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THE MAIL CARRIER BROUGHT IT

#1

Jan.5.....4 sf fanzines printed off the net. PIXEL was very good; 2 were okay; one was not of much interest.

Jan.9. JOURNAL OF MIND POLLUTION #32. Rather lighthearted 26 page fanzine from Richard Dengrove,2651 Arlington Drive #302, Alexandria,Va., USA, 22306. Bunch of essays by Rich on political things and cable tv; bunch of locs. Interesting zine; read it all the day it arrived.

Jan.12... THE KNARLEY KNEWS #121. Typical good issue. Further incentive for me to avoid letter columns; some incentive to write articles.

Jan.15. CLIP TART; 2007. Intriguing zine of collage; clip art; original art and articles. Lots of magickal and mystical material. Also some writing on dreams. Longish essay at the end by some badly messed up dude lost me but I found the rest to be of interest. Intriguing that there are no zine reviews. Publisher Susan Boren is the best zine reviewer who appears in ZINE WORLD. She obviously devoted a lot of time and effort to this zine. No price listed; she seems to take trades; seems to have sf interests. .P.O. Box 66512, Austin, TX.,USA,78766. Email:cliptart@gmail.com.

Jan.19. Jan. edition of BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED.

Jan.26. VANAMONDE 663 to 667.

Feb.7. THE DIE; a philosophical zine. Publisher Joe Smith changes the format about every issue but the contents remain similar: intriguing essays on various topics faith leads off #11; an essay or 2 on books read complete with excerpts: CONFESSIONS by Saint Augustine and MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING by Victor Frankl; some letters and personal stuff: Joe was unhappy with a ZINE WORLD review of THE DIE and joined the staff. www.manualpublishing.com has back issues along with blogs and other stuff; a dollar bill sent to Manual Publishing, P.O. Box 771, College Park, MD., USA, 20740 will get you a copy of this one.

Feb. 9. Box of 5 books and 2 huge chocolate bars from N.Z.

Feb.16. Went to work; various portions of my old body rebelled. came home; said : " I hope that woman does not leave anything in the box today but if she does I hope it is something valuable and interesting. " Noticed her stopped at the box. Forced a boot on my bum foot; hobbled up and found not one but two packages from Steve George: long,fascinating letter and half a dozen sf fanzines printed off the net. Read a couple of them.

PIXEL 10 is good;poor old Dick Geis is in rough shape; nice to see something from him; sad to read about his condition;each of the other 4 had some interesting parts and some not so.

Feb.19. The latest ALEXIAD. Must be late; Visa statement arrived a week ago.

Typical issue; lots of reviews and essays and locs and whatnot. ONLY read  
Feb.20csFeb. issue of B.N.I.  
the locs as of today. Feb.23.

Feb 21, Feb. issue of B.N.I.

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This is intended as a letter supplement. Partly I wanted to keep a record, for the first time ever. Making copies of a list of what arrives in the mail will tell those folks who mail me gifts when, or if, they arrived. Some comments included; not much. I just discovered that a package of zines from Ohio has apparently vanished. Haven't heard from some people for a few months. Perhaps what they mailed vanished as well.

My intentions are to do 6 pages at a time. Circumstances suggested I should do these 4 and then see. May be any number another time. I expect to mail these with letters and notes owed to people and as I write letters. If I have any left over when the next batch is copied, I will likely ship them to someone I haven't heard from for some time. If the reason is that you do not want to write to me, simply ignore them.

I used to really like American Idol; last year kind of sucked. Also, my newest vcr doesn't like to record CTV, or it didn't. I ignored much of last season, watched some parts. Ignored the first rounds of silliness but tried to tape the first week of elimination shows; to my surprise, it recorded well. Show is not bad. No Taylor Hicks this year, thank God! They should have sent all 12 guys home and kept the 12 girls, based on singing ability and performance. New show tonight.

I never used to watch ant hockey games unless they involved the MONTreal Canadiens. Of course, the CBC only broadcasts Canadiens games if they play Toronto, and one or two additional per season. French station no longer carries Habs games. Couple of weeks ago I started to watch a Toronto vs Pittsburgh game; N.S. native Sidney Crosby is fun to watch. Turned out to be a very entertaining game. Watched it all. On the other hand, last Saturday, " Hockey Night in Canada" emanated from Philadelphia; too boring to stand. Meanwhile, from the nation's capitol, the Ottawa Senators played the almost league leading Buffalo Sabres. Broadcast in the Ottawa Valley. Figure that out.

I have been having some trouble with this machine. Actually, no problem with the machine; I just don't want to use it. Letters to some folks are way late; letters in future may be worse.

Anyway, I am off to buy a chain for my saw so I can cut hardwood and make a bit of money.

Been a great winter so far, weather-wise. I keep expecting to get a load of white shit dumped on us. But, well, now that it is almost March, any that does come shouldn't stay too long.

Books completed in January

Reader's Digest Condensed Books: A Bend In The Road by Nicholas Sparks; very good Romance tale with some twists; The Woman Next Door by Barbara Delinsky; good romance dealing with an obsession with getting pregnant; being pregnant without a husband and teenage suicide. Jackdaws by Ken Follett; WWII tale about fighting behind the lines in France, with some love interests. Kind of silly in places; not bad. Long Time NO See by Susan Isaacs. Quirky murder mystery with middle aged female history prof as detective and unrepentent adulteress.

