

The Science Fiction Newspaper

Science-Fiction Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 15 - No. 13

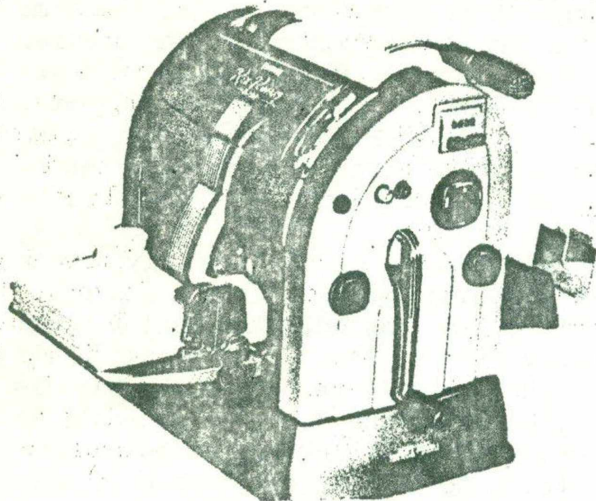
SECOND JUNE 1960 ISSUE

(#340) 10¢

NEW PRESS FOR S-F TIMES?

NEW YORK, 30 May, (CNS) - Science-Fiction Times rolled off a new press today in an effort to speed up the paper from the time the stencils are cut till its readers receive the paper. The new press will also allow pictures and other items to be published at a reasonable cost, which the old Speed-O-Print could not do.

The new press is a REX-ROTARY D280, which duplicates similar to a standard "mimeograph" machine, but is called a silk-screen duplicator. It is a fast motor driven machine and is portable



REX-ROTARY D 280

enough to be carried from site to site. It is a self-inker of the closed drum type that insures uniform inking thru-

(concluded on page 4, column 1)

WALTER GILLINGS SETS UP EDITOR'S PRESS SERVICE

INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A "NEWSPAPER"
FOR THE BLIND

SLIPPED DISC FORCED HIM INTO NEW POSITION

ILFORD, Essex, England, 12 May, (CNS) - Walter Gillings, Britain's first science-fiction magazine editor, recently recovered from a serious slipped disc illness,



Mr. Walter Gillings recently set himself up in a new journalism business. Walter's new Press Service

(concluded on page 4, column 2)

THE DETENTION ISSUES A FINAL REPORT

NEW YORK, 7 June, (CNS) - Arrived today with the PITTCON's Progress Report #2, the long delayed Detention Final Report. This is the final totaling up of Income vs. Expenses of the 1959, 17th World Science-Fiction Convention, held in Detroit, Mich.

I N C O M E

Convention memberships	\$1,056.00
Advertising (<u>Progress Reports</u>)..	120.00
Advertising (<u>Program Booklet</u>)..	229.00
Donations	727.52
Banquet Tickets	1,038.55
Received from 16th World Con. .	106.35
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,277.42

E X P E N S E S

<u>Progress Reports & misc. printg</u> \$	292.79
<u>Program Booklet</u>	317.50
<u>Contributions*</u>	377.00
Prizes, Trophies, Awards	509.84
Postage	102.90
Entertainment	411.44
Banquet	1,055.05
Miscellaneous	145.15
Advertising & Promotion	44.75
Bad Debt -- Ted E. White	21.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$3,277.42

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*Contributions were as follows:

18th World Science Fiction	
Convention (PITTCON).....	\$200.00
Transatlantic Fan Fund	105.00
John Barry Trip Fund	72.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$377.00

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The report carried a note: "Our 'Bad Debt' has been turned over to the 18th World Stf. Con for collection. If collectible this will become an additional contribution."

Under "UNFINISHED BUSINESS" was the following:

First, two winners in the subscription raffle have not been identified. Holders of tickets numbered 394125 and 394497 are eligible to receive 1-year subscriptions, one to Amazing Science Fiction Stories, the other to Nova Publications' (British) Science Fiction Adventures, the first named winner having

first choice.

Secondly, the purchaser of Lan Wright's manuscript, "A Man Called Destiny" did not receive --- as he should have --- an autographed cover sheet which Mr. Wright sent specially for the Detention.

If these persons will contact Dean McLaughlin at 1214 West Washington St., Ann Arbor, Mich., they will receive the items belonging to them.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

by Our Readers

Atlanta, Ga.

April 30, 1960

Dear Mr. Taurasi:

I don't think even good sf will help the field until we get a good sales outlook.

