

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES
With this issue

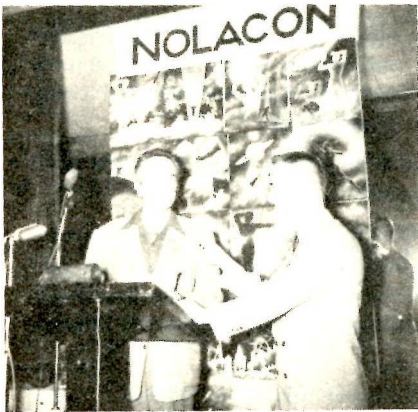
SCIENCE FICTION

OCT. 1951

NEWS LETTER

NEW ORLEANS HOT, THE CONVENTION NOT; ATTENDANCE DOWN BUT PUBLICITY UP

Moore introduces Leiber



A fan sleeps ...



Spaceman checks in



Kyle registers horror

Shasta Publishers believe

"The best is yet to come!"

and are happy to announce

THE FIRST ANNUAL SCIENCE-FICTION NOVEL COMPETITION

\$1000.00 Grand Prize

Open to all. The best *manuscript* will win. No magazine taboos.

We are looking for modern novels so outstanding that they will win new readers for the field of science-fiction, and delight regular readers as well. We want strong characterizations, believable human motivations—exciting, unusual story-telling. A new direction in science-fiction.

The winning manuscript will be published in book form, with an outright grant of \$250.00, plus a **\$750.00** advance against royalties.

RULES: Entries must be postmarked not later than June 30, 1952. Manuscripts must be between 60,000 and 100,000 words. Sufficient return postage must accompany each entry. The decision of the judges will be final. Entries will be judged by Everett F. Bleiler and T. E. Dikty, co-editors of *The Best Science-Fiction Stories* annual anthology.

Only original, unpublished science-fiction novels will be considered . . . But anyone, anywhere is eligible to compete. Promising entries which do not win the Grand Prize will receive consideration for future book publication in our forthcoming lists, receiving regular advances and royalties.

"The best is yet to come!"

Help the best to come about. Send in your novel.

SHASTA PUBLISHERS • 5525 South Blackstone • Chicago 37, Ill.

CONVENTION NEWS:

New Orleans, September 1, 2, 3

OPENING DAY: 144 registered.

Activities began in the Claiborne Room of the St. Charles Hotel shortly after noon, with chairman Harry Moore slowly and painfully working thru the laborious process of introducing almost everyone present, a process which put one man to sleep (see photo). Several well-known names which were expected and which habitually attend these affairs, were missing. Forrest Ackerman missed his first convention because of a death in the family, thus leaving Erle Korshak (present) the only fan to attend all nine conclaves. Anticipated names such as Tony Boucher, George O Smith, Jack Williamson, Mack Reynolds, E.E. Smith, Will Sykora, and others, did not appear. As always, the convention brought out a large number of new and/or young fans in the region. Long-distance travelers were Dale Hart from Mexico City, five fans from Canada including Millard, McKeown and Grant, and Cpl. Lee Jacobs just returned from France (and the London convention).

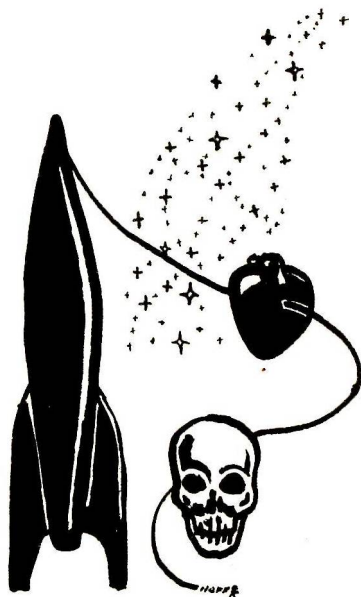
Fritz Leiber, guest of honor, delivered the keynote address, "The Jet-Propelled Apocalypse," the theme of which was the progress of the Man of tomorrow in fact, as compared to his treatment in fiction. Leiber took an optimistic view of Man's future, firmly believing he would have one, and contrasted that future with various dire predictions made in science fiction.

Following an intermission, the fan-business session rapidly got out of hand over arguments as to whether or not dianetics should be premitted at a later session. After lengthy, loud harangues marked by a great lack of parliamentary procedure, a vote was taken and dianetics remained on the scheduled program.

The remainder of the scheduled afternoon program took place in the evening, with various editors and publishers speaking their pieces.

Hans Santesson, Unicorn Mystery Book Club editor, spoke first with what was apparently a repeat of his Newark address reported elsewhere in this issue. He also wondered aloud if the fans realized science fiction has come of age, pointing out that many people outside the S-F world so regard it and accept it.

Next up, Erle Korshak outlined forthcoming plans of Shasta Publishers, stating that the older pulps are no longer worthwhile sources of books, and that his company is now searching for new novels by both new and old S-F writers. In connection with this, he called attention to his \$1000 talent-hunting contest. In response to a question from the floor, he turned thumbs down on the



reprinting of old "Gernsback classics". Korshak also doubted that Robert Heinlein would now write the new stories scheduled to go into the Future History series according to the chart; he said Heinlein lacked the time due to heavy outside commitments.

Martin Greenberg spoke for Gnome Press, and in addition to giving information on those books mentioned here last issue, he said that Gnome was planning publication of van Vogt's THE MIXED MEN, will publish the American edition of Clarke's THE SANDS OF MARS, and that they were working on an anthology of short novels (not short stories).

Sam Moskowitz on "Fan of the Universe" was the high spot of the opening day and one of the better features of the entire convention. Speaking forcefully and with many humorous anecdotes, Moskowitz told of his accidental meetings with U.S. Senators while vainly attempting to locate a Washington DC fan meeting, and also while flying to New Orleans. During the air trip, he received an invitation from Louisiana's Russell K. Long to appear and testify before a Senate Committee. During the evening, Moskowitz presented his definitions of fans and active fans and then produced evidence that many writers of the past centuries fitted those definitions; writers such as Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, Cyrano and the earlier Lucian. Revealing the results of his researching into ancient pulp magazines, he quoted fan letters from Lovecraft, Hamilton, Brandt, and others, letters written to editors long before those men turned to writing fiction themselves. In 1938, he said, the magazine editors thought that about 200 people comprised all fandom, while today the new editor of Thrilling Wonder (in the same disparaging tone) thinks there are "only 20,000" of us. Moskowitz pointed to the proving-grounds of fandom which has produced twelve magazine editors and numerous writers, published the first fantasy and S-F books on a regular basis. Finally, he opined that the science fiction field has become too large for the individual to embrace, and that only the annual conventions are left as common ground for the fans.

