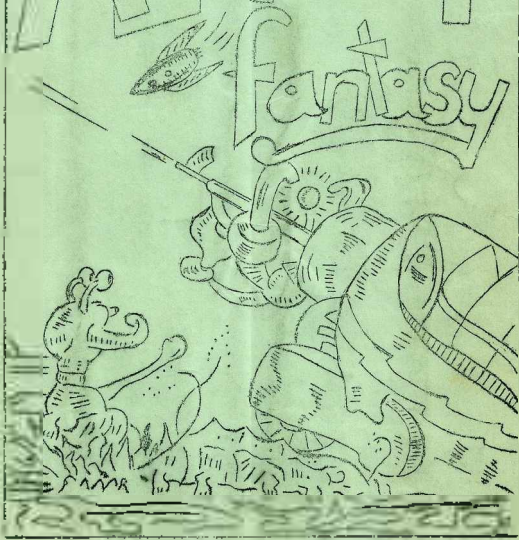


VOL. 1., NO. 4.
MARCH

ALPHA

fantasy



THIS IS —

AUSTRALIA

fantasy

contents

OF THE
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COVER: "Dear Wog: I dunno what this is. I'm not even game to guess. But I had an idle moment, and this is what I did, did or done. Use it if you like or only use the title, but don't say I didn't warn you.....Bruce".

PAGE 4: Editorial.....Ye High and Mighty Wog.....

PAGE 8: "Shadow out of Space".....Vol molesworth....

PAGE 9: "The Professional S-F Magazines Today. Pt. 2"
.....Eric F. Russell.....

PAGE 13: YOUR SAY.....Your opinions.....

PAGE 16: The Quiz Page..Can you answer 'em?.....

PAGE 17: "Stranded".....K. Noel Dwyer.....

PAGE 19: Competition Answers.....

PAGE 21: Advertisement.....

Published from the Melbourne H.Q. of the Australiana Press, 183 Domain Road, Sth. Yarra, 381., MELBOURNE. This is Vol.1., No.4 and is the March issue. Subs. and contribs needed badly. Subs:-- 6 pence or 10¢ per issue. or you can have 3 for 1/3 or 25¢..... Editors: Warwick Hockley & Keith Taylor. Next issue out in May.

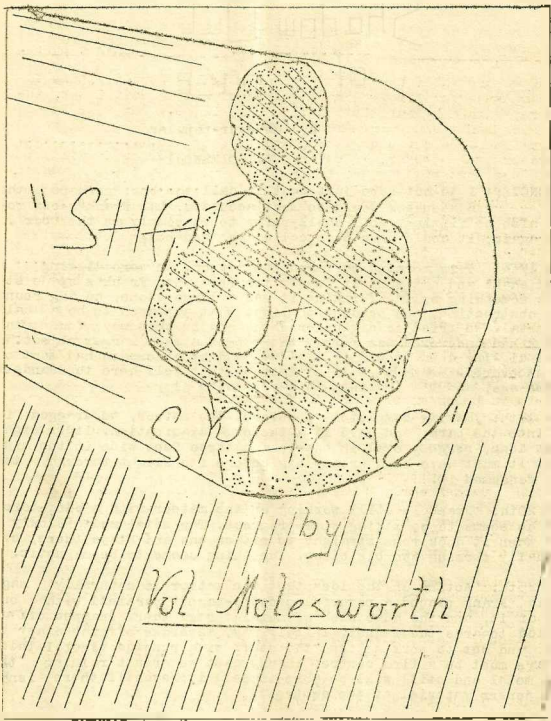
As we are published quarterly, or roughly quarterly, this issue completes our first year of publication. The next issue, therefore, should be our first anniversary issue.. But four issues in a year isn't such a remarkable achievement, so there'll be no celebrations. On our second anniversary, perhaps..... A word or two, however, in regard to the next issue. It will be dated June, but will appear in May, and from that issue onwards, A-Z will be published bi-monthly. providing..... WE GET ENOUGH MATERIAL!!!! We can't publish "our" material, we don't want to fill it up with our own stuff, and so that leaves you..... your "stuff": articles, news, but we do need material. You know what we want: articles for preference, but we like poems too. And we also want your letters for your say so please help us to put A-Z out by sending something, anything ..as long as it's material!

