

THE PODUNK NEWS

Issue #49

October 9, 1978

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Editor/Publisher - Bob Hartwig

Wiretap 40

Your somewhat reliable publisher comes through again, with yet another issue of THE PODUNK NEWS. Subs are 30¢ per issue, 20¢ if you're a standby in a game. There are no game openings.

Standby List

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

Collect Calls

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

Changes of Address

1. Guy Erwin - see subscriber list.
2. Pete Pariseau - -----"-----.

News

Konrad Baumeister took over 77 KH in his zine Egnog. Those of you who aren't reading this now - that's the reason.

The situation between me and Greg Costikyan has calmed during the past month, thanks to Rod Walker. Hopefully we will be able to work together on a settlement regarding DipCon Site Selection before next July.

I would like to apologize to Mr. Costikyan at this time. He has since returned his Depreciation Expense, and has also finally made an accounting of the costs of the 1977 Handbook. It is unfortunate that I felt forced to go to such lengths to get action. Hopefully in the future we will be able to work more cooperatively ~~to~~ together.

Also, Rod Walker has sent me an announcement that, due to a power he retained after giving up the BN's, he has the power to transfer the custodianship. He has done so, and the BNC is now officially in the hands of Dennis Agosta (14 Shadyside Ave.; Dumont, New Jersey 07628). All Publishers still waiting for numbers should send all info to Dennis, as it may be a long time before Cal switches his records over. You'll get a number faster if you write to Dennis, and I'm sure the voluntary 1 dollar donation will help. You should also send a stamped, self-addressed postcard!

Hartmut Halfmeier, publisher of the German zine Stabsenzeiger, recently went on vacation and visited the city of Korbach. He was kind enough to send me 2 postcards from there. I wish to thank him very much, as Korbach is the city where my ancestors lived before immigrating to the US in the 1860's. Thank you Hartmut.

Finally, a letteré from Robert Bryan Lipton appears on page 2.

Letter from Robert Lipton

Page 2

Dear Bob,

I hope you see fit to publish this letter and, even more hopefully, correct the spelling errors which have crept in from the typewriter being new to my fingers. ((Can't promise anything, though, I'm a lousy typist!))

The purpose of this letter is to comment on your statements about the IDANA and the DipCon Society in THE FODUNK NEWS #48.

First of all, if I remember correctly, the IDANA Constitution defines a quorum as a majority of the Council at a DipCon ((or voting by mail)), plus various members. Correct me if I am wrong; if not, I think the traditional definition of a quorum, which is the above, is the one that was used. ((True, but one of our decisions was to allow the entire council to vote again in 80)).

Now, under those definitions, the 1977 ~~3313333~~ DipCon did have a quorum for action, and so could pass amendments, bylaws, etc. If you think not, consider what happened in Baltimore in 1976! ((True, but see comment above; this would make all actions at DipCon sort of a "First Reading"). Under these circumstances, the movement to dismember DipCon from the IDANA was successful. 3 out of a quorum of 5 is enough to pass a bylaw; and since DipCon is not written into the IDANA Constitution as being part of the IDANA, it has to stand. ((See points above. Also, it is not my contention that DipCon is or ever was controlled by IDANA, only that the "Society" established was ridiculously bureaucratic for such a small hobby. Actually, I thought the old method quite effective, although Rod Walker has since convinced me that a streamlined version of the "Society" might be all right.))

That must have been some private meeting that agreed to have all actions ratified by the Council, since it was never mentioned at the meeting! ((The meeting was to provide some unanimity so as not to have the fights start as in 1976. It was not mentioned to make it seem that there were no problems, but I believe that the subject of a second vote was mentioned, though I may be mistaken. Greg and Ben DID attend this meeting, though they were about 1/2 hour late.))

