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MERWIN AT ESFA

DR. SEARLES READS INTRODUCTION TO NEW SERVICES BOOK

Special guests of the Eastern Science Fiction Association, at their meeting of June 1, 1947, were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Merwin, Jr. Sam Merwin, in case you don't know is on the staff of Standard Publications and responsible for Thrilling Wonder Stories and Startling Stories. A big, 200 pluser, on the platform with Esfa's Sam Moskowitz, the two Sams formed an impressive beef trust.

Merwin took on the entire club and either bluntly replied - to or subtly evaded any number of questions ranging from why he didn't print Joe Fan's last letter - to why he didn't get a science-editor for his magazine to see that no science error gets thru.

After putting up a good battle Merwin launched a counterattack tossing provocative questions at the members to answer. Included among them was: "Why are you boys sending me so much crud for my new fan magazine contest?" Merwin claimed that the material he was receiving, supposedly the best in the history of the individual fan magazines, suffered from an unbearable stench, even the contributions of fans now pros, and that if he didn't get better efforts shortly he might have to give up the idea.

Merwin left the platform with platform with compliments ringing in his ears regarding the late improvements of the literary quality of his magazines. So many of the most pertinent observations were off the record, that actual attendance would have been the only way to appreciate the show.

Also a feature speaker on the
(continued on page 70, column 1)

TOP SECRET REVEALED

Here are some of the top secrets hinted at by Fantasy-Times in our previous issue.

1.) August W. Derleth is working on an anthology of science-fiction. He states that this will be an anthology of "literary" science-fiction. Whether this implies that little will be drawn from the pulps is not known. Derleth's past views on science-fiction have not been too complimentary. Derleth also states that neither Arkham House or Rinehart, will publish this anthology, implying that place of publication is not yet certain.

2.) Groff Conklin is working on a second anthology of science fiction for Crown Publishers. This will emphasize the older science-fiction stories, and choices will be taken from the field in general and not largely from any single magazine. Among outstanding stories that will probably be included are The Lotus Eaters by Stanley G. Weinbaum, The Man Who Evolved by Edmond Hamilton and The Eternal Man by D. D. Sharp. Conklin has received considerable aid from Sam Moskowitz on this second volume.

3.) Fred Shoyer and Russ Hodg-
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MERWIN A T ESFA

(continued from page 69, column 1)

program was Dr. Langley Searles, who read his introduction to the forthcoming publication of Garrett P. Serviss' Edison's Conquest of Mars, and revealed a number of news items which may be found elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. Thos. S. Gardner reviewed the Campbell book The Atomic Story for the club, and endorsed it highly claiming that the errors were of a minor nature, and that no more comprehensible report on atomic energy could be found short of the Smyth report. (a review of The Atomic Story prepared by Dr. Gardner will appear in Fantasy-Times in the near future)

One member mentioned that Echn W. Campbell had spoken recently on atomic energy over a nationwide radio hook-up.

Joe Kennedy in delivering his monthly report on the state of science-fiction the past month, stated that this would probably be his last report since he was cutting down on virtually all fan activity, but he hoped to attend meetings in the future. Kennedy stated that Esfa members who were not present at this meeting, Ron Maddox, Ron Christianson, and Geo Fox were planning to leave the world of science-fiction fandom. Fox's resignation to the Esfa having been received at meeting date.

To take the place of Kennedy's report, a monthly recorded disc condensing the news in Fantasy-Times will be made by James V. Taurasi and played at the Esfa.

The secretary, Richard Witter, temporarily assumed the duties of treasurer for the meeting. Attendance of the Esfa for this meeting was 30, the lowest in seven months.

It was unanimously voted to continue meetings thru the summer months, so any fan who can make it is welcomed. Esfa meets the 1st Sunday of the month at Slovak Sokel Hall, 358 Morris Ave, Newark.

FAPA MEMBERS ATTENTION!

Milton A. Rothman, Fantasy Amateur Press Association president, reminds the members that election of officers will be held with the July mailing. Those wishing to run for office should inform Art Widner, 121 Norton, N Weymouth 91, Mass., the secretary, as soon as possible. It is imperative that the FAPA have a responsible editor and secretary for the next year. Here is a chance for a fan to make a name for himself in one of the best jobs in fandom.

To non-members, we announce that the membership lists are open to those who wish to join, and who are qualified by having published, or having had published something in a fantasy fan mag during the past year. Dues are \$1.00 per year, and it is expected that each member contribute at least eight pages of fan publication to the FAPA mailings per year.

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TOP SECRET REVEALED

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kins of California have obtained the text of Garrett P. Serviss' fabulously rare novel Edison's Conquest of Mars, never before published in book form and they are going to publish it in book form this summer. Introduction will be by Dr. Langley Searles, many of the original illustrations will be used and the book will probably sell for \$3.50. More information on these and the others above in future issues of Fantasy-Times.

ALSO WATCH FANTASY-TIMES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE "TOP SECRETS" HINTED AT IN THE LAST ISSUE!

Starting In The Next Issue!

