



T H E

R A M B L I N G

G
R
E
G

F A P

4 8

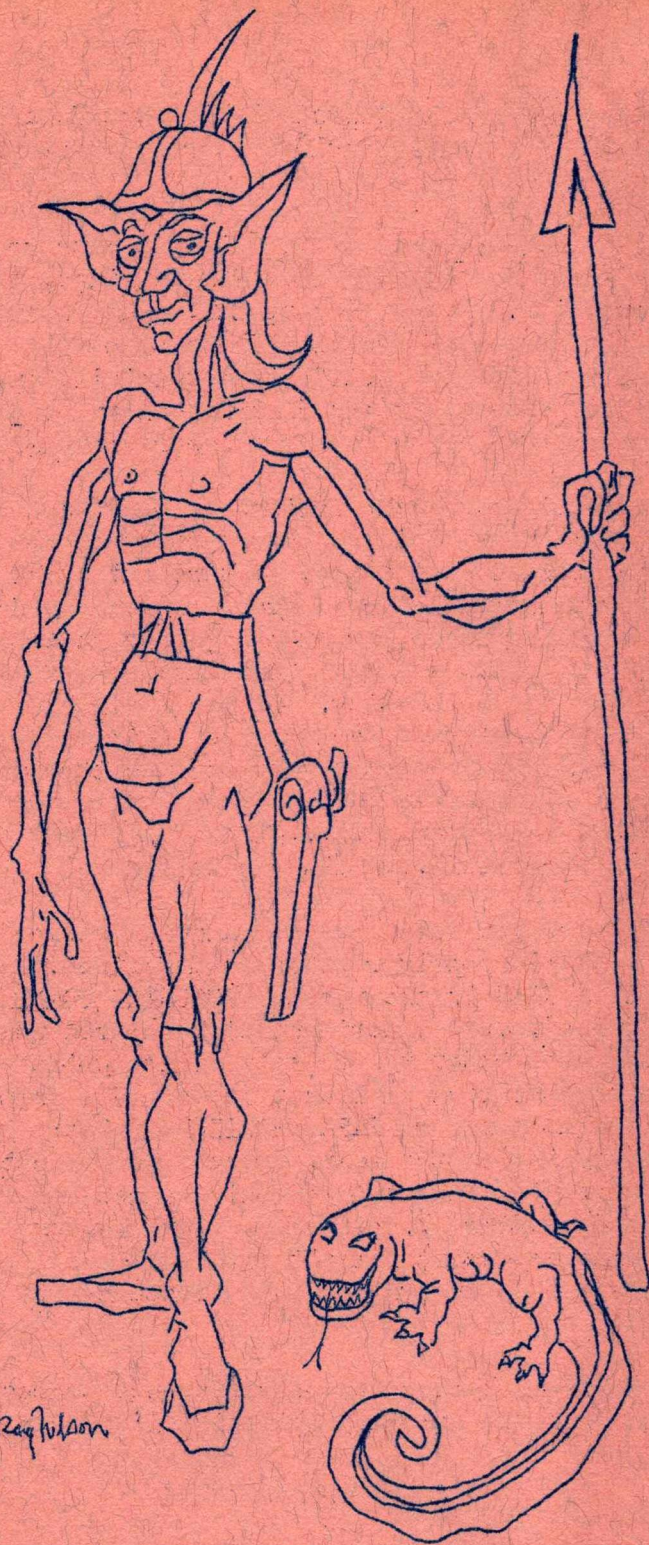
F
P
A

C
L
K
I
N
S

M A Y

1 9 7 0

3
1



Ray Johnson

WELL,
DIDN'T HE
RAMBLE...

The 130th FAPA mailing has just made its way to my mailbox at long last. It took over two weeks to get here, this time, which I suppose isn't too bad by current rates. This bundle contains TRF #47 plus issue #46 which took too long in the mail last time. Damn. Bob Pavlat, I think you are a fine fellow, but I'm ready for an OE out near the West Coast once again.

Now there's a glimmering of an idea... I've been Veep and President in my time, and I always said I fully intended also to hold the working jobs --SecTreas and OE-- "one of these days when I find the time." Perhaps the time has come. This issue is aimed at the May mailing. If my current work status is still the same by the time the August mailing (that's the election mailing) comes along I think I will file for OE.

Surprisingly, perhaps, I have a platform. Considering that the FA represents supposedly a bunch of amateur publishers, I think the magazine presents and has presented a totally unprepossessing appearance. FAPA hasn't had what I'd consider a truly attractive FA since the days of Redd Boggs in 1953 although Eney had his moments in 1957 and 1958 and Ted White had a nice cover in 1959. All in all, I think the FA could stand an overhaul. If I have the time to run for OE--and if elected--I promise to do my best to make some changes for the better.

++++

I mailed my egoboo poll ballot today. As usual, I had a difficult time in filling it out. The technique that I employ is to get out the FAs for the four mailings involved and start reading the contents pages and prodding my reluctant memory. It seems to me that there should be a better way, but so far I haven't found one. I always have the nagging feeling that I am going to overlook someone or omit something. Frankly, I'm never very satisfied with my results--all the more reason I'd like to see much greater participation than we've been

the rambling fap iii

having in recent years. If enough people voted, my inadequate ballot would tend to be diluted by the flood and hopefully the net result would be more accurate and meaningful than as it is.

Incidentally, the poll sheet is incorrectly headed--not that it will do much good for me to tell you about it now. But the 1970 poll covers the 1969 mailings, and those were 126 through 129, not 127 through 130. Shame on you, DAG. And what's this "Vote only for FAPA members" jazz? Be damned if I will. The egoboo poll has been open to non-members as long as I can remember...ATOM is perennially one of the best artists in the mailings...and I refuse to start discriminatory practices at this stage of the game. Like man, haven't you read the papers lately?

