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ETHERLINE

THE LATEST IN SCIENCE FICTION

ISSUE NO. 36

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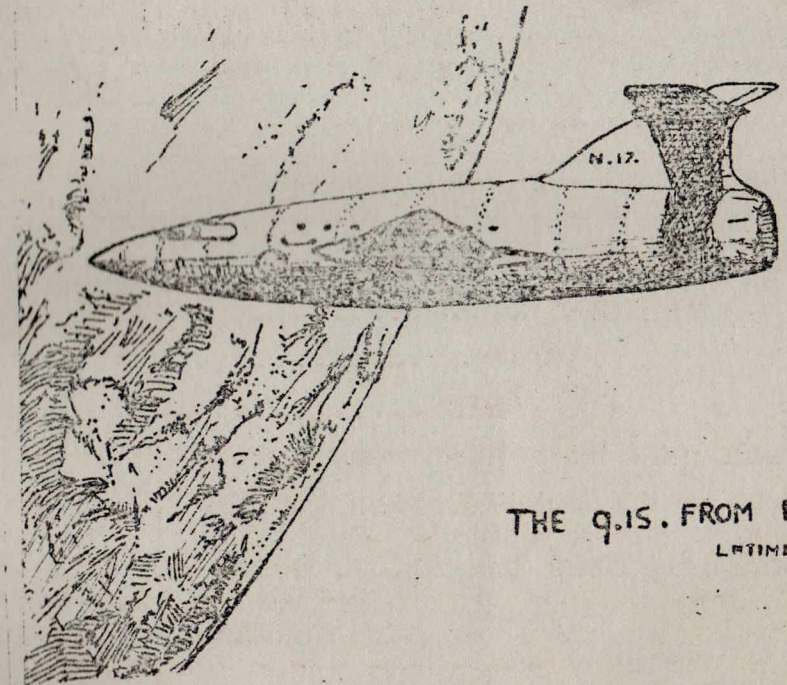
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HEADLINES

ADELAIDE NEWS : BRISBANE NEWS

MAGAZINE REVIEWS : OVERSEAS NEWS



THE Q. IS. FROM MARS
LATIMER. 54.

AN AFPA PUBLICATION

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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 Mclelland; Chief Reviewer: Tony Santos.

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VIEWPOINT

Well, as you can see, we decided that the smaller type makes for a better mag, so I raced out and bought a new machine. For those interested, it's an Imperial Good Companion 3, and I can recommend them as being a good buy.

Yes, I realise that this issue is a week late, but in view of the dearth (in Melbourne at least) of any new arrivals, and the apparent lack of happenings overseas, the issue if it had come out on time, would have been only half full. So it was decided that a delay would be in order.

In answer to THE STONE REPORT, there appeared a denial from the 1955 Convention Committee, authored by Norma Williams, and it put the case very concisely to my mind.

An advance copy of SCIENCE FANTASY 9 arrived, and it looks like a very good line up. A flood of mags is expected as soon as the ship owners decide to let the wharfies return to work, and some might arrive in time for reviews to be included in this issue.



BRISBANE NEWS

Meeting of Thursday, 2nd September, 1954.

Fifteen fans attended the September meeting of the BSFG. Present were Dick Milhans, Rick Day, Frank Bryning, Bill Veney, Tony Edwards, John Adams, Fred Drennan, Reg Urquhart and wife, Arthur Burrows, Betty Tafe, George Tafe, John Gregor, Iris Girvan, and John Gurney. Three fans sent their apologies.

It was learnt with regret that several members were making their last appearance for some considerable time. Tony Edwards is leaving for England within the month; John Gregor, an original of the Group, a trustee of the Queensland Science Fiction Foundation, Australian representative of NFFS, Brisbane agent for AFPA (and what a good job he's done. Ed.), and one of the most popular members of the Thursday night gatherings, was leaving for an indefinite stay in Cairns; Bill Veney was returning to Sydney, but expected to be back in the winter (can't you take it Bill?); and George Tafe said he was leaving for an extended business trip in New South Wales and Victoria.

