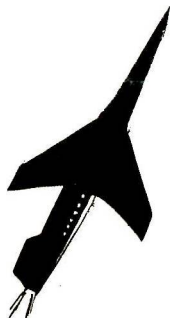


NEWS LETTER

BOOKS

The book of the month as far as any science-fiction fan cares is easily **THE CONQUEST OF SPACE** by Willy Ley and Chesley Bonestell. Published by The Viking Press (New York, 1949) at \$3.95, the large 8x10-inch volume represents a handsomely illustrated primer of space flight. Willy Ley needs no introduction to science-fiction fans because of his long pioneering in rocketry, his many books and magazine articles on allied branches of science; Ley has written the absorbing text of this book which describes in detail the solar system and how it may be reached by rocket.

It is the magnificent full-color illustrations by Bonestell which capture the eye and fire the imagination; the volume contains thirty-nine of his astronomical paintings reproduced in black-and-white, plus 17 more in color, some of which have appeared on *Astounding Science-Fiction*, and in such magazines as *Life*, *Coronet*, *Pic*, *Science Illustrated*, *Air Trails*, and etc.



To say merely that the book is highly recommended for your library, is to do it gross injustice. It is a "must get" item and a collector's treasure.

Didier Publishers (New York) are offering new editions of Jules Verne's famous duo, **ROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS**, and **FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON**. The latter volume includes the sequel, "A Tour of the Moon", and is illustrated by John C. Wonsetler; while **80 DAYS** has a color spread by Arthur Harper. Both sell at \$2.95.

Transatlantic Arts (Forest Hills, NY.) have imported from Britain H.S. Bellamy's **THE ATLANTIS MYTH**, a geophysical theorizing on how and why that continent was lost. With maps, at \$3.25.

DON'T INHALE IT! by Emery Balint (Gaer Associates, New York) is described as a satirical novel about a world literally divided in two by an A-bomb. At \$2.75.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The British (shortened, reprint) edition of **UNKNOWN WORLDS** will fold with its Winter 1949 number (Vol 4, #5) after nine years of reprinting pieces from its American parent and outliving same by six years. Atlas Publishers give exhaustion of material as the reason for its demise; the magazine began in January 1940 (dated September 1939) when the war cut off the supply of American prozines. It was published bi-monthly at first, then quarterly, then 3 times a year. (The American edition died in October 1943, presumably from paper shortage, after its editor stated future issues would be pocket book size to conserve paper.

Meanwhile, **WEIRD TALES** has appeared in a British reprint edition (dated November), and this month will see the first issue of **THRILLING WONDER STORIES** there. Ken Slater's "Operation Fantast" makes all British publishing available to Americans through agents here: John Koestner (2124 Rene Court, Brooklyn), Bob Farnham (1139 E. 44th, Chicago), and Philip Rasch (715 W. 112th, Los Angeles).

The Fantasy Foundation (Box 6151, Metro Station, Los Angeles 55), aided by FJ Ackerman and the Los Angeles Science-Fantasy Society, published last month **THE FANTASY ANNUAL**, a 120-paged fan and pro history of the science-fiction world during 1948. In five sections, editors Redd Boggs and Don Wilson have packed news events of the year, fan personalities, fanzines, fan books, fan polls, local and national club summaries, a month-by-month review of all the professional magazines, reports on 15 fantasy book publishing houses, and much else making it well worth the \$1 price tag. The two editors do not plan a similar issue for 1949, which leaves the field open to others.

Cincinnati convention photographs are available from Bob Stein (514 W. Vienna St, Milwaukee 12, Wisc.) as follows: size 4x5 at 25¢, size 8x10 at 50¢, or set of twenty pix (4x5) for three dollars.

(continued on page six)

BOOKS

THE LAST SPACE SHIP by Murray Leinster, and JOHN CARSTAIRS, SPACE DETECTIVE by Frank Belknap Long. (Each \$2.50, Frederick Fell, Inc., New York City, 1949.)

