

## Leinster, Hawkins In Nov. Startling

The November issue of Startling Stories will have a long novel by Murray Leinster titled "The Other World." The Hall of Fame classic will be Ward Hawkins' novelet, "Man Must Die." Virgil Finlay will illustrate the Leinster yarn and Bergey will do the cover.

## MASON SERIES STARTS IN OCT. FFM; EDITOR VACATIONS IN FRANCE

The first of a series of stories by E. B. Mason will accompany A. Merritt's "Dweller's in the Mirage" in the September issue of Fantastic Novels. The actual story is as yet unchosen and will depend on space considerations. Mason is the author of "Black Butterfly."

The October Famous Fantastic Mysteries will have "The Starkenden Quest" by Gilbert Collins, "The Living Portrait" by the late Todd Robbins, and an as yet untitled yarn by Margaret St. Clair.

Mary Gneadinger, editor of the mags, will leave shortly for a three week vacation in France. She expects to be back at work on June 20.

## Todd Robbins Is Dead

Clarence A. (Todd) Robbins, author and former star athlete, died Tuesday, May 10, in St. Jean Cap Ferrat, France. He had lived on the Riviera for a number of years.

Shortly after graduating from Washington and Lee University in 1910, he turned to fiction writing and attained fame in his best sellers, "The Unholy Three," "The Man Who Lost Himself," and "Wicked Women."

Mr. Robbins was a graduate of the Polytechnic Preparatory Country Day School in Brooklyn, N. Y. His father was Clarence H. Robbins, an amateur jockey and horseman. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Naomi Adams Robbins, and two sons, Norman H. and John A. Robbins. He was interred in Nice, France.

## CELEBRITIES AT QUEENS SFL



—Photo by Walter Cole

L. to R., Front Row: Larry Harris, Jay Klein, Frank Belknap Long, Willy Ley. Second Row: Rickey Slavin, Frances Sykora, Annabelle Sykora, Mrs. Jenkins, Virginia Jenkins, Will Fitzgerald Jenkins, Raymond Z. Gallun. Third Row: Manuel Martinez, Paul Renaut, Frank Maher, Lee Quinn. Back Row: Will Sykora, Marion Popper, Don Davila.

## Raymond Z. Gallun, Will F. Jenkins, Willy Ley, F. Belknap Long Speak at Queens SFL

Four "science fiction greats" attended the regular membership meeting of the Queens Science Fiction League on May 15 held in the Chapter's club-room in Long Island City.

They were William Fitzgerald Jenkins, known to the sfan the world over as Murray Leinster; Willy Ley, internationally known rocketry expert; Frank Belknap Long, well-known author and personal friend of the late H. P. Lovecraft, and Raymond Z. Gallun, old-time author of many stories in the old Gernsback Amazings and Science Wonders, who is now staging a strong come-back.

Mr. Jenkins, formerly of the Office of War Information, told how war scientists appropriated ideas from science fiction magazines and used them to invent gadgets to plague the Nazis. He spoke of one project which is estimated to have kept hundreds of Germany's top scientists busy throughout the war. This was a complicated electrical ap-

paratus, full of a complex network of wires, tubes, meters, crystals, and other instruments, which looked and acted like a wonderful war invention but actually did absolutely nothing. After construction, one or two 50 mm. machine gun bullets would be shot through the doo-hickey, and it was then allowed to get into enemy hands. It was only after months of painstaking reconstruction by expert Nazi technicians that the great brains of the enemy scientific corps were finally able to discover what the jigger was supposed to do, which was exactly nothing.

Mr. Jenkins was accompanied by Mrs. Jenkins and their two daughters.

Willy Ley disclosed the fact that absolutely no further scientific knowledge or technological development is needed to construct a rocket that would safely put a man on the moon. All that is needed is someone

(Continued on page two)

## Wylie's 'Gladiator' In Avon Pocket Book

Donald A. Wollheim, editor of Avon Fantasy Reader, reports that Avon have contracted for the publication in pocket-size form of Philip Wylie's famous fantasy novel, so long sought after by collectors, "The Gladiator." This will appear about September as number 216 of the Avon Library.

"Gladiator" is probably the first of the Superman type of novel, and was certainly the direct inspiration of the famous comic-strip character—though "Gladiator" is a serious, satirical novel.

The protagonist of the Wylie novel is a young man, raised by scientific means by an experimenter father, to have almost unlimited strength and endurance. The efforts of this man to make himself useful in the world, his troubles and disillusionment, are brilliantly handled. The concluding scene in a lost Cyclopean city in the jungles of Yucatan is of especial science-fiction interest.

Avon also have reprinted Don Prince's fantastic novel "Tom" in a new newstand edition under the title "Tom's Temptations." This should be on sale in a few days.

## Quinn Announces Tour to C invention for \$55

Lee D. Quinn announced on May 15 at the Queens SFL meeting that he is making arrangements to conduct an all-expense tour to the World Science Fiction Convention over the Labor Day weekend at a cost of \$55.

The price includes rail road fare, meals, single hotel room, and tips for two nights and three days.

If 15 or more fans make the trip together, there will be a reduction on the rail road fare resulting in a further saving of \$8.00.

Interested readers may contact Mr. Quinn in care of this newspaper.

**FANTASY-NEWS**

published every week by  
William S. Sykora

P. O. Box 4, Steinway Station  
Long Island City, New York

Vol. XI May 29, 1949 No. 8

Editor . . . . . Frances Alberti  
Business Manager . . Will Sykora

Subscription: \$2.50 annually,  
single copies 10c. No stamps.

Advertisers: Write for rates.

Note: Make all checks or money  
orders payable to William  
S. Sykora.

