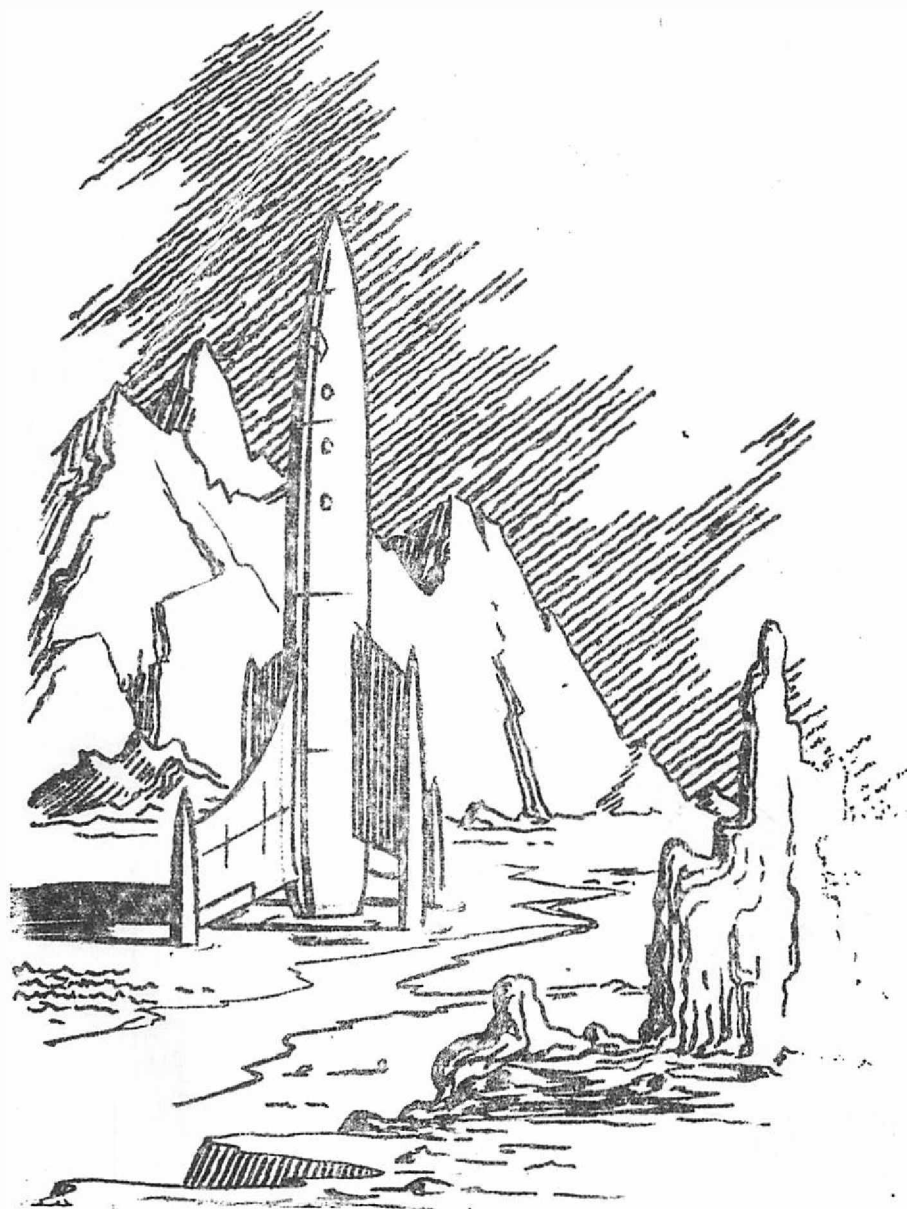


ERG

TWENTY THREE



ERG 23 for July 1965

emanates from Terry Jeeves,
30 Thompson Rd., Sheffield.11

ERG is written (like many other
magazines) entirely by the
editor most of the time.
(Like the others, we make a
lousy job)

This issue of ERG is a trifle later than it might have been had it appeared earlier. One of the reasons was the dreaded lurgy which seems to come upon me more frequently these days. As a result, any form of work is to be avoided and ERG has had to go to the wall. Further issues will depend entirely on the current state of affairs, and no promises will be made.

