

EMBER

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10 February 1947



von Junzt by Stein

Bob Tucker's Second Mystery Accepted by Rinehart for Fall Publication...

Though the book was accepted, Bob's
title, "Who Owns You?", was not. As for
Bob writes, the book is untitled by Rine-
hart and Co. The publishers thought his
title failed to imply mystery; "I guess
they never read Unknown Worlds". Bob says

Suspense... Doors were unbarred, in Holly-
wood last week, for a certain fanne to see
the man responsible for the recent fantas
anthologies 'Bar the Doors' and 'Suspense'
-- Alfred Hitchcock. He also directed the
adaptation of Francis Beeding's 'House of
Dr. Edwardes', known on the screen as

'Spellbound'. Fanne reported herself spellbound in the presence of the light
maestro of mystery. 'Physically', she reported, 'he gives Sydney Greenstreet a
run for his avoirdupois.' The lucky fanne? We won't keep you in suspense any
longer: it was, of course, TIGRINA, who won a trip to the Selznick Studios on
the radio program, 'Hollywood Tour'. -- Forrest J Ackerman.

House Report from Darleth: 'Lost Worlds' out-of-print. 'Marginalia' is
down to 60 copies; 'Sleep No More' only 125 copies left between AH and Rinehart.
very close to o-p are 'Opener of the Way' and 'Something Near'. Plans: best
works of Arthur J. Burks are being collected; 'World of A' will be published
in 1948; 'This Mortal Coil' to be distributed late in March, the first 1947
delivery; 'Dark of the Moon' will follow closely. Foreign reprints: England
(Museum Press) to print 'Lurker at the Threshold' and 'Hounds of Tindalos',
'West India Lights' is coming out in Spain. Spiked rumor: AH is not reprint-
ing Lovecraft's 'The Outsider'. But AH will ultimately bring out 'The Case
of Charles Dexter Ward' and 'At the Mts of Madness' under one cover, but just
when even AH doesn't know.

A Hare Raising Film by Tigrina: Following the example of the 'Popeye' film
cartoon of some weeks ago, a 'Bugs Bunny' film similar in caliber has been
issued, with a Dracula-Frankenstein motif. Our hare-brained hero is lured, by
means of a winsome mechanical girl bunny, into the lair of an evil scientist.
The scientist's abode is a medieval castle, complete with a neon sign, flash-
ing the words: 'Evil Scientist'. Once in the castle, Bugs Bunny soon perceives
that the curvaceous decoy is mechanical. Bugs is introduced to a huge, hairy
creature resembling a headless owl, and the chase ensues. Finally vanquishing
the monster, Bugs winks. 'Aw right, so she's mechanical', and emulating her
robot gait, he pursues the feminine decoy across the fading screen.

Newsstand Report: TRUE, Feb. 1947, has article 'In Peril of the Sea' by Albert Richard Wetjen, which relates most of the usual sea mysteries -- Marie Celeste, Cyclops, etc. -- but winds up with a tale which might have been taken straight out of Lovecraft. Deserted derelict, all things in order, but with strange green splotches on the deck, the body of a cat mashed flat, and a parrot which repeated the screams of many men about a THING which came after them. -- Joquel (CNS) 'Will Atomic Rays Cause Human Freaks?' by Amram Scheinfeld in LIBERTY for Feb. 15, 1947. The A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima, etc. can play tricks with heredity for a 1000 years to come. In same issue, an article 'Faster, Faster' about the Army's new 1500 mile/hour rocketship; and also a review of fantasy film 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Mort Weisinger, once editor of Wonder Stories and Startling, has a non-stf article in the issue. Joquel adds to this: Scheinfeld is the author of 'You and Heredity' which book mentions Wells' 'Star-Begotten' in connection with the mutation problems. Ember adds that Scheinfeld was -- and may be still -- a Milwaukee newspaper reporter who became interested in heredity, studied up on it, and then wrote his book; he is not a scientist, rather a science-interpreter, and a capable one. Joquel says to watch Barnaby in the funnies; an atomic episode has been running since Xmas. Thompson notes that Jules Verne's 'Earth to the Moon' is appearing serially in the Lincoln (Nebr.) Daily Star marked 'AP Newsfeature', so it may be appearing in other papers also. Joquel comes again with 'The Astrologer' for Jan. 1947 which has an article 'Science and Metaphysics' by Manly Palmer Hall, which is a 4-page report on Charles Fort and his work. Re Dr. P.W. Wood and the moon being made of green cheese, did you catch the Richter cartoon in Colliers for Dec 7, 1946? asks Joquel. A nonplussed group of Sen. Snorts and Col. Blimps stands around a radio operator who is saying: 'Ground to moon expedition: What kind of cheese?'. All the fannewsies received by Ember, plus Robinson and Derleth, have called attention to the current Feb 8 Satevepost which is carrying two stories of interest: Robert A. Heinlein's 'The Green Hills of Earth', an s-fer, and Vida Jameson's 'The Thirteenth Trunk', a fantasy. Both are short stories, and make up 50% of the short story space. Does this portend a brighter future for 'our' literature in the mundane slicks? Avon has put out H.F. Heard's fantasy-mystery 'A Taste for Honey' @ 25¢ - Stein. E.T. Bell reviews 'Psychology and Invention in the Mathematical Field' by Jacques Hadamard, Princeton U. Press, \$2, in Scientific Monthly, June 1945. (Fanews) A review of 'Slan' in Writer's Markets and Methods for Feb. 47 is written by LA fan, Gordon Dewey. (Fanews): J.W. Campbell says Street & Smith could sell a lot more of Science Fiction than they can get paper for, and Unknown definitely will be revived as soon as paper becomes available, ((The items credited to Fanews above should have been credited to Stefnews.))