While Greg may not be able to speak with any authority about the goings-on at this year's DipCon, not having been there, I was at GLASSO, and can do so. The IDANA General Meeting was ended when Rod Walker moved that the General Meeting be ended and that we restructure (or whatever the correct term is) ourselves into the DipCon Committee. This was passed. Constitutionally, the people at the meeting before were not the same as after. ((Agreed, however, neither was it a meeting of the DipCon Site/Selection Committee, since that organization hadn't met any of the points in its "Charter"; I maintain that through not functioning, the committee doesn't exist - see last issue.))

As for your statements about Greg's financial interests (I prudently do not comment upon Ben's), I think you so him a great wrong. ((In the past I have equated their interests and attitudes as one in the same - I may be wrong in doing so, though.)) You cavil about the figure for depreciation on his mimeo in figuring out the bill for the 1977 HANDBOOK (which was approved by the 1977 Council; so shut up, Bob!), well; believe it or not, equipment does break down and has to be replaced or repaired occasionally. Some genius once discovered that equipment lasts longer if you don't use it (something about parts wearing out). If running off the HANDBOOK causes depreciation in the machine, the IDANA was responsible for it. ((I contend that he charged TOO MUCH for depreciation, not that he can't charge any. I found the amount excessive in my opinion, but again, could be wrong.))

Letter (Cont'd) -

Finally, it should be pointed out that casting doubts and accusations upon previous IDANA ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Councils can only, in the future open the possibility of similar doubt being cast upon your reign. Why can't you accept the fact that we do things differently in NYC? Not necessarily better or worse (except that we like how we do things for us), but different.

Sigh.

Abyssinian
(Robert Bryan Lipton)

((I fully expect people to question my reign. Nobody's perfect, and at times I get pretty high-handed. I may have been high-handed in this situation also. However, if someone questions my actions (as Greg did and you have done), I expect the right to reply (as I have).

((Also, I do realize that you do things differently in NYC. However, I do not understand why, and no one has ever bothered to explain. But I also believe that that argument goes both ways. We don't try to understand you, but neither do you try to understand us. We have good reasons (for us) for our actions, too.

((Finally, to the readers, Mr. Lipton is about the only NYC'er who's opinions I respect and take notice of. I don't always agree with those opinions, but I try my hardest to listen to them.))

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

ANNOUNCEMENT
from
Ron Lighthall

((Ron, I have misplaced your note, but will paraphrase as best as I remember)).

Are your negotiations going badly? Do you wonder why your enemies always seem to get the best of you on that Diplomacy board? Are you tired of being stabbed instead of being the stabber?

Well, perhaps it's not your style of play. Possibly the Ghods just aren't with you.

Now you have the unique opportunity to correct that situation. In your next set of orders, just include a note to Bob Hartwig.

What for? Well, I, Sir Ron Kay Kwathperthon, a member of Bob's D&D adventure in PODUNK, am a cleric of the great Demighod Ukko. Ukko, the Demighod of Swordsmanship, could be just the deity you need for that extra added finesse with a blade you need to slide one into your enemies' backs.

How do I convert, you ask? Well, in your next set of orders, just tell Bob in a note, "I convert to Ukko". And if you do, just watch your luck change as you, too, discover the advantages of a Demighod who really cares about his followers.

(Sir Kay).

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

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P=Publisher's Copy. T=Trade. S=Subscriber. T?=Uncure Status.
 #49 = This issue only!

If you're interested, yes, I am trying to reduce my sub list. I will open no new trades, and some of the old ones are starting to fblt so that number will be reduced also. If I ever have just 1 or 2 games going, I will probably drop all but the really necessary trades and go on a straight subscription basis, but that could be a ways off, since it looks like BJ will be a fight to the finish.

THE SEARCH

(Part IV):

Following the most awesome collection of deities ever witnessed, the group (less Gannalon) continued on its way. In order to shorten things, I will separate movements from battles.