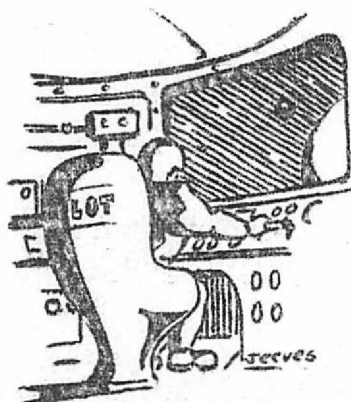
I would like to give thanks to GOOD Man, Ron Bennett who stepped into the breach and paid my OUPA dues when I did my annual trick of thinking I had already paid and leaving it at that. Thank you again, Ron. Very much appreciated.

WANTED WANTED WANTED.....copies of Astounding for the years 1930 and 1931. If you have any for sale or trade, drop me a line.

PART.2. of my Checklist to Astounding is now nearly all on stencil, and as might be imagined, is taking quite a bit of work in completing. However the filing slips have had their final sorting into Author order, and after the typing comes all the fol-de-rol of duping and collating. This by the way, is

NOT a pre-publication offer as I doubt whether the Checklist will be ready before September, and I don't want to have lots of orders hanging around before then. If you WANT to reserve a copy, send a letter containing a postcard stamped and addressed to yourself and I'll mail it off to you when the issue is ready. In the U.S. Leroy B Haugrud, 118 West 33rd St. Minneapolis.8. Minn. is the chap to send your cards to.

As before, the Index is in several sections. Listing by issue. Listing by author.



Listing by story, and a list of science articles. In addition, Part 2 of the Checklist will have a listing of the Probability Zero Dept. which flourished for a while. Some copies of Part.1. are still available at 4/6d plus 6d postage. For Part 2., it will be 5/- plus 6d postage.

CLEARANCE SALE..for those of you who have money to spend. Having closed down my subs to N.W. and S-F, and getting that way about Galaxy, I can offer the following in Mint condition, for any decent offer:-

GALAXY (USA) Complete file to date from first issue in 1951 which runs to around 200 magazines. (I haven't counted 'em)

NEW WORLDS. No.4 to 170 SCIENCE FANTASY No.1 to 71

TWO CONVENTIONS in one year, and I have to miss both of 'em. which is a darned shame, since the last con I missed was way back in 1951. This time, to match two cons, I have two very good reasons. The first one is the lurgy, which rather hampers convention capers. The other and more practical one, is finance. I'm still saving hard for that new Cortina and with a bit of luck, should be able to get it this year...but not I'm afraid, if two conventions tangle with the finances.

LATEST VISITORS to the crumbling mansion, were Don and Fern Wilson, (in-laws of Leroy Haugsrud) who took time off on a round-the-world trip to drop in and sink a pot of tea. Nice people, pity they couldn't have stayed longer and been shown around the place. Next time, maybe ??

PHILATELISTS of the world, this is your chance to put lolly into our crumbling government. You can buy the following special issues during 1965.....some of them will haven been issued by the time you get this, but not to worry, you can get 'em from the Philatelic Bureau.

April...Winston Churchill Issue

May Centenary, International Telecommunications Union

June 700th Anniversary of First Parliament

July Centenary of the Salvation Army

Aug. Centenary of antiseptic surgery.. Joseph Lister

Sep. 25th Anniversary. Battle of Britain

Oct. Commonwealth Arts Festival

Oct. 20th Anniv. United Nations

Over and above these, there will also be an issue featuring the Post Office Tower, and YOO HOO, ETHEL.. in January 1966, there will be a Robert Burns issue.

Anyone interested, can get regular bulletins for 5/- a year, from The Bureau, GPO Headquarters. St Martins-le-Grand, London E.C.1. Current and back issues of stamps are also available, and FDC's are available to order, both for UK and overseas subscribers.

This

SEPTIC ISLE

this throne of kinks

this ENGLAND

The quotation from the Immortal Bod forms a fitting title to this little pamphlet designed to introduce overseas visitors to this tradition-bound island. It is 8 years since the last World Science Fiction Convention was held and it is with these newcomers to our shores in mind, that this booklet was produced.

