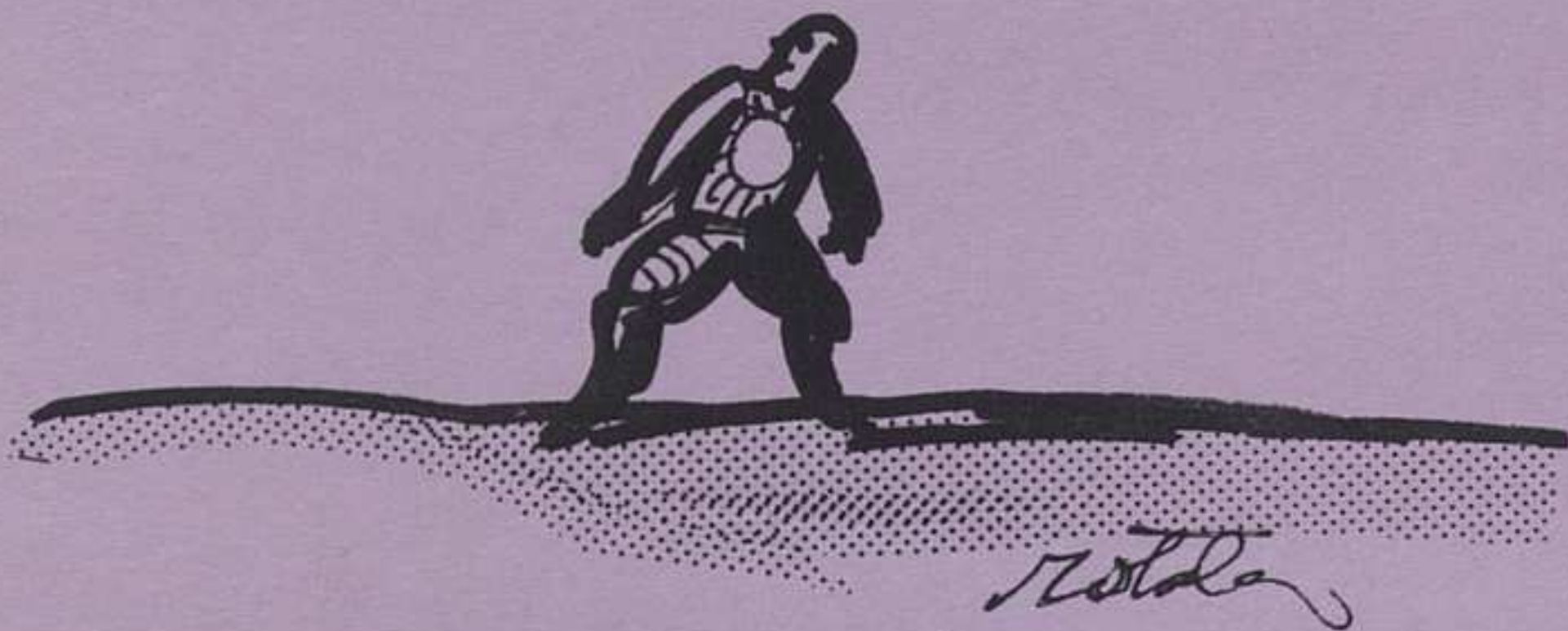
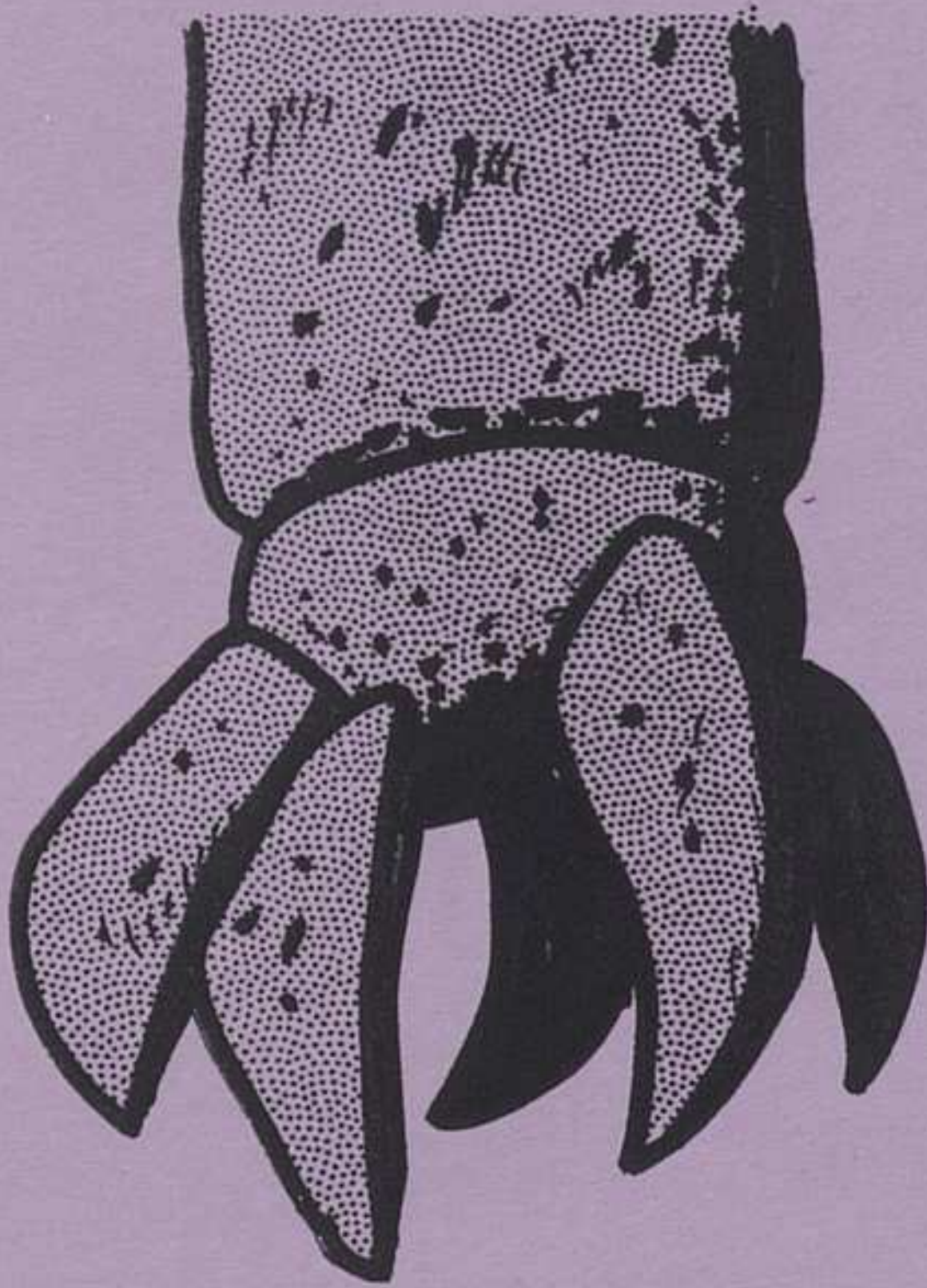


