees~~ Non-attendees + \$<sub>1</sub> for other non-attendees, including S America. Also, the design of the metal part of the Hugo, but not the base or number of awards, was stenderdised, + it was decided that Hugo nominations be open to anyone, while only paid up members can vote. This is good in that it does spread the base of the awards, + encourages early registration, when the committee needs the money. But I hope the committee is sencible in accepting nominations in that they do not rely strictly on the number recieved. That is if the X with the 5th largest number of points has 50, + some real dark horse hidden away from most readers gets only 20, they include the last on the ballot. A number of people, before voting, will go + read the unread but nominated stories, + this would give a fair break to books which have only come out in hard-cover or were published in some largely unread magazine. In fact, I'd like to see an explicit provision in the rules that the committee can include, at its descretion, one or two dark horse candidates. I don't know if these should be labeled as such, + whether they should be included among or above the standard 5 per catagory.

I'd like to see some discussion on this, in MC's, reviews, & LOG's. (I haven't decided on whether I'll print LOG's on Po# in Po# or Polhode, but I will use them.)

The matter of standardising Hugo categories & another possible date for the Worldcon was delegated to a committee to be appointed by Dirce Archer, & mail-voting on convention sites was killed without discussion. I wonder about the date... Labor Day does seem to be best, but is that just conservative thinking or is it really the best? Since 4th of July isn't always on a weekend, that wouldn't be good. Of course, as was pointed out in the discussion, there is no rule that the con must be held over Labor Day, & a few weren't (wasn't the LonCon one week away? to sight a recent example), so if some year the 4th fell on a Fri or Mon, the committee could hold the con then. But I think that there would be one hell of a stink if some con-committee decided to do that, unless there were some good reason for doing so, & the committee announced plans to do so while campaigning for the bid. I doubt that it would win, but if it did, there could then be no reason for griping! But I've seen a suggestion (in the form of "Why hasn't anyone ever suggested...") by Dick Eney (in a mailing comment on a Fapazine, Phlotsam, which I saw because that particular sheet was used to wrap my copy of SpecRev) that it be held over the Thanksgiving weekend. All students & teachers have off then, & it's after midterms, and many other people have off both on Thursday & Friday. One advantage would be in case we wind up again in an air-conditioned hotel (remember the Newyorkon?), but as a student, I ~~think~~ think I'd still prefer Labor Day, before school starts, to Tnxgvg, in the middle of a semester. Memorial Day is OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! because it usually occurs in the middle of final exams. Any other suggestions? (Memorial day is the last Monday of May, isn't it?) (And how about the weekend after Easter, tho this would conflict with the Britcon & might foul things up for the TAPF candidates. And schoolwise, it has the same liabilities as does TNXGV.)

One reason things were put off or killed was that the previous discussions had been taking very long, & everybody (or most) wanted to get on with the other ~~#####~~ events. Of course, Munich won the '61 conbid by acclamation! You didn't think the Seattle boys had a chance, did you? Do you want to go to a PucOn?

Well, things took so long that the Fanzine panel was postponed-- the first change of a major program event. Then Harlan auctioned away for quite a while, & it was this session which racked up the fabulous prices.

After wandering around a bit, I finally found a party, where I settled down for the evening. First Sam was speaking of the Oz books to an audience of about a dozen, then a certain professional ~~wdp~~ who was in a state of delightgull incandescence (wonder what a headache he had next morning) was telling his tale of woe, & then I listened in on a conversation between Walter Breen, Matt Chlupsa, & others on phonetic alphabets for Japanese & Chinese. It was at this party that I met and talked at length to a fan I had never corresponded or traded fmz with before-- Christopher Jameson of Phila. Well, finally the people who were throwing the party wanted to go to sleep, & we were thrown out. So, that ended that night for me.