RDCB: False Impression by Jeffery Archer; quite good thriller, too much art and high finance to make it great ; At First Sight by Nicholas Sparks; sequel to A Bend In The Road; read this way purely by accident; Sun At Midnight by Rosie RThomas; a foolish English scientist goes to Antarctica; has a baby there; worst book of the 8 in these 2 volumes. Cover Your Assets by Patricia Smiley; good mystery of the new style, with wit and humor and sassy female lead characters.

The Crossbow Murder by Carter Dickson; a murder mystery solved via trial, published way back in 1938, set in England about 1900. So.s0.

GOLDEN YEARS by Andrew M. Greeley. One of those tales which covers politics; governmental crime; love and family and some religion with one of those lead male characters who is wonderful and can do many great things who is dominated by the women in his family who are exceptionally beautiful and gifted not to mention horny who always put down the poor guy, who, apparently, loves it. Strangely, while I didn't much like any of the characters, it is a compelling and enjoyable novel. Difficult at times; both of the parents of the guy die; the father at the star of the book; the mother at the end, a few months later. His older sister is nuts. Ah ,a slice of larger than life novel. I will likely read it again someday. Finished it on Friday evening; woke up in the middle of the night having a dream about my mother dying.

THE SURVIVOR by Sydney Smith. Brit Horror novel; not bad.

AND FOUR TO GO; A Nero Wolfe foursome, by Rex Stout. I thought the title indicated 4 stories in Wolfe left the house but the final one; Murder Is No Joke hardly has him out of the office. Although, come to think of it, there is another version, which, I think, has Wolfe going to Archie's rescue; perhaps that one was supposed to appear in here. Christmas Party has Archie trying to teach Wolfe a lesson, his words. It also has: " Archie. How many times in the past year have I asked you to drive me somewhere?" " If you call it asking, maybe 18 or 20." Kind of blows the myth that Wolfe never leaves the house. Fourth of July Picnic has an autobiography; it would make Wolfe somewhere between 100 and 110 years old in the books written by Robert Goldsborough. Also has Easter Parade, one of the silliest of the Wolfe novels.

THE CARDINAL SINS by Andrew M. Greeley; a novel of 4 not too nice people; a demanding and ridiculous church; dishonest and morally bankrupt church people; crime; lots of stuff. Second time around for this one.

One I would love to read: RED THREADS by REX Stout. Inspector Cramer solves a murder without Wolfe!!!

THE MAGDALENE CIPHER by Jim Hougan. A modern day Maxwell Smart, complete with an unwilling Agent 99, takes on the CIA which is a cover for The Magdalene Society. The ending was cool; most of the book was amusing.

DEMON SEED by Dean Koontz. Strange but rather compelling novel.;second time.for it.

RIFIFI IN NEW YORK by Auguste LeBreton.Old style cops,robbers and goofs novel,okay.

HELLFIRE by Jake Logan; Slocum adult western.

THE ORPHAN by Stella Cameron; historical romance set in London, U.K.,c/w a ghost who argues with Shakespeare; a Scottish lass and an overbearing,bossy male.

Farming daze by Elizabeth Underwood; the first in a series of hilarious adventures by my friend Lyn McConchie on things which happen on her small farm.

Somewhere back there February arrived;after Demon Seed, I think.

EDDIE MACON'S RUN by James McLendon. Intriguing novel about a poor guy trying to get a better life who is railroaded into prison in Texas; escapes and tries to run to Mexico to join his wife and kids; meets various obstacles but wins in the end. An important part: after being beaten and almost killed by some redneck ranchers and escaping, Eddie goes into serious depression but then realizes that he should concentrate on the now. Keep the long range in plan but deal with what is in front of you in the immediate present and take what comes. Good idea.

As it happened, I had just gotten some work;and rather than conserve money I was going out and buying things I could do without; tubs of chocolates; even some potato chips. Then I kicked my ass for spending that money, with tons of bills coming and no idea for sure how much money I could make or when it would come. I found it intriguing that shortly after that bit of personal grouchiness, I read the section in which Eddie determined to live in the now. Eddie made it, by the way. Real life rarely lets people win.

I meant to say, keep the long range plan in mind. Will it work in real life? Well, after 6 years in prison, Eddie found himself alone and naked with a former Playmate and couldn't get it up. I guess if one can believe that part of the story might be true ...reason being that he was a one woman man ...it might be true that plans actually come to fruition occasionally.

THE BEST MAN IN TEXAS by Kristine Rolofson; one of those Harlequin things; fairly amusing.Not too many sex scenes to skip.

BRIMSTONE BASIN by Owen Rountree; a Cord novel;Western of sorts.

MURDER OF A SWEET OLD LADY by Denise Swanson; a highly amusing novel featuring a rather strange female: a school psychologist who is young and overweight who dislikes being helped by her parents and who stumbles around through a crime and various school cases getting into trouble. Lots of school politics; lots of psychological stuff; tons of family material, anyone who thinks their family might be dysfunctional should read this book. Of course,she gets all this resolved. Well, mostly. This is #2 in a series; she breaks up with one guy; anguishes over another and some things are left open for the next book. The murdered old lady is this gal's grandmother. Ms. Swanson dedicates the book to her grandparents, all dead. Also to her cat: Purrchie the cat, 1979-1999. Long live for one of those beasts