E.E. Evans held forth on Part Two of the History of Fandom, underscoring the fact that fandom is a virtual school for professional writers and editors, as well as artists, agents and the book publishers. He recounted anecdotes on the twelve-year-old Ray Bradbury hanging around the Los Angeles club room, and said that a partial tabulation showed that more than 350 fans had sold fiction to the professional magazines.

The first day wound up with the dianetics session, conducted by James F. Pinkham, an auditor from New Jersey. By actual count 27 people remained in the hall, of which about a half-dozen were loafing around the book tables at the rear of the room.

SECOND DAY: 172 now registered.

The entire afternoon was consumed by the auction and when it was halted by waning interest and the lateness of the hour, many magazines, books and illustrations remained unsold. The colorful backdrop behind the speaker's stand consisted of twenty photograph-like paintings by Morris Scott Dollens, and these were sold individually, with prices ranging from about \$2 up to \$15. Highest price paid for a single item was the \$56 Jean Bogert bid for the original Bok painting used on the program booklet cover

(see photo). Next two highest prices were \$41 and \$31 for two Paul covers. Moskowitz reported in FANTASY TIMES that the auction netted \$655, after commissions to fans who donated material.

A panel discussion opened the evening program, moderated by E.E. Evans. Les Cole and Sam Moskowitz took the position that there should be more science in science fiction, while Fredric Brown and Bob Tucker held out for less science. No real fight could be whipped up and the four speakers contented themselves by stating their individual preferences and why they believed their positions appealed to the fan and the general public.

Following this came the first of the New Orleans specialty, movies, movies and more movies. A French-made vampire melodrama of twenty years ago, "The Castle of Doom," alternately put spectators to sleep or set them to laughing in the wrong places. Ted Sturgeon's TV film, "A Child Is Crying" proved to be exceptional drama and the audience showed its appreciation. Nelson Bond's TV film, "Conqueror's Isle," met a lukewarm reception. Inasmuch as the hour was now late, "The Lost World" was postponed until the following evening, and the convention adjourned to a downtown New Orleans theater to see a special preview of "The Day the Earth Stood Still," a new film by Twentieth-Century Fox studios.



THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL.

Erle Korshak had previously made arrangements to show the film, and the Fox company came through in fine fettle by not only renting a theater and supplying the film, but by also sending along a public-relations man and two cameramen, one of which was a Movietone Newsreel man. At the theater, several pictures were taken of the audience registering various emotions as they watched the screen: horror, shock, laughter, etc. (see our own photo of same.) These pictures are to be used in publicizing the film and the convention. Altho Harry Bates would never recognize his original story, "Farewell to the Master," the film is a good science picture with a message: the world governments had better cooperate or else, and the governments of other planets will positively not allow us

to get off the ground if there is the merest chance we will bring our wars with us. Acting played straight in restrained style.

THIRD DAY: 183 total registration.

Nothing was scheduled before noon, but news got around that Fox Movietone would be taking special newsreel shots that morning and a crowd filled the hall. The public-relations expert brought along a space-suit used in the movie, plus a handsome scroll testifying that the Ninth World Science Fiction Convention had voted "The Day the Earth Stood Still" to be the best science fiction movie of the year. Lee Bishop Jr. donned the space-suit, a stage was set in which several writers and fans were grouped in serious study around the table, and while the newsreel camera whirled,

the spaceman walked into the picture and was presented with the scroll by speech-making Harry Moore. These scenes were released in Movietone News #74, which appeared in theaters on and after September 15th, marking the first time any science fiction meeting was filmed for the professional screen. Still pictures taken at the preview theater were said to be for a national magazine.

At noon, the convention saw the second special preview of a new movie, Paramount's "When Worlds Collide," produced by George Pal. The screening was arranged by Dave Kyle of New York, and unfortunately came off second-best in both presentation and quality of picture. Paramount supplied only the film, leaving it up to the convention committee to find a way to show it. The committee came up with the best they could do on short notice, a creaky, cantankerous portable projector which gave out a poor light and distorted sound, thus detracting from the picture. In addition, the show had to be stopped every 20 minutes to change reels; it will of course look better when shown in the theaters, but this reviewer holds a poor opinion of it. The movie is not up to Pal's success of last year, "Destination Moon," although it follows the original Balmer & Wyllie novel reasonably well. Those scenes treating with the end of the world because of the coming collision of earth and the new star, are high spots of the show.

Late in the afternoon the session was called to order and the business of choosing next year's convention city begun. Judy May of Chicago put in the bid for that city, stating that if they won it, the several women in the Chicago club would take an active part in affairs and head some of the convention committees. Next, Tom Quinn of San Francisco and the Little Men's club asked for his home town, thus bringing to a head an intensive campaign he and his friends had carried on for three days. Third, Dave Kyle put up the city of Niagara Falls, Canada, and Ned McKeown followed him with a pep talk on the place, pointing out that the slogan would be "Over the falls in '52," and "The barrelcon."

Next and fourth, Ken Beale made the annual bid for New York City and the Queens S-F League, in the absence of Will Sykora. Fifth, Lynn Hickman, master-monster of the Little Monsters of America, asked that next year's conclave be held in Atlanta, Ga., and followed with a stirring appeal to ignore geographical distributions of successive conventions. Sixth and finally, Roger Sims of Detroit repeated his bid for that city, having tried for the last several years to capture it. The doors were closed, the delegates on the floor counted, and ballots distributed:

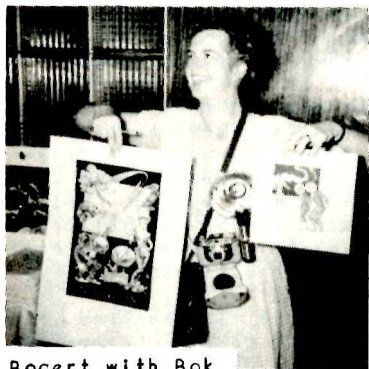
Chicago:	30	New York City:	3
San Francisco:	16	Atlanta:	22
Niagara Falls:	11	Detroit:	16

There then followed lengthy arguments on how the next ballot was to be taken: would the bottom city be dropped and balloting continue on the remaining five, or would all but the two top cities be dropped? A vote was taken on this with the result that all but the two top cities were declared out of the running, and the second ballot proceeded.

