

IDLE HANDS #10 from Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 336, Berkeley 1, California, USA.
This issue is, as usual, going out only to selected FAPAns, FAPA w-lers and certain Others. It consists of comments upon the 100th FAPA mailing August, 1962 and was supposed to have been mailed out on 1 Nov 62. Instead it is being stencilled on 26 Dec 62. I hang my head in shame. However, there's no need to put in a hypocritical deadline for the next issue. I've already been trusted by gullible FAPAns who've supplied me with all the zines I'm expecting from the 101st mailing. Crudpub #53.

Moonshine #30 - Rick Sneary

Tackett: I wonder what the Air Force did with the base library at Vincent AFB when they turned it over to the Marines. Obviously it didn't stay there or you would have had more sf to read. (A good selection of sf at base libraries seems to be an Air Force policy.) It's probably at some other base along with other portables. I've heard plenty of stories concerning what the Marines did to Vincent AFB. This included such items as tearing out the walls between rooms to make one large room. ('No Marines are going to live in rooms!') But just how true are such stories?

Different V3#1 - Sam Moskowitz

It's quite interesting to see what those 'terrible' Moskowitzes actually had to say at the Seacon. And I think some of the razzing has come from people who actually agree with Sam but don't want to admit. These extreme reactions of calling the Moskowitzes fuggheaded seem to suggest over-reaction to any suggestion that we're not all sf fans, that some of our fanac is worthless, etc.

Poor Richard's Almanac #14 - Rich Brown

Speaking of the Tower of Bheer Cans to the Moon Pat Fetta read about it and had a comment for Terry Carr. Dave Rike and everyone else involved in its inception: "Zorch Puce". Fetta says these words come from Red Blanchard who was urging his listeners to contribute beer cans for a radio station tower.

Celephais #32 - Bill Evans

Which canonical tale was written by Mycroft Holmes? The last time I looked the tally ran fifty-seven by Dr. Watson, two by Holmes and one by Conan Doyle ("The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone")

Re making one's self sound impressive I had a job where I was eleventh down the chain of command from Eisenhower. But from another perspective I was on the bottom. That was when I was working for the U.S. Forest Service. Our big boss thought he was still Captain Carpenter, USA and stressed such items. In the USAF I must have been at least one-hundred steps down.

Evidently we don't share the same ideas on the southwest. I can't think of any areas within the southwest that are uninteresting. So while you don't mind traveling by night through "some of the uninteresting lands in the middle west and southwest" I do mind. I'd like to see parts of Utah and Nevada by daylight on the Union Pacific but every time I've gone over those sections at night. One of these days I'll have to parallel the railroads on the desert dirt roads. But in some ways I prefer the Great Plains and the Llano Estacado at night. The starlit prairies look more inviting at night when the summer drabness can't be seen under the light of thousands of stars making a pattern of silvery hills

and black shadows in the valleys. And if there's a cool breeze blowing it's an even greater relief from the heat of the day. Winter on the plains makes me glad that shelter is somewhere.

Like you I'm sorry to see the interurban commuter trains vanish. Such services as the Key System, the Pacific Electric and what was supposedly the longest interurban line in the world, the Sacramento Northern, are all essentially out of the commuter business (if not entirely out). While it isn't as sense of wonderish as being able to ride a streetcar from New York to Chicago I find being able to commute from Oakland to Chico (approximately 179 miles of track) to be sense-of-wonderish. (And this New York to Chicago streetcar run probably explains some streetcar tracks I saw for mile after mile in the Indiana countryside. I figured they must be heading for Chicago but I couldn't conceive of an economically-feasible eastern terminus.)

The Vinegar Worm V2 #4 - Bob Leman

I'm with you in securing permission to reprint fan items before doing so. And I don't care if you think the author has been gafia since 1933 and thus wouldn't mind. For all you know he's active in another segment of fandom or planning on re-entering fandom and reprinting some of his own writings. Consider how many fans in FAPA have no discernible existence in the rest of fandom. If you're not reading FAPAZines (particularly The Fantasy Amateur) you would be justified in assuming gafia. And I'm of the further opinion that the original publisher is entitled to only first rights. If he wants to reprint an item then he also should secure permission from the author.

And of course, this poses the problem of authors you can't locate, whether they're in Heaven, Hell, Limbo or still upon the earth. If the author is dead I'd say that it would be okay to reprint. He wrote the material for a specific audience and his death shouldn't deprive fandom of that material. But if you don't know he's dead and you can't locate him then the safest course is not to reprint.

Die Schmetterling #1 - Dick Schultz

Unlike Joe Gibson's article I can Name Names in FAPA. My D. C. Area Agent, Bill Evans, has promised to type up a List of Names and Publish it in FAPA.

