

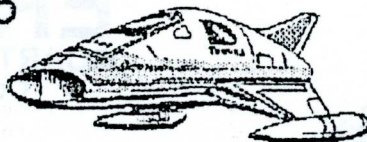
**ERG** 135  
QUARTERLY  
October 1996



"That fixes another one who didn't LOC ERG"

ERG 135  
QUARTERLY

October 1996



Terry Jeeves  
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If you'd like to get the next issue, write a LOC on this one. A cross at the top of this page indicates that sadly, this will be your last issue unless you DO something. A question mark means 'Are you interested? RESPONSE! is the key.

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### ERBITORIAL

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First of all, a big thank you for those kind readers who sent me their copies of ERB 132 and thus closed a gap in my files. I bind every ten or so issues into a hard core volume. ERGs 1 to 97 are peg-bound and 98 onwards are proper books. I keep thinking of a series of ERB articles describing the process but although it's fairly easy to do, it's very tricky to describe on paper.

Going through my disc files in a cleaning up operation, I found the piece, THE WAY THE FUTURE WASN'T lurking on an old disc dated 1991. I can't recall running it, and can't trace it in ERB although some of it appeared 14 years ago in DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE, so I hope it's new to you. Speaking of DMBL, it's 14 years since I ran the series, should I start to run it again?

Elsewhere in the issue, and pushing out Weird & Wonderful, you'll also find a page of hardcovers for sale. I MUST clear some shelf space, so I'm offering these titles, post free at less than half published price. Sorry, but Stateside orders \$1.00 a title extra for postage. If you order, send no cash until you get your books - and if you'd like a full sales list, paper or hardback, send me an SAE.

**STORY UPDATE..** I recently got a panic letter from Algis Budrys saying my story, THE EINSTEIN INSTANT would be in the July TOMORROW, but they'd lost the MS, would I Air Mail another copy and my story would be re-scheduled to the September issue. I did this (postage £2.70) and Algis very promptly sent me a cheque for \$10.00. This should have exchanged to more than double my postage cost -- BUT -- The kind, friendly National Westminster Bank which accepted my cheque, first converted it to £6.40 and then not only charged me £5.00 for the privilege, but also ripped off a further 50p 'postage' -- leaving me with 90p out of the deal. Ah the mysterious world of high finance.

I must mention AN ANTHROPOMORPHIC BIBLIOGRAPHY by Fred Patten, PO Box 1299, Cupertino, CA 95015-1299, USA. It costs \$7.00 + \$1.50p&p (plus 8.23% Sales Tax in California) This lists some 375 tales about humanised animals (or animalised humans), profusely illustrated by sundry fan-artists. As a further guide, each yarn is keyed to a general 'theme' index. Main Index is by author, but there's also an Index by title and a short list of non-fiction items. Sewell's 'Black Beauty' is missing, as is Chandler's 'Giant Killer', but it's a great aid to story tracing.

Happy reading, Terry

## THINGS THAT DIDN'T COME

Among the earliest magazines to come my way, were copies of Gernsback's, EVERYDAY SCIENCE AND MECHANICS, which extolled the latest inventions be they real or products of Hugo's fevered brain. These included a speculation spot telling you just what to invent if you wanted to become a millionaire. One illustration for a money-maker showed a whole town going up in flames with a solitary house standing untouched amidst the inferno. The reason was because it was coated with fireproof paint! As Hugo pointed out, such stuff didn't yet exist, but anyone inventing it could write their own cheque. Naturally, I had a bash, but I'm afraid my mixtures of water, dirt, old paint, salt, sugar, vinegar and other substances failed to save the trial 'houses' I made from cardboard boxes. I never did become a millionaire and as far as I know, we still need that fireproof paint.

The January 1924 issue bore the headline, "\$12,000 IN GOLD OFFERED AS PRIZES" but the small print inside, revealed that this was not a one dollop prize, but was Hugo's total budget for the year which had to be broken down into twelve monthly outlay of \$1000. This sum was then further subdivided into the actual, progressively smaller 'prizes' of \$100, £50 and even less, for ideas, articles and photographs. All of which meant Hugo was simply getting his material for his magazine for peanuts.

The cover illustration depicted a buxom female tootling merrily along on a bicycle which picked up its power from an underground cable. This was 'soon to be tried in France'. This 'somewhere else' was a typically Gernsbackian ploy whereby his more outrageous ideas were always being developed as far away as possible, usually in darkest Europe where none of his Depression-era readers were likely to be spending the weekend.

Then there was a display of the winning ideas in a toy-designing competition. Believe it or not, but the first prize of \$5.00 (NOT \$12,000 in gold), was for a toy roundabout powered by cockroaches hidden in its base!



'Latest Patents' showed us what inventors had in store. This depicted a winged auto. It was claimed that this idea would not only reduce tyre wear, but allow the vehicle to leap over an oncoming car to avoid a head-on prang. I often wondered what would happen if two such cars met and both took such evasive action. Another bright idea was for a shoe-salesman's footstool equipped with a built-in air conditioner fan to waft away pongs from customer's feet.

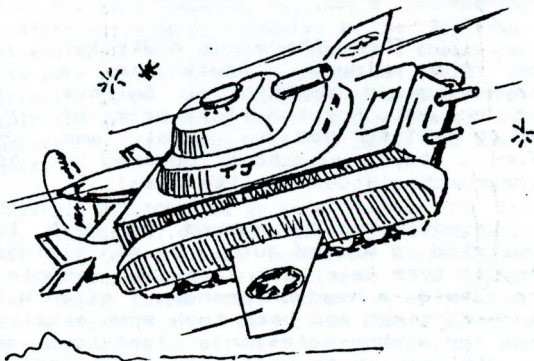


Gernsback also proposed 'loud hailer' to be mounted on top of skyscrapers. Called 'The Municipal Announcer', the system was to broadcast items of civic or national importance, along with details of robberies, accidents, or murder. All this fascinating information would be heard 'up to five miles away'. Presumably the people who were to live and work in these buildings would be recruited from the ranks of the stone deaf. Making matters worse, Gernsback's design also called for aircraft landing platforms on the upper decks to add to the racket.

