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AFPA is a non-profit making organisation devoted to the service of the science fiction fan. President: Kevin Wheelahan; Secretary/Treasurer: Mervyn R. Binns; Publisher: Ian Crozier; Art Director: Keith McIlhenny; Chief Reviewer: Tony Santos.

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. Binns. Advertising in charge of Kevin Wheelahan. All material for publication to be forwarded to 6 Eramerton Road, Ceulfield, S.E.8, Victoria, Australia. All Subscriptions to AFPA + Myrtle Grove, Preston, Victoria.

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Fortnightly

Price 6d.

ETHERLINE

THE LATEST IN
SCIENCE FICTION

ISSUE NO. 35

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3/9/54

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HEADLINES:

Film News

Brisbane News

American PB
News

It's Up To You

Magazine
Reviews

Book Reviews

Fanmag Reviews

Overseas News

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FILM NEWS

A new series of $\frac{1}{4}$ hour TV films are at present being shot in New York, titled BSI : UNIVERSE. The producer is Marion Parsonett, and they feature Charles Cooper, Jena Rowlands and Paul Stewart, and authored by Theodore Sturgeon, James Blish and Alfred Bester..

THE GREAT GREEN OG, now known as THE NAKED WORLD, has been cancelled owing to the disbandment of the production company, American Picture Corp.

Attendees at the San Francisco Convention in September will probably see a complete print of the new THIS ISLAND EARTH, as well as rough cuts of George Pal's CONQUEST OF SPACE and several of Ivan Tor's new TV series. How I wish I was in San Francisco !

United Artists GOG is at present topping the box offices in America.

Although we haven't as yet seen the CREATURE OF THE BLACK LAGOON, it would appear that it will be another FRANKENSTEIN. Why ? Well, production has started on THE RETURN OF THE CREATURE OF THE BLACK LAGOON, starring John Agar, Lois Nelson and John Bromfield. I can visualize THE SON etc., THE DAUGHTER etc etc., etc., ad infinitum.

Breaking all records in London at the moment is PHANTOM OF THE RUE MORGUE based on Poe's story. It stars Karl Malden, Claude Dauphin and Patricia Medina.

Getting rave reviews by all the trade papers is Warner Bros. new shocker, THEM, starring James Whitmore, Edmund Gwenn, Joan Weldon and James Arness. Based on a story by G. W. Yates, it is produced by D. Weisbart and directed by Gordon Douglas. THEM is reputed to be one of the scariest films since DRACULA, & easily one of the best sf films to date.

PROJECT MOONBASE. This one is reviewed in the latest VARGO STATTON magazine by Forrest Ackerman, and after reading the review, I think he had something to do with the sale of the story, as all trade papers are unanimous with the following summing up:

Story : An insult to SF and a blot on Heinlein.

Photography: Lousy.

Special Effects : Laughable.

Direction: Inept.

Acting: Nonexistant.

Production : Was it produced ?

Sound: Rough.

Script: Stilted.

After that, I would advise that any GALAXY -- LIPPERT productions be left severely alone

THE NAKED JUNGLE produced by George Pal, will be shown in Melbourne very shortly, and is well worth seeing.

Leon Stone.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE ROBOT AND THE MAN edited by Martin Greenberg. From Grayson & Greenberg, Tor.

This is a 'theme' anthology; the development and ultimate success of the robot. It contains ten stories - nine from ASTOUNDING and one from GALAXY. The sources are, in themselves, sufficient guarantee of the quality of the material.

The tales are, in order of printing : Mechanical Answer (McDonald); Self Portrait (Bernard Wolfe); Deadlock (Lewis Padgett); Robinc (H. H. Holmes); Burning Bright (John S. Browning); Final Command (Van Vogt); Through Dreamers Die (del Rey); Rust (Jos. E. Kelleen); Robots Return (Williams); and finally, Into Thy Hands (del Rey).

As with all the later anthologies, old time fans will find only nostalgic memories in this bouquet,

ETHERLINE

but the newer reader will find much pleasurable reading in an eminently logical arrangement. Recommended.

McGills, 12/-

Bob McCubbin.

=====

DRAGON'S ISLAND Jack Williamson A Museum Press book from McGills at 12/-.

