

FAPA-1946

WALT'S WRAMBLINGS

IA WINTER

Yep, chillum it's that there mag of that there fan named Liebscher. thrown in every mailing because there are a few bibliophiles who like it. We are dedicated to the good old days when fen were fen and Gernsback loved it. We try to be humurous, lay no claim to erudition, and our poetry has no meter. But Laney laughs at it and Tucker is jealous. Our forte in life is the pianoforte. So dig me chillums and gather grace notes while you may.

In case you are interested, we have ordered a new typewriter. One like what made all those nice Channys and Walt's Wrablings. It will be delivered within 60 to 90 days. Channy will then come out regular and this here rag will be purty like it used to be. Hoopla!

ETERNAL QUESTION

--By me

Last night I cried again
But when I look into my soul
I know not why
I cry

Today I laughed again
And yet I'll never understand
That which came after
My laughter

Tonight I'll think again
I know not why I laugh or cry
But I know why
We die

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CULLING FROM "BOOKS ALIVE", COLUMN BY VINCENT STARRETT IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE BOOK SECTION:

"In August, 1901, two English school teachers, sightseeing in Versailles, had a curious experience that resulted in one of the most fascinating books ever published in this world. To state it baldly, it would appear that at the Petit Trianon, in broad daylight, they came upon Marie Antoinette and various members of her entourage, going about their daily tasks precisely as they had performed them more than 100 years earlier, in the days when the shadow of the guillotine had begun to darken the destiny of this queen of France.

They saw the scene as it had been in the days just before the French revolution, spoke with persons of that time, listened to their 18th century music, and were caught up in a whirl of events that later research proved to have been factual.

It was not a motion picture company on location that they saw, it was not a local fete in costume, possibly it was not even a ghost story into which they inadvertently blundered. If any of it happened--and there are thousands of people who believe it completely--perhaps the most plausible explanation is that they were caught for a few hours in another dimension, in Time as it is explained by J. W. Dunne's theory of serialism.

Whatever happened, they told their story simply, after some years of quiet investigation, and their books, first published in 1911, created a stir. It has since been reprinted many times, with additional introductions, notes and appendices, and is widely regarded as the best of all "ghost" stories, an opinion in which this department concurs. The authors

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the Misses C. A. E. Moberly and E. F. Jourdain, are now dead.

It is quite a wonderful story, from first to last, and you will find it all briefly and admirably retold in "Unbidden Guests: A Book of Real Ghosts," by William Oliver Stevens (Dodd, Mead), after reading which you will probably want to get the original book and keep it beside you. Like Dickens' unfinished "Mystery of Edwin Drood" and the riddle of Shakespeare's sonnets, it is a subject that repays study and to which there is no foreseeable end. It will yield the right sort of person a lifetime of pleasurable reading and research.

Mr. Stevens' book is the best on the whole subject of ghosts that I have seen, for popular reading at any rate. His approach is genial and unprejudiced; it is neither skeptical nor credulous, and he selects only the best authenticated tales. Simply as entertainment his book is a delight. By treating the ghost like any other animate creature in the natural world, and inquiring sympathetically into its habits, he has been able to reach a number of conclusions, some of which may surprise the reader accustomed only to fictional ghosts. Ghosts do not always appear at night at all. In dozens of instances, recorded in the book, they made their appearance in daylight hours; one may appear at any moment at your elbow. Nor do ghosts always frequent deserted houses and such dismal spots as church yards. Almost invariably it is the occupied house that is haunted; and in this book of more than 300 pages not one story is staged in a cemetery.

One striking fact about ghost behavior noted by Mr. Stevens is well established. An apparition may be clearly visible to one person and not at all to another; and where have we

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seen this very point made recently? Right! In the case of Twiffy, of course, in "Orphan Annie." Unlike Mr. Harold Gray, however, Mr. Stevens does not make the point that ghosts appear only to those who believe in them.

"It is no easy problem to explain ghosts," admits Mr. Stevens; and you will understand how true this is when you realize that not all ghosts are apparitions of the dead. The term covers ghosts of living persons, of buildings and scenes, of animals, even of coaches and wheelbarrows. As an illustration of one point of view, the author quotes Mme. du Deffand as answering the question, "Do you believe in ghosts?" with the witty reply, "No, but I am afraid of them." I had thought it was Sir Thomas Browne who said that, but I have no time to look thru Sir Thomas this morning."

CULLING FROM THE LOS ANGELES EXAMINER:

ATOMIC WORLD WAR WAS
BASIS OF 1927 THRILLER

Almost 20 Years Ago Col. P. B. Noyes
Evolved Story Plot of Prophetic Aspect

There is seldom a week that offers space for the resurrection of a forgotten book in this place. But the shelf is empty until tomorrow, and I'll take advantage of it to call your attention to a curious book, found now only in the secondhand shops. It is a strange fantastic, but prophetic novel called "The Pallid Giant." It was written by Col. Pierrepont B. Noyes, prominent manufacturer and assistant fuel administrator during the last war. The book was published in the summer of 1927 by Revell.