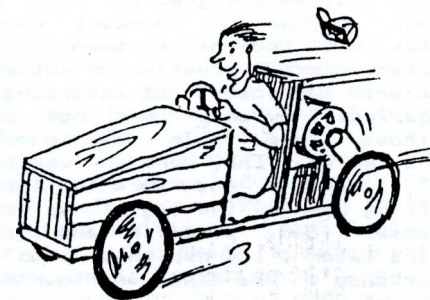
Sometimes he wasn't so far out. One device which foreshadowed today's Tachygraph, was a gadget 'of German manufacture'. Fastened to your car, it would immediately show if your chauffeur was taking illicit joy rides in your absence.

Even salvaging sunken ships was not beyond Hugo's inventiveness. This was to be done by constructing a giant floating refrigerator, moving it into place, then sinking it down to surround the wreck. Turn on the juice, freeze the derelict into a block of ice, and LO! Since ice floats on water, up would come the giant ice-cube bringing the wreck to the surface. Ah, the wonders of science.

By the late thirties, MODERN MECHANIX, and MECHANICS ILLUSTRATED were more sophisticated versions in the science and technology field. Covers still supplied the stimulus to coax you into buying them with such weird ideas as, 'Uncle Sam's Flying Tank' or such wonders as .. "A Mid-Ocean Aerodrome", "Hydrofoil Liners To Cross Atlantic At 100mph!", or even "A Flying Car In Your Garage". Inside the mag, brief articles would waffle about the past history of such ideas (in fiction). Then came the usual phrase, "a German inventor has proposed...." I suspect whoever he proposed to must have turned him down.



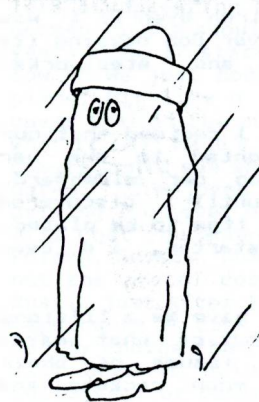
Other fascinating articles would tell you how to build a hunting cabin in your back yard, turn an oil tank into a sunken swimming pool, or make a saxophone out of an old bicycle. Such ideas were way outside the experience and lifestyle of a 12-year-old. One tempting perennial was a soap-box car powered by an old washing machine motor. Washing machines hadn't penetrated to Sheffield in those days, let alone oldones. Our washing was done in a galvanised iron tub with the aid of a wooden plunger, scrubbing board and blue-bag. Hot water had to be heated over the kitchen fire.



If washing machines were unheard of, then 'How To Service Your Refrigerator' dealt with artifacts from another planet. We kept our food 'cold' by putting it on a stone slab down in the unlit cellar, alongside the sticks and coal. Despite such drawbacks, the magazines had enough interest to keep me coming back for more.

I read such tasty news items as, 'British Police Try Out Speed King's Invention'. This told of Sir Malcolm Campbell's plan to enable police cars to catch escaping bandits by means of a long steel pole fitted to the front of the police car. On the end was a grapnel. The police driver had to catch up to the bandit, his partner would manoeuvre the grapnel on to its back bumper, whereupon gentle braking would bring both vehicles to a halt. I don't know where the pole was stored when not in use, or what happened if the pursued vehicle braked suddenly. I fancy a lariat or king-size butterfly net might have done equally well..

Other whacky inventions were dreamed up by relatives of Rube Goldberg or Heath Robinson. One gadget resembled an overwide and elastic-less catapult. This held your corn-on-the-cob for easy eating. Another character designed a personal air-conditioning system for people walking around on hot days. Small bellows were built into the soles of his shoes. From these, rubber pipes led up inside his clothes to finish in his hat. The simple act of walking circulated cool air inside clothes and headgear. Even crazier was the hat resembling a Mexican sombrero. If rain started, the pulling of a rip-cord would release a body-length rain-proof shroud from inside its brim. Under development was a fireproof version to protect anyone daft enough to be caught in an inferno - presumably whilst wearing his hat. For those who went around falling off ships, bridges or into rivers, there was an inflatable rubber undervest.





'Lathe Hints and Tips' illustrated weird devices designed to help readers wreak mayhem on innocent chunks of metal. I had never seen a lathe, router, drill-press, or other such esoteric machinery, but according to the magazines, 'my shop' was not complete without them. In my innocence I wondered what they were on about. The only shops I knew were the local ones selling beer by the jugful as well as cheese, food, paraffin and firewood. Years later I learned that 'shop' meant 'workshop'. One lives and learns.

Despite such cultural barriers, I drooled over the magazines and taking my inspiration from the D.I.Y. projects, I made weirdly shaped 'ashtrays' with lethally sharp edges, by cutting bits of tinplate from old cans. Then there was my crossbow, scaled down in size (and considerably down in power) from the plans for a full-size deer-hunting version. Unlike Britain, in the USA, citizens are allowed to buy guns and use them to hunt, shoot, fish or poop off lethal weaponry in all directions. The technical term is 'sport'. My crossbow could shoot a six-inch long balsa quarrel at least two feet or to be strictly accurate, it dropped off the front and fell two feet to the floor. Not exactly suited to hunting wild caribou or even the cat next door, but I had made it myself.

