

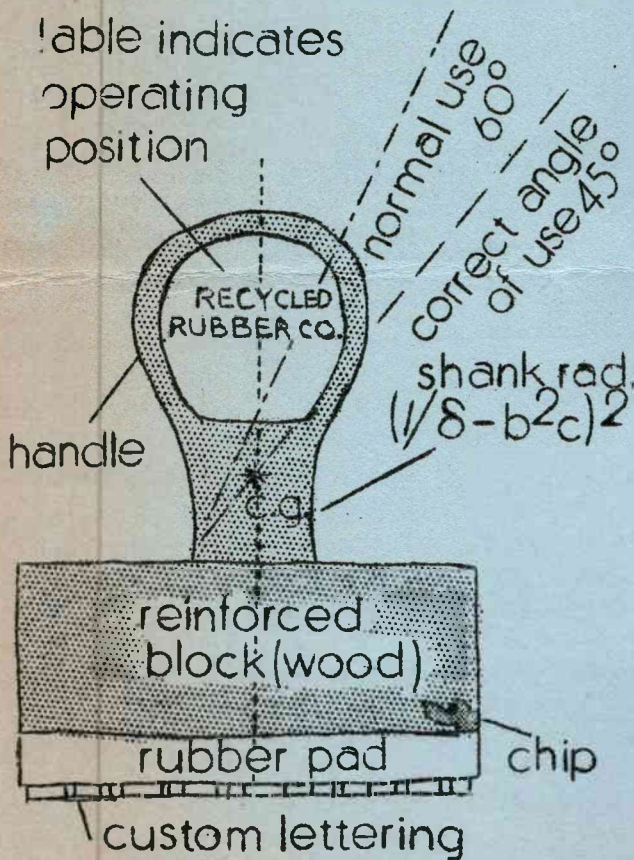
RUBBER STAMP OWNERS' BULLETIN

Rubber Stamp Owners' Bulletin is edited and written by John Sewing Machine, and published as a Taralble Mistake, #38, ©Taral, Jan 78. Additional copies for your class or lab can be had from 415 Willowdale ave, #1812, Willowdale Ontario, m2n 5b4 (416 221 3517)

Although many fans cherish Rubber Stamping as an Art, rather than a Science, this is not so. I hope to establish Rubber Stamping as a technology of grass roots reproduction in fandom by frequently publishing one or two page sheets outlining simple things you can do with a Rubber Stamp, some of which are even useful and interesting. For instance, many of you, who are only concerned with the legibility and appearance of your fanzines, overlook the range of possibilities offered by hand cutting your own Rubber Stamps. It is best to start with a blank Stamp, which can be bought from any Rubber Stamp store, but you can modify old stamps also, providing they are still elastic. Otherwise they are likely to crumble when you attempt to cut the rubber with your exacto knife. Using a fine blade, scrape off the old lettering, if you need to, score, and carve away the rubber between lines to a depth of approximately 2 mm. Once this is done you may begin blocking in the new letters with a grease pencil sharpened to a fine point. Many different styles can be used, and reference to a competent letter transfer catalog may be of great assistance. However, do not be limited to already established styles. The great advantage of carving your own Rubber Stamps is that you can be innovative, and to follow established styles is self defeating. Very little imagination is needed to suggest combining artwork right with the text on the stamp. You might even send blank Stamps to artists to directly transfer their illos to rubber. Carry blank stamps with you to conventions - you never know when you may run into an artist who's work you admire, or someone suggests a one-shot. Certain artists' styles do not adapt well to Rubber Stamping. I do not recommend you send blanks to either George Barr or Taral, for instance. But, it's time the fanish artform of on-rubber illos made a long overdue comeback.

