

A TALE OF THE 'EVANS'



This here, now, unghodly hunk of stuff is the FAPazine of that Ol' Man yclept Evans, and is purported to be Volume I, Number about 4. It cometh to you by courtesy of that w. k. organization, F. A.P.A. You need not write in that it stinketh, for verily, we are 'way a-head of you in detecting the odoriferousness of the thing. However, it is our own, and being such, we love it as only a Paw can.

December 1st, 1942.

Boys and Gals, have I been a busy little bee these past two months! Oi! Oi! Oi! Now don't get fidgetty, this is not to be a Tale of the 'Evans' Whoa, but is merely an explanation of why this thing is not all prettied up with even edges (even though it has come out that way so far), and with nice borders around it, & a lot of purty pictures, etc., etc., etc., and even etc. I am a 'composin' and a 'writin' the darned thing right on the stencil, and will say my say shortly and as sweetly as may be, and then allow you to go ahead and read the rest of the trip . . er, excuse, pliz, the rest of the nice things in the mailing.

Although I have actually put in better than two hours each and every day since the first of October on my N.F.F.F. Presidential duties, I have had a swell time doing it, and hope that it has somehow been of value to Fandom. The end of all this worst rush is about in sight, however, and from now on there should not be so much to do. Just answering the daily incoming letters, get out a monthly report to my officers and Directorate, and help with BON-FIRE each couple of months, and such like stuff. If you happen to be in the mood of feeling for me, please feel glad that I am having something to do that makes me happy -- there is no need of feeling sorry for all the work I am doing about it.

There have been quite a few letters from various Fans concerning the need to combine the N.F.F.F. and the F.A.P.A. There were a lot of arguments that had quite a lot in them, and yet I, personally, cannot get excited about the matter. To me, (not as President, but merely as a Fan and a FAPA member both) there is too much difference in WHAT the two organizations stand for, and WHAT they are trying to do, to want to see them combined. While it is true that both are prime facets of Fandom, their aims and all the connotations of WHAT THEY ARE in entirely dissimilar. Therefore, I can see no reason for combining them.

However, as President of the N.F.F.F., I shall certainly do all in my power to see the merger put across if it is proven to be the wish and desire of the majority of the members of F.A.P.A. and the N.F.F.F. together. Such a mandate from my constituents

would certainly get my best efforts, regardless of my own personal feelings and beliefs. For I am trying my best to make the N. F. F. F., as "representative" a form of organization as possible, & it cannot be that if all the officers do not forget their own personal feelings about any definite matter, when the will of the majority is opposed to theirs.

Will all of you please think this matter over, and make a comment on it in your next FAPAazine, so that we can all get everyone's reactions to the matter, and then make a comprehensive report to the N.F.F.F., through BONFIRE, if you folks seem to be in favor of the project? Such an out-pouring of ideas and comments in the next F.A.P.A. would certainly give us a clear-cut idea of how it strikes the members of that organization.

READING FOR PLEASURE -- AND FINDING IT.

No doubt many of you saw the article in the No. 5 SPACE TALES which came out recently, written by me, and covering this same thought. I would like to quote from that, and enlarge upon it a bit, as it is a side of Fandom that intrigues me quite a bit.

My premise is that it is possible for a person to make his own UTOPIA -- in his own mind and in his own personality -- no matter what the environmental situation about him may be. By that, I mean that he can live his own life largely by the spirit of what he wants life to be, although there is so much about him that tries to force him to live otherwise.

Oh, not all of the time, I assure you. Circumstances, the acts of others, and the forces of world unrest -- all these combine to hinder his building of his Utopia. Still, he can, by his own efforts at studying and working on the matter, in time come to achieve it a little bit, and as he becomes more proficient with practise, and more learned from new concepts brought into his mind, he will find it ever easier to live and practise the desires he feels would make life more pleasant for him.

I tie all this idea in to Fandom, and Science and Fantasy Fiction reading, because through this reading I have learned a lot of new ideas and concepts about what I would like life to be, and as I read and learn of these new things, I strive to put them into practise in my own life -- and find that I can succeed to quite an appreciable extent.