I really had trouble with one category this time--editor/publisher. Much the same remarks that I made earlier about the FA also apply to the majority of the rest of the mailing. For an amateur publishing organization, we sure put a lot of shoddy-looking publications into every mailing. I know a great many of us do not specifically "edit" our magazines but prefer to go stream-of-consciousness directly onto the stencil to save time and effort...but can't that still be done in some sort of neat fashion? The same goes for publishing. It isn't all that much of a trick to put sufficient ink on the mimeograph pad to make legible prints...and yet not too much ink. Or is it? We have some very good editors and publishers in our organization, but I'm not sure we saw much of them last year. Bergeron does an excellent job with WARHOON when it appears...ditto Terry Carr with LIGHTHOUSE...Lupoff used to put out a nice HORIB...NIEKAS is well done.

Let me just take a look at Mailing 130 to show you what I mean. A quick glance through the mailing indicates only four actually poorly reproduced magazines, and even those four aren't too bad. A PROPOS DE RIEN is the worst...FUTURIAN COMMENTATOR needs more ink and COGNATE slightly less...the experiment with colored inks on GRANDFATHER STORIES was a mild failure. The majority of the mailing, while legible, can be characterized by an almost total lack of layout ideas. The prime example of this is that otherwise excellent mainstay of FAPA, HORIZONS. Harry starts typing on the first page and stops typing on the last, greatly to the detriment of my eyeballs and the readability of his fanzine. The only concession Harry makes to solid type is two underlined headings...no, three. That leaves the only magazine in the entire mailing with any editorial attempt at all as TOLKIEN JOURNAL #10 by Ed Meskys. Ed does a fine enough job that he stands out like a stranger.

Not that I think it's going to make two hoots in hell worth of difference to most of you, but I can't say I'm too impressed with the editing/publishing I've seen in FAPA recently.

H HEAD FOR THE HILLS

A bit earlier than I usually start to think about it, but I'm planning for my vacation this summer already. We had a fine time in western Colorado and southern Utah last summer, so we've decided on something of a repeat. Rea's folks are from Butte, Montana, and have been campers all of their lives, but they are both in their late 60's now and it's starting to get harder for them to do things by themselves than it used to be. So we've decided to do it together this summer--and there's an outside chance that my folks will join us from Santa Rosa, as well. That would be a very interesting group all by itself, just the ten of us. I'd like to see it work out that way for my own sake...my wife's folks and I get on pretty well, but this is another one of those situations where I feel safety in numbers.

the rambling fap iv

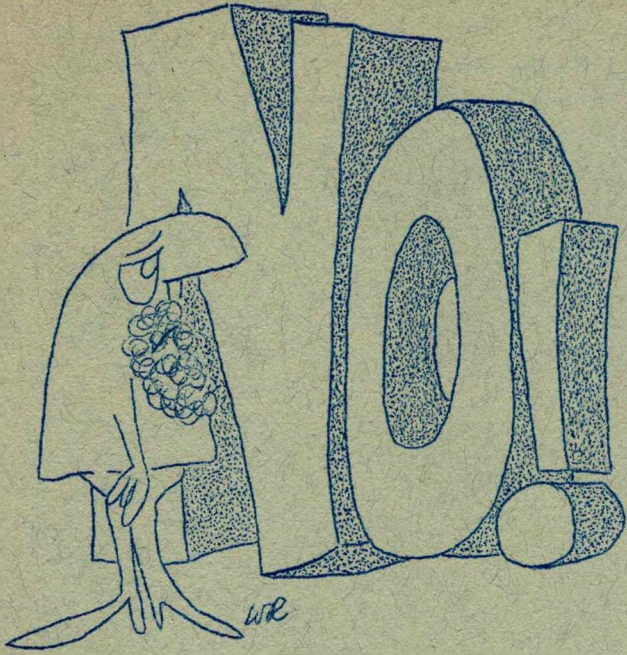
We're planning on meeting at the North Rim of Grand Canyon. They'll drive down from Butte pulling their travel trailer and we'll drive up from Bakersfield with our customary station-wagon full of kids, clothes, camping gear and just about everything a well-equipped safari would require for six weeks in the bush. This summer I may borrow a small one-wheel trailer just to pack the gear in--that is, if we tent it as tentatively planned. Actually, I don't tent it at all. I mean, I take the tent along in case of bad weather, but otherwise we sleep the two small kids (Bill-Bill, 5, and Karen, 2) in the station-wagon and the rest of us sleep in sleeping bags and cots out under the stars. It's very nice that way, I think. However, we've toyed slightly with the idea of renting a travel trailer ourselves this trip...pick one up in Cedar City, say, and drop it there on the way back to avoid having to pull it across the desert and back. We'll see.

We'll meet at Grand and work slowly northwards. I don't know if Zion will be on the agenda or not. Bryce definitely, though. My old high school is 8 miles down the hill below Bryce Canyon, and this summer I'm vowing to do something I've long wanted to do. I'm going to go back to that small town (pop. 500 or so in my day and probably hasn't changed much) and look up all of the people I used to know. I know one of my teachers is still there...as we passed through hurriedly last summer I asked a kid pumping gas at Bryce if Ella Adair was still in Tropic and he said hell, yes, she's been teaching since the year 1. I believe him. She'd been teaching since the year 1 when I was a student, and it's been (gulp!) some 19 years since I graduated! I don't know how many of my old friends will still be there, but there should be at least one or two. Should be tremendous. Maybe the summer after next we'll have a 20 year reunion. Wouldn't that be a gasser? What if all 14 of the students in my senior class decided to come back at once...

From Bryce we may go past Escalante to Boulder Mountain. That's still pretty remote country, but I think we can get the trailer(s) in without too much trouble. After that, I don't know. Rea was so hooked on Dead Horse Point near Moab last year that she wants to go back, but it's a long drive down there. I suppose it depends somewhat on what I hear from Durango. I've been thinking about teaching at a small college more and more in recent years, and just last week I finally sent a resume to Fort Lewis College in Durango. I contacted them informally last summer, so we know each other slightly. If they want an interview this summer I plan to leave the family camping and drive over to Durango myself for a day or two. If that comes about I guess we all might as well go as far as Moab together. After that, though, we should be about ready to head back for home.

