

SPACE OPERA



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TOM CORBETT SPACE CADET

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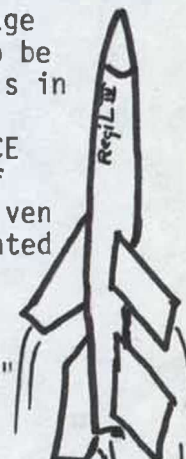
No SPACE OPERA is not part of the STAR WARS bandwagon nor is it part of the general nostalgia boom of recent years. It began 10 years ago when I had to pack my collection for storage. Found among my treasures, saved since my pre-teen years, were several of the Grosset & Dunlap TOM CORBETT books. Re-reading them was enjoyable but it started a search which has last for the past 10 years.

I found other Tom Corbett fans and began to write and exchange information. Many times these fans were like myself....."I thought I was the only one interested in Tom Corbett!!!" Information was gathered, but many questions I had were unanswered. This led to a radio log being printed with more information being added. Each new article led to more information,which led to more pages being added to the log,which led to more information,which.... As you can see,it got out of hand. A deadline of the Summer of 1978 was set and all leftover material would have to be put into another issue.

One year and 6 articles later,what started as a two-page radio log is finished. Morale?...if there is one,it has to be "Don't try to fence in Outer Space,nor anything that travels in it."

Several other reasons motivated such a fanzine as SPACE OPERA. First,the treatment of the Space Opera Characters of the 1950's. At best most articles or books written have given a short salute and passed off the group as "Juvenile". Granted this is what was aimed at and,judging from the magazine articles of the 1950's,hit. People like George Gould,who pioneered LIVE TV special effects are given little or no credit for their work. Many of the rocket "Visionaries" of that time period acted as science advisors. Willey Ley,

(Con't on Page 6 of Part I)



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TOM CORBETT

SPACE CADET

During the early 1950's many interesting characters of fiction appeared in movies, books, radio, and television. Radio as a form of mass entertainment was in its twilight years, and television was becoming more of a household article and less of a curiosity. This new "necessity" was in a developmentally stage struggling to find itself and one of early T.V. experiments was something fondly remembered as "Space Opera".

The trusty western was gradually being replaced with another standard formula:

- a fast space ship for the horse
- a ray gun for a six-shooter
- wide open space of the solar system for the wide open spaces of the prairie
- and a military uniform for the chaps and ten gallon hat of the western hero.

The Atomic age had arrived, new marvels were being produced in the post-war era. Mankind was ready to break away from Mother Earth and travel the unthinkable reaches of Space!

This had occurred more than once in Science Fiction Fandom but now a larger number of people would experience the "Sense of Wonder" of space travel via the miracle of television. Familiar space heroes such as Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers would be joined by Capt Video, Buzz Cory, Capt Z-ro, Rocky Jones, and my favorite Tom Corbett, Space Cadet.

Tom Corbett was based on a character developed in Robert Heinlein's juvenile novel SPACE CADET published in 1948 and could be found in almost all of the media with the exception of the movies. Grossett and Dunlap produced 8 books from 1952 to 1956, Dell publishing company published 11 comics issued from Feb 1952 to Nov 1954, with 3 additional comics published by Prize comics in 1955, a daily and Sunday newspaper strip was drawn by Ray Bailey from Sept 9th 1951 until Sept 12th 1953. Tom made his appearance on TV in Oct 1950 running until 1956 changing networks at least twice and running from a three times a week 15 min show to a once a week half hour show. On the first of January 1952 Tom experienced

a short run on radio lasting only six months.

The action in Tom Corbett is set in the 24th century, 2350. Man has colonized the inner planets with many outposts reaching past the orbit of Mars. Earth is a Commonwealth with her cities combined into several megalopolis from the frozen poles (Polar City), to the hot tropics (Amazon City). Venus is a hot muggy semi-tropical colonized planet with prehistoric monsters. Mars is also colonized with canals and dust storms as a backdrop for the red planet. The three Commonwealths have joined together into a tri-world group known as the Solar Alliance¹, with regular shipping between member planets. Colonies stretch as far away as Pluto, Polaris Colony, and Io, a moon of Jupiter, opening up new regions for man to explore. Space Stations orbit each of the planets of the Solar Alliance becoming centers for travel, commerce, and trade. Solar Guard units man outposts in distant parts of our solar system to monitor the passenger lanes, explore unknown space, and conduct scientific research and investigations. The Guard is a paramilitary organization involved in safeguarding the rights and privileges of the members of the Solar Alliance and the outposts of man. Each Solar Guardsman and Cadet must take an oath to this effect². The training arm of the Guard is the Space Academy, located on Earth and dedicated to the enforcement of Peace. It is within this setting of exploration and adventure we find Tom Corbett. This final frontier... Space... is the exciting promise of "the age of the conquest of Space".

In the year 2350 the youth (17-23) of the alliance come together at the West Point of the future, Space Academy, located somewhere in the North American mid-west. At the academy, the best are tested and re-tested before becoming cadets of the Solar Guard⁴. Once accepted as cadets the young men are placed into rigorous training. Cadets study such subjects as astrogation, Nucleonics, Extraterrestrial, Biology, Interplanetary Law, and Space Medicine. Many lessons are taught at Night through the use of a study machine. This marvelous machine is used to fill the subconscious with the needed information while the cadets are asleep. The cadets clamp a subject spool to the machine, slip on a pair of headphones, turn a knob and go to sleep. By morning the cadets subconscious has absorbed the basic information.

Cadets are placed into units of three cadets each. A 4th classification of cadets are the Advanced Science Cadets, who stay at the Academy for research and study. Many times a cadet from this 4th classification will join the three man units on special assignment. Each unit must work together, study together, and room together, all in the interest of forming a complete unit. Team work is not only necessary but is required. The unit is comprised of a command, power, and radar cadet with each cadet in charge of a specific area. The Power cadet is located "below" and is in charge of "feeding" reactive material for blastoff and course changes, according to the orders of the command cadet, while the radar cadet is in charge of communication, tracking and astrogation. This team work is so important that if one cadet fails in an academy subject than the whole unit may be washed out.

1 Established 100 yrs earlier in 2250 by the Commonwealth members of Earth.

2 There are several different versions, the most common being: "I solemnly swear to uphold the constitution of the Solar Alliance, to obey Interplanetary Law, to uphold the liberties of the Planets, to safeguard the Freedom of Space and uphold the cause of Peace throughout the Universe, To this end I dedicate my life." (Dell Comic #378).

3 Introduction of many of the Tom Corbett radio shows.

4 See daily TC strip dated 9/18/51 - "Solar Guard Reg-After indoctrination all space cadets shall take classification exams to determine unit ratings."

The Command cadet for the Polaris Unit is Tom Corbett. Tom is a curly haired, hard working Frank Merriwell type and chief referee between the other members of the unit. Tom comes from New Chicago and is provably from a blue-collar working family. He has a younger brother who wants to be "just like Tom" when he grows up. Astro, an orphan with no last name, is from Venus, a head taller than Tom and Roger with more knowledge about rocket and atomic engines than any book written. Astro has a background in the Merchant Space corp and may be a little older than his unit mates. The blond haired, slender framed Roger Manning is the radar cadet for the unit. Roger is a brilliant astrogator, ladies man, wise-acre, and always ready for a fight. Many times his unit-mates have to pull Roger out of trouble because of his temper. In fact the early relationship with Roger and Astro almost destroy the Polaris unit. It is only through the efforts of Tom that the unit survived to become the best unit of the Academy. The fighting between Roger and Astro eventually becomes a good natured kidding between friends, although anyone unfamiliar with the unit would think it was deadly serious.

Discipline is severe and 3 demerits⁵ can cause the ouster of a cadet from the academy. The Polaris unit come close to expulsion many times but through teamwork and nature ability of each cadet they somehow pull through.

Each unit is supervised by a Solar Guardsman and in the case of the Polaris unit, Capt Steve Strong has the honor of riding herd on the cadets. Cadets are trained not only in classrooms, but with acutal duty assignments under the direction of the unit supervisor. These duty assignments provide the action seen in Tom Corbett. The goal of each cadet is to become fully accepted as officers of the Solar Guard. Promotion happens at different times to each cadet or unit as the officer in charge of the unit feels the cadet has earned and learned enough to be commissioned as Solar Guardsmen. Often they are commissioned in the field without a formal graduation.

The Polaris unit may be found within three settings. First the Space Academy with its moving sidewalks, monorail transportation, space port and tall buildings made of Titan Crystal. Among the buildings are the dormitories(42-D the home of the Polaris unit), Gaileo tower(which chimes the hours), and the classrooms where the cadets study. The Academy is located in the low hills of the former desert of North America within the North American Commonwealth. The Academy is proclaimed to be the university of the planets where future Solar Guardsmen from Earth, Venus, Mars, and the 3 large satellites of Earth, Titan of Saturn and Ganymede of Jupiter come to be cadets of the Solar Guard. Few cadets are accepted and out of 1000 cadets only 21 will become officers, of the 21 officers only 7 will become pilots. Many washed out cadets enlist in the Space Marines, or become research assistance to the Academy.

The Polaris itself is our second setting. Each unit is assign a spaceship according to the unit ratings. The Polaris is 200 ft of polished Beryltium steel with four powerful atomic engines. Near the nose is a large blister of clear Titan Crystal containing the radar deck, twelve feet below is the control deck and at the base of the ship the power deck. The ship is armed with 3" & 6" atomic blasters, space torpedo's, and carries paraloray guns and blast rifles.

⁵According to the daily strip 9/15/51 thru 9/17/51 3 demerits would be grounds for washing out a cadet, but in the radio eps. 2/21/52 and Danger in Deep Space 100 would cause expulsion.

The Atomic fuels needed for the Polaris are made with a catalyst known as N72C. The catalyst refines the natural tutonium into reactive mass which is feed into the engines at a D5W rate⁶. The power deck is considered both radioactive "hot" as well as temperature "hot". Astro is often stripped to the waist while working.

Other main characters include Commander Arkwright, Commander of the Space Academy⁷, Dr Dale, instructor at the academy, Major "blast-off" Connell, sometimes the downfall of the Polaris unit, Cadet Alfie Higgins Science Cadet, Proff Sykes, and Warrent officer Mike McKenny. These settings and characters were combined in many ways over a six year period to give us the adventures of TOM C-O-R-B-E-T-T.....SPACE CADET!!!!!!!

SPACE DUST(Con't from page 2)

one of America's pioneer rocket experts, worked on Tom Corbett along with Dr Richardson who worked with the Capt Video show.

The second reason is space exploration itself. This time period reflects a lot in our thinking about space travel. Traveling in space was thought to be impossible and only a few were really serious about the conquest of space. Future NASA technicians may have been influenced by the many adventures conducted in the name of interplanetary peace and justice. Being a supporter of the Space Program I can see many ideas expressed then which are part of the programs today. A feeling of excitement was present in those pre-sputnik days, a feeling which has to be re-captured if America is to lead in space.

A thrid reason deals with the collectible side of the Space Opera characters. Bidding on items can be a problem at times. A price guide has been suggested but this does not satisfy a collector. Many times the guide becomes the tail that wags the dog. A detailed listing of material with pictures of each item would better equip the collector to bid or trade. It is still what a collector WANTS to pay that determines the value of an item. I wouldn't say a price guide would fix a price or inflate it, but it could distort its value. An example would be Michael Resnick's FANTASTIC BOOKS price guide. He priced a TC membership package from Kellogg's at \$25.00, then listed a patch and button from the package at a greater sum than the complete package. There are other reasons but these will suffice for the moment.

As I was finishing the last article for SPACE OPERA, Joe Sarno's contribution to the field, SPACE ACADEMY NEWSLETTER #1, arrived. Joe will be covering all of the Space Opera Field from SPACE PATROL to ROCKY JONES. In hopes of covering one area I know SPACE OPERA will deal only in TOM CORBETT (Joe's newsletter may be ordered from Joe at \$1.50 for 6 issues at P.O. B-302 Besplaine Ill 60017).

Next issue will be built around a glossary of terms and cross index to the Tom Corbett Universe, an article and checklist of the Tom Corbett newspaper strips, and several other articles dealing with the toys and collectibles of Tom Corbett.

I would like to thank those fans who have helped in the past in support, encouragement, and information. Among them Doug Thisler, Albert Hale, Andy Anderson Rich Grouquist, and many others. Special thanks to my family; Rachella my wife who puts up with a collector husband, Andrea my daughter who gave up her Sunday afternoon to help with the fanzine, and Jon my son who gave up his closet for my collection. Special thanks also goes to my long time friend Paul Webb for his excellent cover art. Till next time.

