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HOOF & MOUTH is published every week by Donald L. Sigwalt, 125 Hebard St., Rochester, NY 14605. Phone: (716) 222-1879. It is dedicated to serving the Postal Diplomacy hobby by providing well run games along with (at least once in a while) articles, news and letters concerning the hobby (maybe). There are no subscription or game fees.

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Game Openings? YES!

RAMBLINGS

Well it's been about 2 years since I last did one of these. I guess the first thing we have to take care of is old business. It is unfortunate that I just let H&M fade away rather than tie up all the loose ends into a neat package and hand the whole thing over to the hobby "custodians". But I did what I did for reasons I'll talk about later. In any event there were 3 games in H&M when it disappeared (if memory serves me correctly). #1 was my Demo game which was pretty well over with Steve Simon's France rolling towards victory. #2 was a twice orphaned game I was trying to salvage with only one original player left. That one also had a France close to victory. #3 was Guest GMed by Porter Wightman. It was an orphan we tried to rescue and had little or no original players left. (In fact, I was playing in it.) Like I said, it's been 2 years, and if no one's done anything about those games in that time period I'm content to let sleeping dogs lie. Change that - I'm content to let dead dogs lie. Those games are dead and as of now, forgotten.

Now, as to why H&M disappeared in the first place. Well, if anyone out there remembers reading the old Ramblings they know I wrote about my personal life alot. At first I wrote about my first car - which was a Rambler (hence Ramblings). That soon gave way to writing about my first girlfriend (Angie). The courtship was rough and I wrote about it all in Ramblings, to the point where I earned the nickname SOAP OPERA DON. To make a long story short, things got rougher and I lost a couple jobs along with my interest in just about everything (except Angie). This was when H&M started fading out (fall 1982).

That dear friends was not the end of the story though. Some way or another Angie and I got married on Dec. 11, 1982. I started a new job 2 days later after not working for 3 months. Then I learned you can't have a new marriage, a new job AND an old dipzine so H&M sputtered to an end.

Some time passed and life got a little normal again, then on Jan. 26, 1984, John Micheal Sigwalt, entered the world, thereby making a rough courtship very worthwhile.

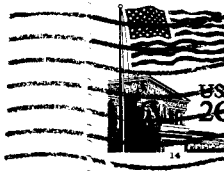
Some more time passed and now the new marriage and new job (and new baby) are now old and routine. Things are in a sense back to normal again. Yes, it's time to start thinking about Diplomacy again.

HOOP AND MOUTH

My printer has since moved to Florida but that doesn't really matter because I don't really have the urge to publish anymore. There was 2 years ago, and still is today, too many hard feelings and too many feuds in the hobby. And I think alot of that is due to publishers who put their Dipzines and their rhetoric before the playing of Diplomacy itself. I will not be a part of that. But I do want to be active in the hobby again. I want to play again and I want to GM again, so here's the deal. I'm going to start with the GMing side of it. I will run up to 3 games. Each will have 3 week deadlines. These games will be staggered so I can GM one per week. I will not pub a regular zine. I will simply adjudicate the games and send the results to the players only. Since this will entail an expense of about \$2 to \$3 per week I will not charge a game fee. Since there is no zine there is no sub fee. Also since there is no zine or subbers there will be no standbys used. If anyone leaves a position it will just sit there. I will not require an NMR deposit. The openings will be on a first come-first served basis so if you want in write to me soon.

(See Back)

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