John Gregor distributed the latest 'ETHERLINE and some of the back issues of QUESTION MARK he had been hoarding. It is expected that George and Betty Tafe will become AFPA representatives, but nothing definite has been decided. SCANSION 7 and various other information sheets from southern clubs were also distributed. There was further discussion on the perplexing position existing in Sydney. All agreed that the BSFG must remain strictly impartial during this troubled period.

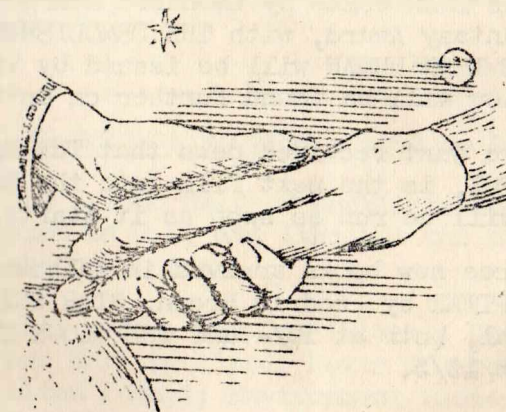
It was moved Bill Veney seconded George Tafe that "the Brisbane Science Fiction Group congratulate the 1954 Australian Science Fiction Convention Committee on the success of the 1954 Convention, and extend our best wishes to the 1955 Australian Science Fiction Convention Committee for a successful Convention in 1955." Carried unanimously.

Frank Bryning had received a letter from Harry Brook stationed in Japan, and passed on Harry's regards to the members of the Group. John Gurney was rather busy with an idea for a chess section, to be formed within the Group. John is particularly interested to meet Chas Mustchin (generally regarded as the local champ) and arrange some games. John Adams made many mouths water with rare copies of SF magazines he bought with him from America. Rick Day and Fred Drennan were observed in very deep discussion on aspects of science fiction writing (Hey! What are you chaps cooking up?). Iris Girvan tried to show members some new square dancing steps, but there was some reluctance to co-operate (Old age affecting the Queenslanders?).

In order to give members a chance to see what material is available from the library, the next meeting will be held on Thursday, 7th October at 68 Chester St., Teneriffe. It is expected the new editions will be fully catalogued by then, & available for general lending.

The meeting gradually dissolved away, but individual parties didn't break up until the early hours of Friday morning.

WARREGO



Global Round Up

Not much in the news line this issue, but here goes.

Only new book announced by Weidenfeld & Nicholson for July - December 1954 is WORLDS OF TOMORROW edited by August Derleth. Personally, I have never heard of this one, and it might be a collection of the balance of BEACHHEADS OF SPACE, which was issued by this publishers some month or so ago. Price is 9/6 stg.

A new Dutch magazine, SCIENCE FICTION has been sighted in UK. Priced at 25 c, and is of 16 pages unnumbered. Contents are one story and comic strip.

The September issue of FANTASTIC UNIVERSE suffers another page cut, this time to 128.

NOVA NOVELS will recommence with the following titles. THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER; CITY IN THE SEA; THE DREAMING JEWELS & RENAISSANCE are to be the first four, followed by JACK OF EAGLES; COSMIC ENGINEERS and THE TIME MASTERS. If they manage to keep such high standard, they will be worth buying, if they come out.

MORE THAN HUMAN by Theodore Sturgeon has won the 1954 International Fantasy Award, with THE DEMOLISHED MAN by Alfred Bester second. MORE THAN HUMAN will be issued by Victor Gollancz this year, and a review will be found further on in this issue.

I've just received news that THE NAKED JUNGLE, produced by George Pal, is the next film into the Melbourne KINGS theatre. A review will be run as soon as it starts.

Three new books arrived in Melbourne at the last moment: OBJECT JUPITER by Fredric Brown, STAR SCIENCE FICTION edited by Merrick Pohl, both at 12/- and THE CLOCK STRIKES THIRTEEN by Herbert Breen at 13/3.

IJC

BOOK REVIEWS

MORE THAN HUMAN by Theodore Sturgeon. Published by Victor Gollancz, London.

