

THE PODUNK NEWS

Issue #43

September 3, 1978
Fourth Anniversary Issue

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Wiretap 32

Still late, but earlier than last time, the zine of Colorado and Iowa arrives again. This is THE PODUNK NEWS. Subs are 30¢/ issue, 20¢ if you hold a standby position. There are no game openings at present.

Standby List

Bob Acheson, Konrad Baumeister, Don Blasland, Curt Gibson, Vincent Lieu,
Jim McManus, William Newell, Pete Pariseau, and Craig Reges.
(Acheson, Baumeister, Gibson, Kelly, and Reges eligible for reduced sub
rates.)

Collect Calls

Konrad Baumeister, Don Blasland, Doug Carman, and Jim Wilson.

Changes of Address

1. Tom Showwood - 3238 Senasac; Long Beach, California 90808
2. Bob Hartwig - 304 Slater Hall - U. of I.; Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

News

Surprises are in store for you this time folks. To start, I'm not going to fold. It seems that a lot of people get depressed after vacations (like DipCon), and since a lot of you had some encouragement for me, I decided to keep going for awhile longer.

Konrad Baumeister is starting a new zine called Eggnog. His address is on the last page. He will probably be taking his game in PODUNK when it starts in October. We're working out the financial arrangements, but I hope that none of your subs are reduced in the new zine. No sub lengths will change in PODUNK, unless 77 KU is the only game you're in, in which case this is probably your last issue.

My newest game still has no Boardman Number. I hear that Dennis Agosta has taken the BN's, and am checking on the game.

IDA elections are coming up. If you're a member and would like to volunteer for an office, or nominate someone else, I hope you'll write to Jerry Jones at 1854 Wagner St.; Pasadena, California 91107.

What follows is a reply to an article which recently appeared in Greg Costikyan's URF-DURF.

*** *** *** *** *** TPN *** *** *** *** *** ***

URF-DURF FOOLIES

(An open letter to Mr. Costikyan):

Greg,

Your recent article in URF DURF #3 was riddled with inaccuracies, exaggerations, and distortions. This is in response to your numerous errors.

First, if you will recall, I was also at the 1977 DipCon in Lake Geneva. However, it seems that our memories differ. Specifically, I recall both myself and John Baker abstaining on the DipCon Society issue. This left only 3 yes votes out of a seven man council.

second, at the private meeting prior to the General Meeting (which both you and Mr. Grossman were quite late for - even though both of you had been told much earlier) it was agreed that anything approved was subject to later approval by the entire Council.

You are correct that no more Council Courier's were put out that year. However, this does not mean that your Society could ~~#~~ begin without Council approval.

The 1978 Council resolution did NOT nullify all 1977 Council actions, only 1977 Council actions made in 1979. We were acting out of precedent, as similar procedure was used in ~~#~~ 1977 regarding the 1976 Council. If you will recall, the charter was accepted in 1978 by the 1977 council, with Ben Grossman running the vote.

You may also recall that I voted yes on Grossman's vote. I did so because ~~#~~ I knew that the new council could revoke the action made in 1978, and because I needed to keep you 2 spoiled brats happy long enough to get the new council going. Perhaps that was sneaky, cheating, or whatever. But while we're on that subject, perhaps you'd like me to bring up your "Depreciation Expense" for your mimeo, your costs for reproducing your 1977 "Handbook", and Greg's cost for mimeeing each issue of Micromax Review. Then maybe the members of this hobby could see that your only interest in the IDA is financial (~~#~~ i.e. - lining your own pockets at the expense of the membership.).

We do NOT have a committee to select a new charter for site selection. We DO have a bill which says that DipCon MUST be rotated between 3 regions if possible, and also gives the boundaries for those regions.

As for this year's DipCon, you speak very authoritatively for a person who wasn't there. Rod Walker did NOT hold a meeting of the "DipCon Society" (unless he was by himself at the time). The meeting you mention was chaired by MIMLP and no one else, and was NOT a meeting of the "DipCon Society".