A few months ago Fell brilliantly began its Science-Fiction Library with an above-average anthology of s-f, edited by two top notch men who knew what they were doing. The same cannot be said for these titles; Fell needs an editor who is able to choose good science-fiction from the vast amount currently available, a man having the ability to recognize and reject the mediocre.

Reading CARSTAIRS is a painful experience: altho billed as a novel, it is not. It is a collection of short stories built around John Carstairs, a botanist who functions in the best bang-bang, he groaned, he grimaced, he hissed, he grated manner. The deception is further carried out by having each short story treated like a chapter of a novel --- but you soon discover what they really are when, upon starting each "chapter", the hero and his lady are introduced to the reader all over again, with the proper background colors to locate the story locale. You will learn, five or six times, that Carstairs' secretary is an attractive girl with a blue-stockings university background.

Leinster's yarns, again billed as a novel, and again not edited, are really 3 novelettes employing the same characters on the same stage: decent outlaws fighting the corrupt governments of a universal empire. The writing is a cut above the Carstairs pieces and were obviously aimed at a more adult audience--slightly more adult. In his foreword, Leinster promised a honey of an idea: he said that of all machines, only electric chairs and traffic lights work for government, so how about a story built on other government-machines? I wish he had fulfilled that promise. -BT

LORDS OF CREATION by Eando Binder (Prime Press, Box 2019, Philadelphia, 3, Penna. 1949. \$3.00).

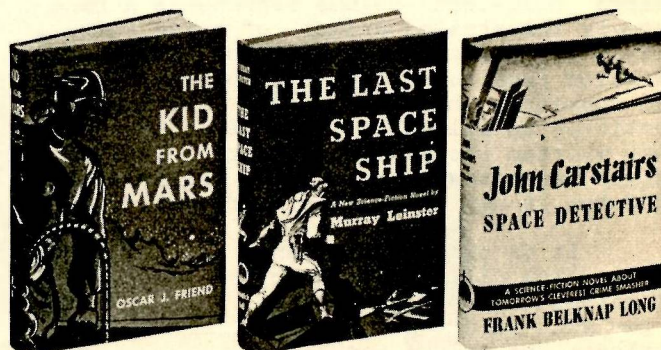
In previous magazine publication this novel was entitled "Lords of Antarctica", which better describes the idea behind it. A 20th-Century scientist is sealed up in a crypt, a gift to the world of tomorrow; his awakening is something of a shock because it patently is not the happy, modern "tomorrow" he expected.

Instead he finds himself in a primitive world of warring tribes and semi-slavery, a world carefully kept that way by the modern, scientific masters of Antarctica. Re-discovering the art of metalworking and powder warfare, the young man aims his sights at the South Pole. It makes light and easy reading. -BT

WHAT MAD UNIVERSE by Fredric Brown (Dutton & Co, New York City, 1949. \$2.50)

We tooted our horn for this high-caper when it appeared in Startling Stories last year, and we're still tooting now that it gets book publication. Similar to a detective story, it would be unfair to reveal what is actually going on behind the plot, but in this strange, goofy universe you'll find bug-eyed monsters strolling the street alongside the un-amazed populace, where model-T Fords and spaceships are equally in demand.

Keith Winton, our badly perplexed hero, was a science-fiction editor in his world, but in this new world in which he finds himself, Keith Winton is the editor of an adventure magazine and is somebody else altogether. The answer to all this is a man playing warlord out near Saturn, a man you know well. Satire, and good! -BT



THE RADIUM POOL by Ed Earl Repp (Fantasy Publishing Co. Inc, 8318 Avalon Blvd, Los Angeles 3, Calif. 1949. \$3.00)

Ed Earl Repp is an old hand at spinning action yarns, and he is perhaps best known for his western operas. Whether it is intentional or not, that western touch rubs off on his s-f stories. Like this one, in which a preposterous news reporter joins an equally preposterous professor; the two of them find and listen to the strange tale of a miner who had an underground adventure with a radium pool and a pack of Jovians. Included in the volume is "The Phantom of Terror" (fifth dimension cops and robbers), and "The Red Dimension". -CH

THE PORT OF PERIL by Otis Adelbert Kline (The Grandon Co, 51 Empire St, Providence (3), Rhode Island. 1949. \$3.00. Illustrated by J. Allen St. John.)