Last issue we filled up this editorial with a list of Black about Painting Films 1961. No, pessimists, this isn't a declaration that it isn't going to appear after all. It will be very late, it might be among the promised stills, but eventually it will appear. The reason for its lateness is that a terrific lot of trouble is being experienced in finding a way to reproduce the stills. They reproduce too small to be legible, you see, and we don't want to put the mag out minus the stills until we've tried everything for reproducing them.

Think about support! We suppose it's really our own fault, for setting a rather early closing date, but if one retract (NEW) could get his entry in with about a week to spare, it seems the others could have, if they'd wanted to. You know what we're talking about --- --? Don't ask's competition, if scarce. Anyhow, the answers are on Pages 19 & 20.

As a last word, we've been doing a little research as to what was/were the best liked things in our first year. It doesn't need much detailed analysis to find that out. It was Eric Russell's article/lectures, by a million times, if he's willing, we hope to have many more by him... slight hint to Eric: do you think we could persuade you to do another time travel articles for us, Eric?

That finishes our blabbing for this issue, and so we look the controls until May.....WH & KIL.



"SHADOW
OUT OF
SPACE"

by
Vol Molesworth

Shadow Out of Space

by the ever-popular

VOL. SOLDSWORTH

FORENOTA: I am not sure just what to call the box; perhaps the Shadow-box would be most accurate, but Frank's-box would also be fitting, so I shall refer to it simply as the 'box'. Yet again, it could have been called the gut-box.

MAY 17th: This morning we found the motor. We were digging a well shaft and had sunk it nearly ten feet when Frank's spade struck something solid. Thinking it was a large stone, he dug round the obstruction, and brought to light what appeared to be a ball of metal. We tried to dig underneath, and in this way, found what Frank had uncovered was surely the top of a much larger object. We kept digging down, and at last had most of it uncovered. Frank says it's a meteor, but I'm inclined to agree with him.

MAY 18th: Having completely uncovered the motor, we dragged it up into the barn, and gave it a thorough examination. It is eight feet long, roughly oval in shape, and three feet wide in the middle. It must have been pretty big before its flight through the air consumed it.

MAY 20th: Frank is still working on the motor with a blow-torch and he seems to be making some progress. The metal melts slowly, but when it does run straight to either end and stays there, eventually forming two big blubs. The thing seems to be magnetic.

MAY 25th: Acting on the idea that the motor is naturally magnetic, Frank placed a powerful electro-magnet parallel with one end of it, and the huge blob of metal forced there snapped off and rolled towards the magnet. In this way, we broke off the other blob, and set to work melting the stuff with renewed vigor. I think there must be a firm centre: in any case we aren't ruining the red metal and still will be able to sell it, even if there isn't any denser material at the centre.

MAY 28th: Today we came upon the box. We had, during the past f-

ew days, heated most of the exterior metal away and piled it up like so many copper cannon balls in one corner of the barn and all that remained was an oval centre two feet long by one foot high. We melted this down until we came upon a cube of gleaming metal exactly six inches long, four inches deep, and five inches wide. Whereas the outer metal looks like copper, the 'box' seems to be made of pure nickel or chromium.

JUNE 6th: The box has resisted all our attempts to melt it further, and Frank is convinced it is of artificial origin, probably containing a message from Mars, or something to that effect. I reminded him that the meteor fell thousands of years ago, but he only laughed and said that Mars is a much older world than Earth and the Martians probably reached the peak of their civilization thousands of years ago. Anyway, we sold the red metal to the Scientific Association for two hundred pounds. They call the stuff Spatium and say it's element No. 107. I told them nothing about the box.

