

*Black Frog*

# 51

# Black Frog # 51

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A good friend of mine, Doug Mullins who lives in Tucson, told me about a greyhound named "Black Frog" that is racing on the Arizona "dog track" circuit. This is the inspiration for the new cover design. It is also in keeping with the fact that Black Frog is, at least for this year, the "top dog" 'zine in the postal hobby after having been voted #1 in the Leeder Poll. Also (just in case I need any more reasons) I just happen to like the art work and am getting a bit tired of the two older cover designs that have been in use.

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BLACK FROG is a Diplomacy 'Zine that emphasizes that Postal Diplomacy is fun to play! The publisher is John H. ('Jack') Masters, 25711 N. Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. (805) 259-2811. Subscriptions to BF are 60¢ an issue, with a minimum new sub for ten issues (= \$6.00).

BF features postal Diplomacy with game results carried in the sister 'zine entitled East of Eden. There are no game fees or charges for EoE, it is however, available only to those who play postal Diplomacy in it's pages. Diplomacy is the registered trade mark of a multi-player, World-War-I game invented by Allen Calhamer and currently owned by Avalon Hill, Inc.

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Yes this is issue #51 and yes I know issue #50 has not yet been published. It has been somewhat of a tradition in the postal Diplomacy hobby to making something special out of "50th" issues of 'zines. Well I have a couple of ideas and the inclination to put out a "special" 50th issue--but do not have the available time right now. Thus, I am going to go right ahead with issue #51 and reserve issue #50 for some later time. In the meantime, until issue #50 is issued, all subbers will have their subs extended (at least numerically) for one issue.

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Starting with this issue, all subbers and/or traders (who don't also receive East of Eden) can tell when their

subs are due to expire by looking at the number after their name on the address label. This number indicates the issue number when the sub is up for renewal. East of Eden recipients will have to wait a while, until I revise the EoE mailing labels, to have this feature incorporated on their mailing labels.

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I don't know what has happened to all the sample requests that I expected. Bob Arnett told me that after Volker was rated #2 in the Leeder Poll in 1980 that he got all kinds of sample requests and that his sub list grew to over 200. After getting the #1 ranking in this years Leeder Poll, I expected that I might get a lot of sample requests (though I really didn't want new subbers) and I had a lot of extra copies printed of a couple of issues. What has happened? In the last 2½ months, I have received a total of two (count them 1 ... 2) sample requests. The problem is, I don't know whether to be saddened or gladdened by this.

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The subber/trader total of Black Frog has stabilized at, more or less, 71. A few have dropped subs recently, but two new trades have taken it back up. (I am now trading with Ronald J. Brown of Snafu and have decided to pick up a trade with Steve Shaddix of the White Duke once again. I am however cutting back the press run of Black Frog to 75 issues. This means that after I put aside two issues for my files and send out 71, there will be only two left for samples, gratis copies, etc.

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ACE IN THE HOLE will make it's debut in this issue. Black Frog has never had a subzine before (East of Eden is not and never has been a subzine), so this is a first. It will be done by my 13 year old son and I will have a lot of control and influence over it. Dave doesn't like to play Diplomacy but he does like to read my 'zines and letters. If Phyllis Byrne and Dave Manuel can make a contribution to the hobby--he thinks he can too. Dave readily admits that the idea for the 'cartoons' in his 'zine was copped from Al Pearson's 'glimpses of famous Diplomacy players' as appears in Just Among Friends. Dave would love to get letters from you. Let him know what you think of his 'zine. Write: Dave Buckalew, 25711 North Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355.

Just recently several people have asked about the origins of the name 'Black Frog'. Well the name really means nothing as far as Diplomacy of the postal hobby is concerned. When I was getting ready to put out my own 'zine, I was looking around for some graphics to put on the cover as well as for a name for the 'zine. At that time I had a set of eight 'ready-to-fold' paper airplanes. One of these was the Black Frog (pictured below)



I thought the graphics would look neat on a 'zine cover, but didn't care much at all for the name 'Black Frog'. After a while I decided to go ahead and use the combination. The name has grown on me. After using it for 18 months I personally like it. As for the graphics, well they got old after a while and the present cover design (as seen on this issue) is the third to be used. I will still use the old cover design from time to time, however.

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There is quite a bit of news this time on the home front here. My 15 year old daughter, Valerie, will be coming to live with me within the next two weeks. The move will be permanent. Valerie is presently living with her mother in Orange County but has gotten herself in a few minor school problems and we think that they might best be solved by her changing schools and moving up here.