.SPACEMAN'S LUCK.

space cadet

6

D12W rate is considered full Space Speed and on occasion D18W rate is used as full emergency space speed.

⁷In the Grossett & Dunlap books, Commander Walters is in charge of the Academy. No mention is made of Commander Arkwright.

ROBERT HEINLEIN'S INFLUENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOM CORBETT

Tom Corbett was inspired by Robert Heinlein's excellent book SPACE CADET, published in early 1948. On publication the Library Journal declared "...a definite contribution to books on rocketry and outer space. Bound to stand the hard usage." An excellent prediction since the statement was made in Sept of 1948 and I have found re-reading it as much fun now as it was the previous times. Mr Heinlein received a small royalty for the character and it is easy to see where the format for TC was developed.

Like so many of Mr Heinlein's juveniles, the story is about coming of age and the problems of growing up. SPACE CADET follows Matt Dodson and friends from the beginning of their training at the Space Academy into an adventure on Venus where some of the Academy training and the traditions of the Patrol are applied. Of course the story is rich in background and details as only Robert Heinlein can provide.

If you are familiar with Mr Heinlein's Future Histories concept, you can pick out some of the information about the Patrol as it is dropped casually throughout SPACE CADET. One example is the exhibit of Lt Extra Dahlquist found in the Academy's Rotunda, where mention is made of Dahlquist sacrifice "in the tradition of the Patrol." This is a direct reference to the Future History story printed in the American Legion Magazine published in December of 1949 titled "Rebellion on the Moon". The story was later renamed "The Long Watch" and collected in several anthologies. This is very interesting since SPACE CADET with the Dahlquist example was published in early 1948 and the actual story "Rebellion on the Moon" was published in Dec 1949.

The Future History series was an interesting project that provided many stories with a general background. Mr Heinlein was one of the first to write stories independent of one another but based on a common technological and socialistic outline of history. The Future History stories, except for the last novel TIME ENOUGH FOR LOVE, were published in a large collection in 1967 titled THE PAST THROUGH TOMORROW. Included in the collection is a chart showing major events and stories. This Future History background has provided a great deal of satisfaction for me in identifying various references from other stories. Although the juveniles are not included in the chart or series per se, examples of the Future History background are included within the juveniles as well as some of the juvenile characters cropping up in later non-juvenile works.

The characters were transposed from SPACE CADET to TOM CORBETT with certain changes. Tom Corbett, who is from New Chicago, is modeled after Matt Dodson. Matt is from Des Moines Iowa, easy going, hard working, and eager to learn. Astro is a combination of Oscar Jensen, a younger Venus Colonial, and a Texan (Bill Jarmen who is more interested in eating than studying. Roger Manning is something else in SPACE CADET. Roger's counter-part is Girard Burke, affectionately known as "Stinky", who is the spoiled son of a rich spaceship builder. Burke is the all knowing wise-guy part of Roger who knows all of the "angles". Burke later resigns from the Academy calling the cadets a bunch of do-gooders, only to get into trouble on Venus where Matt, Tex (Bill Jarmen), and Oscar have to save his hide. I guess Burke was too

good a character to lose and was incorporated into the Tom Corbett series as Roger with some redeemable refinements. A little of the girl-chasing is taken from the Texan, Bill Jarmen, in SPACE CADET and included in the character of Roger. Commander Arkwright is transferred directly from SPACE CADET retaining the same name and title in both. One small difference is noted, in SPACE CADET the Commander is blind.

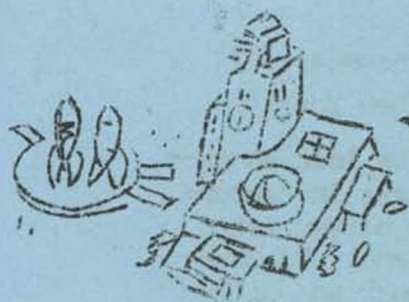
The basic concept of the Academy and the Solar Guard are the same with both the Guard and the Patrol of SC being independent of any part of the federation and charged with the protection of the total Solar Federation or Solar Alliance. This situation leads to problems with Matt's parents and is part of his "coming of age". The Academy in SPACE CADET is located in Colorado at Santa Barbara Field, near the Carter that WAS Denver (this being part of the general background of the Future Histories stories). The Academy in TOM CORBETT is located somewhere in the mid-Part of the North American Commonwealth, possibly the Colorado area.

Many of the same training problems are mentioned in the Tom Corbett series as presented in SPACE CADET. The bumps used in testing recruits ability to withstand high exceleration is taken directly from SPACE CADET. A car is sent down a steep revine and back up a series of hills alternating between 3-9 G's and weightlessness. The bumps are mentioned in the first issue of the Tom Corbett Comic (#378) published by Dell. Another similar test was the light test. The cadets were strapped into a chair and told to keep a ball of light centered on a wall in front of them. Sounds easy until the chair starts to convulse and the room is filled with smoke and loud expolsions are set off in the room. This was pictured in the daily TC strip dated 9/18/51.

The first space ship to leave the earth and return with a crew crashed and killed all on board in both SPACE CADET and TOM CORBETT. In SC it was the KILROY WAS HERE landing in 1955 and in TC it was either the TX-1 PIONEER in the daily strip or the SOLAR QUEEN in STAND BY FOR MARS in the hardback stories. Both stories in TC have the ships crash landing on the 7th of March 2025. The SOLAR QUEEN plays an important part in Tom Corbett and explains a problem that arises within the Polaris unit.

A major difference within the TOM CORBETT series itself is seen in the Grossett & Dunlap books where the Commander of Space Academy is Commander WALTERS. Arkwright is the head of the Academy in all other references in the TOM CORBETT series.

Some of the reoccurring theme's such as the the Moon of Tara seems to be influenced by other stories written by Mr Heinlein. In Robert Heinlein's story MISFIT, published in Nov 1939, we see the same problem of converting a body in space into a rocket in order to bring it into a different orbit. This was done in the TOM CORBETT radio series and Grossett & Dunlap books. There may be other examples but that is beside the point at the present time. Mr Heinlein has influenced the field of Science Fiction since he first began to write in the late 1930's and I appreciate his contribution to my favorite character T-O-M C-O-R-B-E-T-T.....SPACE CADET!!!!!!!!!!!!



ACADEMY'S
TELE-A-
CEIVER

In the course of developing this fanzine, many letters went out to fans and those who worked on the TIM CORBETT SHOW. Included in this section are letters of over one year, hopefully Space Opera can be published more often and the letters may be fresher. At any rate here are some of the information I received and some of the collectors who responded.

FRANKIE THOMAS JP (Tom Corbett)

April 13th 1977

My Dear Ed,

Relative to your letter, am having several pieces done for Houston Film Register magazine and Bal'da Boo's bi-monthly on Corbett in detail. I'll try and get a copy to you when they come out. Let me touch on your direct questions since, at this time, am very involved with a variety of efforts.

The writers guide for T.C. was the scientific probability of various ideas as decided by Willie Ley, our technical adviser.

I did read Heinlein's book and was and am quite a fan of his. In fact, I believe "Puppet Masters" is one of the great political satires of all time.

The show as on National TV for five years. None of the radio shows were the same as the TV. I don't know why the radio show went off so fast. Regarding special effects, George Gould can give you details on that. He was part of the group that developed the 'matting Amplifier on Corbett, which made realistic superimpositions possible for the first time on TV. As you know, Corbett was live which made the numerous effects somewhat amazing. I think it is accurate to say the show was far ahead of its time in this respect.

As previously mentioned, Heinlein is my favorite S.F. author. Of more recent vintage, I thought "StarShip Troopers" very good.

My father, Frank M. Thomas, did a stack of Republic pictures but not serials. He was with Roy Rogers and Gene Autrey on many occasions. "Riders of Death Valley" with Roy is considered by western fans of that vintage of production as rather outstanding. It was shown again here last summer at the Western All Star Convention at the Biltmore. I did a serial, "Tim Tyler" which they used to run on the Serial Theatre during the Corbett days.

Good Luck on your publication.

Many thanks Mr Thomas for your insight. I hope you enjoy the fanzine. In regards to the special effects created by George Gould see the section on Magazines. The Sep 1952 issue of Popular Science has a photo spread with Mr Gould doing some of his "magic". I would agree that TC was ahead in the field of Special effects, and would go so far to say it was a Pioneer in some of our Science Fiction shows on TV today. My question about a Writers Guide was asked because of some of the similarities I found in the Comics, Radio shows and the Grossett & Dunlap books. I believe I have seen the "Tim Tyler" serial at one time but can't remember it. I'll make sure and watch for it when it is done on Washington TV again.

GEORGE K. GOULD
(Director TV series)

December 1976
(New York)

Tom Corbett Space Cadet starred Frankie Thomas, with whom I've lost contact. Jan Merlin, who played Roger Manning, is in Los Angeles and appears in feature motion pictures on TV series from time to time. Al Markim, who played Astro, is the Executive Vice President of Teletronics and a close friend. Ed Bryce Capt Strong, is an actor in New York. The writers, Jack Weinstock and Willy Gilbert, subsequently authored "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying", a long-running Broadway musical.

Many of the Visual concepts developed in the Tom Corbett series have evolved, with startling similarity, into the reality of what we've seen on our TV screens from space during the past decade. The problems in creating the necessary special effects for space travel, free fall, extra-terrestrial animals, etc., in the pre-videotape days of Tom Corbett, were substantial. In retrospect, we did overcome most of them to varying degrees. Some of the effects were very good and, of course, some of them were less than successful.

But the play's the thing, and the story line and performances were compelling enough to have created a dedicated following of young people and adults whose imagination could accept the near-fantasy of space travel in the 1950's.

There was and still is a group of people who felt the call of space through such shows as Tom Corbett from the 1950's. Looking back can show us what could have been, but the Space opera on TV showed us what could be. Mr Bryce is active again on the Soap Opera, Guiding Light, where he plays the father returned from the past and thought dead. It sure is good to see Capt Strong, now as Bill Bauer of the Guiding Light, but it won't seem right unless he's on the deck of the Polaris

DOPIS DUENEWALD
(Grossett & Dunlap ed.)

September 1976
(New York)

In reply to your letter of September 20, Mr Green is no longer employed at Grosset & Dunlap. I regret that we cannot help you too much with your questions regarding the TOM CORBETT series. I do not have any information as to whether Mr Green wrote the TOM CORBETT books, nor do I have any concerning Rockhill Productions.

The TOM CORBETT books are now out of print and we don't have them in any edition. I am afraid we cannot be of any further assistance.

This was in reply to a question dealing with Joseph Greene, who was ed at G&D during the early 1950's and wrote for Dell comics-Tom Corbett comics being one of the books. I've enclosed more information on the G & D books in a separate article in Section II.ed.

BART ANDREWS

December 1975
(Hollywood)

Saw your listing in a recent supplement to the Nostalgia Book Club's "Town Meeting of the Members" in which you expressed interest in corresponding with fans of 50's "space opera" TV. While I am not a die-hard fan, I am a great fan of early television. During a session of research at the Yale Library in New Haven, Connecticut, I did run across some interesting trivia about Tom Corbett which I thought I would pass on to you.

A Rockhill Production, writers-Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert.
Director-George Gould
Agency Producer-Elliott Saunders
Script Supervisor-Albert Aley

Network-ABC-TV

Sponsor-Kellogg's

Opening..."exploring the surface of a newly discovered planet in Alpha Centauri solar System."

Closing" Don't miss the next action packed episode on Wednesday when the space cadets are faced with new, mysterious dangers in their exploration of the planet never before seen by earth mortals!" "Tune in every Monday, Wednesday and Friday."

Rocket expert-Willy Ley, consultant for accuracy.

Margaret Garland also starred but in what role????

Ms Garland was Dr Joan Dale on both Radio and TV. Bart was one of the first to write me with information.. He also has a book out, published in Oct 1976, dealing with another and more famous TV Character. It is titled THE STORY OF I LOVE LUCY.ed.

VIRGINIA HEINLEIN
(Mr Robert Heinlein's wife)

June 1977 June 1977
(California)

SPACE CADET was the basis for TOM CORBETT SPACE CADET. It was sold as a TV series back in the early 50's., but Mr Heinlein had nothing to do with the writing or producing of the various segments. The series continued for several years.

In addition, Mr Heinlein's stories have been produced as radio drama with occasional replays(I suppose it was recorded for later replay).

I'm looking forward to a new novel too! It will probably be a surprise, to me, and to everyone else.

Thank you very much for answering my letter. The Heinlein's have been very kind to me in the past. While in basic training 10 years ago, a warm letter was received by this editor and it did a lot to pick me up. I look forward to any new Novel and have found many of the mentioned radio drama's on Dimension X and L X MINUS ONE.