Say, Buz and Elinor--we may see you next year, too. If you make it to the con in Santa Barbara we just might see you there. I'd sure like to go, and since we have friends in Santa Barbara who could put us up and thereby avoid the major expense of the convention, we just might be able to drop by for one or two days. Or at least I might...I don't know what my wife thinks about these crazy science-fiction fans. But aside from that, convention or no, there's a fair chance that we'll make it to Seattle in 1970. We haven't been back since we left in 1964 and it's about time for a visit. Since we left, Rea's brother has moved to Renton and is working for Boeing (or was, the last we heard, despite recent lay-offs) and her sister still lives there, too. My brother lives in a nearby suburb. More close friends moved back to Seattle from Santa Maria a few years ago when Boeing got the SST contract and are still there. Then there's Georgia and Bubby. Georgia is a widow and Bub is her son...he's in his twenties now, I suppose, but mentally retarded and his mental age is about eight or nine. A nice kid, though. They lived with us when Rea and I were first married because Georgia had lost her house, was pretty sick, and just plain didn't have anywhere else to live. So, anyhow, if we get a chance this fall--maybe around Thanksgiving--we may try a trip to Seattle once again. See you then, perhaps.

the rambling fap v



mc's
130th mailing

= + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + = + =

GRANDFATHER STORIES
A HISTORY OF THE HUGO, NEBULA AND IFA
(DeVore)

Well, Howard, no doubt you won't get the appreciation the work deserves, but I, for one, found it very interesting and definitely a worthwhile work. One of the few "keepers" in recent mailings. One of my projects now is going to have to be digging up some of the older--hell, recent ones too--Hugo winners and nominees. I've read a lot of them but I've missed a lot of them, too.
:::: Hell of a nice piece of research and preservation of fannish data that would otherwise be lost.

GREAT ART SHOULD NEVER BE MUSHED UP!!
(Patten)

I agree with your statement that: "Fan art has a tendency toward immediate oblivion..." A lot of it disappears without really having had a chance to be seen by the fan community. Even the most widely circulated fanzine does not reach a majority of the fan population, and the smaller fanzines are even more limited. I think fan artists are, in general, pretty much overlooked in terms of the egoboo they deserve. Hmm...I wonder if I should consider reprinting some of COPS LA!'s better artwork? :::: I liked best Cawthorn's "Slaying of Smaug" and "Warrior slain by arrow"; Bjo's "Fairy unicorn scratching self on daisy" and "Collecting extraterrestrial specimens"; and Harness' "The happy brontosaur" and Zuber's "Astronaut."

FUTURIAN COMMENTATOR
(Tackett)

"It would be difficult for candidates for contested posts to come up with any lively campaign issues. ... The only innovation a prospective OE might come up with would be a way to get the mailings out at a lower rate." Oh, yeah, Roy? See my (tentative) campaign statement earlier this issue. :::: I agree with your line that: "If man slips back to barbarism...much of the blame can be laid to the concept of the sovereign national state."

the rambling fap vi

A PROPOS DE RIEN
(Caughran)

I disagree. I think the best thing that could happen to the space program would be for the Russians to get all fired up and come from out of the blue with some spectacular that they have been concealing up until now. The only trouble is that I rather doubt they have anything like that up their sleeves --I think the race with US capital and technology has just about busted their pick. If they rammed up a large-scale space station on a permanent basis any time soon, though, our breast-beating Congressmen might suddenly come to life, I suspect. All this is not to say that space is necessarily the best place to spend large quantities of money that might be put to more immediate use in other places. But that's another argument... :::: Was it really fifteen years ago when you couldn't tell the boys from the girls because the girls' hair was so short? Tell me you are kidding!

GODOT
(Deckinger)

I enjoyed your characterization of David and Julie. I think you were right! :::: You have, I think, added just enough extra to the scales to start me buying AMAZING and FANTASTIC. I really haven't read much science fiction in recent years and sometimes I sort of miss it. I let it all go under when I started finding ANALOG unreadable. But I looked at the TEW magazines on the stands a few months ago and wondered a long time about buying them. Perhaps now I'll give them a try. But no subscriptions, thank you. The small amount of money to be saved is not worth the condition the magazine arrives in, a fact I discovered more years ago than I care to count. In fact, wasn't it one of the then-new GALAXY's promotion claims that they had developed a subscription wrapper that would allow the magazine to survive the mail system? :::: Unfortunately the movie version of "Where Eagles Dare" failed to live up to the promise of the book. It was, however, an outstandingly good book and it would have taken a remarkable movie and actors to do it justice. Not that the movie itself is not thrilling and enjoyable--it is! It's just that if you read the book first you have a tendency to watch the movie with the sense of loss derived from knowing how good it could have been. :::: I'd like to go see "I Am Curious (Yellow)" and I admit it. But then, too, I'll also admit to enjoying seeing frankly pornographic movies from time to time. Not all the time, admittedly, but every now and then.

