

Leap Year's Day, 1972

So round, so smelly,
so firmly implanted on the
local architecture--its a
taste thats sure to please.

Welcome, pleasure lovers, once again to the tri-weekly Journal of Postal Diplomacy* play. * means that Diplomacy is a game invented by Allan Calhamer and published by Games Research, Inc., 48 Wareham Street, Boston, Mass. It will cost you \$8.00 to but it from them postpaid.

It costs almost that, or \$5.50, to enter a game in PP. At present, there are a few openings in an open game, and a few open to newcomers, who have not started a game prior to 1971A. Once these two games fill, it will be probably two years before any more are open. Subscriptions are eight for a dollar.

House rules were published in PP #3, though copies of same are just about gone. I shall re-publish the house rules in separate form sometime soon, and make them available to persons interested in playing in this magazine. Other back issues will have to be obtained from Walter Buchanan, and you have to pay him for them via a self-addresses and well stamped envelope. They aren't worth the trouble, so save him the trouble.

THE GAMESMASTER: Brenton Ver Ploeg, 520 Parker Ave., # 202; San Francisco, CA 94118. My phone number is (415) 668-9218. As some of you that have tried to call have noted, however, I am very hard to get ahold of. Horrible though that is, the gamesmaster obligates himself to stay home and answer the phone on the Monday evening before the Tuesday deadline from 6 to 10 pm, Pacific Time.

Address codes: T-Trade; C-complimentary; S-Subscription, followed by the last issue you will receive; G = Game entry paid, and this is followed by the number of issues overlap, if any. Players who have paid receive free issues of PP until the game starts that they have registered for. And, last, EH--the fact that you are a player or replacement player in 1971 EH, a game for winners, that breaks in all its incredible hostility upon you right n o w

1971EH WAR ALONG FRENCH BORDER FALL 1901
BYTWERK'S KNIFE ARM COVERED WITH BLOOD!
ENGLAND GAINS TWO! RUSSIA GAINS THREE!

- AUSTRIA (Ward): F Alb-Gre; A Ser S F Alb-Gre; A Bud H.
- ENGLAND (Buchanan): F Nwg-Nwy; A Yor-Bel; F Nth C A Yor-Bel; A JJB-RCW
- FRANCE (Warden): F Mid-Spa(SC); A Bur-Mun; A Spa-Por.
- GERMANY (Hirsan): F Den W; A Kid-Hof; A Ruh-Mun.
- ITALY (von Metzke): A Pds S FRENCH A Spa-War [NSO]; A Tus-Tun;
- RUSSIA (Bytwerk): F Bos-Swe; A Gal-Rum; A Ukr-Sev; F Bla-Ank!
- TURKEY (Tretick): F Con-Ang; A Bul-Gre; A Arm-Rum.

Underlined moves fail. Two notes from last season (Spring, 1901): (a) As all players knew, the French moved Paris to Burgundy, not Picardy as listed on some of your moves, and (b) there was a minor typo--the Turks of course moved F Ank-Con, not Bla-Con. The Turkish Army Armenia was ordered via Russian convoy, in case you're wondering. There are no retreats, and the 1901 supply center chart is on the next page.

CENTER CHART:

- AUSTRIA: Home, Ser, Gre = 5, may build TWO.
- ENGLAND: Home, Nwy, Bel = 5, may build TWO.
- FRANCE : Home, Spa, Por = 5, may build TWO.
- GERMANY: Home, Den, Hol = 5, may build TWO.
- ITALY : Home, Tun = 4, may build ONE.
- RUSSIA : Home, Rum, Swe, Ank = 7, may build THREE!
- TURKEY : Con, Smy, ANK, Bul = 3, EVEN.

Winter builds are due Tuesday at Noon, 21 March, 1972--and my damn Calendar just fell off the wall again. Sigh.

