

POSTWARP

THE MONTHLY LETTER ZINE

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VOLUME I, NUMBER 6

MUTTERINGS FROM -

JACK SCHWAB of Portsmouth, Virginia.

CHARLES A. KENTFIELD of Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

VERNON L. McCAIN of Weiser, Idaho.

GEORGE ANDREWS of Cleveland, Ohio.

EVA FIRESTONE of Upton, Wyoming.

RICHARD ELSBERRY of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

JANIE LAMB of Heiskell, Tennessee.

RONALD FRIEDMAN, of Brooklyn, New York.

FLORENCE S. ANDERSON of St. George, Utah.

DOT KELLER of Gardner, Massachusetts.

BILL VENABLE of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

JIM HARMON of Mt. Carmel, Illinois.

...and the Index to Volume One of POSTWARP.

MARCH, 1950

JACK SCHWAB

58 Greene Boulevard
Portsmouth, Virginia

Dear Art and N3F: I am librarian for our club "Universal Musketeers" and our club is going to ask you if you care to donate one fanzine each issue to our library. In exchange we will review Postwarp in our zine "The Ex-Ray". Now I know that your zine is a good one and probably doesn't need exploitation but a little publicity is good for any zine so what do you say, Art? Of course you will write your own review. If this is agreeable to you please write to Ronald Friedman, 1980 East 8th Street, Brooklyn 23, N.Y. If you are not already a member you are invited to join our club. Our publication reaches over 200 fans each month and growing rapidly so your zine is assured of a wide circulation in our library.

CHARLES A. KENTFIELD

442 N. Sandusky Avenue
Upper Sandusky, Ohio

Dear Art: Here's my buck for a sub to POSTWARP. I have been going to sub since I first received mailed copy but wasn't too interested at first and missed out on some of the best letters. I was reduced to the extremity of borrowing the issues from a pal to read. # At first I didn't think very much about the idea of having a letter zine and I guess I held off to see how the others took to the idea. Anyway, my face sure is red now and am trying to get back in with the bunch. # From what I have been seeing of the zine it seems to fit into a niche that we didn't even know existed, namely the speakers rostrum. It should free the TNFF from these letters and allow it to expand its other departments or have new ones. # Also I want to congratulate you for your foresight in allowing certain letters to appear even though you must have wondered about the advisability of so doing. Even though we do not agree with certain views expressed by some fans you will be able to point out that you gave them all a chance to be heard. # So will close this little note with one question, Who in the heck is Mr. Ray Nelson? # Sincerely

VERNON L. McCAIN

c/o Western Union
Weiser, Idaho

Dear Art: So you want letters? Need 'em badly, in fact? Never did words fall upon more fertile ground. For, you see, I'm one of those disgustingly egotistical exhibitionists who like nothing better than the sound of their own voice, unless it's seeing their name in print. This, even though I only entered fandom three months ago, the NFFF two months ago, and just received my second copy of Postwarp. So, while I have not had time to even form my own opinions (much less opinions which would be of much help or interest to other fans), I have been blithely spraying letters all over the landscape to whomever seemed to be in a receptive mood: Other fans, fanzines, prozines, and even a few correspondents I had before entering fandom. Now it's Postwarp's turn. # Say, how do you get over a hundred promags issued each year? Somebody must either be counting foreign publications or some magazine I don't get. (CAPTAIN ZERO, maybe?) According to my figures there are fifteen SF mags published in the U.S. counting everything from the super-science of Astounding down to the ghost stories of Weird Tales. And, counting Wonder's annual, at the present rate of issue these fifteen magazines add up to 95 a year. Somebody