Valerie is a lovely girl and we are very happy to have her come up here. I haven't lived under the same roof with her for at least seven years, which is half of her life.

This is going to present a couple of problems for me. I will have to give up my hobby room to her. My hobby room has been very important to me. It is the one room in the

house where I can do as I please and don't have to keep things straightened up. My typewriter is on a small table in the middle of the room. Various bookcases, storage trunks and desks form the perimeter of the room. All around me are piles of 'zines and/or letters in various stages of disorder. I have a few Diplomacy maps in the room but no games of any kind here. What I have, and I really don't have too many, are downstairs in a cabinet in the living room. My Apple Computer is also downstairs. What I do have in this room, besides 'zines and letters, is a large library (500 to 600 volumes), my butterfly collection (yes, Keith Sherwood I do have one), things pertinent to my part-time business (Bio-Publications Services) and reprints of my various publications (mostly in the fields of entomology, chemistry or genetics and less than 1/3 of them plagiarized from James Thurber--Thurber never was much of an entomologist anyway).

But all of this will have to go to make a bedroom for Valerie. As much as I am looking forward to having Valerie come out here; it is going to be hard to cope with giving up this room.

There is no other way, however. We live in a small two-story, 3-bedroom condominium. Kevin (15) and David (13) share one of these, my wife and I the other. To make things worse Ardyce (that's my wife) is one of these neatness freaks. At least we no longer have that damn dog to worry about (you remember Brux, the late-departed hobby mascot).

If it weren't for these damn 18 and 20% interest rates, we could move and get a bigger house that would also be much closer to Bell Helmets (which is where I work and 69 miles away). But it is hard to justify when you sell a house with a 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ % interest rate and pick up a new one at nearly twice this. Even with the same size of mortgage it would mean roughly \$400.00 more a month going out in house payments. Well \$250.00 because you would get \$150.00 of that back in lower income tax. (But then maybe you like paying all that extra income tax to help pay for a bunch of worthless B-1 bombers).

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Valerie being here may cause me to slow down a bit on my hobby involvement in the near future. With a less desirable place to work, it is going to be harder to find time to work at it. Time will tell .....

ACE IN THE HOLE is the hobbies latest subzine and is written by David Buckalew (25711 North Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA).

AiTH will appear from time to time in Black Frog and, if Dave Manuel wants it, he can publish it in the Chamber as well.

First a little about myself. I am 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Placerita Jr. High. I like to play games but I hate Diplomacy (my Dad makes me play sometimes, yuch!)

My Dad gets all kinds of Diplomacy 'zines and letters of all sorts and I like to read them. AiTH will, for the most part, give you my impressions of some of the faces behind the names that I run across in reading 'zines and letters.

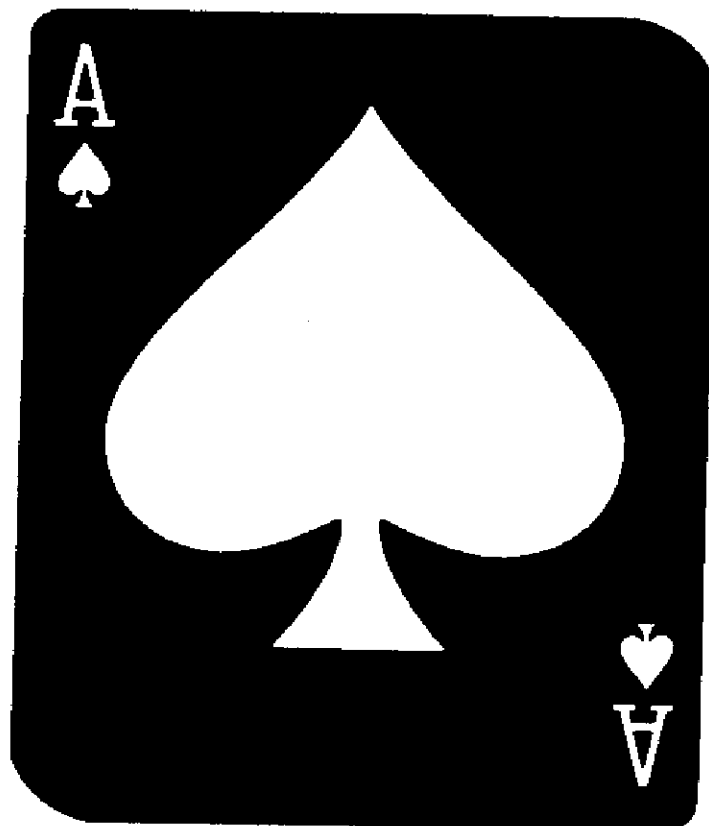
After all if Al Pearson can do it, then why can't I? My Dad said he would help me a lot if I wanted to do this.

