

Donn Brazier 1329 N 33 Milwaukee
15 December 1946

EMBERREPORTS

Add to your penname list: Felix Graham
is Fredric Brown. And to your name
changes: Laurel Lee Donnell, because
of the several Hollywood Donnells al-
ready, has dropped the two l's to make
her last name Donna. Laurel writes:
"The Rocket Society's official bless-
ing on me runs like this: 'The girl
they most want to go to the moon with'.
Warner's Publicity Dept. has taken
some pictures of me with a rocket
painting, & I'm to send some to the U.
S.R.S. soon as I can."

Albert Lopez
has a letter printed in the current
SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED. Another letter
is from a science-fiction reader by
the name of Richard W. Bigelow, acpl
at Weesler Field, Miss.

Olaf Stapledon
wrote Ackerman on receipt of the H.G.
Wells Memoriam: "I am very glad to have
this admirable record, and the two mag-
nificent photographs of the great man."
(This booklet, containing a check-list
of Wells' work, can be obtained from
Ackerman, Box 6151 Met. Station, Los
Angeles 55, for 15¢.)

Chifen met at Doc
Smith's home Dec 7 and 8 and bulled on
s-f matters and Doc's books and forth-
coming sequel to "Second Stage Lensman".
One title suggested so far was 'Child-
ren of the lens'. Revealed was fact
that Robert Heinlein has sold two in-
terplanetarys to the Saturday Evening
Post! Dec's 'Skylark of Space', now
out of print, may cause print order on
'Spacebonds of IPG' to be upped from
1500 to 2500. -- Robinson.

Artists Al-
lison Corp. will produce One Touch of
Venus, technicolor fantasy about statue
that comes to life. The President's
Husband Died in 1960. -- Ackerman.

"We are to beware of the insularity of mind that perceives in every inroad
upon habit a catastrophic revolution". -- Supreme Court Justice, Benja in
E. Cardozo. (Credit Boggs)

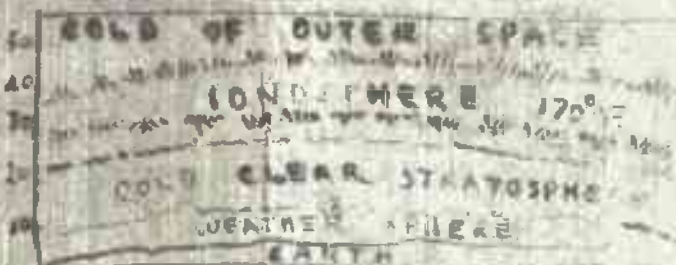
In the contest which ends Feb. 1st
following points have been garnered
of the previous issue of Ember:

Bob Stein -4	Norm Stanley -2
Milt Rothman -3	George Tullis -2
Redd Boggs -3	AE Ackerman -2
Paul Klingbiel -3	Bob Nelson -2

and 19 others have
points down to 1

Points are given for items submitted
to Ember, including art work, if
items are actually used. Points are
accredited on their publication. Also
points are awarded for new or extra
subscriptions, or introducing
a fan who then subscribes. Richard
Frank just received a full point
speaking so highly of Ember to Max
Stein that the latter subscribed.

Carlson sends clip from weather
of unorthodox Prof. Selby
prof asks if Earth might not be a



Is it hot from its own atomic action?
If so, the earth really is a star.

Al Lopez says: "Van Vogt
takes what he reads to heart. In
of A' showed the effects of
the 'Chronicle' developed from
Bates system of eye training, wh-
does work, as I've tried it. 5
weeks before school started. I
ed my eyes tremendo' ly."

Book review.....T I T R I N A

FOR THE DOORS! -Terror stories selected by Alfred Hitchcock
Dell Publishing Company, New York 16 Price 25c

This latest terror anthology is the best quarter's worth of chills and thrills that I have seen for some time, and it contains a better selection of stories than many found in more expansive (and expensive!) tomes. A sparkling apertif penned by Hitchcock, whose name is synonymous with suspenseful entertainment in Hollywood films, whets the reader's appetite for the juicy morsels of eerie literature crammed into the book's 192 pages. Of course the connoisseur of ghostories will find tales that he has previously encountered, but some of them are not quite so widely circulated: "Pollock and the Porroh Man", a story of a native witch doctor's vengeance, by H.G. Wells; "The Storm" by McKnight Malmar; "Moonlight Sonata", a short shocker by Alexander Woolcott; "The Half-Pint Flask" by DuBose Heyward; D.K. Broster's leisurely but nonetheless shuddery tale, "Couching at the Door"; "The Pipe Smoker", a bizarre story of contrary reflections in a window pane, by Martin Armstrong; and "The Corpse at the Table" by Samuel Hopkins Adams. Each story contained in this pocket-sized anthology is a masterpiece of the macabre. (Next week's issue tells us about "The Clock Strikes Twelve").

