

S P A C E W A R P

FAPA Mlg 62 + A Barracks Bag Press Production + Spr. 53

LET'S NOT BE COMMONPLACE: Judging from the results displayed in bundle after bundle, standard ayjay practice is to go all-out in producing a neat and attractive cover, with which to, in many cases, swathe from the eyes of the microcosm a mess of strikeouts and dim mimeoing or worse.

But me, I have expended a deal of attention upon the mailing review column which makes up the contents of this mag. I intended, also, to produce a fine cover for it. But, as I have sometimes been told, I am so talented an artist that my work is dangerous.

Yea, verily. Other artists, men of repute and ability -- when they gaze upon one of my drawings, are so overcome that they rush from the room and are later found beating their heads on concrete sidewalks, or squatting in frying pans claiming that they are poached eggs.

Friends, I feel that even the pleasure you would derive from seeing an artistic cover by me would not compensate for this anguish that frustration and envy seems to arouse in the petty hearts of my fellow-artists.

So, no pic.

But I gotta get these stencils rushed off to that noble genius of the rolling mimeo (AHMF for \$3.75 w/o Veeder Root Counter) (to count a Veeder Root, if one happens to get mixed in with the 20-lb bond, no doubt), Martin E Alger. He does fine mimeoing for cash, if you cut the stencils yourself (plug). (How about a discount for free advertising, Mart?)

And, before I started this one, I had only 5 stencils to send, which would produce a blank (you shud pardon the expression) sheet in the mag, besides which I hadn't put any identification on it. So this mess of type dripped directly on the stencil (had pretty good luck at justifying the lines as I went along, so far* is just to give somewot of a cover to what comes afterward. Are you glad?

*Don't anybody say "Nothing could justify those lines!" or Roscoe will slam ya with his tail.

...and a happy Texas Valentine's Day, you-all...

Sgt Arthur H Rapp RA36886935
508th MP Detachment
Fort Sam Houston
Texas

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Into the depths of FAPA Mlg 61, which are in need of plumbing.....

The Fantasy Amateur looks even more attractive than usual in its but-tercup-yellow format. And, as usual, FAPA is up against close competition in quantity from SAPS. This time FAPA leads 207 to 200-1/2. Wonder how many FAPs will notice that there is nothing in the FAPA Constitution to prevent issuing, even at this late date, a postmailing to Mlg 60, and thus surpassing the 1947-8 page total? + Since the OE has to stencil the S-T report anyway, why not let him revise the activity credits to reflect the current mailing? It would make this portion of the administrative data much less confusing. + Note that we are due for 52 pp of postmailings this time, barring loss of members, and 70 pp of required activity in Mlg 62. This contrasts with SAPS' required activity for its next bundle: 18 pp. Is this statistic complimentary to FAPA or to SAPS -- I can't decide.

Teilchen translates as "little part" and makes a pun out of your subtitle, I presume? + The large ship on the cover seems to be a space station rather than a planet-to-planet vehicle (with the perpendicular fins it would seem impossible to land), so why the streamlining? + One of you fantasy-music addicts should compile a bibliography of articles about fantasy-music. As a thoroly unmusical schmoe I recall few details of the many articles on this topic, but have a notion that they trample back and forth over the same well-beaten facets of the subject, leaving the rest unexploited or unexplored.

Revoltin' Development w/photos was rather shocking, its cover-colors, that is, altho on second look it appeared ury after all. This seems to be a colorful mailing. + Plunging into the Packard auto article without a lot of hemming and hawing over what you are about to say is a gross violation of accepted fanwriting standards. + Yeh, who does this Minnesotan think he is, insinuating that we had only one lousy bombing in the MSFS? + What is Bob Stein doing these days? Haven't heard of him since Tympani went the way of all good fanzines.