Occasionally the handle of a Rubber Stamp chips or splinters, making the operation of the Stamp inconvenient, or even hazardous. To remedy this situation, purchase a small amount of plastic wood from any nearby hardware store. Plastic wood, though meant for other purposes, was formulated for the repair of wood objects, and can be used even in the repair of your Rubber Stamp. Simply mold the putty into a smooth shape in place of the missing piece, and allow to harden naturally. Overnight your Rubber Stamp will have returned to perfect operating condition without the need of having a costly repairman perform the repair for you, or, more likely, to simply advise the replacement of the Stamp. In fact, this is rarely necessary.

In a future issue I hope to describe two colour stamping, and letter wear. I'm also considering publishing a companion Potato Owners' Bulletin. --- John Sewing Machine.



chain letter fan fund '78 taral wayne macdonald!

The Chain Letter Fan Fund, or CHAFF, attempts to rectify the inequality of all other contemporary fan funds. For years TAFF, DUFF, ARFF, ETC. have been sending pretty much the same old fan faces all over the place. It is true that there has been plenty of variety in the fanficates in various fan funds, but it is the predictable beautiful-persons type BNF's who win each time. And, as if that were not enough, these Faanish Legends are usually also treated to special fund raising campaigns between the regulars. CHAFF is an attempt to change all that. CHAFF is democratic! Everyone eventually is a winner!

How to Participate in CHAFF. A CHAFF sheet will probably arrive through the mail, but it may be handed to you at a convention also. Either way you will find a list of names on the reverse side. Simply add your name to the bottom of the list, and send a dollar to each of the names above yours. Then pass on the CHAFF sheet to another fan, or make copies of it and mail it to several others. The latter will benefit everyone the more quickly, yourself included as the people you pass it on to will send you a dollar! Soon, you will be receiving dollars from many, many fans, and you too will be on your way to an overseas con or exotic fan centre. But whatever you do, D*O*N*T B*R*E*A*K T*H*E C*H*A*I*N! Breaking the chain will bring upon you Twonk's Disease, Nydal's Syndrome, and Gafia, all at once, and will destroy the fund for all the others too! Also, postal authorities have been known to be even more prejudiced against this sort of activity than against fanzines...

The Top Name on the List, Taral Wayne MacDonald, the originator of this Fan Fund, has been an artist and faneditor of moderate note for several years now, and deserves his pre-eminent place on the list for his dogged persistence in persuading people of his personal merit in the most adverse of situations. Taral has been unequalled in his accomplishment of fomenting dislike of some of the most popular fans, and has rightly earned their persecution and hatred. Unique in its own right, Taral has also been notable in his service to fandom through the discouragement of many would-be neos by his acid criticism and supercilious condescension, (twice awarded the Katz by fellow Derelicts). Notable also is the degree of sexual sublimation achieved in some of Taral's more dubious artwork, much of it too raw to have yet seen print even in his own publications. Chutzpah, or, as his friends (both of them) have jokingly put it, Tactlessness is another of his better qualities, and has been mistaken for wit on many occasions when combined with his intermittent sense of hearing. Casual comments by fans meeting him for the first time include: "Needs to wash more, and brush his teeth", "dull, passionless", "jealous", "intolerant", "fat", "arrogant", "can't spell the same word twice the same way", "I need a drink", and "who?" The CHAFF will send Taral to the 79 Worldcon in Britain, and, obviously, no other fanficate so richly deserves to head this con...

Other Names on the List will also receive money, from fans further down on the CHAFF, and will be able to attend Seacon also. Names too far down to raise enough money for Seacon will have raised enough by 80, 81, 82, and so on, in perpetuum, so, as long as the chain is not broken, the original CHAFF will eventually see all fandom as winners. So it is in your interest to send Taral your dollar now, quickly add your name to the bottom of the list, and distribute as many copies of the CHAFF sheet as you can make, whether by mimeo, offset, or spirit duplicator. And if you find it harder and harder to find new fans to send the CHAFF sheet to, remember there is the unexploited resource of the Trekkies, and after them the Droidies, to use.

CHAFF - \$1 to 415 WILLOWDALE AVE, #1812, WILLOWDALE ONT.