

S # XAWOODAH 2

SHADOWFAX #2 is brought to members of FAPA and SHADOW-FAPA by Greg Hills, PO Box 9314, Wellington, New Zealand. Since it is mostly autobiographical in nature, I'm also passing 45 copies through REHUPA as THE PRINTED SWORD #2. March 1980. A Bombed Budgie Publication.

Note the CoA--- PO Box 9314, Wellington, New Zealand. It should be a permanent change, at least the Wellington part. The Box may change after June to one somewhat more convenient to work.

Right. I have finally, FINALLY made the break... I bade good-bye to Wanganui on the 9th of February and started a job in Wellington on the 12th. I moved into a good house on the 14th. I became a member of the National Association's Central Committee, AND editor of NASF's magazine WARP, on the 17th. On the 23rd I inherited a place in the organisers of NZ's second ever sf Convention, WellCon B. Things have moved very fast of late, and I do not know when the roller-coaster will hit the bottom and start slowing down.

Let me start at the beginning. At the end of January I was in Wellington for a couple of job-interviews. Purely on impulse, I stopped by the specialist sf bookshop Huyser Books Ltd. I asked if they had any jobs available. It turned out that they had had one, but that it was filled 10 minutes before I walked in. Disappointed, I sat around for an hour or so and talked sf. At the end of that time I found that I had talked my way into a part-time job with the shop. Considering my usual inept state when it comes to job-interviews, I am forced to conclude that some great impalpable force must have been helping me.

So I scurried home again to order my affairs, having first begged a bed from Bruce & Robyn Ferguson for when I came down.

After a few hassles with the carriers, I took the bus down on the Saturday before the job was to start. I stayed with the Fergusons just 5 nights out of the 14 I had anticipated. Reason: On the Thursday after starting work, I got a phone-call from friends of my brother, Donald. Was I interested in making a 4th person in a 3-bedroom house in the spacious suburb of Khandallah? The rent: \$16.25 a week was my share of the \$65 a week total for the house.

Let me tell you, \$16.25 a week is dead cheap for a Wellington flat! In fact, it is only \$1.25 more than I was paying for a crummy shack in Wanganui.

Naturally I accepted.

So here I am, sitting relatively pretty on a tall hill that looks down and down to a beautiful view of Wellington's harbour (Port Nicholson) and of Wellington itself; next to a regular bus-stop and just 20 minutes from the centre of the city, at quite low bus-fares. With a job in a sf bookstore where, while I only work 1 till 5:30, I get several perks including free pick & read of the books on the shelf and a 50/50 share of the proceeds from the 2nd-hand section I am running for the owner. I rise when I like because the job is an afternoon one, and in the evening there is time to chat with flatmates. One of my flatmates works for IBM, and I get the odd free ribbon or correction tape that way.

What more, I ask you, could any fan ask for? Apart from more money.....

reduced to. Instead they are blue Gestetner 62's, which cost me exactly the same as the Kopymaster ones. I can only complain about the printing on the stencil itself, which is too wide. No more typing by the boxes; now I must trust to the typer's margins.

Why am I typing all this on pica-size? Simple. I don't have time to fill my usual elite pages. So the Selectric's dual-pitch nature comes in useful. I just wish I had some corflu. There will be no neat correcting in this apa-zine, folks.

I have no time because now that I have moved to Wellington I have ended up with a bunch of new things to do: WARP, the magazine of the National Assn for SF; and part of the organising for WellCon B, namely that part concerned with publications and such.

Between these and the backlog of mail that built up while I was getting my feet, I find myself with almost zero time for fanac.

This means, sadly, that I cannot continue to join new apas and that I am going to drop from GAPA. I will be staying in: N'APA; APPLESAUCE; AOTEARAPA; FAPA (& SHADOW-FAPA); REHUPA. I will keep my application for UK-APA (should it ever revive). But I do not anticipate expanding into new ground except by letting present ground lie fallow. NO TIME.

#### MAILING COMMENTS!

Actually, comment. We seem a heterogenous lot. The cover was very nice. I DO NOT REVERENCE FAPA'S PAST. You have all been warned. True, FAPA is the oldest fannish apa. True, it tends to be a place where the greats of the past come to gaffiate away. but this does not make it an object of worship. It is an apa. Chuck Hansen, one annual issue from an old foggy may be "worth more than a dozen of the hot-to-trot, eager young fen who know nothing of FAPA's glorious history and care even less!" but an issue filled with sentimental mumblings about the past is not worth the drekkiest crudzine to me. If FAPA in the past was similar to the picture of today's FAPA that I see, then there was nothing "glorious" about FAPA's past. If things were different then to now, I suspect it was a lot nearer what many of the better modern apas are like than what FAPA is today: full of younger fen, all talking at once about what interested them.

Something like ANZAPA or APPLESAUCE are like today. The latter is a truly marvellous apparition when it appears in all its 200+ pages each and every month. It's young, its membership is young, and it is far from the ossified establishment that impedes US fandom...

This may sound rather rude, but I think it is true nonetheless.

And it goes for REHUPA. I have yet to see the January 1980 mailing Brian has mailed to me, but I have seen other mailings. At least REHUPA is growing younger with the demise of many of the older fen simultaneously. It is not as old as FAPA, but the same trend was visible in it. And in N'APA, too, it is visible, folks.

THE OLD DAYS WERE NOT ALWAYS BETTER THAN TODAY. In fact, in almost every way except cost they were not as good. Would the fans of the 40's & 50's have enjoyed themselves so much had they been faced with postage costs as high in proportion to everything else as today's? If paper had been as expensive? I wonder. And I doubt it, to hear those of them still active today. They even mistrust offset printing, calling it unfannish and foul even where the fan is using it only because it is a lot neater and almost as cheap as mimeo. In their day, offset was the dream of the poor; mimeo & ditto were all most could afford. So they made a cult of them. You know what I want? I want my own offset printer. Fuck fannishness and fannish tradition.

The page is filled, the typing done, the scrawl is on the 'cil; And so, my friends, I bid good-day, my minac now to fill...

*Handwritten signature/initials*