About 20 years ago, Kline introduced the first of three novels about Venus, "The Planet of Peril". It was well received and was followed by "The Prince of Peril"; this is the last of the trio and was originally published as "The Buccaneers of Venus". It reads well today if the reader will only keep in mind the passage of time and make allowances for an older style. Robert Grandon, Earthman ruler of a Venerian empire, fights a pirate race who kidnapped wife.

THE SPOTLIGHT

NEW WORLDS' editor Ted Carnell passes along the following sample of current British wit: it seems that two fantasy fans met and after an appropriate wooing, married. Being typical fans, they took along on the honeymoon a supply of their favorite reading matter. On the first day she read WHO GOES THERE? while he was perusing SOMETHING NEAR. The next day she had progressed to WHO KNOCKS? and he read THE LURKER AT THE THRESHOLD. On the third day, she read FORBIDDEN GARDEN, while he began FEARFUL PLEASURES. Fourth day: IF THIS GOES ON, and he sampled STRANGE PORTS OF CALL. Fifth day: SLEEP NO MORE and NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD. On six, she: MAN INTO BEAST, and he: FINAL BLACKOUT. Together, on the seventh day, they enjoyed SLAVES OF SLEEP. Publishers of all books mentioned will please remember Carnell and BNL come Christmas.

Walt Daugherty and pert dancing partner Marjorie M Margien were selected in Los Angeles as representatives of the Figueroa Ballroom in that city's Harvest Moon Dance contests. Our boy WJD is the tango hot-shot.



Beatrice Mahaffey, whom conventioners will remember as one of the prettiest Cincinnati club members, has moved to Chicago and an editorial job with OTHER WORLDS and FATE. Editor Ray Palmer hired her on the Cincinnati spot.

Mark Reinsberg, Shasta Publishers' advertising chief, has sailed for Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as an exchange scholarship student.

Bob Peterson, enthused over the sale of 100-plus copies of his Science-fiction Index (BNL, August), has begun on a companion Fantasy Index.

Avon Books' fantasy editor Don Wollheim turned up in the New York TIMES Book Review for August 28th, with an article on 'The Science Fiction Novel'. He traced the rise of today's many s-f volumes from the pulp magazine pioneering, and stated the best science-fiction books will continue to come from the pulp writers raised in the craft.

Manly Banister, whose pamphlet on amateur book-binding (BNL, June) is going into a second edition, plans to enter the deluxe fanzine field early in 1950 with "Nekromantik," a semi-professional fiction sheet with verse, pictures and color-covers.

Movie producer George Pal, now making Heinlein's "Destination Moon" for early release, has reportedly acquired film rights to Balmer & Wylie's WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE as a follow-up. Paramount Pix bought the book back in 1933 but did nothing with it. Also headed for the screen is Jules Verne's wet melodrama, 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, to be filmed in color by Lippert Productions.

LETTERS

Bob Bloch (Milwaukee): "After examining the pictures you so sadistically selected, I am almost happy I missed the convention. Although I heartily agree with Boggs that professionally planned publicity and promotion will help make for bigger and better conventions and hence a larger and more active fandom, I fear me the quality of said fandom will never be improved by publicizing the screwball adolescent fringe. God knows, I am not proud of the quality of my pulp writing, but every once in a while I make an extra effort to turn out a yarn suitable for adult readership, and just as I indulge in a little self-congratulation and ease the old ego into thinking maybe a few intelligent readers will see and like the story, up pops a mental picture of an army of goons wearing beanies, false beards and Buck Rogers blasters. Then I go into the washroom and have a good cry. The NEWS LETTER carries what I suspect to be by far the best Cinvention coverage to appear, but I can just see your smirk as you selected those photographs."

Anthony Boucher (Berkeley, Cal.): "One dissent. I can't understand your falling for THE BIG EYE. Its quality as fiction may be argued, but its science is just flatly all wrong."