2

Kindly tell me where my figures went wrong or what mags I'm missing. * As a reader who has not been buying Amazing, FA, FN, and Weird Talos for some years, I have now reformed, if that is the correct word. Due to the spurt in quality this year due to the divorce of Ziff-Davis and Palmer I've started buying everything again, though I still skip the dull parts of the above four and Planet. # I see Shelby Vick, who piloted me into fandom and the N3F, had two letters this issue. Hey, Shelby, what's the sense of making your letters shorter if you just write more of them? That's another boy who likes the sound of his own voice. Likes it so well he started a new club and fanzine just so fans all over the country could hear it, too. # Shelby, if your theory a- nent heat in space is correct doesn't that take the question into the field of semantics instead of practicality? In other words, your ex- ample of the sound of a tree falling does not stand up if one uses any mechanical or physical devices for measuring sound. The vibra t i o n s which create sound are there. The ability to perceive and interpret the sound is all that is missing. The same thing would apply in space. The problem of heat in space will be of no importance until we get someone or something into space. At our present level of civilization this someone or something must be material, and therefore capable of receiving and translating heat and light vibrations. Therefore, even if you are right, Shelby, the sum total is 'so what?' # To Redd Boggs, what is this one-sided manner in which new fans develop? As a recently hatched fan, I'm completely in the dark as to the meaning of that phrase 'a la Degler' and I'm consumed with curiosity. Just what is this horrible fate that is overtaking me without my knowledge? If you're talking about the new fan's prediliction for writing to pro and fanzines and other fans, I'm sorry but that I can't give up. The give and take of fandom was the chief thing I came in for. As for the oth- er fanactivities, let me see... I read most prozines, subscribe to fanzines on the average of one every other week, answer every fan who writes me, once in a long while create something of a non-correspond- once nature, do not collect mags, have no intention of starting my own fanzine (haven't the time, and besides I think it's more important to improve the vast number already on the market, than start new ones), am a member of no local society (but since I have no permanent residence, and am constantly moving, that is sort of ruled out) and will be per- fectly happy to attend any conventions I get a chance at. Now, tell me, are there any clues in the above? I have been sitting here, gnaw- ing my fingernails to the bone, ever since I read Redd Boggs' letter, mentally picturing myself as all sorts of monstrous bems. # I see you printed a letter by F.Nathan Stine. Frank talked me into subscribing to Postwarp but he's too cheap to take the thing himself. Can't say I think much of his flying saucer theory, either. Personally, I get a little tired of hearing about the discs and the H-bomb. There are oth- er things of interest to fandom, which haven't been so thoroughly dis- cussed in the news columns. # Shelby, you should keep your letters straight. In one letter you remark that fandom isn't very important, so why take it seriously. Then in your other letter you have cast the fans (or fen, for purists) as world savers. Or did I miss the yoomer- ous part of that last? # Well, Art, this was hardly a world-shaking epistle but it should be long enough to suit you.

* Ed's note: Current prozines by my count (did I miss any?)

AMZ	12	FUT	6	TWS	6
aSF	12	MoF	4	WT	6
AFR	3 (avg per yr)	OW	6	FFM	6
FA	12	PLS	4		
FN	6	SS	6		
FSQ	4	SSS	6		
	<u>49</u>		<u>32</u>		<u>18</u>

Hmmm, that
totals

~~98~~
99

3

GEOORGE ANDREWS

8917 Cumberland Avenue
Cleveland 4, Ohio

Dere Hon. Rappski, We want dah NFFF. We have vision, foresight, initiative, and will-power. We open our eyes to see -- vision. We see a fortune-teller -- foresight. We jump when we sit on a tack -- initiative. We don't reach for a sawed-off shotgun, when we read Ray Nelson -- will power. I say dah NFFF is here to stale, and I add-vocal a platform. (R u lizzin-en Ray N.? I said platform, not flat-form.) # We want a seat in Congress, and a seat on the Stock Exchange. We want free cigars, beer, movies, cars, and trips to Mars, where we can all lose ourselves. We must make every-one happy. # Eva Firestone has my opinion to her question. What happens to the Sun's heat in space? # Heat is caused by friction, compression, speed, resistance, concentration, etc., Space offers no resistance to the heat of the Sun, therefore, the Sun's heat turns to light in Space, because of the lack of any friction. But when the Sun's rays converted to light in Space strike the Earth, compression, concentration, and friction are created. Thereby reconverting the light to the Sun's heat. # Since I have so much material send to fanzines for printing. And so little time to write more. I'm not able to write as much, or better, as I'd like to. For the time being, anyway. Demoralizingly yurs,

