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Subscription rates as follows:-

Australia: 15/- per 26 issues; 7/6 per 13 issues.
U.K.: 12/- per 26 issues; 6/- per 13 issues.
U.S.A.: \$2 per 26 issues; \$1 per 13 issues.

Published fortnightly by AMATEUR FANTASY PUBLICATIONS OF AUSTRALIA and edited by Ian J. Crozier. Production by Mervyn R. Blinn. Advertising in charge of Kevin Wheelahan. All material for publication to be forwarded to 6 Bramerton Road, Ceulfield, S.E.8, Victoria, Australia. All Subscriptions to AFPA, 4 Myrtle Grove, Preston, Victoria.

Fortnightly

Price 6d.

ETHERLINE

THE LATEST IN
SCIENCE FICTION

ISSUE
NO.
3 0

HEADLINES:

BIG ISSUE
OF FILM NEWS
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MARS BREAKS
OFF ALL
RELATIONS
WITH EARTH
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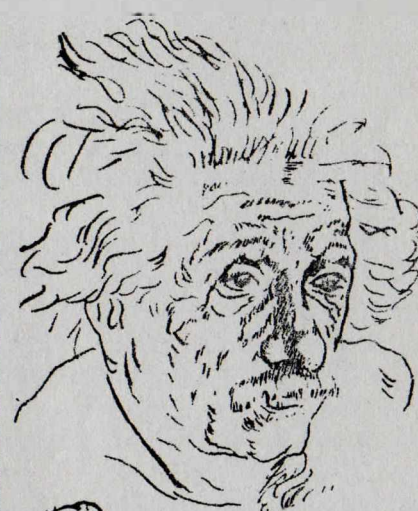
MAGAZINE &
BOOK REVIEWS
++++

RAY SCHAFFER
WRITES
++++

FLIGHT TO
MARS REVIEW
++++

OVERSEAS NEWS
++++

THE
GALAXY
FAN.



THE
AMAZING
FAN

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UNSTINK MARS MARS

BEING ANOTHER IN KOREAN CHRONICLES.
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE 295^{17th} MARTIAN
CONGRESS

CITIZENS OF MARS,

As president of the Council, it is my melancholy duty to announce complete severance of all telepathic communication with the Planet, Terra. A relationship which promised so much benefit to our sister planet has been ruthlessly destroyed by an outrage so violent, so foul, that when you hear the true facts, you will be tempted to throw off your natural pacifist inclinations and declare war on this home of fiendish bipeds.

For the benefit of those not fully acquainted with the situation, I will briefly outline the circumstances leading up to this present emergency.

As you will recall, contact was first established some months ago, when a Martian expedition surveyed Terra, and found the natives a deplorably primitive race, steeped in ignorance and without a single, solitary tentacle between them. However, there were a few exceptions, notably a small group of people temporarily residing on a peninsula which is variously called Korea, Chosen, Land of the Morning Cloud & by the temporary residents, *%&@/8=(86"! These people showed some promise. As you are aware, this was the group known as United Nations Sciencefiction Topers, Imbiciles and Nuts of Korea, or UNSTINK for short.... Professor Plmtshrrk contacted one of the members, an individual called Brook, who falsely insinuated himself into the confidence of the Professor. This distinguished savant, who incidentally has just sprouted his 59th tentacle, made arrangements for telepathic relations, teletactile communications being out of the question, due to the barbarian's lack of tentacular

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a ppendages.

Brook bided his time. He went on quietly about his business, which consisted of placing unguents and lotions on the repulsive exteriors of his fellow monsters and repairing their faulty physiology with drugs. In his spare time, he read science fiction, which allowed us to contact him in the first place...

Cultural exchanges were made and it was felt in some places that Terra would become eligible for incorporation into the Martian Empire within the short space of 3568 years. Brook's barbarous action has destroyed this hope for all time.