With visitors coming from the wilds of Europe, our far-flung colonies in America, and even from the trackless wastes of Scotland it was obvious that some introduction to our land and customs was required. This is it.

HISTORICALLY, this island has been here since the last Ice Age. Indeed, there is even evidence to suggest that it was left behind by a receding glacier as can easily be seen by examining any of our roads. We have been discovered many times, by such people as the Celts, Romans, Saxons, Normans, Danes, etc. All of whom lost us again as soon as possible.

POLITICALLY, we are a democracy, being ruled over by our Gracious Queen (Elizabeth) and an elected Parliament (chosen by the Party Leaders). Scattered around the place are various Dukes (whom you call 'Your Grace'), Lords (where cricket is played), Knights (of St. Fanthony) and Baronets, whose title is usually shortened to Esq. and placed after the surname, thus Jeeves Esq.

GEOGRAPHICALLY, this island is subdivided into smaller areas known as Counties. The largest and most important of these is Yorkshire, which houses the Industrial, Political and Cultural capitol of England, the City of Sheffield.

In addition to being the capitol of England, Sheffield is a great steel city. Our guillotines were used during the French Revolution, all Roman soldiers were issued with our swords, and it is reported that John the Baptist was operated on by a knife bearing the legend.. 'Made in Sheffield'. A glance at the map

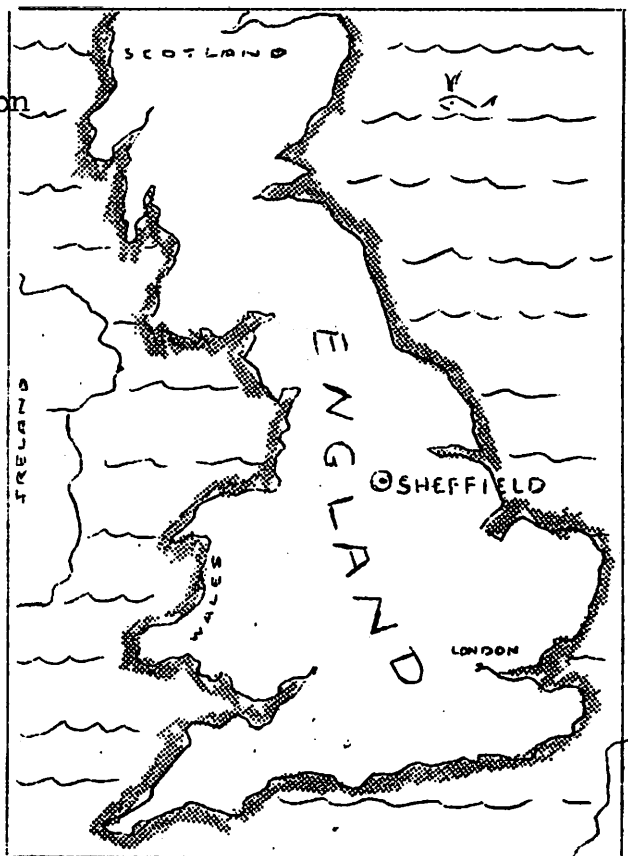
* A poetic and collective term including the depressed areas of Wales and Scotland along with other minor areas such as the Shetlands, Ireland, etc.

will show the central position of our beloved city. However, due to centrifugal force (which increases as one approaches the Equator, Britain's population tends to gravitate to the South. Because of this we have established a 'head office' down there. No actual work is done in this place (called London) it is merely a clearing house for imports, exports, and the accompanying paper work. The actual industries of Britain are carried out in such great cities as Sheffield, Birmingham, Leeds etc.

To save the majority from travelling however, the Convention is to be held in London, and it will even be possible to fly almost into the city itself by State air line (the remaining 45 minutes of the journey being by road.

DRIVING is always on the 'logical' side, namely the left. This not only avoids collisions with traffic coming in the opposite direction, but in early times, allowed an easy exchange of blows with the sword or lance which was usually carried in the right hand.

MONEY comes in pounds (£), shillings (s) and pence (d). Any surplus you may have unspent on leaving the country, should be placed in an envelope and addressed to me for disposal.