The meeting chaired by myself did choose the sites you mention, and DipCon will be with Origins/PennCon next year. Rod Walker's part was in the help of phrasing motions for the selection of each site.

The IDA does not accept the "fact" that the "DipCon Society" is a functioning organization. This is because the "DipCon Society" did NOT function. The IDA functioned by selecting next year's DipCon. We will NOT fight the "DipCon Society" simply because it does NOT exist, except in the overworked imagination of Greg Costikyan.

As for your claims that the IDA has only its own interests at heart, I claim that we have the interests of the entire hobby at heart; for without the IDA at the 1978 DipCon, NO site would have been selected for next year, and there would be no 1979 DipCon.

Quite to the contrary Mr. Costikyan, I claim that you are the one with only your own interests at heart. Those interests are the destruction of the IDA (as witnessed by your campaign statement in last year's bid for the Presidency), the increased inflation of your overly-inflated ego (as witnessed by your editorial), and continued bickering within ~~#~~ this hobby (as witnessed by your constantly picking a fight over anything that pops into your head as being bad).

The day this hobby recognizes that you are nothing but a troublemaker will be the day that this hobby improves tremendously.

Sincerely,
(Bob Hartwig).

((I have withstood much abuse from all sides this year. However, this is one area where I can't remain silent any longer. Hopefully, others will feel the same way and show it by their actions - RAH.))

BOB RETURNS TO COLLEGE
by
Bob Hartwig

In a mor pleasant vein, here's my story on returning to college. I had intended to take a little vaction after leaving work with the Highway Department. So before going to Iowa City, I decided to spend some time with relatives in Northern Iowa, near Mason City.

I made the trip in 14½ hours, leaving home on a sunny, clear, and Colorado-dry day. Progress was rapid, as trucks rolled along at 70+ mph. Once in Iowa, the rain started, and continued for the rest of the trip, slowing me down to 30mph in places, but not long enough to lose f too much time.

The 340 mile trip was taxing, but after 9 hours sleep I was ready t o visit my relations, and add to my family tree. My genealogical research went quite well, as I dug up a family tree (In German script) which carried one line back to the 1400's. I also discovered the location of a book on the Allen line, which I am trying to obtain.

After visiiting a few local cemeteries, my research came to an end, as time forced me to return to college.

The trip to Iowa City was strange, as grade schools were in session, and there was very little traffic. I arrived on August 30th, at 2:40 p.m., over 1 hour late for my registration time. I then registered, unpacked, ate, and unpacked some more. It was a busy day.

Lately I have been going to classes, collecting books, running errands#, and generally trying to make up for last time. Hopefully PODUNK won't be too late, but I think I can get it out soom.

*** *** *** *** *** TPN *** *** *** *** *** ***

REPORT on the T.A.I.U.P.P.C. & I.G.T.

August 2nd, 1978 - a day that will live in apathy. Yes, the 3rd Annual Inaugural Unannounced Podunk Publications Convention and Invitational Golf Tournament was delayed 3 days from the annouced date. The change was, of course, unannounced. In attendance was Editor and Publisher of 2P, Inc., swell kid, and nifty dancer Bob "What's-his-name" Hartwig. This quorum of 1 conducted the following business:

1) Cancelled the Golf Tournament when Gerald Ford failed to attend f for the 2nd straight year.

2) Called a Second TAIUPPC&IGT for later in August, since attendance wasn't good at the 1st.

3) Voted Bill Kelsey (ever present and barely there) there in spirit.

August 6th, 1978 - another apathetic day. The 2nd half of the TAIUPPC&IGT was held on THE HILL in Boulder#, Colorado. Attending were Bill Kelsey and your's truly. Business at this meeting included:

1) Attending "MontyPython and the Holy Grail".

2) Bill Kelsey groveling at my feet to be included on point 3 above.

3) Cancelling a report from the AdHoc Committee on Changing the Name of The Podunk News for No Particular Reason (AHCCNTPNNPR). The report was cancelled for no# particular reason.

4) Scheduling next year's FAIUPPC&IGT for on or about August, 1979.

Both Conventions weor enjoyed by all in attendance, and it is hoped that next year's will be equally pointless.

