

Science-Fiction Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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STILL ONLY 10 CENTS

'VANGUARD' ORBITS

THREE MORE
DEATHS!by Forrest J AckermanR. DeWITT MILLER

Miller was 48, died 3 June 1958 at his residence in Los Angeles.

Miller's most famous story was "The Master Shall Not Die", Astounding Science Fiction, March 1938, expanded in collaboration with a Hollywood script-writer, Anna Hunger, into the Ace pocket-book, "The Man Who Lived Forever". Miller's "Within The Pyramid" (from Astounding) was anthologized in ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE, and he made THE BEST SCIENCE FICTION STORIES AND NOVELS 1956 with "Swenson, Dispatcher" from Galaxy. His "Forgotten Mysteries" was featured in Coronet, the series later collected and published in book form. The United Press called him "One of the world's foremost authorities on psychic phenomena" and on the jacket of his last book, "You DO Take It With You", he was characterized as "A leading authority on the super-normal...psychical phenomena, flying saucers, and the hereafter". I knew Miller personally. He was an asthmatically ill man, smoked a pipe constantly, wore contact lenses, was intense about supramundane investigations. He was frequently to be seen or heard on Los Angeles radio or television whenever the topic was saucers or saucers.

DE PINA

De Pina was, I should judge, in his early 50s: word just reached me of his demise by heart attack last year in Miami.

I also knew De Pina, a handsome, soft-spoken, gentle yet dynamic Latin-type whom I called Roberto because his first name (continued on page 2, column 1)

THE COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur J. Cox

Rick Yager, who has been drawing and writing the comic strip "Buck Rogers" since 1948, has quit National Newspaper Syndicate (John F. Dille Co.) because of "too much editing, too much criticism". The syndicate's president, Robert Dille, wanted him to submit proofs well in advance and stick to "scientific probability". According to Time, June 30, Yager is negotiating with three other syndicates for a new spaceman comic strip. "Buck Rogers" will be continued by Murphy Anderson, who used to illustrate for Planet Stories for a period from about 1942 to its suspension.

Anderson's first illustrations have already appeared in the daily strip, and his first Sunday panel appears July 6. His drawing style is, so far, flatly imitative of the models already established by Yager and lacks the liveliness of Yager's work. However, he can't be a much poorer story-teller than Yager was, and might possibly be much better -- despite the syndicate's "blue pencil".

Time identifies Robert Dille's father as the creator of "Buck Rogers". They must be referring to the creation of the comic strip. As every science-fiction fan knows the character Buck Rogers first appeared in two novelettes written by Phil Nowlan and published in Amazing Stories in 1928 and 1929. They were "Armageddon - 2419 A.D." (August 1928) and "Airlords Of Han" (March 1929).

Kris Neville, who has been absent from the science-fiction magazines for some time now, is re-working his short novel, "Earth Alert", which originally appeared in Imagination, into a book-lengther. He's plumping it out a bit with a sub-plot about the "Beat" Generation. The text-book on epoxy resins which Neville co-authored with Henry Lee is doing handsomely (continued on page 2, column 2)

NEW YORK, 8 July, (CNS) -- The #1 issue of Vanguard Science Fiction apparently was a whacking success, despite many early misgivings on the part of the publishers, editor James Blish announced today.

On the basis of 30-day return figures, Blish said, the first issue appears to have sold better than 60% of its print run of 104,000 copies -- and this during a period when newsstand sales of all magazines (not just s-f) were suffering a steep decline.

First reports were so spotty and generally discouraging that the publishers delayed the second issue until the first could be called in. The final figures, however, indicated clearly that the magazine had caught on.

The second issue, on the stands about August 15, leads off with Lester del Rey's "Mine Host, Mine Adversary", with an Emsh cover. The second novelette will be "Mirror, Mirror", by Alan E. Nourse. There will be shorts by A. Bertram Chandler, Damon Knight, Gordon R. Dickson, Algis Budrys and Carol Emshwiller, plus the usual departments by del Rey and L. Sprague de Camp. There will be at least five interior illustrations, by Emsh, Kelly Freas and Jeffries Oldmann.

