



EMBER 16

FROM THE BRAZIER
1329 N 33rd St. Milw. 8
FIVE CENTS
6 October 1946
H.G.Wells' FIRST MEN IN
THE MOON has gone to R.
L. Farnsworth of the US
Rocket Society for the
largest subscription to
EMBER up to 4 October.



CENTRACON
TO BE HELD

A LONG STORY TO BE BROADCAST

EMBER has just received a card from Richard Frank, former Bizarre Series publisher. The card reads as follows:

Dear Donn: I've just come away from the radio with one of the thrills of my life.

TELL ALL FANS TO LISTEN TO DR. CHRISTIAN October 9, CBS, at 8:30 p.m. EST for Amelia Reynolds Long's A LOOSE NUT IN THE LIVING MACHINE. This story is a parody of Dr. David H. Keller's old WONDER STORIES yarn, THE LIVING MACHINE.

Here's why I was thrilled especially: Miss Long sent me this original five years ago for use in my Bizarre Series, but it went under before I could do so. Be sure to hear it; it's really funny, especially if you'll reread Keller's tale first. Now Miss Long will get about \$500 for a yarn she was willing to give away...Rich



The convention at Chicago, previously scheduled for October, has now been set at November 9th and 10th. The info comes in a letter from Frank Robinson. He, Ollie Saari, and Klingbiel got together and picked the date with Armistice Day following as "recovery day". The hotel is the Ft. Dearborn, located at 117 W. Van Buren St. in Chicago. It is urged that immediately upon reading this, you mail a reservation to the hotel. After 15 October you won't have much luck, so get your reservation in right now. Rates are \$2 and up for single rooms without bath and \$2.75 up with bath.

The CENTRACON is not intended to be a formal convention, but just an opportunity for fans to get together. No auction, speaker, dinner, etc., is on the program; you get all that at the annual world convention (The next one to be held in Philadelphia.) Frank writes that Bob Tucke and Hal Beth Wheeler will probably be there and of course all the fellows from Chicago. EMBER adds that Robert Farnsworth, Pres. of the U.S. Rocket Society, member Jane Menke, Robert Bluh, Richard Shaver, perhaps Fred Brown, and all the usual Milwaukee bunch may be there; also quite a delegation is expected from Michigan, with Henry Eisner in tow.

AUGUST DERLETH REPORTS
from within the creaking shutters
of ARKHAM HOUSE
** ** *

In common with a lot of publishers, AH is being stymied right and left by shortages and bottle-necks -- of glue, binding board, cloth, paper, time. The result is that, for the time being, at least, the AH program has been knocked into a cocked hat. The status at present is this:

1. On 27 Sept. all advance orders of WEST INDIA LIGHTS by Henry S. Whitehead were filled.

2. All the type has been set and page proofs done of A.E. Coppard's FEARFUL PLEASURES, Wakefield's THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE, and van Vogt's SLAN; but, because of the bottle-necks, the printers cannot say anything more definite about delivery dates for these three books except that they "hope" the books will be delivered to us between now and November 30th.

3. The printers also tell us that they hope to deliver before the first of the year THIS MORTAL COIL by Cynthia Asquith, and the poetry anthology, DARK OF THE MOON, edited by myself. Personally, I doubt it, judging solely by the present rate of accomplishment and not by intention.

4. By June 1947 Jacobi's REVELATIONS IN BLACK, Lieber's NIGHT'S BLACK AGENTS, and Bradbury's DARK CARNIVAL, and in addition, at least 5 more titles by the end of 1947. These 5 will probably be Hodgson's CARNACKI THE GHOST FINDER; Hartley's THE TRAVELLING GRAVE AND OTHER STORIES; one of the Shiel volumes, probably XELUCHA AND OTHERS; MR. GEORGE AND OTHER ODD PERSONS by Grendon; GENIUS LOCI by Smith. However, if a new book by a very well known fantasy author in Ireland comes through, we'll drop the Grendon and substitute it. Moreover, we'll try also to work in the Machen novel, THE GREEN ROUND, since it is short.

5. There is a remote possibility that we may be able to do more books in 1947, but THERE IS ALSO A VERY FRIGHTENING POSSIBILITY that the demand for triple wages on the part of the typographers union may force Arkham to shut down all new books until the union comes to its senses. If the union's demands are met, it will be impossible for Arkham to publish a current \$3 book for less than \$5, and a current \$5 for less than \$8.50, and our patrons will simply not pay that.

6. THE SLEEPING AND THE DEAD, ed. by Grendon, is due in Fall 1947, and THE NIGHT SIDE, ed. by myself is due in Spring 1947. Both have been announced at \$3, but because of increasing costs, they are going to cost between \$3.50 and \$4 the copy. AH will make announcements.

7. AH will handle THE PURPLE CLOUD by M.P. Shiel, will accept orders for late November delivery at \$1.10 the copy. The book will be issued November 25th.

8. Another AH bulletin in late October.

9. THE EYE AND THE FINGER is absolutely sold out. 11 copies of JUMBEI REMAIN but they will probably be gone in a week's time. Next to go out of print will be LOST WORLDS, MARGINALIA, SOMETHING NEAR, & THE OPENER OF THE WAY.

10. AH has shipped to advance order patrons MR. MERGENTHIRMAYER'S LOBBY.

ODDS & ENDS

An INS release from Paris Sept. 30, and printed in MILWAUKEE SENTINEL for Oct. 1, tells of a new source of light to end night. This is the discovery of Prof. Etienne Vassy and his wife, who

claim to be able to cause one of the strata in the sky to increase greatly its luminosity. The "catch" appears in one sentence slipped in near the end of the report: ..the transmitter has to be especially powerful but can be constructed right away at the price of a few million dollars.

