



Beginning Our 17th Year - Vol. 12, No. 278

First September 1957 Issue

STILL ONLY TEN CENTS

## Ballantine's STAR SF Due in 30 Days

### Con Hotel Filled; JWC, Jr. To Be Seen On B.B.C. T-V

by E. J. ("Ted") Carnell

London, 21 August, (CNS) - Here is a final news report nine days before the Convention and before your personal representative, John Victor Peterson, officially takes over reporting.

Convention plans are now finalized with the hotel completely booked and the overflow being accommodated in a neighboring hotel, at least for sleeping (if any). The BBC have invited John W. Campbell, Jr., to appear on a ten-minute TV programme on Friday, September 6th, just before the Convention officially opens, and it is possible also that further TV and radio items will be included during the following three days.

A major press conference is being held soon after John W. Campbell's TV interview, during which some interesting items may cross the Atlantic. We are also hoping that considerable publicity, both pictorially and news-worthily, will be obtained from the charter plane arrival.

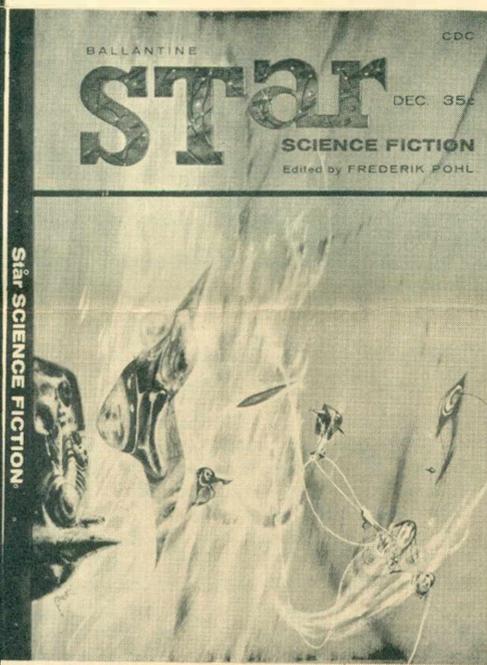
The programme is an extremely compact one this year, and the Programme Committee intend to be ruthless in regard to timing — participants in any particular item who are late will find their spot in the programme cancelled, and a substitute item put in its place.

Barbara and Bob Silverberg arrived safely this week, and I understand that a Lt. Col. Kallis and his son Steve have also arrived and are touring the country.

Last minute change of plans have enabled Eric Frank Russell and his wife to be in attendance.

See you all in NY one year soon!

FRANK KELLY FREAS on Page 7!  
DAMON KNIGHT on Page 5!  
JAMES BLISH on Page 2!  
HARRY HARRISON on Page 3!  
FORREST J ACKERMAN on Page 2!



### Sixth Aussie Con Will Be In Melbourne At Easter

Melbourne, Australia, 31 August, (CNS) - The Sixth Australian S-F Convention will be held at the Richmond Town Hall in Melbourne over the Easter holidays, 1958.

Membership charges are: ten shillings (Aust.), eight shillings (Stg.) and one dollar (U S and Canada). Members will receive a membership badge, souvenir booklet and Convention report.

The Committee would welcome display material, either on loan, or for disposal at the auction.

Remittances for membership are to be made payable to the Convention Treasurer, R. McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn, Vic., Australia. Inquiries should be addressed to the Publicity Officer, Barry J. Salgram, Box 38, P.O., Mentone, Vic., Australia.

INTERIOR ILLUSTRATIONS BY POWERS WILL BE USED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN S-F

by Frederik Pohl

Red Bank, N J, 31 August, (CNS) - The first issue of the new Ballantine Magazines, Inc., science fiction title, STAR SCIENCE FICTION, will be on sale throughout the country in the next thirty days.

I've been in this field as editor, writer and general what-not for a good long time — this October, as a matter of fact, marks my twentieth anniversary — and my bet is that STAR is going to make a lot of new friends for science fiction. I also think that it's going to win over a sizeable chunk of the present audience .... in a word, I think it's a pretty good magazine!

The line-up of the first issue is: "It Walks In Beauty" by Chan Davis, a novelette;

"S, As In Zebatinisky" by Isaac Asimov;  
"Daybroke" by Robert Bloch;  
"Mark I" by John A. Sentry, a novelette;  
"Judas, Dancing" by Brian W. Aldiss;  
"Nor The Moon By Night" by Gavin Hyde; &  
"The Apprentice Wobbler" by Poul Anderson.

"It Walks In Beauty" is, I believe, Chan's first science fiction story in ten years (since "Nightmare" and the others in ASF), and I'm proud to have it. Brian W. Aldiss is an English writer who was new to me (I've since learned he had several stories, and one book, published); but if he can keep them coming and make them all as good as "Judas, Dancing", I'll have him in every issue. The same applies to Gavin Hyde — a young Irish discovery of Ray Bradbury's; this is his first story anywhere, I believe. And the other writers, of course, don't need any introduction.

The cover is by Richard Powers, and so are the inside illustrations. The issue is dated December, 1957.

The magazine will be a quarterly, at least to start; and the second issue will have C. M. Kornbluth, Henry Kuttner, H. L. Gold, Miriam Allen de Ford and Algis Budrys, plus a couple of others not yet decided on.

