



BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS

Volume IX, Number 6



6 July 1984

This is COSTAGUANA, a journal of postal Diplomacy and ambivalent assertiveness concocted by Conrad Friesner von Metzke (yep, that's what my mommy and daddy did to me; not bad for two people who spoke no German and were born in Ohio), P.O. Box 27273, San Diego, CA 92128. Telephone (619) 276-2937 at home, (619) 487-6384 at work.

Trades: All for all. Subscriptions 10/\$2.00. Game fees \$7.00, which includes a subscription for the duration of the game (unless you drop without notice). One game currently open, two slots left - but check the next page before writing, as this is being typed a week ahead and who knows what the posts will bring???

THE SAGA CONTINUES: I regret to advise that, despite my best efforts, I am unable at this time to find the bottle of white-out.

LAST ISSUE'S SILLY was fun, eh? Well, I thought so, anyway. For those interested, the answers are:

1. Sandbox. 2. Man overboard. 3. I understand. 4. Reading between the lines. 5. Long underwear. 6. Crossroads. 7. Downtown. 8. Tricycle. 9. Split level. 10. Three degrees below zero. 11. Neon lights. 12. Circles under the eyes. 13. High chair. 14. Paradise. 15. Touchdown. 16. Six feet underground. 17. Mind over matter. 18. He's beside himself. 19. Backward glance. 20. Life after death. 21. Soldier overseas. 22. Space program. 23. See-through blouse. 24. Just between you and me.

If there were any winners they will be mentioned later on inside. I blame nobody for missing the poorly-drawn number 23.

THIS ISSUE'S SILLY is similar to the above, but much tougher. And as I told you, I don't know all the answers and don't have an answer sheet, so unless among us we figure them all out, there will be some blanks in the answers next time.

There are no prizes for this one. But I'd like to ask all readers who have the slightest interest in such things to give it a try and send what you get; I would really like to know the ones I can't get.

A few clarifications to help you get over the sloppy printing:

(A) There are 24 questions; (B) I have seventeen answers and one 'clue'; (C) Number 15 is unclear to me but I can't really clarify, as that's one of the seven I lack.

Go to it!

LEST WE DESPAIR over the signs of degenerating social progress in this country, let me note that two weeks ago I formally joined the First Unitarian Church of San Diego. And yesterday the Unitarians became the first significant denomination to formally recognize gay marriage. (No, I'm not.) Is there, perchance, some hope that we may some day stop telling people how to lead their private lives, and leave them alone?

A LOT OF THINGS have happened since typing the last page. I bought more white-out; someone has won a free game from last issue's silly; and the new game is ready to go! In order now:

SILLY WINNERS: Matt Fleming triumphs with 22 of 24. He also sent \$3 for a game fee (and his \$3 looked remarkably like a \$5 bill, but I guess that's inflation); however, that must obviously be refunded.

Jim Stevens got all 24, but then he also admitted to knowing the answers. He also sent several more along the same lines, which I'll print in an issue to come.

NEW GAME: Seven applicants have let their identities be known, and therefore, we can get started. The list of players and countries will follow.

I might note that several of you sent me country preference lists. Thanks, but I don't use them; I'm of the old school that does it by random draw.

AUSTRIA: David L. Pierce, 13521 Pleasant Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337

ENGLAND: Matt Johnston, 2286 Lancashire Cove, Germantown, TN 38138

FRANCE: Matt Fleming, 4290 Chateau de Ville, St.Louis, MO 63129

GERMANY: John Walker, 4819 Corian Oak, San Antonio, TX 78219

ITALY: Kenneth Peel, 8708 First Ave. #T-2, Silver Spring, MD 20910

RUSSIA: Steve Cartier, P.O. Box 1653, Riverside, CA 92502

TURKEY: James H. Stevens, 6021 Sleepy Hollow Rd. #2, Rome, NY 13440

Such is the luck of the draw. If there are objections, I have been known to take juicy bribes....

Jim Stevens may not be all that thrilled with the above news. He is doing some moving around for the next two weeks, and has provided me with the following interim addresses:

Until 18 July:

Jim Stevens
General Delivery
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

18 July to 22 July:

Jim Stevens
24 Ash St.
Danvers, MA 01923

and thereafter back at the Rome address. Please, players, take the appropriate action in sending letters of negotiation.