*** *** *** *** *** TPN *** *** *** *** ***

And now: On to the games, since that's what you're all waiting for anyway, right?

*** THE GAMES ***

1975 BDdi - End Game Statements.

(Xenopus):

I wish to thank all of you for a short, but enjoyable game. I also appreciated the piece of the draw I got, as does, I'm sure, Bob Acheson. Xenopus, in case anyone is interested, comes from the species name of the South African Clawed Frog, an aquatic frog, of which I own 2. I brought them home from the lab at school. Thanks again.

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1976 BJ - Fall, 1910. Draws Fail as E & T dissent. GM: Bob Hartwig

England (Carman) - A Edi//H, A Kie//H, A Mun-Tyl, A Bur-Mun, A Gas-Mar,

A Mar-Pie (S F Iyo), F Iri//H, F Den//H, F por//H, F Nth//H.

Italy (Kelly) - F Rom Retreat - Tus. F Tyn-Rom(S F Tus), A Pie-Ven, F Tun-Ten.

Russia (J. Wilson) - A Boh-Tyl, A Sev//H(S A Mos), A Rum//H(Q S A Bud), A Vie-Iri, A Gal S A Rum, F Nat//H, F Nrg//H.

Turkey (Beameister) - A Rum Retreat - Ser. F Nap S A Rom, F Adr-Ven (S A Rom), A Tri-Bud, A Bul-Rum (S A Ser & F Bla), A Arm-Sev, F Aeg-Ion(S F Gre).

*** Italian A Pie //A (No retreat).

Russian A Rum Retreat to Ukr or OTB.

Eng: Home, Den, Xie, Hol, Bel, Bre, Par, Mun, Spa, Mar, Por; 13 ; Build 2.

It: 7/6/7, 7/7/7, 7/8/7, Tun; 1 ; Remove 2.

Rus: Home, Eve, Hwy, Ber, Vie, Bud, 7/9/7; 9 ; No Builds.(1 if retreat OTB).

Tur: Home, Bul, Rum, Ser, Tri, Nap, Rom, Gre; 11 ; Build 1.

*** Call for a 2-way draw between England & Turkey. Abstention counts as "TNS" vote.

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1977 CF - End Game Statements.

((England should have been marked 1 short in 1902 on the Supply Center Chart. Thanks to Konrad for pointing it out.))

((Also, Turkey was 1 unit short in 1904 on the same chart.))

France:

First of all, I'd like to thank Dave Bunke, Jim McManus, John Rapp, and Bob Beardsley for an enjoyable game (no wonder I enjoyed it - I won!), and Paul Novak for a great GM'ing job.

Second, since 1901 and 1902 alliance structures were fairly obvious (just set up the positions, I'd like to start the game in 1903. In '03 I had decided that I needed to open a 2nd front to have any chance to expand at all, since Germany was not open to me until Dave cleaned out the north. That means I had to attack England, since Italy was so far away from my fleets. Attacking England didn't make me feel too good, since Bunke had impressed me down at DipCon and was a nice guy, but there were no 2 ways about it.

In the fall I allowed Dave to set himself up, and I moved in. This was fairly easy, since it appeared that Gibson was taking over Germany, and both Dave and I wanted to attack something.

The next year I got England to puppet my demands for survival, and so I could now safely attack Italy, who would have been impossible to defeat if I had waited another year.

At this point Russia, who had turned down all offers of alliance, came through and wanted to ally. However, I didn't want to break my

1977 CP (Cont'd) -

new pact with Bunke, so Bob's proposal only served to make my eastward push easier. He kept proposing alliance each season from then on in, and wondered why I kept attacking him. Still, Bob was, Besides Dave, the only person on the board that recognized my threat and did anything about it before it was too late. (And to Bob B - yes I did play ~~BB~~ aggressively, and I'm sorry.)

Once again, thanks to Dave Bunke, without whom my win would have been meaningless indeed.

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1977 CU - Spring, 1905.

GM: Bob Hartwig

Austria (Gibson) - A Vie-Bud (S A Ser).