1971EH PRESS

AAB, Italian Tyrol (F Pitcairn Island convoys breadfruit to the Dorchester Lobby): Speaking before a hand-packed session of parliament, which on Castro Street is cheaper than machine-packed, the President Anti-Tempore (i.e., Opposed to Water-Colours) of the Italian Anarchate and Fascist Drugmonger's Cartel, Signore Dottore Massimilianitto 'Gli Frutti' Cherubini-Paisiello, intoned the words which will cause Italy to move forward; pronounced the phrases which will drive the antagonists from the map; bellowed the cries that will push the grenadiers in a mad dash forward to triumph; screeched the lines that will create an unbending sense of headlong motion. He said, and we quote: "SON OF A BITCH! Who the fuck filled my hot-water bottle with coffee?"

AABA, Southern Italian Tirol (A Tijuana-Public Health Department): The tumultuous explosions which shook the very foundations of this tiny health spa, so loved by the worlds sufferers from terminal botulism, were explained this morning by several Italian geophysicists who had arrived shortly after the series of thunderous booms first began rocking the valley. "It is very simple," cooed Professor Dottora Magdalena Maria Antonia Sophia 'Big-Boobs' Furrconta, la Marguessa di Tuat. "The alps fell down. See?" She pointed to the horizon. Sure enough. No mountains. This bodes a severe blow to the local means of subsistence, namely pushing reds at the ski lift.

ATHENS: The effects of Austrian presence in this city can already be seen in the economic indicators. Contraceptive sales are up 23%, KY Jelly is up 19%, and the bars are now open around the clock. Some of the population has emigrated to Hollywood to start motion picture studios, shipping lines, and other luxuries but most of the population is staying, often professing an inability to leave their brothers behind. The major untoward act thus far has been the disappearance from the Athens Zoo of the entire collection of platypus.

ATHENS: Milo Minderbender Enterprises opened a local office today to service the needs of the Austrian nationals. The major service thus far is the weekly "Firesign Theatre" express to Cambodia. It is not known why anyone would want to go to Cambodia but it seems to be a haven for botanical oddities as many of the returnees have been heard to exclaim over the red grass.

EDINBURGH (A JJB-RCW)(6 Oct. 1901): "Damn Dutch Reporters," said Walter. "Everyone knows the lands of Buchanan are East of Loch Lomond. Where the hell did this 'Lombard' come in?"

IRVINE: The revolutionary temporarily located here claims to have many minisleptomaniacs (someone who (s)wipes a little) for subjects. Countries wishing to bribe this frustrated Monarch are invited to drop him a note as a prelude to opening negotiations (held in strictest confidence, natch).

[Press continued on page 8]

MORE CONFUSIONS

Well, last time, I sent a couple of tort antiques your way. I have, er, some...answers to those, which I may print later, along with grades. Sometime, I may deign to actually tell you the answers, though I doubt that anyone gives a damn.

This time, at any rate, I'm not screwing around with simple, easy to grasp questions. No, my friends, THIS time I am going to give you a contracts question that staggers the mind. After you finish reading this abortion, I want you to remember one thing: it made exactly the same sense to me last year as I was taking my exam as it does to you now.

II

O (owner) requested bids from contractors P, X, & Y for the construction of a small office building on O's vacant lot. P's bid was \$160,000; and Y's bid was \$170,000. O rejected the bids of X and Y and accepted the bid of P; and a formal agreement in writing for the construction of the building for \$150,000 was executed by P and O.

After P had the building partially constructed, he discovered that he had made an error of \$16,200 in computing his bid. In his preliminary work sheets, he had estimated the cost of the plumbing at \$18,000 but through a clerical error this was carried forward into his final work sheet as \$1800. Immediately after discovering the mistake, P exhibited the mistake in his work sheets to O and requested O to modify the agreement so as to make the price for the job \$166,200, or in any event \$160,000 (the amount of X's bid). O refused, declaring that P was obligated to construct the building for \$150,000 as provided in the written agreement. P refused to proceed with the construction, left the job, and declared the agreement "rescinded." At that time, P had already received from O \$20,000 in progress payments. O then contracted with another contractor to complete the building at a cost to O of \$140,000. The building was completed by the other contractor.