Lark got shuffled a bit out of place, to judge from the sequence of listings in the OO. + Please explain the quotation on the cover; it doesn't make particular sense in itself, and I don't recognize the source, as possibly it is to be expected all fen should. + One priceless bit in "The Man in the White Suit" was where Guinness dashes into his vacated lodgings, where the new tenant is at dinner, plucks the flowers from the vase on the table, dumps out the coins he had hidden in the vase, and rushes out leaving the new tenant peering into the vase, utterly dumbfounded. + This eye-exercise business is not supposed to involve staring at the sun. As I recall (from reading about it some six or eight years ago) there is a theory, not accepted by most oculists, that defective vision is caused by a chronic tense-ness of the muscles attached to the exterior of the eyeball. Accord-

ing to this theory, you can regain normal vision by learning to relax the eye muscles. To do this you lie flat on your back, eyes closed, relaxing your entire body, and "wink in reverse" by briefly opening your eyes and looking at the sky (not the sun), making no attempt to focus for any distance closer than infinity. There are lots of other exercises, too, but I don't recall the details any longer. I experimented briefly with this stuff, and while it did seem to relieve my myopia briefly (i.e., for a second or two) it did not have any perceptible permanent results. It does seem that the medics should hunt for a cure of visual defects, though, doesn't it? I dimly recall an aSF serial about 1944 in which the lead character used exercises to improve the functioning of his eye. His third eye, that is. Was it "The Changeling" by van Vogt?

Revoltin' Development at the Norwescon is Martin writing (and cartooning) at his humorous best. + Wonder if Korea cured George Young of his coin-in-the-slot fixation? No coins!

Horizons inspires me to ask, if smoking jackets are worn for smoking is a hic jacet worn for drinking? + Going even more hog-wild than most, the San Antonio Light (Hearst) carries three full pages of comic strips every day -- but, alas, no Pogo! + Your suggestion that Con funds be used to import foreign fen is the first sensible suggestion in that respect that I've heard since Redd told the Cincy bunch they should buy beer instead of mimeo equipment. + Having occasion to visit department-store toy departments this year for the first time in a decade or so, I was intrigued to discover among the countless other stffish playthings, bundles of e-t currency for the beanie set. Was tempted to get a bundle of Venusian banknotes to send to George Young -- who probably would have used them to pay his houseboy -- except that I'm not sure but that the Dean of the Beanie Brigade is not back in the States by now. (And there is a sentence which really tied itself in knots!)

Light beams onward brightly as ever. + Crowding your lines together does not help the zine's appearance, methinks -- particularly since there seems to be enough white space devoted to headings, margins, etc., to have allowed standard line spacing thruout. Do you dummy Light prior to stencilling? + For a more encouraging view of sex in stf see the 2d (and final) issue of Ice, published by Hal Shapiro, PO Box 804, Kirksville, Missouri. + Are your remarks to Lee Hoffman a proposal or a proposition? + You must have been desperate for material to run a limerick which is not even remotely salacious.

The Tucker Hotel should be sited in South Gate; Rick's campaign has slumped sadly of recent years.

Unmasked Opinion appeared at first glance to be Ed Cox's, what with the Oriental-type art on cover and first inside page. + It is a tribute to the foolproof qualities of the FAPA administrative setup that it came thru 1952 without serious difficulty despite a lackadaisical prexy and a much-transferred Sec-Treas. + Could be that enthusiasm for FAPA entails being opposed to all other organizations; recent mailings bristle with anti-SAPS and anti-N3F sentiment, not to mention anti-Dem's. + Your remarks about Elsberry are all the