Unlike you I am black-hearted, evial, etc., etc., with regards to the waiting list. I'd like to see subscriptions, credentials, and acknowledgments strictly enforced. Mainly because when they take full effect FAPA entrance should become fairly easy for anyone willing to comply. And if someone is not willing to do a little something for FAPA then that someone just doesn't want into FAPA very badly. But I am worried about the point you've repeatedly brought out. The psychology of Genus Fan is such tighter requirements will merely make more fan flock to the FAPA w-l. There is a solution to this problem. Buy up NAPA surplus stock and distribute to new w-lers in an effort to discourage them, hi.

PHlotsam #20 - Phyllis Economou

Howard De Vore: In doing research for a term paper I've come across something to interest readers of Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner". It's rather solidly based on fact. The Ancient Mariner was Simon Hatley, second captain of the Speedwell, the date was Oct 1719, the event a "privateering" expedition

to the Great South Sea. The expedition was commanded by two buccaneers, the last of the big-time buccaneers. Coleridge's poem is fairly faithful through the becalming, after that his poetic license was issued. The commander, George Shelvocke, had a real sense-of-wonder title for his book, A Voyage round the World by way of the Great South Sea.

Some of these old books had titles that have captured my fancy. A few examples are William Dampier's Mr. William Dampier's Voyage Round the Terrestrial Globe, James Cook's A Voyage Round the World and Towards the South Pole, Baron Nordenskiöld's The Voyage of the Vega Round Europe and Asia and others.

I hate marking books, defacing or damaging them in any way. And I try to repair the damages in second-hand books and magazines that I buy. And to read a book that someone has underlined, bracketted or otherwise emphasized certain portions annoys me. It's particularly irritating when I'm reading for a term-paper and trying to extract information from the viewpoint of the assignment. Other people have read the material for other purposes and I keep trying to understand the matter from their viewpoint.

I wonder how you feel now after your dread of FAPA surpassing SAPS in page-count. FAPA has a 402-page edge over the all-time SAPS high. And the shame of it. Dick Eney, a supposedly loyal SAPS member, provided 395 pages of this edge. But actually it shows how Noble SAPS are, that their belonging to SAPS doesn't subvert their loyalties to another group.

Myself, I chortled that Marion Bradley wanted ten or twelve waiting listers and that her call for an assessment of the waiting list was responded to by a listed eleven waiting-listers. When did Marion receive a crystal ball?

Idle Hands #9 - Norm Metcalf

The Sedov's drift was both north and south of the Fram's, though still roughly parallel. There's nothing finding a detailed map instead of trusting the text of a book.

It seems that the announcement that L.A.'s Heritage Network outlet was ceasing classical music was in error. FM and Fine Arts Guide retracted their statement. But that still leaves their San Francisco outlet broadcasting pop tunes and bragging about the money they're making. And there must be some sort of ecological constant involved because a local rock-and-roll station switched to classical music with their old commercials. The effect of this has to be heard to be fully appreciated.

Serenade #3 - Rih Bergeron

I chuckled over your comments that Kipple is dull because discussing Alice McCluskey or George Sokolsky brings no response in Kipple from these people. You're right, it is dull. I'd much rather read Warhoon with your comments on John Kennedy, Richard Nixon, William Buckley, etc. But when is Warhoon's letter column going to contain their replies?

Betty Kujawa: There's a simple, and I think appropriate, way of dealing with polls that want votes for worst zines, fuggheads, etc. Just fill in the poll-taker's name, fanzine, etc.

Dry Martooni #1 - Fred Patten

As for other sf authors besides Bierce and Astor being affected by world-renowned disasters Hodgson was killed in WWI.

Ion drives vs. rocket drives have been worked out in at least one sf story, "We Have Fed Our Sea" / The Enemy Stars. And the rest of the background can be found in the Jun 60 New Frontiers.

Remembrance of Things Past VIII - Bill Evans

"So That's Who Anthony Gilmore Is?" - Pong: Ackerman's mania for collecting autographs and Harry Bates' honesty certainly provided a lot of material for fanzines. What ever happened to Desmond Hall?

"The World Changes" - Moskowitz: Speaking of Willis Conover's previously mentioned jazz program on the Voice of America it's written up in Look for 20 Nov 62. According to this article Conover must be the world's best known sf fan.

"Marvel Tales - Past, Present, and Future" - Jack Chapman Miske: - Bill Evans: Rather than projecting George O. Smith back into time as contemporary with Smiths Clark Ashton, Edward Elmer and Louis there were some genuine contemporaries - Everett C., Garret, Lawrence and Will.

Miske: I wonder if Bill Crawford will ever resume publishing. It's been only a little over seven years since he published the Jun 55 Spaceway. He's gaffiated from sf pubbing for longer periods than that. But if his publications show the poor average taste of his last round he might as well never return.

"Stardust" - The Star-Treader: Rather than "Kent Casey" being E. E. Smith I'd guess L. Ron Hubbard. But does anyone know?

