

From Sunday To Saturday

This issue of FSTS is intended for the 2057nd Distribution of APA-L, 21 October 2004, and is published by the usual Don Fitch, still at 3908 Frijo, Covina CA 91722 (though more often contacted, these days, via email to <fitchdons@aol.com>). It is, of course, hastily-written and scantily-proofread (as befits someone with a Black Belt in the Art of Procrastination). It might, if some problem arises at the last moment, appear in a later Distribution than the one for which it's intended. It's Half-Folio Press Publication #Impossible to assign (aka "What Records and File Copies, Archie?). That the publisher is a member of fwa might be noted, with no particular merit implied -- the fan writers of america is a (dis)organisation in which membership may be claimed by all people who consider themselves "members of science-fiction fandom" (however that may be defined) and who write/publish things for other members of that group. ("America", here, is interpreted to include everyone who writes in some form of the American/English language, or can fake it reasonably convincingly.)

A Bit of History:

Because some of the presently-active contributors to APA-L have come into fandom since I semi-gafiated, while others might not remember (or might have never known), I probably ought to start with a brief fan-biographical sketch, trying to cover a lot of ground and avoid the temptation to imitate Tristram Shandy. (Readers should be warned that my sense of chronology is far from impeccable -- it's as much as I can do to remember mnemonics like "In 1493/Columbus sailed the deep blue sea" -- so some of the dates given may be a bit questionable.)

I was born in Toledo, Ohio, in 1928, and brought to Southern California c. 1943. An avid & voracious reader since early childhood, I slipped gradually from children's literature fantasy into reading science-fiction, beginning with the pulp magazines c. 1940, so my personal Golden Age of s-f (whether that be "12" or "16") pretty much coincided with what many critics consider the objective Golden Age of the genre. Not that I read it Critically, as an Art Form, of course -- to me, it was a treasure of Adventure and new & immensely stimulating scientific and social Ideas. (Nor did I read it anything like obsessively or exclusively -- mainstream, mostly-classic, English & American literature formed the bulk of my reading fare.) But those ideas, and that objective ("galactic observer") way of thinking,

certainly did as much as anything else to shape the way my mind operates, and, on the whole, I'm thankful for this.

In 1951, while taking a year off to work after getting an AA degree at Glendale Junior (now Community) College, I was Drafted, assigned to the just-activated 40th National Guard Division, and sent off to spend about eight months in the Army of Occupation in Japan, then about the same length of time On The Line in Korea. I fell totally and permanently in love with Japan -- the first completely-alien culture I'd ever more-than-barely encountered -- but didn't much like Korea, where I saw and experienced little more than rugged mountains, extremely cold winter, and the unpleasantness of warfare.

Once out of the Army (and recovered from a solid week of drunken celebration -- I detested Army Life) I took advantage of the G.I. Bill to get an M. A. (with a major in English and minors in Anthropology and Oriental Languages) at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating the the Class of '55.

Once back home, I needed work (or, more precisely, I needed money), and found a temporary job at the Covina Greenhouses, working in the commercial production of tropical foliage/house-plants. That lasted for twelve years, then I switched to a better-paying job doing similar work in the greenhouses of the Los Angeles County

Arboreutm in Arcadia, eventually retiring from that c. 1991,

I discovered fandom c. 1958 -- quite late in life, by the standards of that era; (I've never been able to quite decide whether this age discrepancy was A Good Thing or not, but on balance suspect that it was, and that getting into fandom much earlier would not have been beneficial.) I was thirty years old -- four or five years older than most of the movers and shakers of LArea Fandom then, and almost twice the age of the stereotypical Neofan. On the other hand, my social and emotional development was ... ummm.... let's say somewhat retarded; I fitted-in fairly easily, and I think things actually worked out quite well.

The '60s and '70s were a marvelous -- albeit often hectic & stressful -- era in LArea Fandom and (as I discovered through hyperactive participation in Fanzine Fandom and many APAs) elsewhere in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. It was great fun, and immensely rewarding (in a thoroughly non-material sense).

Catching Up:

I'm not sure how long (aside from too) it's been since an issue of FSTS has appeared in APA-I, -- something like five or six years, probably -- but no, I do not intend to attempt to Catch Up on DIstribution Comments, and might not even follow The Gerber System (Les Gerber advised working backwards, so if you don't cover the whole missed bunch no-one will notice). When people have been apart for a long time, however, they often feel some need to do a bit of information-trading & updating, just to make sure they're still the same people (which they usually are, pretty much). With advancing age, health conditions usually play a major part in this. As far as I'm aware, The Diet (*sigh*) and many pills are keeping all the coronary arteries from becoming blocked, and my HMO's decision to do a rhinectomy seems to have prefented the squamous-cell carcinoma from popping up anywhere else, though I'll soon need to make a few

trips over to UC LA for replacement prosthetic noses.. I'm getting a bit better-acquainted with more dental specialists than I'd really like, but that's not a real problem. My hearing is continuing to deteriorate, but not much faster than everything else seems to be doing, and at least it's easy to figure out what everyone is saying on the internet-connected computer monitor. (Can't always be sure what they mean or intend to communicate, mind you, but at least the words are clear.)
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The main problem, recently, has been the battle against Entropy. (Entropy seems to be winning.) The fact that everything takes longer to accomplish than it used too wouldn't be so bad except that new (and mostly open-ended) things that I strongly want to do keep cropping up. At least, Boredom isn't a problem.

Oh, yes, science fiction. My reading in this field, especially recent works & those by new writers, has declined greatly, to (probably) no more than one book per week, whereas I read three or four times that many Mysteries (mostly Historical or Ethnic (British/U.K. settings, or with some American Indian context). More serious reading I seem to be doing very little of.

I've never been especially interested in Politics, aside from the usual grotching about a few of the more knuckle-heading things those guys (regardless of Party) in The Government are doing, but the current Administration has been moving my country in directions I think horrible, and I consider that the upcoming election is going to be the second most important in my entire lifetime. (I wasn't nearly old enough to vote for FDR when he ran for his first term, bit see, to have some vague memories of that..)

General Fanstuff:

For fans who websurf, I commend the website <<http://efanzines.com>> where Bill Burns posts PDF versions of many current fanzines, and <<http://www.fanac.org/>> for lots of older fanwriting & fanzines.

Out of Time & Space -- Don Fitch