P brought an action against O asking in the alternative that (a) his contract with O be reformed so as to make the contract price \$166,200 and that he recover damages for breach of the contract as reformed, or (b) that his rescission be recognized as justified because of his mistake and that he recover damages measured by the outlays which he had made in furtherance of the performance of the contract with O. O counterclaimed for damages for P's breach of contract to build the structure for \$150,000. At the trial of the action to the court without a jury, the parties stipulated to all the above facts.

At the close of the evidence, the trial judge said, "after reviewing the voluminous evidence which has been received, I find (a) That at the time O accepted P's bid, O knew or had strong suspicions that P had made a mistake in his computation but did not know the nature nor the extent of the mistake; (b) that at the time P left the job, he had suffered outlays for material, labor, material and overhead in performing and preparing to perform in the amount of \$50,000, all of which were prudent and reasonable; (c) that the reasonable cost to O to complete the building was \$140,000; (d) that because P left the job, completion of the building was delayed four months and that the reasonable value of O's property during this four-month period was \$2000; (e) that construction costs steadily increased between the time P and O entered into their contract and the time that P left the job; (f) that the reasonable value of the work and material actually incorporated into the partially-built structure was \$40,000; (g) that at the time P abandoned the job, the value of

O's property was increased by the partially built structure to the amount of \$30,000; and (h) that there is insufficient evidence in the record to find what it would have cost P to complete the building. I will now take the case under submission and will announce my decision on the merits at a later date."

Please reveal with reasons how you think the case should be decided with particular emphasis on the following: (a) whether P is entitled to reformation and if so what judgment for damages he should receive, (b) whether P was entitled to "rescind" and if so what recovery he should receive, and (c) whether O is entitled to recover on his counterclaim and if so what judgment he should receive. Thank you.

[If there is one in ten of you that is still reading at this point, your degree of masodism probably deserves consideration by a competent psychiatrist--if you can find any].

BUBBLE, BUBBLE, TOIL & TROUBLE

There have thus far been two player requests that I transfer the games to another Gamesmaster while I am taking my examinations during the month of May. This would, in effect, be for two issues. I am amenable to this, and recognize that much of the attraction of a diplomacy game is inherent in its promptness. I will, therefore, start seeking out potential helpers for those two issues. If there are any objections, let me know and I will consider them. However, the equity of the situation seems to demand that the games continue. This is particularly true of a young game, and it is likely that one or two more games will have started by then. Its presently February 19th, and the deadline is the 29th. With ten days to go, then, I have four entries for the open game, and four for the newcomers game. The progress is slow, true, but it does seem likely that the games will fill, and I can get on with it.

ZAP!!--THE DEATH PENALTY DIES IN CALIFORNIA

The California Supreme Court, one of the most liberal in the country, decided yesterday to abolish the death penalty in California on the constitutional grounds of cruel and unusual punishment. Prof. Amstradam of Stanford (another good Dutchman) managed the argument for the plaintiffs. I have not yet seen the advance sheets, so I do not know whether they have followed the New Jersey example and declared it against the state constitution, or whether they have taken the issue firmly and declared it contra to the Federal Constitution. The former seems most likely, I guess. The decision was 6-1, as is customary in matters like this.

The death penalty is no favorite of mine, but there is one argument which seems difficult to circumvent: The wording of the constitution says "cruel and unusual punishment," [emphasis added]. It does NOT say cruel or unusual. While I can readily see a court designating the penalty as cruel, I hardly see how it can be called unusual. I surmise that the argument was that society has now evolved to the degree that it becomes unusual. Death row at San Quentin now has over 100 people thereon, and the fact that mass executions might be authorized in June by the US Supreme Court has doubtless influenced their position. Now, what do we do with Manson, Sirhan, and some of the other famous residents? Perhaps we could teach them a trade such as gardening--in Governor Reagan's back yard.

THE SHELL GAME STRIKES AGAIN--CHAIN LETTERS

In the past few days, I have received two "chain letters" in the mail. Although I have received them from different people, they are identical save for the differing names at the bottom of the letter. In general, the letter asks that you send \$1.00 to the name at the top of four names at the bottom of the list. Furthermore, in this sort of scheme, you delete the name at the top of the list, move the other three up one, add yours to the bottom, and send out 20 copies of the list to other people you know.