DOUG TISHLER
PO BOX #1381
PRUDENTIAL CENTER STATION
BOSTON, MASS 02199

Thanks for your letter, I was just about to write you today, when I heard from you first. I saw an ad in the trader for a Rex Mars Planet Patrol set by Marx, which is almost exactly like the Tom Corbett set, the set is numbered 7014 Marx Playset.

A friend of mine has a duplicate of the Capt Video Rocket Launcher set, but I see by your letter you already have one. Its very colorful.

A source for more TC information has sent me photocopies from three TV Digests : Dec 9, 1950, Apr 26 1952 and June 7, 1952.

I've been quite lucky lately, and have gotten the 3 reel set View Master put out in the 1950's, two Tom Corbett Bread endwrappers, and the needed dust jacket for the G & D book

Thanks Doug. We have been writing back and forth for about 3 years now. Trading information and TC items. This brings up a point I would like to raise. We need a directory of what Tom Corbett items are available and complete discription. Anyone interested in working with me on this???

JOE SARIO
3816 W. Lawrence Ave
Chicago, Ill 60625

Thanks for your recent letter re the good ol' Kids Space Exploration shows of the 1950's. Been trying to get out a fanzine for several months now. The material and money is at hand, all I need is a weeks vacation to sit down and put the thing together.

The first issue will be photo-offset, with a full color front cover. The mag will run about 32 to 36 pages long, in a 5½" x 8½" format. I had hoped to have it out by now but my many activities have interfered.

I will definately put you on my list to receive a copy of the zine when it comes out, and look forward to seeing your contribution to this rapidly growing area of fandom.

Until such time, likewise Spaceman's Luck.

Joe, how well I know about those activities, such as work, to provide food and shelter. I haven't seen your fanzine yet, but I know I've had the publication date for SPACE OPERA put off for the past 2 years. I never did understand why fanzine editors would complain about a definite publication date, I DO NOW!!! I had heard of a rumor of a book by Nina Bara dealing with SPACE PATROL.....has it been published???

RICH GRIFFIN
5352 N.E. 17th
Portland Ore 97211

Thanks for the letter and sorry I'm so late in writing. I've been right in the middle of buying a house and starting a new school year, I teach 5th grade.

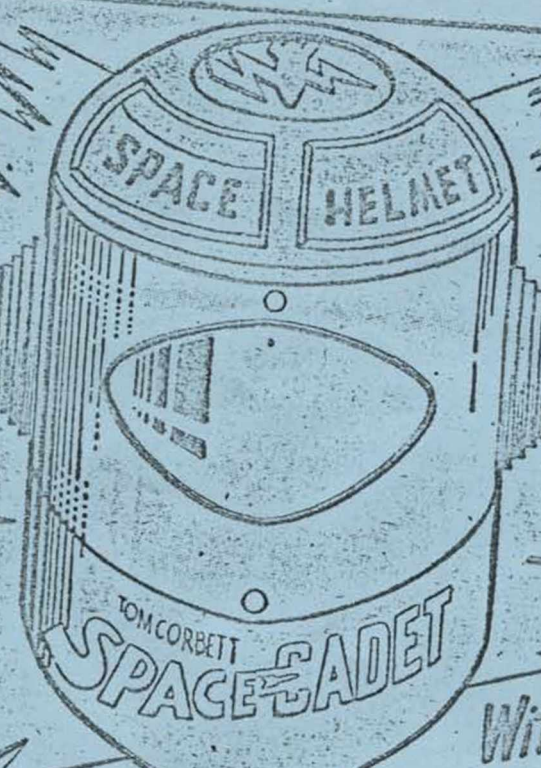
We have share and tell in the morning and as you might have guessed alot of my collection is shown at school. The Kids really enjoy seeing the things that we cherished as children.

As far as space toys go, space patrol is my prime interest as a lot of premiums I had were from that show.

I use to have the Space Patrol Periscope in the original envelope and the belt buckle decoder. I was offered the SHADOW Blue Coal ring for both and I traded them off. I like the ring as rings are one of my prime interests so couldn't turn it down.

What Space Patrol items do you have? As a kid I used to have the Space Patrol helmet. It was made out of cardboard and was quite large I sure wish I had it now. Its probably a real hens tooth.

My primary interest is TOM CORBETT and there was a space helmet available from a toy company. I have a photostat of the item and if possible will include it with the fanzine. There are 12 Tom Corbett rings (see the listing elsewhere) that I am trying to find. Do you have any?



HAVE FUN **IT'S LIKE MAGIC** **THRILLING** **AMAZING**


With This Great

Join The Space Parade INVISIBLE HELMET

Satisfaction guaranteed or money back in five days.

Be a Super Space Cadet! Nobody, but nobody will be able to recognize you when you wear this amazing Invisible Helmet. 'Cause when people look at your face, they'll see only their own reflection. But YOU'LL be able to see them and you'll be thrilled at everyone's amazement! All this excitement for only

\$1.98 Postpaid




Your Friends Will Rave

Sorry, no COD's

Special Offer!

Look through this magazine for other 3 FLAGS TRADING CO. ads! You will find many different, exciting things you'll want to buy. Send in an order totalling \$3 or more and choose any ONE of the rings shown here. IT WILL BE OUR GIFT TO YOU!



3. Flags Trading Corp.

114 E. 32nd St., New York 16, N.Y. Dept. H 2

Gentlemen: Please send me _____ Invisible Helmets. I enclose

Cash ☐ Check ☐ M.O. ☐ in the amount of \$ _____

My order amounts to over \$3, please send me the following gift ring:

Skull ☐ Horsehead ☐ Snakes ☐ Solitaire ☐

NAME _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

RADIO

TOM CORBETT

Tom Corbett was heard first on January 1st 1952 and lasted only six months until June 26, 1952. Many of the shows were adapted by the T.V. series writers, such as Jack Winstock and Willie Gilbert who later wrote the long running Broadway musical "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying".** Jack Winstock was also a noted New York Physician who would interject some of his medical knowledge into the script: example-Astro becoming infected with Zero A fever in "Giants of Mercury". Many of the same script plots from the T.V. & radio series would turn up later in the Grossett & Dunlap books.

The T.V. cast and radio cast were one in the same. Al Markin(Astro) is now an Executive Vice President of Teletronics, Jan Merlin(Roger Manning) is in Los Angeles appearing in feature motion pictures and T.V. series, Ed Bryce(Capt Strong) is still in New York as an actor, and Frankie Thomas Jr (Tom Corbett) is living in California.

The radio shows differed from the television shows in their beginning schedules. The radio series began as a half hour show on Tuesday and Thursday while the T.V. series began as a 15 minute show three times a week(Mon, Tue, and Fri), later switching to the half hour format on Monday and Friday. Each Tuesday and Thursday radio show was complete in itself but the story line would cover both shows for the week starting on Tuesday and ending on Thursday. This two part system is easy to identify. Part I or the Tuesday show would close with..."tune in next Thursday when....(description of the action)....for part II of....(title of show)". Thursday's show followed the same format...."be sure to be with us next Tuesday when...(description of the action)..in part I of...(title of show)".

Willy Ley was the technical advisor on the T.V. series and was probably the consultant for the radio series as well. Many of the magazine articles from the 1950's indicate he played an important part in keeping the science within reasonable bounds.

Kellogg's PEP sponsored the series and included many giveaways in the promotion of the show, such as space goggles and space cadet character cut-outs on the back of PEP cereal boxes. Many times the actors would step out of the show to speak up for the merits of PEP cereals, even using the Space Academy as a backdrop to plug the giveaways and cereal. These plugs would fit very well into the Tom Corbett Universe. A good example of this is the Space Goggles; Dr Dale would use the Space Goggles in the lab for protection, Astro would use goggles while on duty on the power deck, and Roger would use the goggles to keep down the glare while on the radar deck.

Jackson Beck would open the show with... "Kellogg's Pep invites you to rocket into the future with T-O-M C-O-R-B-E-T-T- Space Cadet!!!" Buzzers would sound and Tom would reply with... "Stand by to raise ship!!! Blastoff minus 5-4-3-2-1-ZERO!!!(sound effects of blastoff)!!" Mr. Beck would then exclaim... "Now, as roaring rockets blast off to distant planets and far-flung stars, we take you to the AGE OF THE CONQUEST OF SPACE with T-O-M C-O-R-B-E-T-T- Space Cadet!!!"** Amid all of the sound effects, very similar to the Dimension X and X Minus One shows, was the organ music playing the Tom Corbett theme song. The music would lower and dissolve into the Pep cereal commercial. The stage was set and we were ready to blastoff into space with TC, while chewing on some good "wholesome" PEP cereal.

The following radio log is presented in two parts. Part I will be a line listing by date, title (or description), and writer for quick reference, and Part II will be a detailed listing of shows with reference to actors and authors. You will notice the order for the first 14 shows may not be correct. Some problems have occurred in locating early shows and many of the dates are from trader's catalogs. Please feel free to send corrections.

Problems arose at the onset in arranging the shows. The first show part II, title unknown 1/3/52, has SPACE STATION OF DANGER as the next program. The problem is, so does Part II of ROCKET INTO DANGER (sometimes known as Search for Capt Parker or Lost Pilot)!! Inquiries have been sent to ABC radio network and as soon as time permits ABC will locate airing dates and titles. Until then the following shows are needed to fill the remaining entries. Any help in this would be greatly appreciated.

The following dates are only guess-work, anyone with part II of those with known titles, please check the "program for next week" at the end of the show.

1/1/52-title unk Part I	2/5/52 & 2/7/52-INTERPLANETARY
1/10/52-SPACE STATION OF DANGER	SPACE TOURNERMENT Part I & II
Part II	2/14/52-OPERATION HIDE & SEEK
1/22/52-& 1/24/52-Title unk. pt	Part II
Parts I & II	2/19/52-title unk. Part I (mission to
1/29/52-title unk. Part I	Pluto)
(Vanadium Smugglers)	6/24/52 & 6/26/52-ROUND TRIP TO
	DISASTER parts I & II.

REMEMBER: CHECK THE ENDING TO SEE IF IT IS PART I OR PART II.

**Frankie Thomas wrote several of the T.C. TV scripts.

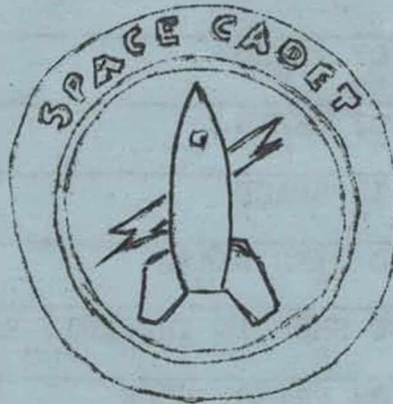
***There were other openings, with slight variations-One example... "Kelloggs Pep, the build up cereal takes you to the world beyond tomorrow, in the age of the conquest of space with T-O-M C-O-R-B-E-T-T." The openings may have been done live each time and not pre-recorded.

TOM CORBETT

ABC-Radio Network
New York

Director-Drex. Hines
Announcer-Jackson
Beck
Sponsor-Kellogg's
PEP- Cereals

Broadcast every
Tuesday & Thursday.
1 Part each day;
2 parts=complete
Story.