Chicago:	59	Atlanta:	36
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The line to buy memberships formed to the right of Judy May.

About one hundred attended the banquet, at \$2.50 per plate, which featured southern-style baked chicken. Toastmistress was Judith Merrill, and after a few humorous stories by various fans present, she introduced Robert Bloch as the after-dinner speaker. Bloch's subject was past newspaper coverage of S-F conventions. In view of the fact that almost all previous conclaves had received derogatory publicity in the press, his speech pointed out the unfairness, the deliberate slanting and the outright cheating of such news reports. Had New Orleans papers followed the usual custom, the speech would have been made earlier as a major item of business, and mimeographed copies furnished to each paper.



Bogert with Bok

Local newspapers however, for the first time in fan history, reversed the usual procedure and covered the convention fully and accurately. The TIMES-PICAYUNE had a reporter at almost every session and published news reports for five consecutive days; the STATES covered it for two days, and the ITEM once. Accompanying pictures showed Lee Hoffman, Bob Bloch, Fritz Leibner and Hans Santesson.

Following the dinner, a sketch by Leibner was presented, "The Robot, the Girl, the Android and the Poet." Its theme was the far-future when the last woman on earth had her choice of a robot, an android, or a poet. The latter might be described as having a sensitive fannish face, and rather useless to the woman. Leibner played the poet, Judy Merrill the girl, Shelby Vick the robot; if the android will write us, we'll gladly print his name.

A series of slides flashed on the screen was the next item of entertainment, Tucker's "Thru Darkest Fandom with Birdie and Camera." Made from old and new fan pictures, the slides pictured fans as far back as 1939 and followed the changing fan-picture from convention to convention, up to the present year.

And at about midnight, carrying the movies thru to the bitter end, Moore presented "The Lost World" to a dwindling audience to close the convention.

FINANCES:

Sam Moskowitz, reporting in FANTASY TIMES, gives the following as the convention financial statement: the affair took in \$1,035, and had expenses of \$710. Of the remaining \$325, the finance committee gave \$150 to the Chicago group to begin operations, and \$50 to the Fantasy Veterans Association to provide reading material for fans overseas. The balance of \$125 was left with the New Orleans sponsors. This committee consisted of Moskowitz, Evans, Moore and Tucker.

COMMENTARY:

We questioned a number of fan editors present on their opinion of the convention, and whether they intended to praise or criticize it in their publications. Without exception they thought it a wonder affair and were going to say so. So it could be, then, that we are the only ones out of step, but we

thought it to be the poorest of the seven we've attended. The programming was ill-timed and sometimes ill-managed, with gaping holes in scheduled activity that left delegates sitting there waiting for something to happen. The three days were overloaded with grade-B movies. Parliamentary procedure and ability to handle unruly speakers and voters, to separate entangled motions and counter-motions, was lacking. There had apparently been no rehearsals or testing of tape-recording equipment, with the result that when the "man of the future" on tape was supposed to answer Fritz Leiber's spoken charges, gobbledygook came out. Paramount's "When Worlds Collide" could have been enjoyed if a theater had been rented beforehand. A firm hand on the speaker's platform could have prevented one or two brash, noisy characters from clutching the microphone and babbling into it far too often.

And finances. It is now taken for granted that conventions take in big money, and also taken for granted that the city-club sponsoring it is entitled to a lion's share of the net profits--- but we deplore the kind of bookkeeping that does not at all times reflect an accurate picture of their finances, and we believe that financial statements should be read during the afternoon business session of the closing day --- with the fans immediately given the opportunity to decide how it should be divided.

Late in the evening of the closing night, the harried treasurer was attempting to balance his books and give the committee a reasonably accurate statement. It was very difficult to do and after getting what we thought were the final figures, we left on other business. Much later that night we were told that the financial statement was reading during the midnight movie, and that the figures given did not correspond with those we had obtained. Meanwhile, in mid-September, a special convention issue of James Taurasi's FANTASY TIMES appeared, containing the Moskowitz report noted on the previous page. Knowing his trait of persistance and satisfied with his honesty, we discarded our own figures in favor of his. Until the New Orleans group publishes a closing record, we may accept the Moskowitz report as one which reflects as accurate a picture as can be obtained.

So for all the above reasons, we thought the convention an unusually poor one. Chicago please note.

SIDELIGHTS:

Due to the extreme heat, the change in drinking water and perhaps the unwise sampling of New Orleans cookery, a number of fans took sick. Bea Mahaffey was unable to appear on the program, Ollie Saari spent more time on his back than on his feet. Lee Hoffman, who has published a better-grade fanzine for the past fourteen months and who has received numberless letters and references addressed to "him," was obviously enjoying herself at her first convention. George Young sped down on leave from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to encourage Detroit's bid for next year. A character fondly known as "The Bat" was very much on hand and in everyone's hair. Seven fans spent the week before the convention in nearby Florida, lolling on the sands. A young man hitchhiked in from Alberta, Canada. Late on the day of the auction, with ready funds apparently drying up, one collector was disposing of huge stacks of ancient magazines at five and ten cents each, and selling others by the stack and the pound. The program booklet contained forty pages, and fantastic misspellings.

MAGAZINES

No Boom but a Solid Market," the article said books by better-known writers now sell 5 to 7000 copies of each title, while the really successful volumes can do 9 to 10,000 copies. Anthologies are the most popular, and the best-seller to date has been Groff Conklin's *THE BEST OF SCIENCE FICTION* (Crown, 1946), which has sold 33,800 copies in five years. Following that is his *TREASURY OF SCIENCE FICTION* (Crown, 1948), with 26,000 copies sold. Walter Bradbury, S-F editor at Doubleday, stated that fans and collectors buy only 2 to 3000 copies of each title, with non-fan outside readers purchasing the rest. Four book clubs have selected fantasy and science books in the past two years, and many public libraries now stock them.

In a later issue, PW published an item about the New Orleans convention, and mentioned that fandom reads and publishes a number of fan magazines, pointing out to book publishers that these fanzines carry book reviews, news, etc.



