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# *Etherline.*

*Science Fiction Journal.*

FEATURING...

CONTINUING  
OUR  
SERIAL

x x x x

FILM NEWS  
AND REVIEW

v v v v

MAGAZINE AND  
BOOK REVIEWS

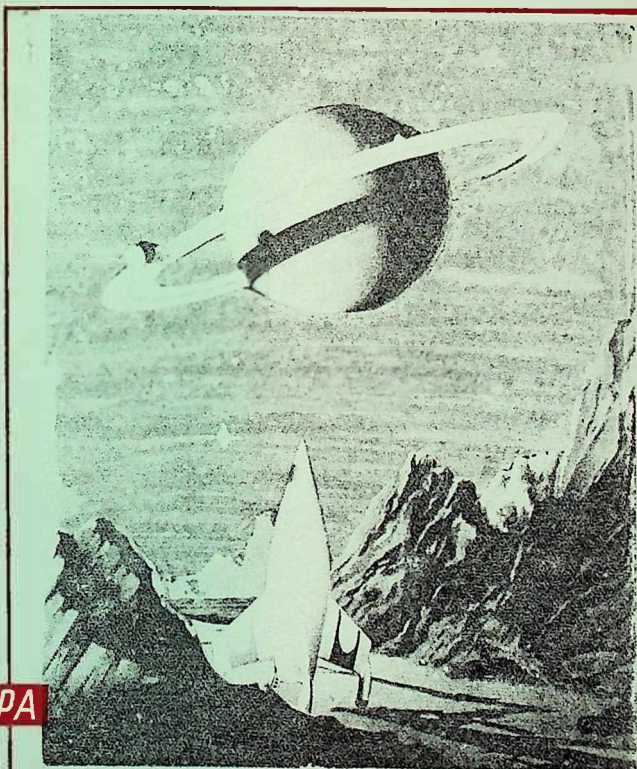
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AUTHOR STORY  
LISTING

x x v v

TRADING POST

v v v v



Published by AFPA

ISSUE No. 90  
10-10-57



Presenting the second part of .....

# THE FIRST LENTIFER

by Nigel Jackson.....

He stumped across to the port ,  
peered out over the desert towards the nearby city, and shook  
his fist furiously. This was not the first time he had shown  
signs of open rebellion against the imperious directives of mem-  
bers of the Royal House. Forr, a Rennersman and more cautious ,  
shook his head forebodingly and continued to read the note. Far-  
mondsby turned and came back to the desk.

"Anyone would think he's bring-  
ing a palace, Forr !"

"It could well be so, sir."

"Don't be a nattering groundhog,  
Forr ! He's bringing a blasted harem with him. By the Black  
Nebula, if he thinks I'm prepared to inconvenience my passengers  
and chuck out half their property so that he can enjoy a dozen  
native women, then by God he's got another think coming!"

"But sir, a Crown Prince..."

"Quiet Forr. Get me Barak on  
communico at once."

"But sir...."

"Barak . Get him instantly."

"Sir, if you go against the Crown  
Prince..."

"FOR THE LAST TIME FORR, GET ME  
-BARAK. !"

Forr got Barak. Farmondsby sei-  
zed the receiver and bellowed into it.

"Listen Barak, I want you to get

me the viceroy and....What ? Yes, I said the viceroy. What ? In bed ? I don't care if he's in the Pihni Caves. Raise the viceroy and tell him to pass on the following message to Crown Prince Von Rassel-v. Message begins:

TO CROWN PRINCE VON RASSELOV

MY LORD,

I REGRET I AM UNABLE TO UNLOAD 15 SPW. MAXIMUM WEIGHT POSSIBLE IS 3 SPW. I SUGGEST WOMEN REMAIN BEHIND. THE FOOD SITUATION IS PRECARIOUS AND I COULD NOT FEED THEM. MAY I SEND MY APOLOGIES FOR MY INABILITY TO COMPLY WITH YOUR LORDSHIP'S ORDERS. TRUSTING THIS WILL PROVE ACCEPTABLE TO YOUR LORDSHIP,

TOMAS FARMONDSBY, MASTER OF RUGIS II

Message ends. There, send that to the viceroy immediately."