CAST

TOM CORBETT.....
..Frankie Thomas
ASTRO.....
..Al Markim
ROGER MANNING...
..Jan Merlin
CAPT STRONG....
..Edward Bryce
DR DALE.....
..Margaret
Garland
COMM. ARWRIGHT..
..Carter Blake
MAJ(Blastoff)
CONNEL.....
..Barry Kroger

radio program

DATE	PART	TITLE(Discription)	SCRIPT BY	SERIES
1/1/52	1			
1/3/52	2	(smugglers of titan crystals)		
1/8/52	1	SPACE STATION OF DANGER	Richard Jessep	
1/10/52	2	" " " "		
1/15/52	1	ROCKET INTO DANGER	JACK WINESTOCK	
1/17/52	2	" " "	WILLIE GILBERT	
1/22/52	1			
1/24/52	2			
1/29/52	1		Gilbert Brann	
1/31/52	2	(Vanadium Smugglers)		
2/5/52	1	INTERPLANETARY SPACE TOURNAMENT		
2/7/52	2	" "		
2/12/52	1	OPERATION HIDE & SEEK	Don Hughes	
2/14/52	2	" " "		
2/19/52	1		Richard Jessep	
2/21/52	2	(Astro is lost in ice caves of Pluto)		
2/26/52	1	TRIAL IN SPACE	Jack Winestock &	
2/28/52	2	" " "	Willie Gilbert	
3/4/52	1	ASTEROID OF DANGER	Gilbert Brann	
3/6/52	2	" " "		
3/11/52	1	GIANTS OF MERCURY	Don Hughes	
3/13/52	2	" " "		
3/18/52	1	ATMOSPHERE OF DEATH	Elwood Holffman	
3/20/52	2	" " "		
3/25/52	1	MISSION OF MERCY	Hal Rine	
3/27/52	2	" " "		

DATE	PART	TITLE	SCRIPT
4/1/52	1	DOUBLE CROSS IN SPACE	Richard Jessep
4/3/52	2	" " " "	
4/8/52	1	MYSTERY OF THE SPARKLING METEOR	Jack Winestock &
4/10/52	2	" " " " "	Willie Gilbert
4/15/52	1	HOLIDAY OF TERROR	Don Hughes
4/17/52	2	" " "	
4/22/52	1	RIDDLE OF ASTRO	Ben Peter Freedman
4/24/52	2	" " "	
4/29/52	1	ESCORT OF DEATH	Gilbert Brann
5/1/52	2	" " "	
5/6/52	1	DANGER IN SPACE	Richard Jessep
5/8/52	2	" " "	
5/13/52	1	MAROONED WITH DEATH	Gilbert Brann
5/15/52	2	" " "	
5/20/52	1	GREATEST SHOW IN THE UNIVERSE	Palmer Thompson
5/22/52	2	" " " " "	
5/27/52	1	REVOLT ON PRISON ROCK	Ben Peter Freedman
5/29/52	2	" " " "	
6/3/52	1	VULTURES OF DEATH	Gilbert Brann
6/5/52	2	" " "	
6/10/52	1	SATELLITE OF DEATH	Don Hughes
6/12/52	2	" " "	
6/17/52	1	PURSUIT OF DANGER	Richard Jessep
6/19/52	2	" " "	
6/24/52	1	A ROUND TRIP TO DISASTER	
6/26/52	2	" " " " "	

PART II

Shows will be listed by title if known or by the most commonly used description used in traders catalogs and denoted by ().

(Smugglers of Titan Crystals)

Written by-

1/3/52 Part II

The story opens with the Polaris unit in their dorm room (section 42-D) preparing to retire for the night, when they are called to duty. Upon reporting they are informed of a smuggling ring on titan, smuggling unrefined living titan crystal. They are waiting a briefing from an undercover agent, Lt Mesuko, when the news of his crash reaches the academy. Mesuko is found dead in the crash with his ship turned to crystal. Unrefined crystal is refined to make a crystal harder than steel, but while in the unrefined state it can turn steel and metal into crystal.

The cadets go undercover on titan in order to discover how the crystal is being smuggled off planet. A Martian Deck Officer is acting suspicious and is followed by the cadets to the mines. They discover he is smuggling the crystal aboard the Mary Wells freighter at night with a reported "lost" jet boat.

The cadets stowaway on the jet boat only to be discovered and locked in the hold. The cadets use some fast thinking and rip away the insulation of the jet boat turning it into crystal. They jump ship in spacesuits just before the jet boat crashes and are picked up by Capt Strong in the Polaris Cast-Deck Officer-Peter Capella-Pep cereals offers-Magic Eye rings inside all Pep cereal boxes.

SPACE STATION OF DANGER
1/8/52 Part I

Written by-Jack Winestock &
Willie Gilbert

Tom & Roger are sent to Venus Space Station for training while Astro is on special assignment. Before leaving the cadets witness the capt of a small space Company(Loring) ordered grounded for disobeying space Regs. Loring plans revenge against the company who took his franchise by causing accidents. Loring plans to disable a freighter and cause it to crash into the Venus Space Station.

Meanwhile aboard the Space station Roger, living up to his lady's man rep, has altered the communications so he can call his girl on Earth. AS USUAL Roger is caught by Capt Strong and placed on report after he returns the set to normal use.

Not long after Roger's reprimand the sabotaged freighter crashes into the station and Roger is held for investigation. Roger declares his innocents and because he is an Academy cadet, his word is taken and an investigation of the wreck proves sabotage. Loring and his Pilot Ross are questioned, and Ross panics, fleeing out of an air lock to die, Roger is cleared and placed on probation as usual. Part II is missing.
Pep Cereals offer-Magic Eye rings.

ROCKET INTO DANGER
1/15/52 & 1/17/52
Parts I & II

Written by Jack Winestock
Willie Gilbert

(This is sometimes referred to as Lost Pilot or search for missing rocket scout) Spacestation M5 around the orbit of Mars is receiving a routine report from a rocket scout when transmission is cut off causing the Solar Patrol to go into alert. The Polaris unit are assigned to find the missing scout. Astro and Roger are (as usual) having a fight when Capt Strong intervenes shaming the boys for not showing more teamwork. The teamwork appears later when Astro and Roger go out to repair the radar of the Polaris and have to use teamwork to save each other when a near miss by an astroid throws Roger off of the Polaris. Part II- Searching for Capt Parker seems to be fruitless until Roger sights a lifeboat near the orbit of Jupiter. The lifeboat is empty but the ships log indicates Parker is on the surface of Jupiter. The giant planet has a gravity of 2.5 of earths, caused by the movement of the Planet and the high winds. The atmosphere is methane and the nights are very cold. It is through this the boys have to find the Pilot and bring him back. The last few yards of the rescue the boys have to drag. Parker and dodge "Jupiter" quakes.
Pep Cereals offer-Magic Moving Picture Eye ring-16 different

(Vanadium Smugglers)
1/31/52 Part II

Written by Gilbert
Brann

The Elise Joe carrying Vanadium is hijacked. The Solar Guard believe the hijacking is an inside job with the Capt as the contact. The Polaris find a rocket scout believed to be from the Elise Joe only to be out distanced by the small craft-much to everyone's surprise. Capt Strong estimates the course to be the dark side of Mercury. Using heat sensors the Polaris crew find the camp only to be trapped by an electronic beacon. The Spacesuits are short-circuited and the Mercury cold begins to creep-in. Some fast thinking and the boys use emergency batteries to warm their suits and while Astro and Roger lay down as decoys, Tom rounds up the hijackers.

INTERPLANETARY SPACE TOURNAMENT--
2/5/52 & 2/7/52

OPERATION HIDE & SEEK--
2/14/52 part I

Written by-Don Hughes

(Sometime known as Training Mission). On Space maneuvers with Capt Strong as the outlaw and the cadets as the trackers, the cadets find Strong's radiation pattern with a Sniffer. They also find another radiation pattern and follow it. They soon find who they think is Capt Strong only to be fired upon. Astro is knocked out cold and the communications are out. Tom soon realize the rocket scout is stolen and the Polaris is about to be boarded by pirates. Tom does send out a limited fake radio call that scares the pirates away and allows the boys to escape. Part II-

(Astro gets lost in ice caves of Pulto)
2/21/52- Part II

Written by-Richard
Jessep

The crew of the Polaris and Major "Blastoff" Connel are looking for caves on Pulto suitable for future colonies. While Tom & Connel look around, Astro and Roger ready the jet boat. Disobeying orders the two take the jet boat up for a test and almost crash. Connel throws the book at the two handing out 99 demerits (100 gets you expelled) and are ordered to sit tight. They soon find the cave they have been looking for only to find Astros Communicator belt. Fearing Astro as being lost they search and find him near suffocation. Tom and Roger go for the jet boat but are cut off by a snow avalanche from Astro and Connel. The two are saved when Tom uses the exhaust to melt the ice and free thier friends. Major Connel- Barry Kroger.

TRIAL IN SPACE
2/26/52 & 2/28/52 Parts I & II

Written by-Jack Winestock
Willie Gilbert

(Sometimes known as Astro gets Space fever-& Cadets Shipwreaked). While returning from training Astro becomes ill and Tom must bring the ship down alone. Blaming fatigue, astro doesn't feel he is sick until he drops a deadly acid while in the lab and Tom has to save him again. Dr Dale fears Space fever. If it is Astro would become a medical discharged cadet leaving the Academy for good. A new replacement is sent for and a training mission is set up to see if the new crew can work together as a unit. The unit blast off for Mars with Astro on as a patient to test his reaction in space. A fire breaks out in the power deck and Astro is not allowed to help. It is soon under control when Tom allows the space vacuum in (or rather the air out) to stop the fire. Part II On Mars Tom tries to help astro and suggests a leave of absents only to find Astro edgy and dissatisfied. Astro threatens to resigns when they return to earth and of course Manning is neckling him and gets into a fight which Capt Strong has to break up. All seems lost when the Polaris is caught in a Space Storm (sunspots), tossed off course by a space cyclone, and crashlands on Mars. Capt Strong is hurt and Roger is lost on the Marsian desert while looking for an Oxygen booster plant. It is Astro who saves Roger and gets the Polaris crew off of mars and back to the Academy where he is allowed to become a full-cadet again after test prove fatigue.

ASTEROID OF DANGER
3/4/52 & 3/6/52 Parts I & II

Written by Gilbert Bram

(Sometimes known as Dr Dale & Manning disappear Part I & Dr Dale and Manning kidnapped part II)

On asteroid 2049 a rare ore is found and the cadets are given a sample to test as a class room assignment. Through an error the ore explodes resulting in a new fuel. Roger and Dr Dale are sent to Astroid 2049 to conduct experments with the ore only to disappear from the Rocket scout. Tom and Astro investigate the scout ship and find it is about to explode and are trapped in the ship. Capt Strong suggests the use of the emergency tools to cut their way out. With seconds to spare the boys cut their way out to Capt Strong and the Polaris. Part II. Several incomplete radio messages are received by the Polaris indicating Mason the engineer as the kidnaper and ring leader. Searching the Asteroid, the unit finds it empty, Tom uses the Polaris as a decoy and slips into another asteroid with the scout ship and rescue Dr Dale and Manning. Tom blasts off just as Capt Strong fires a Space Torpedo at the kidnappers ship leaving the Mason gang stranded on the Asteroid.

GIANTS OF MERCURY
3/11/52 & 3/13/52 Parts I & II

Written by Don Hughes

On the Way to Venus for leave the cadets are ordered to investigate Zero A Fever. Arriving at the Mercury station they find it in shambles and the two teams of scientist missing. The log states that the men saw Giant Men. Tom and Roger set out to find the missing men only to find the Giant Robots. They are cut off from the Polaris and it is only through Roger jamming the radio Frequency that they are free. Part II- Medics arrive and try to treat Tom for Zero A Fever but are suprised by two giant robots. All is fine since Capt Strong and Roger are controlling the robots with transmitters. The Pirates who had attacked the outpost regain control of the robots, capture a nurse, and demand their surrender. Tom using a stronger transmitter re-controls the robots freeing the nurse only to be confronted with an atomic warhead aimed at the Polaris- Tom sends the robots up the rocket launcher of the pirate ship blowing up the crew. PEP commerical for Magic eyes. Other stars-Connie Lympky and James Montes.

ATMOSPHERE OF DEATH
3/18/52 & 3/20/52 Parts I & II

Written by Elwood
Holfman

An important emmissary from Venus-Barton Reed-was killed with an outlawed heat ray by Alexandria Stone while Tom and Roger escort him to headquarters. The boys hitch a ride on a Solar Guard ship and transfer to the passenger liner heading for Venus in mid-space. They find Mr Deagon knocked out with Narco-gas and when revied he tells the cadets of a RDX bomb on board of the ship. They find the bomb and shove it out the airlock. Alexandria Stone was killed in the Jet Air lock when trying to escape. Part II Tom & Roger land and find that a group of rebels are trying to destroy the Atmosphere stations and suffocate the planet. The cadets are targets for elimination by the rebels. A member of the gang try to trap the boys but tables are turned and the group reveled. CAST-Peter Capell, Marie Tarplin, William Keene, Elsfitt Eric.

