

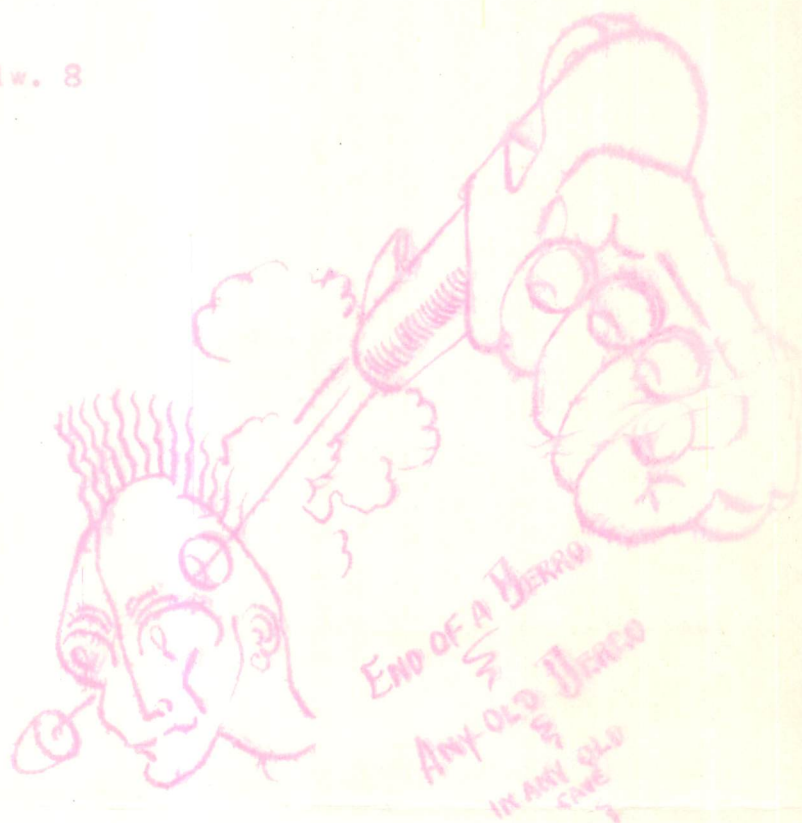
EMBER #17

Brazier 1329 N. 33rd St. Milw. 8

12 October 46

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"Are the hot wires ready?"
"Yes, master, red hot."
"Is the oil boiling?"
"Yes, master, searing!"
"Is the victim tied securely?"
"Yes, master, she cannot move."
"Is the shroud over her?"
"Yes, master."
"Okay, then -- give her the
ten-shilling permanent."
--Catholic Fireside, Dublin,
reprinted in the September
Encore, as sent in by
George Tullis.



As a result of Rusty Hevelin's appearance here in Milwaukee on October 8, it was decided to hold a gathering of all possible fans and authors on the night of the 9th. Showing at EMBER's publishing house (!) were the following: Roy Ivens, Roland Lamboy, Justin Miles, Nanek, James Hevelin, Phil Schumann, Jane Menke, Fredric Brown, and Robert Bloch. Since the editor of EMBER does not like to read accounts of such gatherings which are primarily social in nature, he will not enter any of the details here. But certain concomitant proliferations stemming from the characters present at the meeting seem to appear of interest.

Roy Ivens, about 20 years ago, met H.P. Lovecraft when the latter was here in Milwaukee. Through Roy's submission of poetry to HPL for criticism, HPL sent him the original manuscript of Fungi from Yuggoth, much of it in longhand. From the size of the ms, Roy has opined that there were more sonnets than published. Well, in the last 20 years, Roy has never heard further about Lovecraft-- until I took over a desk right next to Roy at the museum. But I was one year too late, for only last year Roy cleaned out his desk and boxes of ms and the fates consigned the Fungi to the wastebasket. The only thing salvageable was the following paragraph I quote from the margin of one of Roy's poems which HPL criticized:

"You are no doubt aware that the most authentic contemporary taste demands a type of vocabulary & diction in verse which shall not depart in any essential way from the simple, straightforward, vital language of ordinary parlance conversation -- though of course purged of the extremes of slang & slovenly repetition. The idea of a stately & separate 'poetic' language is as dead as Tennyson & Longfellow." -- comment by HPL on "Sophistry's Touch", a poem by Roy M. Ivens, circa 1927.