The "guarantee" is that you will receive \$8,000 cash within 90 days, assuming that nobody breaks the chain. The promotional chain letter was started, it says, by a Bill Needham, a gentleman who lives in Kentucky. You are also to send a report of your success to Bob Sill Enterprises in Chicago, and the letter makes the incredible claim that: A) The majority who participated made \$7,800, and B) The originator of the letter has started four in the past year, and each time he has made over \$7,500 in cash.

There is some attempt, it seems, to claim that this is a promotional letter. It is not. It is a lottery, a chain-letter. You are paying your money for the chance to get some more when other people join the chain. I had thought that people knew the fiscal and legal consequences of chain letters, and I suppose that most do. On the other hand, it is also apparent that many do not, and that's why I plan on sounding off here. Platypus Pie does not have a very large circulation, however, and I would ask other editors to at least mention the dangers in summary form, to keep people OUT of this sort of thing.

It is clear that this sort of scheme is against the law, look, for instance, to Penal Code § 327 of the State of California.

Every person who contrives, sets up, proposes, or operated any endless chain is guilty of a misdemeanor. As used in this section, an "endless chain" means any scheme for the disposal or distribution of property whereby a participant pays a valuable consideration for the chance to receive compensation for introducing one or more additional persons into participation in the scheme or for the chance to receive compensation when a person introduced by the participant introduces a new participant.

The penalty for this violation is up to six months in the County Jail and/or a \$500 fine. As the proceeds of a lottery, any money made off this scheme is subject to seizure by state law enforcement officials. In case you are wondering about the possible wording difficulties in the above statute, there are none. "Property" means real or personal property, of which your own money clearly is. "Valuable consideration" doesn't mean that only a dollar is not valuable. A dollar is enough to seal a contract, and its enough to violate this law, particularly in light of the fact that it may be more than you ever get returned.

Well, what about "chance." From the description of the chain letter, all is glowing. Almost everyone makes money, and the "majority" receive over \$7,500! Where do these figures come from? And, you ask yourself, even if I do not get back \$8,000, I'd be happy with several hundred, or even ten. Why NOT keep the thing going? (Keep in mind that you have a couple dollars worth of stamps invested even if you are coy enough to use the list with your name in fourth place WITHOUT sending the dollar to the first name on the list).

The figures come from the following multiplications: Your name goes through three multiplications of 20 each time it moves up one rung on the ladder. Thus:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 20 \times 20 = 400 & (\text{Round I})(\text{Round II}) \\ 400 \times 20 = 8000 & (\text{Round III}) \end{array}$$

So, if you get in right away, your \$8,000 is returned, assuming that nobody breaks the chain, and that the chain always brings in new people, with no repeats. But suppose you start a little bit LATER than the person who starts the list? Then the multiplication has to go another round, and for you to get your \$8,000, 160,000 people have to be involved. Most people would come in in rounds V or VI. If you come in in round six of the chain, it will take 72,000,000 people in the chain to get your money back to you. (When I say "come in" I mean reach the first position--the pay-off--on the list.). So, if you enter the chain in round four, your name is the head of the list in round seven. Think of that: you are only the fourth person to get this particular letter. The number of people required in the chain for you to get your \$8,000 now? One billion, 440 million. If you got 100% cooperation from the peoples of Russia, China, and the United States, with no repetition, you might make it. The claim that numbers of people have received over \$7,500 is, on its face, a bold-faced lie.

Of course, that total number is impossible very early. Right now, the chain is starting in on postal mailing lists. A single round will take care of everyone. Its not much of a burden, perhaps, to invest three dollars in one letter. But what happens when you get your second, third, and fourth? You of course loose interest, and so does everyone else. The chain breaks down FAST, and its long before you get much money. Customarily, you don't get a dime, and you MIGHT get a visit from the FBI. The only people who come out ahead are those that are in right at the start. And thats why most states, in fact ALL states, prohibit the chain letter or any scheme dealing with numerical progressions of this sort.