As with most of the partys I dropped in on, I didn't know who was throwing them, so I just can't give them their richly deserved egoboo. In most of them, particularly this one, the booze & mixer was flowing like water, & we had a variety of each to choose from right up to when we were thrown out. There was even some excellent German (Rhine?) wine at this one. And the amount of money spent on potables was tremendous! I can't imagine what would prompt these people to spend it--these par-

ties are generally open to anyone who can find them (obvious exceptions include First Fandom) so they aren't thrown for intimate get-togethers with a few close friends, & they certainly don't provide much egoboo. The benefit of having a number of people to talk to can be obtained by going to someone else's party. So why? (Again, a few are obvious, such as the Seattle party--but the others?)

Monday morning at 11 was a meeting of the Burroughs Bibliophiles, which I dropped in on to see samples of their periodicals, such as the Burroughs Bulliten. (I don't read ERB's stuff--never got around to trying it. But I don't like Conan--at least I found "The God In The Bowl" disgusting with all of its eye-gouging, etc--but that doesn't prevent me from liking AMRA. That the same might be true here.) There were none available, so I left in a few minutes & went wandering around.

Belle caught me in the hall, trying to round up people for the N3F meeting. She sent me back to the BB meeting, to let Jimmy Taurasi & Bjo know that we'd soon be starting, & went running off herself. By 12:30 we had some 18 people there, including Belle, GNRaybin, Bbc Lambeck, Bruce Henstell, Andy Main, Ralph Holland, Janey Lamb, Alma Hill & others, so we got started.

Of the various things discussed, only 2 were of any real importance: N3F Worldcon participation & the NAPA waiting list. It was reported that the 2 N3F rooms were a big success--the lounge connecting with the N3F run information room (which was given free, in exchange for running the INFO room) & the suite one floor down where coffee, cookies, & tea were always available (which we paid for). We discussed what should be done next year, particularly since Seattle told us they would not be able to give us a free room in exchange for running the Information Center, for the simple reason that the Hotel was very stingy in giving free rooms to the committee. After much discussion, we decided to offer to run the INFO center for them gratis, & to set up a coffee room again. But for the latter we decided to take an ordinary room instead of an expensive suite, & have all the beds, etc., taken out. (George said that such things are possible, & generally cost as much as the room would cost with one person sleeping in it.) This should give us sufficient room at a considerable saving. One or 2 people made other suggestions which were, thank Ghu, rejected almost violently, for if they had passed, they might have resulted in some quite bad publicity! Fortunately, most of the people there were sensible.

The matter of what to do now that NAPA has a waiting list was also brought up. Indefinite expansion & a twin of NAPA were fortunately killed, but the possibility of another APA, considerably different from NAPA, was left open to be decided upon after another year or so, to see how things work out. Specifically, mention was made of a possible Hecto APA with a membership limit of 25 or less. I wonder if this will be necessary, for I no longer think that the NAPA waiting list will grow very much. A number of Non-Nefferers who had been interested in getting onto the waiting list decided not to when they found out that they would have to join the N3F even to get on to it, & didn't want to do so for the 6 months or so involved. So it should stay short for quite a while, & none of these things need be resorted to. Belle also brought up the difficulty of enforcing the N3F membership requirement for waiting listers, & suggested a 3 month delay between N3F membership & application for the w/l to help prevent foulups. This too was approved.

Of course, the meeting was just a discussion meeting, & its decisions were not binding. They must still be approved by the appropriate group--NeF directorate or NAPA membership. In fact, as those of you who are members saw, the 3-month delay is on a ballot included in this mailing, & if it is passed, it will become effective in December.



But I just don't get it why Belle didn't explain in the O-O or on the ballot why the 3 month delay was being voted on! Oh well, maybe it was because she got a few gripes last time around about publishing too large an O-O. Similarly she didn't mention that even if you voted "no" on increasing membership, you could vote on the other points, just in case ~~they~~ it did pass despite you. And that the reason for increasing membership "at the ME's discretion" was so that she could delay it, if it passed, until such a time as the increase wouldn't wipe out the w/l.

Oh--I forgot to mention, while the meeting was going on, the time for the raffle drawing came, & since you had to be present to win, we all gave our tickets to (I think) Bruce Henstell, & Chriss gave him a dollar to get her 2 chances. Guess who won a subscription to every SF magazine except Shock.