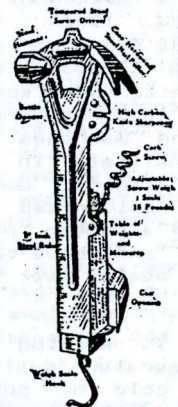
The magazines taught all sorts of strange things - which still remain mysteries to me. How to re-wire your auto, re-time its ignition or re-line its brakes. Not much use on my push-bike, I'm afraid. It was also considered de rigeur to convert your basement into a combined swimming pool and recreation area, but it never explained what to do with the coal and firewood. I might have made a canoe out of birchbark, but I couldn't identify a birch even if I was whacked by one. On top of that, the local River Don oozing its turgid way between pollution-emitting breweries and steelworks' effluent wasn't a good location for hunting trips.

'Mount Your Own Trophies' had promise, but I decided that our next-door neighbour would have been less than delighted to see her little 'Tiddles' staring fixedly out from atop our sideboard. 'Silverplate Your Model Aircraft' looked promising until I discovered one needed a piece of silver larger than the item to be plated. 'Decorate Your House With Junk' was a complete non-starter, I'd been doing that for years.

Nevertheless, I loved those magazines. They gave me a lifelong love of gadgetry, gimmicks, D.I.Y. and the finding out of what makes things work. I still read the occasional issues of their descendants, but nowadays the gosh wow hydrofoils, moon rockets and mid-ocean platforms have all gone. In their place are reams of paper extolling the delights of Detroit's latest gas-guzzlers. A pity, but nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Terry Jeeves, Scarborough

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## GENERAL CHUNTERING

Ken F Slater

Every so often in my life I have invested in a copy of the *Writers' and Artists' Yearbook*. I first did this sometime around 1946, although I had previously looked at copies in libraries and such places. The copy I bought then cost me (I think) 7s 6d. I can't be sure, but that figure comes to mind. The 1997 edition - the 90th, would you credit it! - costs £10.99. Under "science fiction" this edition has one entry, listing UK publishers - 25 names; although whether *Little Brown* and *Orbit* really need separate entries I doubt, but don't really know. Possibly their editorial departments are entirely separate and do not communicate. Same for *Millennium* and *Orion*, and some others. Otherwise, although not of fannish appeal, I would recommend accessing it in your local library if you are a budding or wannabee author. Contains lots of good solid facts, legal and administrative, copyright, et al. Conversely, I have never before purchased (for myself) *The Writer's Handbook* which is now in its 10th year. John Carnell, founder and original editor of *New Worlds*, and founder of the literary agency that bears his name, tried hard to make a writer out of me, but never overcame my conviction that I was best at scribbling unimportant but occasionally enlightening factual rubbish, so I stopped any serious effort when the army decided they could no longer afford my services. Hence this is the first of that annual series I've purchased. I am impressed that it has fourteen main entries under "science fiction" with some seventy sub-heads. I am rather puzzled to see that the only sf "festival" mentioned is the Cardiff Literature Festival (which apparently includes an sf convention); the BFS is listed as a Literary Society, while the BSFA is a professional association. Yer pays yer money... However, exploring these books and chasing up some of things I had not previously been aware of, I am discovering that there is an alternate universe out there somewhere. I will report further when I know more; possibly in this column; possibly elsewhere. Watch this and other spaces... NBA - I gather that another big chain has cut back on its "reduced price" books; and dividends to shareholders this year are "reduced" instead. Oh, well. Note the "RRP" mark on many new dust wrappers. Hope it doesn't turn out to mean "R.I.P."...On the cancellation of panels, and such, at the SAARCON one of the final panels was to be a discussion on German fandom's more-or-less disappearing trick after the Worldcon at Heidelberg, and whether German fandom should try for a worldcon to be held in Berlin in five/six years time. So start saving your pfennigs, kinder. Actual attendance was low so we just bodily moved the enthusiasts into an appendix-sort of place; bit like a large box at a theatre, off the main auditorium (I guess that if the auditorium is used for stage-shows, a "theatre box" is what it is); made a nice compact meeting with the advantage that any late comers could see where we had went... Which, Lan, is pretty well what we agree. I enjoyed that con; but if it hadn't been for Michael doing the driving I'd never have made it. A full report will appear elsewhere and will cost you money to help with posting some buckshee s-f to fans in Poland, Russia, Rumania, and places like that. I've got the buckshee s-f, but the postal costs are horrendous. A packet of freebies I sent to Russia just after I got back - I think it was three books and a couple of paperbacks - cost almost £10 to post, printed paper rate...I can't really charge that up to the firm, so some of the wealthy fans out there will need to help...indirectly or directly...Of course, on an intellectual or business level I knew this. I just didn't appreciate it until it came to cash-pay-crunch point. Good reading. KFS



## LETTERS



ALAN SULLIVAN, 30 ASH RD., STRATFORD, LONDON E15 1HL

*School Daze, Classes of 60? Ye ghods. I can see a need for specialisation in teaching, but I would also have thought that any teachers worthy of the title should be able at least to 'stand in' for another. They used to at my secondary school, at sixth form and even at uni. to some extent. Attitudes were certainly different in those days, on all fronts.*

*I don't think I'd want to return to some of those methods but the ones we have at the moment seem to be seriously lacking, (teachers being beaten up by pupils shows a distinct lack of discipline) - having got away with it in school, they carry the same attitude into the streets. @Too true. Our Head only spent about 30% of his time in school (he was a Union big wig among other sinecures) and consequently avoided dealing with the baddies. An example. On the post-school (normal service) bus, several of our kids were acting up and annoying other passengers. A lady teacher told them*

*to sit down and behave. Their reply was short and far from sweet, "Fuck off". Next day, she reported the incident to the head. "Right, I'll see them" .. but being too busy, he never did -- so next time you hear someone say about unruly kids on buses - "I don't know why the teachers don't stop 'em" - you can tell 'em why. @*

ROY HILL, 60 HEATON RD., CANTERBURY, KENT CT1 3QA

*Saturday morning Kiddies TV certainly caters to the lowest level of intellectual demands. I cannot see thing changing as TV companies know introducing anything more challenging will result in the little darlings switching over in droves. Still on TV, does anyone remember Oliver Postgate and some of the programmes he has illustrated? We met when we were both in hospital, he very kindly gave me an autographed copy of Noggin the Nog.*