Writer Paul W. Fairman, Holmes, N.Y., is editing a new science fiction magazine scheduled to appear in January. Title withheld, the magazine will feature several fan departments, including guest editorials and one article per issue spotlighting some fanzine, together with its editor.

PARK EAST, subtitled *The Magazine of New York*, reported on the science fiction field in its July issue. Devoting thirteen columns to an article entitled "Danger---BEMS at Work!", the report covered the fans, their fanzines, magazines, books and films.

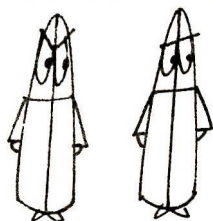
PARK EAST presented the most honest, factual coverage yet to be made on the field, but took a dim view of some fanzines. Quote: "The fans issue a myriad of leaflets ... known as fan-zines. Often the contents of these ephemera consist of badly-digested scientific information, culled, apparently by illiterates, from the pages of scientific journals (or the) Encyclopedia, and accompanied by badly written stories with impossible plots; but in a few of them a higher standard is reached, and many of the younger pro-zine writers made their start as contributors to (fmz)."

ITEMS: Jerry Bixby, former editor of *PLANET*, is now working as assistant to Sam Mines of *TWS* and *STARTLING STORIES*. ** Forrest Ackerman, reporting in *FANTASY TIMES*, states that a new science fiction magazine is coming from England in October. ** Ted Carnell, editor of Britain's *NEW WORLDS*, assumes editorship of *SCIENCE-FANTASY* with the latter magazine's autumn issue. In the meanwhile, the autumn issue of *NEW WORLDS* has appeared with its first "girl cover," which caused a fuss at the London convention some months ago when the cover was announced. *** *GALAXY SF* will appear under a new management with its October issue, but no changes are being made in editor or magazine. Publication's new address is: 420 Hudson Street, New York City 14. In an interview in *SHOWMEN'S TRADE REVIEW*, producer George Pal states that watching the rise of the S-F magazines over the past ten years was responsible for his decision to make *DESTINATION MOON*.

The Reporter

REPORTING ON FANS AND FANDOM

Max Keasler's FAN VARIETY (Poplar Bluff, Mo.) is the second fanzine to fall beneath the disapproving eye of the Postoffice; Keasler was notified that certain pages of his June issue were found to "contain material of questionable mailability under the postal obscenity law" and henceforth he had better fly right. In Washington DC, the Solicitor's Office of the Postal Department denied any knowledge of the banning several months ago of Forrest Davis's INCINERATIONS (Portland, Ore.) The Solicitor stated his office has no record of any such action, which, government-talk being what it is, may or may not mean anything.



Russell Watkins (Louisville, Ky.) has joined the Air Force, but states he will continue to publish his fanzine DAWN at his home address, and that DAWN will continue its "clean-up fandom and fanzines" campaign. The last 3 issues have carried suggestions by readers as to how this should be accomplished. Watkins says he did not report INCINERATIONS to post office.

The NFFF Manuscript Bureau has "finally found a permanent home" with Kenneth Krueger, 11 Pearl Place, Buffalo 2, N.Y.

Bob Troetschel (Pittsburg) & Everett Winne (c/o John Nagle, 182 State St., Springfield, Mass.) are compiling a checklist of fantastic literature in paper-bound editions, and need help to complete same. Their list now numbers more than 500 titles, and additional information is wanted on the Frank Reade library, the Tauchnitz paperbacks, Canadian ditto, plus the older American and foreign titles. S-F, fantasy, and weird borderline material to be included. Contact Winne at given address.

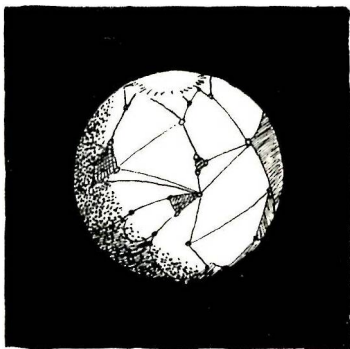
SCIENCE & CULTURE, published by Stanley Crouch, (Sterling Va.) is preparing to suspend publication in the near future. His United Scientific and Cultural Organization was dissolved in the most recent issue, and magazine will follow into limbo soon.

Hans Stefan Santesson, editor of the Unicorn Mystery Book Club, addressed the June meeting of the Eastern S-F Association on "Is Science Fiction Replacing the Detective Story?" His theme was "No, but..." Santesson agreed with Tony Boucher that a merger may be anticipated, a blending of the two forms, and cited as examples Asimov's PEBBLE IN THE SKY, Williamson's DRAGONS ISLAND, Gray's forthcoming MURDER IN MILLENIUM VI, and Dye's unpublished THE SWAP. Touching on another subject, old-time fan Santesson commented on the distinctly racist and superman tendencies of some writers, which seemed illogical unless we are to progress only along material lines; also citing examples, he pointed this out as an unhealthy trend and asked not for crusading literature but that S-F simply come of age. He believes two encouraging examples are Hamilton's CITY AT WORLD'S END, and de Camp's ROGUE QUEEN, particularly the latter, stating that it was a departure from the usual "refusal of writers to admit the possibility of constructive 'human' intelligence in any but earthlings and their descendants." We say that he hit the nail on the head. ROGUE QUEEN is an outstanding S-F book, and is reviewed in this issue.

Don Day (3435 N.E. 38th, Portland, Ore.) will publish in book-form next year an index to the first twenty-five years of American science fiction magazines. This ambitious project will check-list some 45 magazines, having about 1500 issues, and contain upwards of 20,000 separate entries. The volume will include the following: (1) An index by story-title, including the title, author, magazine, date, page number, and length of story. (2) An index by author, listing his works with magazine, date, page, and length of story. (3) A critical-historical introduction reviewing the entire field. And (4) a list of all verified pseudonyms. Don Day asks the assistance of writers and fans in compiling the list of pen-names, urging a careful checking of same before submission.

The Chicago Science Fiction Society chose that title for itself at a mid-July meeting, after operating without a name for several months. Forrest and Wendayne Ackerman, returning from an extended European trip, were guests of the meeting and plans were outlined to them for next year's convention if Chicago won it. Other guests present were Mr & Mrs Fritz Leiber, and Geo. Riley.