Last night Ember's ed. heard an amazing hour and a half talk and demonstration by Dr. Hilton Ira Jones, Director of the Hixone Research Laboratories. Do you know those things that Science Illustrated and other magazines keep telling us about -- like silicones, AN-TU, DDT, vycor, nylon, etc. -- well, he told us and showed us. He told us about microblast, and its application to metal finishing and dentistry; about a permanent starch and a permanent crease we could have in our pants, or a dry film to shed the rain; about a new ice making machine, a chemical from sweet clover to protect against blood clots within the body, a shrunken pyrex and the amazing vycor with negligible coefficient of expansion. We saw and handled many types of glass fabric which could make a dress or shirt that would last longer than we would. He showed us an insect imbedded in a perfectly transparent plastic which is like a liquid until it sets; someone in Chicago has had the stuff poured over his own corpse to preserve himself forever, as nothing in nature will destroy the stuff. And we saw rubber stuck to steel with reanite which nothing short of 1300 pounds would tear loose; in fact, this reanite will stick any two substances together! To complete the summary: mold bran that changes gray hair back to normal color

and boys that pioneer in the school and home labs thru daring and ignorance to discover such things as silk solvent, colored aluminum, and bonded building blocks of entirely new type. Are you interested in any of these? Write to Jones at 1211 Washington Ave, Wilmette, Ill.

Report on Ehrenhaft: Milt Rothman says: "I talked to my atomic physics prof (G. P. Harnwell, vice-pres of the Am. Physical Society) about Ehrenhaft, and what scientists in general thought about the man. The upshot seems to be that while other scientists have observed the phenomena which E. uses as a basis for his ideas, his explanation and interpretation of these phenomena is not necessarily true. The reason being that these things are very minute occurrences, while the explanation he gives for them necessitate an entire overthrow of accepted scientific theory, which theory is working rather satisfactorily in most cases. In those cases where accepted theory is not working satisfactorily, such as explanation of thermionic emission, nuclear forces, etc., the solution is not to make one experiment and from that pick an answer out of a hat, as is done by Ehrenhaft and the others of the crackpot tribe who fail to understand the rigors of the scientific method."

ALL ABOUT FROGS.... In a letter from Norman Stanley..... "There are many accounts on record of living frogs or toads being found enclosed in solid stone. For the most part, they're probably not too reliable. I believe the first on record occurred as far back as 1683, when M. Blondel reported in the *Journal de Trévoux* that at Toulon oysters fit to eat were frequently found enclosed in pieces of stone. This, however, doesn't necessarily mean that the oysters were still living; they may simply have been preserved without decomposition by being sealed up. Another account, though, has a living toad discovered in a piece of stone in a quarry at Bousire, in Gotha, at about the same time. It is reported that the mouth of the toad was covered by a thin membrane. When touched the head, the animal would close its eyes and then gradually open them, but was incapable of any other movement. Another instance, dated 1780, describes the finding of a living toad within an oak tree. The toad was reported to be completely filled the cavity it occupied, and there was no evidence of any way whereby it could have gotten into the hole.

"Less spectacular, but of more importance scientifically, were the experiments conducted by one M. Herissant for the Paris Academy in 1771. In February of that year he enclosed three live toads in as many cases of plaster and shut them up in a dark box, which he also covered with a thick coating of plaster. This box was left unopened until April when it was found that the plaster cases were still unbroken. Upon breaking it he found two of the three toads still alive. The defunct toad was larger than the others and had been compressed more in its case. A careful examination of this experiment convinced those who had witnessed it that the animals were so enclosed that they could have no possible communication with the external air and must have existed during their imprisonment without the least nourishment. The Academy, duly impressed, prevailed upon M. Herissant to repeat the experiment and this he did, by sealing up the two surviving toads and placing the box in the care of the secretary, that the Academy might open it whenever they saw fit. He also made two other experiments: First, in April of the same year he placed two live toads in a basin of plaster, which he covered with a glass plate, that he might observe them frequently. In the following month he presented this exhibit to the Academy. One of the toads was still living; the other had given up the ghost on the preceding night. On the same date as the other experiment he enclosed another toad in a glass bottle which he buried in sand, that it might have no communication with the external air. This animal, which he presented to the academy at the same time as the others, was perfectly well and even cried out whenever the bottle was shaken.