MISSION OF MERCY
3/25/52 & 3/27/52 Parts I & II

Written by Hal Rine

While Tom & Roger both campaign for the office of President of the Cadet body, an epidemic of unknown origin breaks out on Titan. An immediate evacuation of the children is ordered with the Polaris and Capt Strong in Charge. While on Titan Roger breaks quarantine to see a girl. Tom goes after him only to return with the disease and to be accused of jumping ship. Tom is on the critical list when a vaccine is developed and Tom volunteers to act as Guinea Pig for the untested vaccine. Part II. The spaceship Toris from Titan with children aboard has been stricken with the Titan disease and is missing. The cadets are sent on the search mission with Dr Lee. Tom, still weak from his illness, makes a mistake in navigation causing the Polaris to hit a meteor, knocking Capt Strong out. Making way to Mars for repairs, the Polaris finds the Toris only now the Polaris power system is out. Tom tries a plan and jumps from the Polaris to the Toris using an Oxygen bottle as a jet. Tom uses the vaccine and the children are saved. CAST: Luis Van Rooten

DOUBLE CROSS IN SPACE
4/1/52 & 4/3/52 Parts I & II

Written by Richard
Jessep

Roger thinks he has flunked-only he has made the honor roll, but being a hot head Roger leaves before finding the truth out. Roger soon falls in with two Asteroid miners, Brady and Peters, heading out for the Asteroids on the Jenny Alden. Tom tries to find Roger only to be interrupted by the robbery of N72C. In the meantime Roger finds the stolen N72C on the miners ship and is soon thought to be in on robbery and murder. Part II. The Solar Guard is grounded due to the lack of N72C and Capt Strong and Tom go underground to make arrangements with Skinny (an underground thief) to buy N72C. Tom places a radar beacon on Brady's ship but falls into a trap on the 2d Moon of Jupiter. Skinny comes to the rescue and saves the two patrolmen. Skinny reveals, he was an enlisted guardsman and always wanted a solar medal. CAST-Paul Ford, Ian Martin, and Gilbert Mack. PEP cutouts of Cadets and Dr Dale. A call from the Titan station asking for more PEP.

MYSTERY OF THE SPARKLING METEOR
4/8/52 & 4/10/52

Written by Jack Winestock
& Willie Gilbert

A Comet Watch in Sector 7 fails to report. In the past 14 years 3 Solar guardsmen have died under questionable conditions while in the sector. The cadets with Strong head for the sector only to find a ship drifting in space with Capt Powers and his son aboard. Powers is unconscious from a fever and is taken back to the academy, while the boys stay on comet watch. A strange meteor that sparkled goes by but Roger is goofing off and missed plotting the course of the comet. The boys have to return to the academy. Part II Roger, Strong and Dr Dale go after the meteor in order to analyze the comet. When the meteor is found a problem in analyzing the comet occurs and Strong with Roger jump to the meteor for a sample. Meanwhile Jody (Powers son) has stowaway on the Polaris and tips Dr Dale to the nature of the comet-Countra-Terra. If Roger or Strong touch it-they will be blown up. The radio is out and the Polaris has to be used to come between them and the comet. All is save and Roger becomes fond of Jody. Cast-Sarah Bushel (Dr Dale?).

HOLIDAY OF TERROR

4/15/52 & 4/17/52 Parts I & II

Written by Don Hughs

Venus celebrates its 100 years of independence and the Cadets have a weeks leave to spend at Astro's Uncles Gold Mine in Gold City, Venus. The boys find the town deserted and the people loading the towns gold into a freighter along with robots(refer to Giants of Mercury ep). Tom and Astro stay behind to help while Roger goes for the Patrol-only Roger is shot down and returned to the pirates camp. Astro & Tom have a plan to take over the camp and succeeded. They give chase in a freighter when the pirates leave in a faster ship. Part II They find the pirates have added many super-science equipment. The pirates have doubled back to Venus into an underground hanger. The cadets force the pirates out in the open with a fake radio message. They engage in battle but are out numbered and brought down. Tom sets a bobby trap in the downed freighter causing the pirates to blast themselves and the robots. PEP-announcement of new Pep package.

RIDDLE OF ASTRO

4/22/52 & 4/24/52 Parts I & II

Written by
Ben Peter Freedman

(Part I referred to as Murko Kidnaps Astro & Part II called Astro takes Murkos place).

Astro is captured while on leave at Vensusport by his twin cousin Murko. Truth drug is used to question Astro and learn about the patrol and Astros close friends. Murko plans to take Astro's place at the Academy. Murko returns and joins Tom and Roger. At first Tom is suspicious but Murko covers by saying he had a head injury before leaving Venus and has forgetful spells. At night Tom follows Murko when he slips out at night with a package. Murko covers by using a sleep walking act. Tom finds the package the next morning and faces Murko with it. Murko pulls a ray gun and kidnaps Tom and Roger on the Polaris. In the meantime Astro breaks loose and joins Tom and Roger. Murko is overcome and the plan is reveled-smuggling. A patrol ship would never be searched and Astro plans to continue on to Mars and trap the smugglers. Part II(This part is also called Astro impersonates his crooked cousin). Murko breaks loose and contacts Beale stating the smuggled RDX will be on the Polaris. Astro is on Marsport and is trying to make contact with the smugglers. Tom and Roger are following and are waylaid by Beales men. The RDX is delivered but without a detonator. Astro calls Beale from the spaceport for more instructions and is told to ride the monorail where he would receive directions. Murko foals Tom and exposes Astro. Beales Men try to throw Astro over a Chasm from the Monorail. Roger and Tom come to the rescue.

Special announcement: Floods of Midwest and the need of the Red Cross.

NOTE: Ben Peter Freedman has written several Superman TV scripts.

ESCORT OF DEATH

4/29/52 & 5/1/52 Parts I & II

Written by Gilbert Brann

Tom & Roger are ordered to guard Sally Wood(daughter to one of the largest spaceship designers) and a large sum of money she is carrying to Polar City. While in route the cadets are drugged and wake up in a hotel room in Polar City, with Sally missing. Reading the telnews they find their ship has crashed and they are being sought by the Solar Guard as fugitives. The cadets flee but see a ship

take off with Sally Wood in it. The boys give chase in a Solar Guard ship and force it down with gun fire. They find Sally is being held for ransom by a man named Anders who is really after the new ship plans Sally was carrying. Part II Tom and Roger call capt Strong to clear themselves and set up a meeting, but are shot down by the Patrol crashing near Anders Mansion. Anders capture the cadets only for them to escape through Air Ducts into the Jungle. A radio used by the cadets had been bugged by Anders leading his men to the boys, only the cadets outfoxed Anders by placing the bug on a monkey. Returning to Anders Mansion with Capt Strong the patrolmen are intercepted and have to escape by jumping over a swinging bridge. The cadets finally rescue Sally and are cleared.

Special Announcement-Give to the Red Cross for Midwest Flood Victims.
CAST-Sally Rosemary Rice; Anders-Frank Butler.

DANGER IN DEEP SPACE
5/6/52 & 5/8/52

Written by
Richard Jessep

Date May 6th 2352. Major "Blastoff" Connell is once again in charge of the Polaris Unit and as usual the unit starts off wrong by reporting to the wrong ship. Demerits are issued and the cadets are sent to the Anne Jones for a long range test of the new long range transmission beam. Trouble begins when two enlisted men Thruston and Lewis jump the regular crew and take their place. They know that the Moon of Tara is 3/4 cooper, a very valuable element at this time. The two cause trouble for the cadets by making mistake for them causing Connell to relieve the cadets of their duty and place Thruston in command. Lewis tries to suffocate Tom and the Major by locking them outside of the airlock only to turn the table on Lewis-killing him and taking Thruston prisoner. Part II. The Polaris unit turn the Moon of Tara into a large rocket ship in order to blast it back to our Solar System. Time is very important and Roger goofs setting a fuse off 1 hr to early. Roger is provoked into a fight with Thruston who overpowers him and Tom leaving the Major and Asto on the moon. Tom tries free fall trick and recaptures the Polaris in order to rescue the crew on Tara's moon and re-fire the moon in order to bring it back to the Earth's solar system.
Cast-Thruston-Luis Van Rooten.

MAROONED WITH DEATH
5/13/52 & 5/15/52

Written by
Gilbert Brann

The Polaris unit is assigned to another Solar system to investigate the disappearance of 4 other expeditions to OBJECT DELPORT, a new frontier planet. A Sun flare causes the supply rocket to miss the Polaris unit forcing the crew to land on the planet for food. Delport is a tropical paradise with fresh water and food. Roger complains about the regulation dealing with landing on a new planet with their spacesuits on. The wisdom of the reg is brought home when a tidal wave washes over the ship and crew. Wet but save the crew survey the damage of the Polaris and all seems lost until what looks like a trail of smoke is seen in the distance. Part II The Polaris crew find a colony with Capt Yates, commander of the first expedition, in command. The boys notice parts of the 4th expedition's ship and confront Yates. Yates threatens to kill the crew if they don't join the colony. Attempts to escape fail and the crew are placed in a cave to think it over.

Digging noises attract the cadets to a cell next to the cave. They tunnel and find Capt Larkin of the 4th expedition imprisoned. They plan to overcome Yates when he comes for Larkin. Not expecting more than one person Yates is overpowered and the cadets take over.

SPECIAL INTEREST-Offical Space Cadet Goggles to be used for sunglasses etc. Send 25¢ and Kellogges box top to B-346 Battle Creek Mich.
Cast-Capt Yates-Eian Martin Daughter-Susan Douglas

THE GREATEST SHOW IN THE UNIVERSE
5/20/52 & 5/22/52

Written by Palmer Thompson

The cadets have orders to transport Col Rosco Wilberforce and his circus to Venus. Problems in transporting animals in free fall are solved and the blast off is uneventful. The big cats of circus are let loose by their keeper Vance who is being paid to wreck the circus and trap Tom Roger and Maja. Tom places the ship in free fall and uses a paralyzer ray to freeze the cats and put them back into their cages. Part II On Venus Maja checks her cats and catch Vance setting fire to the circus. Vance flees with Maja as a captive. The fire is extinguished and the circus is saved mainly due to the low oxygen content and gravity of Venus. Looking for Maja and fearing the worse the Cadets find Vance in a jetboat with Maja ready for take-off. Vance is trying to get Maja to join another circus and blast off before Tom and Roger can get to them. The cadets chase and ram the other boat causing a leak in the fuel and forcing the boat for a landing where they over power Vance.
CAST Maja-Connie Lemkie Vance-John Griggs(?) Col Wilberforce-Leon Jarney

REVOLT ON PRISON ROCK
5/27/52 & 5/29/52

Written by Ben Peter
Freedman

Two convicts, Hauge and Bull Carson, plan and make a jail break from the Max sec. Prison Rock. The two overpower the Warden, steal the code book, and send a fake message to the Polaris unit that is on Guard Duty in orbit. Tom, Roger and Capt Jeffers land and are led by Hauge into a trap. The cadets and the Warden escape and head for the radio room to find the radio smashed. The cadets then plan to use spacesuits and swim the canal system and turn down the atmosphere generators. The convicts are knocked out by lack of oxygen and use portable respirators the cadets disarm the convicts, only Bull and Hauge have escape in the Polaris. Part II Bull and Hauge are raiding the spaceways with the Polaris and a pirate crew. They plan to raid a shipment of vandum on the Alpha. Tom and Roger are blasted when they find the Alpha with the pirates aboard. They make it to an astroid where a miner Sam Harvey has a Titinum mine. The old man doesn't want to help but does reveal that the Polaris is in the area. The cadets search for the Polaris only to find Harvey has bet them to it and is trying to make a deal with the pirates. Hauge, who has fallen from the good grace of the pirates, and Harvey are thrown from the ship. The cadets use the misfortune of the two and subdue the convicts.
Cast-Bull Carson-William Keen, Hauge-James Montes, Jeffers-Joseph Ballow.
SPECIAL INTEREST-Corbett makes an announcement-TC has won the award of high standard for family entertainment from the Boy Scouts of America.