Arthur Levine (New York): "No one can accuse your editorial content of being slanted to please your advertisers. The stories listed in the ad for FROM OFF THIS WORLD didn't deserve their characterization by Boggs; it should be considered that the book purports mostly to be a compilation of tales from the "old days" when techniques and ideas were admittedly less polished than now."

Louis E. Garner, Jr (Washington DC): "I don't know whether I mentioned it or not, but the Washington Science Fiction Assn has voted to bid for the 1951 convention. No campaign will be put on for some time yet."

Walter I. Bradbury (New York): "...Your BIG EYE review mentioned that the Dollar Book Club will distribute that book. (Although (it) will be early next year instead of this fall.) I think this a significant development in the science-fiction market. Not only will (they) use somewhere around a half million copies, but the Book League of America will also distribute some 60,000. It is significant because it is the first really large distribution by a contemporary book club, of an s-f title. It shows that the market and income for this field can be very lucrative to the author, and not only attract new, good writers to the field, but also offer encouragement to the older and more experienced writers."

BLOOMINGTON NEWS LETTER is distributed free of charge. Readers wanting the next issue however must mail a request for it.

The History Book

Altho science-fiction as we now know it began in 1926 with Hugo Gernsbach's trail-blazing *Amazing Stories*, to be followed by his Annual in 1927 and a Quarterly in '28, the first real upswing in popularization came in 1929 about the time the legendary T. O'Connor Sloane sat down in the editor's chair at the house of amazement.

In that year four newcomers appeared, one of which was to grow to girthhood: *Science Wonder Stories*, *Science Wonder Quarterly*, *Air Wonder Stories*, & *Astounding Stories of Super Science*. The latter emerged in the winter of 1929, dated January 1930. (Also in 1930 Judge Crater mysteriously vanished in New York and plain old *Wonder Stories* made its bow. The following year, *Miracle*, *Science* and *Fantasy Stories* zoomed up, only to exhaust its fuel and drop after two issues.)

And there was the initial blossoming of a strange flower which for no discernable reason renews itself each decade. As the Thirties passed so did the many science-fiction magazines, leaving only "The Big 3" to tote the torch in the wilderness: *Amazing*, *Astounding* and *Wonder*. All experienced rocky traveling during the depression, and *Wonder* almost folded in 1936, to reappear that fall under the name *Thrilling Wonder*.

Roughly ten years after the first climb somebody thought to water the plant; rumor had it that the "Big Three's" circulation figures leaked out, and things began to happen. *Fantasy*, and *Tales of Wonder* saw publication in England in 1938. Meanwhile, *Amazing* had received a much-needed shot in the arm when it changed publisher & editor: new boy in charge was Raymond A. Palmer, the third s-f fan to cop an editor's chair. And *Astounding Science-Fiction*, surging forward under the fresh impetus of s-f writer John W. Campbell Jr. In 1938 came the first of a whole new crop of magazines: Robert Erisman's *Marvel Science Stories*.

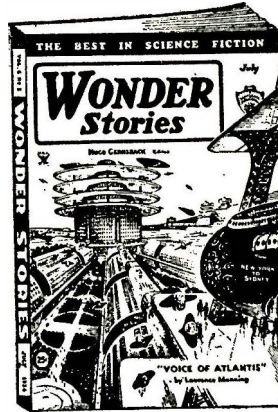
In 1939, the second deluge:

Dynamic Science Stories, *Future Fiction*, *Famous Fantastic Mysteries*, *Planet Stories*, *Science Fiction*, *Unknown Worlds*, *Fantastic Adventures*, *Startling Stories*, and the lone ill-fated French entry, *Conquetes*. It must also be noted that *Captain Future* and *Astonishing Stories* appeared late that year, altho dated 1940. And then, in 1940: *Fantastic Novels*, *Science Fiction Quarterly*, *Super Science Stories* and *Comet Stories*. In 1941: *Stirring Science Stories*, *Cosmic Science Stories*.

This crop was of a tougher breed with six of them still alive at this writing, in addition to the Big Three. And so another decade passes, and once again someone or something applies the thumb to a sensitive part and up from the old rocking

chair shoots science-fiction, to be "discovered" by the literary magazines, the big book publishers, the motion picture moguls.