EVA FIRESTONE

Upton
Wyoming

Dear POSTWARP: Of the lists, Fantasy Pseudonyms, only twelve remain. Majority mailed to new members. If my count is correct, our roster shows 408 names. This is as of January 30th. Heard that quite a number joined since. # F.N.S., the Disc people are friendly. They intend only good toward Earth. S.V., Yes, the world is worth saving, and it is just possible that the H-bomb may be used for the advancement of humanity. R.C.H. wrote a good letter. Wish N3Fers would follow his advice, each mail at least one message. # Rec'd various answers to the space querie. Several wrote that space is void of matter, therefore must be dark and cold, because only matter can reflect and retain light and heat. Six replied as follows and I agree -- "But there is no proof that space is empty of all matter. Is there? Who knows of what it consists? We cannot see the air we breathe. Scientists say, that, above our blanket of air, are layers of unknown composition. Since so little is actually known of the atmosphere around Earth, it seems that one guess about space being filled with molecules as good, as the one which says it contains nothing." Can anyone explain what 'nothing' really is? Just try to think what that word means. Go ahead, but don't try for more than ten minutes -- Dangerous. # Well, well. So I am described as "dewey eyed" after two years membership! What a beautiful left handed compliment for our club. In so far as applies personally, it could be taken in two different ways. But after the manner of Alice, I prefer rose colored glasses, rather than smoked lens. # Mister Boggs made a crack about N3Fers needing a sense of humor, and then he said, "Valian Theory, which frankly I've never heard of and find no mention of in several scientific books..." Folks, may we grin right here?? Tisk Tisk, does that prove there is no such theory? I'll gladly give reference to anyone who is sincerely interested. The Vallian Theory is as old as the hills. # And Yes, I read October aSF. It is possible that I am one of the earliest subscribers. Howsomevah the reading of Stf magazines is for pleasure, and not to gain

knowledge, don't you think? # I'll admit that my letter was a bit exuberant, but it was an honest attempt at expressing gratitude, and anyway, that is the usual effect, after joining a good club like N3f.
Adios until April

Ed's note: The following NFFF WelCom Leaflets are now being distributed to new members as they join, and any present member may obtain any or all by requesting them from the person shown:

From A. Everett Winne, 109 Ashley Street, Springfield, Massachusetts:
Membership Application Blank
Fantasy Pseudonyms

From Arthur H. Rapp, 2120 Bay Street, Saginaw, Michigan:
Fanclub List
U.S. Prozine Checklist
Current Fanzines
Office Supplies Price List

From Roy Lavender, Box 132, Delaware, Ohio:
Duplicate Membership Card -- send in your old card for a replacement if it is battered or dogeared. If the old card is not returned, enclose 5¢ for the duplicate card.

RICHARD ELSBERRY

413 East 18th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Art H(ellbalaster) Rapp (he always takes it) Ev Winne has referred me to Postwarp #5 and I not having a copy on hand can't very well be referred to it. So....enclosed find 10¢ to cover postage, handling, and excise tax for ONE Postwarp #5. Of course, that's hoping that you still have some on hand. It hardly seems possible that 5 ish's could have been put out already. Seems like just a couple of months ago that I got my free copy of the first (and so far the last) ish of Postwarp. # Seems like I kinda been neglecting the N3F & its (of course) been neglecting me all along. Ev wants me to renew my membership. Thar better be some pretty powerful arguments in it. I remember how Futurist was supposed to be out around the first of the new year. Which year? 1951? Of course, I shouldn't squak. I've got prozines stacked up here knee deep to read. Guess I'd better not ramble on any farther. Don't forget the Warp. # Sincerely