## SFT Book Reviews

by James Blish

THE CIRCUS OF DR. LAO and Other Improbable Stories, edited by Ray Bradbury. Bantam, 1956. 210 pp., paperback, 35¢.

When I first read the title story by Charles G. Finney, I was 14 years old, and it didn't mean much to me. Even the salacious passages seemed rather pointless and unmoving. I am pushing 36 now, and I have read and written a hell of a lot of copy in the interim, but this is still the way Dr. Lao's circus strikes me. Its faults are all elementary and all fatal. The author has an emotion and a philosophy which he wants to communicate, but he cannot plot, he has a tin ear, and he thinks that anything that is meaningful to him will convey the same meaning to the reader without any work on his part -- a notion which would be touching in a child, but is simply irritating in a man. Furthermore, Finney is dishonest: whenever he finds himself confronted with a gap in the scholarship to which he lays claim, he pretends he is only kidding anyhow, and that you should be sophisticated enough to get the joke. This device falls apart on p. 11, when Finney introduces to his circus a gold ass, identified as the Golden Ass of Apuleius (the "Golden" of the title of that novel refers to the style, not to the ass). The catalog at the end of the novel ends the book with the word "Nuts", all too obviously a gesture of dismissal to anyone foolish enough to think Finney ever intended to do the job right; Bradbury, a lazy writer himself, praises Finney for leaving so much undone, but I don't feel so charitable.

The short stories in the volume are mostly well-written, but otherwise they share with the Finney the feeling that they are going nowhere and are not doing anything interesting along the route. This astonished me, for Bradbury's cast of authors includes Shirley Jackson, the best living writer of pure fright; Hawthorne, the perfect artistic embodiment of all that is ugly in the New England concept of conscience; Loren Eiseley, an anthropologist whose writings on evolution usually -- not just occasionally -- are alive and glowing with poetic vision; E. B. White, an expert and eminently sane satirist; and Henry Kuttner, for better or worse the best technician in English fiction now living. (I had better qualify that fast. "Technician" is the important word. Technically, Walton Hall Smith's Shadow River is better than anything Conrad ever wrote. Smith, who killed himself year before last, knew that this was so; he also knew that to be a master technician is only the beginning; you must also have something to say. Smith never had anything to say; Conrad always did).

Somehow, Bradbury has managed to select from the works of these writers, and a number of lesser men, precisely

## Slick SF

by Donald E. Ford

● TIME, August 5, 1957:

Two s-f books are reviewed: Jules Verne: Master of Science Fiction by I.O. Evans, and Year's Greatest S-F & Fantasy by Judith Merril. The Jules Verne received a favorable review & the Merril anthology was panned pretty bad.

● TIME, August 12, 1957:

Mention is made of World Citizen Gary Davis getting arrested in Germany for no passport, etc. Goes on to state that he is in Hannover awaiting trial & reading science-fiction during the interim.

## TRANS-ATLANTIC FAN FUND REPORT

TAFF has \$62.00 left over at the U.S. end & \$100.00 in England with Ken Bulmer ... a total of \$162.00 to start off the 1958 election to bring a fan from Europe to the U.S. When Robert Madle who won the 1957 TAFF award and is going to England by Plane to attend the World Convention NOW, returns from his trip, I plan to turn the money and all U.S. TAFF affairs over to him.

the worst piece each of them ever managed to write. As for the minor-leaguers, only James H. Schmitz manages to be even readable, with a circumstantial but pallid imitation of Algernon Blackwood's The Wendigo.

A bad job, not worth half a ruble, let alone 35¢.

THE CASE AGAINST TOMORROW, by Frederik Pohl. Ballantine Books, 1957. 150 pp., paperback, 35¢.

Either I am turning conservative, as I enter the second half of my allotted threescore-and-ten, or else it is possible that a science fiction story can be preposterous. This word seems to me to fit the two major stories in this collection, "The Midas Plague" and "My Lady Green Sleeves". The first suggests a future in which people in general will be drowning in plenty, a suggestion so contrary to every present indication that it is almost socially irresponsible. (And after a little, s-f is supposed to extrapolate known facts, not fly in their faces). The second story stems from a crude one-for-one replacement of our current racial prejudices by a system of occupational prejudices. No word of explanation is offered as to how so unlikely a system arose, let alone how it got written into law; and behind this false face, the yarn itself is only a prison-riot story, and an undistinguished one.

The other four stories are little more than wisps, almost devoid of either ideas or emotion. An exception might be made for "The Census Takers", which has a sort of cold savagery that almost makes it convincing, despite its lack of rationale and predictable snapper ending.

I think Fred must be able to do better than this, but the present volume would offer a new reader little evidence that he can. Not recommended.

## World Newsfax

by Forrest J Ackerman

OUT OF STONE will be the marquee title of Ray Bradbury's "And the Rock Cried Out". Ray will cinemadapt his own story for Sir Carol Reed in London. Plot takes place in 1963.

Fred Pohl has purchased "Nor the Moon by Night" by Gavin Hyde, in Spain, for the first issue of Star Science Fiction... Morris Scott Dollens has sold covers to F&SF.... Jerome Bixby had "Machine for...?", sexy sci-fi yarn, in April Adam. His "Nightride and Sunrise" will be featured in a future Authentic.

THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN, which is in color, is not a new adventure of the invulnerable monster but indeed the original story by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, produced in England. I just got thru distributing 5 copies of FRANKENSTEIN FROM SPACE, a screen treatment I did with Budd Bankson, to 5 studios, when I picked up the papers and read the death of James Whale, the man who directed the first Karloff FRANKENSTEIN.

Winona McClintic will have "The Cat-Makers" in a near future Fantastic Universe, Jack Lewis "Calling All Aaleins", and Ib Meichior "Community Mind"... Weaver Wright has sold "The Great Male Robbery" to After Hours, and Spencer Strong "Venus Is Heaven" to same menslick.... Marion Zimmer Bradley has made a Satellite sale, "Collector's Item"... Science-Fantasy will be the birthplace of John Tomerlin as an author, with "Alienation of Affection."

Willy Ley recently made a flying trip to LA, where he lunched with Geo Pal and partied at Evelyn Paige's with Fritz Lang, Dick & Ruth Matheson, Helen Urban, Les & Es Cole, Gordon Dewey, Yours Sciencercely and Mr. & Mrs. Sam Merwin, Merwin, having solo-scripted the screenplay Manhunt In The Jungle for Warner Bros, is now editing an expanding men's magazine line in Hollywood.

Playboy's thousand-dollar getfold will be graced in the near future by the million-dollar baby discovered at the World SF Con in Frisco several seasons ago, Jessica Kramer. Approximately 300 black-&-whites and kodachromes of "Miss Science Fiction" were shot, many of them in my den of faniquity, wandering barefoot thru my mint Big Little Books.

Pseudonymphiles may note: Shelly Williams is penname of writing team of Shelly Lowenkopt & Jerry Williams to appear in Amazing with "Odd Bird"... Paul Blaisdell has completed special effects work on THE AMAZING COLOSSAL MAN... Ask Isaac Asimov the amazing story behind the story on how he came to write "Ideas Die Hard", bought by Galaxy, and why he owes me 1% of it (for inspiration, altho I did 99% perspiration too)....

TERRA, new German s.f. mag, interested in translation rights to van Vogt's "Chronicle", Byrne's "Children of the Chronotron", Gibson's "Shadow On The Moon", Hubbard's "Kingslayer"... L. Ron Hubbard made a TV sale.... "D o c" Lowndes and Jacques DeForest Erman have a nibble on their "Dhacthuji-Remember?" as a possible sci-fi play in hi-fi for LP record.

Complete WorldCon Report In Next Issue

# FANDOM HOUSE

Publishers of  
"SCIENCE FICTION TIMES"  
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"SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK"

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## *To Our Regular Readers*

This issue will give you some idea of what we had in mind when we mentioned a few issues back that we would like to change to 8-pages photo-offset, and asked for your help in getting new subscribers in order to do so. We're certain that you'll agree that this type of issue is a vast improvement over our usual yellow mimeo jobs, and we hope you'll feel inspired to do your best, along with us, to keep SFT in this new improved format.

Our immediate contribution toward this goal is sending out about 2,000 sample copies of this issue.

## *To Those Who Receive This As A Sample Copy*

This copy of SCIENCE FICTION TIMES, our special 16th Anniversary Issue, the 278th issue since SFT was born in 1941, has been sent to you in the hope that you will find it of sufficient interest to subscribe.

Our rates are \$1 for 12 issues, \$2 for a full year (24 issues), and \$10 for a permanent sub, which entitles you to a copy of every issue of SFT published from now on.

We can't promise you Frank Kelly Freas, Damon Knight and Harry Harrison every issue, but we can promise you comprehensive news coverage of the science fiction field, advance news and complete reports on just about everything in the s-f field worthwhile mentioning, and an insight into the backstage goings-on in science fiction obtainable from no other source. There will also be further special articles and features which you won't want to miss.

So, if you have any interest in science fiction at all, we feel sure that SCIENCE FICTION TIMES will be a most interesting addition to your s-f agenda. To subscribe, see overleaf.

## *To Everybody*

As we've said many times before, SFT must pay for itself. None of us here at FANDOM HOUSE has the kind of long green it takes to support a publication of this nature by ourselves.

Conversely, no one here at FANDOM HOUSE is making a dime on SFT, either. No wages or payment of any kind is made to the publishers, editors, reporters, columnists, etc., who work on SFT (and it is plenty of work!). We all do it for free --- as a hobby.

Our payment comes in knowing that we are performing a needed service to the science fiction field. The better service we render, the better we feel (and the more egoboo, like the Hugo Awards, comes our way!)

We've made many improvements during the past few years --- change of name from FANTASY-TIMES to SCIENCE FICTION TIMES, buying a first-class Speed-O-Print duplicator and an electric addressing machine, slicking up our format and adding the best possible men to our staff whenever possible. But we have long been dissatisfied with our mimeo,

yellow paper format, and --- more important --- so have our subscribers and potential subscribers.

The next logical step in our development is a format like the issue at hand.

But in order to make like Cinderella, and pay the additional cost of paper, printing, supplies, postage, etc., we must at least double our present amount of paid subs. A sufficient number of copies of an issue like this costs a minimum of \$100 per issue to produce and distribute; 24 issues a year means \$2,400; at \$2 per year per subscriber, that means a minimum of 1,200 subscribers.

It's a high goal to shoot for, and we'll need every kind of co-operation to make it. About 2,000 copies of this issue are being sent out as samples. That's the largest circulation of any issue of any amateur s-f publication we know of. We're hoping it will do the trick.