As was usual, the decennial revival was marked by small, early stirrings in various fields. Science-fiction fans experimented with published books, founded at least ten minor league publishing houses; a very few of the big New York firms brought out successful anthologies using stories from the old standard magazines. And in 1949, the third deluge.



Popular Publications have announced two: *Captain Zero* and the *A. Merritt Magazine*. There is reason to believe Bob Lowndes will revive *Future Fiction* or *Science Fiction* over at Columbia Publications. Tony Boucher & Nick McComas introduced the *Magazine of Fantasy* in October. Ray Palmer deserted *Amazing* to begin two of his own, *Fate* and *Other Worlds*.

Under the editorship of science-fiction fan Ted Carnell, *New Worlds* is again publishing in England. (To be noted in passing: eight such fans have attained editor's berths, with seven being partly responsible for the periodic revivals.)

Meanwhile, in the big city, Dutton, Doubleday, Frederick Fell, Pellegrini & Cudahy, New Directions, Simon & Schuster, Didier, Viking, Gaer and no one knows how many more are trying their fine hand at s-f; while the ranks of small fantasy houses continues to swell daily. Film producers are dumping reissues of old fantastic serials and features on the market, while others are frantically climbing aboard the "cycle" with new ones. All of which leaves us facing the question: what happens next time, in 1959? -Bob Tucker

FANTASTIC FICTION FOR SALE

Brand new, cloth-bound,

library size sample: \$ 1.00

Catalogs 10¢ (refunded)

HOUSE of STONE

Lunenburg, 20, Massachusetts

BOOKS BY WRITERS

Arkham House (Sauk City, Wisc.) begins the new year with AE van Vogt's collection. **AWAY AND BEYOND** (\$4), containing these 14 tales: The search, The Monster, The Rulers, Film Library, The Harmonizer, Dormant, The Engine, Secret Unattainable, Vault of the Beast, Far Centaurus, Second Solution, A Can of Paint, Defense, Asylum, and possibly one more.

Also coming from the same house, **THE THRONE OF SATURN** (\$3), a collection of S. Fowler Wright's short s-f; and, **GATHER DARKNESS** (\$3) by Fritz Lieber jr. Meanwhile, August Derleth is editing another s-f anthology for Pellegrini & Cudahy (New York) for 1950: **BEYOND TIME AND SPACE**.

Julius Unger (Box 35, Brooklyn NY) has taken over publication of EE Smith's **THE SKYLARK OF SPACE** from the Hadley Publishing Co (Providence RI.) and plans a new edition in January, at \$3. Hadley previously published two editions, both now sold out.

E.E. Evans has cracked the foreign markets with 3 to Canada, 4 to Mexico, plus one each to Ireland and England. Four others coming up soon in U.S. Ray Bradbury has submitted to Doubleday the script of his 1st novel, **THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES**. Meanwhile, "Radio City Playhouse" (Sundays on NBC) has aired his "The Lake" and "The Wind", with possibility of more to follow, all taken from anthology **DARK CARNIVAL** (Arkham House, 1947).



Easy on your pocketbook are these new 25¢ pocket books now on the newsstands: **GLADIATOR** by Philip Wylie (Avon Books), **THE CAVE GIRL** by Edgar Rice Burroughs, **SHE** by H. Rider Haggard (Dell Books), and **BATS IN THE BELFRY** by Norman Matson. (Popular Library). Not science-fiction, but mystery with an s-f angle, is Tucker's **THE CHINESE DOLL** (Dell).

TIME magazine for October 10th ran an article on McComas & Boucher's new pro, The Magazine of Fantasy, and said it had 70,000 circulation on first issue. Three weeks later (31st), **TIME** told the story of Campbell publishing the November issue of Astounding almost exactly as had been forecast one year earlier in "Brass Tacks" by reader Richard Hoen. Campbell's circulation was quoted at 80,000 copies.