Every few months these people spend some time away from Korea, going on what they call R&R, it being variously defined as meaning Rest & Recuperation or Rape & Rampage. This R&R is spent on an island called Japan, where the people are in the same state of barbarism as anywhere else on the globe. Brook made contact with an individual named Tetsu Yano, who, being a Science Fiction addict, would have made a valuable addition to our group of proteges.

Brook met Tetsu at Kobe, and for 5 days was shown the city and surroundings and given a wonderful time. Tetsu is probably Japan's only SF enthusiast, whose life's ambition is to publish a Japanese SF magazine. He gave Brook the opportunity to live in Japanese style, eat Japanese food, and visit Japanese institutions.

During Brook's stay at Kobe, our Interplanetary Relations Office was out of touch with him owing to an outbreak of Tentaculitis among the staff of this institution. As you know, after this virulent disease subsides, there is a period of convalescence, during which the tentacles must not be moved as the sucker plates may become permanently deranged. Thus it was three weeks before the telepathotape was played back to an unsuspecting assembly of interplanetary culture experts.

We are still treating the larger proportion of the staff for shock. The permanent head of

the department is confined to bed, suffering from a severe paroxysmal tentaculosis and may never regain the use of his 48 limbs.

You will remember my mentioning that Brook ate Japanese food. However, you cannot even guess the utter depravity to which this bipedal monster stooped during his orgies -- .

Citizens of Mars, hear and shudder !
He ate boiled OCTOPUS !

Brtwuuryt.
Chief Recorder.

FILM REVIEW

FLIGHT TO MARS Monogram Films, with Rod Cameron, in Cinecolor.

If you see this film please try to forget all the science you ever knew, and regard it as a fantasy - which you can laugh at.

Plot: Earthmen crash on Mars, meet Martians who take them to vast underground city. Martians help Earthmen rebuild rocket, plan to take it over when completed, kill Earthmen, build more, conquer earth. Earthmen foil Martians, escape. Finis.

All Martian women wear Bergey costume - wow ! There are the inevitable red-hot meteors thundering thru space towards the rocket, the inevitable triangle - four-sided and a hackneyed ending - very similar, as is the beginning, to DESTINATION MOON.

I can't believe this was seriously meant for adults - Don't see it unless you're either a moron or can accept it as one big (although unintentional) laugh.

Dick Jenssen

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION 43

Cover shows a rocket base on Titan - accompanying blurb as usual on back cover. No interior illos. Contents :- TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY (Brunner) Telepathis immortals in a struggle to control Earth. ERRAND OF MERCY (Temple).... Earthmen help an alien race to commit suicide. STAND-IN (Burke). Again, robots substitute for humans in the eternal triangle. MARY HELL'S (Wilson). The eternal triangle in a Martian speakeasy. THE LAVA SEAS TUNNEL (Rayer & James). Boring into Earth's core for power. A fairly good issue. 2/3.

Bob McCubbin

BEYOND FANTASY FICTION BRE 2

This issue is a distinct improvement on the first. It contains 3 novelets and 6 short stories - none of them are outstanding, but AND NOT QUITE HUMAN is better than fair.

Two stinkers - one by Philip K. Dick, THE KING OF THE ELVES, the other by Robert Bloch, THE DREAM MAKERS. That one really hums. The others are fair enough, but only fair.

Tony Santos

NEW WORLDS SCIENCE FICTION 22

With this issue, NEW WORLDS goes monthly. (? Ed.) It has a new look cover by Kinnear, which looks rather rough at first glance, but improves with viewing.

The contents page lists a good lineup, Kornbluth's TAKEOFF appears as a three part serial, & starts very well. Arthur Clarke's THE SENTINEL is not his best, but is quite enjoyable. MUSEUM PIECE by John Christopher makes it's third appearance in print (ORBIT SF and TWENTY SECOND CENTURY).

ETHERLINE

OPPOSITE NUMBERS by John Wyndham has a neat time-travel twist. Alan Barclay's ONLY AN ECHO is OK, as is J. T. McIntosh's RELAY RACE. A good issue of a good magazine.