Book Chatter: (Stefnews FNS) A deluxe edition of Wells' "The Time Machine" will be issued in Feb. by Random House @ \$2.75. James Newman, co-author of Mathematics and the Imagination, stated in June 45 issue of Scientific Monthly that his book had sold 250,000 copies. (CNS): Recently out is 'Dark Music and Other Spectral Tales' by Jack Snow with a beautiful 4-color jacket by Ronell Clyne. Derleth says that we ought not to miss an hilarious fantasy by Mary Wall, The Unfortunate Fursay (Crown: \$2.75); "it is one of the first books in some time that I was not able to put down, once I had begun it." In regard to D.B. Thompson's question in the last Ember about Derleth's opinion of the Sloane books, Derleth says: "I have been fond of them; when first they appeared, I reviewed them favorably." Stein notes an old book (1902) On Two Flashes by Kurd Lasswitz. A jealous lover secretly mixes the gas tanks for a Miss Ozodes, a small artist, whose symphony thus leads to her public disgrace, expulsion, and death.

The jokers, Stanley, please continue: "Both jokers involve the question of energy. First, how much kinetic energy does a body have when it's moving at 100mps? Suppose we assume a 5000 kilogram rocket, or 5×10^6 grams and 100mps in metric system becomes 1.61×10^8 cm/sec. Then, using the kinetic energy formula again, we denote the KE of the rocket at velocity V_r by E_r , and

$E_r = \frac{1}{2} M_r V_r^2 = \frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 10^6 \times 1.61^2 \times 10^{14} = 6.49 \times 10^{20}$ ergs, which are equivalent to 24,200,000 horsepower-hours. From our previous results we see that to provide this amount of energy would require the fission of 785 grams of U-235, or about three-quarters of the amount which is estimated to fission in an atomic bomb explosion. In other words, the KE of a small-sized rocket traveling at 100mps is of the order of the energy of an atomic bomb, which can throw 10 million tons of water into a mile-high column!

But this is only a part of the story. In a rocket not all of the energy of the fuel is imparted to the rocket itself, a certain amount is lost as kinetic energy of the high velocity exhaust stream. The ratio of the kinetic energy, E_r , imparted to the rocket, to the total KE (that of rocket plus exhaust), E , is called the ballistic efficiency of the rocket. If the difference between the velocity of the rocket and the velocity of the exhaust is large, the ballistic efficiency is low. Ballistic efficiency, E_r/E , is given by the formula

$$\frac{E_r}{E} = \frac{1 + \frac{M_0}{M_r}}{\left(\frac{M_0}{M_r}\right) - 1}$$

and we see from this that for our example, in which the mass ratio, M_0/M_r , is 1.01, we get a ballistic efficiency of 0.01, or 1%. Thus, of the energy con-

verted by the rocket motor only 1% actually is used to propel the rocket itself while the remaining 99% is carried away by the exhaust stream. This ups the energy requirement of our 100mps rocket to 100 times the kinetic energy of the rocket. So that to give a 5-ton rocket a velocity of 100mps when the exhaust velocity is 10,000mps requires the release of 6.49×10^{22} ergs or 2,420,000,000 horsepower-hours -- about the energy of 75 atomic bombs! This represents the conversion of 72 grams of matter into energy, or the fission of 173 pounds of U-235. It's interesting to note that this would provide sufficient fission fragments to satisfy the requirements of 50 kilos which must be shot off to correspond to the mass ratio of 1.01 for a 5000-kilo rocket.