The Gnome Press (New York) have set the following yarns for their anthology, **MEN AGAINST THE STARS**: the title story by Wellman; Trends, by Asimov; Hobo God, by Jameson; The Iron Standard, by Padgett; Locked Out, by Fyfe; Schedule, by Walton; A Question of Salvage, by Jameson; and First Contact, by Leinster. This is a partial line-up, and book as a whole tells the story of space flight, beginning with

first attempt to reach Luna, and onward. Second anthology will cover atomic energy, arranged in a similar sort of "history".

Gnome has signed Jack Williamson for the early Seetee stories, to be novelized; and Isaac Asimov for the positronic robot tales to be re-written and semi-novelized. Meanwhile, their 1950 fantasy calendar is ready with 12 illustrations by Bok and Cartier.

Taos, New Mexico, now housing a growing s-f writers' colony with Walt Sheldon, Mack Reynolds, and Fredric Brown there. In New York, Judith Merrill and Fred Pohl moved to #3 Davis Court, Beach at 81st, Rockaway Beach, N.Y. And in Toronto, Ontario, John Millard has moved to 58 Heath St., West.

James J. Donahue has entered partnership with Donald M. Grant in the Grandon Book Co (51 Empire St, Providence, R.I.); a deluxe edition of Merritt's **THE DWELLERS IN THE MIRAGE** is next on their schedule.

The Queens Science-Fiction League intends to resume publication of their official bulletin, **NEW YORK VIEW**, on January 15th under editorship of Lee D. Quinn (Box 1199, Grand Central Station, New York City, 17).

Washington DC's science-fantasy group will hold its first regional conclave on April 29th.

National Fantasy Fan Fed'n has formed a ladies auxiliary, which in turn has formed a circulation s-f library and is seeking donations of books and magazines. In charge is Betty Sullivan, 4234 Florida ave, Cincinnati, Ohio.

PFC Clarence J. Jacobs (519 Signal Service Co, Fort Monmouth, N.J.) is organizing an international club for s-f fans in service, and is seeking recruits.

Robert Heinlein's new juvenile is **RED PLANET** (Scribner, New York, \$2.50), the adventures of two boys among a group of colonizers establishing themselves on Mars. A new tome for weird tale followers is **HONEY FOR THE GHOST** by Louis Golding (Dial Press, New York, \$3). Modern witchcraft novel.

Here is one of the best fantasy books of the year

FROM OFF THIS WORLD

Gems of the "Hall of Fame" Classics—Edited by Leo Margulies and Oscar J. Friend—with a jacket design by Virgil Finlay
About 400 pages • \$2.95 sent postpaid

The 18 stories included in this anthology are the pick of the crop of thousands of stories. They include: Gardner—The Last Woman; Sharp—The Eternal Man; Hamilton—The Man Who Evolved; Starzl—Hornets of Space; Herbert—The World Without; Tucker—The Cubic City; Smith—The City of Singing Flame; Stangland—Ancient Brain; Hilliard—The Green Torture; Weinbaum—A Martian Odyssey; Miller—The Man from Mars; Binder—Conquest of Life; Keller—The Literary Corkscrew; Williamson—Through the Purple Cloud; Smith—Beyond the Singing Flame; Weinbaum—Valley of Dreams; Kutner—When the Earth Lived. Order NOW from:

Niel De Jack, 203 W. Sixth St., Mishawaka, Indiana
(write for catalog)

BLOOMINGTON NEWS-LETTER

Number 14. December, 1949

Edited and published by Bob Tucker
Post Office Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois
William Rotsler, staff artist.

Published free every other month, as a news service to the science-fiction field. Readers wanting the next issue must mail a request before February 1st. NEWS LETTER is available in New York at Stephen's Book Service, 45 Fourth Ave; in Washington DC at Bookman's, 1746 NW Columbia Road; in Chicago at Shasta Publishers' salesroom & The University of Chicago Bookstore; in Seattle at the Wolf Den Bookshop, 724 Pike St; and in Berkeley, Calif. at the Garden Library, 2524 Telegraph St.