more devastating for being delivered in such a conversational tone. + Li'l Abner, in my opinion gives Pogo intense rivalry as the most interesting strip. + The over-all level of fanpoetry (or at any rate, the poetry appearing in fanzines) has improved markedly during the past year or so. + Sure, game is destructive to crops, but that loss is more than compensated for in the increased revenue obtained from hunters. Even in a tourist-industry state like Michigan, autumn vies with summer as the busy season for resort owners, sporting-goods dealers, and allied enterprises. Any attempt to restrict the hunting "industry" in Washington would probably meet more resistance from the lobbyists of those commercial interests than help from farmers. + I hope Senator Cain was re-elected (if he came up for re-election this fall); who knows, perhaps some his principles might rub off on to the rest of Congress? + The most fascinating thing about that advertisement(?) is the first assumption upon which the chain of logic is built to prove that YOU ARE GOD! Korzybski must be rolling in his coffin. + How do you find time for all this fanactivity and still get your housework done? + Somehow, Gernsback's ideal stf doesn't sound very entertaining. He'd do better to have the visionaries submit their inventions to the Provisional Patent Bureau without cluttering them up with plots. + Do I correctly understand that you object to the term "companionate marriage" simply because it does not agree with the connotations you ascribe to the word "marriage" as now used? In other words, you object to the term, not the referent? + Your fanzines get more delightfully entertaining and thought-provoking with each mailing -- I think you were inclined to be a bit formal, if not actually stuffy, when you first entered AJ, but there's no trace of that now.

Stefantasy maintains its usual amusing quality. + Why take half-way measures like abolishing trucks, which'd still leave the hazards of speeding passenger cars, motorcycles, etc., to contend with? Let's be consistent and abolish roads! + Speaking of odd geographical names, San Antonio is located in the county of Bexar, which, oddly enough, is pronounced "bear": the story I've been told is that it was named after a Mr. Bear, one of the pioneer settlers, who was so busy making a fortune raising cattle that he never learned to write. So in signing checks and other documents, his clerks would write his name for him and he would authenticate it by drawing an "X" in the middle. Mineral Wells, Texas ("The Home of Crazy Water Crystals") where I spent the war, is in Palo Pinto county, which always seemed to me a name with real Western tang.

Short Circuit is chiefly remarkable for bearing Lee Hoffman's name so prominently when actually it is a mag published (for monetary consideration at that!) for Vernon McCain. You are setting a bad example, Lee -- next thing you know Alger will be splattering his name across my zines in bigger type than I use for my own, which would bruise my ego no end. + Glad to see McCain displaying a healthy contempt for authority, at least in the matter of slugs between paragraphs. + I read that story of Singer's about the cosmic rejection slip, in manuscript form, and told him it didn't make sense. I have not changed my opinion, but if the lad can get money for such stuff, more power to him! + Lee gives very convincing reasons for publishing a subzine; I might add that it gets you most of the other subzines being published, as exchanges. This is not altogether a blessing. All sorts of other mail, too. For example, even yet, every time I get home on

leave I find three or four issues of the British prozine Authentic SF, sent to me for review despite the fact that that particular mag didn't begin publication until after SPACEWARP had folded. I also got three or four hardcover stf books for review in the last couple of months of SW's existence, and did write reviews of them, which I sent to the N3F MSS Bureau or somewhere. The reviews, far as I know, were never published, and I received no more free books. Guess American publishers aren't as benevolent as British ones.

Trouble's Child suffered in spots from the necessity to tangle syntax almost beyond comprehension in order to bring a word to the end of the line where it could be used as a rhyme. And I cannot quite visualize a man and wife being "happy" if their "regulated life" has "trigonometric angularity" -- sounds like grounds for divorce. + Don't take any poetry criticism of mine seriously, though, Lee; it's written in a confidence born of sublime ignorance. (But I will be hurt if you reply "Precisely").

Matter of No Moment was of professional as well as fannish interest. Come now, are snafus so rare in Her Majesty's Forces that they have to be deliberately created? I assure you that is one item which is never in short supply in the United States Army! + By the way, what do the initials "NAAFI" stand for? Some of the Jap beer we got hold of in Korea was marked that way, and we deduced it was your equivalent of the U.S. Army's PX. + Another unsolved mystery provoked a bullsession or two in Korea; perhaps some FAP can solve it: As you will see if you examine a Republic of Korea flag, there are 4 sets of bars surrounding the central figure. Each of the four sets is divided differently into long and short bars. I have never found anyone who could tell me the significance of these.