LE MOINDRE
(Raeburn)

I'll interrupt your comments to Rosemary Hickey just long enough to give my capsule views of Texas, or at least a part of same. I recently spent two weeks in Houston at a company school, and the non-school hours were quite enlightening. Since there's a fair chance that the not-so-distant future might find most or all of Standard Oil's geophysicists operating out of Houston, I took a more than casual interest in the city. The first thing that turned me off was the knowledge that Houston was the 6th largest city in the US. Ugh! The second was the fact that it looked so much like LA in many respects that I could hardly believe it. Freeways everywhere, lots of construction of highways and gas stations and quick places to eat. Very few real Texas accents in evidence because, like LA, most of the people are from somewhere else originally. Lots of southern accents, however, if not Texan. The country was very flat and rather marshy, though, contrary to LA. I must admit I found the thought of living in Houston decidedly unappetizing.

the rambling fap vii

VANDY
(Coulson)

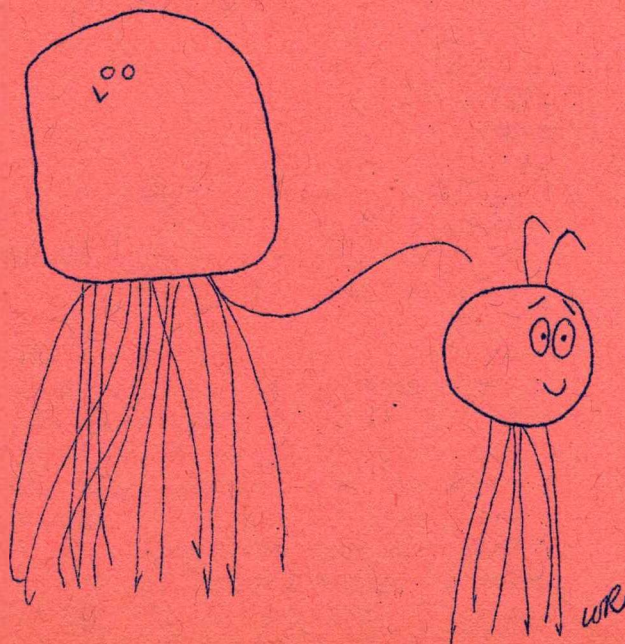
A pretty hard stand to take towards the poor drug addict, Bob. But I can see why you might take it if you don't go along with the theory that nobody should be held responsible for his own decisions, as you say. That sort of attitude is very much out of it currently, I hope you realize. I don't believe in either shooting or ignoring the addict, myself. Some of them truly want and definitely need help, I think, and since I've been the recipient of many kinds of help, myself, in my relatively short life I am not adverse to helping others in return. I also think that the rest of society needs some protection from the destructive needs of addicts, too. What I can't understand is why we don't provide cheap drugs for hard-core addicts via hospitals or other medical centers and thus help keep the addict away from crime in order to pay for his habit and, as a fringe benefit, take the profit out of illegal drug sales as far as the Mafia is concerned. You are correct, however, in your question of who should bell the cat. I'd trust the government before I would the medical industry, however.

KIM CHI
(Ellington)

I enjoyed "True Grit" muchly, and I quite agree with your comments that the violence in it was quite mild by comparison with some of the recent Italian oaters. My God, but aren't they something? I never quite know whether I feel like laughing at their efforts or applauding. I've seen two, so far, but I confess that at the moment I have no plans of seeing more. The next double-bill at our local "quality" theatre is one I can hardly wait to see-- "The Sterile Cuckoo" and "Goodbye, Columbus"--since being exposed to pre-views for both. Saw "The Detective" the other night and rather enjoyed it. Sinatra can be a creditable actor when he feels like it. Yeah, I see quite a few movies in the course of a year--I guess it's my way of turning off and dropping out of day-to-day society, at least on a temporary basis. I choose my movies fairly selectively, however, and I find I enjoy most of them. I saw "Alice's Restaurant" a few weeks back but missed "Easy Rider." Damn!

BOBOLINGS
(Pavlat)

Boy, do PO clerks ever have a lot to say about postal definitions. They interpret the rules all too freely sometimes. When they are wearing their nice-guy hats it can be a good deal, like your FAPA "book rate" mailings, but unfortunately most civil service employees seem to have an opposite attitude towards the world, and that's not so good. I stood in the Oildale PO recently when a man came in with a large box of encyclopedias which he said had been sent to him by mistake. He asked if he had to pay the postage to send them back and the clerk said 'yes' quite without hesitation.



the rambling fap viii

Since I've sent any number of items back "return to sender" without a bit of postage, I had to wonder what the hell. Then he wanted to charge the guy over \$6 to mail them back. When the man protested, the clerk reluctantly asked once again if the big, heavy box had just books in it and then slowly quoted a book-rate price of just over \$2. I figure the guy is still out his \$2, but if he hadn't balked at all it would have been \$6 just as easily. It pays to argue, unfortunately. I say unfortunately, because this is one of the trends in modern-day living that I find unpalatable. :::: Frosted glass for your light box? I've gotten by for years with a clear sheet of glass with relatively translucent typing paper taped to the back of the glass. It does a good job of distributing the light and eliminating hot spots. :::: Perhaps the reason recent anti-war demonstrations have been so destructive is because the agitators wish to show the public that it's not really violence or injury they are protesting, merely immoral wars and specifically those wars in which the US takes a part. And, of course, it goes without saying that the US is the only party at fault despite the previously well-known adage that it takes two to make a quarrel.

HIGH TOBEY
(Pelz)

Your spider story is very interesting. Since moving to Bakersfield we have come in contact with quite a large number of black-widow spiders. They are extremely common here...the garage is literally full of them, even though I work in it all the time and spray insect killer regularly. They are also all over the backyard and I admit to being worried about my two-year old this summer. Anyhow, we captured one in a jar last fall but my wife's intent was more to do it in than to keep it alive. It survived an incredible amount of time in that jar without food, water or air and was eventually, I believe, dumped out onto the front step and stomped to death. One time, after several weeks, it curled up in the jar and stopped moving for days and we thought it had finally perished for lack of oxygen, but when we opened the jar it came back to life again promptly. It had been comatose, though. Perhaps this year we'll run another experiment. I have nothing against spiders as such, but I dislike poisonous ones that might bite Daddy's Little Girl...

A WHIMPER, MAYBE?
(Tucker)

Damn it, Bob, I hate to see you go. You may not have read the mailings and you may, as you say, have put out only 8 to 16 pages a year, but your 8 to 16 pages were worth 80 to 160 by most of us.