Now, the problems connected with a digest magazine are obvious. The size of the magazine and the overloaded conditions of the digest and slick racks are visible to anyone. One movement of the wrist and Galaxy is obscured by Potshot Detective, Amazing by Saddlesore Western. The slicks are just as crowded, and the slick mags are all of the same general types: Men's, Women's and others.

Now a lone pulp sent into a newsstand is lost, even among the digests. It has to be stuck behind something, or crowded into a corner. If it's put on the same shelf with the slicks -- whither pulp?

But suppose, on the same day, or at least the same week, six or eight pulps came into a newsstand. The dealer would probably find a place for them, all their own. He couldn't put them with the digests, because the digest mags would be hidden, and the slicks would be ridiculous (even to a newsdealer) so he'd have to make room. The pulps wouldn't even have to all be sf. Fantasy, mystery, western, sports and aviation could be represented. With some attention to art direction and a more mature outlook than the pulps of yore had, they'd catch on -- at first out of curiosity and later on their own merits. But the important thing is that they'd do what no digest

Or slick magazine can now do: Get a footgold in the newsstand.

I'm not suggesting that some publisher go out and put eight pulp format magazines on the stands. But if perhaps three or four publishers -- say, Margulies, Columbia, Great American and Palmer (Lord, if they could only revive Popular of Fiction House.) then it could be done economically for all concerned and probably without great loss to more than one or two (Depending on their editors --- and Margulies and Lowndes and Palmer CAN edit) and perhaps to none.

This might alleviate the suffering the field is going thru, and if the magazines are slanted it would alleviate the dullness of modern science-fantasy.

For, one thing wrong with modern magazine sf is that none of it is science-fiction or fantasy. It's all in between. Galaxy and Analog are revivals of Unknown Worlds, even tho Gal is slicked up. The rest consistantly print what damon knight blurbed in Worlds Beyond as "science fantasy" -- the Bradbury, Matheson pseudo-sf. One good strong science-fiction mag, one good fantasy mag and one good adventure mag (SF-Plus, Weird Tales and Other Worlds /Pre 1953 OW/ idealistically.) would certainly pep up the field. But you have no guarantee what you'll find in magazines today.

Now at first, this idea may seem naive, but given some thought, I think you'll see its value. Pulp can stand out, but only if they aren't forced into hiding.

Any takers?

Sincerely
Jerry Page

(Thanks for your interesting letter, we'll leave it to our readers to answer. We also would appreciate more letters on how we can help s-f magazines. We'll publish as many per issue as we can.

-the editors)

Glenshaw, Penna.
May 21, 1960

Dear Sir:

I received the selightly plump S-F Times #337 today, and enjoyed it greatly, especially Walter Cole's TV article.

I always give the writer of a book or show every possible benefit of the doubt when a technical error occurs, but whenever I have watched "Men Into Space" (Note: "Men", not "Man") I have had the thought, "How can they keep getting away with this?". It's quite strange to see the name of someone as eminently knowledgeable as Chesley Bonestell connected with such a botched-up production. I am willing to forgive them for the incidents in which men on the moon go about snapping pictures with ordinary-looking cameras like slightly bored tourists; after all, how can we know just how far technology can go in making cameras and films resistant to Lunar conditions of heat, cold, vacuum, ~~hard~~ radiation, and who knows what else. But, if the moon's gravity is 1/6 Earth normal, as we have good reason to believe, why do the characters bob slowly along looking for all the world like they were under water. Mr. Cole mentioned the sould transmission of a rocket's blast through a vacuum, but did he see the thrilling episode where our intrepid heroes were caught on the moon in a meteor shower. Those "meteors" were all the size of peas, were falling dozens to the square ft each second, were falling so slowly that one could see them as they bounced off the spacesuits and fell to the ground in showt arcs, and were endangering the men only to the extent of treating them to a thrilling hailstones-on-tin-roof sound. The men, incidentally, feared greatly for their lives all the while their suits were deflecting hundreds of these 60 mps siderites. The suits weren't even pitted, let alone punctured. And how about the time that a pool of sulfur on the moon went from solid (in a shadow) to liquid (in direct sunlight) twice in less than six hours. A pretty good trick when you consider that the sun traverse an arc of 3° in the sky in this period of time. I suspect upon first seeing the show, and verified my suspicion upon questioning non-sfnist friends on how they liked the show and why, that it was designed to be viewed on the predigested adventure-drama level by a non-critical audience.