PERSONALS: Bill Austin has sold his bookshop in Seattle and is now vacationing in Alaska. Ed Noble (Girard, Pa.) is to be married this autumn. Charles Lee Riddle, now stationed in Hawaii, will be transferred to the New York or Rhode Island area early next year. Joe Kennedy (Dover, N.J.), George Young (Detroit), and Robert Briggs (Washington DC) have entered the armed forces. Damon Knight has married and moved to California. Ray Beam has moved to Tucson, Arizona. Poul Anderson is traveling in Europe. Fred Pohl and Judy Merrill have moved into a new home purchased in Jersey. Gene Hunter is a proud papa again.



Paul Cox and his *TIME STREAM* got a three-column write-up, plus picture, in the August 5th *Columbus*, Georgia *LEDGER-ENQUIRER* newspaper. Interview featured the history of S-F, prozines, fanzines, the national conventions, and Shaver and Hubbard. Paul is seen cranking a mimeograph, cover artwork in the background.

The new 1951 issue of *OPERATION FANTAST HANDBOOK*, and the latest issue of *OPERATION FANTAST* has arrived in this country from Capt. Ken Slater, England. (American agent: Phil Resch, 567 Erskine Drive, Pacific Palisades, Calif.) The *HANDBOOK* details the dozens of services performed by Operation Fantast, together with names, addresses and prices; while the other magazine is the leading fanzine of Britain with 20 pages of news, reviews, comment and science-fantasy articles. We recommend both magazines.

The Pittsburg (Penna.) Science Fiction Association held its charter meeting July 24th at the home of John L. Taylor, with 19 present to launch the club, including writer Geoff St. Reynard (Robert Krepps). This is the fourth such organization in that city, the others breaking up due to usual reasons. The new club intends to operate its own newsstand, selling fan and prozines.

FEATURE REVIEWS



WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE (Paramount Pictures): Without using big names in the cast, George Pal has produced a competent technicolor picture of what happens when a new sun and planet enter the solar system, causing the destruction of the earth. The United Nations reject the warnings of a frightened scientist, forcing him to accept the offer of a crippled, domineering millionaire to obtain funds to build a rocketship. When the world is wracked by earthquake, heat and tidal waves, it realizes too late what is to happen, and only a chosen forty-odd people escape the earth to reach the new planet which accompanies the oncoming star. Outstanding scenes are those of the break-up. See it. -BT

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL (20th Century-Fox): Patricia Neal and Michael Rennie are the principles, in the story of an alien spaceship landing in Washington DC, to the consternation of the government, the army and the police. Rennie, the spaceman, vainly attempts to call together the heads of all governments and warn them that wars must stop or they will never be allowed to reach space. In a token demonstration of his power, he shuts off all electricity all over the world for thirty minutes, and is hunted down as a "Martian monster" for his pains. His attending robot has the power of complete destruction, but we are not going to tip off the ending. Be sure to see it. -BT

MR. DRAKE'S DUCK (United Artist): Douglas Fairbanks Jr. is an English farmer, whose wife unwittingly buys several dozen nice ducks at market, only to discover one of them is laying atomic eggs. The government declares their farm a prohibited area and a search is instituted to isolate the duck; meanwhile, the army, navy and air force have moved in on them. Sult yourself. -BT

FORTHCOMING, MAYBE: Independent producer Irving Allen is now filming in Austria, for American release, an original story entitled "The Gamma People." All about a nazi scientist who experiments on pregnant women, gene mutation that is, to produce little supermen in a hurry.

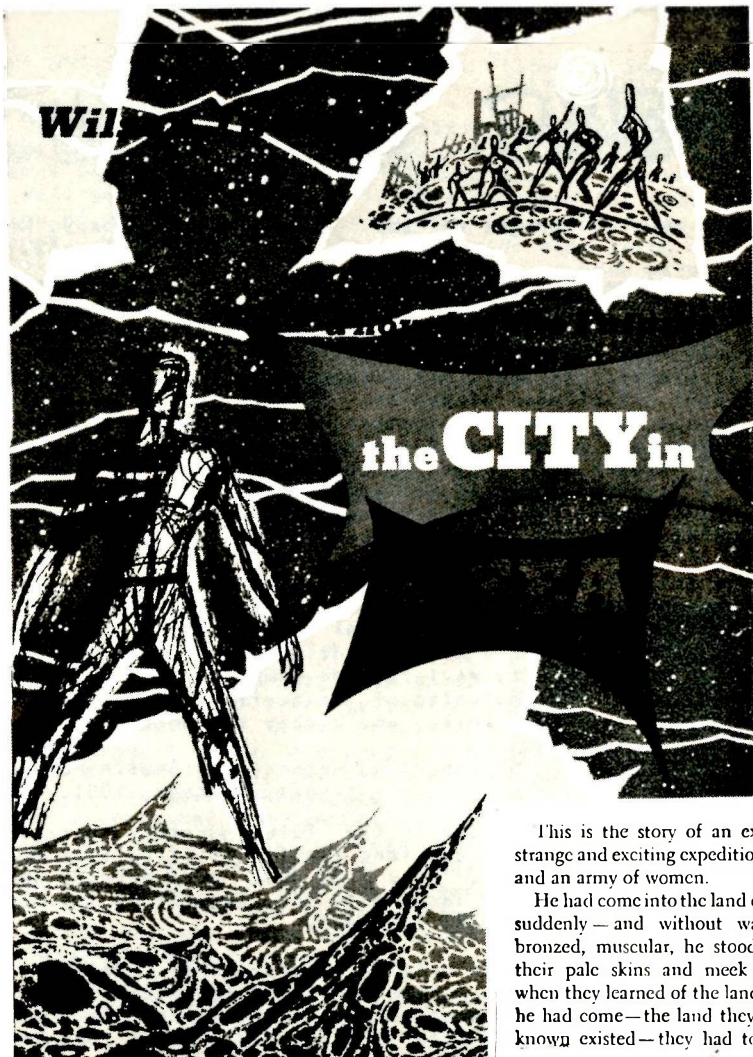
Two films are promised which deal with the same subject. Paramount is preparing "Los Alamos," and independent producer Ivan Tors has scheduled "The Atom Men," both of which concern the men who make the bombs. Latter story was written by Curt Siodmak.

The whirring sound you hear is J. Verne in his grave. Columbia's serial, MYSTERIOUS ISLAND, has been revamped and space ships now rocket through the various chapters.

Jack Vance has sold his 1948 Startling Stories yarn, "Hard-Luck Diggings" to 20th Century-Fox for filming. He also landed a writing job at the studio, presumably on his own script.