Rich

ISFCC, N3F, UM, TC, MFS, YF, TFC

JANIE LAMB

Heiskell
Tennessee

Dear Art: Here 'tis nearing convention time in Portland. And I'm a wondering, will we have a "Miss STF of 50"? and if so, how will she be elected? I'd like to hear the opinions of some of the fen on how this should be done, I for one did not like the way it was done at Cincy, but that's speaking for myself only. Here's the way I think it should be done: the folks attending the convention should vote on the girls present, and of course the girl getting the most votes would be "Miss STF." It should be a girl who has been active in fan work, rather than someone with a beautiful form and knowing nothing of Stf. # For my money, I think Betty Sullivan of Cincy would have been the one for Miss STF. at the Convention. Betty not only has the looks, but is an active fan; but were the fans

5

given a chance to say so? No, of course not, and yet it was our hard earned money paid for the Convention, and shouldn't we have had our say? I say yes. # I'd like to hear the opinions of others on this, especially the ones who feel as I do -- the others don't matter. # You're doing a good job, Art, Keep it up. # Sincerely

RONALD FRIEDMAN

1980 East 8th Street
Brooklyn 23, New York

Dear Art: &%o~#?@!%o~#&*@/?#!!!! Temper ... temper ... Now that I'm calmed down a bit, I'll start talking. I'm not one for losing my temper much, but this is just about carrying it the limit. Remember in Postwarp #5, where I mentioned the Lee Brown Coye Portfolio? Well thus far I've only received one name to put on the letter I'm gonna send to Weird Tales. The actifan's name is David English. # Now -- if I don't get 25 letters and cards, I'm gonna resign from the NFFF. I sincerely mean it -- this is no idle boast. If a club with 300 and some odd fans can't make use of the thing that fandom is made for, what good are they or any organization where they may multiply and spread their sleepyness. O.K. So some fans -- maybe a lot of 'em -- don't like Coye's work. All right! No hard feelings. If you don't want the portfolio -- let me know. That goes for you too Art ... well? # Perhaps you'd like to see me resign ... if that's what you want, I'd like to know. I don't like talking behind a person's back ... put your curses in Postwarp. I'm not scared. All the more power to you. I like a person who tells you what he thinks of you. # I'm not one of the big wheels in the N3F -- just a small timer, but by gum -- I'm gonna get the idea of this portfolio over or bust. # And what I said about NFFF not picking CON sights still goes. I'm gonna drop up to Portland during the CON -- even if it does take a little dough, and I'm gonna fight to the last drop any proposal to have us pick future sights. As I said before -- the N3F does not even represent even a 10th of fandom -- and I can back up my statement if challenged ... but I'm saving my evidence for the Westercon. Jus' wait'n see! It ain't fair to the other fans who want to get in a word also. Oh! Yeah! Rick Snaery (a great guy) said that since the fans is out west, it should be picked the next year out west according to mathematics. Well...well... let's look at the records. The last CON was in Ohio -- this one is in Oregon -- need I say more? # Hey -- anyone interested? Both Busses and trains go to Oregon, but the bus is more economical. Just think of a bus load of fantasy fans on the way to Portland. Hot discussions -- meeting the pros, and loads of fun with mutual friends. Perhaps something could be worked out where all fans going to the CON could get on the same bus ... by reservation. For example a guy from Chicago... or even a fem could make reservations for the same bus a fan from N.Y. is taking. Anyone interested ... lemme know! # I attended the Eastern Science Fiction Conclave, and I think I'll tell you a little about the doings (O.K. Art?): # The Conclave was held on Lincoln's birthday, Sunday 12th at two o'clock. The place - Malin Studios, New York City. First there was an auction of a couple of stf rarities. Then a slight recess. Joe E. Dean, the Committee Chairman made a speech of welcome which just about stirred the smoke filled room. Then Will Sykora (you all know him) gave a beautiful little chat on the meaning of the Conclave. This was followed by the keynote address: "Stf as a Way of Life." It was given by Robert L. Rosen, and dealt quite a bit with witchcraft. After this, Arthur J. Burkes, the guest of honor gave a rather stirring address on his search for Atlantis. He spoke of caves that he had actually seen, and many strange sights. He concluded that Atlantis must have been where the West Indies are now. After this, the many celebrities who lined the overcrowded audience were introduced, and then "The Lost World." The