By when things were over, & I got into the hall, Frank Belknap Long finished his talk on Lovecraft. Those who were there said that I didn't miss much, because he said more better at an ESFA meeting about 1½ yrs. ago.

The pro-play was cancelled (the only major event to be so) & the Fanzine Editor's panel was held. It got off to a rather dull start, but was just picking up steam, when it was choked off by the ~~the~~ con committee to keep on their sacred schedule! Harlan auctioned for a while, & started playing games. (He'd done it a little Sunday night too.) He started all kinds of "give me \$2/1/8/etc & I'll give you a surprise" deals. For the most part, he did clear away quickly many things which would have only brought small prices, but he eliminated many things that way which I would have gladly bid on, if I knew what they were. For instance, there was this one cover painting...oh, what's the use of griping!

The last item on the program was Bob Pavlat's panel on SF clubs. By when it rolled around, the hall was almost empty (despite the hotel's gracious moving back of check-out time) which got moving rather quickly. It was quite good, especially SAM's talk about ESFA from the floor. He also said a few words about another club that exists in the area called The Lunarians. The discussion could have gone on for hours, and after a while it too was cut off by the committee, because, they said, the hall had to be turned back to the hotel. The gavel was turned ~~to~~ over to a Seattle representative in a ceremony which almost nobody heard, & the Pittcon was over.

In an adjacent room, LasFas showed its films again, but had a little trouble with the projector breaking down. While they tried to get it going again, I looked at a pile of fms on a table; copies of "A Fanzine For BJohn". Inquiry revealed that Bruck Pelz was bucketering them @ a ~~1/2~~ so I picked one up & looked for him. The films started again, & I stayed till the end of Mesquite Kid, but still no Bruce. Finally, I had to leave to go down to the SFT room to get the Polhode covers run off on their Rex Rotary. And I still owe Bruce that ~~1/2~~.

They weren't ready yet, so while I waited, I tried to cut some illos & do some lettering with their equipment, but all I succeeded in doing was ripping some stencils. Then they went out to dinner with a bunch ~~of~~ from N.Y. with 1 or 2 Philliee thrown in, so I joined them. When we got back, they said that they wouldn't be ready to run my stuff for 1½ hours, so I went off in search of parites.

**ULP!**

That party which I described as on the previous night was this night! When I came in, I found SAM talking about Oz, & had to leave after a while to get my stuff run off. I wanted to use their maching because my covers were stenofaxed with much black, & theirs was a silk-screen type machine, which also had the advantage of not having any offset.

Well, it was run off, but things didn't work out that well. The front cover wasn't stenofaxed too well, & many details were lost. The back cover had so much black, that the pad had to be reinked every 5 revolutions instead of the 20 or so which happens on the automatic cycle. Frank, who ran the machine, didn't want to manually reink more than once every 10 revolutions, because he was afraid the stencil would rip. Well, I have some good back covers to last for quite a while, but I haven't decided what I'll do towards the end--get more run off somewhere or use the washed out ones.

When I got back to the party, Sam was gone, & the rest happened as described above. After we got kicked out, Mat & I went back to the 17 floor, just as a singing session was getting started in the Sky Room (which is a bar during certain hours). While Lea Gerber tortured a guitar, Juanita Coulson did some singing. Then she moved over to a piano and accompanied herself, & a number of others took turns singing, including the inimitable Sandy Cutrell. I flipped my recorder on when Juanita sat down at the piano, & kept it on till the 45 min tape cartridge ran out. (I'd carried the beast around all day, but this was the first time I used it. I don't know why I didn't use it at any of the regular sessions, & I'm sorry I didn't use it on the fanclub panel.) When I transcribed my tapes onto standard reels at home, everything came out clear except the first song. I don't know if it was the singing or the machine, but I can't understand one word, altho the tune is quite clear. It seems to be one constant sound (the words, that is.) One song which was quite good was "7 trufens locked in the lavatory", which was quite funny. Another, "travelcon" in callipso style, just got started when it came to an end. Anyhow, when the tape ran out, I headed back for my room to get packed, altho Matt stayed on yakking with Jean Young who'd come in. Jack Dittrick had come in too, & he went down with me. Matt came down while we were still packing, & did some himself.