He cut the communico channel and snapped his fingers triumphantly at Forr.

"Excellent ! " he exclaimed. "That will give Rasselov something to think about. And meanwhile Forr, you may inform the passengers that, subject to their reporting to the purser, they will be free to leave ship from 2.00 this afternoon until 26.00 tomorrow. "

He was rubbing his hands as Forr left.

Three hours later, Forr came catapulting into the C-room without knocking, without saluting and without a cap. He was waving a piece of paper. Before Farmondsby had time to utter a word, the paper was thrust into his hand. It was a message from the viceroy:

TO CAPTAIN FARMONDSBY, MASTER OF RUGIS II

CROWN PRINCE VON RASSELOV HAS EXPRESSED HIS EXTREME DISPLEASURE WITH YOUR REPLY, AND HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT HE WILL MAKE A CEREMONIAL VISIT AT 2.30 GS TODAY. HE INSIST ON SEEING HIS LUGGAGE COMPLETELY STOWED

BY THIS TIME, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE GIRL WHOME HE WILL BRING WITH HIM. THE ENTIRE COMPLEMENT OF PASSENGERS AND CREW WILL BE PRESENT OUTSIDE THE SHIP TO WELCOME THE CROWN PRINCE WHEN HE ARRIVES. CONTRAVENTION OF THESE ORDERS WILL BE REGARDED AS HIGH TREASON.

FOR THE CROWN PRINCE

BARTHIS MANTON, VICEROY

"A ceremonial visit in one hour! Good God Forr, the pompous, conceited little popinjay! And there's nothing we can do about it, either. Dammit Forr, it takes me an hour to get into my confounded uniform. Why don't the devils give us some warning?"

Farmondsby threw the note on the floor, and reared upright.

"Very well then, Forr. You will inform the passengers of their duty and then have Galley put out some refreshments in the Stateroom."

"Aye, sir."

"I'm going aft to change, and you'd better do so too, as soon as you can. Get the main lock open while you're here."

"Very good, sir. And...er, sir...?"

"Yes?"

"Shall I give ..er orders for the luggage to be taken and stowed?"

"What? SHALL YOU WHAT, Mr. Forr? Mr. Forr, just exactly who and what would you kick off the ship to accomplish that?"

"Well, sir, I thought...er that..."

"Well, stop thinking anything of the kind. I'm not loading. It's high time someone stood up to these rogues and told them a thing or two in their own language"

"But sir," argued Forr desperately, "you saw what he said in the message. He'll have your head if you don't comply."

"Mr. Forr, I command this ship. You will carry out my orders, or by the Red Lissarak, I'll put you in the brig and court-martial you in space !"

"Yes, sir."

Farmondsby turned. "Ceremonial visit , Arrgh!"

He went out. The room was left suddenly peaceful. Forr wiped his head, groaned hopelessly and picked up the communico.

They met again outside the ship, immaculate in navy blue and scarlet dress uniforms, gold swords swinging at their sides and gold buttons dazzling on their coats. The passengers stood around them, in the cool shadow of the tail assembly talking together in small disgruntled groups, and occasionally throwing angry glances at the nearby city. From overhead, the great yellow sun blazed down on the bruning rocks, and blue mirages shimmered in the surrounding desert. Von Resselov's luggage lay beneath the cargo lock, and with it the beautiful Solistan women, sobbing hopelessly beneath the taut gaze of four armed and emblazoned guards. From time to time the more daring of the passengers would gesture at these and talk furiously to all and sundry who would listen while throughout, Captain Farmondsby remained mute, only his eyes glinting and betraying his feelings.

By remarkable munificence, the Crown Prince was only three quarters of a galactic hour late, during which time those who waited for him passed through every degree of exasperation from irritation to fury. He came in a shining crimson beetle car, preceded by four guards on helicycles, and a murmur passed through the crowd when they saw the anger written on his face.