Lamboy is a friend of Ivens, and writing and studying under the GI bill. He has received several rejections from Weird Tales. Miles is a young fan who first made fan contact with a personal appearance at the First Post War Contact with the Moon Con at Chicago. Nanek is Mrs. Virginia Anderson, a Milwaukee poet, and remarkable woman. She can read, let's see, 66 zillion words a year -- oh, ask Schumann about it! Rusty, editor of Stefnews, is a personable fellow with rusty hair, soon to be discharged from the Marines. He is making a cross-country tour, but plans to be back again in Chicago to attend the Centracon November 9-10. Schumann, of course, is fan number 23 -- need we say more?

Jane Menke, airplane pilot and member of the U.S. Rocket Society, unfortunately got little chance to speak of the plans of the rocketeers. However, she left Farnsworth's booklet ROCKETS - NEW TRAIL TO EMPIRE with EMBER. The booklet opens with a photo of Bob Farnsworth holding some "nozzles" in his hands, as Jane said: "He's always holding some nozzles in his hands." Then a quote from Daniel H. Burnham -- make no little plans, make big ones. The contents includes definitive material on rockets; rocket problems of finance, fuel, space, and design; where a rocket can go; a lunar empire; the future renaissance; an excellent bibliography of books and articles.

Fredric Brown has written some very fine fantasy as well as detective stories. Recently he was the subject of an article in the Milw. Journal Green Sheet on the occasion of his story "Madman's Holiday" being bought by RKO as a vehicle for Pat O'Brien. It is filmed under title CRACKUP.

Robert Bloch has a write-up this issue of EMBER which gives the pertinent facts of this gentleman of the gore. Next issue of EMBER we will feature a similar page on famous fan #23. After that, who would you like to meet?



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE LATEST

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FMZ: comes a card from Abraham Oshinsky of the World Astronomy Club, 429 Avenue P, Brooklyn 23. It says that NEBULAE will be printed. The announcement is addressed "To members of the W.A.C. Martian News Letter, Vol 4 No 4, mimeo job from Telis Streiff....STEFNEWS, #63....Ackerman

sends a single mimeo sheet on "Francis Flagg". Besides the tribute to Geo. Weiss, who died 17 May 1946, valuable bibliography of his published stories is included. 4E makes a fine suggestion to the Fantasy Foundation to put out obit booklets whenever the occasion arises, and keep them somewhat standardized, much like the one he and Joquel issued after the death of H.G. Wells. PMZ: Writers Digest, Oct., has some news about Sircet And Sherry publications. Mention is made of JWC editing Air Trails, and bringing to the magazine all his background and experience as a trained physicist. The title of the mag will be, in Jan 1947, Air Trails and Science Frontiers. ASF pays a cent and a half a word, plus occasional bonuses. "Outside business hours, John Campbell does enough writing to employ several pen names, besides publishing material under his own name. Henry Holt is bringing out his new book, "The Atomic Story", in November." JWC recommends to would-be contributors that they study ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE and THE BEST OF SCIENCE FICTION.

Have you noticed the last two covers of ASF with ruins decorated by the name of Timmins as an integral part of the drawing? In the Sept. issue it was Timmins Studio, and in the current issue it is Timmins Building. This latest cover is one of the best, I think.... Science News Letter tells of a new method of medical diagnosis: electrophoresis. It depends upon the action of blood proteins separation and migration in an electric field. It has been noted that certain patterns are normal, but that patients with certain ailments (one of which is cancer) show abnormal electrophoretic patterns..... SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED for Oct. is out with several interesting articles: "Silent Death", or poisons, germs, and rays in the next war; atomic rays as medical spies; the end of the world; "Rocket Observatory" by H.S. Richardson; Hollywood's new picture of the story of the Atom Bomb; friendly and enemy molds; and the place of luck or chance in scientific discoveries..... EMBER had begun to wonder what had happened to Dr. Rhine. Well, the latest American, Nov., carries an article by him: "Have You Second Sight?" It's just a re-hash job of the old material on ESP....