Tony Santos

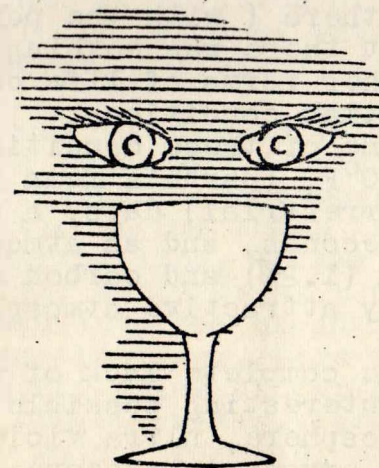
STARTLING STORIES BRE 17.

The main story in this issue in OVERLOAD by Ed. M. Clinton Jnr. A well worth reading yarn. The next is HIS HEAD IN THE CLOUDS by K. F. Crossen, the usual Crossen drivel, but funny just the same..

The short stories are led by ESCAPE by Joseph Shallit, which wasn't escape after all THE UNPREY SPRAY by Joe Slotkin brings peace to the Earth and turns everybody into vegetarians. A PRESENT FOR PAT by Phillip K. Dick is not strictly s-f, but it's amusing just the same. THE MONITOR by Margaret St. Clair is last, but by no means least.

As for the cover by Walter Popp, it defies description it's so bad.

M. R. Binns.



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FUTURIAN SOCIETY OF CANBERRA VISITS MARS

On Wednesday, 19th May, six members of the Futurian Society of Canberra braved the elements - consisting of a gale force wind from the South Pole, and visited the Mt. Stromlo Observatory to hear a talk on Mars by M. de Vaucouleurs, well-known French Astronomer and world authority on Mars.

M. de Vaucouleurs gave us a most entertaining talk, lasting about 1½ hours, and illustrated by photographs and drawings of the planet.

Three or four items he mentioned are of particular interest to sf fans. For instance, several times during the course of his lecture, he said, "When we get to Mars....." He said afterwards that he had used the term deliberately, and he thought that it was possible that in 25 years or so man would be in a position to make the attempt.

He said that astronomers generally thought there was a form of vegetable life on Mars, probably a low form similar to terrestrial mosses and lichens (and sf fans?). He did not think there was any animal life there (with the possible exception of bacteria), but there was nothing unscientific in assuming that higher forms of life could have adapted themselves to Martian conditions.

Some of these conditions are a mean temperature of -40°F , (Earth's mean temperature 59°F) a year of 687 (terrestrial) days, a day of 24 hours, 37 minutes 22.6 seconds, and an atmosphere of nitrogen (98.5%), argon (1.2%) and carbon dioxide (0.3%). Not a particularly attractive atmosphere for breathing!

The complete lack of oxygen in the atmosphere has an interesting possible explanation. In the Earth's stratosphere, ultra violet radiations from the sun transform oxygen into ozone. Ozone is even

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more ready to combine with other elements than ordinary oxygen, but in the earth's stratosphere, there is not a great variety of elements around. On Mars, however, due to the low gravitational force, (only .38 that of Earth) the atmosphere is so thin that, at the surface, the pressure is only equal to that at a height of 11 miles up from the Earth's surface. Therefore, the reaction mentioned takes place at the Martian surface, and the ozone has combined with mineral iron in the rocks to form rust, which gives the planet its distinctive red appearance.

Also, there is no free water on Mars. The pole caps are composed of ordinary ice, but when the ice melts with the approach of summer, the atmosphere is so thin that the water immediately 'boils' off and forms water vapor. The ice caps are only 1/10 to 1/2 inch thick, and would only contain enough water to fill the Great Lakes of North America.

M. de Vaucouleurs also pointed out that the dark areas visible on the planet could not be solely topographical features, otherwise the red dust of the deserts would have covered them completely.. Also, the colouring changes with the season, growing darker as the summer approaches. This supports the vegetable life hypothesis, although the darkening may be due to the seasonal evaporation of the ice caps, and the consequential diffusion of water vapor through the atmosphere. However, certain areas always begin to darken first.