If any player wishes to send his 'phone number, or a short biographical sketch, for publication, I'll be glad to. I don't know many of you - only one of you very well, three of you not at all - so I sincerely welcome you all to these pages and hope that our association will be pleasant. If you have suggestions (apart from rigging the game) that will help accomplish this, feel free to mumble.

House rules: I have little use for them. My game notation system is quite clear and self-explanatory; just look at the other game and see if you have any problems (if so, ask). Deadlines are normally spaced at three weeks, and with two games now running at offset schedules we'll probably stay pretty closely with that. Later on when the game gets into the middle ranges, if a build season comes up that is so utterly simple

it can be combined, I reserve the right to call for builds and Spring moves together - the latter conditional on the former, of course. But that won't come up for a while, if at all.

My deadlines are usually on Friday or Saturday, depending on my work schedule for the weekend in question. 'Phone moves are accepted (my numbers are on the front page), but if you call home and I'm not there, I accept no responsibility for garbled moves if you leave a message with my wife or my 5-year-old son. (Believe me, he can take your orders if you're patient.) At work, you must talk to me; no messages can be left with others.

Now for my one big 'pet' house rule. If you miss two moves in a row during the course of this game, a new player will be appointed and you will be out. However, because I firmly believe that a game thrown out of balance right at the beginning is no fun at all, if you miss any one move in 1901 you are out and replaced. Furthermore, there cannot be a missed move in 1901 simply because if you don't send them, I'll make them for you.

Sound unfair? Not really. The moves I make are semi-neutral; I will never attack the territory of another country, I will always defend home supply centers if they're threatened, and I will only move to conquer the neutral centers that traditionally seem to fall to each power. And I'll also print my "desperation moves" for you in advance. For Spring 1901 they will be:

- AUS: f tri-alb. a vie-tri. a bud-ser.
- ENG: f lon-nth. f edi-nwg. a lvp-edi.
- FRA: a par-pic. f bre-mid. a mar-spa.
- GER: a ber-kie. a mun-ruh. f kie-den.
- ITA: f nap-ion. a ven (h). a rom-tus.
- RUS: f sev-rum. a mos-lvn. a war-ukr. f stp-bot.
- TUR: f ank-con. a con-bul. a smy (h).

Press releases are welcome in any quantity (I may edit or curtail for space, but I'll try not to). And if anybody ever assigns an official number to this game, we'll announce and use it.

Ready? Okay. For your first moves you will have five weeks, and Spring 1901 will be due into me on Friday, August 10, 1984.

GO TO IT!

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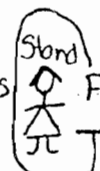
THE FIRST GAME - 1983 AC - Spring 1904

- AUSTRIA (Robson): a war-ukr. a rom-nap. a ser (s) bud. a bud (s) ser.
a tri (s) vie-tyo. a vie-tyo. f gre-ion.
- ENGLAND (Pustilnik): a stp-lvn. f lon-wal. f swe-nwy. f lvp-iri. f
nat (s) lvp-iri. f nwg-nth.
- FRANCE (Johnston): a bur (s) ITA tyo-mun (SIC). a bel (s) ruh-hol.
a ruh-hol. a mun-kie. f bre (s) iri-mid. f iri-mid. f eng-nth.
- GERMANY (Fleming): a sil-mun. a ber (s) kie. a kie (s) sil-mun.
f hol-bel.
- ITALY (Stevens): a naf-tun. a tyo-tri. f nap (h).
- RUSSIA (R.Walker): a sev-mos. a ukr (s) sev-mos.
- TURKEY (Walters): a bul-gre. a con-bul. a rum-sev. f bla (s) rum-sev.
f smy-aeg.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM



SCORE

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 TIMING TIM ING | 2 HOM [] | 3 P G | 4 ONE ANOTHER ONE ANOTHER ONE ANOTHER ONE ANOTHER ONE ANOTHER |
| 5 All world | 6 SYMPHON | 7 BLOOD WATER | 8 N E V E S |
| 9 C O N | 10 S G E G | 11 NO WAYS IT WAYS | 12 EILN PU |
| 13 JUS 144 TICE | 14 <u>13579</u> WHELMING | 15 (CAPITALISM) | 16 ASTRO Ⓞ |
| 17 AM VOUS | 18 W W O D I O F L | 19 NaCl · H ₂ O <u>NaCl · H₂O</u> C C C E C C C | 20 A S A S |
| 21 KALAMAZOO | 22 FRIENDS  FRIENDS | 23 WHEATHER | 24 |

NAME:

FAR