This is a pleasant change from space opera. A scientist discovers how to mutate genes in plants and animals, and proceeds to tailor-make fauna and flora, using the head-waters of the Fly River in New Guinea.

There are the usual factions for and against with a certain amount of blood-letting, suspense and thrills. The scene moves from New York to New Guinea, where mutated pond slime labours on the plantations, and special trees grow spaceships, fully provisioned and fuelled, as fruit. Apart from these improbabilities, the book is feasible. A really interesting effort, not to be put down until finished.

Recommended.

Bob McCubbin.

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Fifteen fans attended, and saw five films on the Solar System and comets. There was some trouble with the projector - maybe because Mrs. Bicknell was due to have a baby that night. Dan was listening to the phone with one ear. We can sympathise, in fact we must commend Dan's willingness to help the Group even at such a critical time. We extend our heartiest and best wishes for a happy event.

The auction, and a tarpaulin muster produced 19/10 for the Con funds. Mrs. Lowe's cooking was very popular - her pastries were like 'snow flakes' on the river! Thanks a million, Nancy & Cecil.

ARMAK

ETHERLINE

It's Up To You

John Goweridge

Although science is gradually gaining ground in the world today against the inherent traditions of yesterday, and against the hopelessly pre-concieved ideas of the future, it is doing so very slowly.

The more visionary among homo sapiens do manage to overcome these traditions, and conversely, to ignore the pre-concieved ideas, and in their quest for truth turn more and more to science.

It is not surprising then that when the available science is exhausted, they turn to the next best -- which happens to be scientifiction. Here is a field which -- while we realise it is not actually fact -- could possibly be fact, and therefore provides food for thought.

Whether that statement is essentially true or not matters little. Such is a matter for personal opinion; the point I am striving to make is this: the science-fiction fan in particular (there are others of course) manages to throw off the shackles of mental inhibition!

This being the case, could not stf be used as an unconcious guide to the rest of humanity, in the cause of humanity?

Of course it could!

Providing that only the best is put over by the publishers. But today the type of stories being sold on the market do not reach the required standard -- or those that do are pitifully few and far between. More and more in recent months, stf has been acquiring a reputation which is pushing it up on the shelves of dealers in pornography. Not a month goes by without 2 or 3 stories in one mag or another -- blatantly advertised as science fiction -- which are in reality undi-

sguised sex and sadism. Much has been said about this subject in recent months, but every fan would do well to study the biting remarks made by Maurice Goldsmith at the recently held London convention.

There should be, and need be, no room for such shoddy material in the magazines devoted to stf.

If we want back the good stories of science and adventure, backed by skilful writing in the tradition of Heinlein and Asimov, then we have got to hammer it into the heads of the publishers until it hurts.

Our own publishers are guilty of pre-concieved ideas when they persist in printing stories containing childish weapons of destruction, and outmoded themes which were in use twenty years ago. Small wonder then that the distributors have pre-concieved ideas about stf.

It is up to us to irradiate those ideas!

Keep on at Carnell, Campbell and Hamilton until this bad workmanship is a thing of the past! I am not suggesting that the British editors do use sex. They don't. But the place to start a clean-up campaign is home.

And while I'm on about cleaning up science fiction, here is Dave Gardner suggesting the use of swearing in professional sf magazines.

Come come, Dave -- the object of the press is to educate the public, not spread illiteracy. The aim of education is to eliminate the need to curse. Not to make a substitution. Everyone knows the axiom 'it's not what you say, it's the way that you say it'. It makes little difference whether you say 'bloody' or 'damned' providing you put the necessary power of emphasis. "Therefore", you say "why not say bloody and be done with it?" OK, if that's what you want, but if you were trained as -- for example -- a schoolmaster, you would learn never to make ejaculations of annoy --

ance, barring those designed to discipline the pupil , whilst under school bounds.

That is still the greatest power man has over animals -- the control of his emotions -- and all the while the press continues its job of promoting that control, then it has my full support.

Science fiction has to grow up fast ! Or -- in the words of Vince Clarke at the convention -- ' I can see no future in it' !

John Gutteridge.

=====

The above article was reprinted from ANDROMEDA 2 by kind permission of W. Peter Campbell.