The Galaxy novella, BABY IS THREE, is the center portion of this book. The central idea is that of a Gestalt (whole) personality, composed of a telepathic idiot, twin negro teleports, an idiot-savant baby, a telekinetic teenage girl, and a lad who integrates the whole group. They live as a wild group in the woods, stealing what they need, until "Lone" dies, and bequeaths the group to a woman he had known in the past. The group grows in power - the integrator gets delusions of grandeur, and almost wrecks the Gestalt. He is finally convinced that humanity is needed as well as supernormal powers, and the book closes on a hopeful note.

To my mind, Sturgeon's writing is far more interesting and incisive than Bradbury's (sacrilege! Ed.) - and he has more to say. Once again, I say that this book is a must for the science fiction fan - the whole concept is so logical, though the individual parts are not. Modern fiction in the adult fashion.

Recommended.

Bob McCubbin

=====

STRANGE ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE FICTION edited by Groff Conklin.

This is the second half of Conklin's OMNIBUS, published by Grayson & Grayson in U.K., and like all the others, intended for consumption by the newer fan.

The contents are :- The Box (Blish); Catch That Martian (Knight); The Door Bell (Keller); Never Underestimate (Sturgeon); The Choice (Hilton Young); Environment (Geier); Spectator Sport (McDonald); Recruiting Station (Van Vogt) and Plague (Lein-

ster . Of these, the worst is The Door Bell (poor Poe !) and the best, probably Recruiting Station, though rather too long and involved.

McGills 12/-

Bob McCubbin.

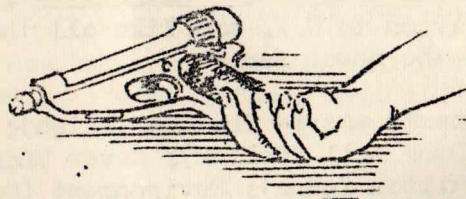
IN MELBOURNE TOWN

On the book front, more stocks of FUTURE TENSE & HOLE IN HEAVEN have arrived, while new books included the two Ward Lock titles, WHEEL IN THE SKY by Rafe Bernard and COLONISTS OF SPACE by Charles Carr, both at 11/3. Reviews will be in the next issue. Two juveniles from Hutchinsons, ROCKET TO LUNA by Richard Marston and MISTS OF DAWN by Chad Oliver, both priced at 9/6. A bookshop in Melbourne has the latter priced at 15/6, but how the hell he arrived at that figure escapes me.

Magazines to arrive are SCIENCE FANTASY 9, FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION 11, IF 9, VARGO STATEN MAGAZINE 5, and reviews of all except the last will be found elsewhere in the issue.

AUTHENTIC 47 also arrived late, and if it can be fitted in on the review page, you'll find it there.

No sign of the flood of stf films expected, but I don't think it should be long before some make their appearance.



LJC

SYDNEY CALLING

MEETING OF THURSDAY, 9th September 1954.

Twenty six fans attended the weekly meeting of the Sydney Science Fiction Group.

Present were :- Arthur Haddon, Morv Bone, Michael Duggan, Lloyd Fisher, Kevin Picklin, Kevin Dillon, Bruce Ekin, Bill Hubble, Mick Bell, Doug Nicholson, Fred Fredrickson, Norma Williams, Sherrington Maclean Cohmann, Padraic McGuinness, Laurie Bannatyne, Tom Hubble, Michael Baldwin, Dave Cohen, Pat Burke, A. P. Jaundrell, Bill Veney, Henry Tucke, Terry King, Nick Solnsteff, Tex Clark and Len Goldobro.

ETHERLINE 35 and SCANSION 9 were distributed by Dave Cohen and Michael Duggan.

The meeting was typical of the SSFG. Bill Hubble took up one section of the wall and did a roaring trade with the library. The newer items were snapped up by the early arrivals. The chess players retreated into the quieter sections of the room and soon four or five games were in progress. A discussion group formed around Fred Fredrickson. Other fans simply talked or read as the mood hit them.