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As a novel it has faults. The author had written other books but was not experienced in handling dialogue. Nevertheless his story compels interest in 1946, for its theme is this: how fear of the atomic bomb caused a civilization to perish. The civilization described in "The Pallid Giant" antedated the Cro-Magnon man, and the bomb was not then called the atomic bomb, but atomic research was described, so that the reader knows what the author had in mind back in 1927.

The researchers of that time had broken the atom. When that was learned by the people a great wave of fear swept the earth. Who would use it first? Perhaps "they" would strike tonight! Why should not we strike first? "We" did, and half the planet was made uninhabitable. Then the people left began to suspect and fear one another. Hadn't the Johns the secret? And the Browns? So one by one the powerful families liquidated one another.

You see how it started. We now hear that a few atom bombs may well sterilize all mankind and all the animals, even if they are dropped on the other side of the planet. Or it may well destroy the nitrogen in the air, and thus deprive the world of atmosphere. Then we say, "May there not be a gambler's chance if we do thus and so to protect ourselves?" Not much of a chance, but perhaps one, some scientist will offer. But the fearful take the chance . . . and that ends everything!

Thus thought Mr. Noyes in 1927. Was he a prophet?

P.J.-S.

THE PALLID GIANT has been reprinted by Revell, its original publishers. Currently available for \$2.

--Ed.

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LE NEW BOOKS

TWILIGHT BAR - by Arthur Koestler - 104 pp. -
The MacMillan Company - New York - \$2.

Fantastic play in which two people from another planet, whose people need room to live in order to subdue their cosmic enemies, give Earth a period in which to show them that we know how to be happy, or else be destroyed by "delta rays".

GUMBO YA-YA. A Collection of Louisiana Folk Tales. Compiled by Lyle Saxon, Edward Dreyer and Robert Tallant - 581 pp. - Houghton, Mifflin Company - Boston - \$5.

Authentic accounts of the superstitious residents of Louisiana, their beliefs, rites, festivals, etc. Naked ghosts, loup-garous, strange cults, devil worship, all explained in this most interesting book. Other material of a non-fantastic nature, but equally as fascinating.

BEYOND THE CRYSTAL CAVE - Beatrice V. Gilmore
Colt Press - 549 Main Street, Paterson, N. J.
\$2.50

Described as "a colorful, moving story of a boy and girl in a strangely lovely world of half-fantasy amid the joyful setting of the islands of Bermuda. Many delights are packed in this book for the young as well as for the old."

THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR - by R. A. Dick - Ziff
Davis - Chicago - \$2.

Humorous ghost story.

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THE DWARF - By Par Lagerkvist - Fischer - 228
pp. - \$2.50.

Symbolic, medieval tale of good and evil.

RAIN BEFORE SEVEN - By Marc Brandel - Harper &
Brothers - New York - 230 pp. - \$2.

A Low Fantasy

THE SHIP OF FLAME: A Saga of the South Seas -
By William S. Stone - Illustrated by Nicolas
Mordvinoff - 164 pp. - New York - Alfred A.
Knopf - \$7.50.

A big, really beautiful book, superbly
illustrated, which retells an equally beautiful
and superb Polynesian legend. I wish I had
\$7.50 to spare right now. I'd run down to the
nearest bookstore, but quick.

THE WOMAN IN THE HOUSE - By Robert Hickens -
Macrae-Smith Company - Philadelphia - 224 pp.
\$2.50.

Mystical love tale.

METHINKS THE LADY - By Guy Endore - Duell, Sloan
& Pearce - New York - 282 pp. - \$2.50.

Beautiful tale of schizophrenia
But of fantasy - there isn't enia

ADVENTURES IN HEAVEN - Charles Angoff - Acker-
man - 120 pp. - \$2.

Still some more a la "Green Pastures"
Now I astures!

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THE WHITE DEER - By James Thurber - Harcourt
Brace & Company - Drawings by the author and
4 color pages by Don Freeman. - \$2.50.

A treasured Christmas present. A chillum
tale for grownups. One of the most clever
and hilarious fairie stories in the world to-
day. I chuckled, I laughed, I made with the
belly wobbles. Priceless.

THE MAZE - By Maurice Sandoz - Illustrated by
Salvador Dali - Doubleday, Doran - \$2.50.

Here is a must for all lovers of the ma-
cabre. A good, semi-gothic horror yarn with
an unusual denouement. There is a remarkable
affinity between the illustrations and the sto-
ry. The book itself is beautifully done, and
the multi-colored jacket is quite the stuff.
Highly recommended.

THE TIME STREAM - John Taine - Buffalo Book
Company - \$3.

