

# S-F TIMES

№ 316

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY!"

Vol. 14 - No. 11

FIRST JUNE 1959 ISSUE

TEN CENTS

## 'SATELLITE S-F' GOES BI-MONTHLY

NEW YORK, 13 May, (CNS) - Satellite Science Fiction has gone bi-monthly from monthly publication. The May 1959 issue, now on the stands, is the last of the monthly issues. It will remain on the stands until the end of May, or first week in June, at which time the first bi-monthly issue, July 1959, will be out. From then on the magazine will publish bi-monthly. Satellite only went monthly with the first of this year, when it went large (8½" x 11") size from digest-size.

Low sales due to bad distribution is the cause. Where the magazine was placed on the newsstands it sold well, but in numerous places the copies were returned unopened. They had never been placed on sale on the stands.

This leaves the field with 4 monthlies: Astounding Science Fiction, Fantasy And Science Fiction, Amazing Science Fiction Stories and Fantastic; and 6 bi-monthlies: Galaxy Magazine, If, Fantastic Universe, Science Fiction Stories, Future Science Fiction, and Super Science Fiction. Of the six bi-monthlies, a very short time ago, four of them were monthlies. As you read recently Super Science Fiction is in bad shape. Also in limited distribution in the United States is the Scottish magazine Nebula Science Fiction, a monthly. It is interesting to note that there aren't any quarterlies being published at this time, as was the case in years past; even during the biggest booms of science-fiction.

### THE TIME STREAM

by J. Harry Vincent

Robert Lowndes' two science-fiction magazines, Science Fiction Stories and Future Science Fiction will feature mostly original line drawings on their covers in the future. Recently Lowndes started printing these line covers in three colors instead of the one that he used when he dropped the colored paintings from the covers. While they cannot begin to replace the quality of colored paintings, the new three color system of line covers do make the magazines stand out on the stands and is a great improvement over the dull one color jobs. With mostly original drawings on future covers another step forward has been made. Lowndes has done a darn good job with his science-fiction mags in spite of low budget etc. It is a

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shame that he could not continue the colored paintings, but with the recent improvements of the line covers, the mags will have a chance to be seen on the stands again.

Didn't the format of the current, July 1959, issue of Science Fiction Stories remind you of the old Gernsback and Tech Amazing Stories Quarterly?

Another change has been made in the Galaxy Novel pocket books. Publisher Guinn has tied it in with the Beacon books for better distribution. It got almost-impossible to obtain it and we're still looking for #43. The new system of distributing is good. In our area every shop that carries pocket-books has them. But in getting good distribution Galaxy Novel has lost its individuality. The old number system is gone and it now follows the Beacon pocket-books numbering system. #36 (Now Beacon #236) is ODD JOHN by Olaf Stapledon, which was published by Galaxy Novel once before in the early fifties. Cover is sexy, but well done, tho hardly science-fiction or fantasy. The book is well put together in the regular pocket-book type format. The story is of course excellent. Galaxy Novel will now appear monthly. With this new distributing system, and with some above average novels there is no reason why this series should not make good.

The June 1959 selection for Galaxy Novel is "Deviates" (originally "Secret People" by Raymond F. Jones. The July selection will be a non-science-fiction one. Mr. Guinn has the rights to some of the short short stories that appeared in Collier's and he'll reprint 31 of them in the July Galaxy Novel series. The August 1959 selection will be "The Troubled Star" (probably under a new title) by Smith.

In the near future Mr. Guinn is going to try new novels in Galaxy Novels. One of these new ones will probably appear in the September selection. They will be science-fiction, but with more attention than usual to romance and sex. They will in fact be close to a "regular" type novel than science fiction. But we are assured that they will be basically science-fiction.

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 \*SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES - - - - - /"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"/\*  
 \* Editorial Office: 18-36 129th Street, College Point 56, New York. \*  
 \*Published twice-a-month by SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES, INC., P. O. Box 115, Syracuse,\*  
 \*9, New York. 10¢ a copy, \$2 per 20 issues, \$2.40 a year. Permanent subscription\*  
 \* \$15.00. \*  
 \* James V. Taurasi, Sr., Frank R. Prieto, Jr., and Ray Van Houten, \*  
 \* Editors and Publishers. \*  
 \* Advertisements: \$10.00 a full page, or \$6 a half page. \*  
 \* SCIENCE-FICTION TIMES (Fantasy-Times) founded 1941. \*

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