



Vol. II

Winter, 1943 F.A.P.A.

Number 1

HELLO! HIYA!

'Member me? I am th' Ol' Foo from Battle Creek; that ancient an' creakin' Ol' Mari Evans, come back from the Great Beyond, or may be from some other Unknown World, to haunt Fandom again if they will allow me to do so after having run out on them so suddenly last year.

Speaking of that matter (for the first and last time, please) may we state only that it was something necessary that was more or less forced on us, and that we didn't like -- coming just at the time when we were most busy doing what we liked best -- trying to do something for Fandom and our friends.

We hope no one will ask us about it, for then we would have to do one of two things; (a) Ignore you, or (b) Give you some fanciful explanation that would neither tell a thing to you, or please us to be so un-candid to friends. It is sufficient to say that we were doing some small things in what the Powers That Be though fitted our abilities. Selah!

What we can say, most emphatically, is that we are very glad to be back in our Beloved Fandom once more. We have fairly well kept in touch with things through our Battle Creek pals even though it was not possible to write the rest of you. We received the regular mailings of the FAPA, even though not able to get out our own mag. Even read most of the pros, although we missed a few on which we will have to catch up. We missed Fandom like the dickens, you can bet --- missed those wonderful letters we used to get from fen far and near, and those grand gab-fests; missed all the fun and, yes, all that work of trying to get the NFFF started back upon the trail we felt could make the National Organization what all true fen really want it to be, and which th' Ol' Foo still feels it can be if we will all work together to make it so.

In this connection let me give publicly and loudly, my very sincerest thanks to Al Ashley for the magnificent job he has done in the very difficult position which my sudden departure left him facing. I am positive that I could have done no more than he did in going ahead with the organizational work which I had but barely begun. I will even go so far as to say that I doubt if I could have done as well. For Al knew not only what plans I had, but had a lot of fine ideas of a number of things which he would like to have seen done; thus making an even better program.

I am catching up on reading all the back correspondence just as fast as I can, and when I have had a chance to digest all of it, we shall see what next is to be done. Of one thing I am sure -- the NFFF shall go on and on, if there is anything Ol' Man Evans can do to make it do so. It is too fine an organization not to grow and become a real force in our Fanish lives.

But this is FAPA, not the NFFF. (Incidentally, I was glad to note that everyone wanted to keep the two organizations separate). As I stated in the last "Tale", I was personally against the idea, but made the query in line with my job as President of the NFFF, following suggestions that I do so.

A nice way to call a man a liar -- "You take the naked Truth and put such beautiful clothing on it".

THAT SLAN CENTER.

Naturally Ol' Man Evans is greatly interested in the proposed Slan Shack, and its future developement (-e) into a Slan Center (my personal idea of the correct name for this venture.) It has a very, very great many fine features, and is a project in which I can enter with all my whole enthusiasm and use of what small talents I may have. Since I first heard of it, I have been doing a lot of thinking about it and have even taken the time and trouble to get hold of some fine books concerning the Cooperative Movement, so that I might know more about the subject and have some ideas of what must be done to make such a project a success. That the Consumer Cooperative Movement is a really great advance in communal living is easily apparent to anyone who takes the trouble to study what it has done in this regard since the first experiment was started by the Rochdale (England) pioneers nearly a century ago. It is also plain from a study of such cooperative activities throughout all the world that it is not a matter that can be done in a year and a day. Those who embark into this project must plan on its being a lifetime job. But if one takes the long-range view of it, and is willing to work through the years, it presents a truly magnificent prospect. There will naturally be quite a bit of sacrifice and careful planning and management for the first year or two especially in order to get it started functioning smoothly and well, but it is also possible to see large benefits accruing each year along the way.