JUNE 10th: Frank recalled how the electro-magnet had affected the meteor and erected one on each side of the box. A low hum was the result. It seems as though the box contains some kind of machinery, and Frank suggests the 'message' is a phonographic one, and we've only to set the works going, and we'll get a verbal message from the king of the red planet. I don't think so, my-

JUNE 20th: We've tried just about everything to get the box working, with pretty poor results. As soon as the magnets are removed, the hum ceases, and if stronger magnets are put in their place, a higher pitched hum is the result. The pitch of the hum, it seems, depends on the strength of the magnets placed on either side. Frank tried placing a strong magnet on one side, and a weak one on the other, and discovered the pitch was the same as it would be obtained if their total strength was equalled by two magnets of uniform power. Besides this, we learned that no matter how much positive electric current is fed into the metal sides of the box, exactly the same amount is returned, none being absorbed or used by the magnetic mechanism inside causing the hum, which resembles a warming radio set. Frank, however, rejects the idea that it is a radio, and so the purpose of the box still remains a mystery.

AUGUST 17th: For the past two months I've been tinkering with the meteoric box, and am getting more curious every day to learn its secret. I've tried just about everything; it is unharmed by acid, fire or violence, and is thus absolutely impenetrable. X-rays reveal that it is opaque, and infra-red and ultra-violet rays cannot penetrate it either. Steadily, day and night, it has kept up that monotonous hum which stops immediately the magnets

the PROFESSIONAL SCIENCEFICTION MAGAZINES TODAY
Part Two.



It is hard to say who the Blue Ribbon fantasy magazines appeal to, because SCIENCE-FICTION and FUTURE FICTIONS have covers that will not Horror Stories fans to their fold, but inside straight science fiction stories & features as well as most of the artists being s-f. eg. Paul, Schreeman and Binder: the non-sf being Biro, Streeter, etc.. The latest S-F, June, has no illustrations by any science fiction artists. Future Fiction appeals to the same people with its' covers, but inside the stories are adventure with a tang of science. The first two issues of it had book-length novels supported by short stories, but the latest, July, has nearly all novelette plus short stories. Its covers are generally colorless and dull, but the latest is gaudy.

Summing up Future and Science Fiction, it can be said that the regular readers that they have are science fiction fans and a few non-fan readers who do not take part in activities, and I almost forget, the Ecoprentists. These people are not attracted by the covers, but know what is inside. The other type who probably read S & F are those who see the cover- loud & gaudy by Paul- depicting a very improbable event and repeating the same thing on every issue's cover. This fact coupled with their very irregular appearance suggests they have one foot in the grave, and are beginning to that end which puts yet another editor out of a job.

Exactly the opposite in appeal, covers, and content are the two Munsey reprint magazines, FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES and FANTASTIC NOVELS. Both of these feature fantastic and weird stories with a few science fiction occasionally. The stories that they reprint are classical in every respect, being taken from Argosy and Cavalier Magazine from any date between 1885 approx. to about 1936 for the Frank A. Munsey Co. is old. Thus the reprints are free from the taint of being written as a 'rush order' or written around a cover. They are from the days when the fantastic story was new- and are examples of fine literature. Take for example 'The Blind Spot', 'The Moon Pool', and 'The Girl in the Golden Atom'. FANTASTIC NOVELS features much the same type of material as does FPM, only the length of the fiction differing. In every issue it has a complete novel - plus one novelette or short story. Summing up the Munsey publications, we can say that they appeal to the regular intelligent reader, the type who

roads and collect them, and on seeing two more Dunsey magazines reprinting more, or all of the famous fantasies that Argosy All-story has printed since its inception, buys them knowing from past experience that they will be good. Of course they appeal to the fan who prizes them in his collection as gems. When I say fan I mean American.

PLANET Stories, one of the youngest science fiction magazines, comes from a firm that is well known as one that pays its authors well and does not go in for trash. Building on this, you could expect PLANET to be a little above the average. But it isn't in the opinion of the fans, who want lots of adventure and hard science in their science fiction. The covers of PLANET are somewhat like those of the late (and now to be revived) MARVEL Science Stories - in that their editor and artist don't know the mind of the science fiction fan, and therefore think that he/she want covers like Paul prints for Furnig. Inside, the magazine is better than you would think, looking at the cover. The stories, while not having much science, are definitely not juvenilia, and are illustrated by Moray, Bran and a few others, and seem to be just out of school. Thus it may be said that PLANET caters first of all for the readers of Fiction House magazines, secondly for the pulp reader, and thirdly for the fan.