# DOOR KNOB

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**Burnett Toskey:** Thanks for the information on "overstrike" in WordPerfect. I just tried it and it works fine, although it's somewhat cumbersome to have to do each slash-through separately. In e-mail these days, people do the overstrike in a pro forma way, l/i/k/e t/h/i/s, which I find rather unsatisfactory. I'll probably use it mainly for quasi-quotes ("this sort of thing"). ☺☺ "Oddly, I don't care for pure maple syrup, but prefer a blend, such as Log Cabin." What is it that you find objectionable about the taste of pure maple syrup? Is it the intensity of it, which is backed off considerably by Log Cabin, or what? ☺☺ I never thought of "print on demand" and vanity publishers in the same breath, but I imagine you're correct in saying that because "they don't reject anything...there is a massive amount of crud now available in that way." My own experience with it is quite different; it enables publishers of books that sold slowly but steadily and finally went out of print in their original edition to produce modest batches from the original camera-ready copy to satisfy the minor ongoing demand. A friend of mine has kept his once more active publishing company going that way, augmenting his income in a minor way and making purchasers of those books happy. ☺☺ "If you think it's difficult to cancel telephone service, sign up with AOL internet service and then try to find a way to contact them for a cancellation." I have no experience with AOL, but when I was moving from Glen Ellen to Oakland I found it much easier to cancel my Earthlink dial-up service (because I wasn't going to need it in Oakland, where I have DSL via the phone company) than to cancel my telephone service. The latter took nearly an hour and three calls, while the former was but the work of a moment. Well, actually about five minutes, but seamless. ☺☺ It's been over forty years since I read Faulkner's *The Sound and The Fury*, but I remember liking it quite a bit. "Why, I wonder, is this called great literature?" In my view it's because of how the four sections work together to form a fascinating whole. The first section, of which you write "members of the Compson family squabble incomprehensibly," is written from the point of view of Benjy Compson, a 33-year old idiot, whose understanding is limited. That explains the confusion you experienced. The next two sections are written by two other Compson brothers, while the fourth and final section has an omniscient narrator who pulls it all



together. For more on this, please check out...