Some interesting details on the 4th (1955) Convention were released by the Convention Committee. It appears that strong support has been received from local, interstate and overseas fans and there is every indication that the next Convention will maintain the successful tradition of the previous ones. The news that there would be a strong contingent from Melbourne was warmly received, and it was hoped that fans from other states would also find time to attend.

Bill Veney extended greetings from Queensland fans

to all the Sydney fans. He passed on information about various activities held by the Brisbane Science Fiction Group.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, it was announced that the SSFG was now making a clear profit and prospects for the future looked particularly good.

For the benefit of out-of-town readers, the Sydney fen meet once a week at 333 George Street, city. If you are coming along, drop a line to Dave Cohen, Box 4940, G.P.O., and he will be glad to give you any additional details.

KURRAJONG.

THE FOURTH AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

announces the running of a short story competition in conjunction with the above Convention. Manuscripts should be double spaced, of between 3 and 8,000 words in length, and must be in the hands of the Editor of the Convention Souvenir Booklet no later than January 1st, 1955. Address is 24 Warren Rd., Double Bay.

For all particulars, contact the above immediately.

Booster Ads in the ConBook may be reserved now by

contacting the Editor. Rates are :- Full page, 25/- A,
Half Page, 14/- A, Q'tr Page 7/6 A, 20/- S,
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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.
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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..
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Invasion From Space Nigel McKenzie 8/3
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Paul French 10/6

POCKET BOOKS:

The Sands of Mars Arthur C Clarke 3/-
The Chessmen of Mars E.R.Burroughs 3/-
Double Identity Raymond Z.Gullan 9d

Late arrivals;

Wheel in the Sky Rafe Bernard 11/3
Colonists in Space Charles Carr 11/3
Jizzle John Wyndham 14/6

Extra copies of ;

Sentinels From Space E.F.Russell 12/-
Fury Henry Kutner

Have been ordered :due in about 8 weeks.

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POCKET BOOK REVIEWS

RETURN TO MARS (Elton Westward ?) Mars has been behind an iron curtain. Earthies land to find out why. They meet all sorts of creatures - including a super race, and finally escape with whole skins. This would have been much better if the author had picked on one plot and stuck to it.

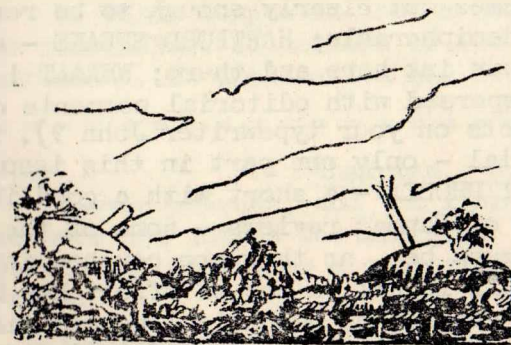
Fair. Tech Book Store @ 2/3

THE HAND OF HAVOC (Charles Grey) Five men, the remains of a Venusian rebellion, carriers of a sudden death, highly contagious disease, at large in space with an implacable hatred of Earth. Some parts of the plot bear some resemblance to Tucker's LONG LOUD SILENCE. For a pocket book, this is good.

Tech Book Store @ 2/3

VASSALS OF VENUS (Philip Kent) Another good TitBits Library @ 1/3 from McGills. This deals with an attempt by a freak producing Venusian cartel's attempt to undersell Earth's space-ship factories. Plenty of action.

RMCC



FANZINE REVIEWS

The current flood of fanmags has moved your reviewer to some terse verse:-

A fan mag reviewer of Hawthorn,
Is feeling upset and forlorn,
Some mags have no ink,
Some contents do stink,
And the cartoonists fill him with scorn.

Actually, the major grizzle is about the illegible material that comes along for review. Editors who wish their mags reviewed would be well advised to see that copies forwarded are legible on every page. Typos and strike overs, while exasperating to the reader, at least allow the author's ideas to come through, but when page after page are too faint to be read, even a genial spirit is inclined to cavil.

UMBRA Sean O Hitchcock, 15 Arbutus Ave., Baltimore 28, Maryland, USA. 8 times a year at 10 c a copy.

