

NEWS
WHILE
IT'S
HOT!

FANTASY-NEWS

the sciencefiction weekly newspaper.

PRICE:
THREE
ISSUES
TEN
CENTS.

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 13

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1940

WHOLE NUMBER 91

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES GOES SMALL SIZE AND BI-MONTHLY!

AMAZING'S AND FANTASTIC'S FUTURE LINE-UP REVEALED!!!

EXCLUSIVE - By airmail from our
Chicago Correspondent.

Yes, heart-rending as it seems fantastic as it sounds, and incomprehensible as it is -- FANTASTIC ADVENTURES, the answer to fandom's greatest prayer, the only professional large size sciencefiction magazine is about to go bi-monthly and revert to a small size format. This information and the following details were revealed to your reporter in an exclusive interview on Monday morning, March 11th, with Raymond A. Palmer and David Verne of the ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLISHING COMP.

Beginning with the June or July issue, FANTASTIC ADVENTURES will become a small size, untrimmed 146 page magazine, exactly like its companion, AMAZING STORIES. This decision was not reached overnight, but has been debated and contemplated for some months, and the results are soon to be made evident.

For a while it was thought, by the ZIFF-DAVIS offices, that FA was to be unparalleled in its circulation, and consequential success. For many months it actually did show its heels to the other leading stf mags - AMAZING included. But since Jan 1940, FA has been the victim of a steady decline in circulation.

The question (Cont'd next Col.)

was at once raised: "Why this sudden cessation of popularity?" The editorial staff immediately set about answering this question.

Each fan letter that came into the editorial offices was minutely examined. As time wore on, these labors bore fruit. The answer was found.

Much to the consternation of the Editors, it was made plain that the large size which fandom has so enthusiastically applauded was unpopular! So unpopular that circulation figures began to drop. Readers were writing in demanding a small size magazine like AMAZING STORIES. Demanding a magazine easy to hold, file, and fit into back pockets! The magazine which has given us the splendid large Paul back cover series, which has given us the wonderful format we had wished for, is to be decreased in size because the majority of its readers cannot carry it around in their back pockets!

Ray is as gloomy over the matter as you or I. But unfortunately as Ray says: "Business is business. We cannot afford to cater to 200 active fans when the majority of our buyers disagree." With either the June or July issue, therefore, unless a miracle intervenes beforehand, FANTASTIC ADVENTURES will go small size, 146 pages, untrimmed edges, and bi-monthly, for at least two issues, as an experiment.

While I was discussing this situation with Ray (Con. P. 3, Col. 1)

FANTASY NEWS is published every week by William S. Sykora at 31-51 41st Street, Long Island City, N.Y. EDITOR: Will Sykora.

ASSOCIATES: Jimmy Taurasi, Sam Moskowitz, Mario Racic, Jr.

RATES: 3 issues 10¢, 9 issues 30¢, 30 issues \$1.00, 52 issues (1 yr.) \$1.50. (NO STAMPS PLEASE)

AD RATES: Full page \$1.00, 1/2 page 50¢, 1/4 page 25¢.

B O O S T S C I E N C E F I C T I O N

GUEST EDITORIAL by John Wasso, Jr.

The following is a copy of a letter which I have sent both to "The Eyrie", in WEIRD TALES and to Mr. Delaney, the publisher. WE MUST GET FARNSWORTH BACK!:-

I have just received the May issue of WEIRD TALES. There is something unmistakably wrong about the whole magazine. Something seems to be missing. Perhaps it is Farnsworth Wright???

Please - for the sake of old times and for the sake of old-timers like myself - get rid of Hannes Bok before another day dawns. Bok elsewhere, yes, but not in WEIRD TALES.

If you let WT degenerate into a cheap horror mag, then I'll lose my faith in humanity. WT was the last outpost of imaginative intelligence - that is what set it apart from the cheap horror and terror mags.

What if WT is losing money at present? It is only temporary. You will not gain anything and will lose a lot by cheapening this fine publication and attempting to bring it to the low level in literature occupied by its crude competitors.

I've been supporting WT since 1923 and I hate to see my favorite means of solace and comfort come to such an inglorious end.

(Editorial note: Mr. Wasso's letter, printed above, expresses the opinion of one of the old-time readers of WEIRD TALES. It does not necessarily express the opinion of the editorial staff of FANTASY NEWS, but is published merely for the interest or comment of our readers. (wss))

FAN MAG REVIEW by Harry Warner, Jr.

STARDUST: Vol.1, no.2. 24 large size beautifully printed pp, slick paper, illustrated. Great cover by Binder, inner material by Ley, Williams, Tarr, Long, Ackerman, Hornig, Geier, and departments. Superlative, and essential at 20¢. From Bill Hamling, 2609 Argyle St, Chicago, Illinois.