Some of the criminal penalties are specific, such as the 1968 California law mentioned on the previous page. But they do not have to be. Chain letters are considered "lotteries" in most states, and the only reason I say most is that I only spent about an hour re-searching this in the library before I quit in disgust. Probably all do. Its clear why they do--its because you pay money for the CHANCE to receive some, just as if you were playing numbers through a runner in New York City. Kent v. City of Chicago, 301 Ill. App. 312, 22 N.E. 2d 799 (1939) & Niccoli v McClelland, 65 P.2d 853, 21 Cal. App. 2d 759 (1937) both established that chain schemes are lotteries, and that has been the law for over thirty years. ALL states penalize unauthorized lotteries. In New York, conviction of starting a chain letter is a FELONY, my friends, and you'll get a MINIMUM conviction of a year in jail if they find you guilty. (Read 'sentence' for 'conviction' in the previous sentence).

Well, who is guilty of "operation?" I hate to bring it up, but there is a very good chance that you might be prosecuted simply for sending out the letter again. There is no doubt that you COULD be prosecuted--it is, of course, up to the local District Attorney.

Furthermore, you may be violating Federal Mail Fraud laws when you send a chain letter across state lines. My research didn't take me that far, but I suspect that such is the case. But I remind you again--YOU are responsible if you send a letter out, even if you did not start the thing in the first place. See Miller v. Comm., 13 Bush 731. (A Kentucky case, thank you).

Well, is that all? Unfortunately, it is not. Suppose for a moment that you get away with it. Suppose for a moment that the incredible claim of over \$30,000 in one year is correct. And, suppose that you are lucky enough to not have state agents seize the money and throw you in jail for running a lottery. Then what? Can you spend all that wonderful money on women and song? Alas not.

ALL income, I remind you, is taxable. Even illegal activities, such as bookmaking, have been held by Federal Courts to constitute income which must be reported on Federal Income Tax Returns. IRS § 61 says "All income from whatever source derived." So, whether you make apple pies for sale, or whether you make book for a living, your income is taxable. If you don't report it as income, its Federal Tax Evasion (remember Al Capone?) and you'll be spending your time in a cosy federal pen instead of a county jail. If you DO report it, you must disclose the income source, and if you do, you demonstrate your violation of the law to the government. I am certain that they can put that knowledge to some use.

There is even a more astonishing catch associated with all this. If you make a handsome profit, of course, you pay a handsome tax. The tax on \$30,000 is a bit over \$11,500. In addition, there may be a penalty for unpaid tax. In addition, there is 6% interest.

In short, you could probably expect that this person owed the government about \$12,000 in unpaid taxes. I call to your attention the fact that ANY citizen can file a request for award, and, when they give information leading to conviction for tax evasion charges, they get 10% of the unpaid taxes. In short, you should forget about the \$10 you might make around a chain scheme (if you are fortunate) and start thinking about making some REAL money by turning in the perpetrators of the fraud. \$1200 is much handier to have around than the absurd promises of a lottery promoter.

I don't know whether "Bob Bill Enterprises" really exists, or whether someone just has it in for Mr. Bill. If he does exist, he is really pretty stupid to let his name be included in print on a chain letter sent across state lines. Almost as dull as Mr. Needham, who, in print, claims to have originated the idea.

Well, he didn't. Con men have had the idea for years, and I have been through two chain-schemes before this. But the Diplomacy mailing lists are no place for this, and I encourage you to save your money, and prevent a non-friendly visit from your local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Anyone that gets these letters might let me know.

Enough lecture. Don't fall for this old dodge.

LIKE DETURKENCE--PP WITHERS

The attempt is going to be made to get this issue in in less than 11 pages, so that all copies can go first class. So, several of the things I had in mind might not get in this time. Just the same, I expect that about one in every three or four issues will be so heavy that third class mail will be required. At present, I have some more press to do, so I shall get that out of the way. Edi, I may have to delete the Square-Root Club Feature this issue, but if I do, I shall return with it in the next. I fully intend to publish all three parts.