- Day 3 - E into Hills. Mountains NW, NE, E, SW.
- Day 4 - SE into Forest.
- Day 5 - E into Clear. Mountains NW, 2 hexes SW, 2 hexes E; Forest NE.
Meet Smith Merchants that night (no battle).
- 6 - W into Forest. ~~Brad~~ (party of men) lead you to Hill Giant lair).
- 7 - E into Clear (same as Day 5). (Stampede that night).
- 8 - NE into Forest.
- 9 - NW into Hills. Mountains SW, W, NW, E.
- 10 - NE into Hills. Mountains W, SE, E; Forest NE. (Meet 6 Cloud Giants).
- 11 - NE into Forest. ~~Brad leaves, comes back later, town 5 hexes NE.~~
Meet 19 Longbowmen. Pay 1870 gp for camping and protection.
4 Red Dragons attack the group.
- 12 - NE into Clear. Forest NW, SW; Mountains SE.
- 13 - NE into Clear. Hills SE; Forest E, W, NW.
- 14 - NE into Clear. Forest E, SE, W, NW.
- 15 - NE into Clear with Town, along coast. Ocean NE, NW; Forest E, W.
Meet 63 human soldiers (infantry).

On the evening of the 5th day a group of Smith Merchants entered camp, demanding pay for encamping on their master's land. Yarri was urged to turn down this demand, and did so. The next day the group was escorted back to a massive cave filled with Hill Giants, Orcs, Men, and other assorted nasties.

Gandalf and the Hill Giant King fought a mind battle to see what strength the other possessed. After many tense moments where Brad motioned the quested party away from his body, while Gandalf warmed up his spell-casting finger, it was agreed that a token sum of 250 GP would be paid and the party would leave immediately. The giants were exceedingly unhappy, but decided to let your group go.

On the evening of the 7th, a thundering noise came toward a largely sleeping camp. 12 horses stampeded camp, but Dave was stomped by 11 for 135 pips. He took 4½ hours to regenerate with his ring (which made saving throw). Unfortunately, this sight was a bit much for the normally hardy constitutions of Sir Ron, Brian, and Gandalf, who each regurgitated their recent meal.

The 10th saw ~~6~~ Cloud Giants (6) attack the moving party in daylight. The ensuing battle resulted in death to Sir Ron and Yarri, as each was hit by Dragon's Breath (when Brad mysteriously turned himself into a Dragon), and by a meteor swarm thrown by Gandalf. However, Phantom, Scamper, Baloo, Dave, Dawn, Baker, Brian, and Mark each gained 500 experience through their brave participation in the fight. After the dead were raised by a wish from Gandalf, the ~~party~~ party, led by Sunshine, went searching for a lair, easily found.

However, this lair also contained 3 more Cloud Giants, and consisted of a castle on a cloud, connected to the ground by a large, sky blue beanstalk. This fight was relatively quick and easy, and all gained 500 more experience.

The lair held 3000 sp, 6000 gp, 4 gems (1000, 500, 100, and 50 gp), and 4 jewelry (5000, 3000, 1000, and 1000 GP). Also included were 3 scrolls - 1 spell Lawful Cleric, 3 spell MU (3rd level spell left), and Illusionist (used by Brad).

Search (Cont'd) 2

But the real treasure were 8 magic items.

- 1 - Heroism Potion (to Baloo).
- 2 - +2 Leather Armor (to Brad).
- 3 - Ebony Fly - Fig. of Wondrous Power (to Dave).
- 4 - Sword +1, +3 v. Trolls (to Dawn).
- 5 - Potion of Sone Giant Control (to Mark).
- 6 - +2 Sword (unusable by characters - given to Gandalf).
- 7 - Horn of Collapsing (to Gandalf).
- 8 - +4 Sword (to Larry).

For some strange reason, once Larry had picked up his sword, he got a strange urge, attacked and killed Ron. To relieve this situation of a sword not liking someone else's alignment, Gandalf went off and prayed. When he returned, each charcter felt another urge. Not only kid each have to choose between Lawful, Neutral, and ~~Chaos~~ each also (Chaos) must now choose between good and evil, for Gandalf's prayer had brought 5 alignments to the world.