England (Williams) - A Lon//H, A Den-Swe, F Nwy S A Den-Swe, F Edi-Nth,
F Ska S F Bar-Nth, F Div-Nth.

France (Bonnefond) - F Bol-Eng, F Eng-Mid, A Pic-Bre, A Bur-Mar, A Mar-Pie.

Germany (Blesland) - NMR! F Hol, A Ruh, Mun, Kie, All Hold.

Italy (Young) - A Tyl-Tri(S A Ven), F Ion-Alb, F East-Ion, F Wes-Tyn.

Russia (JH Jones) - F Hel S German A Kie-Den(NSO), F Bot-Swe, A Stp-Nwy
(S A Fin), A War-Gal, A Bud-Rum, A Tri-Bud.

Turkey(Liou) - F Bul(SC)-Aeg, A Syr//H, F Gre-Ion, F Aeg-Eas(S F Smy).

**English F Nwy Retreat to Bar, Mrg, or OTB.

Russian A Tri//A (No Retreat).

Italian F Eas//A (No retreat).

***Jerry Jones has decided to resign from this game. Would Bob Acheson like to take over the Russian position - ~~BB~~ permanently and guaranteed?

((All from France)):

(Paris - Vienna): If you hate feuds so much, why do you insist on baiting me constantly, as in your last press? (It might also be nice to know why you meddle in other people's games by writing lies about them to other players, but I won't expect an explanation for that one.) Every time you hit me, I'm going to hit back. This time I've 'arranged' for your quick demise in this game. That way it will take your "Intellectual" Meritocracy forever to bring stupidity to other countries. (Maybe you ought to try something else besides the aging "I'M". The Meritocracy is so old that its hair is falling out ~~BB~~ (and it hasn't won even a draw yet!). But then again, so are you.)

(Paris): My comments on this game & the reasons for my moves are? Williams, if you want to stab me in conjunction with Jones, Don't tell me. You only highlight the fact, but you don't know what you're ~~BB~~ doing. Do you really think that Jones is serious about alliance?

Jones, best of luck to you. I understand your stab (and through England) and hope that you win the game. Obviously, the competition here is limited.

Young, having lost France's 5 centers and England's 6 centers leaves you with 7 centers. Who will win now? If you had not been so stubborn in regard to allying with Jones, not helping your allies, and Russia's attacking Turkey, my moves would be very different. How do you expect Russia to help you vs. Turkey, if you keep pressuring him in Austria? Just think about it for a minute.

In summation, I play for fun. When players ruin that, I try to get out of the game. I do have some pride, and I have never been replaced by anyone before, so I will not be in this game. It means suicide,

1977.09 (cont'd) -

chaps. Since the only satisfaction this game would have given me was the elimination of Gibson and since that was refused me, to hell with 77CU.

(He may change his mind with the Jones resignation, methinks)).

THE LITTLE SICILIAN (via Tours and 1977 CF): Chapter X.

"Papa, so many innocent people have been dying lately - and all of them connected to my shop! I don't understand anything anymore; I wish you'd explain it to me." Roberto and his Papa were seated in the living room after a hard day at work.

"Well non, I thinka it all boils down ta dis: all dese poor, innocent people havea been adying, and nowa itsa time fora da guilty ta die. I got a contract out ona Moricelli; he peeks outa his back door, ana he's a dead man."

"So, Papa, you're responsible for all of the deaths. But I don't see why; why do you kill people left and right?"

"I Don'ta kill dem; I have dem killed for me. Ya gos gotta unnerstan' da difference."

"There IS no difference, Papa! You're a murderer, a murderer!!" Roberto jumped up and ran into his papa, tears streaming down the youth's shiny cheeks, and he beat his puny fists against his Papa. Mr. Hartnonni thought his chest would cave in.

"There's a BIG BIG difference, Roberto my son. My hita men can get 20-life, butta I can get da capital punishment. It'sa something ta be p proud o!"

Chapter XI

"But Papa, why? Why do you do all of these things?" Roberto added more calmly, seating himself again, and wiping the tears from his eyes on his sleeves.