SPORTS. we have two main ones. Football, involves 22 men kicking a leather ball around, while another chap blows a whistle in temper because he can't get a kick. Meanwhile 30,000 nits shout their heads off. Cricket involves 22 men hitting a leather ball around, while everyone else sits in deck chairs and drinks tea. Much more dignified than football...far fewer nits. Further North, (In Scotland) we have haggis hunting, where men armed with bagpipes hunt the quarry over the moors. Another game played here is caber tossing, a sport involving the heaving of old telegraph poles at one another. Wales has no national sport other than digging mines and singing mournful songs.

AVIATION both Military and Commercial can occasionally be seen in Britain. American 707's and Russian Ilyushin air liners often traverse our air routes, and when serviceable aircraft can be found and the expensive fuel spared, our military aircraft may even take the air. Like other nations, our fighter aircraft are flirting with the sound barrier (though from the other side) and when our magnificent (non-nationalised) industry is allowed to

buy from other countries (we shall make our own ash trays) then we may even catch up.

TRAVELLERS who tire of the provinces of London, and its river Thames (pronounced Tams) should make every effort to visit the capitol, Sheffield, and its river Don (pronounced Don). This teeming metropolis with its mighty blitz-modified skyline (we stood alone) is all things to all men. Take a stroll down the quaintly named main shopping thoroughfare, The Moor. Buy suits and shoes from chic shops, or bananas from bustling barrow boys. Stand in the middle of Ladies' Bridge at rush hour (and you'll probably get knocked down) Fifty feet in span at its widest, it straddles the mighty Don as it trickles over the weir. Upriver are the golden brown effluent streams spraying from a dozen factories. Downstream is the glistening green slime lurking round the rusted piles supporting the brewery.

In the city centre stands Fitzalan Square - a convenient centre for both Ladies and Gents, (down the steps) flanked by history steeped buildings such as the GPO (Penny Post introduced by Rowland Hill in 1840). Barclay's Bank which uses a monetary system centuries old. C & A Modes clothing store (very old styles) rubs shoulders with Woolworths, and so it goes.

There is the glamour of the old canal, and the sophistication of our Parkhill flats, the largest block in Europe, and closely resembling a vertical incubator. Colourful traffic lights brighten the evening air, and music from a hundred juke boxes and transistor radios gladdens the heart of the socialite as he wanders from Theatre (News variety) to Restaurant (British).

Towering over the city, is a very old hill, dating back to Mediaeval Times, and it is rumoured a Castle once stood there. Leaving the city behind, and passing the many parks and gardens, one is out on the glorious Derbyshire Moors within two miles of the city. Stretching for miles, these moors make pleasant motoring scenery if you should wish to visit any of the other outlying cities such as Manchester (with its teeming Picadilly) Liverpool with its

Read

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OVER 90

?

Tired? Headachy?

Eyes failing? No teeth?

What you need is -

SHOOTING

teeming Shorrocks, or Birmingham with its teeming fanzines.

STRATFORD ON AVON is another hysterical place to avoid..unless you wish to avail yourself of the highly efficient 'Antiques-made-while-you-wait' service.

THE CASTLES of Britain may also reward the visitor (if he has the lucky programme number. Highly recommended are THREE CASTLES (a very good smoke) ELEPHANT AND CASTLE and NORMAN CASTLE (a private 'eye')

Our POLICE are wonderful..though you may prefer our POLICEWOMEN. Both sexes are equipped with a watch for telling you the time, a whistle in case they are called on to referee a football match, and a truncheon for the supression of cheeky motorists.