Can't describe the cover (No ink on it). Opens up well with 4 pages mneod nicely, article, story and poetry enjoyable, and then - I weep tears of blood - spirit duplicating in colors - only the purple comes out clearly enough to be read. SPACE, short story by Nigel Indecipherable; HARTFORD SPEAKS - a silent column, some traces of green ink here and there; WHAAAT! a purple patch of letters, interspersed with editorial comments cut off with obliques, (no brackets on your typewriter John?). THE ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPH a serial - only one part in this issue - for this relief, many thanks! PHOBIA - a short with a good idea; CHICKEN SCRATCHES - a number of fanmag reviews - some of the comments are, I think, private - must be, as they are couched in code. DEATH RATTLE was neat. All in all, a lot of effort has been put in this mag - a pity that neglect of mechanical necessities of publishing has obscured so much material, good, bad or indifferent. Please let's have a clear copy next time, John.

EMcC

ETHERLINE

ADELAIDE NEWS

MEETING OF 1/8/54.

Chairman. R. GUM

Seventeen present, and as this was the last meeting of the first year of the Adelaide Science Fiction Library, a financial statement was presented to the members. The librarian also made a report on the number of items available on loan and the total of members subscribing.

The financial year of the Society also began on this night and the membership forms were available to applicants.

After the formal meeting adjourned, a party was held to celebrate a successful 1st year.

=====

MEETING OF 16/8/54.

Chairman. J. Joyce

Twelve present, and the librarian reported that the donation of mags sent in by Mr. Story & Mr. Whillas of Port Lincoln had realised enough cash to purchase 10 new hard covers for the library. Five others had been purchased out of library funds.

D. Walsh suggested that a telephone be installed for the convenience of members of the club and library. Meeting was in agreement. An application has been sent in.

=====

MEETING OF 28/8/54.

Chairman. J. JOHNSON

Eleven present, and the librarian reported that three new members had joined the library. A number of new items had been purchased, including a collection of early AMAZINGS from interstate.

Applications for membership were received from A. Bray and W. Headon, and approved. We welcome them to the Society.

ETHERLINE

TRADING BUREAU

Leon Stone, 28 Elgin St., Gordon, N.S.W., wants copies of SLANT, Nos. 1 to 6. Offered in exchange are 2 American pro-zines, GALAXY, STARTLING, FANTASTIC, WONDER, AMAZING (1947-53).

Mr. G. F. Horn, Bundalaguah via Sale, Vic., wants a copy of GALAXY 13.

J. Eyre, 50 Wilcox St., Preston, Vic., wants copies of BRE ASTOUNDING before December 1950, except February 1950.

Bob McCubbin, 90 Lilydale Grove, Hawthorn East, Vic. wants US ASTOUNDING Dec 48; Aug Sep Oct 45.

BRE ASTOUNDING March 41

US GALAXY March 53

GALAXY NOVELS 13, 15, 16, 19, 20.

BRE PLANET 5

BRE STARTLING 7, 8, 9.

V. Morton, 24 Lucerne St., Ashburton, Vic. wants BRE THRILLING WONDER 3,4,5,6,7,8,9; US FANTASTIC Vol 4, No. 1; GALAXY NOVEL 2.

SEND YOUR WANTS TO ETHERLINE

COVER

by

DON LATIMER

Inside illos by Keith McLelland

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION BRE 16

Nothing particularly notable about this month's GALAXY. A cover by Ensh which is just a cover, and a group of stories, mostly mediocre, by authors who should be capable of much better work.

BEEP by James Blish. Now the marines land before the shooting starts. Roger Dee's PET FARM has some unusual pets with unpleasant feeding habits. PROJECT HUSH by William Tenn is a prime stinker.

INANIMATE OBJECTION is almost good, but the author, H. Chandler Elliot, ruins it with an over-coy punchline. Fredric Brown's TWO TIMER is "a brace of vignettes..... short and sharp.....like a hypodermic." Both tales are trite and extremely aged.

MEN LIKE MULES by J. T. M'Intosh is easily the best of a pretty poor bunch. It would normally rate as fair.