With him in the car was the Solistan girl, very brown-skinned, but otherwise unchanged from the original Solarian stock. She was almost naked, clad merely in a ragged drape which encircled her trim hips. Her eyes were red from crying, and there were bruises on her face. Von Rasselov beckoned 2 guards forward, pointing towards the girl. She was dragged from



the car and thrown upon the ground. A muttering rose from the crowd, quickly silenced by a menacing movement from the guards. Farmondsby remained roused still.

Von Rasselov was a young, black-bearded dandy of barely average height, the loss of which he made up for by his swaggering arrogance. He stared distastefully at the assembly for a full two minutes, then stepped forward to the Captain. Farmondsby looked down at him from his six foot three, & reluctantly saluted. The Crown Prince spoke:

"Captain Tomas Farmondsby?" Icily.

"Yes, my Lord."

"Ah." Arrogant pause. "Why is all my equipment still outthere. Did I not send instructions for it to be taken on board before my arrival?"

"My Lord, I informed the viceroy that I was unable to load fifteen spw of luggage, and suggested that these poor girls be left behind. As it is, they have been here all day in the heat, and '....'"

"Enough. Did I not reaffirm my order?"

"Yes my Lord, and I reaffirmed my decision. I will not load."

The clearly audible combined gasp of the crowd standing about them washed between the two men like a heatwave. Furr's legs began to tremble violently. The Crown Prince drew back a pace, his face black with rage. Then in the pindrop silence there came a sobbing wail from the girl behind him. She was half dead from the searing heat of the sun, and lay outstretched in hopeless supplication to the Prince. Furr realised with a sudden start that he had never seen such beautiful eyes.

In a flash the Prince had turned and was striding towards her. A black knotted whip appeared in his hand, as it had in the hands of many before him. Farmondsby was tense, and around him, the mutterings of the crowd swelled into a rebellious hum. The girl saw the whip and began to scream. Relentlessly Von Rasselov raised his arm, and at that moment,

Captain Tomas Farmondsby made the greatest decision of his life. He broke from the crowd and ran forward.

"Stop, you scarlet fiend ! Leave that poor girl alone ! Stop, or I'll have you gunned !"

Someone in the crowd risked a cheer. Von Rasselov stood temporarily stunned. But it was only temporarily.

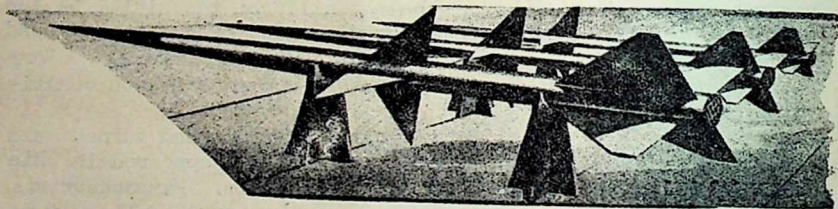
"Seize and hold him !"

Five guards descended on the captain and dragged him back. Forr was panic-stricken and could scarcely stand on his two feet. Meanwhile, the Prince turned once more to the terrified girl, and drew back his arm. She whimpered and struggled to rise up. Only fear kept the crowd back, as it had always done in the past, fear of death and torture. Confidently the Prince prepared to lash the girl.

And so the scene was set for the entry of the first Lentifer in history; a scene which summed up completely the rule of the Solarian Royal House, one of absolute domination and deepest cruelty, and a scene which was to mark the end of the greatest tyranny in galactic history.

To be concluded. ....

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MAGAZINE

Reviews

NEW WORLDS  
SCIENCE FICTION

No. 62

Cover painting by Terry illustrating THE UNINHIBITED, a 3 part serial by Dan Morgan, which commences in this issue.

BOOK OF POWER - archaeology with the usual Bertram Chandler twist is interesting, followed by John Kippax's THE UNDERLING, half SF, half fantasy with a neat ending. MANHUNTER by John Boland is a scientific thriller with abundance of action at conclusion. Philip E. High disappointed slightly with his BURIED TALENT.

A space opera complete with invading aliens, but newcomer Paul McLelland gives us an interesting angle in ACCORDING TO HOYLE.

The issue winds up with Ken Bulmer's NATIVE LAW, but it seems to me that Bulmer is better at the long stories. However, this issue is not a loss, being interesting reading on the whole.