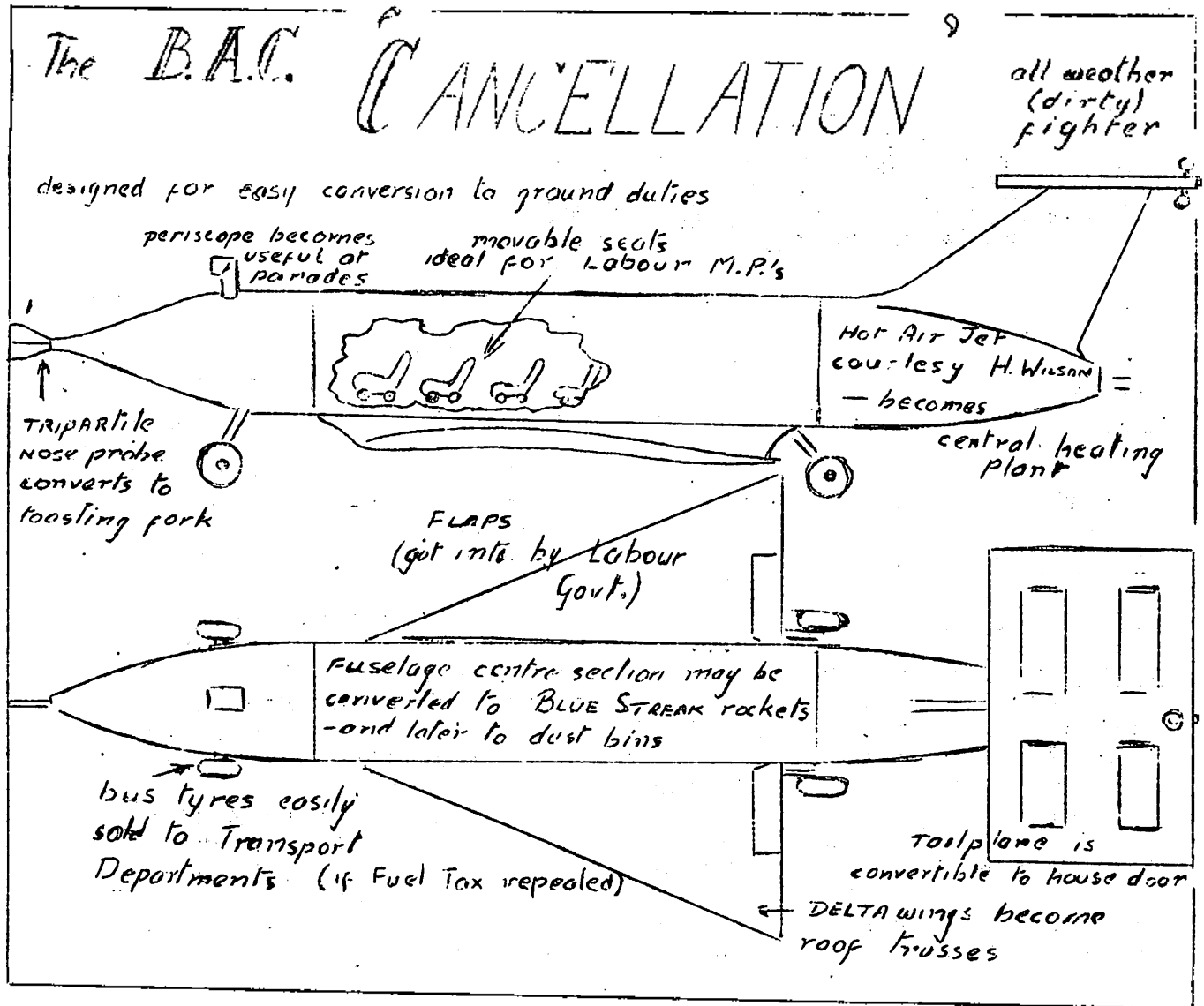
TRANSPORT by British Railways, is one of those marvellous British compromises. In the old days of private enterprise (which was very bad), these railways were in the hands of a few profiteering Capitalists. You had to pay to travel on these lines, something like £2 for 160 miles return, or a bit less in the old 'penny a mile days'. Luckily for us all, the Labour Government stopped this after the war, by buying out the profiteers, and Nationalising the railways, thus making them OUR VERY OWN. Admittedly, this took a lot of money, which had to be found by higher taxes. However, the Railways now belong to us, and we can now pay to travel on our very own Trains. The service has been curtailed and restricted somewhat in order to keep down the prices, but we can now do that 160 miles for around £5. Naturally, not many people can afford these prices so they tend to avoid the trains and travel in their own cars. The Government is after these anti-Social types however, and by higher taxes on petrol, restricted and higher priced parking, and an increase in Road Tax and Purchase Tax, hopes to eventually drive these people back on to the trains. A final weapon is the idea of banning such private vehicles from our cities. That will fix 'em.

