

# STARK

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appearing irregularly this single sheet will attempt to fill a gap ..... it will specialize in news, but only of a certain kind -- a kind that will appeal to some, not all of Fandom..... if you're the type and do not want to miss #2 of this sheet, let me know..... a card will do the trick..

-1-

A WRITER MUST WRITE. It is needless to explain this old chestnut, for every beginning writer's book tosses it around to the squirrels every other page. The more time spent on pounding out words, so it is squalled about, the better chance the writer has for getting somewhere. But he must also observe the micro and macroscopic world. This takes time -- time away from his all important writing. He could resolve the dilemma by saying to hell with it and by going right on turning the crank, getting ideas from his own introspection. Perhaps like Mary Shelley he will come up with a one-shot work of genius -- and then again he may not. Or he could spend a life time in observation and pigeon-holing ideas, never getting around to that book he was always "going to write".

This sheet will help sometimes -- will help in locating I D E A S in out of the wa places, for it's the idea I'm after.. That is part of my "news"...an idea that will form a plot backbone, an episode, or just a sentence in some story I'll never write.

-2-

A Fortean item :

" The occurrence of frogs in very great numbers, disappearing just as suddenly, has often been recorded, and led to the popular belief in a 'rain of frogs'. Such an appearance of frogs, due presumably to a migration, was noticed in the vicinity of Rush Lake, Winnebago County, in August 1897. On the 25th of that month I noticed an unusual number of leopard frogs in the garden surrounding a farm house, about two miles from that lake and not in the vicinity of any large body of water. Upon inquiry I was told by the people living there that a few days before there had been 'a hundred frogs where there is one now.'"

A 'Frog rain' is mentioned as occurring at Milwaukee in 1836 by Buck in his PIONEER HISTORY. Other old residents claim that this phenomenon occurred in 1839, and it is stated that at that time frogs were taken out of the cellars and basements in the then village of Milwaukee 'by the bushel basket full'. -- "A Rain of Frogs" by Ernest Brunken in BULLETIN OF WISCONSIN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, April 1900.....

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS, PEOPLE, and INSTITUTIONS are mentioned in an article by Edward Wagenknecht in THE ENGLISH JOURNAL: August Derleth and his Arkham House, Lovecraft, J.W.Dunne, Wells' "The Time Machine", "Portrait of

Jennie" and "But Gently Day", Buchan's "The Gap in the Curtain", and "We Have Been Here Before" by J. B. Priestley. Also mentioned are: Thurber's "The White Deer", SIX NOVELS OF THE SUPERNATURAL, "The Circus of Dr. Lao. The whole article discusses recent fantasy and symbolism in literature. -- May, 1946 Volume XXXV Number 5.

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LE ZOMBI existed, but its referent in Haiti never has and never will -- according to Louis P. Mars, M. D., Professor of Psychiatry at Institute of Ethnology, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Writing in MAN, A Record of Anthropological Science, Mar-Apr 1945, the doctor defines various terms commonly used in the telling of zombi tall-tales. His particular case was one also reported in a book TELL MY HORSE by Zora Neale Hurston as proof for zombism; but the case was proved false by the doctor, as were every so-called zombi case he investigated. The "Zombi" was an old woman suffering from schizophrenia and diseased eyes whose eyelashes were falling out. She

responded to proper care and food. She had been adopted by a family which swore she was one of their kin, mainly on the basis of a superficial resemblance and a limp. The limp was caused by a broken leg which she had suffered in life; an X-ray taken by the doctor showed no broken bone, and the limp disappeared when weak muscles responded to good food.

Did you know a werewolf exists in Haiti? It is a being or a person who flies through the night with big red flame under his arms. Are there rocket experimenters on the island?

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Several publications have recently appeared which might interest you.... Rex Stout MYSTERY MAGAZINE #4 contains one of my two favorite fantasies: THE WILLOWS by Algernon Blackwood. Also it contains psychological horror story which is another classic: THE YELLOW WALLPAPER. There is a story by Vincent Starrett, too, but I haven't read it, so can't say if it contains any fantasy elements or not..... ONE WORLD OR NONE, a report to the public on the full meaning of the atomic bomb; a paper booklet at \$1..... AND THE DARKNESS FALLS, a Boris Karloff anthology of weird stories at \$2.75

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Has the phenomenon of our light sensitive skin ever been used in a fantasy or a detective story? You are all familiar with sun-tanning. Much the same reaction occurs in a photographic film if it is exposed to light in a gross manner. Could there not be a "developer" devised to bring out the instantaneous images present in our skin, just as the developer brings out the image in the film? I can see the villain creeping up on the naked hero who is about to test his "developer"; the villain leaves his photograph behind on the chest of the victim.....