It will be necessary to start in a small way at the beginning and branch out slowly as we go, and for that reason I'm particularly pleased to know that the group senses that fact and is planning to start only with Slan Shack, and evolve on from that point. I wrote the Ashleys some time ago, right after I first heard about the proposal, to be sure and plan a place for me in it, as I was fully in sympathy with their idea, and wanted a part in it. I hope many more of our rapidly grown Fen Family (and I also acknowledge with thanks to the Mainecon, that newly-coined word FEN, which I propose to use hereafter) -- I repeat, that I shall hope many more Fen will take this matter under serious consideration, and start making plans to join us one of these days -- whether the final decision be to start this project (in its larger form) in Battle Creek, or in some other place. Ol' Man Evans sure thinks it's a mighty swell idea, and is all for it.

Here is a "Quoteworthy Quote" that I think contains a lot of real thought-provoking meat -- "The worker has not been paid until he spends his wages. When he exchanges his money for life, only then does he know how much his labor has won for him". (From "Cooperative Democracy", by James Peter Warbasse).

TRUDY, I AGREE AND APPLAUD.

I want to be one who adds his nickle's worth to Trudy's fine article in her Fall mailing of "NUCLEUS", to the question of race equality. Starting out with the admission that I am a Northern born and bred man, I can also state that I have put in several years in Virginia during my Naval service, and so do know something about conditions in that part of the South even if it is not the "deep South". I have always felt that for a country that has as one of its fundamental concepts -- "all men are created equal" -- we've done a mighty poor job in our handling of the colored question. The awful tragedy of the Detroit race riots this past Summer, as well as those in Harlem, and other parts of the country, are but others in the long list of shames and blotches on the American escutcheon. Especially so when we remember that the whites of America are responsible for the negroes being in this country in the first place. I, too, Trudy, have been accused of being a "nigger lover", and have been asked if I would like to have one of my sisters or daughters marry a nigger. My answer has always been that I would rather see one of them married to some negroes I know than to some white men I know, although I never could see any reason why one has to think that inter-marriage is the ONLY consideration in asking for a better and equal chance for the negroes. I am most thankful that my elder daughter, whom some of you may remember as being with me at the Chicon banquet, has lived and studied in Chicago for a number of years, learning and practicing Social work, and she is a confirmed believer in, and worker for, equality of opportunity for all, regardless of race, color or creed. It has always seemed to this observer that Americans have no right to feel so proud of themselves as "advanced" thinkers, until they grow more broad-minded about this very important problem. I check Trudy to the proverbial nineteen decimal places in saying that education is the primary problem at this stage of the matter, and that once they are given that educational chance the negro will raise himself to the point where he is a real adjunct, and will make a real contribution to American Culture. One has only to think of such names as Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Paul Robeson, Countee Cullen, Sojourner Truth; yes, and Joe Louis himself, to see that it is not only possible, but probable, that Negroes can and will gladly rise to the heights of true service to all, when given a chance, and that they then will be not only a credit to their race, but to all American culture as well. So this observer thinks it would be still another good idea for Fandom, if they would take up this crusade as one of the things they will work on to help raise the cultural standard of the universe, as we march toward those better goals of Brotherly Love that we envision as part of a World of Tomorrow. Thank you, Trudy, for making that splendid statement in your mag, and for giving me a chance to add my words to yours. (See "Coronet" magazine for November, '43)

STUCK-OUT CHEST DEPARTMENT.

I was really very pleased to see the name of the Ol' Foo up in the number four spot on the list of Famous Fan, and I can assure you that it pleased me and puffed me up no end. I've really tried to give my talents to doing what seemed to have been needed to be done in Fandom as well as I could, and so it is naturally gratifying to see that it is more or less (I feel this shows it to be MORE) appreciated. Also, it gives a vast and cheering feeling of superiority over that would be Fan -- Al Ashley -- to beat him by one place. (If you are a Fan who doesn't know what good pals we are, disregard that last statement -- I wouldn't for the world have anyone think I was running down a fellow-fan.) I trust he is not fully, firmly, and finally convinced that the Ol' Foo is mightier fan than th' Ol' Goo. ((indubifably--?)) (Hiya, Al, ol' pal, ol' pal.)

Gives only a short mag this ish, but next mailing we hope we can really give you a nice, large "Tale". Be seein ya!!! (((Stenciled by R. U. Ster)))

AHAAA!!!

SO THAT'S WHERE MY BED WENT!



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