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This space donated to any club who wishes to take advantage of it.

TRADING BUREAU

Keith McLelland, 28 Grace St., Malvern, Vic. has the following for swap or sale:-

US edition ASTOUNDING: Dec.48, Jul.50, Sep.50, Nov.50, Mar.51, Jul.51, Aug.51, Feb.51.

US FANTASTIC Vol.2, No. 3.

BRE's UNKNOWN: V4.N3; V6.N5; V3.N8; V3.N10; V3.N11; V3.N12; V4.N1-5.

Also two groups of stories from UNKNOWN: Land Of Unreason by de Camp & Pratt together with The Case Of The Unfriendly Corpse by Hubbard; and The Castle of Iron, The Wheels of If by Pratt & de Camp and The Haunt by Sturgeon.

Two US books, THE WEAPON MAKER by Van Vogt and AWAY and BEYOND by Van Vogt.

He wants the following magazines:-

US GALAXY: Aug.52; Apr.53; Jul.53; Sep.53. and later.

US F&SF: All Vol 1 except 3 & 4; V2.N1,2,5,6; V3.N2; V4.N6; V5.N5.

Any US ASTOUNDING from 1940 through 1945.

Any BRE ASTOUNDING before Nov.1946.

Del Rey's FANTASY FICTION V1.N4.

FANTASTIC V2.N2,5.

Any US UNKNOWN.

John Gregor, Newhaven St., Everton Park, Brisbane, Queensland, wants copies of THRILLS, and will trade US pocketbooks for them.

Leon Stone, 28 Elgin St., Gordon, N.S.W. wants copies of SLANT, Nos. 1 to 6. Offers two American prozines in exchange for each.

V. Morton, 24 Lucerne St., Ashburton, Vic., wants :

GALAXY NOVEL 2, BRE THRILLING WONDERS 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,
US FANTASTIC Vol. 4. No. 1

USE ETHERLINE FOR YOUR TRADE WANTS

M. R. Binns, 4 Myrtle Grove, Preston, Vic., wants Cherrytree ed. of SINISTER BARRIER, SCIENCE FICTION PLUS 5, and wants to sell SCIENCE FICTION PLUS 2.

 Bob McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn East, Vic. wants:
 US ASTOUNDING Dec, 48; Aug, Sep, Oct. 45.
 GALAXY NOVELS 13, 15, 16, 19.
 BRE PLANET 5,
 BRE STARTLING 7, 8, 9.

IN MELBOURNE TOWN

Magazines to arrive this week were ASTOUNDING July, with the first of the symbolic covers. Reproduction was very good.

SPACEWAYS 2 arrived, as did several pocketbooks.

In the book line, only two made the grade. STRANGE ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE FICTION edited by Groff Conklin, being the second part of his Omnibus, priced at 12/-, and a Wright & Brown book at 9/6, INVADERS OF SPACE by Nigel Mackenzie. This is the fourth W & B book on stf, and although not of a very high standard, these stand a better chance of reaching the general public than the recognized books, as all have been written by authors with a tremendous following among library patrons. Mary Richmond and Hugh Desmond, as is Nigel Mackenzie, are extremely popular detective authors, and, who knows, some fans may eventuate out of this series.

WEIRD TALES 5, the last that will be seen, officially, made the grade, and a new PLANET.

THE KRAKEN WAKES by John Wyndham will be the September release of Penguin. It will be out on the 24th. of Sept.

 Cover by Keith McLelland

Inside Illustration by

Dick Jenssen

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GALAXY Dec, 50; Jul, Mar, 51; Jul, Mar, 52;
MAG OF F & SF. Sep, Oct, 52; Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr,
Aug, Sep, Oct, Dec, 53; Jan Feb 54
STARTLING. Jan, May, 51; Jan, Jun, Jul, Sep, Oct,
52; Jan, 54; Jan, 40.
WONDER STORIES. Jul, 34; May, 35; Nov, 33; Dec, 50
Dec, 37; Dec, 39.
WONDER STORY ANNUAL 1952.
FANTASTIC STORY Winter 51.
FANTASTIC Vol. 1. No. 2.
IF Jul, 52; Mar, 53; Jul, 54.
IMAGINATION Jul 52; Jan, 52; Aug, Jul 53;
OTHER WORLDS Jan, Jun, Jul Aug 52.