KEN LAKE, 1A STEPHEN COURT, ECCLESBOURNE RD., THORNTON HEATH, CR7 7BP

*Your anti-TV moans, Terry, it's YOU who's watching it. @ NO it isn't, when that comes on I switch off the rubbish. @ Surely all the medical stuff you denigrate IS 'educational TV'? @ What is educational about 'soaps' set in hospitals, so-called comedies there, or reconstructions of horrific disasters etc? @ The Pyramids DO sharpen blades actually, and dowsing DOES work. @ Pull the other one. On dowsing, read my piece again, I never said it didn't. I said I'd like to see it get objective tests. @*

KEN CHESLIN, 10 CONEY GREEN, STORUGBRIDGE, WEST. MID. DY5 1LA

*I disagree about astrology columns being a waste - they are popular aren't they? An idiot's money is as good as anyone else's. If there needed to be an example of how silly people can be, a belief in astrology would provide it - ditto religion of course. By what a short distance are we removed from our primitive forebears. I sadly have to agree with all you say about TV, a perversion of a marvellous invention - but again, if there's money in it ...*

ROY LAVENDER, 2507 E. 17TH ST., LONG BEACH, CA 90804 USA

*It is now the law that electric vehicles will be 10% of the total offered for sale by the end of the century. By the simple (?) passing of a law, they have overcome the restrictions of electrochemistry. Smog will be eliminated from our cities (and moved downwind of the power stations). To experience the thrill of owning one of these future vehicles NOW, try this. Purchase a Geo Metro (read Morris Minor), but pay \$35,000 instead of \$8,000. Replace the gas tank with a 2 gallon tank with a capillary filler so it will take three hours to fill. Pay \$4,250 for a charging tank to install in the garage wall to feed the filler pipe, (The licensed installer will want \$250). Load in a ton of lead. Increase the tyre pressure to carry the load. There are compensations, the Government (taxpayers) will absorb the sales tax, license fee, gasoline tax and you will be eligible for a tax credit of \$4,000 from the State.*

*A while ago I was involved in a project to replace the operating manuals for the Apollo spacecraft with a microfilm reader. We needed orders of magnitude improvements in film, light source and batteries.*

*We designed a much thinner 8mm film. Phillips designed a scaled down (50 watt) version of their 500 watt projector bulb using ellipsoidal reflective optics to eliminate the condenser lens. We developed electronics and a new motor to control film transport. We were never able to get the battery. The Apollos flew with a shelf full of loose leaf manuals and flashlights to read 'em by. Batteries have been improved a few percent, but not an order of magnitude. @ Thanks Ray, I think that sums it up neatly. Ken Lake will love you. @*

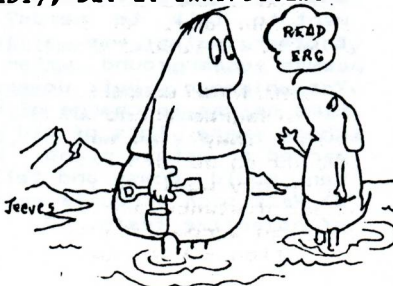
ROGER WADDINGTON, 4 COMMERCIAL ST., NORTON, MALTON, N. YORKS YO17 9ES

*Interesting study by Langley Searles, count me as one who'd like to see more. The snag is, I'd be one of his exceptions. As a long-established prozine buyer, the question of cover art never came into it. Lodging in London (1965-1968) they were so easily available, I bought every one whether the cover art attracted or repelled.. When I came back home I just switched to getting them by post through Ken Slater, so the cover art played an even lesser part.*

*There are covers that are particularly memorable, not for artistic merit but for when and where I bought them. The Analog cover by Freas flr Half A Loaf.. by R.C.Fitzpatrick. Nothing special in itself, but it was the start of my collection, bought on York Station; as was my first issue of F&SF, the Gaughan cover illustrating Rogue Dragon by Avram Davidson. If I had a display of cover art, they would have to be torn off, to include title and lettering as well; not that I could ever bring myself to such vandalism.*

MED BROOKS, 713 PAUL ST., NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23605 USA

*Glad to hear you got help with the PC, but retyping sounds ghastly - can't the old ones be converted? @ Probably, but at exhorbitant cost. Does anyone know an easy way to convert a Wordwise+ file on 5.25 disc to Ami-Pro on 3.5" ??? @ If you don't get an ERG 132, let me know and I'll take mine apart and make a photocopy for you. @ A very kind gesture Ned, but gladly, not needed as several truefen have returned their copies @ I have gotten the first three instalments of The Green Mile as Jeeves audio tapes - I can't read Stephen King, he's too long winded. @ I can't read or listen to him I'm afraid. @*





DALE SPEIRS, PO BOX 6830, CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA T2P 2E7

Too much whining about how things aren't what they used to be. Turn off the TV and radio, leave them to the lumpenproletariat. Buy music to suit your taste and leave the others be; they think the same about your tastes as they do about theirs. @ But theirs hog some 75% of radio, TV, cafe and shop music. All I want is fair shares. @ Dowsing, my grandfather could make it work for gas pipes but I suspect it was unconsciously deliberate deflection, since he knew they were there. I've never been able to get it to work for me. I work for the Parks Dept., all our new systems are completely plastic. To locate older pipes is just a matter of using a metal detector, but that is useless for new systems. The latest method now is to bury electrical wires alongside the plastic pipe - detectors can pick up the wires. @ But if dowsing can locate water, it shouldn't matter what sort of pipe it's in - or even unpiped. I'd still like to see a scientific test. @