ASTRONOMICAL stories, the first 16¢ s-f magazine to appear in the U.S., has by its appearance, brought a lot of new readers to science fiction, but has also brought science fiction as a literature down to the level of 'dime trash'. For no matter how good it becomes, it will always have that name. Before it appeared no s-f magazine had ever gone below 15¢ and had gone as high as 50¢. But the days of Hugo Gernsback and Dr. Slocum are over, and science fiction is not on such a high level as it was.

SUPERSCIENCE Stories' covers also appeal to the same type as Horror, Science Fiction, and to a certain extent, Planet. The reason for this may be that the editor is experimenting to see which type of reader will buy the magazine - fan, non-fan reader or pulp fiend. I hope that the experiment turns out in favour of the non-fan reader, because he/she, and not the fan, will keep the magazine going. The content of Superscience, while not as good as most of the magazines, is nevertheless improving, but here and there the editor is experimenting to find out who likes which, etc. Summing up the above two, it can be said that they have not got a policy as yet, but are experimenting with certain types of covers and stories. So much for them.

WEIRD TALES' circulation, as far as I can gather from the fan mags and other sources, is made up of regular readers who are interested only in the magazine - and they owe their interest to the late Mr. Farnsworth Wright - who edited WT till about June

of last year. Farnsworth Wright built up a circle of dependable readers during his term of office as editor - and they never let him down. He also built up a group of writers such as Robert Bloch - Thorp McClusky - Henry Kuttner - Robert S. Howard and others. Of late the covers have improved, and the artist has confined the painting to strictly weird and fantastic subjects - such as Virgil Finlay's covers for August and November 1939. Mention might also be made here of a new artist the magazine has recently acquired. Bok - his covers for the December 1939 and March 1940 show that he has an entirely different conception of any subject to Finlay, Ferman & Delay. His drawings in the December issue show a conspicuous lack of detail, while those in the March issue show that he has remedied this fault. Summing up WEIRD TALES it can be safely said that it appeals first and foremost to the weird fan and next to the common-or-garden science fiction fan, who reads it as a matter of course.

The only English publication devoted entirely to science-fiction is TALES of WONDERS, which features mostly reprints. The covers of this magazine are as different from those of the American magazines as sugar is from salt. They appeal to the science-fiction fan and the regular reader, and also to the person going on a holiday who gets a magazine at the last minute before boarding the train, to read while away. Illustrations in TOW are pitifully small - and it is interesting to note that nearly all of them have been used twice. Covers are mostly done by Nick Roberts and the latest one by Harry Turner, whose skill at painting seems to have been to long overlooked.

Last on the list is the dunsy weird-fantasy magazine Red Star MYSTERY. The first issue contains a 63 page pseudo-fantastic novel, and similar novelettes and short stories. When I say pseudo-fantastic, I mean that the story leads up to a climax, which explains everything as not being fantastic but the work of some human being who has worked everyone up to a state that they believe anything, and incidentally get the reader doing the same thing. The type of reader that Red Star MYSTERY will get is the detective magazine and to some extent the pulp-horror fiend. Whether it will be recognized as fantasy, is up to YEARBOOK. Personally, I doubt it.

Thus far, this talk has dealt with the magazines exclusively, and I now turn to the editors --

Raymond Palmer, managing editor of the Ziff-Davis science & fantasy magazines was one of the columnists in Fantasy Magazine, the printed fanmag of yesteryear. His column was 'Spilling the Atoms with RAP' and resembled Stardust in SRECEWAYS. Also he was the author of several stories in WONDER; namely 'Three from the Stube', 'The Time Bay of Jandra' (Forgotten 'The Time Tragedy') and in the August '38 TWS he had a novelette - 'Catalyst Planet'. Also in Amazing, when it was under Dr. Sloane he had a novelette called 'Symphony of Death' in the December 1935 issue. He was a real friend of the late Stanley G. Weinbaum, and perhaps that is

the reason why he published in Amazing of Oct & Nov '38 the serial 'Revolution of 1950' and also the book 'The New Adam' this year //This article was written in 1940. vsh/