Glorious Spool shows that Kelly is refreshingly aware that his strip is not a revolutionary literary form to be discussed only with reverent awe. So many popular writers seem to be impressed to death with their own compositions.

Pottery Leaflet if submitted to FAPA by Dodgson today, would probably draw at least one comment that such frivolity should be confined to SAPS.

Flook is the best zine in the bundle (Down, Redd, down, boy!) & it's impossible for me to comment adequately. The only words I can find are: MOREMOREMOREMORE! + Sometime when you feel in a professional mood, how about a discourse on investment possibilities, i.e., the risks as against the possibilities for profit in various types of securities. Or is that as vague as asking a scientist to write about chemistry? + Speaking of antique cars (as in your comment on Light), for some reason reminds me that, touring the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago on my way here, I was particularly fascinated by an exhibit showing the evolution of the typewriter. One 19th Century European model was roughly hemispherical, with the keys sprouting at all angles from the surface of the hemisphere. I don't know where the paper went in. A number of the c.1890 models were housed in mahogany or rosewood cases and looked much like complicated drafting instruments. Maybe you have one of these in your attic and just don't know what it is! + An unsolved mystery of my actifan years is what the

hell happen to my copies of Fancy and Laney's memoirs. My theory is that I lent them to someone who failed to return them, but can't imagine who, since most Michifens had already borrowed them one time or another. Don't recall the number of my copy of Fancy, but it had an inscription on the title page stating it had been presented to Darrell C. Richardson. Any FAP have it now? + I did experimentally accuse Young of having them, but he denied it. I was suspicious of him because he once lost an entire edition of SW, finding and returning it a year later. (What did I do with it? Mailed it to the subscribers, who had been impatiently awaiting it, of course.) + You like whacky jokes? Thsk, I like jhoky WAGs!

Tambor-hi is a brave first attempt. + Reviewing personalities instead of mags is a notable innovation.

Operation Crifanac produced an exceptionally interesting sheaf of autobiography. The most successful fen seem to be those who independently discover stf and acquire a thoro grounding in it before discovering fandom. Those who get into the two simultaneously are too overwhelmed with new concepts to have much time for crifanac. + See comment on Pottery Leaflet -- but HERE, Carroll sounds like a FAP. + Crutch is a Keller fan from way back.

Crifapac read with interest and (particularly the Pogo article) enjoyment, but stimulates no retort.

Fair Hair likewise.

Drill Press Style Sheet was rather inconsequential.

Looking Backward suffered mostly from typographical limitations. You can surely scrape up three bucks or so for a pan of hecto jelly, can't you, tads?

Sky Hook is up to its lofty usual standard. With fond memory of your article about the little-known stories of H.O.Axtell, I feel convinced that the second paragraf in "Twippledop" has some subtle meaning which so far eludes me. + Mr Atheling is justified in setting up certain standards by which to judge science-fiction. He is not justified in expecting prozine editors to fill their mags with stf that meets those standards in every case. To approach as closely as possible, yes -- but the time and financial factors in the commercial publishing business are such that the editor can only select the best material at hand, not hold out for material that meets ideal standards. Especially when the difference between "passable" and "perfect" would be imperceptible to 9/10 of his readers, and therefore of no economic value. + Is that TV show, Chronoscope, paying you any royalties for the use of your old fanzine title, Redd? + I put Laney on that proposed-merger committee because I knew that if the committee could work out a scheme which he approved, there'd be nothing fugheaded in it. And the committee did accomplish its job, which was to explore the possibilities for merger. Can't help it that SAPS wouldn't cooperate.

Fen Crittur Comical Books which is not listed in the OO, is a Thing of beauty and a glee-type mag forever. This should be the Pogo item to end all Pogo items.
Mailing Envelope shows that FAPA is a rubberstamp bureaucracy.