GEORGE 'LAW' LASKOWSKI, 2166 VALLEYVIEW DRIVE, TROY, MI 48098, USA

The article on Music tickled my fancy indeed. My collection of Classical Music is large and I enjoy listening to many of the pieces you mention. My favourite period is the Classical Period, with Haydn my favourite. I got hooked on the Baroque period with Telemann and Vivaldi several years ago and managed to amass a good number of their works on vinyl records. I do agree, with so much beautiful and emotional music around, why is 99% of the stuff broadcasted, "earshattering trash"? @ It's cheap, quick and easy to produce when compared with masterworks. Moreover, its short piece length needs less demanding attention and fits it into TV/Radio slots more neatly. Hell, the even slot bursts of it in between sentences. @

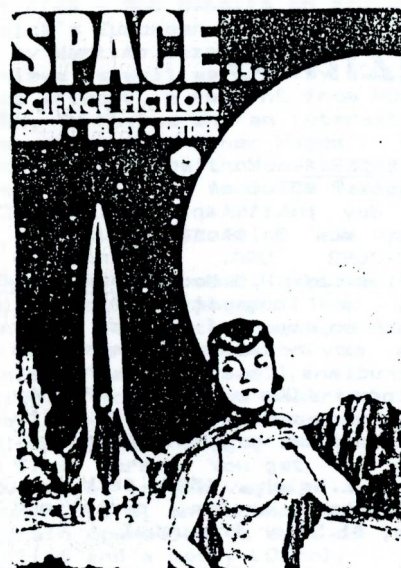
HENRY L. WELCH, 1525 16th. Ave., GRAFTON, WI 53025, USA To Ken Lake, the problem with the term 'graphic' is that it is used to describe the computer area associated with drawing shapes, (i.e. computer graphics) and hence the association with works that are visual in nature. I suspect that despite its Greek roots, the term has been defined in our ever evolving language. @ Rather like, 'gay', 'queer' etc. @ A popular energy-saving device here in the States is the infra-red motion detector. It comes with a timer which turns off the light whenever there is a lack of movement. Great until you find yourself in a toilet stall where no amount of arm-waving will turn the lights back on. @ We use 'em mainly on security lights. I have two, but both work erratically in bad weather despite having encased the sensors in transparent plastic bags. @

DEREK PICKLES, 44 RODLEY LANE, BANKFOOT, BRADFORD, W. YORKS BD5 8LJ

CRACKPOTS. May I add people who claim to have been abducted by aliens with oval eyes, egg-shaped heads and four 'fingers', plus those who claim to have met and talked to aliens. My question is, why in the universe do beings who can design and build FTL vehicles want to talk to nerds? Dowsing is another matter. My late brother-in-law was a foreman plumber who used bent welding-rods to dowse underground water pipes. He was a very hard-headed Yorkshireman, but dowsed and didn't think it extraordinary. At one time he was in charge of maintenance on a 6,000 acre estate where there were lots of old water pipes laid up to 100 years ago and not marked on estate plans. Ken used to go round with an old labourer. Ken would dowse and tell the man where to dig - the pipe was there. @ Well such accounts multiply, but I'd still love to see results of objective tests. @

## SPACE

SCIENCE FICTION



Priced at 35c, the first issue appeared in May 1952.

It was edited by Lester del Rey, who had obviously 'trawled' his friends in order to start with a few 'name' authors. The magazine held one novel, two novelettes, two short stories, a book review by G.O. Smith and 3 'department' fillos. The rather pot-boiling cover was by Orban who shared the excellent interior art with Schecterson and Harrison (Harry?)

PURSUIT, Lester del Rey, sees fugitive Hawkes fleeing an unknown but deadly menace which uses heat-rays, levitation and time-warping. The gimmick is soon obvious, it's his own psi-power.

THE ULTROOM ERROR, Jerry Sohl, has mind-controlling time travellers trying to kidnap the Laughton's baby which was mistakenly sent back from the future during a re-incarnation operation.

YOUTH, Isaac Asimov, One of those tales where giant alien children capture space explorers and hope to keep them for their pets.

THE EGO MACHINE, Henry Kuttner. In a yarn which descends into utter farce a time-travelling robot comes to the aid of a lovelorn and contract-trapped screenwriter.

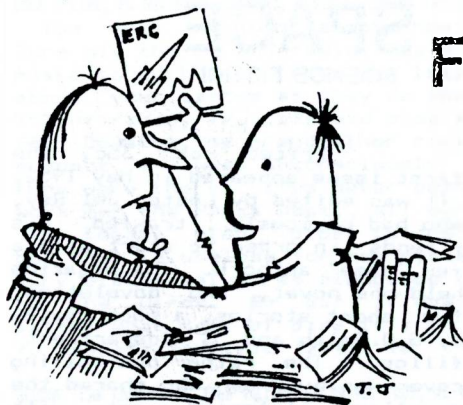
TO EACH HIS OWN, Bryce Walton. Four nasty prison-escaping spacemen, are cast adrift after an explosion, but only one reaches his dream world.

George O. Smith supplied a brief review column (In those days, SF hardcovers were still fairly rare) Of the fillos, one was the more or less standard 'new magazine' Editorial, the second gave a brief listing of 'Coming Events', whilst the third supplied news of the forthcoming World SF Convention.

With the exception of the Kuttner, all were fairly competent yarns making up a good first issue. The next issue appeared in September 1952, and subsequent issues were mainly bi-monthly except for consecutive February and March issues in 1953. Sadly, although the magazine showed promise, it saw only eight issues before it folded.



# Fanzines



**CHALLENGER.4** No less than 102, A4 pages. \$5.00 or 'the usual' from Guy H.Lillian III, PO Box 53092, New Orleans, Louisiana 70153-3092 USA. It includes memories of H.B.Moore and Bob Shaw, a long item on AIDS, another on one of Guy's court cases as a lawyer. Comment on Rosicrucians, fan photos, fanzines, LOCs and more. Plenty of illos, well produced with something for everyone. Good 'un.