Notice: beginning with the next issue, BNL's name will be changed to SCIENCE-FICTION NEWS LETTER, in keeping with the field it covers. At the same time, the editor wishes to sound out opinion on our charging a small subscription fee. Do not send any money; just state on your card of request if you are willing to pay for SCIENCE-FICTION NEWS LETTER in the future.

PLANOGRAPHED BY JOHN S. SWIFT CO., INC. ST. LOUIS, CHICAGO, NEW YORK, CINCINNATI
(PRINTED IN U. S. A.)

What's Going On ...

EXTRA

BOMB BLAST AFTER CLUB
MEETING WRECKS WINDOWS
IN ARTHUR RAPP'S HOME!

Saginaw, Mich.: Following a meeting of the Michigan Science-Fantasy Society at the home of Art Rapp (2120 Bay St) last Nov. 13th, a home-made bomb exploded on the lawn shattering two front windows of his house, according to statements published by Rapp and by the Saginaw NEWS (Nov. 14th).

Rapp and Bill Groover, apparently the only fans remaining on the scene when the police arrived, named two departed Pontiac fans as the culprits. The explosion threw the entire neighborhood into an uproar and fire trucks dashed to the scene, followed by the police, gas and electric emergency inspectors, news reporters and a crowd of 200.

The Saginaw NEWS ran a front page story (treating it as a humorous prank by fantasy writers), and a picture of Rapp being questioned by an assistant fire chief. The picture was also sent out over the Associated Press wirephoto circuit to be printed by other papers.

Embarrassed by the publicity and angry at practical jokers who would do such a stunt, Rapp resigned his secretary's office and his membership in the Michigan society. Bill Groover and R.J. Fluette also resigned. As his last official duty, Rapp published a club bulletin on the affair. He considers the bombers to be juvenile jerks.

The Golden Gate Futurian Society is now engaged in a membership drive following its re-organization some months ago. Election of officers is set for the January meeting, the first anniversary date; meetings held at 419 Frederick St, San Francisco. Secretary is Mrs Rose Davenport, 137 Cherry Ave, South San Francisco.

January 1950 issue of EVERYBODY'S DIGEST reprinted "In Hiding", the Wilmar Shiras yarn first published in Astounding and later in Bleiler & Dikty's anthology, BEST SCIENCE-FICTION STORIES: 1949. The anthology itself was featured in full page advertisements in cross-country book supplements during November.

Robert Lowndes, edited at Columbia Publications, may revive one of the science-fiction magazines he edited before the war (Future Fiction, Science-Fiction, and S-F Quarterly).

Enclosed with this issue of BNL is an announcement of the forthcoming Fan Directory, and several blank lines to be filled in by you, if you will lend cooperation.

★ ★ ★
FAN MAGAZINES
★ ★ ★

The Science-Fiction Bookman (Roy W. Loan Jr, 1746 NW Columbia Road, Washington 9 DC) is a free checklist of s-f and fantasy volumes now available (100 titles), forthcoming (56 titles), and out of print (5 bks).

Operation Fantast is now in printed format (16 pages), running articles, fiction, news, British & American book and magazine ads; 15¢ from Capt. K.F. Slater, 13th G.P., R.P.C., B.A.O.R. 23, c/o GPO London, Eng. Capt. Slater is/was on the Berlin airlift.

Outstanding is the Autumn 1949 issue of Walter Gillings' Science-Fantasy Review, (25¢ at 115 Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, Essex, England.) A 32-paged printed issue featuring Willy Ley, Thomas Sheridan, Ken Slater, A. Reynolds Morse, Geoffrey Giles, and others.

Not to be overlooked is "No Greater Dream", a booklet of four fiction pieces by Joquel Kennedy of semi-professional quality. Above the ordinary in both writing and publishing, the booklet is 75¢ at The Spearhead Press, 817 Starling Ave, Martinsville, Virginia, in a limited edition of seventy-five numbered copies.

Ray H. Zorn (Troy Grove, Ill.) has published another issue of his The Lovecraft Collector, featuring this time the early efforts of Lovecraft at running a club.

NEWS LETTER is willing to exchange copies with any other fanzine publisher who is currently and consistently publishing; even though the fanzine is one circulated in the F.A.P.A. or other amateur press club. Send your fanzines clearly marked "Exchange".