Altogether this issue continues to trend a marked downward trend in GALAXY. What was once one of the top SF magazines is now sinking to the level of IF and AMAZING.

Tony Santos

=====

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION BRE 11.

Evelyn E. Smith writes an amusing fairy-tale about GERDA who is bewitched with a difference. WOLVES DON'T CRY arouses sympathy for the plight of a were-man. By Bruce Elliot. THE INNER WORLDS by William Morrison concerns a group of parasites which can be helpful or harmful. Esther Carlson leaves one wondering about big Bill's subconscious in NIGHT LIFE. William Tenn's THE TENANTS gives a nasty but not

unexpected climax to his tale of an inquisitive office agent.

Grand Central Station has so many corridors that it is not surprising to find one returns to the Year 1890 in Jack Finn-ey's *THE THIRD LEVEL*. *THE SILENCE GAME* by Fritz Leiber is a very long and confused tale telling us that the Communists are not very nice people.

I NEVER ASK NO FAVOURS by C. M. Kornbluth is delightful. It deals mainly with a hex on sex and frustrations following same. An interesting story from the female point of view, *CENTAURUS CHANGELING* by Marion Zimmer Bradley is an account of a complicated procedure which a Terran woman follows in order to bear her child on Megaera.

Marjorie E. Santos

=====

SCIENCE FANTASY 9.

Cover by Quinn illustrates the lead story extremely well. Lead story *THIS PRECIOUS STONE* by H. J. Murdoch is not bad, but could have been better by the use of fewer words.

CRIMINAL RECORD by Brian W. Aldiss is a time travel detective story, and is only fair. *SIX OF ONE* by A. Bertram Chandler is not bad, has a funny kick at the finish, but builds up to it rather slowly. *OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD* by E. C. Tubb. Fair.

LAST MAN ON MARS by W. P. Cockcroft. Tension sustained rather well. I felt all raw skinned when I finished it. *HAVEN* by Peter Hawkins. Security by reduction, just fair. *FAMILY SECRET* by Arthur Coster, fair.

The guest editorial by J. T. McIntosh is as interesting in fact than most of the stories. Inside illos by Quinn and Hutchings are for the most part good.

It was good to see a change of pace by Chandler, but the whole issue disappointed a trifle. Maybe I am getting too critical.

Jack Keating.

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION 47.

Cover by Davis continues the *FROM EARTH TO THE STARS* series. The publishers must have read the last critique, as he 's improved.

STRANGERS IN TIME by S. Gordon. Commandos up & down the temporal zones makes one quite giddy, fair. *THE MUTILANTS* by R. C. Wingfield, the answer to supersonic jets, only fair. *TO SHAKE THE STARS* by Peter Green features the complete spaceman, phew!. *ROBOTS GAMBLE* by R. Wilson, fair, as is *THE DAY OF ALL ELSE* by A. G. Williamson. *TRYST* by W. B. Johnson is intriguing, but *THE BRIDGE* by Len Shaw is bad.

Articles include *PLANET FARMS*, *LOGIC IS FUN* and *THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE FUTURE*, book reviews, fanzine reviews and usual features. This issue is up on last month's, but is not up to standard.

Jack Keating.

=====

IF BRE 9.

Cover by Fagg, with inside cover credit given to Valigursky, but there are no inside covers. Lead story *THE GODDEN MAN* by Philip Dick. New mutant is human bird of paradise. So so.

CARRIER by Robert Sheckley. Now you've got psi talents, and now you ain't. Not bad. *BREEDER REACTION* by Winston Marks has a new use for radio-active by-products, with a very funny tag-line at the end.

WAY OF A REBEL by W. Miller Jnr. This one is in the wrong mag. What about Battle or sumpin'? *ALL IN THE MIND*, by G. Henderson is only fair. *THE LAST CONQUEROR* by M. Klass is so-so.

Articles: Science briefs very good. It's about time, rather confusing on first reading, but makes sense on the third time through. Inside illos by 6 different artists, of which *EMSH* doing *CARRIER* is the best. Just a fair issue.

Jack Keating.