Incidentally, the change-over won't happen overnight. It will take some time for all the results of this campaign to come in. So, if you do subscribe, or if you get us another subber, and we still come out mimeoed for a time, please don't be upset. Increased subscriptions will be directly reflected in the improvements we will be able to make in SCIENCE FICTION TIMES, but it may take a number of issues.

## The Wind-Up

Our rates, once again, are \$1 for 12 issues, \$2 for a full year (24 issues), and \$10 for a permanent subscription, which entitles you to a copy of each and every issue of SFT published from now on, without the necessity for renewal.

To subscribe, merely fill out the coupon below, enclose cash, check or money order made out to FANDOM HOUSE, and mail in the Business Reply Envelope provided. No postage is required.

(Present paid subscribers please note: we are not suggesting that you re-subscribe months in advance of your regular expiration date. You can, of course, if you so desire, but frankly, it wouldn't help in this present situation, as it would not increase the number of paid subbers SFT has. What you can do to help is to persuade one of your s-f acquaintances who does not now get SFT to subscribe.)

To: FANDOM HOUSE, P.O. Box 2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey, USA.

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# Frank R. Paul Does SATELLITE Cover



Photo courtesy Bergen Evening Record

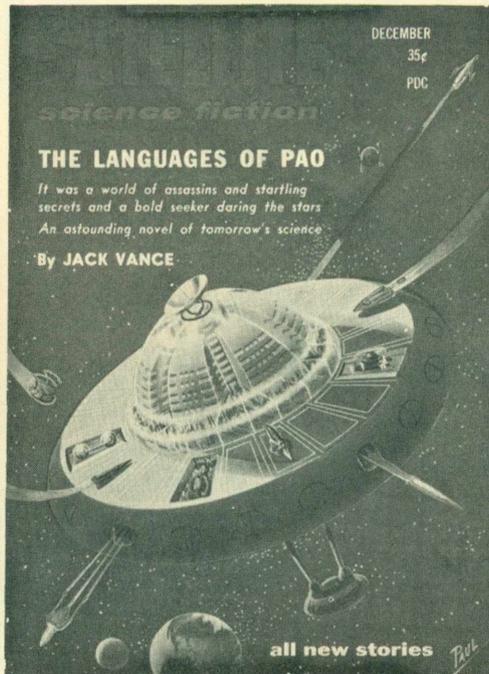
Frank R. Paul and his first full-color painting of an earth satellite in history.

The cover painting for the December issue of SATELLITE S-F is an artist's interpretation of what the ultimate earth satellite station will look like, done by a man who is generally regarded as "The Dean Of S-F Illustrators", Frank R. Paul.

It is singularly appropriate that he should have selected this theme, as the first full-color painting of an earth satellite in history, which appeared on the cover of the August, 1929, issue of SCIENCE WONDER STORIES, was also the work of Mr. Paul.

That early painting was based on the history-making theories of Herman Oberth as interpreted by Capt. Hermann Noordung in his book, "The Problems Of Space Flying". The present illustration is designed to coincide with the most advanced theories of today, projected by the power of Paul's remarkable imagination and creative ability into the far future.

Born in Vienna in 1884, Frank R. Paul studied art in Vienna, Paris and London, and also completed courses as a mechanical and architectural draftsman. When Gernsback published the first s-f magazine, AMAZING STORIES, in 1926, Frank R. Paul became the world's first s-f magazine illustrator. Paul's ability at drawing machinery, futuristic cities, astronomical scenes, alien creatures and his genius for color, won him fabulous popularity. Editors have claimed that the machines Paul drew were so carefully designed that they would actually function if built, and it is his own astonishing claim that of the thousands of spacehips he has drawn in his long s-f career, he has never used the same design twice!



Courtesy Renown Publications

The cover of SATELLITE S-F for December, showing Paul's conception of the ultimate earth satellite.

Paul's drawings have appeared frequently in LIFE MAGAZINE, and he designed the Johnson & Johnson Building in New Brunswick, NJ, which is generally regarded as a classic of modern architecture. His commitments usually keep him so busy that he doesn't have much time for s-f illustrating, but the recent earth satellite publicity inspired his brush anew with the challenge it offered, so sparking his ingenuity that SATELLITE S-F is proud to present the result on its cover for the December, 1957, issue.

## Life At 12½ to 1

by Harry Harrison

How would you like to do your social drinking with Bacardi rum a dollar a quart — or gin 80¢ a fifth? And while you are sipping, your \$6.40 a month maid is washing the canape tray and getting dinner ready!

I am no tout for the Mexican Travel Bureau — which happens to be a stagnant organization manned by feeble incompetents — but a simple recorder of facts. I have just returned from a year's stay in Mexico, I found the country to be enjoyable and cheap, the people interesting, and — much more important — found I could write there as I never could in New York.

In this I am not alone. There are other writers living and working in Mexico at the present time, as well as many other s-f writers who have lived there in recent years. This is no accident. Canada is a lot closer than the land of the tortillas and tequila — but who

ever went to Canada? No one. The reason is, of course, that Canada costs as much as the States. Mexico is about one quarter the price. All writers who are low in pocket, multiply your income by four and you will find a telling argument.