6

Lost World is an interesting, adventure packed silent film -- originally taken from a book by Arthur Conan Doyle. The prehistoric monsters which lined the screen were realistic. Afterwards, a group of fans left for the Banquet at the "Times Square Hotel." On coming back to the meeting hall, an auction was all ready in progress. I got a couple of good buys including four perfect Astondings for 70¢ a piece. At 10:00 the Conclave was called to a close. A couple of us scrambled up to the already cramped hotel room of Franklyn M. Dietz, the editor of S. F. & S, F. After a couple of hot discussions some of us wandered out for refreshments. Lets see ... there was Jerome Bixby (Bix, as we call him is the new editor of Planet. Payne is gone), Joe E. Dean, Michael De Angelis, Ken Beale, Henry Chabot and a couple of others. We started to try telepathy experiments with cards. The experiments were successful but we weren't -- we got kicked out for gambling. We lounged around in a book shop, and then broke up. I got home after the milk man ... Oh Yes ... now I'm laid up with a grip. # Here's a general announcement: "I get about 50 letters, cards, and zine (pro & fan) a week through the mail, but just the same I will answer any mail I get ... even if it does take a little time. First come -- first served. For example this Post-warp was laying around for two weeks (maybe a little less) before opening. See? # Sincerely,

FLORENCE S. ANDERSON

321 West 2nd North
St. George, Utah

Dear Art: I think every one would find a letter from me on what I think of the NSF quite unnecessary. So instead I shall give off with a few ideas which I think might be of benefit to that noble organization and shut up. # (#1) I still believe that the two year term of office would save money and time. If the elections were held every other year instead of every year it would save three months slump at the end of the year for campaigning and the usual three months that it takes the new officers to get the ball rolling again. Personally I also hate to see the reluctance most fan show toward even running for a fan office. # (#2) I think that now is a good time and place for all fans to begin to think about the possibility of a good, full-of-action Sci-Fantasy Amateur Press Month this year. I suggest that the month be August, since the convention will be the following month and would be a good time to show off our wares. While I'm sure the girls will take the lead in this, still the fellows might consider it, and try to make a suitable contribution. # I must in passing comment on the December letter of Alfred Machado. I came to fandom just at the beginning of the war. I got on the end of the fan language, the folding of the classic zines, etc. I got acquainted with most of the big old name fan. They're swell, because I still hear from most of them. Sure we like to get together and reminisce. Some have branched out into so many other lines that, they just don't have time to carry on lengthy correspondences with new young fan. Many have expressed to me the wish that they did have that time. I know that these people you call clannish are not so intentionally, and they prove it at every meeting and convention they attend. I think in some cases the new fan has heard so much of the legend built up about the old-timer that they don't make themselves acquainted with these heroes of fandom, but are content to stand in a corner and look on as if by shaking hands with one of these guys whom the fanzines have made immortal they would turn to dust before their very eyes. Tain't true, Tain't true, boys, they're really flesh and blood. # (#3) Can't say this idea is at all original, but can't help saying PLEASE lets keep the Science-Fiction Convention for FEN; if the editors, authors and publishers want to come just to get acquainted with us, and contribute what they will, all fine and dandy.