EMBER wrote to Ackerman and suggested that 4E's pushing of Laurel Lee Donnell as a fantasy fan was simply press agent stuff to appeal to fandom and make them conscious of the movie starlet. Here's the answer we received: "Ho, varlet, durst suggest my starlet is an aficionado of fantasy for fandom publicity purposes only? En garde! The strate dopes: Lauree is an avid fantasy book reader & moviegoer but doesn't follow the mags or mix much in fan affairs. (Aside by Ed. check for her picture and you'll wish she did mix in fan affairs.) She has been to the LASFS on a couple occasions, attended several sessions of the Pacificon. In fact, she drove me home when I was stricken. Has unorthodox ideas on Emily Post, politics, religion, matrimony, &c. Aye, is Dona Drakish Sunbathes in our backyard without a bra. Hobnobs with multimillionaires, & has turned down 48 proposals (some from merely multithousandaires, of course) Under contract to Warners starting Oct. 1. Doesnt smoke, is light on liquor & aint stuck up."

Further from Forry: "Colliers is reported to be interested in a possible translation of Rene Barjavel's "Ravage", a dynamic French novel of worlddestruction (credit Gallet). French interests want to lure Maria Montez over there for a remake of Pierre Benoit's book, "L'Atlantide"; film to be titled "Atlantis". Theo. Sturgeon's Astounding story, "Memorial", as adapted in Esperanto for my GLOM, has been published in Holland in the internationally circulated printed monthly news journal, Heroldo de Esperanto."

The precious metals, gold, silver, and platinum live thru the ages, as pointed out by a recent squib in the Journal of Cemical Education. A ten thousand dollar bracelet adorning the wrist of a movie star may contain some gold which was part of the bridgework of a Phoenician who lived 2500 years ago. The same may be said for ancient Asiatic silver, or platinum from some old Russian rubles. EMBER sees the makings of a little story in this idea.

In reference to Gould in connection with EF Russell and the strange footprints previously discussed in EMBER, Arthur Louis Joquel adds: "I checked Fort, and found nothing. But there is a book ODDITIES - A BOOK OF UNEXPLAINED FACTS by Lieut Commander Rupert T. Gould, RN (Retired) which may be the source of that report. About the 'abominable snowmen' -- is he pulling our leg, or what? Anyway, isn't there some connection between Lovecraft (Mts. of Madness) and the Mi-Go? But then, several Lovecraft references have turned out to be the genuine article before this.

New album out containing music from "Spellbound"; ARA Album A-Z -- 4 ten inch records from sound track of movie; some sides are rather distorted, others quite good... Crd- Gerry de la Ree.



With many ifs, maybes, and rationalizations in case of failure, the astronomers have predicted a gigantic display of "shooting stars" for the nights of Oct. 9 and 10th. But be watchful a night before and a night after. The meteors will radiate from a point in the sky near Nu Draconis, the head of Draco, the dragon. At 10PM this constellation will be in the northwest, about two-thirds the way up from the horizon. Amateurs can help by sending reports to the American Meteor Society at Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, Penna. Just count the number of meteorors you see during ten minute intervals and keep the following records: exact minute starting and stopping to count, the direction you were facing, your exact location, and whether sky was clear or cloudy, and your name and address. The society wants meteor photos too. You set your camera up, focussed on Draco, open shutter and leave open, perhaps for 15 or 30 minute intervals, record exact time, turn to new film exposure and repeat for as long as you wish.

Some notes from Don Bratton: "I rediscovered the book on paroptical vision; it's EYELESS SIGHT, by Jules Romain (Louis Farigoule), originally written in French, but there exists an English translation by Charles Kay Ogden. Have you come across ETC, a review of general semantics, quarterly put out by the Society for General Semantics, 3300 Federal St., Chicago 16. The current (summer) issue has an excellent article "Resistances, Blockages, Barricades" by a neophyte to the field, telling of his troubles as a beginning-student of general semantics. He also evaluates such books as Chase's Tyranny of Words, Hayakawa's Language in Action, and Lee's Language Habits in Human Affairs. His opinion, as is mine, of Tyranny is very low. The previous issue of ETC has a whopper of an article by Hayakawa himself which is the most concise yet clear introduction to general semantics I've yet seen, together with an excellent discussion of the forces that cause wars, with some startling conclusions." (Can we hear some more about this, Don?) "4E just informed me that Henry George Weiss (Francis Flagg) died in May of this year. Fans will remember many classic yarns from his pen. Thorne Smith's The Passionate Witch is out in pocketbook edition."

From K. Martin Carlson, dated 9-28-46, comes a list of officially filed candidates for NFFF office: Pres- Dale Tarr; V. Pres- Walter Coslet; Sec-Treas- Carlson; Directorate- Les Croutch, James Hovelin, Elsie Janda, Telis Streib, Rick Sneary, and Sandy Kadet. Other probables but not yet officially taken care of the details are Phillip Schumann and Bob Norton.

New address: Paul Klingbiel, 1005 E. 60th St. Room 510, Chicago 37, Illinois. Paul is attending U of Chicago.

Avon Ghost Reader

out on stands; a dozen nicely picked tales of weird, fantasy, and even stuff by HPL, Derleth, Merritt, Collier, Benet, Whitehead. Recommended new book: The Murder of the USA by Will F. Jenkins (Leinster). Is this a reprint of "Atoms over America"? Credit Joe Kennedy for the above; also MR. ADAM by Pat Frank, an atomic novel, Lippincott 32¢