One of the first things I found in my search for my personal Utopia (and mind you, none of this is thought of in a RELIGIOUS sense in any way), was that the old, time-tried-and-true maxims and precepts of the older generation were the very foundation of a happy life. The Golden Rule; the homely, simple "Be this and you'll be that" sort of rules; the Love Thy Neighbor admonition -- all these are of direct benefit to any man who will study and practise them. The copy-book proverbs which we of my generation learned in school, were all thought out by men of good will who lived back in the days when life was less rushed than it is today, and when men really had time to think. For I am sure you all realize as well as I, that in spite of the shorter working hours and the more advanced mechanical sciences and conveniences

which we have, that we are not as "leisurely-minded" as the elder generation were. Our philosophers are seeking ever more complex thoughts on which to dwell, where the elders used to put most of their thinking into the little, homely, good things of life.

Next, I found that science and fantasy fiction gave me much broader concepts of life; gave me what you might call a "Galactic consciousness", for it showed me what midges man really is in the cosmic scheme of things. It shows the utter idiocy of feeling egoistic or domineering in thought about the greatness of man, as compared with the size of the cosmos. At the same time, the remarkable adaptability of man -- his ability to make the best of his circumstances and environment, made me proud to be a member of the human race.

(The disgust that his silly warrings bring to me is entirely beside the point in this discussion, although they would have to be taken into account before one could fully explain all that goes into making up ones personal Utopia.)

In that SPACE TALES article, I started by stating that it was amusing to me the way some Fans read -- that they evidently tried to pay more attention to finding things in the story to criticise than they did in WHAT the author had to say. I finished by saying, "Try reading more for pleasure, and less in a critical mood. Read for the things the author has to say -- not how weell, in your estimation, he says them. Let him take hold of your imagination and expand it. Then try to bring your own life UP to that expansion. It's great fun -- and filled with surprising added pleasures of which you little dream before you start. I KNOW -- I'VE FOUND THEM!"

That accounts largely for my "Pollyanna" outlook on life -- not that I senselessly say that everything is good no matter what the data may state, but that there is always, or almost always, a large amount of worth-whileness in everything if you look for that instead of looking critically for what may offend you.

We are brought in to this life on this Earth without our consent or without consulting us first (as far as we know). We have to live that life of ours here and now. So why not try to get all the happiness out of it we can? Why waste time looking for the hole in the doughnut, when the surrounding doughnut is so sweet. Why look for poor grammar or not-so-well worked-out plot, when the author has given one little crumb of thought-provoking message on which you can spend countless profitable and happy hours dreaming, studying and putting into practise something that will make your own life richer and happier.

Try reading just for pleasure -- you'll be surprised how much pleasure you will find.

Selah, I have spake!

"To a simple mind, the great findings of science are but clever hoaxes." -- An anonymous clipping that has given me a lot of thought. The more you think about it, the more thought you will find in it.

((We now sadly stencil and mimeo the last page of a four page mag that was intended to consist of ten or twelve pages. There was no dummy made up that we might finish the mag from, for EEE had decided to compose it directly onto the stencil this time. He did tell us though, that he says ditto to the reviews of the last mailing that will be found in En Garde, -- Al Ashley))

ANNOUNCEMENT

A great many fans have been temporarily lost to Fandom due to becoming members of the Armed Forces, or having their time completely taken up in the War Effort.

E. Everett Evans spent ten years in the Navy, part of it during the last War. Believing that he had amply contributed his part in the past, we have all been happy in thinking Evans would be one of the few fans certain to be spared to us. His age and state of health made this seem highly probable.

The unforeseen has a persistant habit of occuring. It now becomes our sad duty to announce that it will be impossible for E.E.Evans to take part in fan activities for an indefinite period -- probably for at least a year or two. The nature of this enforced absence makes it impossible to reveal any details at this time, or, probably, at any future time. It further precludes any direct communication with Fandom for as long as this situation prevails.

The suddenness with which all this took place left EEE little chance to plan for his absence. However, he did express certain wishes. Chiefly, it is his hope that the fans will all cooperate to carry forward the various programs he has inaugurated, and that on his return to active fandom he will find the bigger, better, well-organized fandom that is so dear to his dreams. EEE has unselfishly devoted an enormous amount of time and no small amount of his finances to fandom. Let's keep that fact in mind and demonstrate how well we can show our appreciation.

Evans' mail now goes to Al Ashley, and future communications should be addressed to 86 Upton Ave., Battle Creek, Michigan.

A TALE OF THE 'EVANS now goes into indefinite suspended animation. Until some undetermined future date, this is the END OF THE TALE OF THE 'EVANS !