Lippert Productions have started work on "Miss 2000 A.D." for fall or winter release. American pictures are doing preliminary camera work on "3000 A.D." after which they plan another, "Invasion, U.S.A."

Spinach was said to be a basic food of the ancient Greeks.



"The far future of the earth is firmly in the hands of dreamers and the science fictioners. The science fictionist's far future may be only a few hundred years away or it may be many thousand. There is no Methuselah around to count the number of their passing."

THE CITY IN THE SEA

by WILSON TUCKER

This is the story of an expedition—a strange and exciting expedition of one man and an army of women.

He had come into the land of the women suddenly—and without warning. Tall, bronzed, muscular, he stood out among their pale skins and meek spirits. And when they learned of the land from which he had come—the land they hadn't even known existed—they had to follow him

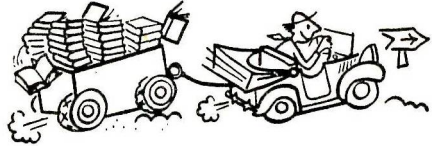
One man and an army of women crossing the remnants of a post-atomic United States in search of the Unknown.

**Personally inscribed copies
upon request**

\$ 2.50

**W.B. Read & Company
Bloomington, Illinois**

BOOKS



ROGUE QUEEN by L. Sprague de Camp. (Doubleday & Company, New York City, 1951. \$2.75)



This volume is a wonderful example of science-fiction NOT having to depend on pulp magazine sale to earn the writer a living; it is doubtful if any magazine, *Galaxy* included would have published this for it is a novel of sex on a far planet, not smut, not pornography, but sex as handled from a science-fictional viewpoint. De Camp has set up a world in which people and nations operate a form of government similar to bees; there are several self-contained city-states (or hives) populated by neuter males and females who are the laborers and soldiery, a selected group of well-sex males who have but one function, and finally the queen herself who maintains the status quo as regards a healthy and stable population.

Into this situation comes a survey ship from earth, containing among others in the crew a pair of lovers, who carry on in earthly fashion to the astonishment and eventual enlightenment of a rebel girl who stole a male and deserted her city. Against a background of inter-city warfare, de Camp spins a delightful comedy in following the awakening of the neuter-female rebel. One of this author's very best works, and highly recommended. -BT

THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH by Robert A. Heinlein. (Shasta Publishers, Chicago, 1951. \$3.)

This is the second volume in the Future History series of five, presenting ten short and long stories fitting into Heinlein's concept of the future. The time span runs between about 1960 and 2010. This volume lacks only one quality of its predecessor: there is no new novel included.

The contents and their original sources are: "Delliah and the Space Rigger" (Bluebook), "Space Jockey" (SatEvePost), "The Long Watch" (American Legion Magazine), "Gentlemen, Be Seated" (Argosy), "The Black Pits of Luna" (Post), "It's Great to Be Back" (Post), "--We Also Walk Dogs" (Astounding), "Ordeal in Space" (Town and Country), "Green Hills of Earth" (Post), and "Logic of Empire" (Astounding). Worth adding to the growing set. -BT

THE SPIRIT WAS WILLING by Milton Luban. (Greenberg, Publisher, New York, 1951, \$2.50)

The author will not like being compared or likened to Thorne Smith, but it can't be helped because his novel is that kind of a book. A drink-loving reporter is assigned to interview an amorous ghost charged with breaking up a happy home; a California earthquake cult and a fascist purple-shirt movement enter the plot somewhat wildly, more ghosts and a pretty girl round it out. The humor is really funny when the author allows the characters a free rein, but is sadly lacking that humor when he consciously tries to be funny in the Thorne Smith manner. -BT

TIME AND AGAIN by Clifford D. Simak. (Simon & Schuster, New York City, 1951. \$ 2.50)

One of the most popular serials yet run in Galaxy, where it appeared under the title "Time Quarry," Simak's story is of time-travel and guerilla warfare, warfare carried on through-out time as well as space. Key man in this struggle for universal domination of the future is Asher Sutton, who appears to have written a book. He is approached today and made acquainted with the book he will write in some far-off tomorrow, a book which deals with justice and liberty for humans and androids alike, a book which in that far tomorrow has become the androids bible. Most human bitterly resent androids because of prejudice and ignorance, and once the secret of time-travel is found, a man who has written an android bible is prime target for manipulation and extermination.

Galaxy's editor likes to boast his serials are published as written for book publication with not one word changed, although in this case the change may have been beyond his control. The book ends on an "unhappy" note, whereas in the magazine the hero wins the girl. Two or three ending-chapters have been rewritten to bring about this adverse finale. Very good Simak. -BT

WHO GOES THERE? by John W. Campbell. (Shasta Publishers, Chicago 1951, \$3)

The second edition of this fine anthology is now in print, with major and minor changes to distinguish from the earlier edition. A new dustwrap by Malcom Smith works in a plug for the movie, "The Thing; the first seven pages have been re-designed for a neater appearance; and Campbell has changed his dedication. Where the first edition was dedicated to "Dona S. for more help than supplying a pen name," this edition now reads to "The 'M' whose identity I now know." Shows his sense of humor, what?



Stories are "Who Goes There?" (from which the movie was torn), "Blindness," "Frictional Losses," "Dead Knowledge," "Elimination," "Twilight," and "Night." -BT

SPACE MEDICINE edited by John P. Marbarger.

(University of Illinois Press, Urbana, ILL., 1951. \$3.00)

Something entirely different in the non-fiction line concerning space travel is this small volume of 83 pages, subtitled "The Human Factor in Flights Beyond the Earth." The book claims to present all the facts on the subject not classified by army security offices, and in its eighteen illustrations are pictured concepts of multi-stage rockets, an artificial satellite, charts of temperature, pressures and vegetation on nearby planets. The various chapters and their authors are listed as follows:

"Space Medicine in the U.S. Air Force" by Maj. General H.G.