**Boost Science Fiction**

**EDITORIAL**

By Frances Alberti

With this issue of *Fantasy-News* we are changing the date-line to bring it into line with the approximate date the paper reaches subscribers.

**QSFL MEETING**

(Continued from page one)

with funds to write out a check for a hundred million dollars, after which about four years of work would see such a man-carrying rocket ready to take off.

Frank Belknap Long gave his opinions on the form a science fiction story of the future would take. He also discussed the differences in writing style of two authors writing independently and also in collaboration, indicating cases where the style of the joint effort may be entirely different from the normal styles of the collaborators. As a purely speculative example, he mentioned the possibility of Lewis Padgett being a Henry Kuttner—C. L. Moore combination, resulting in a style of writing different from and superior in some ways to the styles of the individual authors.

Raymond Z. Gallun spoke of his interviews with Paul Payne of Planet and Sam Merwin Jr. of Startling and TWS. He is now working on stories which may appear in each of these magazines.

A turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served after the meeting by Secretary-Treasurer Frances Sykora. Details of the dinner will appear next week.

A report of this meeting received a double column headline on page six of the May 18 issue of the Long Island Daily

**W. LEY REPORTS ON 'SECOND LUNGFISH'; CORRECTS ERROR IN FANTASY-NEWS 181**

Correcting an error in Number 181 of this newspaper in reporting on his projected new book tentatively known as the "Second Lungfish," Willy Ley, stf author and rocket expert, in a letter dated May 10, writes as follows:

"Thank you for your recent letter and for the various issues of *Fantasy-News* which I have read carefully, even though by now many of the items were no longer strictly 'news' to me.

"In your item about the second Lungfish you made me weep. You say that ten of the eighteen chapters are written, what I think I told you is that I have ten themes for chapters and want about eighteen. By now I have twelve themes all right, but only three chapters are actually written as of today. However, because of the delay of the Bonestell-Ley book there is time, my publisher could not bring it up any earlier than late Spring 1950 and that means that he needs the complete manuscript around October 1.

"Some of themes I am going to cover in this book are 'The Forest of the Dinosaurs' which is the story of the two sequoias, the Redwood and the Big Trees, and especially the story of Metasequoia, the ancestor of the Redwoods which has just been discovered alive in China, and of which seedlings are now growing in several American botanical gardens. Another one is 'Green Fossil,' the story of the Ginkgo tree which is a living fossil too and has become the most hardy of all city trees. One chapter has the title 'The Return of a Native,' which means the camel, originally an American form which survived only in the Old World and which was supposed to be re-introduced to America during the Civil War. (It did not work.)

"Then there will be a chapter 'Footprints in Red Sandstone,'

Star-Journal. As a result of the meeting, the Long Island Press interviewed Mr. Jenkins on Friday, May 20, for a feature article in the Sunday supplement.

the story of an early dinosaur of which nothing was found for more than a century but footprints. A German professor by the name of Soergel devoted several years of his leisure to a very careful study of these prints and reconstructed the probable appearance of the reptile. Some twenty years later an American found it in South America—Soergel had hit a bullseye with his reconstruction.

"Of course, there will be the story of the Takahe of New Zealand, a large bird incapable of flight which was discovered fossil first, then discovered alive round once more, believed extinct, and found again. The last discovery was in 1898 and it was once more believed extinct but has been photographed at the shore of Lake Te Anau (South Isld.) last year.

"And there will be the story of Pere David's Deer which existed only in the Imperial Park near Peking, was then completely killed off during the Boxer Rebellion but still saved because a small herd had been transferred to Woburn Abbey on the estates of the Duke of Bedford. The Duke just informed me by letter how they are doing now, which is well. It may amuse you that the Chinese name of this animal is 'Not like four,' meaning 'not like an ass, not like a deer, not like a goat, and not like an ox.' Well, this is Chinese.

**Lists Items Just Sold**

"As for articles not published yet, I can name a few:

"A piece on this Pere David's Deer which will appear in *Natural History*, published by the American Museum of Natural History. I just sold an article 'A Century of Hoaxes' to Blue Book, containing the big whoppers of the 19th Century, namely the Moon Hoax, E. A. Poe's Balloon Hoax (trans-

FANTASY-NEWS

P. O. Box 4, Steinway  
Long Island City, N. Y.

Return Postage Guaranteed

*Arthur Levine  
139 E 40th St  
New York 16-N.Y.*

atlantic flight of 1844), the story of Dr. Koch's fossil sea serpent, the Cardiff Giant, and the case of the so-called Koeniginhof Manuscript, allegedly a collection of old Czech poems which were accepted for many years until finally Masaryk, later the first president of Czechoslovakia proved it to be a forgery.

"And finally, I have a fine and generally unknown political case: the German annexation of Patagonia, allegedly perpetrated by a German professor who peacefully taught geology in Argentina. The story was as transparent as possible, speaking of plants which do not exist, calling a cold mountain range 'fertile tobacco land' and finally giving a location, by degrees of latitude and longitude, which is some 600 miles off the South American coast in the Atlantic.

"And John W. Campbell bought a piece which examines the Russian claims of having invented electric light, jet propulsion, pack parachutes, and Lord knows what else.

"If any of the three pieces mentioned is scheduled for a specific issue, I haven't been told about it yet.

Best regards"  
Willy Ley

**Special Subscription Offer  
Five Months (20 Issues) for \$1.00**

Send remittance to: FANTASY NEWS, P. O. Box 4, Steinway Station, Long Island City, New York

All checks and money-orders must be made payable to William S. Sykora, NOT to Fantasy News. Please do not send stamps.

**SPECIAL OFFER GOOD ONLY UNTIL JUNE 1, 1949**