BIRSAN WINS CONTEST?

Because nobody else was entering, Edi Birsan won the PP contest last issue, even though he answered nothing correctly. Accordingly, I shall mail him the \$50 prize, right after he mails me the \$50 entry fee.

JAMUL, Lucca District: The noted operatic tenor, Enrico Caruso-jewski, equally famed for his ringing voice and his stunning poetry, combined both arts into one glorious rendition of the well-known aria "Mamma Mia, io maleditto castrato chingatto" ("Fuck! This goddam pizza ain't got no balls!") from Carusojewski's own opera "La Clemenza di Tito" ("What a friend we have in Josip Broz"), which reads, in a rough English translation:

Serbs, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so!
For those whom thou thinkest thou dost overthrow
Daref lots, poor Serbs, in which thou wilt fain drown!

At that point the ringing of the "w" in "drown" shattered the chandelier, killing the entire audience. Carusojewski, slightly miffed at this rudeness, stopped home in fury and began anew writing more poetry. Be patient, he has only to redeem his typewriter from hock and you'll get to see more. [My heart can know no finer, untrammelled, joy].

LONDON (A US NEWS) 17 Oct 1907. Everyone knows who the sweet-talking Dutchman in San Francisco is and especially those that got talked into this bloodbath he's putting on. [What are you bitching about? You have two builds, don't you?]

PARIS, 1901. French citizens thronged the streets today to cheer the Parisian poet Gregoire de Warden for his latest jingoist masterpiece:

THE BALLAD OF CONRAD VON MESS:

There was a man of lies and hate
who played the game of war;
He stabbed his allies and cheated fate,
He thought himself the equal of Thor.
But then one day, Greg the Mighty
decided to end his travesty
and set out to end Von Mess' flighty
tinkering in '7122 Diplomacy.

CHORUS:

Von Mess, Von Mess
You are a little bit less
than what you might be,
Oh, when will you learn
to play Diplomacy?

Oh, the Italians will run
as they always will go,
The French will have fun
For they are honest and true,
Rome they will take
and then they'll grab Venice.
To Naples they'll take,
and Tunis they'll menace.

REPEAT CHORUS

Oh, Von Mess you had better beware--
the French are a'coming.
Are you really aware
that you'd better try running?
In your usual hurry
you have made a mistake--
there will be quite a flurry
to attend your imminent wake.

REPEAT CHORUS

SAN FRANCISCO DELA IDIOTA, Tuscany (A Bur hauls ass): The collapse of the Alps, a range of hills in the vicinity of Switzerland, has been blamed on a benevolent race of small creatures emanating from the wine district of Caligari, previously known to the world only as the possessor of the largest appetite on record for Serbs, Croats, Montenegrans, Bohemians, Moravians, and Sacramentins. They are known as the Nematodes (KNEE-muh-toe-dz), and they eat shit. In fact, some eminent scientists insist they are made of shit. This is demonstrated by the exclamations of all known persons who have ever seen the cuddly little guys: "Nematodes! Shit!"

ADDITIONAL HOUSE RULE

22. Support may not be conveyed.

AHA: LAST ISSUE'S CONTEST--DON'T YOU WANT YOUR DOORKNOCKER?

As several people discerned, the "contest" last issue was a collection of tidbits from various albums and a single issued by a Theatre group out of Los Angeles called the "Firesign Theatre." (Emphasis added). I believe that its somewhat a tradition that they are most appealing when you are stoned. More than anything else, they remind me of Joyce, because all the albums take place on several different levels. Apparently this also appeals to the four members of the group, because one of the albums closes with a quotation from Joyce. There are also numerous clever Beatle puns (e.g., "We have more holes in it than Albert Hall."). All in all, they are a rather enjoyable past-time, assuming that you do not have anything else to do at the time.