The town was named Abbidon and contained 2078 human, and 181 Elven residents. Yarri, and Kwatheperthon each went out converting this new gold mine of potential. Phantom mysteriously disappeared. Converts came, and Yarri and Kwathe each felt his power and importance growing.

However, the rest of the group began to get a bit edgy. For quite some time, Yarri had been drawing off his Atlas followers for private meetings, and their inaudible whisperings were worrying everyone, including Gandalf and Brad. The same was done with a few of the new converts, and everyone remained on edge.

But other matters seemed even more important. The next step would lead the adventurers overseas, and ships, crews, and provisions were needed quickly. The winds were foreboding, as if an unseen force drew near. Time seemed very important to each character.

And the order went out. Ads were placed about the countryside for crews and captains. 23000\$ days worth of provisions were ordered (100 days per person). 5 large merchant, and 7 small merchant ships were ordered from the ship builders, but they couldn't make them in time. Gandalf grew quiet, raised his arms over his head. The wind blew, clouds gathered, the waves crashed on the docks. A faint glowing rod appeared through all this, grasped in Gandalf's hands. The rod went through all colors of the rainbow, ending with brown and finally black. The black grew darker, darker, until it almost seemed to be glowing black. Sweat poured off of Gandalf, his hands trembled, sweat turned to blood. Gandalf brought his hands together, the rod disappeared, Gandalf collapsed, and the men started working 6 times faster than normal.

Gandalf was cleaned up and escorted to his room, where he recuperated for a few days. However, he had drawn the attention of the entire town, and was a marvel when he walked the streets once again.

Finally, 17 large, and 46 small catapults were ordered for the ~~the~~ ships. Crewmen skilled in the longbow came from all over, ship captains were found, provisions, and catapults placed, and the Armada was ready to sail, 3 months after arriving in town.

What will you be doing aboard ship? What alignment are you converting to (you must keep Law, Neutral, or Chaos, but L & C can choose between Good and Evil)? Finally, are you buying or trading anything in this town? (No magic shop exists, but there are MU's around.)

Orders due on 10/24/78 for D&Ders ONLY.

1977 CU (Cont'd) -

A-H: ~~Nis~~, Ser; 1 ; No Builds. (Draw proposal below
 Eng: Home, Den, ~~Nwy~~, ~~Spa~~; 4 ; Remove 2. in Press (Italy)).
 Fra: Home, Por, ~~Bel~~, Spa; 5 ; No Builds .
 Ger: Home, Hol, ~~Bel~~; 5 ; Build 1.
 Ity: Home, Tun, ~~Spa~~, Tri, Gre; 6 ; Build 2.
 Rus: Home, Rum, Bud, ~~Tri~~, Vie, Swe, Nwy; 9 ; Build 2.
 Tur: Home, Bul, ~~Spa~~; 4 ; Remove 1.

(Austria): The Aushung wouldbe meritocracy welcomes Czar Acheson, as now he and King Bumsteer can resume that head-on collision course that was so rudely interrupted at the kicked bucket of 1976 DU. Will it be a 6 rounder, 8 rounds, or KO in 5?

(France): Paris: Thanks, Jerry...

(Italy): Rome: Considering the Russian drop out, the German NMR, and the French suicidal attack v. Italy, Italy proposes a concession to Turkey and England to end this fallen apart game. ((Everyone must vote on 2-way draw between Turkey and England. Abstention counts as a YES vote.))

(Russia): Moscow to Paris: Konrad, do you ever stop shooting your mouth off? ((Many people ask that- RAH)).
 Sevastopol to Constantinople: Peace.

(France): Paris: THE LITTLE SICILIAN (via Tours and 77CF):

Chapter XIII

After some more arguing it was decided that Roberto was to have an apartment of his own on Papa's own South Side. This project was (predictably) financed by Papa Hartnonni, but Roberto insisted on paying a quarter of the total cost, to get him acclimated to the real world. Some rather diligent, long, hard work at the business (Papa's helper, claiming that he had "Done his job" was through working for Roberto), managed to get enough money together to pay for what was necessary. However, after a month or so, Roberto couldn't keep up with his quarter of the bills. Being too proud to ask his papa for money, he knew of only one source of readily available, fast cash: Papa's arch-enemy Mr. Moricelli.