<http://www.mcsr.olemiss.edu/~egjbp/faulkner/n-sf.html>

...where all is explained.

**Don Anderson:** Great to read that Sue is doing so much better! I'm happy for you both! ☺☺ I've never heard of Smithwick's Ale, and like you am not much of a beer drinker. I'll have to see if it's available around here, too, and try it. At \$30 for two dozen 12-ounce bottles, it's not really all that expensive for an occasional indulgence. How much of a "not much of a beer drinker" are you? ☺☺ Thanks for the page of photos of the Anderson mansion. You're right, it's a "pretty average" house, but it appears that your lot is generously sized. Hmm, turning the page I see it's on an eighth of an acre. This comes to 16,552 square feet. That's much larger than the typical 5,000 square foot city lot most places I've lived (and in San Francisco, most lots are about half that size). I have no idea of the square footage of the lot where Carol and I are living; due to being on a hill it's such an odd shape (sort of like an elbow macaroni) that calculations are impossible. ☺☺ "While our gasoline prices are soaring...I can't help but wonder at what may have happened to European prices." In this post-Katrina environment, I filled up a few days ago at \$2.89 a gallon; the last time I'd bought gas was the day after Katrina and it was \$2.68. Someone on one of my e-lists reported that gas in Great Britain had just topped £1 a liter. There are 3.78 liters to a gallon, and as of this writing the pound is at \$1.80 in U.S. dollars. Doing the math, that's \$6.80 a gallon. Yow! ☺☺ "If Eddie Cantor actually ate that 'Eddie Cantor's Delight' sandwich that you describe, he sure didn't keep Kosher, did he?" Sure didn't! Canter's the deli restaurant does not represent itself as a Kosher establishment, but there are a few other restaurants within a two-block area surrounding it that are and take up the slack for the more serious Jews, culinarily speaking. ☺☺ Yes, rapeseed oil and canola oil are the same. "Canola is a genetic variation of rapeseed that was developed by Canadian plant breeders specifically for its nutritional qualities and its low level of saturated fat. The term Canola is a contraction of 'Canadian oil.'" So says...

<http://www.crbtrader.com/fund/articles/canola.asp>

One sidelight of this discussion is that since moving in with Carol I've abandoned canola oil in favor of the extra-virgin olive oil I mentioned a couple issues ago in my comments to Carol Ballard. My Carol doesn't like canola's aftertaste, and I don't object to the switch.



**Norm Metcalf:** Thanks for your words of appreciation for my memorial pieces on Buz and G.M. ☺☺ "According to Frederik Pohl Wollheim's father was a dentist and provided a good allowance to Don." Is this information in *The Way the Future Was*? ☺☺ Why do you refer to MZB as "Marion E. Z. Bradley"? Does she have another middle name of which I'm not aware?

**Howard Devore:** "I'll be missing the Midwestcon for the first time in another week. 55 years in a row." But after writing that you did make it, and I have photographic proof on the Web in the form of several photographs: one of you with your grandson Jesse and another of you hanging out with Curt Phillips. Glad you made it, and hope you're able next year to keep your guest of honor commitment at the Southern California Worldcon. ☺☺ You write about Highland Park, "If you need a cop in that area, you have to dial the state police who took over a couple of years ago." In Sonoma County several cities have given up their own police departments and contracted with the county sheriff's department for law enforcement services. So far as I read in the local media before moving to Oakland, both towns seem satisfied with the arrangement. ☺☺ "I thought peanut butter was available all over the world." No, it's fairly widespread (yikes!) but most popular in America where more of it is consumed per capita than anywhere else on the planet. From my Web searching, it would appear that those central Asian former Soviet states are one of the last frontiers for the wonders of peanut butter. That aside, I enjoyed your comments on Ian's experiences in Turkestan