Why not let them put on their big selling campaign during Stf.-Fantasy Press Month? I think it would be a good deal for all of us. # I'm still asking for a complete explanation of the Activity Requirement Plan. I surely hope PW keeps coming. # Must go take care of the child before he yells himself hoarse. # Fancerely,

DOT KELLER

312 Elm Street
Gardner, Massachusetts

Dear Art: Well, Postwarp was delivered safe and sound to my door, was thoroughly read and here are a few comments. First I'd like to say that Postwarp is a good letterzine and you've done a pretty swell job with it. The only fault is that the same people write in every time. Do only about fifteen N3Fers know how to write? It's getting so I can name the list of contributors without looking first. I don't see how we can get any general reactions when so few express themselves. Of all the members of N3F only a handful contribute to the zine. Simply disgraceful. # Taking the letters in order I agree that OW is one of the best prozines. Curiously enough Bill Venable is the only other person that seems to think so that I've written to. All the others wouldn't be caught dead with a copy in their possession. Next, I don't believe in flying saucers. A lot of people believed in witches and vampires too. The so called flying saucers just aren't. As regards Shelby Vick's statement that fandom isn't very important, I agree with regretful sighs. Science fiction is a wonderful hobby, I love it and am devoted to it, but as far as importance goes it hasn't any. If stf were abolished tomorrow the world wouldn't collapse and contrary to what quite a few people evidently believe, stf does not dream up stuff for scientists to invent. The scientists work independently from science fiction, drawing conclusions from known facts, trying to prove the conclusions, drawing more conclusions from the ones just proved and so on. After all, what did the first scientists do before stf, if stf always leads the way? Again I agree with Shelby Vick and also think that space travel will never successfully be financed by an individual. Until space travel comes about naturally as a result of scientific development we will have to stay on Terra. It'll be too bad that all the people that would give the rest of their lives to just stay one hour on the moon or Mars will have to remain on Mother Earth but they'll never obtain their objective by privately building a space ship. Of course truth is stranger than fiction and maybe by the time you get this epistle a report will have come from reliable sources that a U.S. base has been established on the moon. Then all the starry-eyed would-be space wanderers might get their wish. However, I'm skeptical. # My last words for now are that those people that aren't satisfied with N3F the way it is ought to get out and do something about it instead of just complaining. After all, there are only twenty four hours in one man's day and if the complainers don't like something they should help the probably already overburdened officials correct the deficiency. # That's all for now. I guess. Have to go down and eat supper. # Sincerely,

Dot

BILL VENABLE

32 Park Place, R.D. #4
Pittsbufgh 9, Pennsylvania

Dear Art: Well, I'm back again. And I hope this epistle reaches you in time for inclusion in Yo Postwarp. Also a big round thing is enclosed which looks like a Full moon. It has a picture of an eagle on it. This is because it is a half-dollar. Please enter my sub for six issues on POSIE. # Now, I think

