

Turpitude

Slanapa 469
February 2009

Mike Horvat
Post Office Box 741
Stayton, Oregon 97383
W7ASF@ARRL.NET
WVI.COM/~mmhorvat

February is here, the happy month of Valentine's and sweet wishes from your significant other! The New Year is well begun and we may bask in the glow of successful resolutions.

Much of our time has been taken by playing with our two-year old grandson; what fun he is! He is a romper stomper and plays hard the whole time he's awake. He leaves us pooped out when we send him back to Jenny and Charles in Portland! He's not speaking yet, not quite. He's just beginning to get word sounds out, so it won't be long. His mother was about three before she started talking, and since she came out fine we're not worried about little Ryan. When we take him to my mother's house, he takes her hand and leads her around to all the things that she needs to put up high so he can't reach them. Clever little guy.

I received a letter from Israel. It turns out that Ralph Phillips, the sender, puts out an international listing of local posts and their stamps. He was writing to get information about my local posts. I responded quickly, and was surprised to see how many of my issues he had catalogued. And, of course, the first thing I thought of to do was to issue a local post stamp!



As luck would have it, it was the bicentennial of the birth of Edgar Allen Poe. With the help of the internet, I dashed off a stamp. I talked Ralph into emailing me a list of twenty local posters who are active for me to exchange with. Off went the letters.

Then before I could get a response, it was the Lunar New Year's Day -- had to do a stamp for that. This time I tried to print the envelopes on the computer printer. After many mistakes and several hours, I did it.

Then suddenly, it was the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Buddy Holly. Another stamp saw its creation. By now I noticed that it cost me ten dollars in postage for each mailing so I couldn't continue doing one a week.

I'm beginning to get letters back from the local posters. They are pleasant letters from pleasant people with stamps commemorating a huge variety of things. I think that this will make a good hobby for me to continue this year. It doesn't take much time or money and it is a lot of fun. Hmm, it's the 150th anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's birth; I need a stamp!



An interesting event took place for us West Coast Slans. Professor Joan Taylor (pictured above) of the University of Iowa asked if she could meet with us and discuss apas. For four days. As Frank (pictured below) said, How could we possibly find enough to



talk about for four days? But, intrepid fans all, we agreed. Since the Cabin was snowed under we decided to meet in Stayton. In mid-January the following Slans arrived: Frank Denton, Matthew Horvat (pictured below), Bob Napier, Jeff Frane, Dan Willott, Dale Goble, and me.

Joan flew into Portland, Oregon, and found her way to Stayton with no difficulty. Since she was the “special” guest, she got my upstairs bedroom and bathroom. Frank got the main floor guest room, crowded with Sue’s sewing stuff. Dan and Bob stayed at Dale’s. Jeff was only here for an afternoon. By coincidence, my wife, Sue, was away for this week (her sister had brain surgery in Phoenix). She allowed as how she would have a better time far away from a pseudo-TanKon.

Frank was wrong. The days filled up happily with tales of science fiction fans and fanzines. The four days passed ever so quickly. Joan did a good job of keeping us pretty much “on toptic” -- although she held her own when the conversation opened up to more general topics. We talked about the beginnings of Slanapa -- about which Joan occasionally knew more than we did. We talked about the mid-years. We talked about the future years. Curbed in amongst all this were tales of conventions attended, what other Slans we’d met in person, what’s become of Lisa Tuttle, etc.



What we didn't get from Professor Taylor was a prospectus of what she was going to write. Her last project was an analysis of book clubs, for which she won several academic awards. This venture is to be about the value of apas, especially Slanapa, as Family.



Dan: Your *Musings* (see, you have a title all ready) is a very good issue. Sorry to hear of your travel difficulties ~ I wonder if I'd be able to handle things with so many changes and alterations. We here in Stayton were in a weather paradise: just a little snow and slightly colder than usual temperatures, but no real excessive difficulties. We'd watch the television and see reports of trouble in Portland (seventy miles north) or Seattle, but we stayed quite cosy, thank you. // Your synopsis of *The Pearl Divers* is great! // It's neat to see you reading what looks like good old brass-brassiere science fiction. I'm also reading some SF, but it is from a SFBC edition of mystery (hard boiled) SF ~ some rockets with rivets, but not much interplanetary sojourning // Nice cover on the mailing; I note your comment that it is "from [your] collection." Are you referring to that jumble of boxes downstairs? Dale and I will have to come by again soon to see what progress has been made in the shifting and flowing of your material. I, of course, picked up on this because my stuff is in such terrible disarray. I hope



Anne saw the photos you took of my rooms and had the appropriate response.

Ned: I don't like a lot of the Monty Python stuff. My least favorite part of it is the cut-out figures used as an introduction. They are terrible and influence my opinion on the whole show. On the other hand, some of the shows good parts deserve to be enshrined. // I am a big fan of *O, Brother, Where Art Thou*. I like the music and the Greek theme.

Jerry: Thanks for breaking the news to me about where the songs from *Mama Mia* came from. I remember ABBA pretty fondly, remembering that they won awards with their English songs but couldn't speak it. That's probably why a nine-disc anthology of ABBA recently appeared in my newsgroup downloads. // Ah, you mentioned your thousands of vinyls. Good for you. I lost all my thousands in a move some years ago but went to mp3's with enthusiasm. I've now got about five hard drives full of music, getting more all the time. It is a harmless addiction and a pleasant one in that it takes up a lot of time and gives me great satisfaction. // What does "bf" stand for? // You mention not having a significant backlog of movies to watch. Good on you! I have about a thousand on DVD now and have not watched ten per cent. of them. Aargh; what a terrible waste of effort! But then, the

cable company just “re-structured” the channel lineup and Turner Classic Movies went into a monetarily distant group of channels. We cannot afford to continue with the ‘digital’ programs, so are back to just the basic cable ~ which, I might comment, is now just a little over fifty dollars per month. Wish I had an antenna up on the house for television! // I enjoyed *Chicago* a lot. I thought that the songs were good and fit in unobtrusively to the story.

Dale: Funny, I like socialism a lot. Its success depends a great deal on the calibre of the Civil Service. I do believe it possible to have a workable government workforce. // Thanks for the copy of *The Brave One*. I watched it at night, so got pretty scared. Does anyone else out there get so involved with a movie as “reality” that they really get frightened? I know that for me all it takes is a few rumbles from a pipe organ and my stomach starts to quiver.

Frank: The get-together that Dale, Bob, and I did after Christmas was not a TanKon. We are waiting for the snow to thaw at the cabin and join with you and Dan for the real one. // Some days I feel old, too, but I generally can shake that feeling by working on one or another of my hobby interests. This last time it was local posting: I was feeling my years so I did three mailings. It worked; got me right out of the doldrums.

Cap’n Bob: Thanks for the con-ette report of our Shadow TanKon. I’d all ready forgot most of it and your reminiscences bring back many of the good memories. // I thought Christmas was to celebrate the Yule season, not the harvest.

Gary: Do you know of a program that will convert a video AVI file into something that a “normal” DVD player will accept? I have a bunch of The Teaching Company lectures that play fine on my computer in AVI, but I would like to use them on a television.

Time has run out on me; company’s here and I have to run for the next several days. Good fortune to all you SLANs for the coming month ~ see you in March!

Cordially,
Mike



My basement radio room, filled with goodies!



The book room (above) and the stamp room (below).