As far as the famous (or infamous) canals are concerned, M. de Vaucouleurs said that there was little photographic evidence in support of them under ideal viewing conditions. One which in 1911 had appeared as a single narrow line, became almost invisible in 1926, but later was seen as a double line, which eventually merged into one broad line.

In June this year, Mars will approach to within about 49,000,000 miles of Earth, and in March 1956, to within 35,000,000 miles. Large scale attacks on the problems are being prepared, and the answers to some of the questions may be found.

ETHERLINE

After the lecture, the clouds which had up till then completely covered the sky, dispersed most conveniently so we adjourned to the dome where we had views of Mars, the moon and Antares through the 9 inch refractor. The disc of the planet was visible and some vague dark markings could be discerned.

David Kerr took photographs of the telescope and the interior of the dome.

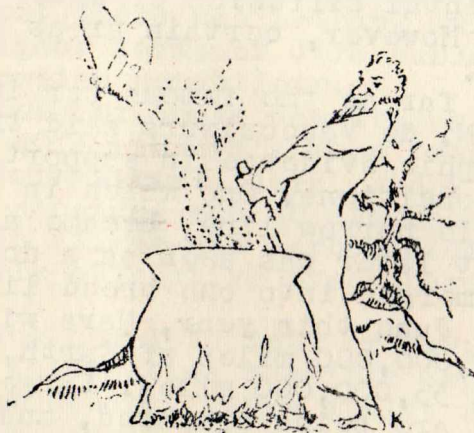
G. Bennett.

REPORT

The Futurian Society of Canberra held a film night on the 14th May. Sixteen persons attended a screening of films obtained from the National Film Library. Most popular film was one dealing with the basic principles of lubrication.

The response from the audience was encouraging, and it has been decided to hold further film nights, at intervals of about four weeks. The next night will be on June 18th, when we expect to show the USIS film, THE STORY OF PALOMAR.

G. Bennett.



Film Round up

A Lecture by Forrest J Ackerman, THE SHIP OF THINGS TO COME, was held at the Pasadena Public Library on Wednesday, March 10th. Mr. Ackerman, better known as Mr. Science Fiction, cited prophecies, both literary and filmatic, with emphasis on Fritz Lang's METROPOLIS and H. G. Wells's SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME.

What looks like the best SF film to date was launched in the States on Feb. 14th with saturation booking of 600 on the west Coast. It is the Carlson-Tors-Siodmak color RIDERS TO THE STARS, starring Richard Carlson, William Lundigan and Herbert Marshall.

Latest series for TV release in the States is ROCKY JONES, SPACE RANGER, starring Richard Crane & Sally Mansfield. It will run for 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour films.

Shooting in the Bahamas is the Disney Cinema-Scope epic, TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA, starring Kirk Douglas, James Mason and Peter Lorre.

Smashing all records is the Richard Carlson starrer, CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON, filmed in the Amazon Valley.

Supposed to be his best, George Pal's THE NAKED JUNGLE, based on the classic Leiningen Vs. The Ants by Carl Stephenson, is copping rave reviews all over the States. He teams up with Byron Haskin again in this flesh-crawler. Starring Charlton Heston, Eleanor Parker and William Conrad, this film should be here shortly.

Another new film out is TOBOR. Nothing much is known of this one at the moment, except it was directed by Richard Goldstone..

Leon Stone.

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POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

THE STAR SEEKERS (F.G. Rayer). A TitBits Library from McGills at 1/3. This is a re-hash of "Time Was -" and its sequel, "Man's Questing Ended" which appeared in New Worlds. If you haven't read the original, this is not bad.

=====

BEFORE THE BEGINNING (Mark Reisen). Another TitBits at 1/3. Interplanetary war leads to mutual destruction. One man and one woman survive on a fragment. You've guessed it - Adam and Eve again! Good story spoiled by the ending.