PLUTO: Vol.1, no.1. 14 large well hectored pp, excellent humorous material. Material a little scientific, but good. A dime, from Marvis Manning, Decker, Indiana.

MIDWEST FANNEWS: Vol.1, no.3. 5 pp of news and gossip. A nickel, 3156 Cambridge Ave, Chicago, Ill.

MILTY'S MAG: Vol.1, no.1. For FAPA members. 6 large mimeod pp of excellent stuff even if you don't agree. 2020 F NW, Washington, D.C.

ESCAPE: VOL.1, no.6. 10 large mimeod pp of everything under the sun. A nickel.

FANTAHASH: no.1. The same, only more so. Price: ??.

SCIENCE FICTION WEEKLY: Vol.1, no.3 4 pp of news, well mimeod. 5¢. Last three mags all from 2574 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Note: The S-F Debater, FAPA mag, discontinued. (wss)

Richard B. Crain, 1734 Willow Av, Weehawken, N.J., is planning a new fan magazine, somewhat similar to "Golden Atom", but featuring more variety. He needs material. (hw)

Van Houten would like to make it public that the latest "Van Houten Says" has been stenciled for weeks but that Sykora hasn't found time to mimeo it. (O.K. Ray, will do it with this ish of FN. wss)

----- (sm) -----
"Fantasy Scout", once a supplement to FANTASY NEWS, will be revived again by Sam Moskowitz and James V. Taurasi. It is hoped that the about-to-be-formed Newark SFL will adopt it as their official organ. Some issues may be sent out with Fantasy News. (sm)

The PSFS NEWS, a bi-weekly newsheet published by the Philadelphia Science (Con. P. 4, Col.1)

FANTASTIC ADVENTURES GOES BIMONTHLY

Cont'd from Page One: Dave Verne suddenly interrupted and began to outline a story to us. When he had finished, he asked us what we thought of it, and we agreed that it was good. As a result, Floyd Gale, brother of H.L. Gold, has sold his first story, a 5000 word short tentatively titled: "Pay-off Asteroid".

The June issue of AMAZING STORIES is to be a special all-interplanetary number. The lineup, (titles not yet chosen) is as follows: Don Wilcox with a 20,000 worder, Ed Earl Repp with 10,000 words, Ross Rocklyne with 7500 words, David Wright O'Brien, (Farnsworth Wright's nephew) with the cover story, tentatively titled "Trapped On Titan" and 10,000 words long, Festus Pragnell with a 7000 word sequel to his popular "Ghost Of Mars", and new author Floyd Gale with his 5000 word short. The cover is to be done by Krupa.

The June FANTASTIC ADVENTURES will lead off with "Doctor Destiny" the cover story, of 20,000 words by Robert Moore Williams. Robert O. Lewis contributes a 2000 word short Peter Horn is back again with a 5500 worder, and Nelson S. Bond pens a 7500 word yarn. The cover is by Mulford.

I then brought up the question of Neil R. Jones and the "Professor Jameson" series, so popular a few years back, and learned from both Dave and Ray, this much: AMAZING STORIES wants strong plotting and good action in its yarns. Professor Jameson has always utilized beauty of setting, etc., for his popularity. Too, Dave says that he has had difficulty in working with Neil R. Jones, the originator of the series. It seems that Jones refuses to instill the requisite action and a zippy plot into his Jameson yarns. So until someone gives in, the issue is at deadlock.

This closes another monthly meeting with the editors of AS and your reporter, so until next month - I'll be seeing you -- WITH PALMER.
(WLHamling)

GET A PRESS CARD! BE AN FN REPORTER

THE CINCINNATI SFL REPORTS THAT:

A notice of our meeting inserted in one of the local papers brought good results to the Cincinnati club recently. Three new fellows dropped around and pledged themselves to be regulars.

The new members are:

Ingolf Otto,

Creighton Buck,

Fred Henry Bruch,

and all are university students. They also have other prospects at hand.

We believe that the Cincinnati Chapter now possesses the distinction of being the weekly club with the greatest number of regular attendants. At least eight meet every Friday night.

(Dale Tarr, Sec'y.)

*** SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FAN SOCIETY

THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz.

VISITORS WEEK AT 11th St.!---

Norman Holloway of Union, N.J., Bob Studley of Bklyn, N.Y., Dick Crain of Weehawken, and Ray Van Houten of Paterson (with something big up his sleeve!) visited the house of Moskowitz and NEW FANDOM the wk of Mar 3rd... "If I Make a Wish" is a "delightful fantastic" by Robert Arthur, Jr. coming soon in ARGOSY. It's a novelle... Binder's "The Man Who Saw Too Late" in FANTASTIC ADVENTURES was originally titled "Delayed Vision"...