ANKUS
(The other Pelz)

I find it incredible to think of a faaan club actually waiting 35 years for a club house of its own, of having almost \$10,000 in the kitty for purchase of same, and of said club adding \$3600 to the total during 1969. Ye Gods! It's a proud but apparently not a lonely thing to be a fan in LA.

THE TOLKIEN JOURNAL
(Meskys)

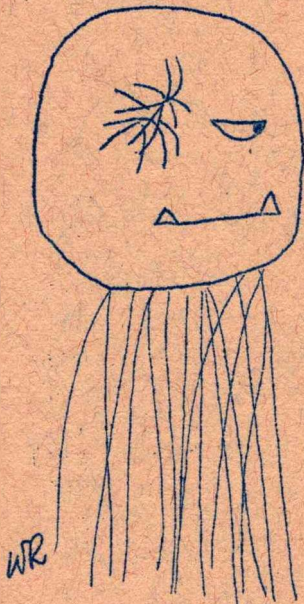
I gave you so much egoboo earlier that perhaps you won't mind being slighted now. I can't classify myself as a great Tolkien fan, anyhow, although I admit it is my firm intent to re-read the Rings trilogy one of these days soon.

the rambling fap ix

MIRAGE
(Chalker)

Very pretentious but relatively unimpressive. At least as far as I am concerned. The editor is obviously very impressed with his work. Jack, don't you think a little imagination would improve the layout somewhat? :::: Yes I do think 50¢ is expensive as a per-copy price, but I don't see how selling the magazine not as a single but as 3 for \$1.50 improves it any. If you are losing \$100 an issue I can't imagine how you are doing it with a press run of 500 and 312 paid subscriptions. You have 42 pages plus front and back cover this issue...that's 23 sheets of paper times 500 copies is 23 reams of paper. Two quires of stencils. Ink. Postage. I can't see where your total cost exceeds \$125 and those 312 paid subs bring in \$156 at half a buck per. I guess I could be wrong, though.

NULL-F
(White)



Okay, you've persuaded me to try the 'new' AMAZING and FANTASTIC. In our day, Ted, it was supposedly every fan's dream to write sf professionally and to actually become the editor of a promag was almost beyond belief. Congratulations for attaining that pinnacle, Ted--most of the rest of us have long since fallen in the struggle. :::: I had many of the same feelings you describe when I lost my first wife, too. Strange, isn't it, that one still manages to retain not only the curiosity about their doings and whereabouts after all the years but you also retain some sort of a sense of responsibility, somehow. Misplaced or misguided, perhaps--I don't know. I heard a rumor last summer when I was in Salt Lake City that JoAnn had been divorced again--as in your case, she had married one of my best friends--and that she was living at home and that her father, a hell of a swell guy, had died. It shook me up and has been somewhat on my mind since then. I don't mean constantly, of course, but from time to time. I wish I knew more about it for sure, but perhaps I can inquire discreetly this next summer when I get back to SLC--if I do. :::: Remember the time you and Sylvia, among others, stopped overnight at our place in Salt Lake those many years ago? Ron Bennett and Bob Pavlat were also along.

SYNAPSE
(Speer)

It occurred to me in quite another context today that if you were suddenly granted three wishes by a good fairy or obnoxious witch, probably the best first wish you could make would be along the lines of wishing for information on how to maximize the benefits of the remaining two wishes. :::: "How much useful information could you have stored in the synapses that remember all those data about baseball?" Shame on you, Jack, you're presuming to apply your definition of 'useful' to my life. The way I live and the people I deal with, I find a certain knowledge of baseball very useful indeed. Or would you consider replacing the information with knowledge of nuclear physics or complex mathematical functions more useful? :::: I like Andy Capp, I guess, because he always presents himself just exactly as he is. He isn't always nice and he doesn't always even like himself, but there is no pretense about him. He doesn't apologize, either. I have to admit a

the rambling fap x

tendency to apologize for my actions occasionally, but on the whole I guess I like Andy because I feel we are alike in a good many ways. Not all of them good, either--or don't you feel Andy has any good ways? :::: The "well, didn't he ramble" you referred to was lettered by yours truly, thanks, not Rotsler. He had something else lettered in the area but I scrapped it. :::: I seriously misdoubt the accuracy of your statement: "The population explosion is a serious matter, but we have recognized it in time, and are dealing with it successfully, on both technological and ideological levels." If you think the US isn't being crowded out of camping lands rather rapidly then you just haven't camped out in the western US lately, or compared it with the US of as recently as even a decade ago. I'm only 35 years old, but the changes in population of the US that I have seen in only my short span are literally frightening. :::: I suppose I feel the most home-nostalgia for Salt Lake City, although Bryce Canyon might be a rather close second. Daggett is mostly a nostalgic memory--recent trips by there have made me realize I have no desire to return. Bryce and Salt Lake still attract me as much as they ever did.

GRUE
(Grennell)

At least it's blue this time. :::: One of the disadvantages to being in a small town like Bakersfield (small, hah! just goes to show you the change I feel from La Habra when I can refer to a city of 100,000 as small) is that some mimeograph supplies are hard to find. Like blue ink for my M4. I have to order it by mail. Local suppliers carry black but say there isn't enough demand for colors to stock any. :::: I was thinking about you today. My roommate at work is fond of puns and I got to describing the pun war you and Chuck Harris (?) had years ago over "a horse of another color." Was that in the pages of GRUE? As I remember, some of them were pretty choice. If I knew which box my GRUEs were in I'd go look them up, but alas... :::: By all means come and visit us in Bakersburg, DAG. We're in the book, but the phone number is 323-3720 if you prefer having it from me.

