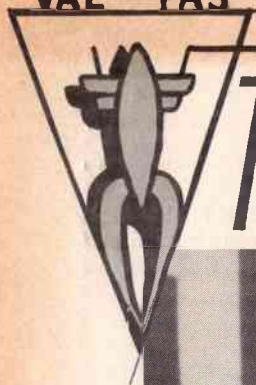


VAL - FAS

VOL 1 NO.4 SUMMER 1953



THE SPACEWARTER



COVER
picture of S.J.Byrne
by
John Davidson

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.....CHARLES NUETZEL
Editor.....Eleanor Rosch
Art Director.....Bill Wood

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader:

This issue features an article by S. J. Byrne, who is one of the most popular writers of Other Worlds and Imagination, and who has made a great name for himself with his "Beyond The Darkness", "The Golden Guardsmen", and many others, the latest of which is "Power Metal". This he believes is his best — and no wonder! You might have read some of his John Bloodstone stories which were printed in Amazing Stories not so long ago.

The other night Mr. Byrne who lives in North Hollywood, California came over to our house as a guest of the Val-Fas Publications. He is one of those authors who can tell a good story on and off paper. For well over two hours he held us spell bound as he told about Raymond A. Palmer, Richard S. Shaver, himself, and how to write a story. The high point was when he read his own article. We enjoyed every last word of it — as we know you will..!

We would like to announce before leaving, that the next issue will be on the Westercon being held here in Los Angeles not too long in the future. It will feature an article by Mr. Science Fiction himself, Forrest J. Ackerman, with four full added pages of photos. Making a total of eight pages in all.

Well see you then...

THE EDITORS

BEYOND

Awareness

S.J. BYRNE

Once upon a time, a man named Jules Verne wrote a zany yarn about some fool contraption he called a submarine. Now who ever heard of a submarine? Or rather, how many people had heard about it in his day and age? The concept of man's conquest of the ocean depths in a self-propelled, hermetically sealed vessel was beyond awareness. And that's what made Jules Verne the father of science fiction.

So stef-writers ever since have tried to follow his formula, to write beyond awareness, beyond the horizon of general understanding, trying to awaken new thought-growths and open the human mind to the possibilities of what was next to come. Not that these stef-writers were actually inspired prophets; they were only more accustomed to extrapolating current trends into eventual possibility. They foretold the coming of television, and as a matter of fact I recall reading somewhere in the late nineteen twenties a science fiction yarn which described isotopes and the bombardment of the nuclei of unbalanced heavy elements to produce atomic energy. But of course all that went begging in the pulps, because it was beyond awareness, as were jet planes and space islands.

Nowadays Mr. John Q. Public is quite smug about his Sunday supplement knowledge of rocket ships and space islands and nuclear fission, because it has all been explained to him by respected authorities. Now he is ready to "accept" the stef-writer's formerly ludicrous concepts.

But the true, back-in-the-hills, old-guard stef-writer is not so much concerned about John Q. Public as he is about the fen who kept him going in the first place. Fen like to be esoteric and they have earned the right to this distinction because they are willing to do the pioneer extrapolating along with the stef-author, who practically lives for the kick he gets out of looking over the horizons of wildernesses yet to be explored.

A question, however, now raises its hydra head. If atom bombs and rocket ships and space islands are no longer beyond the awareness of John Q. Public, then what's the stef-writer going to write about next? He's thoroughly explored all the galaxies via space-ship, hyperspatial tube, teletransporter, the sixteenth dimension and motor-cycle. He has developed intergalactic civilizations, told off the inhabitants of the macrocosm and settled the destinies of a myriad of microcosms. In fact, Ray Cummings had all that behind him years ago. And don't forget time travel. All that's been hashed and re-hashed. The biological test-tube has also been boiled dry, from BEMS to Look Magazine. Cybernetics was ushered into the sphere of authoritative acceptance long after stef-writers had built more robots and super-computers than you could shake Howard Browne at (and he's pretty big!) Then along came Hadacol only to be superseded by Dianetics. So again, the question: What's there to write about?

Well — you and I know the answer, and in a sense, it's easy. In fact, Astounding is trying to lead the way to new Elysian fields of meditation, in the form of parapsychology. But the hydra-headed part about all this is that many of the new publishers who have gotten into the act are only out for the pin-money that John Q. is willing to spend, and not necessarily Mr. Fen. There are over thirty so-called science fiction magazines on the stands now, but don't let it confuse you. Buxom blondes and V-2 rockets cannot comouflage the triple B plot (Bedroom-Bar & Brewo) of the stockholder's Yes-man in the stf publishing game. Stick to the old-guard mags (you know which they are) if you want to go genuinely beyond awareness.

The traitors in our midst may balk at new horizons, reasoning that John Q. won't buy if the idea presented hasn't been blessed by at least one treatment in the slicks. So let's boycott the triple B and look to the infinite frontiers. Let's find out what ther is beyond John Q.'s awareness, because that's the heritage of stef-fandom, to lead the way. What's the next step beyond the mutant? What lies beyond death, itself?

That one hit you in the eye? Well, it's one of those far horizons. In the past, serious treatments of beyond-the-grave themes were apologetic and served deferentially on a platter of sheerest fantasy. But suppose we take it in a purely physical sense? Is there another plane of existence? Would it be possible to obtain a photograph of Heaven? Are the lower planes in anarchy? All right, so ninety-five editors just ran for the hills, because we just stumbled over a taboo. Note: that isn't a hundred percent of the editors. Speaking of taboos in general, look at what THE LOVERS got away with!

The above is merely a sample of the new horizons we might cross. Who's on board?

Dear Reader,

Many chances have been made in THE SPACEWARPERS since our first appearance at the Sou-Westercon of 1952. We have made many promises which we weren't able to fulfill, and others which we didn't make and came through on!

With the event of this year's Westercon being held here in Los Angeles we have come out with the first all photo off-set issue. But this is only the beginning!

Want to hear the line up? Ok, then...

Next issue (fifth) brings you Forrest J. Ackerman with an article about this very convention! And that's not all! We also have four full added pages of photo's. Photo's of this convention! You won't want to miss this if you haven't brought your own camera...

Then next comes Max B. Miller with an article for "flying saucers" lovers! This is sure to be of great interest to all fans, "saucer" or not! I've never seen a saucer and don't know what to believe, but I'll be fascinated!

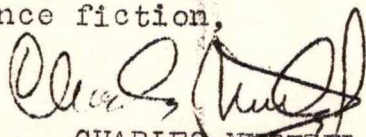
Ross Rocklynne has promised an article for the 7th issue...and we have Joe Gibson's article at hand, its title is "GONE TO THE DOGMA", interesting? And then Ray Bradbury promised one for us, which we plan to have follow the Gibson issue. What is to come next...well that's for the future to see, but we can promise you this, it will have the same pro-ring to it, and I know you won't want to miss it!

Along with this we are producing for our subscribers only: (100 copies -- this is for only new subscribers), EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS AND HIS WORKS.

Featuring articles by Forrest J. Ackerman, Darrell C. Richardson, John Harlow, and others. Along with the articles will be a complete index of all of the masters magazineserials! This will come out sometime in the following year!

Know you will want to be with us, so enclosed you will find a subscription blank for your convenience.

Yours for more science fiction.


CHARLES NUETZEL
Editor-in-Chief

.....
Enclosed is \$1.00 for five issues of THE SPACEWARPERS. Add Edgar Rice Burroughs and His Work.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____

Send to:

Val-Fas Publications
16452 Moorpark, St.
Encino, California