Mort Weisinger of the Standard group had in Wonder a humorous story 'Sigmund is Sigmund' and in Amazing about November 1935 'Your fingers must have hit the wrong keys, Eric; it was November 1935, wh/ 'The Price of Peace'. He also ran a column in Fantasy Magazine, 'The Ether Vibrates' which he used as a title for the readers section in STARTLING. He invented a game "Movie Millions" which netted him a good amount from the royalties. He has a brother who is mad on bridge. His chief Leo Margulies, was responsible for saying at the New York Convention 'I didn't know you boys were so damned sincere.' This earned the Convention a writeup in TIMS.

Charles D. Hornig, once editor of Wonder Stories, published one of the first fanmags 'The Fantasy Fan', and like Weisinger, used its title as that of the readers' section in Science-Fiction. He used to write under a pseudonym in Wonder as Derwin Lesser, and does the same in his two magazines today. He, like Forrest Ackerman is an ardent Esperantist, and has written several articles in his magazines about the language.

Frederik Pohl, of Astonishing and Super-science Stories, was an editor and author's agent before he graduated to editorship. He was a member of the Futurian Society of N.Y., and one of those excluded from the Mycon. He was also a member of the Michelists and wrote 'Perk Helypomene I', an article on authors and how to get an story in a science fiction magazine. He wrote a poem in Sloans AMAZINE under a pseudonym.

All the other editors with the exception of Farnsworth Wright are unknowns. The editor of ToW, Walter H. Gillings also had a column in Fantasy Magazine called 'Over the Pond'.

I trust I have not bored you.

The End

.....

HFR's articloectures have been the most popular things we have published, and we hope to get more from him in this second year of our existence. We over hope to get another time travel article from him.

YOUR SAY

FROM a CRICKLY BEING: "A-F certainly has improved! Your latest issue - well, the makeup allround is the best it's been for three issues....but the material - no, I won't comment - that's the best way out! (Sub?) I like the idea of a hatched cover and the rest of the magazine allwood - keep it! (Sorry)

There is still room for improvement in one or two aspects of the mag, but allround it's going ahead. I expect someday to see this on about the best farming in Australia -- OUCH! - that must have been Ron! I thought he was away in Middle Earth! Last word: how often is A-F going to be issued? Irregularly? (I start work soon; as I'll be able to publish it bi-monthly: If you twerps will only supply us with enough material!)

Bert the Cee...

AND OLD RELIABLE, SAS, POPS UP NEXT: "A-F arrived this week & vnaako, tis getting better every vnaako, tho U left the contents page out in this one. Are U going to hokto the cover in future?? (Occasionally, perhaps; but any color is likely to be himeend, not hoktoed) This one, (even if I drew the damn thing) looks OK.

Smith's story was OK tho! the earthquake was very timely, while Noel Dwyer's "Prodoot of Murs" was also fair, but, assuming the monstrosity in the tank to be human, when let locac on Sprl (Earth) how did the damn thing b need? (In got something there). The article very good, and am waiting for the second part. "A good idea that competition, tho I probably won't enter it. (Why not?) " Himeeing all OK, and so glad to see you using black ink, instead of purple, which offends my delicate (?) sense of sight. " That's all I can think of at present.

Alma

YOUR SAY/cont.

NOEL DWYER: "...The cover by Bruce Sawyer was fair, but the green ink was not put on too good - did you use a thin pointed paint brush? I've found that by doing that better results are obtained. /Thank for the tip/