520 07 0328
(Perdue)

Hi, Uncle Elmer, long time no see. Will you be at Santa Barbara over the 4th of July, I wonder? Mayhap we can stumble upon a poker game there? :::: I don't know that I'll ever consider laying in supplies for the end of the world by starvation, although I'll grant you the possibility of that end in the not too distant future, but one thing I definitely would like to do is lay in enough supplies to feed the family for a year if necessary. The Mormons used to do this in Utah and I understand that now the recommendation is for two years. I know some people who went through the Anchorage earthquake and aftermath and they would have been quite grateful if they had had more adequate supplies of food on hand in the hectic days before transportation had been restored. I think working on a year's supply of canned goods should definitely be a project for 1970. Come to think of it, just a week or so ago I asked one of the guys at the office--a Mormon--for a copy of their recommended list of food supplies. He must have forgotten--I'll have to remind him tomorrow. :::: I don't really think we'll all starve to death, though. I guess my personal choice for the way the world will end is still with a bang. I think that sooner or later somebody will figure (wrongly) that they haven't anything to lose--the Chinese, Red or Otherwise, are my current bet--and cut loose the atomic weapons. I hate to admit it, but I think that's the way it's going to be. And not too long from now.

HORIZONS
(Warner)

I think I'd have to agree that cutting off the electricity to the attic would be a move in the right direction, Harry, in an effort to cut the risk of fires due to electrical short circuits. Shouldn't be hard to do, either. :::: Some of the anti-smoking commercials are very well done--much more effective than their commercial pro-smoking counterparts, and wouldn't you think the tobacco advertising industry would learn something? Appears not. Not that I don't prefer it the way it is. I never did smoke, for one reason or another, and Rea has finally quit under pressure from the kids. None of the boys have any intention of smoking, or at least such is their current opinion. :::: I don't understand the meaning of: ("True Grit") has been averaging better than 200% business in its early weeks of showing. You said it on page 2384. It would seem to me that if the house were full for every performance that that would be 100% business, n'est-ce pas? Or are you implying that every person in the audience is holding someone else on his or her lap? Come now, I enjoyed the movie myself but somehow I have trouble believing that. :::: Hey, Harry, good times are coming--it's almost time for baseball season as I type this and the season will be well underway as you read it! :::: Maybe it's none of my business, but why is it you don't drink, Harry? Same reason I don't smoke, maybe? On my part, smoking just didn't do anything for me and I had no real reason to take it up, so I didn't. :::: OOPSLA! was indexed by contents, or was that one of the fanzines to which you refer? As for the availability of the index, why, no, I don't suppose you could say it's generally available, but if there were sufficient reason I suppose I could always reprint it for FAPA or something. I was always pretty proud of that index of contributors. :::: Rotsler both pleased and disappointed me last week. I got a bulky first class brown envelope from him and immediately thought the old small-circulation KTEIC was back in business. When it proved a sheaf of illustrations (as you may have noticed over the years, WR is TRF's chief contributor) I didn't know exactly what emotion I felt... :::: Definitely the thing that keeps me from jumping back into subscription fandom again is the thought of all the labor involved. Also, I'd want another duplicator than this one, probably a Gestetner, and preferably an IBM selectric typewriter for 'voice' changes. Are you putting out a special SPACEWAYS for the anniversary? I thought about it, but to revive OOPS at this time would require more effort than went into starting

the thing in the first place. Still, one of these days... :::: I'm sorry that the fact you have written at some length in another fanzine about your feelings in regards to getting a Hugo precludes your going into any details in FAPA. Perhaps you are not aware that FAPA is the place where a good many of us have gone to dream of fandoms past, but there's an excellent chance that I will never see the other fanzine and I can't say I regard highly the chances of some of the other members. Had it not been for Howard DeVore, I wouldn't even have known you won a Hugo. I must say that I can't think of anyone more richly deserving the honor of Best Fan Writer, particularly over all of the years you have been doing your thing.



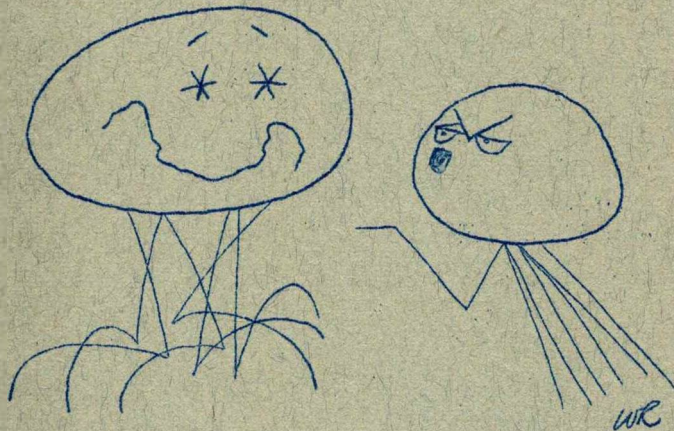
:::: "...I tell myself that fandom is now too big for anyone to do all the things that people expect him to do..." Not only that, Harry, but fandom always was too big for anyone to do all of the things you not only attempted to do but did. I don't see how you accomplished as much as you have all of these years. By all means, write that letter--the one that says you are in too deep and must cut back and quit trying to do the impossible. I confess I haven't had occasion to buy and read your fanhistory yet, but I fully intend to do so and I have a very strong desire for both of us to still be around when the time comes to write the next volume. :::: As for retirement...well, I've always said money is only good for the things it will buy. Some of the things it will buy, a fact not always realized, are intangible. I, for instance, have pretty much decided to quit the oil business for teaching once I find the right deal. To do so will mean giving up perhaps 25% of my present salary. In return for that 25% I will be 'buying' a nicer place to live, clean air, a more satisfying job, the opportunity to spend more time with my family...all intangibles but still very much purchased by the difference in dollars. I think the same also applies to you. And life is too short to spend it in unenjoyable measures. I don't know if you only live life once or not, but since I don't remember any of my previous incarnations it doesn't matter much, does it? ::::

Harry, you are an impossibly interesting writer...why in the world do you refuse to use paragraphs or otherwise breaks up the solid fields of type? My eyes hurt.