=====

WORLD AT BAY (E.C. Tubb). England is threatened with dissolution by uncontrolled atomic fission. She is saved by world co-operation. Fair. McGills 2/3

=====

SUPERNATURAL STORIES No. 1. Another John Spencer mag, but written better than WONDERS OF THE SPACEWAYS. It's the first issue, of course. Contains "The Gods of Fear" (Randall Conway), "Lycanthrope" (Ray Cosmic -!), "Vengeance of Set" (Michael Hamilton), "The Cloak of Darkness" (Max Chartair), and "The Devil's Canvas" by A. J. Merak. Fair. Tech Book Store 2/3.

=====

VARGO STATTEN S-F MAGAZINE No. 2 Overseas Edition on a sticker over No. 4. Six stories, including a further instalment of the serial, "The Inevitable Conflict" by E. C. Tubb. I was not impressed. Tech Book 2/3.

=====

THE METAL EATER (Roy Sheldon) Planet of Urillium turns out to be a sphere around an all-devouring metal eating mist. One character is definitely Giles Habibula, of the LEGION OF SPACE. The opening chapter is very familiar, too. Fair. McGills 2/3

=====

PACIFIC ADVANCE (G. R. Melde) Flying saucers blan-

ket America and world capitals. Intrepid team devise a defence. H bomb finishes the job almost as abruptly as the story finishes. Readable McGills 2/3

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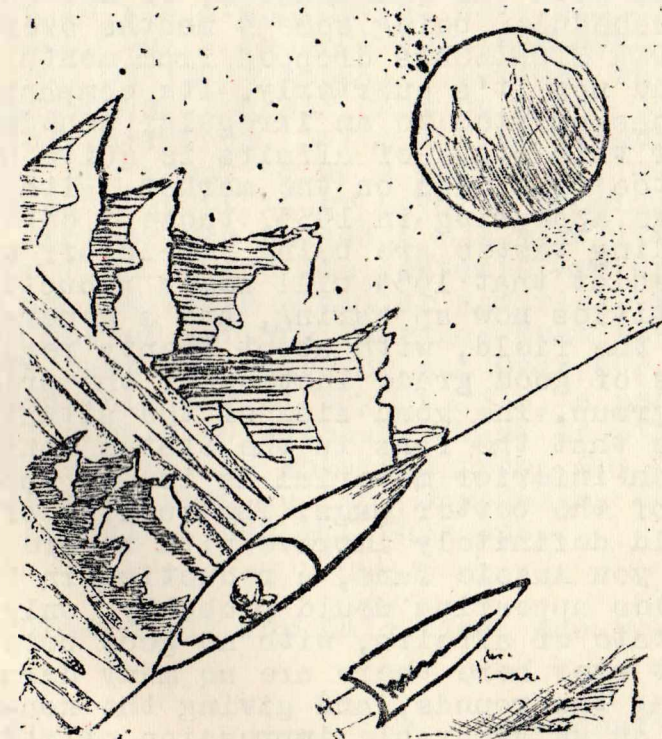
FERRY ROCKET (George Kinley) Mad scientist wants to take Moon out of its orbit. Decompressed bodies everywhere. Well written and readable. McGills 2/3

=====

WEALTH OF THE VOID (Vargo Statten) Ultra-cosmic rays transmute metals and personalities. Four dead bodies - they didn't die soon enough! Be warned in time -----! McGills 2/3

=====

Bob McCubbin



SO WHAT'S NEW IN THE STATES

Ray Schaffer, Jnr.