Newspapers: Jack Riggs sends a clip from Oakland Post-Enquirer about the U.P. report of the long lived frog. It was found imbedded in a caliche bed seven feet underground. Its skin was soft and tender and bruised after a few hops; it lived only two days after exposure to the air. Since there was no crevice into the mineral bed, it seemed possible that the frog had been there in suspended animation for possibly 2,000,000 years..... Several book reviews of interest have appeared recently. New York Times reviewed People in Quandries 8 Sept. Someone sent me the clip but I failed to note who; if that someone will remind me, I'll give credit in the earliest EMBER. The review is favorable. Bob Stein, who has bought it, also recommends it highly. The book appears to be a primer in general semantics for one thing and an application of the principles to maladjustments of the man in the street..... Last Sunday the Milwaukee Journal carried a special "Frophet by Accident"-- a reprint from PM concerning biographical data of Pierrepont B. Noyes, author of THE PALLID GIANT, reissued as GENTLEMEN: YOU ARE MAD. Noyes is president of Onida, makers of silverware

THE ROBERT BLOCH, Esq.



As to a half-page autobiography of yours truly, I can offer two kinds -- the flattering kind and the truthful kind. Just for the hell of it, let's take the latter:

As far as I know, there is only one of me, and he was born April 5, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois. At the age of 10 he was exiled to Milwaukee, where he still remains. Any other Robert Blochs are purely coincidental.

I became interested in writing through the kind offices of H.P. Lovecraft and the 'Lovecraft circle' and 2 months after graduating from high school, sold my first story to Weird Tales. That was 12 years ago, when I was 17... and I've been selling ever since to various fantasy and detective magazines under my own name and under the pseudonym of Tarleton Fiske. At times I've collaborated with Henry Kuttner, Ralph Milne Farley, Jim Kjelgaard -- but

never with any other Robert Bloch.

Arkham House published my collection, THE OPENER OF THE WAY, last year, and at present Editions Fournier is bringing out the French edition. Various tales of mine have been reprinted in anthologies; in addition I've had a score of stories reprinted in English publications. The Kate Smith show and the Mollie Mystery Theater have both done YOURS TRULY, JACK THE RIPPER. Last year I adapted 39 of my stories for my radio horror show, STAY TUNED FOR TERROR, a transcription series aired over various U.S., Canadian, and Hawaiian stations. At present it appears that I might do 39 more, as there are plans afoot to give the program a wider audience in the future. I'm still doing magazine stories and hope to complete a novel.

For the past five years I've been associated with the Gustav Marx Advertising Agency. In reading my tastes are omnivorous; in food, carnivorous; in clothing, atrocious. Have a weakness for modern Russian composers; also ancient Scotch and rye. I am married (to one wife) and have a daughter (singular, and most singular at thst) and as final proof of the fact that I'm not twins, I sleep in a single bed.

OK?

Bob Bloch

A Chinese philosopher was watering some fish in a pool.

"Those fish must be very happy," he mused aloud.

A stranger overheard his words and said: "How do you know that the fish are happy? You are not a fish."

The philosopher replied.

"How do you know I do not know that the fish are happy? You are not me."

---- Fred Hurter in
#11, July 1946

CANADIAN FANDOM

Included with the 19th issue of EMBER will be a printed sheet titled LAWS OF MATTER UP-TO-DATE. This sheet was compiled by Helen M. Davis, editor of CHEMISTRY and distributed by Science Service. This sheet formed the first page of #1 T////////, and since there were many copies unsold I have taken this plan to distribute them. Watch for further announcements pertaining to the amalgamation of T//////// with Phil Schumann's popular zine PSYCHO.