By the way I have a brother, Kevin, who is a postal Diplomacy player. He is playing his first game in The Chamber (1981AW). He is playing Italy and is really playing it badly. The Chamber is worth getting just to see how badly he is doing.

Actually Kevin and I have both been around the hobby for a couple of years. We were both once on Bob Arnett's standby list for Volker and we have bailed Al Rodriguez out of jail a couple of times...just in time to prevent him from making crucial NMR's I might add.

But enough chit chat, on to the important part of Ace in the Hole.

# ACE In The Hole





"It is no use Kay, you know this is the last Friday of the month and the day I have to get Volker out! And, I wish you would quit reading those books on how to save your marriage."

MARY BECK: Tells it like it is!



"You wanna know why there are so few women in the hobby? I'll tell you why ..... Dan Kuszynski ..... that is why!"

AL RODRIGUEZ



"I hate to say anything Al, but you haven't been dressing like the rest of us Chicanos ever since you started playing Germany in that Pestilence game." ((1980HU))

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ARTURO GUAJARDO takes BELGIUM from BLACK JACK MASTERS (that's my Dad) in 1981C (The Press Game in Jihad!)



ALLEN WELLS (Russia in 1980 KJ, the V.I.P. game in East of Eden) phones BOB OLSEN (Austria in said game)



"I must be getting 'dot happy, Bob--but as I was driving down the highway I got this sudden realization. If we can't get our acts together and do something about Arnetto pretty damn quick, then ..... that turkey is going to be all over both of us."

1981K

# greed

W'03

## A brief intermission!

England (Arnott) Builds F Liverpool.  
France (Beck) Disbands F Irish Sea.  
Germany (Stafford) Builds F Berlin & A Munich.  
Italy (F. Townsend) Builds F Naples

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Spring 1904 orders will be due on Thursday October 29th at 12:00 noon PDT. I have had a request to supply names and addresses of players in this game:

A/Bill Quinn/2204 Vivada, Orlando, FL 32803  
E/David Arnott/7686 Hillandale, N. Charleston, SC 29405  
F/Mary Beck/5640 Netherlands Ave., Bronx, NY 10471  
G/Dan Stafford/2013 Gloucester Ave., Columbus, OH 43229  
I/Fred Townsend/3830 T Street/Washington, DC 20007  
R/Douglas Landon/28-5 Tower Drive, W. Lafayette, IN 47906  
T/Bobby Stephens/P.O. Box 340111, Dallas, TX 75234

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## DIPLOMACY WORLD ARRIVES

Issue #28 of Diplomacy World, the first issue to be published by Rod Walker, has arrived. It looks like DW will be on the upswing with Walker as the new editor. The appearance of the 'zine is better than I've seen it; nice sharp print and pleasant graphics. Articles in this issue are not up to par for what you would expect in DW. The most important article is the update of the Dragons-tooth Ratings by Steve McLendon (but it is dated by six months and only includes games through Everything #47-- while Everything #49 is already published).

I am expecting bigger and better things in the future from a revitalized Diplomacy World. If you don't already receive it, may I suggest that you send Rod Walker (1273 Crest Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024) \$2.00 for a sample copy of #28. At \$2.00 a copy (\$8.00 a year for four copies) DW is expensive, but is worth it. If there is any 'zine that you will save as a reference, DW is that one.

# DRAGONSTOOTH LEADERS (From Diplomacy World #28)

## top board

1 48.41 8(8W) D. Crockett  
2 31.35 4(3W) B. Hart  
3 30.36 3(2W) R. Morton  
4 28.82 3(2W) T. Thorsen  
5 27.48 7(2W) M. Berch  
6 27.35 3(2W) A. Vagts  
7 27.07 12(4W) D. Ditter

## second Board

8 26.77 9(3W) T. Ripper  
9 26.56 5(3W) D. McGee  
10 25.46 6(2W) K. Baumeister  
11 25.36 5(2W) S. Decker  
12 25.10 24(7W) L. Kendter, Sr  
13 25.06 3(2W) R. Smyth  
14 24.99 2(2W) A. Lischett

These include games completed and reported as of Everything #47. Everything #47 was published last March, so they are dated by about six months. To read this, the first number is the position; the second number the Dragonstooth rating; and the fourth set of numbers, the number of games rated with the accompanying number of wins.