**Wrai Ballard:** I wasn't active in fandom in order to have Art Rapp invite me to make the 10th mailing, but I was one of the people he contacted back in 1983 to join when he and Nancy took over the OE-ship from (I think) Nicki Lynch at a time when the membership was even lower than it is now. I joined, you joined, the Busbys joined, Wally and Otto joined, and so did a bunch of others who created the long-last bubble of activity that we see even now in somewhat reduced form due to our once-again reduced numbers. I enjoyed your memories, however brief, of Art and, by the way, I entirely agree with Burnett's keeping on the roster long-time members who aren't able to contribute. ☺☺ I'm happy to read that you "no longer need the narcotic pain pills," and that your back is mending "on schedule." I'm also glad to read that you've now added a "rail on my bed so that I could get out of bed all by



myself," thus preventing another fall. ☺☺ "Usually library sales are where I get many if not most of the books I buy." Not me—I've seldom found much that appeals to me at those sales, and the amount of time required for sifting through the generally unorganized mounds of books puts me off as well. The result is that I haven't gone to a library book sale in many years. These days I buy most of my books on-line and a minority of them at used book stores (and at the new ones with good discounts and/or a decent remainders section). Prior to retirement I was pretty profligate in my book purchases, getting far more than I could keep up with reading; now I figure I have a backlog of books to read and have slowed down considerably. (Having a reduced income helps, too.) ☺☺ To Howard you write, "I hope you make up your mind to stay in SAPS. You're part of history and I don't want you to be just history." I feel the same way about you—and for that matter everyone in SAPS. I think that our all-powerful EOOE should simply decree that no more deaths or other defections are permitted. ☺☺ I've also never had any illusions about moving on from my faan status to being a professional SF writer. Like you, "I did write a little fiction for fanzines, but wasn't enough impressed with it to consider ever writing more of that." My fiction efforts are, happily, buried away in obscure fanzines of the late '50s, and I hope they are never resurrected.

**Carol Ballard:** I've never had a car with the "combination key strip" you describe for yours. When I bought my '98 Corolla, the salesman offered me a keyless entry system—the sort where you get a little electronic device to lock or unlock your car from a distance. It also included a car alarm arrangement as part of the package. Because I find the noise pollution from these keyless entry devices, although minor in the greater scheme of things, rather annoying—and because of the fact that it was going to add something like \$600 to the price of the car, I found it easy to turn down. ☺☺ "Humm, I wonder if William Reese Co. would have the issue of *Gosling* that I've lost." If they did, would you want to pay \$20 or more to get it?

**Wally Weber:** Thanks for running my, Shelby's and rich brown's pieces on the late lamented Art Rapp. And thanks, also, for running Heidi's adventures while celebrating her birthday and the accompanying photographs. Between the nature photos here and the ones on your front cover and the page explaining the front cover, this issue of *Key Hole* vies with *National Geographic* for photographic excellence. ☺☺



Continuing my comments on photos, I enjoyed the SAPS photos as well. It was good to see the Willson mansion and the various Seattle SAPS members, although not so good to see a graphic photo of Wrai's injuries and the Bookcase of Doom. ☺☺ Between reports of your weight and Wrai's blood pressure, the quarterly Weber family report this issue reads more like a mathematical treatise that our beloved EOOE might have produced. My own efforts at weight control were aided greatly by the relentless physical labor in which I engaged during the month of August as I hauled carload after carload of my stuff from my Glen Ellen apartment to my new home in Oakland (where I'm Living With My Wife for the first time ever!). Who would have thought that, after having previously hauled away my 54 shelf feet of books and roughly 75 lineal feet of fanzines, there would be so much more to remove from a tiny (650 square feet) apartment!? The final load was on August 30th, but that wasn't the end of my labors. Much of September has been devoted to *unpacking* and finding new places for all this stuff, and it's not over yet. The books are all shelved, but as of this writing only the first two file drawers out of 38 are repopulated. As a result of all this, I've dropped some presently uncalculated number of pounds, have firmed up my muscles, and look pretty trim. I hope I'll be able to maintain this after all the unpacking is done. I may be forced to turn to yard work. ☺☺ "I believe that oil can be produced from renewable organic sources that are chemically identical to the goop pumped out of the ground, and when the price of oil gets up to the cost of doing that, then it will happen." I haven't heard this myself, but there are alternative sources already available such as ethanol and biodiesel. ☺☺ **Timatha:** Count me, alas, as one who never managed to get into the Hitchhiker's Guide series. Unfortunately, this makes the publication of the omnibus collection something of a non-event for me. Judging from the middle grade you gave it and some of your commentary, it would appear that your feelings are similar. ☺☺ Of *Howl's Moving Castle* you write, "I liked this movie, but not quite as much as Miyazaki's previous film, *Spirited Away*." Exactly my sentiments, although in saying that I don't mean to downgrade the film at all because I did enjoy it. You write that you look forward to seeing it again on DVD, but I wonder if it will have quite the power on a small screen.