The meeting was arranged with a minimum of fuss: Moricelli's warehouse on 53rd Street, no guns, no feds.

Papa Hartnonni, after he found out about ~~the~~ the arrangement some 2 hours after it was made (the grapevine was becoming horribly slow), figured that he might just drop in and join the party.

Chapter XIV

Roberto took the news of Mr. Moricelli's death on his way to the warehouse very badly. He was behind on paying his bills and still too proud to ask his papa. Then he remembered someone that his one-time assistant had mentioned as his past employer; a certain Mr. Passioni. Roberto promptly made a deal. Papa did not interfere, for some bizarre reason. A deadline was set for the return of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the money borrowed, at what Roberto thought was a rather steep 35% interest rate.

1977 CU - Press - (Cont'd) -

but was told was probably as small as he'd get anywhere. But business took a turn for the worse, and Roberto was unable to pay his 3rd quarter.

Chapter XV

The morning after the deadline 2 Italian gentlemen visited Roberto's shop. Our Robby tried to be polite, but they seemed rather impatient. They wanted Mr. Passioni's money.

"But sirs, like I told Mr. Passioni only last night: I have no money to give you this month. I swear on a stack of Bibles that I'll have both quarters and interest for him in a month!"

"Guido, do you believe him?"

"Nah Tony, I thinka thata we've gotta teach him a lessona. Mr. Passioni don'ta like it when his sharks ~~miss~~ don'ta deliver."

"So Guido, which appendage comes off?"

~~"Don'ta know, Tony. You wanta an arma or a lega?"~~ The 2 had already edged Roberto into a very small corner.

"But sirs," Roberto pleaded, "if I could I'd pay it up! And if I can't make the money honestly by the next deadline, I'll borrow it from someone else! I'll pay through the nose if I have to!"

"Ya, that's your option: pay through the nose or bleed through it!"

(Chapter XVI next month.)

XX

1978 (One) - Winter, 1901.

- Austria (Erwin) - F Gre, A Tri, Ser, BUDAPEST, VIENNA.
- England (W. Wilson) - F Nth, Bar, LONDON, A Wey.
- France (Jones) - NMR. Standby from Alan Guile:
A Bur, Spa, PARIS, F Por, MARSEILLES.
- Germany (Sherwood) - A Mun, Bel, BERLIN, KIEL, F Hol.
- Italy(???) - NMR. Standby from Mike Kane.
F Tun, NAPLES, A Pie, Ven.
- Russia (Wiedemeyer) - F Rum, Swe, A Gal, Ukr, SEVASTOPOL, ST. PETERSBURG.
- Turkey (Washburn) - F Bla, ANKARA, A Bul, Arm.

Guy Erwin has decided to accept the Austrian position. I asked Curt Gibson for the wrong standby last turn, and ask for Italy this time, but from Jim McManus instead of Curt. Also need Pete Pariseau for France.

Also, Alan Guile & Mike Kane, are friends here at college. They have agreed to make moves for countries through 1901, but do not want to retain by-mail positions. That is why they are being replaced by other standbys.

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

WRAP UP

Standby Requests:

1978 (One) - Jim McManus for Italy. (Permanent Replacement).
Pete Pariseau for France.

Wrap Up (Cont'd) -

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Moves Due:

1976 BJ - Fall, 1911.
1977 CU - Winter, 1905.

1978 (One) - Spring, 1902.

The Next Moves Are Due On: NOVEMBER 4, 1978.

Robert A. Hartwig, Jr.
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*** ** TPN **

Sub Ends: Sample #49 Only.

Messages: Rod, will answer letters when CC comes out in next few days.

Bob