**THE KNARLEY KNEWS.58** 18pp from Henry L.Welch, 1525 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017, USA. Personal natter, crafts, quotations, LOCs and fmz reviews. Slim one this time, \$1.50 or the usual.

**GRADIENT.14** 32pp from Robert S.Sabella, 24 Cedar Mount Court, Budd Lake, N.J. 07828-1023, USA. A piece on compulsive reading and list-making, a long article on Superman, others on 'The Essence of SF', Books & China, and a lotta LOCs. A pleasant, serious (but not TOO serious) zine, but it makes you think. Presumably for the usual.

**HIDALGO.38** 48 beautifully reproed pages from Brian Earl Brown, 11675 Beaconsfield, Detroit, MI 48224-1134 USA. Mainly discussing the stories and illos in a 1945 issue of TWS, plus personal natter, Dr.Who book lists, and reviews, J.R.Fearn and Golden Amazon, Western stories and a listing, plus LOCs and Book Reviews. An excellent issue, get it for editorial whims or \$3.00

**ATTITUDE.8** A 64pp, neatly produce bundle from Pam Wells, Michael Abbott and John Dallman, based at 102 William Smith Close, Cambridge CB1 3DF. Natter on Cons, filk singing, Role-Playing Games, Sheryl Tepper books reviewed, 'Legal Briefs', lengthy piece on Alexander The Great (!), good fmz reviews, plenty of LOCs and praise of Spike Milligan. Nice cheerful zine.

**ASSORTED CATALOGUES** If writing, an S.A.E helps. /  
**KEN COWLEY**, Trinity Books, 153 Old Church Rd., Clevedon, Somerset BS21 7TU SF Books & Mags.  
**FANTAST (MEDWAY) LTD.**, PO.BOX 23, Upwell, Wisbech, Cambs. PE14 9BU SF Books & Mags.  
**MIKE DON**, 233 Maine Rd., Manchester M14 7WG SF Books & Mags.  
**SIMON GOSDEN**, 35 The Ramparts, Rayleigh, Essex. SF Books & Mags.  
**TERRY JEEVES** 56 Red Scar Drive, Scarborough, YO12 5RQ SF Hardcover, paperbacks & Mags.  
**CONQUISTADOR**, 158 Kent House Rd., Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY COMIC BOOKS, Art books, & collectors' items.  
**MIDLAND COUNTIES PUBLICATIONS**, Unit 3, Maizefield, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 1YF MILITARY, NAVAL & MILITARY Books, Mags & Videos

**THE RELUCTANT FAMULUS.45.** 48 pages of assorted articles - Bob Sabella on education, Ben Indick's European travel, an instalment of my Wartime Daze, plus book and fmz reviews as well as a hefty LOCcol, some nice artwork, a reprint from NOW AND THEN, TV Movies and an interesting item about 'The Other Hugos'. An excellent read with something for everyone, get it from Tom Sadler, 422 W.Maple Ave., Adrian, MI 49221, USA \$2.00 or 'the usual'

**TRAP DOOR.16** A neat, umpteen folded foolscap pages. The Contents page notes pages, but as these aren't numbered you can't see 'em. Farewell eulogies for various departed fen, as well as a posthumous column by Redd Boggs, another on Elmer Perdue. You get adventures in Las Vegas, country life, an accident and a brain operation, a spot of fiction and a hefty LOCcol. For 'the usual' or \$4.00, from Bob Lichtman, PO Box30, Glen Ellen, CA 95422, USA

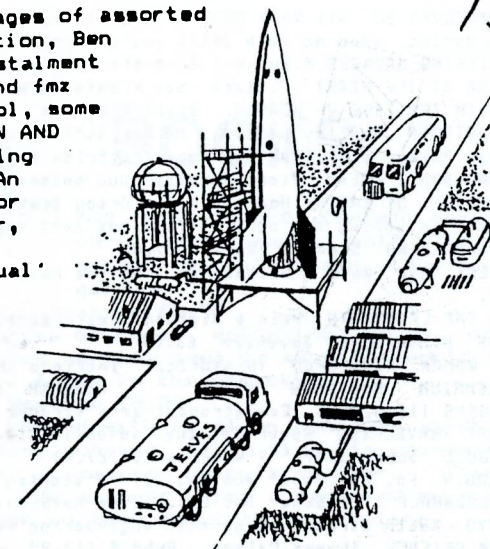
**OPUNTIA 28.5 & 28.18** Don't ask me how the numbering works, or the 32pp, folded Quarto/2 column layout - although the Logo says, "Whole-numbered issues are sercon, .1 issues are reviewzines and .5 issues are perzines). Crammed with comment, Con rep, book and fanzine reviews as well as LOCs and artwork. The tiny print (Pam Boal please note) and unusual format make it a tricky but entertaining read. Get it for \$3.00 a sample, trade or LOC.

**THE KNARLEY KNEWS.58** 20pp, from Henry Welch, 1525 16th. Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017, USA. Hot on the trail of its previous issue comes another collection of personal news, a vacation trip, literary comments on God and fandom, fmz listing, and 11 pages of LOCs. Get it for \$1.50 or the usual.

**PLOKTA.3** Steve Davies, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berks RG30 2RP. 14 superbly printed pages with some lovely photo repro. Totally zany contents, natter about a garden party, a con trip, computer chat, loads of LOCs. Not for the stc, but fun.

Buying SF? Herewith a listing of some excellent dealers. If writing for lists, don't forget a S.A.E.