This is the first and biggest argument, and about the only one you ever hear. There are others, equally important. There is a tranquillity and lack of tension there that permits peak effort. No phones, no feverish editors bothering you, no heap of pyramiding bills to harry the mind. None of the molestias we take for granted. You would be surprised at the number of hours left in the day when you remove these things.

There is also the attraction of the alien surroundings. That is what we are always writing about, so it is a grand stimulus to be dropped in the middle of it. It's not as bad as it sounds. I, my wife, and our year-old baby settled in a small town where no one spoke English. (I enjoyed the pleasure of high school Spanish). At first we made out with sign language, later with the dictionary — and before we left all of us could get along passably in the local dialect. The thing that helped, of course, was the fact that Mexicans are not like the people who snarl at us on the bus here every day. They are simple usually cheerful, and have plenty of time to spare to find out what you are trying to talk about. Being around them is stimulating, not depressing, and I want to meet the writer who could not use a little stimulation.

For the concretists, here are some facts. One US dollar is worth 12½ Mexican pesos. Luxuries cost as much there as here, but to the working man the peso is the equivalent of a dollar. That means you can rent an unfurnished house for \$20 or a furnished one for around \$50. (For doubting Thomases: we had a six room, fully furnished house, with hotel service, pots, pans, dishes, etc., for \$48 a month. It is still there and there are 11 others just like it — all empty). Maids are \$6 to \$8 a month for a six-and-a-half day week. Steak 35¢ a pound, fresh rolls 5 for 4¢, tortillas 8¢ a kilo (2.2 lbs.) and all other prices in proportion. All of these prices are higher in Mexico City or resort towns like Acapulco — so don't go there. The country is filled with fair-sized cities that may or may not have congenial American writers, that have these prices. We were in Cuantla, Morelos, and these were the prices. When

the big city called, we drove in (60 miles) to Mexico, D.F., or took the 1st class bus (62¢).

Here are the drawbacks. You will be in a different country with different customs and ways of doing things. If you insist on Your American Way you will be very uncomfortable and they will call you a gringo. If you look around and attempt to live in the country, instead of in spite of it, you will have a grand experience. If you don't, you will be quite miserable. You will still eat as well and live as well as you did here — you will just do it differently. If you don't do this you will leave very quickly and tell everyone just how terrible a

place it was. It really depends on the state of mind.

This does not refer to a vacation in Mexico. On a vacation you can stay in US-style hotels and eat home cookin' all the way. If you want to live and work there it is worth making the effort to find out what the place is all about.

To dispel some misconceptions. Mexicans do not dislike all Americans. 99.-99% of all Mexicans are churchhouse-poor. The remaining minute percentage are rich and nasty and thoroughly hated by the rest. If you act rich-bitch you will just get some of that hatred. Act like a human being and no man's hand will be turned against you.

Also, the food is not all hot. Some dishes are, of course, but they are easy to avoid. Anyway, cook at home and you will live longer. Which brings us to the point of sanitation. Mexico is not a festering hotbed of infection — but it is a poor tropical country with slovenly precautions. You take the precautions — such simple ones as boiling water and eating nothing that can't be peeled or cooked — and you will be perfectly okay. If son Todd, age one, could take it, so can you.

Mexico is of particular interest to the pro or neo s-f writer because you can live there on the miserable rates the markets pay. You will also write more and better than you ever did before.

Don't take my word for it.  
Try it yourself.

Do you have something to buy or sell in the science fiction field? Advertise it in SCIENCE FICTION TIMES!

## Science Fiction Forecasts

Coming Up Next In The Pros

● GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION, December '57: (novella) CARBON COPY by Clifford D. Simak, (novelets) GALLEY SLAVE by Isaac Asimov, PAYLOAD by Raymond E. Banks, (short stories) SANCTUARY! by William Tenn, WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE? by Fritz Leiber, (science dept.) FOR YOUR INFORMATION - "The Spaceship In The Basement" - by Willy Ley, (features) EDITOR'S PAGE by H. L. Gold, and GALAXY'S FIVE STAR SHELF by Floyd C. Gale. Cover by Coughan showing SALVAGE FROM 50,000,000 B.C.

● INFINITY SCIENCE FICTION: Larry Shaw is going to experiment with serials in Infinity Science Fiction the first of which will be a two part serial AND THEN THE TOWN TOOK OFF by Dick Wilson. The first part will appear in the January 1958 issue.

The point of no return has now been past as far as Infinity Science Fiction or Science Fiction Adventures going monthly with issues bearing a 1957 date on the cover. The first issues with 1958 dates, tho actually coming out in 1957, are now being planned and they are still 6-weekly. It is still possible that both mags may actually go monthly before the end of the year, tho the first monthly issue will bear a 1958 date.

Larry Shaw will soon have another magazine out, not s-f, but a "hot rod" mag, published by the company that puts out Shaw's other auto mag Hot Rod & Restyling. This new one will also be a

monthly, digest-size, slick paper and 25¢.

● FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, Nov., '57: (Every story in this issue — New!) A FOR ANYTHING (novelet) by Damon Knight NEGRA SUM by Avram Davidson, THE FACTS OF LIFE ON MARS (article) by Robert S. Richardson, AMBASSADOR'S RETURN by Allen

Kim Lang, CONVERSION FACTOR by Colin Sturgis, THE SCIENCE STAGE (a department) by William Morrison, FIDO by Gordon R. Dickson, INCOMMUNICADO by Ray Russell, REPORT ON THE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR ON ARTURUS X by Robert F. Young, VALISE MACABRE by Winona McClintor, RECOMMENDED

READING (a department) by Anthony Boucher, THE LONG REMEMBERING by Poul Anderson, NOW AND THEN by Jonathan Rosenbaum, Cover painting by Morris Scott Dollens (Approaching the Space Station).