BRE EDITIONS. Any two of these
SPACE Vol 1, Nos 1,2,4 & 5. Vol 2; No. 1
GALAXY Nos 3, 6, 11.

ASTOUNDING. Mar, Jun, 50; Feb, Apr, Jun, Oct, 51.
Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec, 52;
Feb, Jun, Apr, Aug, Oct. 53.

FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AMERICAN EDITIONS:-

ASTOUNDING 1940 to 1946 Any. Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr,
June, Aug, Oct, Dec, 1947; Jan, Jun, 1948; May 50
Feb, 51; Oct, Nov, 53.
GALAXY Oct, 50; Oct, Dec 52; Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr,
May, Jun, Jul, Sep, Oct, Nov, 53.
GALAXY NOVELS Nos. 1,2,3,8,9,10,11,12,14,15,17,18,
BEYOND Vol 1, Nos. 1,2,3,4,5.
MAG OF F&SF. Vol 1; any. Vol 2, 1,2,4,6.
FANTASTIC. Vol 1, 2,3,4,5.
UNKNOWN WORLDS. ANY

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MAGAZINE REVIEWS

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION Vol. 3 No. 2.

Miriam Allen DeFord tells a story of MRS HINK, a baby-sitter extraordinary. THE IMMORTAL GAME by Poul Anderson will be of interest to all chess players. The moral of FRIDAY THE NINETEENTH is not to make wishes according to Elizabeth Sanxay Holding.

5,271,000 is an interesting, but rather complicated tale by Alfred Bester. A most amusing satire is THE LAST CAPER, the author being Charles Beaumont. THE FIREFIGHTER by Robert Abernathy is a short tale of frustration and hope.

Roger Dee's MAN FRIDAY is possibly the best of the remaining four stories.

Marjorie Santos

WEIRD TALES Vol 1, No. 5.

This issue is without doubt the best yet. There is only one reason for this -- it is the last issue. The first half of SONG IN THE THICKET is all I could manage to read, of the entire magazine.

Marjorie Santos

NEW WORLDS 25

Cover by Quinn depicts a landing on Titan (apparently) up to the usual Quinn excellence.

Lead story STARVATION ORBIT by James White. Spatial stack up between ship and station, much damage, survivors fight to stay alive. Good. STAYING GUESTS by James White. We have not one Xf, but three different types, and they all hate one another. Our 'ero' finds out, then discovers some one else knew. Very Good.

THE ETHICAL QUESTION by Lan Wright is a good way to cure saboteurs. Fair. MAN ON THE CEILING by E. R. James is about space rescue. Fair. PIPE AWAY STRANGER by F. G. Rayer is only fair.

SHIP FROM THE STARS. The Thing again. Fair. By Peter Hawkins. THE ODOUR OF THOUGHT by Robert Sheckley. I won't spoil this with a hint of the plot, because to quote the blurb on the top of the story, "one of the most delightful fantasies published in a long time". I couldn't agree more, as it's the best I've read in a long, long time and I look forward to more by the same author.

Inside illos by Quinn, Clothier and Hutchings, who doesn't get a mention of the title page. Why, I wouldn't know, as he's a good artist.

Jack Keating.

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION BRE July 1954

I say it each issue and I say it again: this is the best yet cover on ASTOUNDING. Reproduction is good. A brilliant piece of illustrating by Kelly Freas.

Lee Correy's AMATEUR is his finest to date, and easily ranks top in this issue, and one of the best stories for some time.

Asimov starts a two part serial, SUCKER BAIT, which has very good possibilities. ROYAL ROAD by A. Arthur Smith is a good E. S.P yarn. THE GREATER THING by Tom Godwin is a Thing which aids enslaved mankind. This is the poorest story in the issue, and rates fair.

RUNAWAY HOME by E. G. Von Wold. FTL travellers always a century out of step. Usual departments and article round off a good issue.