⑧

Boggs is rather wrong in his idea that we should curtail discussions of the N3F in Posie. After all, it is an NFFF letter-zine, and what better place is there for the members to iron out their troubles and difficulties regarding their club? And so I shall begin a dissertation on it as follows: ¶ The main trouble with the N3F, I think, is that, no matter how many benefits and advantages we prepare and offer to the members, so few of them take the trouble to take advantage of them. For instance, regarding that zine you asked me to edit, I was asking about getting contris through Wai Ballard's MSS Bureau, and was indirectly informed that the supply thereof is exceeding the demand. Why? Because the NFFF members who do not pub zines are too lazy to write anything for them either. I am having a Hell of a time getting material for my zine. This is to inform members of the fact, so that those who get inspired might hack out a little something for it. I would rather deal personally with the author, anyway; I have done a story and poem for it, am working on an article, an editorial, and another story for my other zines. But I can't do all the material myself for all my zines. I need help. For the benefit of those of you who are uninformed about this the zine will be called ALEPH-NULL, which, as you likely know, is the name of the symbol for the first infinity, and appeared in that fine Super Science lead novel, "Outpost Infinity." ¶ But what I was getting at: many other fine benefits are being neglected by those who could take advantage of them. I think many of the members, especially new members, could correspond more with other members. They could take advantage of Posie, too, which is a first-rate project and certainly ought not to be allowed to go to pot simply because the members are too lazy or otherwise to write. I know of some fans who join clubs like the NFFF who just expect all the benefits to be brought right to their door, and want to just sit around the house enjoying themselves while being supplied with these things. I thought the main purpose of the NFFF was to promote activity among its members, to get them introduced to the swim of things. Of course I realize that NFFF also contains many active members who are plugging away all-out and having a helluva good time doing it. But the funny thing is, that the active fan just sit by and disregard their less active brothers, and in all probability never know of their existence. Just think a minute; out of all the fan you know, aren't most of them quite active and well-known? How many passive fans do you know? But they are there, nonetheless. Just the other day I was informed of a fan living in Pgh. who is a member of the N3F, whom I didn't even know of. He won't answer letters, he doesn't write to the zines... and, after going over all the letters in the proz in the process of forming a local club, I know I never found his name, though I did find quite a few others. If I may digress a moment: Watch our smoke. Pittsburgh fandom is getting unified! ¶ Thus it appears that we of active fandom have two courses open to us. (1) We can put forth an all-out campaign to awaken the spirit of actifandom in these lethargic bums. This would just about double the work and stuff we would have to do. Besides keeping ourselves reasonably active among each other, we will have to put forth the last drop of effort recruiting and cracking the whip at those we intend to make active. ¶ (2) Our second alternative is to shut ourselves up in our own shell and let the rest of fandom... the dissenters, loafers, and disputers, go by. This would not mean that we need bar them from clubs, for even if they do join and do nothing it's money in the treasury, which the active members can use and have every right to, if the others are too lazy to get their money's worth. BUT: This also leads to complications, some of which we are facing now: Given a fairly large number of active fans in any one large organization, and each one active to the degree of putting out a zine, belonging to an APA, writing continuously for zines, editing fan projects, offerring the club, working on projects, etc. etc., we can reasonably assume that, inasmuch as they are only working among themselves and each is active to a large degree, they will merely be living out of each others pockets; for: Who will sub to

their zines but themselves, cooperatively and between each other? Who will use the projects and benefits but themselves, among each other... thus creating a fandom "Welfare State" or a fandom cooperative, where fans work together like bees or ants? But...not for necessities or a living...merely for entertainment, and what fun is that? # Therefore we can see that a happy medium is necessary, which the NFFF is trying to strike now. For: the NFFF certainly gives a hearty welcome and loads of encouragement to the new member; but: they also do not pester him to an absurd degree into becoming active... they leave it at a free enterprise basis. This will make fandom something if anything will. Further: The NFFF does not threaten or discourage smaller clubs; this raises the collective standard of fandom, since both clubs have a lot of fun competing to offer more and better things than the other. And; the N3F always encourages, publicizes, and helps neo-fans efforts at publishing, their ideas, etc... thus raising them to a level of activity which will do them and fandom the most good. # Yours,

((Editor's note: The concluding 1½ pages of Bill's letter, a more detailed analysis of the "fannish welfare state," have been omitted for lack of space. If Bill wishes, they'll be published in the April PWF))

JIM HARMON

427 East 8th Street
Mt. Carmel, Illinois

Dear Art: You'll have to admit that if nothing else my letters stimulate a lot of comments. Several of the letters seemed to detail very carefully obvious implications of my letters which I didn't write out in an effort to cut the length of my letters (I've found that if I don't, you do, Art.). # However, I would like to answer Shelby Vick. It is possible to raise funds enough to build a spaceship but I certainly wouldn't attempt it. That would undoubtedly ruin any chance of it once and for all. Imagine, a teen-ager, who belongs to a lot of crazy clubs and who writes a lot of crazy ravings, trying to get people to send him a million dollars so he can go to the Moon. Tsk tsk. # Redd Boggs is entirely right about the overemphasis on NFFF in your fanzines, Art. Not just Postwarp, in my opinion, but in all of your zines. After all, the elections are quite a while off, so you might let your campaigning rest temporarily. Incidentally, Redd -- just joking, Art -- is there anything more nauseating than Louella Parsons in or out of fandom? # You ask if there's anything interesting that can be discussed in mixed company. Very little that should be, but much that can be, so I shall devote the rest of my letter to discussing one such item, of which I shall now think. # Hmmm...ah, yes. # Fandom is growing. That in itself is good since nothing living can continue to exist if it doesn't grow, but as often been pointed out by many fans, including myself, fandom isn't going to like itself when it grows out of its short pants. Every other fan won't know Joe Stephan; he won't know every other fan. His fame will change to obscurity. Fanzine circulations will go up but so will prices on stf. In short, a thoroughly disgusting situation. # Yet there is way for fandom to grow and yet retain aristocracy. This is apparent when you consider detective fiction fandom. It has millions of members and yet it has an exclusive club, the Baker Street Irregulars. The insincere late-comers were kept out by a rule which allowed only sixty-some-odd members at a time (That number because it was the number of Sherlock Holmes stories). Fandom, too, can be saved by similar action. Fan organizations should pass rules limiting their membership; i.e., the APAs to no more than 100, N3F and similar clubs to 1,000. This would allow expansion but not open house. When vacancies occur, strict rules should be set for admittance of new members. I suggest something like this: applicant must have been in fandom for five years or more, have had 25 or more pieces of writing published,