"Take Back Your Blarney" - Sam Moskowitz: I'm wondering about Bill Evans' insertion of an exclamation mark after Sam's statement "Argosy published fantastic stories for fifty years...". From what I remember reading in one of the Munsey zines, probably FFM, perhaps Argosy, the earliest fantasy that had been found was "The man With the Brown Beard" in the Feb 96 Argosy. That was almost forty-four years previous to when the article appeared, or about 14% off.

As for Sam's basic thesis that active fans are actually representative of the sf readership I'd say that thesis is incorrect. An obvious argument is that if sf fans were representative of the sf readers fandom would compromise a majority of the readers instead of being less than 0.005 of the probable readership. (Surveys indicate that each copy of ASF is read by an average of three people, so that gives over 231,000 readers of ASF plus non-duplicated readers of the other magazines, paperbacks and library copies of books and magazines.) Also, sf fans are supposed to want better stories. What are better stories? These obviously mean different things to different readers. Perhaps many readers are transitory through sf, reading it only on their way to their Ozark camp or because it satisfies an adolescent quirk, affords an escape mechanism, or whatever. These people never reach the point where they've exhausted superficialities in sf and demand more sophisticated stories. So they're not representative of sf fans (as opposed to faaans). And there seem to be many readers who've reached this point of diminishing returns and either quit reading sf or become actifaans or both. They proclaim F&SF the best prozine which proves their non-representational nature since F&SF's circulation

last year was ca. 63% of ASF's. And quite a few of the Hugo results prove that those who voted didn't represent sf readers. If Hugo voters were representative then the magazine with the highest circulation would have won the Hugo each year.

"Gleanings" - Russ Chauvenet: You liked Maturin's The Milesian Chief very much, I wonder what you think of his Melmoth the Wanderer? In fact, how about writing an article on Maturin's fantasies? If you do write one and don't want to publish it yourself I'd be glad to consider it.

"Visit to LASFL" - Walter Sullivan: Somewhere I've read that Walter Sullivan, fan, was killed in WWII. If this is incorrect, could he be the Walter Sullivan who writes for the New York Times?

"RAP" - Mark Reinsberg: The theory that by publishing crud you attract readers to better and better stories doesn't seem to hold true. If it were Ray Palmer would have Analog pushing the million + mark in circulation. For every reader attracted there must be several permanently disgusted with sf. If deliberately poor sf attracts the public why have such zines either folded or changed their policy?

Horizons #91 - Harry Warner, Jr.

I think one can become used to headphones in lieu of speakers over a period of time. I've been using headphones for many years. At first it was only for late-night listening. But after entering the service such considerations as small size, light weight, cutting down outside sounds and keeping your barracks mates from complaining about what one's listening to became paramount. But I'll give up my headphones as soon as I buy another stereo power amplifier.

I was discussing various fandoms with an aunt of mine. And lo, she belongs to a few more that I don't recall seeing mentioned in fanzines. One is devoted to Dante with emphasis on bibliography. She helped prepare an annotated edition. Others are concerned with classical history and Edgar Poe. She's heard of a few others but doesn't know much about them.

Dick Schultz, 19159 Helen, Detroit 34, Michigan

Dear Norm;

Speaking of the mundane apa's you might ask Bruce Pelz about a small bundle he asked me to get for him. There's this Victor Knerr over in west Detroit who was a member of NAPA, APA, UAPA and AAPA. Knerr was sick so Pelz asked me to get his mailings. And I wound up carting two full cartons back. At the Chicon I felt like spotting Pelz and yelling, "Hey Pelz! Catch!" And tossings the mailings at him. I decided against it, however. Pelz has spoiled all of SAPS for any other OE. Do you realize it just took six days for the last mailing to reach me? Of course, I didn't open it until the week before the Chicon; but that's beside the point.

At any rate, I leafed through some of the mailings of Knerr's. And I found the mailings to be composed of odd-shaped masses of nothing; interspersed with rotten poetry and rottener essays.

Besides which, I have enough printed clutter in the attic already.

If Bob Smith says nothing can match Science Fantasy and New Worlds, it is obvious that either he doesn't appreciate good action stories (an unlikely thot) or doesn't share the same high opinion I have of the present Ziff-Davis twins. And besides that, Cele Goldsmith is cute!

Yhos,
Dick Schultz

((Sure, the mundane apas stink, even in comparison to N'APA. But they are good for a few laughs. But in order to save myself from fatal paroxysms of laughter I may not renew. ## I have a feeling that Bob Smith appreciates good stories and thus ranks Science Fantasy and New Worlds ahead of Amazing and Fantastic. But all this is pure speculation if you're basing this on his letter in Idle Hands #9. All he said there was that he found New Worlds and Science Fantasy averaging out with fine yarns these days, full of that vitality and energy that Redd feels is missing. I even find that sense of wonder in 'em occasionally, and that's saying a lot these days!"))

I'm sorry to have slighted A Sense of FAPA in this issue. But this issue is so far behind schedule that I've decided to tackle ASOF later. Sorry Dick.

To those of you who receive this in time

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

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