**Gordon Eklund:** Thanks for the additional details regarding which San Francisco record store at which we would occasionally run into one another. I believe it *was* the Discount Records branch near



Union Square, now long gone (the store and the entire chain). And yes, I do recall hunting for the second Moby Grape album which, when finally obtained, I loved much more than their rather characterless first album (though I never loved them as much as any number of other Bay Area rock groups of the time). ☺☺ "One notes in passing that Supreme Court justices never seem to want to retire any more either." Tell that to Sandy O'Connor! (This has to go down as your least prescient mailing comment.) ☺☺ "Roadside mail theft is a real problem these days. I absolutely never put anything out for the mailman myself and hesitate even to use the blue collection boxes." I still use the collection boxes, but never one in a Bad Neighborhood, and haven't had any problem with them. Even before moving in with Carol, we sprung for a Mailboxes.com Model 4350B mail chest (look it up!) to replace her unlocked standard rural mailbox that had been in place for decades. As you will see (if you look it up) it's a big sucker, and on purpose. My criteria was that it should be able to accommodate something as large as a SAPS or FAPA mailing. It has a place for outgoing mail above the incoming mail slot, but since mail theft has occasionally been a problem here in the hills we would never use it. ☺☺ What a drag that you "get nothing back for those 1,800 hours" of sick leave! I had just under 600 (would have had much, much more were it not for the two 10-week periods of use—one apiece following my 1999 auto accident and my 2001 broken ankle) and got paid for half of it and the other half applied to my service credit, which gets me another ten bucks or so a month. (I also got paid for about six weeks of unused vacation time. And you?)

**Elinor Busby:** "Abortion: I personally feel that every baby has a right to a parent who wants it." Yes, this is one of the most compelling reasons to keep abortion safe and legal. ☺☺ I've never gone to any of my high school reunions. In fact, I'd managed to lose the alumni association completely until good ol' Calvin Demmon turned me in. Since then I've been to two mini-reunions consisting of me, Calvin and our mutual high school buddy, Jerry Knight (and our respective spouses)—one in 2000 and the other this year. We've managed to stay in touch, however spottily at times, for over 45 years since we graduated from Inglewood High. Another mutual friend, Tom McCormick, was at the 2000 party and seemed to have a good time—none of the rest of us had seen him since 1960 although he and Jerry were in touch—but disappeared from our ken afterwards. What could we have



done to alienate him!? You write of yours, "It wasn't a lot of fun." That's exactly how I imagine the reunions would be for me, too, if not for these close friends affairs. ☺☺ "How can a person put 750 ml of something into a 2-quart container?" Easy, and with room to spare: 750 ml is equivalent to 0.79 quarts. If these metric to non-metric conversions come up for you again, you'll find that there are a lot of conversion sites available on the Web. ☺☺ I enjoyed your comments in response to Wally's story of how you and Buz met. First date and marriage in 26 days—you guys *knew* you were meant for one another! ☺☺ "I had one enema as a child. There was nothing wrong with me at all." This is also my experience, but unlike you I don't remember what prompted my mother to do it. Like you, I also hated it. ☺☺ Like you and Buz, I've been in a lot of apas. This is my second time around for both SAPS and FAPA, and I've been back much longer than either of my first memberships in them. Back in the '60s I was also in OMPA, the N3F apa, the Cult, ISPO and CRAP, the latter of which metamorphosed into Apa-X, also known as Apex. I was also in the Shadow FAPA while on the FAPA waiting list, and did a brief stint in two non-fan apas: the National APA and a British one whose name I've forgotten. Since coming back to fandom in the '80s, in addition to FAPA and SAPS I've done spells in SFPA, Apathy and Intercourse, and am still in Lilapa and APAssembly. I'm also a member of The Fossils, which is the equivalent of First Fandom for the non-fan apas, but that doesn't involve any publishing activity.

**Mark Manning:** About Art Rapp you write, "At one time, he and his zine were at the forefront of (I believe it was) 4th Fandom." Actually it was 5th Fandom. Art launched *Spacewarp* in April 1947—the first issue was entirely handwritten—and despite its crude appearance it soon became the focal point fanzine of 5th Fandom. Its predecessor was Joe Kennedy's *Vampire*, the focal point fanzine of 4th Fandom, which saw its ninth and final issue in June 1947 (although some say the true focal point of 4th Fandom was the prozine lettercols, where most all of the prominent fans of the day appeared frequently and interactively). It should be noted here in passing that Joe was a founding member of SAP. He was one of the New Jersey Spectators. ☺☺ "Once I actually saw a kid in Louisville hawking *Grit*, a magazine advertised in the back of comic books." Long ago I was briefly one of those kids, but I found my friends and neighbors less than interested in buying them so my days as a *Grit* flogger were few.