The first of a series of science fiction
and fantasy novels the fans have long wanted
captured between hard covers. The story you
are all familiar with I'm sure. Ken Kreuger
and associates are to be commended. The book
is beautifully ((with me everything is beauti-
ful)) done, the type is pleasing to the eye,
and the jacket is modest and pleasing. ((Bear
with me kids, I'm typing direct on stencil
without dummy)) The cloth is a nice shade of
blue. The title and the author's name are
stamped in gold on the spine. In other words
the book is the sort of thing we've been yel-
ling for. Let's back the boys up and buy them
all. They're doing us a service.

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NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES - By George Hopley -
301 pp. - Farrar & Rinehart - \$2.50.

Once in a great while a good author takes an old plot and does things to it that makes it stand up on bright new legs and yell: "I'm good, I'm good, I'm good". And the reader is rewarded with a story that must depend upon the author's pure power of telling instead of some bright new idea to put it across. Such a story is "Night Has A Thousand Eyes". As I said before, and I reiterate, the plot is nothing world shaking, it has been done time and time again, not exactly in the same fashion, but the central ideal remained the same.

So you haven't got a new plot. But, and I'm tempted to put this in caps, brother you have a story that is damned near perfectly written.

What would you do if you were told the exact moment you were going to die? Not only that, but how and where it would take place. Your demise I mean. How would you react. How would this knowledge affect your loved ones, your friends? What if you came across a man, by very peculiar circumstances, who could tell you anything you wanted to know about the future, but who was reluctant to give this information, because he called it 'a curse?

What if the police knew about this man's power, and of your death date, and they tried to stop what must be.

Carry on from there brethren and sisters. I promise you an enjoyable reading experience that will remain in your memory for some time to come.

The next time I list my ten favorite books, this one is sure to be included in the line up.

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CULLING FROM LOS ANGELES TIMES:

ROCKET TRAVEL SPURS "LOST CONTINENT"

There's no stopping some of these smart chaps of the movies, and Reeves Espy is not one to get the accolade for becoming topical in great haste. He is having the P.R.C. feature, "The Lost Continent," completely revamped to include the new radar development, which in some quarters is regarded as forecasting rocket travel to the moon.

The company had planned another cinema under "The Lost Continent" title, but that story, as designed, will be dropped overboard.

Talk is that Espy is arranging for governmental assistance in the new production, which will cause it to include facts not hitherto revealed.

POMES FOR GNOMES

or

What Makes Oscar Wilde

I hate women who give ablutions
When they indulge in osculations

Just a myth
Is wedded blyth

There's nothing better
When I'm in the mood
Than smooching a
Pulchriwenchinous tute

Women strongly perfumed
Smell like they've been exhumed

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PUNIMAL CRACKERS

ZUBELDA BOVINE: My dear have you been milked
by the new farm hand?

ABIGAIL BOVINE: No darling, why?

ZUBELDA BOVINE: Heavens, it's terrible. He's
udderly incompetent.

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ROMEO RAT: I had a wonderful time. When shall
I see you again?

JULIET RAT: OH, anytime next squeak.

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UNCLE BOID: Your new offspring is fine speci-
men of birdmanity.

PAPA BOID: Of course he is - just a chirp off
the old block.

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TABBY CAT: I will not stand this humiliation
any longer. I refuse to be abused
by such as you. I'm going to pack
my bags and go home to mama.

TOMMY CAT: Oh, shut your big meows.

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READERS: you are cordially invited to send
in your "Punimal Crackers", care of this rag.
The lousiest will get top building, billing.

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WANTED - 7 FEARLESS TRADERS

The following is for the interest of FAPAns who are still interested in fantasy and book trading. I have the following for trade. Code: J - Jacket, M - Mint, G - Good, P - Poor

LAND OF UNREASON - Pratt & DeCamp - J-M
MOON MAID - Burroughs - P
LAND THAT TIME FORGOT - P - Burroughs
PORTRAIT OF JENNIE - Nathan - G
FRUIT STONERS - Blackwood - J-M
NONCE - Brandon - G
KILLER AND THE SLAIN - Walpole - J-G
SWORD IN THE STONE - White - J-G
PAUSE TO WONDER - Fischer & Humphries - G
SLEEP NO MORE - Derleth - J-G
LANDSLIDE - Gilvert - J-M (2 copies)
PHANTON IN THE RAINBOW * LaMaster - G
FORTRESS IN THE SKIES - Mendelssohn - M
I AM THINKING OF MY DARLING - McHugh - G
HOUSE OF DR. EDWARDES - Beeding - P
MOON POOL - Merritt - Liveright - M
SATAN'S CIRCUS - Smith - P

WANT LIST:

THE GLADIATOR - Wylie
AFTER WORLDS COLLIDE - Balmer & Wylie
DR. ARNOLDI - Thayer - Mint copy with jacket.
Any books by Charles Williams, except "All Hallows Eve".

Wanted Badly: Volume 1, No. 3 issue of Strange Tales. Must have cover and be in very good condition.