"The Twilight Zone", of course, is far better, and I needn't dwell on that. I read recently that the sponsor had or-

dered Mr. Serling to keep his feet on the ground from now on and to keep out of the more fantastic areas of fiction. No more shows like "Third From The Sun", or "Time Enough At Last". It's really a pity, but it was nice while it lasted. Have you noticed the heavy emphasis on psychology and allied topics lately?

The entire issue (STF #337) displayed its customary impossibly giddy level of excellence. That the topics and stories were topical and well-presented you know as well as I, and you certainly have my vote for the Hugo this year. One note of constructive criticism, however. Scattered through the mag are many errors in grammar and sentence structure. I know that for reasons of space words often must be divided improperly, and I do not consider these as errors. I think that some careful proof-reading by someone other than the author of a piece would eliminate these errors and make SFT read much more smoothly. One example of what I mean is, "As an old-time student of astronomy, we understand that the moon has no atmosphere." Errors such as this are common, and it would take very little time to remove them, if you only would look out for them. Hope I'm not being too picayunish.

Yours truly,
Charles Fortier

(Thanks Charles, we'll try to improve in the future. -the editor)

NEW PRESS FOR "SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES" (concluded from page 1, column 1)

out. It takes 500 sheets at a time & is completely automatic. It cuts down the enormous job of printing Science-Fiction Times from 3 to 4 hours to less than one.

Our problem up to now has been the fact that Science-Fiction Times was edited and printed in New York City, then the printed copies were shipped via slow bulk mail to Syracuse for mailing to our readers. Since Frank Prieto, Jr. is usually home only during the week-ends (his job takes him thruout upper New York-State during the work week) if connections were missed, it meant a week's delay before the newspaper could be mailed

out. Frequently slowness in one issue reaching Syracuse meant that two issues arrived almost at the same time for re-mailing to our readers. Frank could not take over the mimeographing, as it was too long a job, and he would not have time to print and mail out in one week-end.

Now with the new Rex-Rotary, we here in New York can type up the stencils and mail them First-Class to Syracuse. In an hour Frank can have them printed. This will assure our Readers of faster service and more uniform delivery of the paper.

With this new press it means that a stencil can be reproduced similar to photo-offset at a reasonable cost, and thus allow us from time to time to present pictorial news. Page one of this issue is a sample of an "Electro-Rex" cut stencil.

Our last issue, #339, was the first issue printed on the new machine.

We are now resetting up our schedule to fit the new press, and barring accident it should mean an easier reading paper, and a more regular twice-a-month delivery.

WALTER GILLINGS

(concluded from page 1, col 2)

is unique in local journalism.

As Walter Gillings' Press Services, he will help editors by supplying them with news stories, features and pictures concerning new business developments, industrial activities, local organizations and personalities who want to establish regular contact with the Press through his organization, which will also supply material to selected trade and technical papers and to the National Press.

Gillings' new journalism venture came out thru his recent illness when a slipped disc made it impossible to work as a regular editor. For a good part of his many months of illness he could not sit and either had to lie in bed or stand. He refused to wear the prescribed corset deemed necessary with such an illness and practically cured himself by doing strenuous work around his home. During that time he wrote an 80,000 word science-fiction novel which he has not submitted yet

to anyone. This is his first novel, tho he has written numerous short stories.

Now completely cured he has set up his new business venture. Besides this Walter is interested in setting up a "newspaper" for the blind via tape recordings. Experimental work on this has already been done successfully.

Walter Gillings can be considered the "Gernsback" of Great Britain. He was the editor of England's first regular s-f magazine, Tales Of Wonder in 1937. The only other s-f venture in England was Scoops, a boy's type journal that came out a few years earlier. The War killed Tales Of Wonder in the 40's. In 1946 he was editor of Fantasy, but that lasted only 3 issues. Later he became the first editor of Science Fantasy, but later resigned and Ted Carnell took over the editorship which he still holds today.

Walter Gillings is now 47 years old, and has two sons, one 25 and one 7.

We wish Walter all the luck on his new venture and his proposed "newspaper" for the blind.

CLASSIFIED ADS (NEW ON PAGE 5)

WANTED

URGENT! Will pay \$1 plus postage for every copy of WHO KILLED SF returned to me by July 4. Earl Kemp, 2019 N. Whipple, Chicago 47.