Val Morton

.....

DON'T FORGET MELBOURNE AT EASTER !!!!!!!!!

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

# Galaxy

## SCIENCE FICTION

BRE. No. 53

Cover by Kirberger is very good, but pastels would do better on matt stock. Depicts an artist painting Saturn's rings.

LULU by Clifford Simak is a mediocre comedy about an animated spaceship. THE HARDEST BARGAIN by Evelyn E. Smith presumably is a sequel to THE PIED PIPER. Fair only.

CONFIDENCE GAME by Jim Harmon is an over-complicated time yarn in which Sherlock Holmes takes a hand. Fair. PRIME DIFFERENCE by Allan Nourse - substitution of a robot in the family, but by whom? Quite readable.

LEADING MAN by Lloyd Biggle Jr. is a way to cure the mentally deluded. Better than average. SHOCK TROOP by Daniel Galouye is about the best in the issue. It concerns a race of microscopic aliens who choose the wrong place to live.

More meticulously presented anthology by Willy Ley completes what is generally a poor issue.

Barry Salgram

.....

# NEBULA

No. 23

Front cover by Stark is usual good style and back cover as usual by Thomson. Lead story AGAINST GOLIATH by W. F. Temple - automation brings peace, but underlying tyranny. A good story. LOTHE LIND by H. P. Stratford - spring cleaning on an alien planet. I've read better Stratford.

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY by E. C. Tubb - prodigal returns home - and to a sticky end. Fair. Philip E. High's TIME BOMB, complete with intrigue and dictatorship, has its inter-

esting moments. THE SUCCESSORS is written in usual Bertram Chandler good style. Ian Wright tells how to choose from many in OUT OF THIN AIR. Fair..

L. Major Reynolds THE RIVER (of life and despair) unravels slowly.

Some interesting twists in this issue, but I've read better.

Val Morton.

*Handwritten*  
**SCIENCE FICTION**

BRE. September 1957

Cover by Ensh illustrates Randall Garrett's WHAT'S EATING YOU ? The story has as big a flaw as the illustration. Ensh shows a moonscape with airlocked shelters and a man sitting outside brooding - without protection. We can allow a little for artistic licence, since it would be rather difficult to show emotion inside a space helmet. Garrett, however, would have us believe that any competent doctor must be honest, ethical and, above all, far sighted.

Lee Correy's S Mething in the Sky could explain the failure of America's I.C.B.M. THE QUEEN'S MESSENGER by John J. Maguire had a number of qualifications and a little experience which came in very handy.

The last instalment of THE DAWNING LIGHT by Robert Randall shows the light actually dawning. The Earthmen who were originally demigods and became enemies, now become friends.

This issue is NOT up to standard.

Tony Santos.

*Handwritten*  
MONTAGE COVER BY BINNS & KEATING  
INTERIORS BY MCKELLAND

THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL

**Authentic**

No. 83

Front cover by Kirby illustrating OUT OF REACH by Brian W. Aldiss - story of planet paradise.

UNFIT FOR HUMANS by J. T. McIntosh gives food for thought with Earth's problem of overpopulation. Selection scheme is formed and used on a ballot system - someone has to be unlucky.

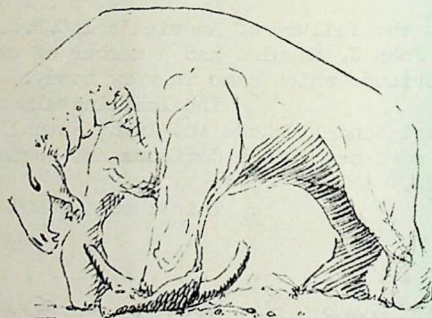
TOPSIDE by Philip E. High - man goes underground to escape extinction and finally returns - strangers to their own planet. Good. NIGHTSIDE AND SUNRISE by Jerome Bixby - whodunit space opera, complete with lovely video star, doctor, murder and general angles. Good.