**K.F.SLATER**, PO BOX 23, UPWELL, WISBECH, CAMBS PE14 9BU  
**MIKE DON**, 233 MAINE RD., MANCHESTER M14 7WG  
**KEN COWLEY**, TRINITY COLLEGE, 153 OLD CHURCH RD., CLEVEDON, AVON BS21 7TU  
**SIMON GOSDEN**, 35 The Ramparts., RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 8PY !!  
**ZARDOZ BOOKS**. M.FLANAGAN, 20 WHITECROFT, DILTON MARSH, BA13 4DJ  
**JOHN SCHNEIDER**, 1500 MAIN AVENUE, KAUKAUMA, WISCONSIN 54130, USA  
**BRIAN AMERINGEN**, 9 GRAHAM RD., WEALDSTONE, HARROW, MIDDX HA3 5RP  
**BRIAN COCKS**, 18 WOODGATE, HELPSTON, PETERBOROUGH PE6 7ED - Deals only in aircraft books.





HARDCOVER SF All VERY GOOD with jackets, except if stated otherwise. Postage free. If ordering, send no cash until you get your books.

GLITTERING SAVAGES M. Burnell A monster in human form. Horror £6.00  
 MAILED BY THE HEART S. Clark Sea creatures menace a community. £6.00  
 BENEATH THE TREE OF HEAVEN. David Wingrove 5th in the Chung Kuo saga £6.00  
 THE MAILMAN Bentley Little. Horror strikes a small town £6.00  
 'Isaac Asimov's CALIBAN' by Roger MacBride Allen mint £7.00  
 DEMONS DON'T DREAM Piers Anthony Dug enters the world of Xanth via computer £6.00  
 THE MEMORY OF EARTH: Homecoming.1 Orson Scott Card The A.I. 'Oversoul' watching over Harmony is ageing and warlike factions need suppressing so the A.I. acts. £5.00  
 THE AWAKENERS Sheri S Tepper £7.00  
 SERPENT MAGE Weis & Hickman Bk.4 of the Death Gate Cycle. was £15, my price £7.00 mint.

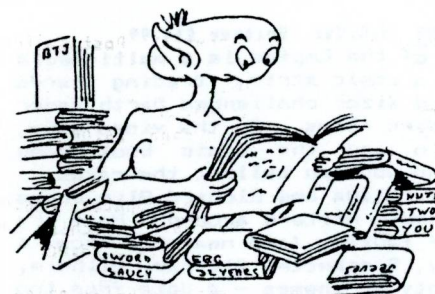
INTO THE LABYRINTH Weis & Hickman Death Gate.6 as above, £7.00  
 ORVIS H.M. Hoover Juvenile £3.00  
 WISE WOMAN R.A. Forde (Historical intrigue and barbarism) £5.00  
 MILLENNIUM Ben Bova £5.00 KINGSMAN Ben Bova Methuen £5.00  
 VOYAGERS III B. Bova Ex-astronaut gets strange powers from alien nanotechnology £7.00  
 A DARK TRAVELLING Roger Zelazny Juvenile £3.00  
 ANALOG.8 Dobson, 1976 9 stories VG. £7.00  
 ANALOG.9 Ed. Ben Bova Dobson, 1977 6 stories VG £7.00  
 THE GODWHALE T.J. Bass 1st Edn. Eyre Methuen, 1974 VG £8.00  
 EMBRYO Keith Barnard A genetic engineering experiment £8.00  
 DREAM SCIENCE Thomas Palmer Pubd @ £13.99, my price £8.00  
 OTHERSYDE J.M. Straczynski Persecuted teenagers contact an evil revenge force £7.00  
 THE OTHER SINBAD Craig Shaw Gardner £7.00  
 WULF Steve Harris Strange events in a village when 'God's Teardrop' calls. £9.00  
 SLEEPING IN FLAME J. Carroll £7.00  
 ISLANDS IN THE NET Bruce Sterling £9.00  
 MAGEFIRE Alex Biali £9.00  
 10,000 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH James Tiptree Jr £9.00  
 THE FORGE IN THE FOREST M. Scott Rohan £6.00  
 SMALL CHANGES Frank Herbert Plastic bound jacket, Ex-Lib copy £4.00  
 ALBION John Grant Terman is cast away in a land where people with short-term memory are tyrannised by the long-memory Elions. Pub'd at £14.95, my price £6.00  
 THE SHEE Joe Donnelly. Horror in an village when a 'dig' releases an evil force £5.00  
 THE ELF QUEEN OF SHANNARA Terry Brooks Book 3 of the 'Heritage of Shannara' sees Wren Olesford seeking out her heritage and the vanished elves. £7.00  
 THE TALISMANS OF SHANNARA Terry Brooks Bk.4 of series £7.00  
 THE TANGLE BOX Terry Brooks, a 'Magic Kingdom' novel. £7.00  
 THE HAND OF CHAOS Weis & Hickman Death Gate Cycle.5 £7.00  
 WARPATH Tony Daniel £6.00  
 IMPERIAL LIGHT M. Corran Romantic fantasy where gods intervene £5.00  
 A MILLION OPEN DOORS John Barnes Biraut tries to aid Caledony move to a Free Trade £6.00

NEVER SEND FLOWERS John Gardner James  
 FISSION IMPOSSIBLE Phil Jones Second in the series where Superbeings play a game with the Universe as a board. Great whacky humour £6.00  
 XORANDOR Christine Brooke-Rose Two children live near a nuclear waste dump and communicate with radiation-fed XORANDOR. Juvenile. This copy has editing notes added by the author £4.00

CHAOS CHILD: Collector's Edition, Ian Watson, Fourth in the Warhammer 40,000 series, pubd at £15.99 My price £5.00

#### NON-FICTION TITLES

PROJECT SPACE STATION B.O'Leary How it can be done £3.00  
 BLACK HOLES: The End Of The Universe? John Taylor £3.00  
 THE BLIND WATCHMAKER Richard Dawkins £6.00 (non-fiction, origin of species)  
 VISUAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SF Ed. B. Ash £4.00  
 THE ROYAL NAVY: Today & Tomorrow J.R. Hill Crammed with text and photos £4.00  
 SEND S.A.E. for FULL LIST of hardcovers and paperbacks.