THEN WE HAVE STATE MEDICINE. A marvellous system whereby you pay a nominal fee (of around sixteen bob a week) and all else is free when you are ill. Whatever excellent and efficient medical treatment you need, it comes out of that £30 to £40 quid a year. I myself have been treated by the doctors for four years now at this cut rate...sad to say, with no improvement in my case, but we can't have everything.

WEATHER is no problem to our visitors..whatever you're used to at home, you'll find it here..generally all at once. In no other country can you be guaranteed a heat wave in March, drain out your anti-freeze, and have the following week bring a howling blizzard blanketing the country, followed by temperatures down to 20 below. This country is different

We hope you enjoy your stay, and if you have any queries, put them in a stamped addressed envelope, and send it to the British Museum. Have a good time.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-



Much as I dislike to GO (West) with LABOUR, it is only fair to point out that the Conservatives have nothing to crow about where the Aircraft Industry is concerned. Quoting purely from memory (and not in chronological order, the following cancelled projects come to mind. Maybe you can think of others. Some of these may have been cancelled by the firms (or State controlled airlines), but most can be laid at the Government's door.

Saronrocket powered fighter. Fairey Delta, fighter version. Hunter development to supersonic standard. 1154 Supersonic VTOL. Princess Flying Boats. Britannia relegated to Troop carrying. Brabazon. Bristol 188, Mach 2 research aircraft. Fairey Rotodyne. Concorde (production plans cut) TSR.2, out. Blue Streak (cold storage for several years) H.S. 681 STOL Transport.

Maybe its time we chucked out the Parties altogether and had Government for the Country, and not primarily for the Party.

OMPAVIEWS

THE SCARR. Liked the cover, and the hospital sequence had a morbid fascination for me. Having just had a run of septum punctures, I feel it may be my turn next for an operation. Ugh.
ZENITH I've all ready commented on this via LOC, so no more here.

OZ.1. I hope you don't miss your title hiding there under Zenith. Thought the cover was nice. The duelling piece was a bit too drawn out for me I'm afraid. Many thanks for the offer of help with the asthma. I fear tis tied in with a post-nasal drip and (I hope) will someday go as fast as it came.

QUARTERINGS Ah, but Bill Mallardi IS a good man, as he is sending me MORE KITS.!!

MEADOWS OF FANTASY Normally I dislike fan fiction, but this I enjoyed...particularly those beautiful puns.

AMBLE That was a very good capsule breakdown on England you gave for Dickey. Now you can put out a handbook for all the Worldcon visitors....I nearly did one in '57 in answer to Joy Clarke/Sanderson/? ..mine was to be called 'This Septic Isle' I abandoned the idea in favour of fannish unity.

TOMCHATS IN THE DARK What sort of record player costs \$200 ?

You can get a Ferrograph tape recorder (THE best) in England for that price. If you must have a top quality record player, then a Mullard amplifier and Garrard transcription motor (£17 and £35 approx) will give you the works for under £50 and many cheaper layouts can do pretty well too.

POOKA Personally, I'm all in favour of the rotation plan, as I should imagine are all UK fen...it operates to our interest as well as yours you know...so why worry that a handful of Statesider may try to scuttle it in London ?

PHENOTYPE I enjoyed the Con report, but as to this Breen affair, isn't it time the sideliners shut up and left it to the main protagonists..if they want to keep it boiling...which I doubt.

HAGGERS Churchill, I think as a war-time leader, he was peerless, but I did not care for his peacetime leadership. Re the Catholics. It's about time they started to use their heads, if they must bow-tow to the Church's dictum on contraception, more fools they. Actually, I feel very much that as this controversy is NOT to get permission to use contraceptives, but to get permission to make it open and above board. I bet most of 'em use the things on the qt, then either confess and start again, or else keep mum, and live in the shadow of sin.



VIPER Hard luck on TAFF, Bill. Maybe another year, huh. Viper a bit skinny this time, you'll have to feed it more often. I enjoyed your trip account, but wouldn't fancy tackling 500 to 900 mile trips in one day or so.