This looks bad now. In order to bring the rocket to 100mps in a fairly short time, say 24 hours, would require the rocket motors to deliver 100,000,000 horsepower for this period of time, which is probably out of the question. We could take a much longer acceleration period, say 10 days, and do it with a mere trifle of 10,000,000 h.p. This is within the bounds of possibility, a star's V-2 engine is rated at 500,000 h.p. There is, then, some hope.

Why aim for such a high velocity as 100 mps? Space flight would be possible, if not so easy, if a velocity of only 10mps were attainable. True, but if we still use a 10,000 mps exhaust velocity, the ballistic efficiency becomes even lower. If we solve the above equations again, but for 10mps instead of 100mps, we get a mass ratio of 1.001 and a ballistic efficiency of 0.001. The kinetic energy of the rocket at 10mps would be but 1/100 of the KE of the 100mps rocket, but the total energy required would be reduced only 1/10, and so would still be a huge amount.

And there's still another joker to the efficiency question... " ([The next joker will appear in Ember #33 when Norman Stanley continues.])

A few copies of PSYCHO #5- TH//////// #2 remain unsubscribed @ 10¢. Just send a dime to Ember for this combozine put out by Schumann and Brazier.....

Ember Chatter: PSFS News, in Ember's opinion, is one of the best. Sam Moskowitz in his article 'The Proper Slant' writes another of the fine pieces of analysis he is noted for. And Oswald Train brings back his column 'The Eternal Wanderer'. Send 10¢ to 122 S. 18th St., Philadelphia 3 Penna. Bob Tucker says his Fanzine Index will be mailed this week. Remember, all you have to do is write Tucker at Box 260, Bloomington, Ill. and ask for one; free, of course.

WANTED

Ember Magazine Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 29 and 40 do wish to keep them, write immediately to Arthur Louis Joquel II, Box 3343, Los Angeles 53, California.

paid adv.

Emberace: at #31, in the home stretch, it's Tigra out in front with 10 pts. Following her is Ackerman with 8½, the Ackerman's owner has suddenly and unexpectedly scratched him from the race. Thus, Boggs follows with 8 and Stein with 7. Stanley comes along then with 6½. Only 3 more issues remain in which to pad your points with news, muse, views, and cash. Remember a 50¢ sub or extension nets you a full point.

WANTED

I want copies of photographs of myself taken at Pacificon or elsewhere. State price for two prints, approximately 10¢. Please give data as to where and when taken. Write Arthur Louis Joquel II, Box 3343, Los Angeles 53, Calif.

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Ember
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Pace of the Same 'Elk' -Pieris Writing in the January 1947 issue of the Elks Magazine, Robert A. Heinlein indicates in detail with 'To the Moon' what could happen if a mistake were made in nuclear research. He writes: 'Mr. Truman and many others have said that our civilization may not survive the Atomic War. Granted, but what are the dangers of the Atomic Peace? They are of such magnitude that we cannot now measure them, except for the certainty that they are immense. Decimated again and again, our race will survive, breed, rebuild. No, but the danger to the earth, but danger to the hive, danger that we will make the earth under our feet unable to support us...'.

Mr. Heinlein has incorporated descriptive paragraphs akin to those in some of his stories to lend reality to the article and to help the readers realize the vital global danger inherent in experimenting with atomic power.

His solution to a safe and practical place in which to conduct these experiments is back of the moon. Just how this could be accomplished is not explained, as the article ends after a statement is made. According to a telephone conversation between Mr. Heinlein and Forrest Ackerman, unfortunately only half of the article was published in Elks Magazine.

Low-cost atomic power will not be available before 1960, two War Dept. atomic experts say. Science News Letter, Feb 1, 1947.



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