More than anything else, Firesign freaks find that a whole new world of conversation is opened to them which had previously been denied. Conversations which were nonsensical originally now can be seen to have quotations from the various albums contained therein. Most of all, its impossible to tell who is likely to know of them. Everyone from Speak Freaks in the Haight to Law Reviewers at Harvard Law School have expressed a knowledge of the genre to me. As well as several diplomacy players.

At any rate, the records cost several dollars each, depending on where you buy them. A complete set is nice to have, but I suggest that the best first purchase would be the one with the back cover proclaiming: "All hail, Marx and Lennon." Side two of that album, The Further Adventures of Nick Danger, is a good initiation to the field. The most complex is "Don't Crush that Dwarf, Hand Me the Pliers." I recommend that only the hearty deal with that one.

THE RATINGS--NONE

I'm working on the original game listings now from Tony Pandin. When I have finished, I will have a top to bottom game rating for the Averaged Calhamer System for all players who have won a portion of a game. Until then, however, (probably next summer) I will only give you a new listing when Walker's NUMENOR comes out, and then I work from his listings.

NOW THE EXAM QUESTIONS--CONRAD, YESSS

Astonishingly, Conrad von Metzke answered both questions completely correctly. To wit: "In the basketball game, the following liabilities: the Wilson Sporting goods Co., for manufacturing a dangerous nuisance; the 5000 spectators, less X & Y, for being a party to the perpetration of a public nuisance; and the mother of P,

who created the initial situation leading to the use of a justifiable epithet."

"In the dog to the moon, the dog is obviously liable for his part. In addition, the local fire department is liable for negligence, and Brown is liable under a little used law dating from 1869, regarding the adjacency of garages to plaintiffs."

Most people managed to get the issues that Conrad did. However, his awareness of the 1869 law distinguished his answer from the rest. Before the exam, the DAR had systematically managed to burn all the law books dealing with that law, and his tribute to that that law signifies that he had an awareness of it far beyond that which could be burned away. Or else he made it with one of the leaders of the DAR, who gave the secret away to him. Of course, Conrad now resides in martial bliss, and I am certain that he would have managed to defend himself.

BAAAWWWLLLLL! NO MAILING LIST

My intention here was to print my mailing list, which has now stabilized to a moderate extent. But space is at a premium, so I will include it next issue. We have time for only a single letter to the editor:

Fred Furlap, PO Box 867, Golden Colorado: "I am getting rather sick of all the riff-raff that comes out in what you call a Diplomacy magazine. After all, I have just started to think about playing, and with magazines like yours around, I don't think I shall bother.

"Only one thing is reasonably clear. Coors beer is the best beer that there ever was. We make it here, and I'll be damned if they don't screw up and send it out of the state. Why that is, I do not know. But I shall tell you what: Send me a single can of coors, and I shall see to it that your name is included on a mailing list which will eventually see your name in first position. This is a promotional list, designed to insure adequate beer for parties, at no expense to yourself save for the can of Coors. If you win, you will, over the course of the next 48 hours, receive 357,000 cases of Coors, or, what is almost as good, two cans of Alpo.

"Meanwhile, I suggest that you forego any further attempt to continue that 'game' you are running. Rather, the entire content of your magazine should be given over to a discussion on the rating of beverages. My listing, I think, is unimpeachable, but I shall give it to you anyway, for your personal edification, and that of your readers: (1) Coors, (2) Schlitz, (3) Coke, (4) Imported white wines, (5) Domestic Red wines, (6) 7-up, (7) Iowa orange juice, (8) grape soda, (9) Grain Alcohol, (10) water, (11) Drano, (12) Grease Sludge, (13) platypus urine, (14) sulfuric acid, (15) Pepsi.

"And that's it, I guess. If you're ever in Golden, drop in and I'll let you buy me a Coors." (Signed) Fred.

GAME OPENINGS:

In the Open game, I have the following registered: Rocamora, Key, Strayer. In the newcomers game: Rocamora, Winter, Hall. Have I left anyone out? Filling slowly, you see. Well, it means free issues for all of you who are waiting. Cheers, and don't take any bad weed.

-coitus interruptus-