FAN CLUBS

THE INTERPLANETARY EXPLORATION SOCIETY is not a Hoax! But information is too scarce. Swap, borrow, or send news: New England Branch, secretary Alma Hill, Lee Maine.

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by J. Harry Vincent

The British Editions of Galaxy and If are now being printed here in the United States and shipped to England for distribution among the British Commonwealth at the same time the U.S. edition goes to the U.S. newsstands. They are identical except for the price change on the cover. British fans will now get their copies at almost the same time (and the same copies) as the U.S. fans. Also starting with the current issues, Both

VICTOR ROUSSEAU DIES AT 81

by Oswald Train

NORTH HILLS, Penna., 30 May, (CNS) - I just went through the May 16 issue of Antiquarian Bookman, and came across the obituary note of Victor Rousseau Emmanuel. Died in New York on April 5 at the age of 81. Author and editor, wrote many historical and science-fiction stories under the name of Victor Rousseau. It did not mention that he also wrote many under another pseudonym, H. M. Egbert.

Now, if this formerly very well known science-fiction writer lived in New York, I think it is a damned shame that none of the New Yorkers knew of it. Dammit he would have been just the man for a special guest spot on the 1956 convention, and he should have been given some sort of recognition long ago. These modern writers may laugh at the efforts of Rousseau, Cummings, Bourroughs, Merritt England, Paul L. (not Poul) Anderson, and many more. But the buggers ought to realize that they are the boys who made science-fiction popular in the first place and paved the way for the science-fiction magazines to follow. I also notice that the very plot ideas they originated so many years ago are continually being brought up as "fresh new ideas" by these same boys. I doubt if very many of them would have the originality, or even the courage, to pioneer in the writing of such a comparatively new and untried field as science-fiction was in those days.

If and Galaxy will appear in Australia.

Coming up next in Galaxy (Sexy) Novels will be: "A Woman A Day", an original by Jose Farmer; and "The Mating Cry", formerly "The House That Stood Still" by A. E. van Vogt.

Change of address for Frank and Belle Dietz, as of June 25th. New Address is: 1750 Walton Avenue, Bronx 53, New York. This is not too far away from their present address. This new address will also apply to The Lunarians, a local New York s-f club. Because of lack of space this club is by invitation only.

JOIN THE PITTCON

PROPOSED POST OFFICE AMMENDMENT WOULD KILL ALL SCIENCE - FICTION MAGAZINES

NEW YORK, 10 June, (CNS) - There is a proposed ammendment to the U.S. Post Office Rule #39 CFR, Part 22.2 (7) that will kill every science-fiction magazine now being published along with about 80% of all other magazines now on the stands.

This new ammendment would take away from any magazine that does not sell 70% of what they distribute their second class entry. Without a second class entry the magazines could not even think of breaking even. The difference in dollars between the second-class entry and any other way of mailing the mags would be too much for most magazines. Since all science-fiction magazines work on a very slim profit (if at all), this would kill them at once.

It is IMPORTANT for the science-fiction magazines to continue publishing in this country for all to write to: Mr. E. Riley, Director of Postal Service, Bur. Of Operations, Post Office Depart-

ment, Washington 25, D.C. at ONCE and demand that this proposed ammendment be killed.

Distributors' ship by mail (second class) or truck, whichever is cheaper, to get magazines from printers to the newsstands. Without the second-class entry the cost to ship these magazines would just be too much. Also this new ruling if its allowed to go into effect, would prevent any new magazine from being started. Few if any magazine can sell 70% of their first issue.

In this age when certain distributors and newsstand dealers will not handle any but the big sellers in the magazine field, this ammendment would be the last straw to all but a few magazines.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE SCIENCE-FICTION IN MAGAZINE FORM CONTINUED BEING PUBLISHED, ACT NOW. WRITE TO MR. RILEY, AND YOUR CONGRESSMEN. WRITE TODAY!

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES is published twice-a-month by SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC., P.O. Box 115, Solvay Branch, Syracuse 9, New York. 10¢ per copy, \$2.40 a year (24 issues).

EDITORIAL OFFICE: 18-36 129th Street, College Point 56, New York. (Due to this special story on the proposed P.O. ruling, we had to drop for this issue our complete masthead and some advertisements. They will appear in the next issue. -the editor)

A SCI-FI PUBLICATION

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC.
P.O. Box 115, Solvay Branch
Syracuse 9, New York.

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