Other Black Frog readers among the top 75 are:

17 23.26 14(5W) B. Cusack	45 16.34 15(2W) J. Michalski
21 21.76 14(4W) B. Sergeant	46 16.32 10(1W) J. Caruso
25 20.48 2(1W) B. Osuch	53 14.74 2(1W) S. Lee
26 20.41 11(3W) D. Ditter	58 13.81 3(1W) D. Martin

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## THREE OR MORE POSTAL WINS AS ANY COUNTRY

In Black Frog #49, I commented that I had just won three games as France and wondered if this feat had ever been done before. Apparently, among modern players at least (those that have been active during the past 3 years), nobody else has done this (as France). In fact to win 3 or more games as any one country (as an original player) is a quite rare event. From Steve McLendon's Dragonstooth data, only the following have done it:

6 Wins	Ron Kelly	Russia
4 Wins	Steve McLendon	Germany
3 Wins	Ron Kelly	Austria
	Dave Crockett	England
	Tom Slaughter	England
	Jack Masters	France *
	Lee Kendter, Sr.	Turkey

\* Includes games completed after Everything #47 only, for others it includes games completed before Everything #47 only.

# 1980id                      Death                      final

1980ID. Black Frog/East of Eden (John H. Masters)

A - Blair Cusack (dro F'03), cd.; E - Dave Grabar; F - Roberto Guajardo (dro F'04), cd.; G - Keith Mercer; I - Bill Schiwautz (win S'07 by concession); R - Jay Shufeldt; T - Kevin Mooney.

	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>07</u>
Austria (Blair Cusack)*	3	3	3	2	0	-	
England (Dave Grabar)	4	4	4	3	3	4	
France (Roberto Guajardo)**5		6	5	4	3	2	
Germany (Keith Mercer)	5	5	4	3	4	2	
Italy (Bill Schiwautz)	4	6	8	10	12	14	***
Russia (Jay Shufeldt)	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Turkey (Kevin Mooney)	4	4	3	4	3	2	

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\* Dropped Fall 1903; then Civil Disorder; out Fall 1905.

\*\* Dropped Fall 1904; then Civil Disorder.

\*\*\* Wins by Concession, Spring 1907.

## END GAME STATEMENTS:

Bill Schiwautz (Italy)

At first the opening Austrian attack bogged me down. Turkey was busy attacking Russia and France and Germany made quick gains against England. Then came the golden opportunity, Vienna fell but Austria just collapsed at three centers. Meanwhile France was on the verge of taking Liverpool and Germany attacked Russia. Russia was now on the verge of collapse with an imminent Turkish breakthrough.

Secure that Austria would go C.D. and with no French/German defenses in the south, I swung my forces westward taking Munich and Marseilles. To cover my eastern flank, I joined with Russia to bottle up the Turks. Slowly I took the remaining Austrian centers adding Spain and Holland and producing the next unexpected event, the collapse of France. I must also add that I am thankful to Germany for keeping up his attack on Russia instead of advancing south on me--even though I did double deal him in the end. With the fall of Brest and Kiel I felt fairly certain that despite a ten center Russia, I could acquire the remaining centers for a win. The draw was proposed

to my disbelief, Russia NMR'd and the win was assured.

Naturally I'm elated at my first Postal Diplomacy win after more than four years of play.

I must say with all the complicated tactics in this game, certain favorable situations must occur for Italy to make a respectable showing.

Thanks to Jack and everyone in the game.

Jack Masters (GM)

This is the first game that I have GM'd from start to finish. Bill played a strong game and deserved the win. The manner in which he played the Austrian C.D., turned out very well for him. Instead of moving east to take over the Austrian centers as soon as possible --he simply left them in place as a buffer against Russia and Turkey while moving west and north. Later on, when he was ready for them, they were still there for the taking. He was taking a chance, to some extent because, per my house rules, Blair Cusack could have come back at any time submitting orders that could have been very damaging to Italy. I do not know to what extent other players tried diplomatic efforts in order to get Austria back in the game.

While I am glad to see Bill win, I am also sorry to see others lose. Particularly Keith and Kevin who played it out to the end. Turkish orders that arrived one day late in 1906, hurt his cause to some extent, but would have made no difference in the final outcome of the game. Thanks also to Dave and Jay for playing the game out.

As to Italy and Austria being the weak sisters on the Diplomacy board: games in Black Frog/East of Eden don't bear this out. Of the two games finished, this one and 77HG, both have been wins and the winning powers have been Italy and Austria. (Ron Brown won 77HG as Austria.) By the way Dave Grabar has played in both of the games concluded in BF/EoE (he was Italy in 77HG).

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