VULTURES OF DEATH
6/3/52 & 6/5/52

Written by Gilbert
Brann

Tom and Astro are in Equator city while Capt Strong and Roger are in the newly developed Planet Delport (see Marooned with Death). The Cadets are to officiate the start of a 5 ship race for land and mineral deposits on Delport. Tom is asked by Leo "lucky" Polk to use him as a substitute pilot. That night Tom and Astro find a pilot of one of the ships injured on the field and Leo is

called to replace him. That night a fire breaks out across the field and is later found to be a diversion to plant a bomb on one of the ships. The bomb explodes and only through the Vespian's owner (one of the five ships in the race) Chadfield turning back from the race to save the ship does Tom and Astro get back into the race. Part II Three ships are in the lead when they enter the atmosphere of Delport-Argosy, Vespian and the New Worlds. All are headed for the rich mineral deposit near the lake with the Vespian last. Polk who is the pilot of the Vespian ignores Chadfield's order to slow up causes the Argosy to crash and sink in the lake. The cadets in another ship land and orders the owner, Chadfield under arrest, while Polk has jumped ship to claim the best mineral rights. The cadets find Polk diving to the rescue of Sutton, who has fallen into the lake. Sutton is drown and Tom accuse Polk of his Murder. Polk has rigged the bomb on the ship, disabled the pilot of the Vespian, and caused the crash of the Argosy in order to claim a larger share of the mineral rights. Polk has the drop on The Cadets but Chadfield shows up and panics Polk allowing the cadets to over-come him. Chadfield is cleared and is able to claim a rich amount of the mineral rights.
Cast-Marice Tarplin-

SATELLITE OF DEATH
6/10/52 & 6/12/52

Written by Don Hughs

The unit has been assigned a "milk" run to Titan for a Prof of Science. Much to Rogers delight the Prof is an Intelligence agent, Col Collins sent to investigate Rea a Moon of Saturn and the rumored takeover of Viruscide F-3. The Pirates have stolen one shipment and it looks like they will be taking all of the supply on Rea. They hope to destroy the plant and thus blackmail the Solar Guard with the only supply of Viruscide. On the way to Rea, the Polaris is taken over by a pirate who was stowed-away aboard the ship. Tom tricks the pirate and overpowers him but in doing so the Polaris is crippled by some Space Junk and Tom and the Col hope to make the colony by jet boat to warn the miners. Part II. The manager of the colony is dead and Malver, the radio communicator is in charge. Tom catches Malver sending a message to the pirates. They plan to blow a hole in the atmosphere shell and kill everyone in the colony and blow up the factory after they have taken all of the supply. Tom and the Col are caught and tied up-but the Col just happens to have a Diamondlite blade in his shoe and free Tom and himself. The miners are warned and get into spacesuits. The Polaris shows up under min. power and has to ram the pirate ship. The pirates land in the colony and attach with a Marsian Killer Tank. Tom uses a jet pack and drop acid jars on the tank causing it to corrode and forces the pirate out where the colonist take over.
NOTE; Astro is never heard in the story and is always down Below or busy.
CAST: Col Collins-Dick Keith Malver-Eian Martin

PURSUIT OF DANGER
6/17/52 & 6/19/52

Written by Richard Jessep

Tom and Roger are on hand for the Venus Interplanetary Expo at Venusport. The cadets are given free run of Expo and follow some girls to a space ride. The ride is really a front for two outlaws-Eddie Morgan and Bill Rice who are trying to steal the Energy lock that is being sealed into a time lock at the Expo. Tom & Roger think something is up and watch the crooks shack all night. At dawn they overhear the plan of hauling dirt from their digging to orbit and dumping it into space. The cadets slip down the mine shaft by the rope and catch the two breaking into the time capsule. After a short fight the cadets are knocked out and left to be buried by the last load of dirt. The cadets look and find a communicator belt and contact the Solar Guard.

PART II. Morgan and Rice are using the Engery locks to raid the vessels in Space. Plan F would be put into effect and the Polaris unit join in on the search. The Pirates have taken over a heavy crusier ,the Orian, and is seen by the Polaris unit. The Orian is to big for the Polaris and Plan Z is in effect. The Pirates are using the Solor code books and are one step ahead at every turn until a new code is used. Tom know of the new code but uses the old code to trap the pirates. A decoy is sent out by the titan colony with a fake payroll aboard as well as the cadets. Once on board the decoy is attacked by Morgan who reconize the cadets but it is too lake and the patrol has moved in and taken Morgan prisoner.
CAST:Morgan-Eian Martin Rice-Ivor Francis.

A ROUND TRIP TO DISASTER
6/24/52 & 6/26/52

Not available in my collection but the closing for PURSUIT OF DANGER states-
"The cadets fly the largest Passenger ship to Venus."

***** WANTED-

Any of the missing Radio shows. Will Trade radio shows for radio shows.

The following shows are available from the editor. Priced at the three reels of Tom Corbett shows \$16.00 plus \$1.50 postage. Other Science Fiction shows available-write for catalog.

Reel #12	Side 1 Left	Side 2 Left
-Smugglers of Titan Crystal Pt 1		-Vandium Smugglers Part 2
-Space Station of Danger Pt 1		-Operation Hide and Seek Part 1
-Rocket into Danger Parts 1 & 2		-Astro Lost in Ice Cave on Pluto
		-Trial in Space Part 1
	Side 1 Right	Side 2 Right
-Trial in Space Part 2		Giant of Mercury Part 2
-Astroid of Danger Parts 1 & 2		-Atmosphere of Death Part 1 & 2
-Giant of Mercury Part 1		-Mission of Mercy part 1

R-13	Side 1 Left	Side 2 Left
-Mission of Mercy Part 2		-Mystery of the Sparkling Meteor
-Double Cross in Space Parts 1 & 2		-Holiday of Terror Parts 1 & 2
-Mystery of the Sparkling Meteor		-Riddle of Astro Part 1
	Side 1 Right	Side 2 Right
-Riddle of Astro Part 2		-Danger in Deep Space Parts 1 & 2
-Escort of Death Parts 1 & 2		-Marooned with Death Parts 1 & 2

Reel 14	Side 1 Left	Side 2 Left
-Greatest Show in the Universe		-Vultures of Space Parts 1 & 2
Parts 1 & 2		-Satellite of Death Part 1
-Revolt on Prison Rock Pt 1 & 2		

	Side 1 Right
-Satellite of Death Part 2	
-Pursuit of Danger Parts 1 & 2	
-1952 RCA record adventure-	
8 mins Space Academy-Use the	
Space cadets adventure from	
the radio cast.	

THESE THREE REELS ARE IN BROADCAST ORDER. TO MY KNOWLEDGE THEY ARE ALL THAT ARE IN CIRCULATION AT THIS TIME.

Mail orders to: Ed Pippin
9802 Bragg Lane
Manassas, Va 22110

GROSSET & DUNLAP'S

TOM CORBETT

by Cary ROCKWELL

#1-STAND BY FOR MARS-1952

#2-DANGER IN DEEP SPACE-1953

#3-ON THE TRAIL OF SPACE PIRATES-1953

#4-SPACE PIONEERS-1953

#5-REVOLT ON VENUS-1954

#6-TREACHERY IN OUTER SPACE-

#7-SABOTAGE IN SPACE-1955

#8-ROBOT ROCKET-1956

The Tom Corbett series ran for 8 books from 1952 to 1956 and like so many of the boy's books published by G & D the stories deal in action, adventure, and plenty of it!!! Grosset has been in the book publishing business since the early part of the century when they reprinted the Tarzan books. Grosset was publishing a number of juvenile series such as Nancy Drew, Hardy boys, Rick Brant, et.al, when Tom Corbett was started. The Tom Corbett was a tie-in with an established TV character but the copyright was held by Rockhill RADIO. This is interesting because everything dealing with TC had a copyright of Rockhill PRODUCTIONS. A cross-over in the books plot lines and radio shows is seen when the G & D stories are compared to the shows listed in the radio log.

In Jerry Bails WHO'S WHO IN COMICS, Joseph Greene is listed as editor of Grosset & Dunlap's during the early 1950's and writer for the Tom Corbett comic book published by Dell. It may be possible that Mr Greene developed some of the story lines and plots while others completed the story. This seemed to be a common practice for publisher's of juvenile fiction.

Several of the TC books have similar plots found in the radio and comic book series. The first three TC books have strong elements drawn from the radio series. and in the fourth book, SPACE PIONEERS, the story line is very similar to the Dell comic #421.

Attempts to locate the author or authors writing under the house name of Carey Rockwell have been unsuccessful (See Grosset's reply in the letter section). If Mr Greene is the same author mentioned in James Gunn's Science Fiction history ALTERNATE WORLDS, he is listed as a new writer of the 1960's. It may be that Mr Greene cut his teeth on the Tom Corbett series first.

The late Willy Ley was the technical advisor for the series. Mr Ley seemed to be involved in all aspects of Tom Corbett, even in help design the Marx TOM CORBETT SPACE ACADEMY set. Willy Ley was one of the leading rocket experts of the 1950's who urged the United States into space. His articles appeared in many leading journal's and his most well known series appeared in 1952. Along with other noted space scientist he contributed articles to the MAN ON THE MOON SERIES written for COLLIER's and later collected and expanded for book publication. It was Mr Ley who tried to keep the TV show from using non-valid science, such as having a meteor crash into the Polaris every show.

The science was more pseudo than fact. The rocket motors were atomic fueled with the fuel being "burned" in the engines. Lead bafflings were used to protect the crew from radiation and the landings and takeoffs were by the "seat of the pants". Hyper-drive, developed by Dr Dale, was used by the Solar Guard units which involved a vague reference to "bending" space.

The cadets, Tom Roger, and Astro, were always in trouble with the commanding officers, even though the cadets had single-handedly defeated space pirates, saved a deep space colony, braved dangerous assignments and performed the everyday hazards of space flight. Over and over the cadets were on the carpet, especially Roger, only to be proved guiltless. Many times the cadets' sense of Adventure would outweigh caution and send them off without checking in with their supervisor, Capt Strong.

The lone female in the series, Dr Dale, reflects a bias of the times. Dr Dale is described as a brilliant scientist but continues with... "ALTHOUGH A woman Dr Dale has distinguished herself as an outstanding scientist and was allowed to become the ONLY woman admitted to the Academy". There are several possible answers to this line of reasoning.

First, this was a boy's series and in a boy's series the only female or romance allowed was the kissing of a horse or in this case a love affair with your space ship. Capt Strong may have been sweet on Dr Dale and in the Newspaper strip and one of the Dell Comics Tom is kissed by Dr Dale.

Second, the space academy is modeled after the West Point of our time. Up until recent times this was a male only institution.

Third, this was an out and out prejudice. I do believe it was a combination of the first two and did not want to overdo any romance, since this was a boy's series and the identification was for the male reader.

Even with the pseudo science and some uneven writing, the series is readable for space opera fans as well as any normal young person who enjoys a good adventure.

The format of the books would open with the first two chapters dealing with academy life either a Mercury ball game or an important event beginning. By the 3rd and 4th chapter the cadets would be involved in the adventure, many times meeting the villains or having a run-in with them. These accidental meetings would prove to be important later on. The villains are always very bad and hate both the cadets and the Solar Guard. No BEM's (Bug eyed monsters) would be found in the series other than the prehistoric giants of Venus.

STAND BY FOR MARS and REVOLT ON VENUS stand out as the best of the series. STAND BY FOR MARS introduces the cadets, the academy, and the solar alliance. Many references are made to the workings of the guard and how the team of Tom, Astro, and Roger become the best unit at the Academy. REVOLT ON VENUS is an easy going adventure about the cadets' summer vacation, which involves a revolution. Both books hold the readers' interest and make for good reading.

At the beginning of the series much was taken from the radio series, but by the time the last two books are written a different writing style is noted, basic information is different, and Roger Manning is transferred to the Mars Academy. This last change is interesting since Mars Academy is never mentioned before and the Space Academy is always on Earth. The last book, ROBOT ROCKET, was written during or after the TV series had ended in 1956 thus ending a four year run of solar adventures by the three cadets.

The following listings are broken down into two parts. The first section lists the books in the series and the cross-overs from the radio and comic series. The second section reviews each book of the series. A first printing of one of the series may be identified by noting the last book listed in the front. If the book is the last on the list then it is a first printing. An example: if ON THE TRAIL OF SPACE PIRATES #3 in the series has only STAND BY FOR MARS #1 and DANGER IN DEEP SPACE #2 listed then it is a first printing. This works for all but the first and last book in the series.

PART I- Cross-over plots of the Grosset & Dunlap books.

- #1-STAND BY FOR MARS(1952)- Radio-Trial in Space- 2/26/52 & 2/28/52
- #2-DANGER IN DEEP SPACE(1953)-Radio-Space Station of Danger 1/8/52 Part I
-Danger in Deep /Space 5/6/52 & 5/8/52
- #3-ON THE TRAIL OF SPACE PIRATES(1953)-Radio-Pursuit of Danger 6/17/52
-Revolt on Prison Rock 5/27/52
- #4-SPACE PIONEERS(1954)-Dell Comic #421
- #5-REVOLT ON VENUS(1954)-Atmosphere of Death 3/18/52
- #6-TREACHERY IN OUTER SPACE-Radio-Vultures of Death 6/10/52

There may have been other cross-over plots from some of the 12+ shows missing from my collection of radio shows and there are some cross-overs from the Newspaper strip done by Ray Bailey. The plots from the newspaper may be just part of the general Space Opera story plots developed independent of the G & D books. These story lines will be cover in another article dealing with the TC Newspaper strips.

PART II- Story-lines of the Grosset & Dunlap books

STAND BY FOR MARS

Stand By for Mars introduce us to the Polaris unit as well as giving the background for the Space academy and the Solar Guard. Roger Manning is Very Caustic at first with a large chip on his shoulder. Roger gives Astro a hard time from the beginning causing the good-natured cadet to break Academy rens and get into hot water with the training officer.

The cadets are not together at first. Tom and Astro have another roommate who washes out of the Academy only to be replaced by Roger. The friction between the three is tremendous and what looks like a perfect unit is at odds with one another.