But where, friend Warwick, was the contents page??? /See elsewhere/ Goldarned if I could find it! The controls was good. Tom's a bonzer idea about FANTASY FILMS 1940. Are those stills going to be photos pasted in, or what? /Lord knows: on't...just know/ 'The Land of Lensheeba was excellent. The style in which it was written was by no means amateurish and makes me how my head in shame when I read my contribution. 'The Competition is a good idea. The names are cleverly pieced together and are hard to find. I found a few, but Rule 2 had me beat. There were a lot of sentences that could mean something if they were twisted round, but unlucky me here couldn't do enough twisting. 'Eric F's article is pretty good even tho he's taking it out on AMAZING Stories. I find nothing wrong with AMAZING and when I was a member of the FBS I wrote a lecture which I didn't give. I have it at home, and will improve on it and if you would like it, it's yours. 'Your Say is not big enough!!!! /How 'bout this ish?/ How about trying to make that page elite type so as to fit more in? /Here going to, but decided instead to give it more space/

BILL VENEY: "As much as it breaks my heart to admit it, Eric Russell's article on the pro mags was the best thing in the issue. His attack on AMAZING brought gurgles of delight from this quarter. 'Next came Don Tuck's competition which seems an excellent idea, and I hope your readers give it the support it deserves. Don is rapidly zooming upward in the fan world, so I'd strongly advise you to get as much of his material as possible, 'cos it's going to be in demand before long.' Bruce Sawyer's cover takes the third cake, and his page the fourth. 'Well, that covers everything, so best of luck with A-F, and may it soon lead the fanmag field. 'Yours, etc.,

William D.

Sorry about the missing contents page in the last issue---- the reason was:- when the people at the dump where I was having A-F almost did the cover, what a b... mess they made of it! The contents page was on the back of it, so I couldn't very well use it.-----WH

YOUR SAY (continued)

Eric Russell reckons' "Spaces never vary appealing although it
----- looked a bit small on the quarto. By the
way, before I go any further, could you tell me what happened to
the contents page? /See page 14/ You know, Warwick, I once bought
a copy of TWS - 'Oct 1939 - found that (like A-F) it possessed
no table of contents. I still have it. Ralph's fantasy is
above average, and would have been very good so, had it been il-
lustrated. Product of mine' was even better, and it will be some
time before the pages of A-F have a yarn as good as it. If you
can get fiction like this all the time--- then by all means----
MORE FICTION!! /as Rip said, most cryptic fellow, Mr. Russell!
Only if you get any stuff from Vol., then tell him to lay
off the T-bars, J-rifles, salvos of torpedoes, flashing lights,
space axes, and last but not least I-f ships.....Honestly, War-
wick, a lot of Vol's yarns are overwritten like that. /Watch out
Eric, you'll have all those J-P ships, J-rifles etc., on your
tail! / The only remark I have to make regarding my article is:
How many parts is it going to be? Hardly not three? /None/ Un-
likely!! By the way, before I forget, could you & Keith write
something for the second anniversary ish of TWS?? /Signed, if
he starts that again.... / This time I can promise perfect dup-
lication of the whole issue. Not like the Oct '60 ish. And if
it is possible, wake up MacLennan, and while he is awake, ask him
about it too."

.....
AN AMUSING BIT FROM A LETTER BY KEITH AGON: "...About not
----- writing when I
was ill; don't worry your head about it. No one else wrote what's
wrong?? Don't I PROTEK myself every morning? Don't I play safe
with TJSERV?? I've listened my teeth as much that my wash-
cupboard is full of worn-out toothbrushes. Oh! I know what it
is! It's my schoolgirl complexion! I've been careless! But seri-
ously, I couldn't have read your letter even if you had writ-
ten. I wasn't given my mail until I came out of the rest home...
Well yours truly is taking a science fiction acvie. It's
called 'Bible Story' and the first part (the only stf part) deals
with the Solar System and the "Galvorse. I have my room all clut-
tered up with planets, comets, stars and nebulae that I can han-
dily move around. Every time I cross the room I have to bend my
head to get under the Milky Way, and I will persist in listing
asteroids: They're all models. Or did you know? I dunno."

.....
Hope you like the enlarged YOUR SAY, thus.