His Papa replied, proverbially, with a question: "Why de ya worka in dat shop?"

"Because I need moncy to work myself up to higher levels, Papa."

"Samea goes fer me. You tinka I LIKE puttin' my life on da line every day by makin' people unhappy? I needa money too, ta get ta da top. De only action here is vice, gamblin', numbers, and small-time organized crime\$; narcotacs is where de action is! How mucha dough you make, Robby?"

"Not much; you know that Papa."

"Hm, and dat's da reason fer bein' in dis business; we couldn't live de way we do on your salary, coulda we? My line a work makes money, and lots o' it. Anything fer a quicka buck!"

"Anything?"

"Anything."

Chapter XII

Roberto and his father, the infamous "Papa" Hartnonni, sat in silence for a few moments, thinking. Then Roberto jumped to his feet decisively, and walked to the door. Stopping in the frame, he looked back at his father. "Papa, I don't want to have anything to do with these small-time killings."

He was interrupted: "Neither do I; I justa told you, I wanna movea up to do big-time raiders and drugs. But go on."

1977 CU (Cont'd) -

"Yes. Like I was saying, I'm moving out of here, and renting an apartment in the east side. I don't want to hear about this ever again!"

Papa's face showed deep concern and great alarm. "No son, don'ta you ever gotta da east sidea. Dat's dangerous country dere, and I don't even own a small part o'it. Dere's too many rough guys. Even I don't ever go into dere without sending reconnaissance in foist."

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ "Nevertheless Papa, I want to get away from here, and the east side is as good as any."

"You kidding boy? Even da newspaperboy goes around in a tank ta collect his week's pay! Tella me Roberto: after all a dis work, what really is youra dreama? Waddayawnna be?"

"A senator, Papa."

"So ya really do wanna get inta da family business, don't ya? Glad ta see ya were just kiddin' before. But ~~you~~ gonna ~~gotta~~ work yer way UP to da top: ya can't be a senator without some trainin' wit' us small-time criminals. Dere's just one way ta get ta da top: start at da bottom."

Chapter XIII next month.

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1977 KU - Winter, 1902.

GM: Konrad Baumeister

Austria (Kelly?): No Removals Received. GM removes A Gal, F Alb.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

England (JH Jones): Builds F Lvp. Resigns. (see page 9).

France (Reges): Builds A Mar.

Germany (Shields): Builds A Kie, A Mun.

Italy (Williams): Builds A Ven, F Nap.

Russia (McManus): Builds A Mos.

Turkey (Pariseau): Builds F Ank.

((Pariseau & Reges each sent builds to me. Konrad agreed to accept Pete's, so it's only fair to accept Craig's also. Next moves go to KONRAD BAUMEISTER. - RAH)).

(France):

The management of France thinks that the noose may slip a little.

(Paris to Italy): Please go away.

XX

1978 (ONE) - Fall, 1901.

Austria (W/Bl/B/S) - Resigns. Standby from Guy Erwin:

A Tri-Bud, F Alb-Gre(S A Ser).

England (W. Wilson) - A Yor-Nwy (C F Nth), F Eng-Bar.

France (JS Jones) - A Bur-Bel, A Mar-Spa, F Mid-Por.

Germany (Sherwood) - A Kie-Mun, A Ruh-Bel (S F Hol).

Italy (Newell?) - NMR. Standby from Mike Kane:

A Tyl-Rie (S A Ven), F Ion-Tun.

Russia (Wiedeneyer) - A Cal-Bud, A Ukr-Sev, PRum-Bla, F Bot-Swe.

Turkey (Washburn) - A Bul-Rum, A Arm-Sev (S F Bla).

A-H: Home, Sgn, Gre; 5 ; Build 2.

Eng: Home, Nwy; 4 ; Build 1.

Fra: Home, Spa, Por; 5 ; Build 2.

Ger: Home, HolmBel; 5 ; Build 2.

Ity: Home, Tun; 4 ; Build 1.

Rus: Home, Rum, Swe; 6 ; Build 2.

Tur: Home, Bul; 4 ; Build 1.

Neutral: Denmark.