HEINLEIN, MOVE OVER!

I have just read a book, an astounding book which held me spellbound from first to last. I was unaware that any writer other than Robert Heinlein wrote science-fiction novels for juveniles, but David Craigie, a Briton, has done just that. ("THE VOYAGE OF THE LUNA-1", Messner Inc, New York, \$2.50).

Altho written for boys from 10 to 17, Craigie's volume can be read profitably by s-f fans of all ages for it contains much that cannot be found in a Heinlein story. The plot:

Young Martin and his sister Jane stow away on a test rocket shot to the moon accompanied only by their cat and dog. The boy has little trouble operating the craft, which zooms across space on giant wings at a speed faster than sound. After some days the ship leaves the atmosphere and the unparalleled beauties of space is revealed to them, remarkably painted by the author's gift of description. The boy and his sister are the first humans to see a sunrise in space, and enthralled, they watch the sun rise out of the inky blackness in the east, blotting out the stars around them. The author's description of the following sunset is no less enchanting.

Dangers, too, are present in their dash to the "cold, icy planet," and our explorers narrowly avert a collision with a huge white-hot comet which comes rushing at them from space, mashing stars in its path. Weight and weightlessness comes and goes in the ship; while the great height stops the clocks, speedometer and barometer. But the greatest danger of all proves to be a glaring asteroid, bearing down upon the ship with many times the speed of the comet. Fortunately, it explodes just short of the ship, throwing fiery shards which become new stars, but one such shard nearly proves their undoing. Martin soon learns the fragment has thrown the ship off course, and it is plunging toward the sun!

Here again the author exercises lucid powers of description, as the children stand at the port window, protect by sun glasses, witnessing from close range the fiery wonders of the molten sun, that "white hot planet" which gives us life. It is impossible to distinguish night from day when so near the sun; and they see flames shooting up from volcanic craters. Eventually the rocket is turned and the boy and girl land on the moon, gliding down on the rocket's parachute wings.

The wonders of the moon beggar description, for the author assures us that icy cold planet is airless. Martin and Jane first acclimatize themselves by donning oxygen masks and standing in the airlock while the ship's cabin is emptied of air; they then emerge to plant a Union Jack in the ashy soil, claiming the new planet for the British Empire. Gleeful shouts are strangely without echoes due to the queer new acoustics and the dog nearly dies before they fit him with a mask.

Follow that Man —

to chills,
shocks —
and MURDER!



Tucker Stalks —Gets Man

THE STALKING MAN, by Wilson Tucker (Rinehart, \$2.50).

OPEN the door to any Wilson Tucker clues closet and his breezy style of airing stories is most evident. This, his fourth, is no exception.

Tucker is fast proving he is the who-dunnit's gift to readers who either are tired of the routine mystery plot or are unskilled in guessing the murderer before the proverbially slow plodding police corner the guilty party.

"The Stalking Man" makes you feel its authenticity on every fast-moving page. The setting is in the Chicago area with the highly descriptive murder taking place at the beginning. It deals with the unaccountable death of a railroad detective, with names, places and people in their occupations polished to realistic degrees.

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—Seth Kantor.

The Stalking Man

By WILSON TUCKER

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Being on the frigid night side, the duo bundle warmly (yellow headscarf, mittens) to go exploring; they find all manner of alien moon life---creatures like snakes and ants, flying bats and airborne insects. As the temperature begins to warm they realize their position is revolving toward the sun, bringing death from the merciless glare.

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Heinlein's niche as a juvenile science writer is seriously threatened.
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DONNY THOMPSON: the State's Attorney who was present when DOC BURBEE found a used match in a body undergoing autopsy. And **AUGUST ASHLEY**, a weak-kneed lawyer, covering up for someone. Also present in the tale are **ROTHMAN** and **LIEBSCHER**, a pair of Peoria detectives, and Sergeant **WIEDENBECK** who had no use for the women.

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Tucker is the author of three other popular mysteries: "To Keep ---Or Kill," "The Dove," and his new "The Stalking Man."

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