Coming up in the December Fantasy & Science Fiction is a novelet by William Morrison and Fred Pohl (a collaboration).

● GALAXY NOVEL, #s 30 and 31: Galaxy Novel #30 will be DOUBLE JERPERDY by Fletcher Pratt, while #31 will be SAMBLEAU by C. L. Moore. Both are reprints of hardcover books. Frank R. Prieto, Jr. reports that Mr. Guinn informed him that now the Galaxy Novel is appearing every two and a half months, and that Mr. Guinn hopes to have 5 out this year, while he is aiming for the return to 6 novels a year in 1958.

Mr. Guinn went on to state that the Novel series will continue digest-size, as the distributor feels that there are too many pocket-size novels on the stand at this time.



## MY KINGDOM FOR A NEWSSTAND!

No joke, chums—this is a real melancholy bit. Turning Pappy's spaceyacht into spacescrap is bad enough. Missing my date with that cute Venusian ooglechick is worse. But the downest part of all is, I may not get back home in time to buy the new INFINITY and SCIENCE FICTION ADVENTURES!

I don't have to tell you how super INFINITY and SFA are. Or that I'll be a nowhere square without air if I miss an issue of either. Especially with the surprises they've got coming up!

But I have nobody to blame but my own self—I should have subscribed when I had the chance.

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Monsters of distinction have subscriptions!

THE MAGAZINE OF

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Robert F. Mills, editor

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## The Art Of Book Reviewing

by DAMON KNIGHT

A book reviewer ought to have opinions, enthusiasms, some knowledge — not too much, or he falls into pedantry — a respect for precise meanings, and a gift of phrase; but all these things are no help unless he knows how to read well.

For me, at least, that means taking notes. When I read for pleasure, I am sorry to say that I read passively. I scan the text one line at a time and react to it in the same way, and when I've finished an almost-good book, I may feel a vague sense of dissatisfaction, but I couldn't tell you why. I think most people read this way, and I think it's largely a waste of time.

A book is not just a flow of sentences. It has a structure, good or bad; it has logic, consistency — good or bad — inventiveness, factual accuracy, characterization, style; and the author, if he has any honesty or skill, has tried hard to make the book good in all these ways.

It's true that most books are not worth careful reading. But I think it's also true that bad readers help to make bad books.

Reading actively means reading alertly — examining what the author says to see what, if anything, it means; comparing it with what he said before — trying to catch him in a mistake. It

means being skeptical and finicky, a "tough" audience. Most of all, it means thinking about what you read. Does this passage strike a sour note? Why? Look back and see if the author has done the same thing before. If you feel something is lacking, nag at the feeling until you find out what it is and can put a name to it. Better yet, if something is good, try to find out why, and how the author achieved it.

An honest book review grows in this way: not by applying a preconceived or predigested opinion, but by adding one observation onto another until a pattern begins to show.

Book reviewing is an art, and so is writing. The fascinating thing about them is that they're inexhaustible: behind the thin shell of established rules and conventions, there is *terra incognita*. Bringing something into being in that unknown territory is a writer's most enduring reward, I think; and mapping it afterwards is the critic's arduous delight.

### The Time Stream

by J. Harry Vincent

August Derleth of Arkham House announces "You might be interested in knowing that the 2,000 copy printing of THE SURVIVOR & OTHERS, our sole 1957 book, has already passed the 50% mark in sales. If our next book bears the AH imprint — 1958 — it will be THE MASK OF CTHUKHU; if it



has the M&M imprint, THE RETURN OF SOLAR PONS. Also soon to come: Smith's THE ABOMINATIONS OF YONDO. We're preparing a 20th anniversary volume for 1959 publication — by Lovecraft — so far titled THE ALCHEMIST & OTHER PIECES: some juvenilia, possibly a hitherto unpublished story, some reprinting of earlier work not now to be had anywhere, some associational items, some of them from the fabzines. This book will probably sell at \$5.00, as against \$3 for the

others, and \$3.50 for the M&M title.

We notice here at AH a decided increase in buying interest in the market. Sales for the first half of 1957 were just six times the average weekly sale in 1955.

Not having seen SFT regularly, I don't know whether you carried notice of the death of Howard Wandrei last September 5. He wrote sf (and some fantasy) under his own name, that of H. W. Guernsey, and other pen names, for ASF, WT, Esquire, Detective Fiction Weekly, and others. He was 46 when he died in a St. Paul Hospital, and AH hopes to put out a memorial volume of his best work: ORSEN IS HERE — the title he chose for the book when it was first contemplated."

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The Philadelphia Science Fiction Society is presenting their 16th Annual Fall Conference on Saturday, November 9th, 1957, in the East Room of the Hotel Sylvania, Locust Street off Broad, Philadelphia 7, Penna. For further information, contact George R. Heap, 813 Glen Echo Rd., Philadelphia 19, Penna.