Capt Strong has faith in the unit and as the boys work together through a number of challenges, that cause the boys to think like a unit, they become the best unit at the Academy. The challenges range from the big Mercuryball game for the Academy championship to a trip to Mars where the boys crashland and have to depend on each other to survive. Through this last challenge of surviving on the red planet that reveals why Roger is the way he is(see page 180).

In the radio show Astro is suffering from Space Fever and saves the crew after crashing on Mars.

DANGER IN DEEP SPACE

The story find the cadets involved in testing new communication equipment outside of the solar system. As the story opens the cadets have just finished space maneuvers by wrapping up the mock attack in short order. Feeling pleased with themselves the unit is soon deflated with the news that Major "blastoff" Connel would be in charge of the unit while they are testing the new deep space communication unit in the Alpa Centuri system. Meanwhile two "space rats", Al Mason and Bill Loring have been grounded by Connel for disobeying orders while surveying Tara, the newly discovered planet within the Centuri System. Unknown to anyone Loring has found that the moon of Tara is 3/4 copper, a very rare element in 2350.

The two hijack a freighter from Venus, Annie Jones, and blastoff for Tara only to crash into the Venus Space Station. The two become involved with the Polaris unit when it is discovered that Roger had altered the radar communication set to call his girl on earth. Loring claims the pilots had tried to raise the station but could not. Roger is placed on restriction but is tricked into jumping ship. He joins Loring as they recondition the Space Devil in the Venusian jungle and blast off for Tara.

Through a series of events it becomes clear Roger is not at fault for the crash and with the help of Mr Shinn, another partner of Loring's, capture Loring.

Loring escapes and Maroons the Polaris unit on the satellite which has been turned into a rocket blasting back to Earth. Tom comes to the rescue and saves his teammates and locks Loring back up.

The two radio episodes used in this story involve the crash of the freighter into the Venus station, misconduct by Roger with the Communication Equipment, and Loring whose papers have been lifted for space flight. In the radio episode Danger in Deep Space Major Connel is in charge of the Polaris unit ON the Annie Jones instead of the Annie Jones crashing into the station. This time crewmen Thruston and Lewis jump the ship and we find the same story as in the book, even to Mr Shinnay helping the cadets out.

ON THE TRAIL OF SPACE PIRATES-

The cadets exhibit the Polaris at the Venus Interplanetary Solar Exposition where Capt Strong will deliver a speech at the time capsule. After duty the boys follow three girls onto a rocket ride operated by Gus Wallace and Luther Simms. Astro notes the ride is different on returning to the ground than when it left. The cadets find Wallace and Simms are tunneling into the Time Capsule to steal the Energy Lock Formula but are too late to stop them. The dirt from the tunneling was being dumped into space from the Space Ride.

With the Energy Lock Formula the two rob the spaceways and the Polaris crew are sent underground to find the stolen formula. A led sends them to the prison asteroid to meet with Bull Coxine. Coxine, a former Solar Guardsman, led a mutiny in space only to be stopped by the then young Capt(Lt) Strong. Coxine, is revealed as the mastermind who engineered the thief of the lock and escapes from the asteroid with most of the asteroids population.

Tom joins the pirate crew and makes a name for himself as a gunner. He is forced to flee into space when detected by Wallace and Simms. Tom sends a general broadcast in hopes the Guard will trace the signal and find the pirate strong-hold. Adrift for several days and almost dead the Polaris find Tom and round up the pirates.

The Solar Exposition, where the lock was stolen was developed in Pursuit of Danger radio show with the Polaris tricking the pirate crew, Morgan and Rice, through the use of a fake radio message. In the radio show REVOLT ON PRISON ROCK Bull CARSON escapes with a crew of two and the trio of pirates steal the Polaris and raid the the spaceways.

SPACE PIONEERS-

The Polaris unit along with Capt Strong screen the first star colony applicants. The colony is to be established by Christopher Hardy, a pioneer colonist who started GAnymede colony and the first deep space expedition. It soon becomes evident that Hardy has a new 2d in command, Paul Vidac, replacing Capt Strong as head of the Solar Alliance screening force and Lt Governor. At first the change is normal but the cadets notice certain types of people being selected over the refusal of the cadets.

Problems arise and on the trip out to the new colony, 13 light years away, it seems that Vidac is trying to get rid of the cadets through a number of incidents. The cadets reports are not sent, the boys are sent on an almost suicidal mission, and the colonist are subjected to some severe harassment by Vidac. The Colony is almost ready to revolt but Tom talks the leader, Hiram Logan, into waiting until more evidence is found.

The landing on Wolf 359 is disastrous with half the ships crashing do too a powerful force effecting the instruments. Prof Sykes investigates the area and finds rich deposits of pure uranium. Vidac keeps the report quiet and hides the prof. Vidac plans to blame the cadets for murder and places the unit under arrest.

Meanwhile the Solar Guard has sent capt Strong to investigate. Upon landing he learns of the cadets arrest and rejects the idea of murder and help the cadets escape.

Vidac and Hardy are finally brought to justice and the colony is informed of their plan to take over the colony.

The radio connection is not known but the story line is similar to the DELL comic story #421 "Colonist of IO".

REVOLT ON VENUS-

The Polaris unit is set for the summer break at the academy. Astro has talked his unitmates into hunting Tyrannosaurus Rex in the Venus Jungles. As a boy Astro had hunted the giant creatures for the meat which he sold to fancy restaurants.

Stories of a Venus nationalist Movement have caused Commander Walters to send Maj Connel to investigate. The cadets hitch a ride only to barely miss being killed in a bomb blast on the Polaris. The cadets are informed of the movement and placed on standby.

Once on Venus the cadets head for the jungles making a plantation, owned by Rex Sinclair, as their base camp for the hunt.

The cadets hit the trail for 4 days while Connel looks into the trouble. He soon finds it when he goes by the Sinclair place and surprises a group of Venus Nationalist burning down several buildings. Connel and Sinclair are saved when the cadets burst from the jungle with a Tyrano right behind them.

A series of events lead the boys into the stronghold of the Venus Nationalist where all wear frosted helmets, speak in the native language, use only one name, and are unknown to one another. The stronghold is well hidden within the jungles and it takes all of the resources of the cadets and the Guard to wreck it. The leader is revealed and the revolt is put down.

This is one of the better books in the series and carries a lot of action in 200+ pages. The closest connection to a radio show would be Atmosphere of Death where rebel forces attack the Atmosphere booster stations. A similar revolt occurs in the first year of the Tom Corbett Newspaper strip, only Mars was the rebellious planet.

TREACHERY IN OUTER SPACE-

The Polaris unit are giving a new earthworm unit the "works" when Major Connel interrupts the three for a new assignment. A race for Titan Crystal freight contract will be held and the cadets will inspect all of the ships entering the race.

Brett Charley, owner of a ship, and his pilot, Quent Miles, sabotage several of the ships, killing one of the pilots.

Kit Barnard, a former Solar Guardsman, has developed a breakthrough in atomic engines giving a standard ship close to hyper space speed with low fuel consumption. In the trials Quent places contaminated fuel in Kit's engine, but fails to stop the ex-guardsman who is one of the three finalist along with Quent and Wild Bill Sticoon.

On Titan the force shield is failing allowing methane to seep into the colony. Capt Strong is ordered to investigate while each cadet rides in each of the three finalist's ship. Strange events occur during the race. First Roger doesn't report in, Miles refuses to stop and refuel on Mars, and Sticoon's blows up when leaving Mars.

Tom is found barely alive and Miles is almost on Titan before Kit's new engine catches him. Upon landing Miles states Roger jumped ship on Ganymede, the second fueling station, and headed for deep space.

Tom and Astro find Charley and Miles needed the contract to send the Uranium into the Alliance disguised as crystal. During the mining operation oxygen was drawn from the colony causing the weak force field. The two find the operation, and Ross Miles Quent's twin.

Similar problems occur in Vultures of Death when a space race for rich mineral rights of a new Planet, Object Delport, cause sabotage, crash landings, and claim jumping.

SABOTAGE IN SPACE-

Final exams are in full swing and Roger is out after lights out trying to obtain a hard to get study spool. As usual Roger has an angle and tricks the spools from an earthworm cadet into giving him the spools rather than their arch-rivals, the Capella Unit (The Capella unit is the same as the Arcturus unit re-named when they transferred to a new Ship).

Tom and Astro point out the error of Roger's way and set out to return the spools to the Capella unit. While crossing the Academy grounds the two units run into each other and a fight begins. The guard catch the two and they are in danger of expulsion.

A cadet trial is held and the two units are placed on severe guard duty at the new Top Secret Projectile Project. This new system would eliminate the need for large crews on the ground and large landing areas.

Problems plague the project. Prof Hemmingwell has his work sabotaged, Tom is kidnapped on Mars, Astro and Roger are tricked into leaving their post and the unit is thought to be AWOL.

In the end it is discovered Dave Barret, Prof Hemmingwell's assistant, and Carter Devers, head of Jilolo Spaceways are behind the cadets troubles as well as the sabotage of the Projectile. Devers would lose a great deal of money since his company would be put out of business.

We meet several new characters. Chief Warrant officer "Firehouse" Timothy Rush, a more violent edition of Chief Mike McKenny, but with a very pronounced dislike for cadets. Cadet Benjy Edward is the defense lawyer for the Capella unit during the trials. Edwards has no love for Tom since Tom came to the rescue of an earthworm cadet.

ROBOT ROCKET-

The cadets are celebrating Capt Strong's 15 years at the Academy when a new cadet from Mars Academy is introduced, T.J. Thistle. He is Roger's equal on the radar deck as well as in the wise-cracking dept. Thistle is along to observe the unit and the group head for the Astroids to plot orbits. Roger puts on a show for Thistle only it backfires leaving Tom and Astro in danger. The group pulls together and Thistle is accepted as an equal.

When the unit returns Capt Strong lets the unit know Roger will be transferred to Mars Academy and Thistle is to take his place. Astro doesn't accept him and Tom is back to the early days of the unit. In hopes that the unit will shake-down, the unit is sent to investigate and retrieve a special robot rocket sent to the Sirius Star System. The rocket was fired from Titan and sent into orbit around Thor to investigate strange readings.

Alex Monroe, a physics cadet, joins the group to retrieve the data and informed everyone to mind their own business. Astro and Thistle join forces against Monroe, and are soon unitmates.

Back at the Academy Jack Wilson, Sykes and Dr Dale's assistant, has discovered Thor is 99% Uranium and plots with Hank Lister and Boris Willard to hijack the information. The cadets crash on Thor, Astro and Thistle are lost, Willard and Lister hijack the Polaris and the cadets must save the robot rocket before it falls into Sirius's sun. As always the Polaris unit comes up on top.

By this time the radio shows have been off for more than 4 years and the T.V. series had ended. In a way this was the farewell of the

of the Polaris unit, with Roger at Mars Academy and the unit changed.

OTHER EDITIONS OF TOM CORBETT BOOKS

The English published at least two of the Tom Corbett series books along with other G & D books. The books were red bound paper type, similar to the Doubleday book club ed's. The same inside plates of Saturn and a rocketship blasting off from Titan is seen. The print is smaller and the page count is only 184 instead of 216 in the American ed of STAND BY FOR MARS. The following information is on the inside pages:

VENTURE LIBRARY

No 1-STAND BY FOR MARS

A Tom Corbett Space Cadet Story

No 2-DANGER IN DEEP SPACE

A Tom Corbett Space Cadet Story

No 3-RIP FOSTER RIDES THE GREY PLANET

No 4-TARZAN AND THE FORBIDDEN CITY

No 5-TARZAN AND THE CITY OF GOLD

Publicity Products Limited Loundon

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Made and printed in Great Britain by Purnell and Sons Ltd.

Paulton(Somerset) and London.

I have not seen an English DJ, but it may be the same as the American Editions.

Grosset also published a WONDER BOOK OF SPACE book under the Wonder Book label. I have seen two versions-one with a 29¢ price on the front and one without a price. Other than the difference of price the two are the same.