HORIB
(Lupoff)

Dare I flatter myself that I am one of the people of whom you speak on the first page? :::: You may be deadwood to you, Dick, but as far as I'm concerned you are One Of Us.

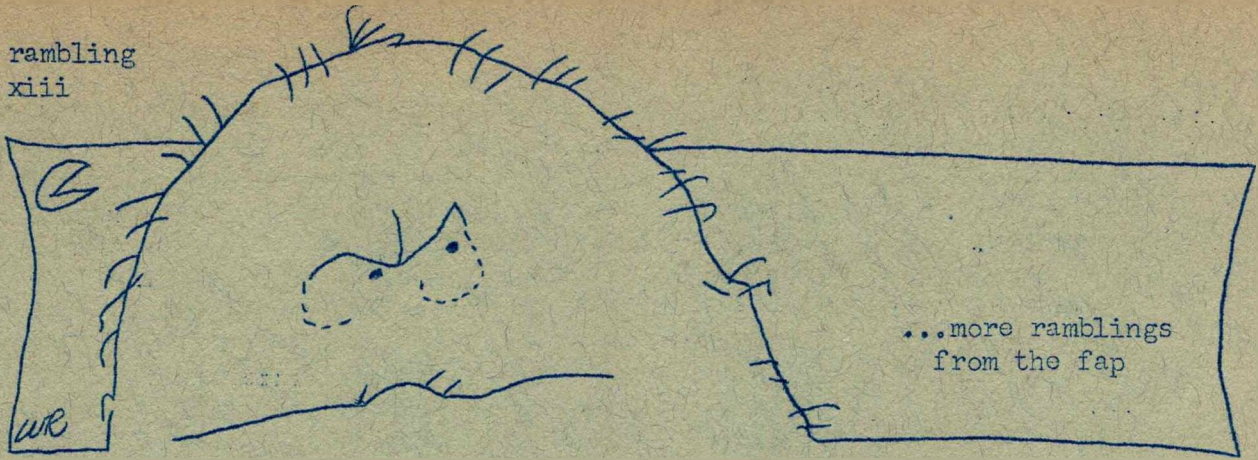
(Now what the hell do I do? I pre-draw all of my illos on stencil. If I did not add a line or two of absolutely meaningless print here, the spacing would get all fouled up. Ah, I see I've solved that problem...)



SERCON'S BANE
(Busby)

Hi, there, Buz ol' buddy. See you in Santa Barbara this year? :::: Hey, Buz, sounds like you are in a similar condition to mine, with certain exceptions. Like, your termination is involuntary but it is compensated for in some degree by Ca\$h. Like Harry Warner, it would be easier for me to do what I think I really want to do if only I could get Fired or otherwise Forced Into It. Whatever It is. Hope it all works out for you to your satisfaction. In this age of mental midgits, I can't imagine any of us with even a smatter of brains (my category) failing to survive, somehow. :::: Hi Ho, I have finally managed to Do Something this year with regards to my weight. I hit 236 on the 1st of January and decided to draw the line then and there. Since then, despite two weeks in Houston on business and on the expense account, I have managed to get down to 198 today (March 6th) and by damn I am going to 175 this time or know the reason why. I have set 180 as my absolute upside limit and I think I have finally decided how to control it. If I have, it will be the first time in my life, needless to say. I also have an absolutely fool-proof diet for anyone interested. Mayhap later this mailing I will include it.

the rambling
fap xiii



Some comments on THE RAMBLING FAP #47 last mailing. As you can see elsewhere in the bundle, the egoboo poll summary finally got finished. Despite my desires to make TRF more of a general fanzine, I decided to put this out under a separate issue number for two reasons. For one, it's probably more keepable as a single issue than as part of a larger magazine. For another, it runs to 26 pages, and that on top of the 14 or more scheduled for this one totals more pages than I desire to collate into a single issue. My stapler might not hack it, either. So, two issues.

Other comments I made in #47 included some concerning mimeographs, specifically a new ABDick I was trying but didn't buy and the Gestetner I thought Dick Geis used on his beautifully reproduced SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW. Damned if that didn't bring me the first loc I have had in many and many a year. Since many of the things Norm Metcalf wrote to me about are of general interest to all types of fanzine publishers, I think that warrants a

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + +
LETTER COLUMN BY NORM METCALF
o o o o o o o o o o o o o o

Yes, Geis' SFR is done on a Gestetner. I suspect Geis has an automatic interleaver, obtainable for any Gestetner in the 300 or 400 series. The interleaver costs about \$65, interleaver cards cost \$2.95 per box of 50 (from Duplicator Supply Company of Denver, the authorized Gestetner dealer).

Gestetner has several series of inks. They seem to have phased out the 400 series and the QD suffix (standing for Quick Dry). Duplicator Supply Co carries only the 217 and 219 inks, one of which is supposed to be quicker drying than the other. I'll have to buy a case soon so I'll find out. By running the machine fast enough with quick drying Gestetner ink and paper of the proper ink receptivity (and with--very important--properly cut stencils) the set-off from Gestetnered fanzines can be reduced to a minimum, barely noticeable, sometimes no noticeable set-off. Or with an interleaver, done away with (except for the goofed sheets, Donaho had to have a serviceman adjust his interleaver since it was goofing up).

As for registration with a Gestetner, Shelby Vick and I tried an experiment of running the same sheets through a number of times. Nearly every sheet had perfect registration each and every time (this for typed material).