BINARY I liked the Atomillo, but not the bacover. Odds and Ends' is always enjoyable. Re that death penalty, I'm marginally in favour of its retention as long as we keep our present system of penalties. I agree that it does NOT deter a planned murder, as the murderer plans to escape anyway. Obviously it doesn't affect the unplanned (spur of the moment) murder, but I feel it does make a regular criminal think twice before taking a lethal weapon out on a job, just in case he may murder - almost by accident - in an attempt to intimidate his pursuers or victims. I would prefer to see the death penalty replaced by penal servitude of service to the State, e.g. Manning a lonely lighthouse, or some similar unpleasant chore. But for cosh boys, I would like to see them treated as they treat their victims.

INTERLUDE..Bobby, I like you and Bill a lot, but you cheated in your comments. My Neptune and Pluto dates were from memory, and admittedly I was off on Neptune, but if 30 years isn't well into the 20th Century, I'd hate to be 30/100 of the way out in the Atlantic in a leaky boat. In any case, you did NOT answer the point, and merely quibbled over my dates. I repeat How come the so-clever ancients could be so clever at astrological predictions, and NOT either use (or deduce) the existence of these planets. Furthermore, How did they manage when the only known planets were the visible ones - an even greater handicap. And let's not quibble over astrologers postulating a planet 100 years before it was discovered. Vulcan has long been postulated as a planet nearer to the sun than Venus, so far there seems little likelihood of it turning up. On the other hand, Swift gave Mars two moons (one retrograde) ages before their discovery...let's not drag in guesswork. As for all those famous people believing in astrology..NUTS, this does not prove anything. If the majority is always so right, how about Columbus and Galileo, both of whom were part of very tiny minorities...but happening to be right. I give you a challenge. I'll supply the birthdate, place of birth and sex of someone. YOU give us a breakdown of the life astrology conjures up for him, then I'll supply the name and we'll check the accuracy. Because if astrology can forecast things, then it should be able to work out a horoscope even years after the birth date. And no flannel...e.g. A preference for the arts may show some influence on later activities...that is just a specious way of generalising. If astrology is to be any use it must be of some accuracy. And this I believe to be nitty. YOUR MOVE.

MORPH..I miss the rollings mate. I hope you find a follow-up NEXUS..Best cover in the mailing, and a most interesting (though a trifle overlong) lettercol. Enjoyed 'Mysteries of Birmingham' MEIN OMPF Have you got those cami-knickers out of your head yet?

I wondered what the page number for 007 would be. Yuk. WHATSIT. Sorry about your GAFIA, hope you'll change your mind Ken, as we're all going to miss you.

AND THAT'S THE LOT.

UN PROPHETABLE REMARKS

The following bits of prognostication and suchlike were culled from sundry back issues. I wonder how many more such gems are hanging around waiting to be found.

AMAZING STORIES...February 1935. A letter from A.C. Clarke

"several of your writers have been using the term, 'The square of the velocity of light'. I would like to point out that such a term is meaningless." (Shades of $E=Mc^2$)

TOMORROW...Autumn 1938 An article by Maurice K Hanson

"No one dare impute that the first man on the moon will be other than British"

ASTOUNDING...July 1945 John W Campbell

"TV - the widget that has never been able to live up to its sales talk - I've a hunch it won't, ONLY in - Theatres, Shops and Industry"

ASTOUNDING...December 1945 John W. Campbell in response to a reader who guessed we'd reach the moon by 1960, said...

"You're over conversative. I'd say we'd reach the moon by 1960"

and elsewhere in the same issue JWC says...

"First sale of Astounding on the Moon by 1955 I'm betting"

-o-

IT PAYS TO DECREASE YOUR WORD POWER.....No.3

Learn these words and be ready to avoid them whenever they appear.

TRIDENT....Three bumps

FORTRESS..A female fort

INDEX...Made in layers

PERSPEX...For the glasses

ANATOMY....original version of song, 'Bring back my Bonny to me'

MARTIAN....walking in a military manner

TELEGRAM...TV with built-in phonograph

DINOSAUR...A popular singer

ARTICLE...prelude to scratching

MERCHANT...A sea shanty

SINECURE...without improvement

PROBATE....A £5 note

POISON....son of Poi

DAMAGING...my mother is getting old.

CURIOUS....money owed by a dog

AMPHIBIAN...I am not telling the truth

BUNGALOW...A flat cake

NAVIGATE...Workmen's entrance

HIPPODROME...Airport for hippopotomi

PIANO...A shipping line

MEANDER...Us