## BOOKS

TWO FULL-COLOUR GRAPHIC NOVELS - very well drawn, but with the accent on slam-bang violence and gore.

X-MEN: ALTERNIVERSE VISIONS Bantam £9.99

144 pages detailing five stories of Logan, Wolverine, Ororo, etc., the superheroes from Marvel Comics as they seek to save the world from destruction - and meet their own fates in the process.

VENOM: CARNAGE UNLEASHED Bantam £8.99

Reporter Eddie Brock is bonded with an alien parasite which can transform him into an evil-hunting monster. This time his opponent is a creature created by (and from) a maniac computer-hacker. There's also a sub plot where he aids a young hippy endangered by a drug addict. Violence is all, I'm not so sure about the story line.

BABYLON 5; BETRAYALS S.M. Stirling Bantam £4.99

Sixth in the series. Diplomats from two warring superpowers come to Babylon 5 for a peace summit. Captain Sheridan knows security is paramount but a 'con-woman' has plans of her own. They involve the ambassadors from Centauri and Narn, and a rebellion looms. With rebels threatening mayhem and hostile warships approaching, Garibaldi must plan to rescue Sheridan and the diplomats.

INDEPENDENCE DAY D. Devlin & R. Emerich Bantam £4.99

Based on the recently released 20th. Cent. Fox film. Reminiscent of War Of The Worlds it could have come straight from a pre-war 'pulp'. A gigantic alien spacecraft arrives and launches 36 fifteen mile diameter 'saucers' which begin to destroy Earth's defences. Different characters gradually come together in a secret base holding a crashed UFO. PC note. Hero and heroine are black, he an ace pilot, she an unmarried Go-Go dancer with one youngster (to appeal to the kids?). The computer ace who solves the alien secrets is an eco-freak and the 'baddie' wants to employ nukes against the aliens. An action-packed yarn in the old style.

FROG MODEL AIRCRAFT Lines & Hellstrom New Cavendish Books 1989 £25.00

I ordered this from the library and wallowed in nostalgia as I read of the early flying models and kept remembering, "I had one of those". My favourite was the Interceptor which flew superbly but whose wings folded up when I did my three consecutive loop trick once too often. The book also covers plastic kits and runs to 272 pages and around 800 photos. Great for us oldies who recall those days.

DETAILING SCALE MODEL AIRCRAFT Mike Ashley Airline Pubs. £14.95

Another library title which I fancy is an American import hence the inflated price for a 104 page softback. Crammed with hints, tips and how-to photos as well as superb model shots, this is a mine of information for the modeller. It falls down on poor indexing and general presentation; the techniques come in one endless stream without clear separation and products are mentioned without explanation - "Apply Bloggol to prevent silvering". Having said that, with careful reading it's a winner.



THE SECRETS OF STAR WARS: SHADOWS OF THE EMPIRE M.C.Vaz Boxtree £14.99

According to the handout, *Shadows of the Empire* is a multi-media presentation involving a computer game, a comic strip, trading cards and a hardback novel in which Crimelord Xizor challenges Darth Vader.

Set between the second and third Star Wars films. In the video game, Leia and company seek to rescue Han Solo and the comic book sees Xizor's agents hunting Luke Skywalker and you can collect the cards.

MODERN FANTASY BY WOMEN Ed. Susan Williams and Richard Glyn Jones

Penguin £8.99 Who said there are few women writers around? Here are no less than thirty-eight short tales of fantasy (and near SF) from a host of 'names' in the field. McCaffrey, Brackette, Tiptree, Wilhelm, Russ and on. The 550 pages hold a variety of themes - a date from the grave, unrequited love, toothache, a tiny UFO, a lost race, a cyborg spaceship to mention but a few. Oh there are three or four unsecured endings or 'What was that all about?' yarns, but if you want star-studded variety and a book, perfect for reading at bed-time or on a long journey, you'll not do any better.

STAR TREK CREATOR: Gene Roddenberry David Alexander Boxtree £7.99

A brief Introduction by Gene's widow, a Foreword by Ray Bradbury, a page or two of Acknowledgements and you're into the fascinating life story, warts and all, of 'Mr. Star Trek'. His ancestry, childhood, college days, B-17 and Pan Am Airline pilot as well as police work are all detailed. His writing skills grow as he authors and incredible amount of material until the uphill battle for Star Trek. This is a living, exciting account crammed with incident and anecdote to rival any work of fiction. There's also a listing of his films, a reprint of an interview with Terry Sweeney and 16 pages of photos. Now in paperback, it tops 600 pages!

BEYOND UHURA: Star Trek and other Memories Michelle Nichols Boxtree

£6.99

This is the biography of Michelle Nichols, better known to ST fans as 'Lieutenant Uhura'. An established singer and dancer before boldly going aboard the Enterprise. Read of her ancestry, family, childhood and her battle against sexism and racism. On to stage success, a first failed marriage, tangling with a mobster, fighting a rapist, her affair with Gene Roddenberry and entry into Trek with its joys, tears and infantile practical jokes. Then the post-Trek and film years. other interests, roles, aims and ambitions. All this and pages of photos, what more could a Trekker want?

STAR WARS: THE REBEL ALLIANCE: Ships of The Future Bill Baith Boxtree £11.99STAR WARS: THE GALACTIC EMPIRE: Ships of The Future Bill Baith Boxtree £11.99

Two, A4 size, side-folding titles packed with full-colour diagrams, fold-out flaps and pop-up cutouts. Open each of the five sections and an X-fighter, AT Walker, or other item of Star Wars hardware unfolds before you along with details, descriptions and specifications. Aimed at the younger end of Star Wars fandom, either of these two books would make an excellent Christmas present. Production techniques of such works mean the books aren't cheap, but the hardback format will give them a much longer service life than the usual paperback.