Report this issue is both good and bad. Bad from the standpoint that the New York market for stf is fast falling. From an all time high of 39 titles in 1953, the number of promags appearing on the newsstands now (February) dwindled down to 31. And from all outward appearance, this downward trend will continue for the remainder of the year. The pro jobs are folding right and left. VORTEX, ROCKET and SPACE have folded, with SPACE being the big loss to the field. FANTASY FICTION, which has been ranked on an equal status with the old UNKNOWN, is now on a very irregular schedule, being some 4 months overdue. THRILLING WONDER STORIES has dropped from monthly to bi-monthly, and now it's quarterly. Its companion mag, STARTLING has shifted to an irregular schedule. The reason for this state of affairs is quite understandable -- too many mags on the market. With so many quality mags appearing in 1953, those catering to less demanding tastes are being forced off the market. I predict that 1954 will see a reduction in the number of titles now appearing, and a general re-alignment of the field, with about twenty regular-appearing mags of good grade instead of the present fluctuating group. The good side of the situation, naturally, is that the fans in the States won't have to read as much inferior material as is now appearing in even some of the better mags. The quality of the stories should definitely improve with a more limited market. To you Aussie fans, a reduction in the number of the titles appearing would probably only seem to be a bad state of affairs, with no good points in its favour. But over here there are so many darn inferior mags making the rounds, and giving the non-stf reading public an unfavourable impression of stf, that a reduction is hailed by the fans as quite a blessing

for the stf field as a whole. Less competition should also result in an increase in the size of the mags, from the present 132 pages in many of the mags, back to the old standard of 164 pages. Price will probably remain the same, due to high costs. 1953 was credited as the Year of the Jackpot. 1954 will probably be called the Year of Quality.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation, after a short spell of searching for a new editor to publish their official mag, have finally found such an individual in John Magnus Jnr. If you have ever cast your optics on John's publication, S F, you'll know that the N3F has come up with a truly fine editor. N3F has certainly been having its troubles of late. Membership has shown a slight drop, due to members not paying their dues. And some of the more active club members in the organization have slacked off in the activities. But I suspect some unknowns will probably come out of their inactive status and take the reins and raise the N3F back up onto its once high standing in fandom. Still a fine organization, and one that I'm proud to be a member of, despite a few remarks made about it by several prominent fans.

Another new one-shot has made its appearance, titled FILLER. And its contents are exactly as is implied in the title - filler material, that has been lifted out of various fanzines that have appeared over the past two years or so. Over 500 items & 40 pages make this a real buy at 25¢, a publication no collector should be without. There is still a few copies left, and may be obtained from: Art Wesley, 402 Maple Avenue, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, USA. If you like a chuckle, then get this one.

That's all for this time. See you next issue.

Ray Schaffer, Jnr.

Global Round Up

Some more announcements from American publishers have been received.

WILD TALENT by Wilson Tucker, from Rinehart at \$ 2.50

MEL OLIVER AND SPACE ROVER ON MARS by W. M. Morrison, from Gnome, at \$ 2.50

UNDERSEA QUEST by F. Pohl and J. Williams, from Gnome at \$ 2.50.

FORGOTTEN PLANET by Murray Leinster, from Gnome at \$ 2.50.

LOST CONTINENTS by L. Sprague de Camp, from Gnome at \$ 5.00

The latest ACE double book is SENTINELS FROM SPACE by Eric Frank Russell and THE ULTIMATE INVADER edited by F. Pohl. priced at 35¢.

A bound edition of the hilarious tales from FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION dealing with Professor C.P. Ransom has been issued. Titled THE SINISTER RESEARCHES OF C. P. RANSOM, it is priced at \$ 2.95. Author is H. Nearing Jnr.

Out shortly from T.V. Boardman at 10/9 will be CHILDREN OF THE ATOM by Wilmar Shiras, the collection of mutation stories from Astounding.

The Transatlantic Fund, set up to send a UK fan over to the US convention, was voted upon, and resulted as follows: Vince Clarke, 28 votes, James White, 15, Pete Campbell, 14, Tony Thorne, 11; Derek Pickles, 6; and Mike Rosenblum 3. Total in the fund is £69, while £115 is needed.