Armstrong, "Bioclimatology of Manned Rocket Flight" by Dr. Conrad Buettner, "Orientation In Space" by Dr. Paul Campbell, "Astronomy and Space Medicine" by Dr. Heinz Haber, "Physiological Considerations on the Possibility of Life Under Extra-terrestrial Conditions" by Dr. Hubertus Strughold, and "Multi-stage Rockets and Artificial Satellites" by Dr. Wernher von Braun. The volume is beautifully done with two-color end-papers picturing a satellite orbit about the earth. An item for your basic library. -BT

SPACE ON MY HANDS by Fredric Brown. (Shasta Publishers, Chicago, 1951. \$ 2.50)

This collection of nine stories is delightful, from the family portrait on the dust jacket to the final page of type. It is Brown in his best short form, the kind of stories an eastern editor used to describe as "altogether lovely, wacky things." The contents: "Something Green," "Crisis, 1999," "Pi in the Sky," "Knock," "All Good Bems," "Daymare," "Nothing Sirius," "The Star Mouse" and "Come and Go Mad." Choose your own favorites.

Brown is a favorite because of his comedy, irony and satire injected into otherwise standard plots. Astronomers go crazy as stars shift around in the sky, a chap finds himself entertaining a visiting delegation of BEMs, and a lady tells a gent she would not marry him if he were the last man on earth -- which he was. This book will get an additional distribution of about 20,000 copies in October by the Unicorn Mystery Book Club. -BT

TOMORROW SOMETIMES COMES by F.G. Rayer. (Home & Van Thal, London, England. 1951. 9/6.)

The story is that of a man who is responsible for giving orders to release the A-bombs. In a moment of stress and acting on false information, he gives such an order and is immediately wheeled into an operating chamber and put under an anesthetic. Two generations later he awakens beneath a pile of rubble to find the world wrecked by his own mistaken order, and now populated by humans who curse his name and mutants who worship him. With this opening, Rayer follows the man, Rawson, through what remains of the world to a Last Outpost held by men who are struggling to rebuild their world. They have indirectly defeated themselves by first creating an electronic brain, which decides that both man and mutant are unfit to live. Rawson proves to be the catalytic. All very complex and all very good reading. -Ken Slater

BULLARD OF THE SPACE PATROL by Malcolm Jameson. (World Publishing Co., Cleveland, \$2.50

Seven thrilling tales from the pages of Astounding, boys & adults will enjoy the harrowing experiences of Commander Bullard, his clever use of extraordinary machines and weapons, his never-equalled fame among the mariners of deep space. Stories included are "Admiral's Inspection," "White Mutiny," "Blockade Runner," "Bullard Reflects," "Brimstone Bill," "Orders," and "Bureaucrat!" Plenty of space-opera here for that growing boy of yours.

We note that the book is copyrighted by Street & Smith Inc. and we are moved to ask, who profited by this volume, the author or Street and Smith? While that magazine buys --or at least retains reprint rights, we wonder if they also resell them? -BT

THE CASE OF THE LITTLE GREEN MEN - Mack Reynolds. (Phoenix Press New York, 1951, \$2.)

You've read much in the fan and pro press about a coming merger of the mystery and science story, a blending of the two forms into one. This novel, by a writer of both types, is such a blend but definitely not the merger the critics expect. This is a straight mystery on a science fiction background, the kind of a mystery a fan may read and ..almost.. recognize other fans.

Three men, the entertainment committee of the coming tenth world S-F convention, hire a detective to investigate the possibility of aliens from space being present on earth. Unknown to the detective, they think his researches and reports will make hilarious reading at the lun session. It rapidly ceases to be funny when a committeeman is murdered --- a fan who intensely believes aliens are on earth; a second fan with similar beliefs is the victim of a near-miss. The final murder, and the climax of the case, comes during the convention---and once more the victim is an attending fan who believes. Good fun, Mack. -BT

ALSO AVAILABLE NOW: THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW (Heinlein) in Signet edition at 25¢. This was formerly titled "Sixth Column"; THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES (Bradbury) in Bantam Books, 25¢; THE MOON POOL (Merritt) from Avon Books, 25¢; WEREWOLF OF PARIS (Endore), 25¢.

TO BE REVIEWED NEXT ISSUE: A comprehensive survey of the F.P.C.I. volumes for the past three years, by Darrell C. Richardson; plus BEYOND INFINITY (Carr), SEEDS OF LIFE (Taine), WHAT'S THE WORLD COMING TO? (Low), WINE OF THE DREAMERS (MacDonald), HOUSE OF MANY WORLDS (Merwin), THE PUPPET MASTERS (Heinlein) and others.

In our advertisement in the July issue of Science Fiction News Letter, we did not mention the paper-covered Edgar Rice Burroughs items. We have however received several requests for these, which we regret we are unable to supply EXCEPT to OPERATION FANTAST members on the "swap-trade" scheme.

Full details of OPERATION FANTAST are contained in the 1951 HANDBOOK, and 15¢ to the address below will secure your copy of this together with a copy of OPERATION FANTAST magazine -- or 75¢ will insure you a full year's membership.

In addition to the full details of OPERATION FANTAST, the HANDBOOK contains much information of interest to fans, including a directory of magazines, dealers, publishers, etc.

Compilation of the 1952 HANDBOOK will commence in December of this year, and we would appreciate any publisher, fan-club, dealer, etc., desiring a correct entry in the directory to send us full and accurate details for inclusion before the date. Such entries are free, but additional advertising space may be purchased if desired. OPERATION FANTAST American agent is:

Philip J. Rasch, 567 Erskine Drive
Pacific Palisades, California

BOOKS AND WRITERS



We have picked up some interesting data on J. Beynon Harris (John Wyndham's) fine novel, *THE DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS*, a book that well deserves the success it has been receiving. Harris is one of those men who writes in long-hand and sends the manuscript to a typist to be prepared; this particular script lay dormant at the typing office three years before the absent-minded author remembered it, if we may believe an agent who talked to him. There are four versions of the novel, according to another agent. First version employed a Russian origin for the man-eating plants, but Doubleday (New York) wanted some rewriting and the author obligingly did same, changing the plans to a Venusian origin. Doubleday didn't care for that so the first version was published with some 10,000 words eliminated.

Colliers magazine then published a condensed version of the Venus menace. In London, Michael Joseph will bring out the book using the Russian origin and including the 10,000 words not in the Doubleday edition. Meanwhile in Australia, a magazine called *WOMAN* published it but at last reports no one knew which version. Ted Carnell advises that the sale of the novel is pending in Holland, France and Scandinavia.

Isaac Asimov, with assist from wife, produced his first little robot last month after 9 years of tinkering.

Jack Williamson's latest, *DRAGON'S ISLAND*, was picked up by the Unicorn Mystery Book Club for August distribution.