# CONGRATULATIONS

You're only *15* years Older than

# SATELLITE

*science fiction*

*Cyloia K. Margulies*

*Lew Margulies*

## State Of Fandom

by Dick Ellington

A smallish crisis is brewing in fandom. For those of you who may not know about it there is an old and esoteric tradition in Fandom about SOUTH GATE IN '58 and with no other bids in yet it seems like it may become a reality next year. One of the major boosters of it has been Walt Willis of Belfast and, naturally enough, he'd like to be on hand next year -- providing Los Angeles takes the bid of course.

And that's where the problem arises. Walt was over here for the Chicon in '52, after a roaring campaign by fandom to raise the necessary funds. This was the original impetus that sent TAFF along its way. Since Walt won't accept a TAFF nomination, a group of fans, headed by R Snearly of South Gate, have launched a campaign independent of TAFF to bring Walt, and his wife Madeleine, over next year. Only Walt -- much as he wants to come -- won't accept it, feeling that it would sidetrack too much money from the TAFF fund and prevent some other fan from going over.

Nothing daunted, Rick Snearly claims that both are possible. But before going ahead with plans he wants to know your opinions on the subject. Let him know how you feel. Drop a card or letter to:

Rick Snearly  
2962 Santa Ana St.  
South Gate, Calif.

And I'll take this opportunity to make



By the time you read this that couple looking so amorous in the pic above will have finished shattering an ancient tradition of fandom -- that of Dave Kyle, permanent bachelor. The lucky (stop sneering) girl is Ruth Landis, late of New Jersey, currently of Manhattan. The wedding is set for August 31st at the Little Church Around the Corner and they will leave, a day or so later, on the charter flight for the London con -- if that isn't a fannish honeymoon I never heard of one.

one loud YES at him. I don't think any contributions I might make to the WAW TO THE GATE fund would alter in any way the money I expect to lay down for TAFF when the voting comes around next year. As Rick says, "the more overseas fen we have at the '58 WorldCon the merrier!" I second that.

### FANZINE REVIEW

THE HARP STATESIDE -- A one-shot, available from Walter Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Price: 2 shillings or 35 cents. (Part proceeds to TAFF)

Back somewhere in this column you will have noted reference to a certain Walt Willis of Ireland. In case any of you are wondering why the big excitement and why the popularity of this one fan so many thousands of miles from the U.S., THE HARP STATESIDE may serve as a partial answer. This is his own account of his trip to the Chicon in 1952 -- 72 pages of it, superbly illoed by Atom and with stiff covers and a taped spine.

I'm afraid to start yakking about how good this is for fear of going off the deepend. I can best cover it by saying that it's a fit thing to stand side by side with his ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR as a fannish milestone. Con reports are turned out with mind-shattering regularity by a multitude of fans but none of them has -- or is like to -- come anywhere near this one.

I can't recommend this too highly to any of you who don't already have it. It's humorous most of the time but manages to give a complete and detailed report of just about everything that happened to him over here. His descriptions of the scores of American fen he met are perceptive and honest and his account of his fannish odyssey across the U.S. utterly hilarious.

Well, don't just sit there -- get it!

CONTACT is back out again although maybe not on the bi-weekly schedule. Further

(Please turn to Page 8)

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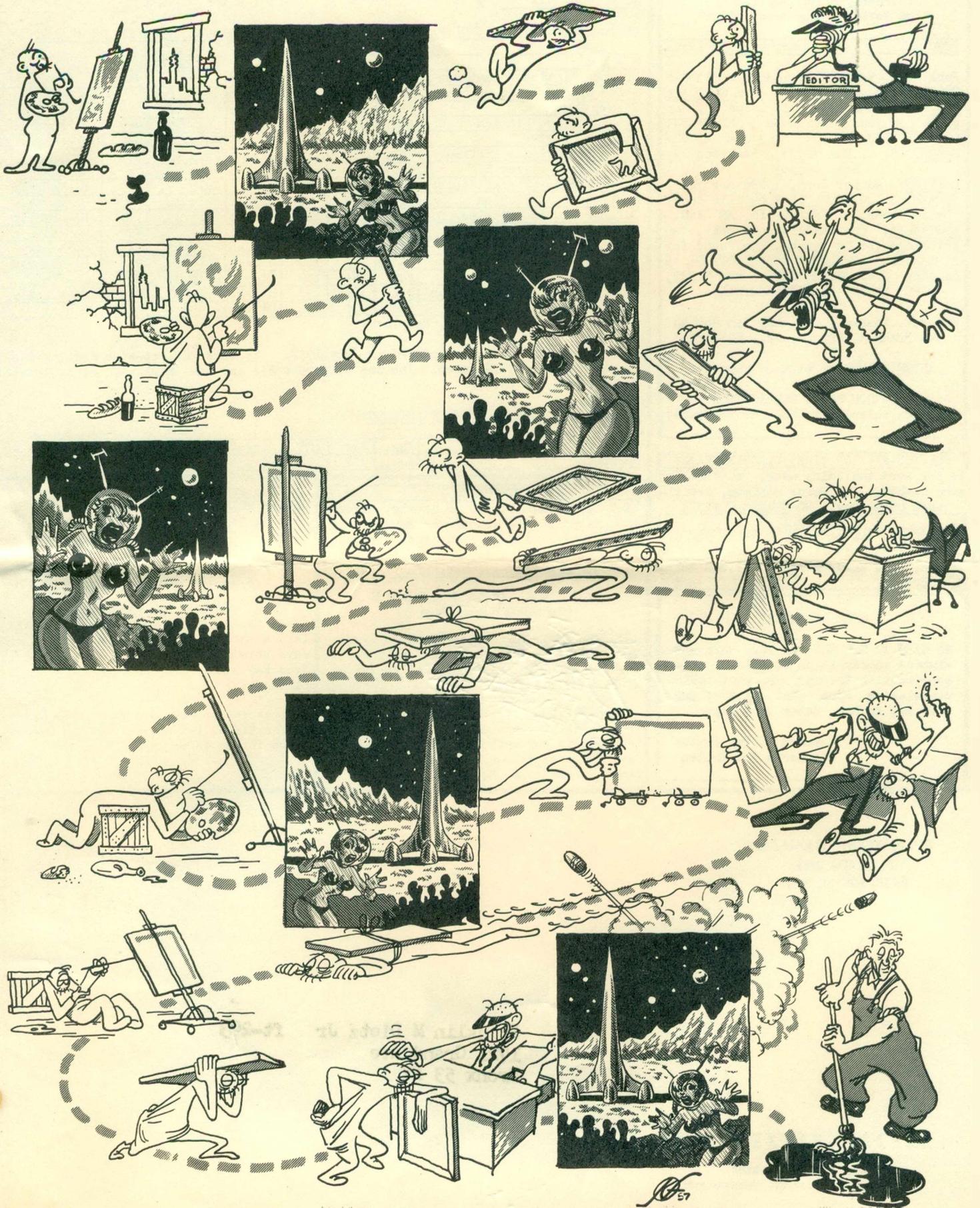
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#278 1st September 1957 Issue