QUIZ PAGE

- Q.1. "Subjugating the Earth" was written by????
- Q.2. What issue of what magazine was it in????
- Q.3. Who illustrated "Skyhawk of Valerion"???
- Q.4. "Brood of Hellion" by (a)....., in (b).....??
- Q.5. "The Lost Evolution" by????
- Q.6. Rice Hay wrote the book criticized
- Q.7. H.G.Wells "Time Machine" first appeared in 1896.
(True or False.)
- Q.8. "Child of the Stars" by Gallun, was a sequel to????
- Q.9. A cover contest appeared in WONDER in1935.
- Q.10. "Lord of Twilight" by????
- Q.11. S.D. Lock wrote "The Last War".
(True or False)
- Q.12. Edgar Wallace has written Science-fiction stories.
(True or False)

The answers to this quiz appear on page 18.



J T R A S D R D

Some are not born every day it is true, but practically at my back door lived an old man, an alien from another world, whose actions were deemed mad by a selfish people because he was merely trying to return to his home.....

UNCLASSIFIED

He was a strange little man or maybe he wasn't a man. I don't know. No one had ever seen his face. It was always concealed by an ill-fitting felt hat and by the collar of an overcoat, three sizes too big for him. I had seen him on many occasions as I passed his place every night after working late at the office. I always glanced at the veranda of his cottage, and was almost sure to find him gazing stolidly up at the stars, or if he wasn't there all I had to do was to look up at the second story of the shed at the rear of his place where I was certain to find a light burning.

Most of the neighbours thought he was mad, while I thought he must be a little eccentric or the like. He spoke to no one, nor did he appear to eat at all. He never had any visitors, nor did he leave the house. Nevertheless, he contracted by some means forever unknown to me a firm who forwarded him consignments of machinery and tools. A truck driver once delivered a crate to his house containing some sort of mechanical equipment. Out of curiosity, I had intended to ask the driver, (he was a friend of mine) as to the contents of the crate but I never had the chance to. His lorry had a terrible smash at the corner of the street and he was killed. I approached the firm who supplied the goods but they appeared to be suffering from a loss of memory, remembering nothing, and having no record of the order.

Time gradually passed on. The little man who had previously spent his time equally in gazing at the stars and working in the shed changed his methods. Nights on end he worked in his shed - people began to complain of the noises and hammering that he made during all hours of the night. But as suddenly as it had started they ceased. People went about their work again and slept well at night, scarcely giving the old man a thought.

It was in the early hours one morning when I awoke from a troubled sleep. What was the matter? I arose, walked over to the window and gazed out into the darkness. Somehow my thoughts were troubled. I seemed to be thinking of the old man all the time. Who was he? Who was he? The thoughts thrummed out of my

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON PAGES 16.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Walter Kately. | 7. Falno, 1895. |
| 2. June 1934 AMAZING. | 8. "Son of Old Faithful". |
| 3. Dada, | 9. July. |
| 4. (a) John Bertin (b) May #32 WOMEN. | 10. Robert Page Preston. |
| 5. John Campbell Jr. | 11. True. |
| 6. "Today's Yesterday". | 12. True. eg. "King Kong". |

"Stranded" cont. from Page 17.

heaving mind. What was he doing here? My forehead was sticky with beads of perspiration. What was the matter with him? Perhaps he was ill or something, maybe even out of his hood; then I should get a doctor or.....

Suddenly I stood still. It seemed as though an electric shock had passed through my brain. Possibly it was my imagination, but I do not think so. I seemed to hear a soft, strange voice within my mind, saying....."Do not worry, Earthman.. I am quite alright.....I have been stranded on your planet, a lonely being, for countless years, and tonight I am at last to return home." The voice stopped, and my mind seemed to be racing upward into the atmosphere and far out into space. Faster and faster it went; faster, faster than a million times the speed of light it sped, until it reached the globe of a gigantic blue sun ringed by a solitary planet. My mind raced downwards to the surface of this planet - a great joy welled within me and then dispersed into nothingness. I stumbled and fell down to the floor in a daze and the last thing I remember was a faraway voice whispering, "Peace rest with you, Earthman....."

When I regained consciousness it was morning. I glanced at the clock, only to find that it had stopped. I looked out of the window and down the street to where the little man lived. A crowd of people were clustered around the smouldering remains of his cottage; I hurriedly dressed and made my way along the street. The little man's place was a wreck, and indeed it was lucky there were only vacant allotments on each side of the house because that area was badly burned and blasted away.