Darrell C. Richardson is the editor of a new reference book entitled *MAX BRAND, The Man and His Work*. The volume contains several analytical articles on Brand, a bibliography, fantasy and western aspects of his writings, plus other material. Richardson is a Kentucky fan, author and collector. The tome will be published in November (\$3) by F.P.C.I., Los Angeles.

Rinehart is launching a science-fiction line with Tucker's *THE CITY IN THE SEA* in October, to be followed next spring by Jerry Sohl's *THE HAPLOIDS*.



Chicago fans Everett F. Bleiler and Ted Dikty have placed another anthology, *IMAGINATION UNLIMITED*, with Farrar, Straus and Young for publication next spring. Subtitled "Science in Science Fiction," the book will present 13 yarns, one example each of chemistry, astronomy, physics, astrophysics, geology, biology, biochemistry, paleontology, anthropology, sociology, philosophy and math. Someone slipped -- that's only twelve. (Sexology?)

Ray Bradbury has had another selling splurge: Doubleday went for two books, *SUMMER MORNING*, *SUMMER NIGHT*, a non-fantasy novel with an Illinois scene; and *THE FIRE THAT BURNS*, a collection of two S-F short novels and nine short stories. Meanwhile, the *SatEvePost* purchased "The April Witch"; has already published "The Beast From 20,000 Fathoms" (he titled it "The Fog Horn".)

Bradbury will also see pocketbook edition. In November of FOREVER AND A DAY, a new collection of stories not taken from a hard-cover book. Bantam, 25¢.

OVERSEAS: London's White Horse Inn, the science fiction center, reports the following have recently signed their visitor's book: Poul and Bob Anderson (Minneapolis), Alan Hersey (Los Angeles), Red Johnson (Dayton), Catherine and L. Sprague de Camp (Philadelphia), Elizabeth Smith (NYC), Kitty Marcuse (Toronto).

Ted Carnell will edit for 1952 publication a new anthology to contain only British writers: Clarke, Temple, Beynon, etc.

These American titles have been published by various London houses: THE STAR KINGS (Hamilton), PRINCESS OF THE ATOM (Cummings), THE BIG EYE (Ehrlich), BEST OF SCIENCE FICTION (Bleiler & Dick, 8 stories from the 1950 edition), MEN AGAINST THE STARS (Greenberg, 8 stories only), VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE (van Vogt), and DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS (Wyndham).

Scheduled for the remainder of the year are two Clarke volumes, THE SANDS OF MARS and EXPLORATION OF SPACE (the first-named will carry Bonestell plate No. XXXIII on the cover, while the latter is a technical book), WHAT MAD UNIVERSE? (Brown), and THE SILVER LOCUSTS (Bradbury's "Martian Chronicles" retitled).

Kemsley Press, London newspaper and periodical publisher, will soon issue these pocketbooks: THE KID FROM MARS (Friend), JOHN CARSTAIRS, SPACE DETECTIVE (Long), THE LAST SPACE SHIP (Leinster), FLIGHT INTO SPACE (Wollhelm), SINISTER BARRIER (Russell), WHO GOES THERE? (Campbell), RALPH 124C41 (Gernsback).



Five science-fictioners will be bringing out new anthologies soon. Robert Heinlein will have one this winter or next spring, the first from him. Groff Conklin's next is due from Vanguard in the spring, built on the alien invasion theme. Raymond J. Healy will present his in November, from Holt; and finally, Fredric Brown and Mack Reynolds are together cooking up one whose theme is a secret.

A nineteen-story collection, edited by Fletcher Pratt, was published last month, WORLD OF WONDER (Twayne, New York, \$3.95). The volume contains writers old and new: Kafka, Kipling, O Henry, Asimov, Piper, Chandler, Brown, de Camp, Heinlein and others. Meanwhile Pratt, in collaboration with Jack Coggins, has a juvenile on the Random House (\$1) list: ROCKETS, JETS, GUIDED MISSILES AND SPACE SHIPS.

The fifth and final issue of Manly Banister's NEKROMANTIKON was published last month, in an issue of 90 pages plus printed covers. This issue contains 24 pieces of fiction, plus poetry, book reviews and articles, and marks the end of an ambitious personal project to publish near-professional science and fantasy fiction sans commercial appeal. Banister's first number appeared in the spring of 1950, won immediate acclaim.

Another giant fanzine, a 100-page GUANDRY, was Lee Hoffman's way of observing the first anniversary of the publication. The magazine contains material from about forty contributors, including final chapter of Walter Willis' London convention report.

SCIENCE FICTION

NEWS LETTER

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Bob Tucker - editor & publisher
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Capt. Kenneth F. Slater, 13 Gp, R.P.C., B.A.O.R. 15, England.

Artwork this issue: Lee Hoffman, Bill Rotsler, Richard Bergeron.
Overseas books and dispatches: Ted Carnell and Kenneth F. Slater.

LAST BLAST:

We are firmly against the "clean up fandom and fanzine campaign" noted elsewhere in this issue, for this campaign is nothing more than a sugar-coated censorship proposition. The various contributors to DAWN, while sending in their suggestions as to how fandom should be cleansed, make that plain. The question of what is acceptable and what is not is an old one and wiser heads than we have met defeat on it; whether we like it or not, the postoffice department remains the arbiter. We do not advocate smut in fanzines, we do not encourage it, but if an editor chooses to include it, the matter is between him and the postal authorities, not eager-beavers wanting to clean up somebody. If the matter offends the eager-beavers, they can very easily stop reading the publication.

They never think of this, of course. Censorship has always struck us as queer in one way: people are forever censoring, or wanting to censor, matter that pertains to sex or religion. Why is it that only those two subjects are the targets? Do they constitute the two universal fears?

Through the offices of Ken Krueger and the NFFF manuscript bureau we discovered the new illustrator appearing in this issue, Richard Bergeron. Dick is a Vermonter, sixteen years old, who only recently became acquainted with fandom by reading the back pages of AMAZING STORIES. Other editors wanting his work may contact him on R.F.D. #1, Newport, Vermont.

The change in size and format was very well received, and those few individuals who objected are herewith stuck with it. An even less-number of readers objected to the new type face, which surprised us very much.

Next issue mailed early in December. All material for that issue, both news and advertisements, must be in by November 25th.

the leading newspaper of the science fiction world