Bertram Chandler's MOTHER OF INVENTION makes for very good reading. E. C. Tubb's FOOD FOR FRIENDSHIP lacks a little of the author's usual style. A KIND OF IMMORTALITY by Edward MacKin just makes the grade.

On the whole this issue is worth reading.

Val Morton.

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|------------------------|-----------------|------|
| Three to Conquer       | E.F. Russell    | 15/6 |
| Operation Outer Space  | Murray Leinster | 13/3 |
| No Refuge              | John Boland     | 15/6 |
| Brother Bear           | Guy Richards    | 15/6 |
| The Twenty Seventh Day | John Mantley    | 15/6 |
| Seven Days to Never    | Pat Frank       | 18/9 |
| The Insurgents         | Vercors         | 18/9 |
| Of All Possible Worlds | William Tenn    | 15/6 |
| On the Beach           | Nevil Shute     | 15/6 |
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THE LEADING SCIENCE FICTION JOURNAL



# *Tomorrow*

THE WORLD OF SCIENCE FICTION

Editor: L. J. HARDING

Editorial Office: 4 MYRTLE GROVE  
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## Etherline Entities

Number four in our 'Rogues Gallery' is  
KEITH McLELLAND.....

Keith is our official artist, designer etc. He also has a penchant for fantasy illustrating, and the editor always has a hard battle in procuring straight SF illos.

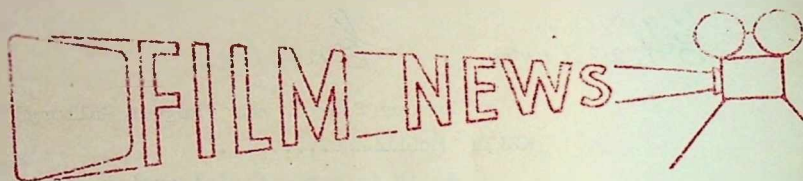
His job is something to do with the hush hush rocket projects, and takes a lot of his time. Keith is in his late twenties, a bachelor and drives a Citroen - we all seem to drive off trail cars..... Maybe something to do with SF.....

He is interested in chess, antique firearms and UNKNOWN. He is known to tilt a glass occasionally, and is not averse to female company, though to date he has avoided serious entanglements, lucky him! Ouch! I'm sorry!

MELBOURNIAN

.....





Among the lineup of new films in release in U.K. & U.S. are : THE MAN WITHOUT A BODY (Brit.) starring Robert Hutton George Coulouris and Julia Arnell, produced by Guido Coen, directed by W. Wilder & Charles Saunders, screenplay by William Grote.

ESCAPEMENT (Brit.) starring Rod Cameron, Mary Murphy and Meredith Edwards, produced by Alec Snowden, directed by Montgomery Tully.

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN (Brit) starring Forrest Tucker and Peter Cushing, directed by Val Guest, produced by Aubrey Bar - ing, screenplay by Nigel (QUATERMASS) Kneale.

KRONOS (Amer.) starring Jeff Morrow, Barbara Lawrence and John Emery, produced and directed by Kurt Neumann, screenplay by Lawrence Louis Goldman.

VOODOO WOMAN (Amer.) starring Marla English and Tom Conway, directed by Edward Cahn, produced by Alex Gordon.

NOT OF THIS EARTH (Amer.) starring Paul Birch and Beverly Garland, produced and directed by Roger Corman, screenplay by Charles Griffith and Mark Hanna.

QUATERMASS II (Brit.) starring Brian Donlevey and John Longden, produced by Michael Carreras, directed by Val Guest, screenplay by Nigel Kneale and Val Guest.

THE TWENTYSEVENTH DAY (Amer.) starring Gene Barry and Valerie French, produced by Helen Ainsworth, directed by William

Asher, screenplay by John Mantley.

BACK FROM THE DEAD (Amer.) starring Peggie Castle and Arthur Franz, produced by Robert Stabler, directed by Charles Marquis Warren, screenplay by Catherine Turney.

UNKNOWN TERROR (Amer.) starring John Howard and Mala Powers, produced by Robert Stabler, directed by Charles Marquis Warren, screenplay by Kenneth Higgins.