NEW ADDRESS

While the fate of the magazine was still in doubt, editor Blish and family moved back into the house in Milford, Pa., out of which they were driven by a flood in August of 1955. The magazine will henceforth be edited from there (the same town in which Damon Knight is now editing IF), and all submissions should be sent to Box 278, Milford, Pike County, Pa.

Subscriptions for Vanguard, which cost \$6 for 20 issues, must still be sent to Box 188, Planetarium Station, New York 24. The magazine also offers a "lifetime" subscription for \$25.

"I didn't think we'd get any of those", Blish confessed, "but thus far we have half a dozen. I feel much happier about them now that it looks like we're going to

have a lifetime."

NEW WRITER

The survival of Vanguard also insures the introduction of a new writer, Blish reported.

"He's a Detroitier named H. M. Sycamore who popped up in the slush pile," Blish said. "He sent me a novelette called 'Time Is Past' which I have scheduled for the third issue -- a beautiful piece of work, and even more astonishing, it's his first sale."

THREE MORE DEATHS!

(continued from page 1, column 1)

actually was Robert and his middle Albert. He was principally published in Planet Stories, where he was most proud of "The Silver Plague" (Spring '45). From '43 to '47 he had 5 stories in Planet plus two collaborations with Henry Hasse, and a solo publication ("Priestess of Pakmari") in Thrilling Wonder Stories. His last appearance was in Science-Fiction Plus, August '53, with "Ultimate Life" (w/Henry Hasse). He was a traveler, lecturer, novelist in other fields, and screenplay writer. He sold an as-yet-unproduced scientific script called I CAPTURED THE SUN or I CONQUERED THE SUN. He made no great mark in the sf world, but a rather lasting impression on my mind as one who knew him as a human being. Adios, amigo.

DEATH OF A KNAWVE

Knawve was originally a misprint made by T. Bruce Yerke when titling a fan mag which was to have been known as The Knawe. Pronounced Nan Vee, it became, during World War II years, the rallying cry of an insurgent fan group in Los Angeles led by a renegade from LASFS, its one-time director, F. T. Laney.

Francis Townler Laney is dead. Laney was at his best when editing Acolyte, an erudite fan mag dedicated to the memory of HP Lovecraft, and at his worst when railing against the LASFS, which he regarded as a rendezvous of hateful homosexuals. His Acolyte, first published in Fall '42, ran 14 well-mimed issues, ending in Spring '46. Much distinguished artwork, articles, fiction, and poetry was presented during that time, contributors including Anthony Boucher, Fritz Leiber Jr., Clark Ashton Smith, Sam Moskowitz, Bob Tucker, Charles Burbee, Bill Roberts, Elmer Perdue, Jack Speer, myself, Harry Warner Jr., Tigrina, E. Hoffman Price, Virgil Parth, H. C. Koenig, Henry Hasse, Duane Kimmel, Harold Wakefield, Samuel Russell, Lillian Lorraine, R. H. Barlow, W. Paul Cook, Lee Baldwin, Barbara Boward, Howard Wandrei, Anny Banister, Emil Petaja, and any and Lovecraft himself.

Laney -- sometimes known as the Landac -- was active in the Fantasy Amateur Press Assn, and distributed his controversial "AFS" "memoirs" (the product of a febrile and malicious imagination) under the title "Ahl Sweet Idiocy!"

He died of bone cancer 8 June '58 his once enviable collection long gone, his interest in fantasy fiction a thing of the past.

A flawed personality who, for both good and bad, made a memorable story in fandom 15 years ago.

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(continued from page 1, column 4)

ly. It is now in its 3rd printing has sold something like 10,000 copies -- at eight dollars a copy -- and is still going strong. It is being translated into several languages. Lee and Neville are president and vice-president of the Epoxylite Corporation in Los Angeles.

SCIENCE FICTION BOOK REVIEWS

by Gerry de la Ree

VOR, by James Blish, Avon Publications, Inc., 1958, 159 pp., 35¢ (paperbound).

This is a greatly expanded (or perhaps padded) is the correct word) version of a James Blish-Damon Knight short story, "The Weakness of RVOG", which originally appeared in the Feb., 1949 issue of Thrilling Wonder Stories.