IJC

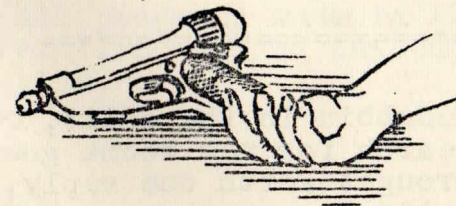
TASMANEWS

At the moment, Eric Rayner is holidaying in Melbourne and will be seeing the Melbourne Group in action at their various meetings. One interested science fiction person here, John Morrisby, better known in philatelic circles (owns a stamp collection valued at round £1000) is preparing for a nine months world tour next year when he will go to places such as Japan, England, etc.

A. Bertram Chandler is to visit here around the start of the month, and has written to me. However, through personal circumstances, I may not be able to meet him, and with Eric Rayner in Melbourne, there may be no one science fictionally inclined to meet him.

After seeing an item in the Hobart MERCURY on an 'Interplanetary Research Group', a small organization which is watching for flying saucers & other astronomical phenomena, I contacted its director, Mr. S.H. Fullerton by letter. However, his reply on headed paper, was somewhat scathing on science fiction inferring that fiction is preferred to truth. Admittedly, it is somewhat escapist for me, but then I believe that much of our science fiction has possibilities. We often read a story and think, well, it is the sort of thing which could happen. I will try and meet Mr. Fullerton in the future.

Don Tuck.



MELBOURNE GROUP

20/5/54

Bob McCubbin in the chair, 20 present. A. Bertram Chandler is in Melbourne, and we were pleased to see him at the meeting. We also welcome Paul Liedtke of Lilydale.

John Park came in from Perth - welcome brother !

The main business was the arrangement of a Convention Committee.

Bob McCubbin reported that he wore his feet down to the ankles on Monday, and left his name with 11 estate agents, but could not get any suitable accommodation for the Group. It is intended to advertise in the AGE for 4 consecutive Saturdays.

Owing to Old Time dancing, and the Christadelphians, the Oddfellows Hall will not be available for the Convention. However, all is not lost yet - -- we still have a few shots in the locker.

Leo Harding expects to be hospitalized in a short time, 6 months hospital, 12 months convalescence - we wish him a successful operation and a good recovery. He told me that the matter of the American subs had been fixed up - that's good news.

Race & Geraldine have been holidaying in Albury.

McCubbin the lens-louse managed to get his face in the HERALD article on Bert Chandler on 19/5/54. Further new members welcomed were Len Kane, Brian Sanders and Raymond Kinley.

Fred Cohen is now out of hospital.

ARMAK

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27/5/54

Bob McCubbin in the chair, 24 present.

The search for new rooms goes on. An appeal over the radio brought forth one reply, but the premises were unsuitable.

ETHERLINE

The Savoy-Plaza Convention room is booked out for the Con period.

Remember the party at Val Morton's , at 24 Lucerne St., Alamein on June 4th at 8 PM.

It has been decided to pass the hat around in the hopes of boosting funds for the Olymcon.

There will be two visits to the Observatory in November next - probably on Wednesdays.

We wish to thank Ken Potts, Len Kane and Tony Santos for donations to the Library and Convention auction.

ARMAK

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OLYMCON - C.U IN '56

The following have been appointed as the nucleus of the committee to organize the Olymcon to be held between November 22nd and December 8th 1956. Definite dates will be announced later. This committee has power to add members or vary duties as required.

ORGANIZER-CHAIRMAN-TREASURER
OVERSEAS & INTERSTATE PUBLICITY
DISPLAYS & VIC. PUBLICITY
AUCTIONEER -SOUND & LIGHTING
FILMS
SOCIAL ORGANIZER

R. J. McCubbin
I. J. Crozier
M. R. Binns
J. Keating
E. La Motte
R. Parlanti

The committee will meet at McCubbin's on Sunday afternoon, June 6th at 2.30 PM to discuss a tentative syllabus.

All progress made in the organization of the 1956 Convention will be announced in the pages of this publication.

R. J. McCubbin,
ORGANIZER

ETHERLINE

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Planet	BRE	9	1/3
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