SHE DEVIL (Amer.) starring Mari Blanchard and Jack Kelly, produced by Kurt Neumann, directed by Kurt Neumann, screenplay by Kurt Neumann and Carrol Young, from THE ADAPTIVE ULTIMATE by John Jessel.

That's quite a line up, and they are all in release, not just mooted.

Boris Karloff has been signed by Amalgamated Productions to star in DRACULA'S REVENGE to roll Oct. 1 at MGM's London studios, in black & white CinemaScope.

Sold recently to U.S. TV was a horror package comprising FRANK NSTEIN, DRACULA, THE INVISIBLE MAN, THE MUMMY, HOUSE OF HORRORS, WEREWOLF OF LONDON, THE CAT CREEPS and HORROR ISLAND.

THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN will be released throughout the world by 20th Century Fox, with the exception of U.K. and Japan.

Final gross for FORBIDDEN PLANET was in the vicinity of \$ 4,500,000, announced producer Nicolas Nayfack.

Leon Stone.....

+++++

DON'T FORGET THE FILM NIGHT, OCTOBER 25th !!



# AUTHOR STORY LISTING

NO. 48.

ROBERT ABERNATHY

Compiled by

Donald H. Tuck.

A high-class U.S. author of occasional appearance since his first story HERITAGE (ASF Jun'42)

## STORIES

- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Axolotl.s                | MF Jan'54, MF Aust ≠ 4,<br>AB 26      |
| 2. Canal Builders, The.s    | ASF Jan'45                            |
| 3. Captain's Getaway, The.s | OSF ≠ 1                               |
| 4. Dead-Star Rover, The.nv  | PS Win'49                             |
| 5. Failure on Titan.s       | PS Win'47                             |
| 6. Firefighter, The.s       | MF Mar'54                             |
| 7. Fishers, The.nv          | MF Dec'54                             |
| 8. Four Commandments, The.s | SFQ Feb'53                            |
| 9. Giants Return, The.s     | PS Fal'49                             |
| 10. Grandma's Lie Soap. s   | FU Feb'56                             |
| 11. Guzzler, The.s          | SFQ May'55                            |
| 12. Heirs Apparent.nv       | MF Jun'54, MF Aust ≠ 5,<br>AB25, AB26 |
| 13. Heritage.nv             | ASF Jun'42, A01                       |
| 14. Hostage of Tomorrow.nv  | PS Spr'49                             |
| 15. Hour Without Glory.s    | MF Jul'56, MF Aust ≠ 9                |
| 16. Junior.s                | GS Jan'56, AS46                       |
| 17. Laugh, The.s            | FU. Jun'56                            |



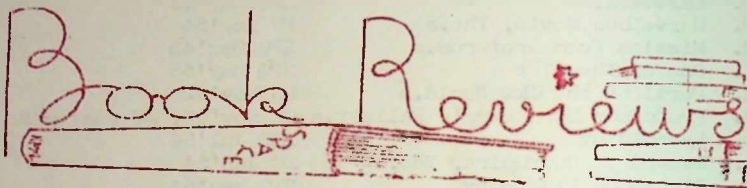
- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 18. Lifework.nv                     | SFQ May'43             |
| 19. Marvelous Movie, The.s          | FF Aug'54              |
| 20. Mission from Arcturus.s         | SFQ Spr'43             |
| 21. One of Them ? s                 | SFQ May'56             |
| 22. Peril of the Blue World.s       | PS Nov'42              |
| 23. Professor Sci ncker's Fallacy.s | MF Nov'53, MF Aust # 8 |
| 24. Pyramid.nv                      | ASF Jul'54             |
| 25. Record of Currupira, The.s      | FU Jan'54              |
| 26. Righteous Plague.nv             | SFQ May'51             |
| 27. Rotifers, The.s                 | If Mar'53, AF17        |
| 28. Saboteur of Space.s             | PS Spr'44, TSF Fal'53  |
| 29. Single Combat.s                 | MF Jan'55              |
| 30. Strange Exodus.s                | PS Fal'50              |
| 31. Tag.s                           | BFF Jan'54             |
| 32. Thousandth Year, The.nv         | ASF Apr'54             |
| 33. Tower of Babbble, The.s         | AS Jun'50              |
| 34. Ultimate Peril, The.n           | AS Mar'50              |
| 35. When the Mountain Shook.s       | If Mar'54              |
| 36. When the Rockets Come.s         | ASF Mar'45             |
| 37. World of the Drone.n            | I Jan'55               |
| 39. Year 2000, The.s                | MF Jan'56              |

.....  
Next Author :

RAY BRADBURY

.....