Tony Santos

POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

JOURNEY TO MARS (E.C.Tubb) Ex Space Navy man, goes from Venus to Mars to join a star-ship via fights, fires, feuds, mutiny, madness, and murder. Red raw action all the way. Good. McGills. 3/-

Heh! No advertisements, either!

A TIME APPOINTED (Vargo Statton) First expedition to Venus is warned that the planet is an immense time bomb, intended to destroy the Solar System. The expedition is then destroyed. Three men and a woman survive many booby traps and hurl the bomb's fuse into future then delouse the planet. Good McGills 2/3

ETHERLINE

BRISBANE NEWS

MEETING OF THURSDAY, 5th August, 1954

Thirteen fans attended the monthly meeting of the BSFG.

Present were: Betty Tafe, Iris Girvan, Beryl Patterson, J. Gregor, Chas. Mustchin, Bill Veney, Frank Bryning, George Tafe, John Adams, Fred Drennan, Dick Milham, Sid Patterson and John Gurney.

Although no country fans were in attendance, it was reported that at least one was in town, and it was hoped that he would contact some of the group before returning home. Tony Edwards was unable to be present as he is producing a play for the Queensland competitions. Best of luck, Tony.

ETHERLINE 32 and QUESTION MARK 5 were distributed by John Gregor. It was stated that ETHERLINE would now be appearing every three weeks, so that there would be alternately two and one issue available every meeting. (Wrong. We are back on the fortnightly schedule. Ed.)

Betty Tafe was again the centre of attraction with the library, and a big bundle of new items were quickly scooped up by the early arrivals. Later, in a discussion with the Trustees, she reported that the library finances were in a very healthy state, and more books and magazines were being purchased as the growth of the fund permits.

Main interest centred on the Winter issue of MEANJIN which had arrived earlier in the week. There was considerable discussion on the two science fiction articles. The general opinion was that Brissenden had been very fair in his criticism and had treated the subject in a very sympathetic way. Frank Bryning was congratulated on the way he presented the case for science fiction. Biggest bouquet was for C. B. Christensen, for opening the pages of his magazine to a discussion of this nature.

Several Brisbane fans except to go south this year, with George Tafe planning to sail his yacht down to Sydney. He offered Bill Veney a passage, but I have it on reliable authority that Bill will refuse. Ted Butt is expected up from Newcastle shortly.

WARREGG

ETHERLINE

Global Round Up

Dennis Dobson, London publishers, appeared to have got the rights to reprint the Grosset & Dunlap "Dollar Science Fiction Series", edited by Groff Conklin, as the first in their series, "Science Fiction Adventures" is FURY, which was a Dollar selection. Others in this series include PEBBLE IN THE SKY and NEEDLE.

The CORGI Pocket book edition of CITY AT WORLDS END by Edmond Hamilton has appeared in London, as has the PAN edition of PRELUDE TO SPACE by Arthur C. Clarke.

THE STARMEN by Leigh Brackett, published by Museum Press, was issued 18th August in London.

On the American front, LOST ISLAND by Graham MacInnes was issued July 15th by World Publishers; Arthur C. Clarke's EXPLORATION OF SPACE was out in pocket book form from Cardinal Books at 35 c on August 1st; Richard Matheson's I AM LEGEND from Gold Medal Books at 35c on August 8th; the latest ACE Double book is BEYOND EARTH'S GATES by Padgett & Moore and DAYBREAK 2250 AD by Andre Norton, previously known as STAR MAN'S SON. This book came out on August 12th at 35 c.

THE LONG LOUD SILENCE by Wilson Tucker came from DELL Publishers on August 12th at 35c; MY BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORY edited by Friend & Margulies from Pocket Books on July 1st at 35c; OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS from Ballantine Books, author William Tenn, at 35c on July 17th; RETURN TO TOMORROW by Hubbard from ACE at 35c.

THE TIME MASTERS by Wilson Tucker from Signet on July 21st at 35c; 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA by Jules Verne at \$ 1 from Grosset & Dunlap in their DOLLAR STF Series; and finally SELECTIONS FROM BEYOND HUMAN KEN, edited by Judith Merrill from Pennant at 25c on July 29.

A new film, TOBOR THE GREAT from Republic Pictures has been released in UK, and should be here shortly. As title will indicate, story is about Robot, developed by scientist for space exploration.