"What happened?" I asked a policeman.

"You didn't hear the explosion last night?" he asked, looking at me queerly.

I shook my head.

"Well, you know that little black who lived here, and as a matter he was," he commenced, and seeing me nod my head contin-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26.

And here, for those of those interested. From the 1943 support received, it doesn't seem as if many were the winners to Dr. Frankenstein in the 1943 issue. The support received was generally low, only one entry from Bill Voney) being received. I can't wait 1/29 to buy 'Frankenstein' just for one entry, so I'm afraid, Bill, that you'll receive nothing for your pains. Bill's score incidentally, was 16 out of a possible 41. Here are the answers.

1. "On the Drink" by Barrett Smith, Jan 1946 FFA.
2. Rah Crane, detective, "Speed Mirror" & "Murder in the Wild", by Ed. Hamilton.
3. Kent...."Levin Kent.
4. England...."The ..."
5. Giles...."Jordan A. Giles.
6. Giles reappears...."Region of Space", "Detectors", "One Against the World", by Jack Williamson.
7. Friend...."Edward A. Friend.
8. "Busy Honey" by Ed. Hamilton, April 6 1946.
9. "Benefit", by ... AST ...
10. "The New Life", "Chloride", Mar 40 Sci-Fic.
11. West...."Jack West or Sam West.
12. Castle...."Robert Castle.
13. "Power Plant", Earl Vincent, Nov 39 ASTORIAN.
14. Cross...."Polton Cross.
15. "The Black Fog", Don Wandrei, Feb 37 TWS.
16. Sharp...."Ed Sharp.

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17. Stone....Laelia F. Stone.
18. Skid more ...Joe W. Skidmore.
19. Temple....William F. Temple.
20. "Glimpse", JWalliman, April 30 TWC.
21. Race....Dr. Walter Race.
22. Penton....The Penton & Blake Stories by JWCampbell Jr.
23. Gold....JHGold.
24. "Beauty & the Beast", Kuttner, April 40 TWC.
25. "Hors", HAcid, Oct 39 TWS.
26. "Subconscious", JHCoorn, Aug, 30 AMAZING
27. "Dust" LaSabach, Aug 39 Marvel SA.
28. "Rust", JGdelema, Oct 39 ACTIONING.
29. "As in the Beginning", Jack Wallinson, Apr 40 Future Fic.
30. "Tomorrow", John Taine, April-May, 1939 Marvel SS
31. "Habit" Lester del Rey, Nov 1939, ACTIONING.
32. Camp, L.S. de Camp.
33. "Hour of Judgement", R & Pitt Miller, Aug 39 Marvel SS.
34. "Signboard of Space", FAEgger, Dec 39 TWS.
35. "Maiden Voyage", Vic Phillips, Jan 40 TWS.
36. "Beyond the Stratosphere", W.Jackin, June-Aug, 30 AMAZING.
37. "Experiment", Roscoe Clark, April 39 TWS.
38. Bond....Nelson S. Bond.
39. "By Jove!" Dr. Walter Race, Feb-June 37 AMAZING.
40. "Lord of Transerica", SACoklontz, Feb 39 Dynamic SS.
41. "White Barrier" SBlong, April 39 TWC.

.....
And that finishes AUSTRA-FANTASY for this issue. See you in May!
.....

ued, "Well last night he was monkeying around in that shed of his when the thing exploded. It was a beaut, too, a shoot of flame that leapt into the air and disappeared into the sky. The poor cow's dead, anyway, blown to bits - only we can't find the bits" the constable concluded dismally.

I thanked the offices of the law and walked slowly away, a strange smile hanging on the corner of my mouth. So they thought the little man dead. Well, let them, they didn't understand I did. They did not know that they little man was an alien from another star, who had by some means landed on Earth, and who had been until last night, unable to return to his home world.

As I walked away with the crowd's chatter-"WEE was kee!" -in my ears my eyes roved upwards and vainly searched for a clue of some kind in the blue sky.....

The End.

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