## Charles Eric Maine

*High Vacuum*

Published by  
Hodder & Stoughton, London.  
Available from McGills, at 15/6

This story deals with the major enemy on the Moon, and in space - vacuum. The first party to land on the Moon find trouble - the rocket is leaking, the area on which it pranged is highly radioactive - and they find that one crew member has been crushed to death, and his wife is a stowaway aboard.

The story then deals with the struggle for survival, and the trouble with the female stowaway. A readable story - even though the plot may be vaguely familiar.

Bob McCubbin

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# MELBOURNE S.F. CLUB REPORT

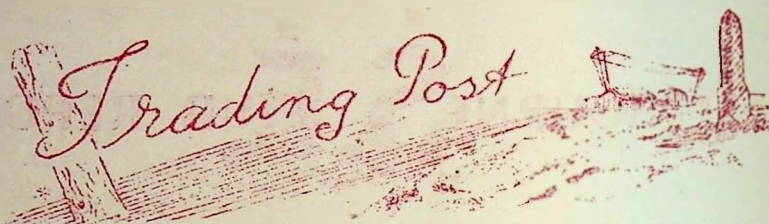
On Wednesday, September 7th, Ian Crozier, Tony Santos and Mr. & Mrs. Bob McCubbin visited the Upwey home of Jack Bristowe. The weather was foul - we were nearly washed off the road going up, and blown off coming back. However the purpose of the visit - to tee up a barbecue site for the Convention - was achieved. See the next Convention Release for full details.

We wish Floss Bristowe's father, at present in hospital, a speedy recovery.

Mike McHugh, our Air Force type, has been posted to Hong Kong. Mike and family are scheduled to leave in November - but, in the Air Force, all dates are tentative - very ! We all hope the McHugh's enjoy their Oriental type interlude.

Bob McCubbin explains that the battered condition of his face is due to being side-swiped by a load of galvanised iron in Bridge Road at 8 AM one recent morning, not to a household tiff ! The driver apologised for not having a red flag at the end of the load.

A very successful film evening was held last Friday night, when over 25 fans attended the clubrooms to witness THEI. After some trouble at the start (our regular projectionist was not present) it settled down to a very enjoyable showing. Next showing will be October 25th, when we will be screening CONQUEST OF EVEREST.



R. Smith, 1 Timor St., Puckapunyal, Vic ,  
has the following US items for sale:

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SPACE TUG (Leinster) 3/- PB.  
AMAZING: Jul '54, Sep '55. 3/- each  
THRILLING WONDER Dec '49 (no cover) 2/6  
COMPLETE BOOK OF OUTER SPACE 5/- HC  
LINE TO TOMORROW (Padgett) 3/- PB  
THE SCREAMING MIDWINTER (Brown) 3/- PB.  
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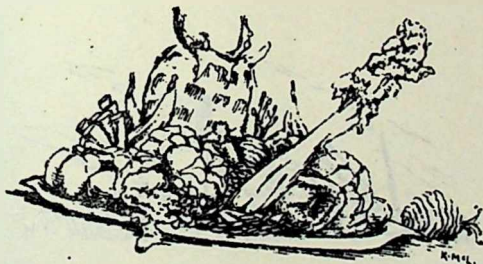
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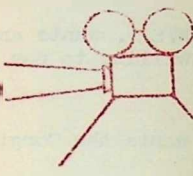
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# FILM NEWS



## GODZILLA

Transworld Films Release.

Starring and narrated by Raymond Burr.

Strangely enough, this one has no credits at all listed, but it is a Japanese production with only the principle leads speaking English.

GODZILLA is a typical 'monster from the deep' film, but a little better than the usual run of the mill BEMS that I've had to put up with lately.