IJC

ETHERLINE

REPORT FROM MELBOURNE

19/8/54

There were thirteen present, with the usual in the chair.

We were pleased to welcome Les Conley, an Army man, and the first sf fan in Melbourne to see an inexplicable object in the night sky. It was an oval, reddish light, subtending half a degree. It moved rapidly across the sky. Traffic noises prevented hearing any sound, and there was no trail or glow. The object finally assumed a "Bailey's Beads" appearance, with two brighter nuclei, and then disappeared. Les was sober.

There was no auction, but some good chess.

=====

28/6/54

Ten fans present, with Bob in the chair.

Chess was played, and a small auction held.

All the library has been re-indexed, and we will shortly see a catalogue to be included in ETHERLINE.

ARMAK

ETHERLINE

QUESTION MARK

BACCHANALIA

TOP AFPA PUBLICATIONS. If you require

back issue, then write for them. A

limited number are available.

..... AFPA PUBLICATIONS

ETHERLINE

MORE MAGAZINE REVIEWS

AUTHENTIC 46

Cover by Davis continues the INTO SPACE series, and as usual, is quite good.

Feature novel, THE SAVIOUR by Brian Berry is an interesting treatment of the after-A bomb war -- theme . PSYCHIC TWIN by Dan Morgan destroys friction, kerash ! not bad.

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN by Ron Elton adds a twist to the old closed circle time theme, funny. THE HIGHER MATHEMATICS by M. C. Wodehouse . He climbed thru a hole and the janitor pushed it shut, tch, tch. Good.

THE MERCHANTS by D. R. Davis . Who's cheating who ?

Six articles round off a good issue.

Jack Keating.

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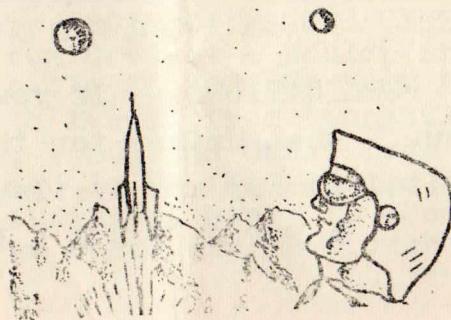
SPACEWAYS BRE 2.

Cover by Mel Hunter . best thing in the mag. Lead story THE MIDGETS OF MONOTON by Stanton Coblentz, apparently written about 1925. Ugh !

The best stories in the issue are TIME TO RETIRE by E. Everett Evans and BATTLE OF WIZARDS by L. Ron Hubbard. These are only very fair. The rest ? Phen.

Jack Keating.

=====



FANMAG. REVIEWS

THE COSMIC FRONTIER No. 10. Ten cents a copy from Stuart K. Nock, RFD 3, Castleton, New York. USA. 28 pages, spirit duplicated in purple (deep purple !)

Spaceship cover is good. Two fiction jobs TO BE LONELY (Fletcher) FANZINE BUSINESS (Kunwiss), humorous articles by Vorzimer and Stosser, columns by Wegars and Nock, editorial by Peter Christoph, mail-bag, etc. On the whole, a well-balanced issue -- even the artwork is above usual fan-mag standard, although I cannot say the same for some of the humor.

=====

STAR ROCKETS 7. from Raleigh Multog, 7 Greenwood Rd Pikesville 8, Maryland, USA. 10 cents a copy, rather poorly duplicated in places. 40 pages foolscap size.

Has imposing line up of contributors, reports, reviews, fiction, crummy illos and cover.

Sorry pal, but I just couldn't read all that stuff, but the samples I took were quite good .

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STARLIGHT 1 from Ron Smith, 332 East Date St., Oxnard Calif. USA. 25 cents or 5 for a dollar.

An ambitious zine, 12 pages photo lithed, cartoon cover, one story, OGAN MY BELOVED (Hallam), readable. The rest of the issue is taken up by advertising and an auto-biography of Wilson Tucker. Actually 4 pages of writing and 8 pages of advertising. This will need more reader appeal to survive. You can't live by taking in other fan-ed's ads, Ron.

After that little lot, I've just about had it !

Bob

(Weary)
McCubbin