1946 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

THE V-MAIL INTERVIEWS

by Ray Van Houten
co-editor of Fantasy-Times

Part III - "The Future"

Although the point of primary interest in your editors' minds when we sent out our questionnaire from Le Havre, France, was the so-called "Shaver Mystery", the answers which we received proved to be a small treasure of miscellaneous information about the pro mags and their editors' future plans.

In regard to the much-rumored re-appearance of CAPTAIN FUTURE, Sam Merwin, Jr., of Better Publications, Inc., had this to say: "CAPTAIN FUTURE" at present is being run two or three times a year in STARDLING STORIES, and will continue to be so carried until and unless the complete abrogation of paper quotas permits us to re-open the magazine itself."

"Standard," he goes on, "has no plans for any other sf mags at present. We do not.....plan to publish a TWS ANNUAL."

And on the subject of a Fifteenth Anniversary issue of TWS: "Had we published a 15th anniversary issue of TWS, it would have been back in 1944 ----when paper-restrictions did not permit it."

He also said that the Science Fiction League had been dissolved because "it seemed to be a pretty shadowy and unrewarding organization for both fan and editor alike."

John W. Campbell, Jr., he of the pear-shaped signature, editor of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION and author of "The Atomic Story", had the following to say about his future plans: "Our postwar plans for ASTOUNDING involve mainly the acquisition of new authors and the desire to improve the quality of the stories.....certainly for some time to come ASTOUNDING will continue in its present size and format."

"UNKNOWN may or may not be revived. Plans on that are not yet clarified. Street & Smith does not plan to publish any further fantasy or science-fiction magazines."

Raymond A. Palmer, managing editor of the Ziff-Davis pulp publications, had a few words to offer. "Postwar plans for AMAZING and FANTASTIC," he wrote, "are for monthly publication at 320pp, each. Burroughs will appear in any of our magazines any time he chooses to write for them. AMAZING STORIES, which is the oldest science-fiction magazine, and now the leading science-fiction magazine in national circulation, will continue to present the best science-fiction obtainable, in keeping with the vivid imagination which has always characterized the work of its authors, and dictated of course, by the wishes of its readers." (Ed.)

Mary Gnaedinger of Popular Pubs reveals: "We hope to put ASTONISHING and SUPER-SCIENCE back on the stands as soon as the paper situation will permit it. We hope to get both Virgil Finlay and Frank R. Paul back again as soon as their war service is ended. Our policy with respect to Munsey's reprints has not and will not change. This Company will not authorize the reprinting of stories which have appeared previously in a magazine."

Well, fans, there you have it: Straight from Mount Olympus in the words of the gods themselves. For what it's worth, it is now an indelible part of the growing bibliography of science-fiction fandom. Editorial comment would be more appropriate elsewhere, but this one question seems to follow naturally: are you satisfied with what is in store for you?

Well, are you?

- the end -

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FANTASY-TIMES

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Joe Kennedy, SCIENCE ED: Thomas S
Gardner, FILM ED: David Kishi,
ART EDITOR: John Giunta
"A Cosmic Publication"

The Cosmic Reporter

edited by Lane Stannard

The May 1947 issue of The American News Trade Journal, published by The American News Company, the distributor of some of the pulp fantasy magazines, has a few items which might be of interest to fantasy fans.

In the column Pick-Ups About Magazines, it states: "Science fiction fans will be glad to know that Bando Binder is writing his first story in five years in July issue of Startling Stories. A real treat." and "Thrilling Wonder Stories is featuring a contest for the best stories published by the amateur science fiction magazines throughout the country. Contest always mean new sales."

In the column For Everybody, a column for new magazines, says: "Avon Fantasy Reader is a bi-monthly newcomer in the weird and fantasy fiction field, featuring such top-writing talents as Wm. Hodgson, August Derloth and A. Merritt. Every name means the best stories of their kind available. Its pages stir the imagination with exciting stories of the unknown mysteries of eternal darkness and the secrets of the stars. It's a pocket-size edition with an attractive color cover." A small cut of the cover of the first issue of Avon Fantasy goes with the column.

Coming in the July Mechanix Illustrated is an article by Willy Ley entitled Race To The Planets. It will be illustrated with many colored and black and white drawings. In the current June issue, Willy Ley has an excellent article, Electric Cannon.

Will F. Jenkins, author of the best 1946 fantasy, The Murder of the USA, has a short story, Symbiosis, in the current June 14, issue of Collier's.
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PORTLAND SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

Fans in Portland, Oregon have recently formed the Portland Science Fantasy Society and now lists 14 members.

The club was activated by Donald B. Day and has had three meetings.

Day obtained his members by "planting" a mimeograph sheet in local bookstores.

The first meeting had a turnout of seven who discussed stf & fantasy. They decided to organize and meet every two weeks.

At the second meeting, the name Portland Science Fantasy Society was chosen and plans for future plans and formal organization were discussed.

At the third meeting, temporary officers were chosen. Don Day was elected Chairman, Forest Davis secretary and Ruth Newbury, sole female member, treasurer.

Present plans call for a limited activity thru the summer months in preparation for a full program in the fall.

The club has published the 1st issue of their club organ, Portland Science Fantasy Society News Bulletin.
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On The Newsstand reviewing Thrilling Wonder Stories, two columns of advertising and an editorial had to be put off until next week due to the lack of paper.
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