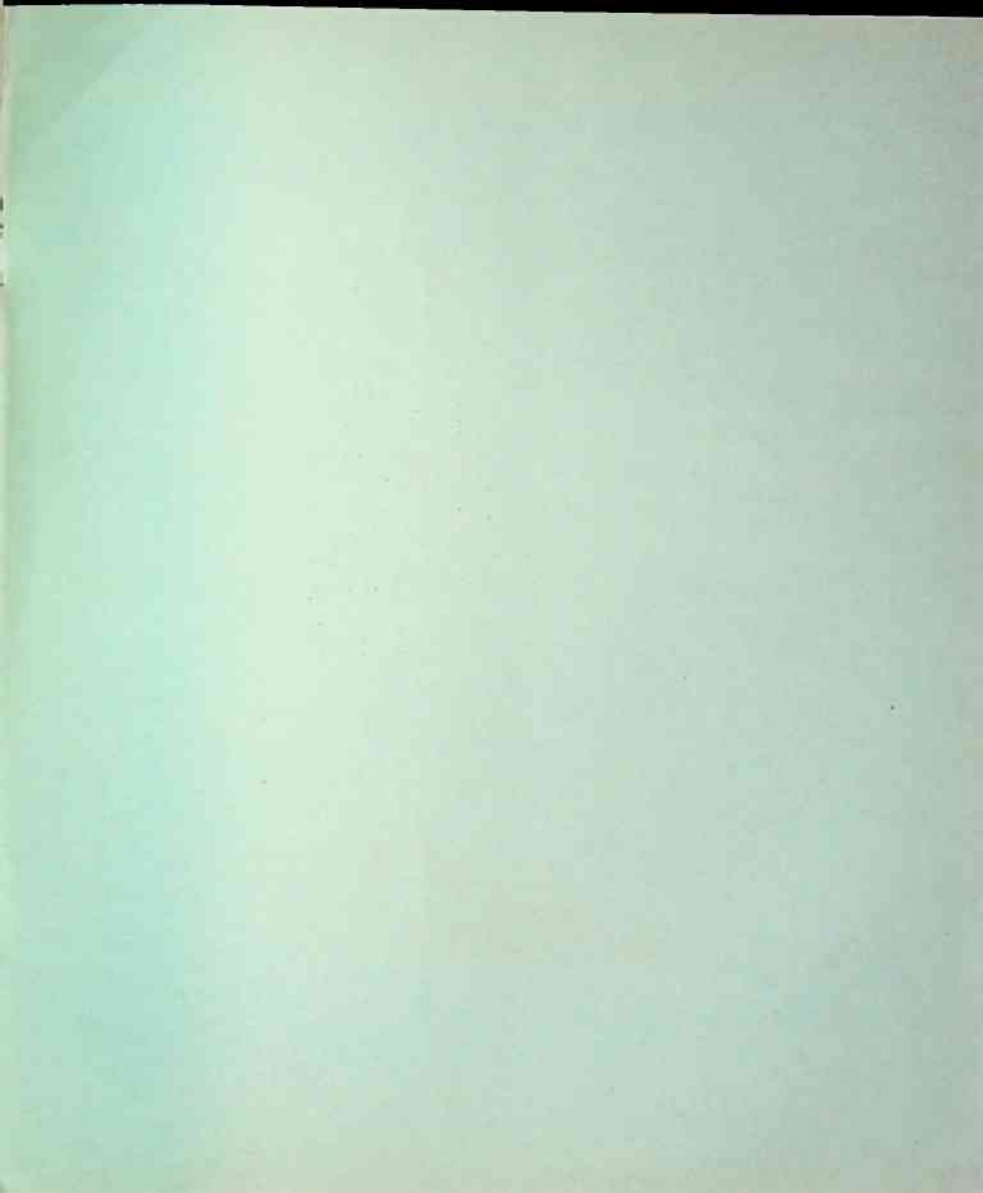
The photographic scenes of GODZILLA wrecking Tokyo are very well done and are the highlights of what is otherwise just a film.

Val Morton.

.....







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