(continued on back cover)

INDEX

TO VOLUME ONE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Page</u>
Alger, Martin	Dec	3	Lamb, Janie	Mar	5
Anderson, Florence S. ...	Nov	6			
	Mar	7	MacDonald, T.L.	Jan	10
Andrews, George	Nov	2	Machado, Alfred	Dec	4
	Mar	4	McCain, Vernon L.	Mar	2
Appelman, Evan H.	Nov	7	Metchette, C. Stewart ..	Oct	8
	Dec	4	Moffatt, Len	Dec	7
Ballard, Wrai	Nov	6	Nelson, Ray	Oct	5
Banister, Manly	Nov	3			
Boggs, Ned	Jan	7	Quinn, Lee D.	Nov	8
	Feb	4			
			Ramsay, Ray	Oct	3
Carlson, K. Martin	Nov	5	Rapp, Arthur H.	Oct	2
Conner, Wilkie	Oct	5		Nov	9
Coslet, Walter A.	Nov	8		Jan	9
	Jan	4		Feb	9
Cox, Ed	Oct	7			
	Dec	9	Schwab, Jack	Mar	2
			Seeger, Eugene	Feb	6
Dard, Roger	Jan	6	Shapiro, Hal	Oct	9
			Singer, Ben	Oct	4
Elsberry, Richard	Mar	5	Sneary, Rick	Dec	2
				Dec	5
Firestone, Eva	Jan	2		Jan	5
	Jan	6	Stine, F. Nathan	Feb	2
	Mar	4			
Friedman, Ronald	Dec	7	Tarr, Dale	Feb	6
	Feb	7	Tucker, Bob	Oct	3
	Mar	6		Nov	2
Gould, Rick	Dec	2	Venable, Bill	Nov	4
Green, E.	Feb	6		Feb	2
				Mar	9
Harmon, Jim	Oct	7	Vick, Shelby	Dec	5
	Dec	9		Jan	3
	Mar	10		Feb	3
Higgs, Ray G.	Feb	7		Feb	8
Keller, Dot	Dec	8	Winne, A. Everett	Jan	2
	Jan	8			
	Mar	8			
Kentfield, Charles A. ...	Mar	2			

This issue of POSTWARP is going to press early (March 6, 1950) because of a publishing crisis which has arisen. Details will be announced presently. # Deadline for the April issue of POSTWARP: April 10 1950...how about a letter from you?

(11)

have published at least one issue of one fanzine of his own, have had his writings published in 3 or more different fanzines other than his own, have been approved by 10 or more present members. # This would not be snobbery since anybody could gain admittance by work, and it would assure a strong, healthy fandom of sincere constructive members. # Briefly your...I knew a girl once who hated briefs. She never wore any and on windy days...ahem...Yours In Brief...Now that's silly -- I don't wear briefs. I wear shorts...that is, I wear shorts except...ah, Yours Truly...well, to tell the truth about that girl...hmmm -- signed

Jim

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11