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WE WISH TO EXPRESS our very warm and sincere appreciation to all our science-fiction friends who sent their condolences upon the death of our wife and mother, Betty Van Houten.

Raymond J. Van Houten  
Stephanie Van Houten

The Science Fiction Record

by Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

(Warners, N.Y.) SCIENCE FANTASY MAGAZINES OUT DURING JULY 1957, IN THE U.S.A.:

N A M E	DATE	PRICE	PAGES	SIZE	DATE ON STANDS	SCHEDULE
Science Fiction Adventures	Sept. 35¢	130	Digest	July 5, 1957	6-Weekly	
Astounding Science Fiction	Aug. 35¢	162	Digest	July 6, 1957	Monthly	
Galaxy Novel	#29 35¢	128	Digest	July 6, 1957	Irregular	
Space Science Fiction	Aug. 35¢	128	Digest	July 9, 1957	Bi-Monthly	
Amazing Stories	Aug. 35¢	130	Digest	July 11, 1957	Monthly	
Fantastic Science Fiction	Aug. 35¢	130	Digest	July 11, 1957	Monthly	
Fantastic Universe S F	Sept. 35¢	128	Digest	July 13, 1957	Monthly	
Other Worlds (Flying Saucers)	July 35¢	98	Pulp	July 13, 1957	Bi-Monthly	
Super Science Fiction	Oct. 35¢	128	Digest	July 18, 1957	Bi-Monthly	
Science Fiction Stories	Sept. 35¢	130	Digest	July 19, 1957	Bi-Monthly	
Fantasy & Science Fiction	Sept. 35¢	130	Digest	July 23, 1957	Monthly	
Infinity Science Fiction	Oct. 35¢	130	Digest	July 25, 1957	6-Weekly	
Venture Science Fiction	Sept. 35¢	130	Digest	July 27, 1957	Bi-Monthly	
Future Science Fiction	#33 35¢	130	Digest	July 27, 1957	Quarterly	
Imagination Science Fiction	Oct. 35¢	130	Digest	July 27, 1957	Bi-Monthly	
Galaxy Science Fiction*	Sept. 35¢	144	Digest	-----	Monthly	

\*Never on Sale at Warners, New York.

16 science/fantasy mags appeared in July 1957. 15 were digest-size costing \$4.75 and containing 1,978 pages. The one pulp cost 35¢ and had 98 pages. Grand totals: 2,076 pages and \$5.10.

NOT SCIENCE/FANTASY, BUT OF INTEREST:

Tales of The Frightened	Aug. 35¢	128	Digest	July 9, 1957	Bi-Monthly
Search	Aug. 35¢	130	Digest	July 13, 1957	Monthly

PERSONALS

LIST YOUR FAVORITE 10 SF novels, favorite magazine and author for survey; all contributors will be sent final results. Send to: Mike Solomon, 2441 Laurelhurst, Cleveland, Ohio.

STATE OF FANDOM  
(Concluded from Page 6)

news should be forthcoming from Jan Jansen at any time. Subbers please note that if the zine should be dropped all subscriptions will be refunded.

Ron Ellik has finished his tour of duty with the Marines in spite of a broken foot and is now recuperating at home. He says he expects to go into a flurry of fanac at any time. Reader beware.

Fans around New York are planning another METROCON for next April. Membership is \$1.50. More details can be had from:

SHELDON DERETCHIN  
1548 E. New York Ave.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

John Champion has dropped his regular zine, FAN-attic, and will come out this fall with a new one, IMPASSE by name. He says this one will be entirely different from FAN-attic but nothing definite is planned for it as yet.

I expect to become a papa come February or March. (of course that's news!--least it was to me.)

Dick Ellington

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