These are easy experiments, which anyone could readily perform to satisfy his own curiosity on the question, though possibly at the risk of censure from antivivisectionists.

COMMENTS re previous Emberanda: "Here's a dollar to continue my subscription. The sheet continues to be consistently interesting. I, too, was somewhat annoyed at the Kaempffert letter in *Amazing Lemurian Stories*. Apparently Waldemar was somewhat confused. Incidentally, Kaempffert has written some ste-fantasy. His 'The Diminishing Draft' was published by Munsey back in 1918. It was reprinted in *FFM* for Dec. 1939, and was beautifully written, though rather fantastic from the strictly s-f angle. Anyone know if he's written any others?" -- Norman Stanley. And now from Jack Speer: "Milt mentions photos of molecules via the electron microscope. Many months ago *TIME* published a photo of a molecule showing the very atoms, as blobs, in their predicted arrangement. Al Lopez should be commended for setting Kaempffert right on *Amazing Stories*; we should watch for occasions to do likewise.

LETTER FROM R.S. RICHARDSON

I have no astronomical news to forward you this week, but thought possibly your readers might be interested in some of the personalities that have visited the Mount Wilson Observatory in the past. Among those which come to mind, I recall most vividly that of R.W. Wood, the physicist.

Years ago, Dr. Wood collaborated with Arthur Train in writing a serial for the Saturday Evening Post called "The Man Who Rocked the Earth." I doubt if many people know that Train, who is best known for his famous stories about the lawyers, Tutt and Mr. Tutt, also wrote some fine science-fiction. Although "The Man Who Rocked the Earth" is badly dated now, back in 1914 when I was a kid it fired my youthful imagination as nothing had ever done before.

Dr. Wood supplied the scientific information to Train about uranium, helium, wireless, and the conversion of mass into energy. It is said that Wood complained that Train was getting so much more money out of the yarn than he was. Train said that he had worked for ten years learning how to write for the Saturday Evening Post. Wood retorted that he had worked for ten years acquiring his knowledge of physics.

The story goes that they were paid 10¢ per word, which caused Wood to remark that if you wanted a dime for an extra cup of coffee, you simply wrote "Boom Boom;" instead of just a single "Boom!"

Stories told about R.W. Wood are legion. While at Mount Wilson he used to keep us in an uproar at the dinner table relating yarns about himself. There is one told to the effect that he conducted a scientific investigation to see if the oft-repeated assertion that the moon is made of green cheese is really true. He observed the light reflected from a hunk of green cheese in the laboratory, studying its spectrum, polarization, reflectivity, etc. Final result was that the moon is NOT made of green cheese! (This reminds me of one of Bob Bloch's stories, circulated privately, having to do with a scientist ascertaining certain facts such as "just how long does it take for a lamb to shake its tale" and others more virile. -Ed.)

R.W. Wood is now in his 70's, I believe, and is engaged in making huge composite gratings which would greatly aid in studying the spectra of the stars. To the young physicists of a generation past, R.W. Wood was their ideal, just as Oppenheimer seems to be today.

EMBER has left two copies of LAWS OF MATTER UP-TO-DATE, which will be mailed to anyone sending a 3¢ stamp for mailing same. Likewise, anyone not getting a copy of REQUESTS or wishing me to send one to someone you know who might be interested in seeing one, I have a few remaining. EMBER will sell its copy of THE OUTSIDER for 25 dollars. There are many more books for sale. What do you want?

FANZINE REVIEW

PSFS BULLETIN #3 of local interest only.

STEINER #70 tells of VAPA mailing, the Widner chain letter, birth of a son to Art Widner and wife, Merritt's "Fox Woman" to appear in Dec., and some radio fantasy heard recently in California.

THE FUTURIST DIGEST #1 from Ben Singer and THE FUTURIST #2. The latter is a well-balanced general fanzine with articles, poetry, fiction, and features.

CHASOS #5 from George Ebey.

IGNOR #1 from Dale Hart is literary quarterly type of fanzine with excellent litho cover.

EMPIRE #8 from Joe Kennedy is excellent in entertainment and also informative. poll is being conducted for 'bests' in various depts of fantasy and Fandom. Splawn has drawn an excellent cover.

SCARAB #2 and 3 from Fred L. ...