Mr. Blish's rewrite job has not developed it into a first-rate novel. The basic story remains unchanged from the original short-story version. It deals with the arrival on Earth of an apparently indestructible alien from outer space. The alien, however, has but one desire, and that is to be destroyed.

Eventually, it is discovered that VOR is merely a robot advance guard of a powerful alien culture, which has sent him out to test the strength of Earth's defenses. And, need we add, Earth passes the test with flying colors.

The basic idea of the yarn is good. As a short story or novelet it would pass the test, but as a novel, VOR becomes a bore.

The injection of the internal workings of a unit of the Civil Air Patrol and the insipid marital difficulties of two of its members fail to add anything to the overall picture.

BEYOND TIME AND SPACE, edited by August Derleth. Berkley Publishing Corp., 1958. 174 pp., 35¢ (paperbound).

The hard-cover edition of this book (Pellegrini & Cudahy, 1950, \$4.50) contained 34 selections and an introduction by Mr. Derleth. The new Berkley edition, lest the prospective buyer believe he is getting the book in its entirety, contains eight selections and no introduction.

The stories retained are those by present-day authors: Heinlein, Long, Hamilton, van Vogt, Sturgeon, Wandrei, Clark Ashton Smith, and the late Olaf Stapleton.

As anthologies go, it's a rather slim volume for the price.

SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES

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SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

NEW SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS RECEIVED

THE SKYLARK OF SPACE by E. S. Smith, PH.D., Pyramid Books, N.Y., 35¢, April 17, 1958.

METHUSELAH'S CHILDREN by Robert A. Heinlein, Gnome Press, Hicksville, L.I., N.Y., \$3.00, Apr. 21.

THE OUTER REACHES, edited by August W. Derleth, Berkley Books, N.Y., 35¢, April 21, 1958.

PEOPLE MINUS X by Raymond Z. Gallun; plus LEST WE FORGET TREE, EARTH by Calvin M. Knox, (two in one volume), Ace Books, N.Y., 35¢, April 24, 1958.

JEADLY IMAGE by Edmund Cooper, Ballantine Books, N.Y., 35¢, April 25, 1958.

FIRE IN THE HEAVENS by George O. Smith, Avalon Books, N. Y., \$2.75, April 25, 1958.

STARBURST by Alfred Bester, Signet Books, NY, 35¢, May 5, 1958.

VOR by James Blish, Avon Books, N.Y., 35¢, May 5, 1958.

TIME IN ADVANCE by William Tenn, Bantam Books, N.Y., 35¢, May 23.

THE THIRD GALAXY READER OF SCIENCE FICTION; edited by H. L. Gold, Doubleday, \$3.95, May 23.

BIG PLANET by Jack Vance; plus SLAVES OF THE KLAU by Jack Vance, (Two in one volume), Ace Books, NY 35¢, May 28, 1958.

ON AN ODD NOTE by Gerald Kersh, Ballantine Books, NY, 35¢, May 29.

WHO? by Algis Budrys, Pyramid Books, N.Y., 35¢, May 29, 1958.

STARHAVEN by Ivar Jorgenson, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.75, May 29.

WORLDS APART ("Born Leader"), by J. T. McIntosh, Avon Books, NY, 35¢, June 3, 1958.

NO BLADE OF GRASS by John Christopher, Pocket-Books, Inc., NY 25¢, June 9, 1958.

THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH by Robert A. Heinlein, Signet Books, NY, 35¢, June 9, 1958.

THE MASK OF CTHULHU by August W. Derleth, Arkham House, Sauk City, Wisc., \$3.50, June 9, 1958.

THE WEREWOLF OF POKNETT by H. Warner Munn, Grandon Co., Providence, R.I., \$3.00, June 12, 1958.

43,000 YEARS LATER by Horace Coon, Signet Books, NY, 35¢, June 16, 1958.

STRANGE PORT OF CALL, edited by A.W. Derleth, Berkley Books, NY, 35¢, June 17, 1958.

PRECONCLAVE

Disneyland, Calif., Wed., Aug. 27.
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