

A BUCKET OF PLAID...yes, another one, from John Trimble, 12002 Lorna St.,  
Garden Grove, Cal. 92641. For APA L #69, 10 Feb 66!

IT IS RAINING AGAIN here in Southern California, and that's pretty much  
the reason for this BUCKET. I've got a whale of a lot of yard/pool work  
which needs doing, and normally wouldn't have got around to reading the  
68th Dist'n. But the rain effectively prevents my doing the above work,  
and hence lead sort of indirectly to this zine.

Today is Sunday, 6 February, and last evening was spent at Ron Ellick's  
long-planned housewarming party. This was a pretty terrific blast,  
even involving a trip down from Santa Barbara by Virginia Schultheis  
with the twins ~~Arde/and/Otto~~ Eric and Eddie. The best warming of the  
house was done by Luise Petti, who displayed amazing stamina; dancing  
until we all thought she'd drop from sheer fatigue, and then dancing  
some more. Eveil Squirrel-About-Town Ellick kept plying her with a 1964  
Liebfraumilch in an apparrent attempt to keep her there, warming his  
house, even after the other guests had departed. He reckoned without  
noble Al Lewis, however, who gathered up the tipsy birthday-girl, and  
sped back to Los Angeles with her (and in Ron's car, too!), 'bout 1 am.

We called Ron this morning about something, and when I asked him how  
his well-warmed house was, he happily related that it was a shambles,  
but that his help in getting it back in shape had arrived to carry on  
where he and Dennis Smith had left off before breakfast. Now if he can  
just have that ten-foot cement ~~jackass~~ squirrel hauled away off his front  
lawn....

TED WHITE: You mention here in L#14 how the word "camp" was picked up  
from the "gay world" by the Squares-who-are-trying-to-be-hip, and thence  
came into colloquial useage. And this is what I was trying to get over  
in my original comments to Fred Patten in APA L#66; I object to this  
process whereby ~~the "un-hip" impose~~ the "un-hip" impose  
on the language words that they've gleaned from some in-group or another  
in their attempts to get "hip." I will say, however, that this is not  
always a bad process; some very good descriptive words or word-phrases  
have come into general useage through this process. I'm sure that some  
fan-speak has gone into the general language, with no detriment to the  
language in general.

CREATHORNE, FRED PATTEN & LEN BAILES: It's been so Garded long since I've  
read any of the Heinlein juveniles, I don't think that I could do jus-  
tice to any discussion of them. The single exception to this is Tunnel  
In The Sky, which appeared after I entered the USAF; I read it just last  
fall, and rather liked it. In fact, I think that I'd number it among  
my favorites in the series. Come to think of it, Time For The Stars is  
really the only one of this series that I didn't like. One of these  
days I'll have to read the whole bunch over again to see how well they  
stand up, and which one(s) I like best.

ANDY PORTER: On the matter of book clubs, someday we must have Al Lewis  
write up his experiences with an oddly-named book club he joined which  
started off by fouling things up thoroughly. He finally sent them a  
registered, return-receipt letter of resignation, and still they sent  
him books. There was a story in ANALOG a couple of months back (last  
summer, I believe) which reminded us of Al's plight...thank goodness



they haven't computerized both the book clubs and the law as yet! Anyone remember the story, from these few threads?

By the way, Andy, SATA Illustrated was edited and pubbed by Dan Adkins & Bill Pearson. It was a fine example of dittoed work, and was only surpassed by Guy Terwilliger's TWIG Illustrated (which, I'm sure, is the zine you were thinking of), when Dan Adkins helped him put out the two issues which bore the "Illustrated" adjective. In my mind, some of the effects Adkins achieved in the illustrations in these mags are the very best that have ever been done...if there're any better once, I've yet to see them.

ALL YOU BATMAN FANS: I guess I just wasn't looking for the homosexual bits in the Batman episodes. Since I've had them pointed out to me, they appear very plain, and I've spotted them in the few successive shows we've seen. I'm afraid, however, that I just wasn't keyed for this; I never really cared for superhero comics when I did read them things, and I'm afraid that I'd stopped caring one fig for comics or anything to do with them by the time Wertham appeared on the scene. Besides, even when I did read an occasional superhero book, BATMAN impressed me as being insufferably corny. From the TV shows so far, it hasn't improved any, and one can only take so much of this kind of cornball stuff (even with all the "double-level" stuff in it) before one feels an almost irresistible urge to vomit.

FRED HOLLANDER: Fred, I wrote that now infamous letter to the LATIMES to express my view that all license fees for motor vehicles in California should be on a weight-horsepower ratio basis, rather than the present situation of a w-h ratio for trucks, and an ad valorem tax for passenger cars, etc. On the Saturday following (or January 22nd), a fellow who works for the Dept. of Motor Vehicles had a letter in the TIMES letter section which explained in some detail why the state of California does have ~~such~~ registration set up this way, and while it made ample sense, I'm still not completely convinced that they're right.

Incidentally, Fred, both you and Barry seem to be under a misapprehension as to the gas mileage obtained with a VW Kombi (or bus-type vehicles). I use ethyl gasoline in my '64 1500 cc Kombi, and get 20-22 mpg. Dave Hulan gets somewhat less mileage (two to three mpg under what I get) from his '63 Deluxe Station Wagon. Both vehicles have 1500 cc engines, and both have had trouble with easily burned valves. In late 1965, VW altered the design of their engine valves, and pretty much eliminated most valve problems. However, it wasn't until the '66 models that they improved the cooling arrangement of the 1500 engine (by adding about a dozen cooling fins) to the point where ethyl is no longer required.

Say, isn't that John Maynard Keynes character that Barry was talking about the guy who wrote all those stories about collies? And what's he got to do with Economics?

Gee, Fred, I wish you'd give a referent when you make a Dist'n Comment; your "Say, Len, I seem to remember something like that, too." just about didn't make any sense to the reader (yes, I know that you were referring to Twin Earths, but only because I happened to have the previous Dist'n handy for reference).