Next morning, we finished packing, checked out, & met Walt Cole who came with us. Up until the last minute, we didn't know who was going with us. Walt was the first to ask, & we told him maybe, depending on Alma, altho we were pretty sure she wasn't going with us. (After all, if she didn't fit coming out, we figured she wouldn't coming back & so wouldn't ask us to take her.) Then Matt said that instead Jean Young would be traveling with us because she was stranded, but she got a ride & Matt said that some crippled woman who got stranded when Dick Eney's car went kaput would go with us. At this point he spoke to Alma, who had been thinking of coming with us, but who gave her place over to that woman. Finally, at almost the last minute, she got another ride, so the patient Walt Cole wound up coming with us. Well, we were finally off about 11 AM instead of the planned 10, & had to make a one hour stop a few miles later while Matt changed the radiator water, which he'd intended to do during the Pittcon. Walt told us that he actually got up for the 7AM ONE HOUR telecast about the Pittcon, altho he missed the first 20 minutes which included the costume party. He reported that they did a very good & fair job, unlike the habloid articles. We had a good time coming home, kidding Matt about his driving (which really was same on the homebound trib!) and Jack Dittrick about a painting he bought for \$35 from Bob Stewart at the Fan Art Exhibit. (A smear of blue, green & white, called "When the Moon Kissed the Sea.") When we stopped for lunch, we met the SFT crew, who had GNRaybin & (I think) Sandy Sanderson in their car, & at several of our stops we met the Shaws who had 4E Ackerman & (I think) the Kyles. (I just don't remember for sure.) Matt left me at Canal St. & Bwy in NY at 11PM, & I was home on the subway by about 11:30. He brought down to my house the luggage a few days later. My first REAL worldcon had ended.

APOLOGIES, like for the lousy repro. part is due to the school's

wonderful azograph acting up & partly to my trying to use cheap masters and paper. After I resorted to going back to the expensive 20¢ stuff & feeding it in one sheet at a time, things picked up but were still imperfect. In places, it overfluids; in places, it underfluids. Next time around, I'll run off each master as I type it, & at the slightest provocation I'll switch over to the more expensive & time consuming mimeo process!

DEDICATED TO BOB COULSON

who will so enjoy these mailing comments and con report that he will trade me TWO issues of Yandro for them! But seriously, this is a fangine substitute which I will send out in trade for other fias untill I can put out Polhode #4 next June or so, if I don't get too many protests or refusals to trade. Each issue will have some non n/c writing composed on master, like the con report this time around. And repro WILL be BETTER!

Apologies to N'APers too for only having the first 16 pages in the mailing--it was either that or nothing, & I figured it would be preferable to

Page "Z" of Peskys on 5.

have the incomplete fangine there. Please take these remaining 10 pages & staple them to the first 16.

I still can't remember what I did at the con Sunday night, altho I now remember that J&N Postal & I stood in the hall for about 2 hours talking with the lasFas crew Saturday from about Midnight till 2 AM. We were talking about amateur movies, since Julius is professionally interested in movies.

NOTE !!! I WOULD PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE COMMENT ON THE MARKED OFF SECTIONS ON PP U & V.

This last master is being typed 2:40 PM, Monday, 3 Oct, 1960, after all of the others have been (~~smolder~~) run off. I will now go & do likewise, & hope to assemble the ish tomorrow, & get it into the mails at that time. Hope this fairs better than Dan Blackburn's postmailing, of which (apparently) every single copy disappeared!

18 stencils of Polhode have been cut (ish #3, that is) & 4 of these run. I hope to have the remaining 12-14 cut by the 10th, & Dan Blackburn promised to run them off for me. If all goes well, I'll have them back by the 14th & they should be (Ghu permitting) in your grubby little paws soon afterward. Everybody who gets this will receive Ph3, altho the converse isn't true.

Goodbye for now..... Ed Meskys

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