Tom Corbett: A Trip to the Moon-#713

Written by Marcia Markin

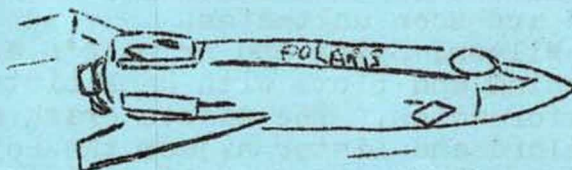
Art by Frank Vaughn

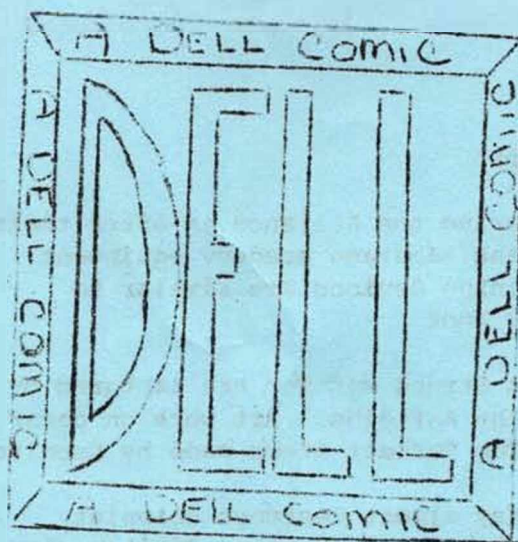
Wonder Books-Div of Grosset & Dunlap books

Tested and approved by the Oak Lane Day Care School

Copyright-1953

The story line is very simple. Johnny & Jamie are looking at the moon and wishing to pay it a visit when Tom lands in the back yard and take the kids for a closer look.





Dell comics published 11 issues of Tom Corbett with a 12th issue reported in several vol.s of Bob Overstreet's Price Guide. Dell may have had plans for a 12th issue but no 12th issue was printed. The art work in the Dell comic was done by at least 3 different artist. Al McWilliams began the series by doing the first three books(378,400,421-Dell Color series). The last three stories appear to have been done by Ray Bailey, who did the syndicated Tom Corbett daily and Sunday strip from Sept 1951 to Sept 1953. Mr Bailey along with Dick Rockwell Assisted Caniff on the comic page of STEVE CANYON. Ray Bailey also adapted Steve Canyon into the Dell Color Series of comics. Along with the Dell Adaptations BRUCE GENTRY, an aviation comic strip, was syndicated from 1948 to 1951 by Mr Bailey.

The TC comic by Dell had 34 pages of art with the inside front pages containing different action scenes from the TV series. The back inside cover was in B & W with no ads in the book. Dell's printer, Western Lito, also published the giveaway comic MARCH OF COMICS for stores for promotional purposes. There was only one such TOM CORBETT giveaway from this series.

The following Dell listing includes the publishing date, title (where title is not given " " indicate a general title), and the artist when known. If anyone can identify other artist please feel free to send in their name.

Prize comics printed 3 more TC comics in 1955 and the listing of these books. follow the Dell listings.

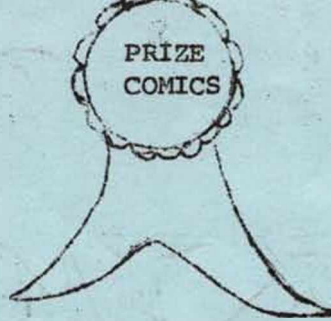
PICTURES ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER OF THE DELL ISSUES

Issue #	Description
378	Wrap-around cover-Painting of Space Academy. This issue also has a picture of Mars on the inside back cover.
400	Wrap-around cover-Space Cadet Pledge
421	Wrap-around cover-Picture of Academy class room with the Polaris unit and Alfie Higgins.
4	Looking into Polaris through the Space port with Cadets and Capt Strong.
5	Inside the Polaris with the Cadets
6	The Cadets and Capt Strong suited up in Space Suits
7	Inside the Polaris with the cadets and Capt Strong Floating in Air trying to return to the wall of the Polaris
8	Roger is showing a Spaceship model to Astro while Tom looks on.
9	Tom is at the controls of the Polaris while Capt Strong and Dr Dale watch him go through some Astronavigation.
10	The Polaris unit Pose for a group picture
11	The Polaris unit as seen through the viewport as they prepare to blast off on their first solo trip

DELL-

Color series

#	Date	Title or "Discription"	Artist
378	Feb' 1952	"Titan Sabotage"-Fearing the Alliance is after their Uranium ore,the Titans sabotage academy equipment. Several academy training devices are similar to R.A.H.'s SPACE CADET book	Cover & Story Al McWilliams
400	May 1952	"Space Pirates"-Capt Strong and Tom are captured by pirates working in the Astroids. Art work on cover appears on several Tom Corbett items made by Usealite	Cover & Story by Al McWilliams
421	Aug 1952	"Colonist of Io"-McKay almost destroys colonist when U235 is found at the colony site. Similar plot found in G & D's SPACE PIONEERS	Cover and Art by Al McWilliams
4	Nov-Jan'52	"Lost Race of Assorians"-Prof Thornton lost on Mars Cadets and Martian Picpup search and find Prof,Lost City,and Outlaws of Bor Borito.	
5	Feb-Apr'53	SMUGGLERS OF THE MOON-Pirates using moon as hideout capture cadets. Cadets find world within Moon with people only 4½Ft tall.	
6	May-Jul'53	"Blue Men of Tara"-Alfie Higgins join the Polaris unit on Tara in Alpa Centuri system and discover a race of giant ants and blue cavemen.	
7	Aug-Oct'53	SPACE TRAITOR-Bob Keen is about to be commissioned into the Solar Guard,but helps his brother escape from a prison on the moon.	
8	Nov-Jan'53	"Spaceship Graveyard"-While patrolling the Saturn run the Polaris is wreaked with Space Junk and the cadets float to a planetoid with a magnetic graveyard.	
9	Feb-Apr'53	WORLD OF WATER-Unknown code is received from the Sirius star system indicating no life was found on the 3rd planet,EARTH!!!	
10	May-Jul'54	"Astroid Treasure Hunt"-A young Orphan,Jimmy,is looking for uranium with Dr Gulliber,only the Dr is using the boy as a front for claim jumping.	
11	Sep-Nov'54	FORBIDDEN FOREST-Spaceships are crashing because pilots have space Blindness due to lack of Vita Q. The element is harvested in the swamps of Venus	
MARCH OF COMICS 102	1953	SLAVERS OF SPACE- While patrolling a Mars Orbit The cadets find a ship adrift with captive people only 6" tall.	



Format-Contains 3 full length stories with many pages of ads and 1 or 2 2 pagers.
All of the artwork including cover was done by Mort Meskin.

MAY-JUNE 1955

Vol 2 #1

- Spaceship of Doom(7 pages)
- Octopus Tree(8 Pages)
- Spaceways of Peril(6 pages)
- Capt Quick & the Space Scouts-Mystery on the Moons of Mars(2 pages)

JUL-AUG 1955

Vol 2 #2

- Outlaws of Uranus(9 pages)
- Invaders (7 pages)
- Wolf Planet(6 pages)

Sep-Oct 1955

Vol 2 #3

- Dangerous Cargo(8 pages)
- Drifter (7 pages)
- Craters of Mercury (7 pages)
- Capt Quick and Space Scouts-Hermit of Callieo(2 pages)

In comparison of the two companies(Dell and Prize),Dell comes out ahead. Dell stories were longer and more developed,where the Prize stories were short and chopped up. The art work of Mort Meskin was ave. but lacked any freshness. The three prize issues seemed to be the same in appearance and content. My favorite Dell issues were those done by Al Mc Williams. Al,or Alden, had a feeling for the atmosphere of Space Opera.

LAST MIN. ADDITIONS-

If you have not read Robert Heinlein's SPACE CADET,the model for Tom Corbett, then there is no excuse now. Del Rey books have just published it in paperback. SPACE CADET was one of the last juveniles published and should be read by all Tom Corbett fans.

Also for trade from the Editor of SPACE OPERA:

- Three TOM CORBETT Dell comics Numbers 5,9,10
- Little Golden Book of TOM CORBETT: A TRI P TO THE MOON#713-Good cond. some spine wear. See page GD-20 for discription of book.

SPACE ARTICLES

During the early 1950's Space Opera received the spotlight from many popular magazines ranging from Collier's, Theater Arts, Newsweek to Women's Day and Popular Science. It seemed everyone had an interest in this new T.V. sensation and wanted to explain why it was so popular with the kids. Many times these articles were written with tongue planted firmly in the cheek. Although semi-serious in nature many of the articles provide a glimpse into the past and reveals something about one of our favorite space heroes.

In this check list articles have been rated and briefly discussed.

****-Collector's item

**-Ave.-general information

*** -Worth collection

* -So,So-

MAGAZINE	DATE	ARTICLE	LENGTH/PICTURES
Women's Day ****	Aug '53	1-"Will Your Child visit the Moon?" By Jack Cluett	10 pages/Many illustrations
		2-"Rocket Bye Baby" By Jack Cluett	4 pages/lillustration
		3-"Four Flight Tested Space-Helmets you Can Make"	4 pages/4 color Pic's of helmets & 2 page of How-to diagrams

Article 1-"Visit"-History of Science Fiction and how many marvels of today were first seen in the Science Fiction field. Mention is made of Dr Robert Richardson and Willy Ley's roles as Science Advisors to Capt Video(Richardson) and Tom Corbett(Ley). It is noted Willy Ley wrote the Star Dust part of the Tom Corbett Sunday Newspaper Strip. Starts on Page 19

Article 2-"Rocket"-Compares the old west with Space Opera. Discussio of Capt Video(DuMont), Space Patrol(ABC), Rod Brown(CBS), Tom Corbett (return to DuMont) and Mention of a new series Capt Starr of Space for ABC. Starts on page 8.

Article 3-"Helmets"-Excellent step by step instructions on how to make helmets for Space Patrol and Capt Video. Starts page 21.

New Yorker**** Mar 1st'52 "ONWARD & UPWARD WITH THE ARTS

"No Lobster Men from Neptune."

By Thomas Whiteside

A must for Tom Corbett fans. Mr Whiteside interviews Allen Ducauny program manager of TC Rockhill Productions with a tour of the TV sets. He talks with Willy Ley, Science Advisor, Albert Aley, Script Ed, Jack Winestock and Willie Gilbert, writers, and Hal Davis, advertizing agent for Kelloggs. He follows a story conference and a rehearsal for a show. Excellent information. starts on page 32.

MAGAZINE	DATE	ARTICLE	LENGTH/PICTURES
Collier's***	Jan 1 '52	"Planet Parenthood" By Murray Robinson	4 pages/Full color page of kids in various space suits 5 pics of the Major shows

Background on Tom Corbett and Space Patrol along with information on the writers and actors of the show. The full page illustration and 5 small pictures set off the article. Starts on page 30.

Popular Science***	Sept 1952	"How TV tricks take you space traveling" By Harry Walton	4 pages/6 pictures
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Secert of how George Gould did the live special effects needed in the Tom Corbett show. Pictures include one of Mr Gould and special effects box, Tom, Astro, Roger and Dr Dale. Several illustrations and a short text finish up the article. Starts on page 106.

Newsweek** $\frac{1}{2}$	4/2/51	"Hi-Yo Tom Corbett"	1 page/1 picture
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General information about one of the special effects on the show.

Time**	8/11/52	No title	1 column/1 picture
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Story about Mike Moser's Space Patrol philosophy and picture of Mr Moser. Mention is made of the Terra IV's touring of the nation.

The following is a listing of T.V. DIGEST's. Most were 1 shot column's or at the most 1 page. Information is very general but several have different pictures.

**Dec 9 1950-1 picture of Tom and Dr Dale. Tom is in spacesuit coming into ship. Dr Dale is helping. Text is $\frac{1}{2}$ column

**Apr 14 19 51-3 pictures and 1 page about Captain Video. Background information on Al Hodge.

**Feb 16 1952-1 Picture of Don Hastings and 1 picture of Don and Al Background information on Don. Text 2 Columns.

** $\frac{1}{2}$ Apr 26 1952-"Philadelphia Invaded!-5 pictures of the Tom Corbett's crew's visit to Philadelphia on March 29th.

***Jun 7 1952-Full picture of Frankie Thomas as Tom Corbett. Nice picture.

Recent articles have appeared. The following are a few known to me at the present time.

FILM COLLECTOR'S REGISTRY**** May 1977 # 76
"Memories of a Space Cadet"
By Frankie Thomas

Printed on Newspaper style similar to the BUYER'S GUIDE. Five full pages with Many Pictures. Information straight from the principal character from the series. The article clears up a number of questions

FILM COLLECTOR'S REGISTRY**** Jul 1976 #66
"Sat Moring at the TV"
By Earl Blair

Same format as above-4 pages in length interviews Mrs Muriel Buckridge, Assoc. producer of the TV show. Later reprinted in FANTASY FILMBOOK 1977.

That's about all for now. More articles next time. If there is enough interest I'll make photocopies for those who want them. Cost would be 15¢ per page plus S.A.S.E. This WOULD NOT include any of the Film Collector's Registry or any recent material.