SCIENTIFIRADIC by Our Readers.

WMCA Mon, Mar, 18th begins stf series "Insidious Dr. Fu Manchu" at 7:30 P.M. (bs) --- WABC Mon, Wed, Fri, often features fantasy. Three such last month concerned dead mother returning to her son in form of little girl, father of a girl appearing before her and warning of a menace 10 minutes after he died!, and a trip of a boy and girl into the future on a time machine where they meet one of their descendants. These are on the air at 11:00AM(sm)

ODD ITEMS by FN Reporters: Frank R. PAUL has sold PLANET STORIES two drawings, one illustrating a Ray Cummings yarn. (bs) --- Ricard Frank, BIZARRE SERIES, is bringing out a new one by Dr. Keller, "Thing In The Cellar", autographed. 25¢. (hw)

NEW FANTASY BOOKS!

The following new fantasie are to be published between now and June 1940:

TITLES:

1. "The Twenty Fourth Hour."
2. "The Story of Mona Sherry"
3. "The Road To Endor"
4. "The First To Awaken"
5. "The Devil and the Doctor"
6. "Life On Other Worlds"
7. "The Shadow Of Atlantis"
8. "Utopia, Inc."

AUTHORS:

1. Herbert Best.
2. Lord Dunsany.
3. Esther Barstow Hammond.
4. Richard M. Bennett.
5. David H. Keller, M.D.
6. H. Spencer Jones.
7. Colonel Alexandre Bragline.
8. Herman Everett Gieske.

PUBLISHERS:

1. Random House.
2. Harper Bros.
3. Farrar and Rinehart.
4. Modern Age Books.
5. Simon and Schuster.
6. MacMillan.
7. E.P. Dutton and Co.
8. Fortuny's.

WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT:

1. Last civilized man and woman.
2. Story of little people.
3. Salem witchcraft.
4. Story of 100 years hence.
5. A man retires to write the autobiography of the devil.
6. Probabilities of life on other worlds taken from a scientific viewpoint.
7. Atlantis.
8. A modern atlantis.

(WCLiebscher)

FAN MAG NEWS Cont'd: Fiction Society needs subscriptions. The mag is good. 5¢ from Bob Madle, 333 E. Belgrade, Phila, Pa. Try it! --- (sm) --- Beg Pardon: Bob Studley is not quitting the staff of "The Scientifical" but is carrying on with both it and Dick Crain's projected mag. The latter will be called "Cosmic Collector", which is combining with Giunta's "Cosmic-Scienti-Tales" (n.c)

SCIENTIFILMS by Mario Racio, Jr.

HAL ROACH has decided to present his two young stars, Carole Landis and John Hubbard, in the company of some of Hollywood's most prominent players in the new ROACH production, "Turnabout". Miss Landis, who will soon be seen in "One Million B.C." and John Hubbard, will participate in "Turnabout" with Adolphe Menjou, William Garagan, Mary Astor, Verree Teasdale, Franklin Pangborn, Joyce Compton, Margaret Roach, Donald Meek, Polly Ann Young, and Inez Courtney. "Turnabout" is from the pen of the late Thorne (Topper) Smith and includes some of the most satirical writings of that best-selling author.

Jo Ann Sayers has been signed by COLUMBIA for the romantic lead opposite Roger Pryor in "The Man Who Would Not Die", which stars Boris Karloff.

Robert Louis Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" will be filmed for the third time by METRO-GOLD-WYN-MAYER, with Robert Donat in the dual title role. Screen rights to the property were acquired from PARAMOUNT which produced the picture in 1920 with John Barrymore, and again in 1932 with Frederic March and Miriam Hopkins.

On p. 38-39 of CUE, the Weekly Magazine of New York Life, appear two closeups of Boris (Mad Surgeon) Karloff and Bela (Dracula) Lugosi, which you will want for your collection. On p. 15 of the same issue, moviegoers are invited to formulate their idea of heaven by voting for the pictures they would like to see most. Stfans, here is your chance to make your wants known. We suggest you write to CUE, 6 East 39th St, New York, N.Y. listing your favorite stfilms you would like to see revived.

FMN CON: Giunta's sub list and all mat'l including two Lovecraft stories are being turned over to the new mag. "The Scientifical" as well as the CC will have a new cover artist who is trying to break into the pros. Si's next cover will be mimeod on heavy colored paper. (bs)

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FANTASY NEWS. IF YOU LIKE IT, THEY WILL LIKE IT!!