As for inking Gestetners during a run, it depends on the Gestetner. This catalog doesn't list the various models. The 105's ink must be squeezed out by hand, the others in the 100 series have Leveramatic Inking which means when it dims you operate a lever to re-ink. This holds true for the 200 series and some of the 300 series. Somewhere above a 300 and below or at a 360 Continumatic Inking shows up where you set a dial to the exact amount of

the rambling fap xv

+++++
1970 is certainly starting out as a prolific FAPA year for me. The two issues in this mailing will bring my total pages to 74 for two mailings, and the most pages I've ever achieved in one year before were the 84 I had in 1957, and the second high total was 45 in 1961. FAPA may be where us oldsters go to decay in peace but I appear to be reviving a little. Guess I might as well try to break the 100 barrier this year.

= = = = =

Oh, my beady bloody eyes. I scratched my prescription dark glasses badly enough last year that it was starting to bother me to wear them. I haven't had them on much during the winter, but with summer very definitely coming on (the fact that yesterday was the first official day of spring hardly counts in Bakersfield) the days are getting brighter and sunnier. In ordering replacements, since I get free glasses through the company store if I order safety lenses, I have to have the new glasses sent to my optometrist for checking and proper fitting, etc. So while I was in the chair and chatting about this and that (the doctor is a friend of a friend, one of the nicer things about living in a smaller community) I just happened to mention that I have always had a secret hankering to try some contact lenses.

After one thing had led to another, he checked my eyes and produced a pair from his stock that aren't precisely my prescription but close enough for trial purposes. A couple of sessions of instructions and here I am starting out a two-week trial period to see if I like them and can adjust to them well enough to make purchase worth my while. I wore them two hours on Saturday, four on Sunday, six on Monday and I almost but not quite made eight today. While out shopping tonight I had one slip over to the side of my eye and in trying to get it re-centered it came out. The contact lens, not my eye. Since I didn't have the cleaner along with me I tried to put it back in just as it was, but no dice...some small bit of dirt was in there and drove me crazy, so I had to give it up. So far, I have to admit, wearing the contacts has been a bit of a strain...more struggle than success. But I'll go the full two weeks before I make any decisions.

Taking care of the contacts is a bit of complication. They store in a small tube filled with soaking solution to keep them from drying out and warping, etc, and before you put them in each time the lenses need to be rinsed in a wetting solution and cleaned. This is okay while you are at home, but if you lose one out away from home like I did tonight it can present problems. Inserting the lenses in the eye is a bit of a trick, too, although it is getting easier all the time and I can see that it won't be long before it is quite routine. Getting them out is already something that can be done literally quick as a wink and is no trouble at all. I'm cautiously optimistic that I can make the adjustment to wearing contacts all of the time, even if it is a little tough just now.

I certainly hope I can do it. I've worn glasses for over 20 years now--to tell the truth, I couldn't say what age I was when I got my first glasses but I think I was in high school--but I've never really been satisfied with them. They get dirty all of the time. I sweat easily when I work in the yard and my glasses are always getting covered with sweat and I can't see what I'm doing. I play a fair amount of active sports, chiefly handball and softball, and glasses not only come off easily but they also hinder complete vision somewhat by having frames and not covering all areas of vision, notably to the sides. And in cold weather, going indoors and outdoors produces a delightful phenomenon known as fogging up, something which I admit hasn't bothered me too much recently but used to drive me to

the rambling fap xvi

distraction during the winter months when I lived in Salt Lake City. And I can never wear semi-silvered or vari-shaded commercial dark glasses, or polaroids, because I have to wear my prescription tinted lenses. Looking through telescopes, binoculars and camera viewfinders is awkward with glasses. Well, you get the idea--there are lots of reasons why I'll enjoy wearing contact lenses if I find I can adjust to them.

+ + + + + + + +

Since the battle of the bulge is a continuing war with me--or, rather, as I fight it, a series of pitched battles punctuated by intervals of complete surrender--I am something of a sucker for diets, faddish or otherwise. Since I have peeled off over 36 pounds recently chiefly by means of one of the latest diet books on the market, perhaps I should pass on the basic information to other kindred souls in the audience. I do so with a clear conscience--this diet really works and it works quickly. I've got three guys at the office on it, too. One went from 204 to 182 in a little over a month, including some backsliding intervals. The other is down to 197 from 226 since late January. The third started only a week ago and has lost 8 pounds so far.

Unfortunately, I loaned my book to one of the fatsos and I can't remember the complete details, but the basic ingredients are quite simple. That's one of the reasons I find it so attractive for me...simplicity itself, no calorie counting. Basically all you eat are proteins. You can eat all you like of the following (but only as long as you are hungry):

lean beef, veal or lamb prepared without oils or grease of any kind
lean fish (halibut, cod, perch, haddock) broiled or baked, no oils or butter
shrimp, crab, lobster, clams, oysters--but still no butter or tartar sauce
eggs, hardboiled or fried without grease
cottage cheese
chicken or turkey without skin, broiled or baked, still no oils
8 glasses of water a day minimum, coffee or tea (black, no cream or sugar)

And that's it. No vegetables, skim milk, fruits or any other usual dietary foods. Oh, you can add them, if you like, but if you do you'll cut down on the speed of this diet. You'll average a pound a day weight loss as long as you stay on just the proteins and don't overdo it. You can eat a hell of a lot of calories in a large piece of meat, of course, so the idea is still to cut down on the portions even though you don't weigh them or count the calories individually. And the water is important.

All I can say is that it really works. It isn't too complicated and it's relatively easy to stick to once you get on it a bit. It is rather boring, but this is one of the things that helps you to cut down on the amount you eat, so that's good. I plan to go to 175 or so via this diet, and then I think that the rest of my life from then on I'll have to follow something like it during the week in order to enjoy my weekends in my customary fashion. I'll feed you another progress report in the August mailing...

* * * * *

A recent envelope full of goodies from that sterling TAFF candidate William (his friends sometimes call him Bill) Rotsler reminds me that I don't credit WR nearly often enough for his many contributions to TRF. I have seldom used other than Rotsler illos for many years now, and I'd like to take this opportunity to say in public, Bill, that you are truly appreciated. Rotsler for TAFF!