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(Part III)

Our adventurers stared tensely at the Orcs. Each side drew weapons, and a fight seemed likely until Bard the Bard stepped in. He quickly used his charisma and smooth tongue to calm the 2 sides enough for Sir Kay to obtain some information.

The Orcs worked for Syevdak, an Uruk-hai in the service of the Chromatic Dragon. They were spying on this party, attempting to discover its purpose, but had been unsuccessful at eavesdropping.

Sir Kap, with the help of Gro LeeOrc managed to convert some of the Orcs to his Demi-god Ukko, and convinced them that double-crossing their master was a wiser plan. The fighter Gannalon, bored with the trip and desiring to split forces, went his separate way - as commander of the newly converted Orcs. Gannalon was to continue seeking out the True Ones covertly. His outward purpose was to keep the Orcs busy and away from the main group and the Chromatic Dragon. ~~Gandalf's~~ ^{Ukko's} screening would prove helpful in the latter regard.

The remainder of the group travelled on through the valley and out of the mountains. But before they reached their exit, they met a group of Gorgons, and a fight ensued. By an amazing stroke of bad luck, Gandalf was turned to stone in the 1st round of melee, sending Brad into a rage. He leapt into the air and out of sight. The fight continued as more of the group was turned to stone by Gorgon breath.

As things looked grim, a dragon landed behind the beasts (1 of 4 had been killed by Yarrl in 1 blow), and began biting and clawing furiously. But the dragon was also turned to stone (just after Yarrl) just as he killed the last Gorgon.

Yet somehow the gods knew of the beleaguered group. It seemed that one member was almost superhuman, and to bring that person back to life would be a prestigious deed for the one who did it. After much bickering, it was agreed that all of the gods would throw a ~~5%~~ Stone-Flesh spell at the same moment, on penalty of death to any god who cheated.

None did, and the spells flew simultaneously. Each of the other characters was raised by his/her respective god, and were ready to leave again. But Gandalf was despondent. How could he have been stoned? His despondency turned to anger towards the chaotic gods present, and he challenged Ulmo (Demi-god of Swordsmanship) to a sword fight.

Ulike deferred to his most powerful earthly cleric, Sir Kay, and presented Sir Kay with his personal flaming sword. The fight was close, as Gandalf also had a Wizard's Sword. Each killed the other at the ninth moment, each one raised from the dead. Gandalf was much happier - he had just killed someone using a Demi-god's sword, Sir Kay received a Flaming Sword identical in appearance to Ulike's, and the group continued on its way.

In the meantime, the gods had decided to hold a meeting elsewhere, and left the area.

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Special Notes: AFTERLIFE DIPLOMACY PLAYERS:

CRAIG KEGGS has a Change of Address not listed on Page 1:
Craig Keggs - 1501 Higgins Hall; Western Illinois University;
Macomb, Illinois 61455.

CHEVE WILSON: I need your phone number to call you collect.

WEP:JB

Study Requests:

1977 CU - Bob Acheson for Russia. (Note - Jerry Jones has resigned and you can take this position permanently - guaranteed).
 Jim McManus for Germany.

1977 KU - Anyone for Austria. Vincent Lieu for England (permanent replacement).

1978 (ONE) - Jim McManus for Austria. (Note - Guy Irwin may wish to retain this position, this is just in case he doesn't. If you take it over, it will be as a permanent replacement.)

Vincent Lieu for Germany.

Curt Gibson

((Anyone else is also free to submit moves for these positions. I hope that some others will, as they may be needed.))

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Moves Due:

1976 EJ - Winter/Spring, 1971. 1977 KU - Spring, 1973.

1977 CU - Fall, 1975

1978 (ONE) - Winter, 1976.

((Separation requests in EJ will be honored, but I hope you'll try not to ask for one.))

The Next Moves Are Due On: OCTOBER 6, 1978.

Konrad's Moves Are Due On: OCTOBER 4, 1978.

((Konrad may request them even earlier, since EGGNOG #1 is scheduled for October 1, and I'm not sure if he's taking 77KU. Be ready for a postcard from him.))

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