Fortnightly

ETHERLINE

SERVING FANDOM

THE LATEST IN SCIENCE FICTION

ISSUE No. 24 18/2/54.

HEADLINES:

AUTUMN BOOK FROM LEADING U.K. HOUSES.

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FILM NEWS

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BILL TEMPLE

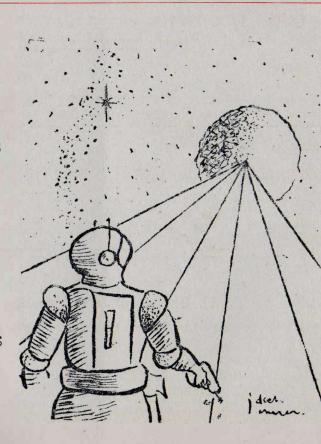
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MET AMERICAN BOOKS & P.B'S

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KEN SLATER WRITES

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\mathcal{A} OHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOHOH			

Doodlings

Out in London are pocket book editions of the two Hamilton books recently released, SFRAGUE DE CA-MP'S NEW ANTHOLOGY, which contains Calories, The Colourful Character, Juice, Proposal, The Saxon Pretender, and The Space Clause. 159 pp for 1/6 stg. The other one if Jonathan Burke's THE DARK GATEMAY, 2/-. stg., 223 pp, a weird-horror story set in Wales.

Hamiltons have also issued the sequel to THE WORLD BELOW at 1/6 stg. Titled THE DWELLERS, it is of

127 pp.

There are NO new Curtis pocket books out, and

this is strange to say the least.....

A new science fiction magazine in THE VARGO STATTEN SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE has hit the stands in UK. Dated January, 1954, Vol. 1, No. 1 has seven stories, including part 1 of The Inevitable Conflict by E.C.Tubb. Plenty of fan stuff, letter column and science facts, editorial, Tho's Tho in Fandom, which features Slater this ish, Fanfare and Such Like. Edited by Vargo Statten, the Associate Editor is one Alistair Paterson. Size 74" by 95", it contains 64 pages, with identical front and back covers, depicting four scenes none of which have any connection with the yarms , but all are action-packed, which is fitting, as the stories are full of action.

It appears as if THRIIIING WONDER STORIES and STARTLING STORIES have both gone quarterly, as the latest issue of TWS to reach me is dated Winter 1954, while January 1954 is the latest SS, the previous one being October 1953. The sub rates on these and other US mags have all gone up for overseas subs, due to increased postage rates in the US. Only mags not to follow as not are the follows.

follow as yet are the Palmer/Hamling groups.

New Pocket Book publishers, Comyns, have issued their first stf offering, ZHORANI, by Karl Maras.

Kayeffess

SO WHAT'S NEW IN THE STATES

RAY SCHAFFER Jnr.

Leo D. Quinn of New York City has started a new service to fandom, namely, the FANZINE REGISTRATION BUREAU. Leo has complete list of past and present fanzines, -- thus, if you have plans of putting out a new fanzine, they can contact him to find out if the title that they propose using has ever been used before, or if the title is being used at the present time.

Harlan Ellison of Science Fiction Bulletin fame has finally sold his first piece of pro fiction. THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION bought it, so it must be a fine bit of fiction writing, as this mag

only buys the best.

Joel Nydahl just released his VEGA annual. It is amazing what Joel can do with that 15 dollar mimeo of his...the mimeo work is outstanding and the material found within is even better - - 100 pages of it, featuring some of the top pros and fans in fandom. This magazine is really climbing to the top,

if it isn't there already.

The fan feud between Joe Semenovich and Harlan Ellison is still going strong, despite Harlan's futile effort to cool down the affair. Seems that some time ago Ellison said a few (thousand) nasty words about Semenovich, pertaining to his fanzine RENAISS-ANCE. Ellison said later that he was only offering his critical comments about the zine, with the purpose of helping Semenovich improve the quality. But Semenovich thought his comments a little too critical, and that's when the fists started flying. Both individuals proceeded to write critical comments about each other in their fan publications. This conflict has lasted about a year now, and at the recent Philcon, the inevitable happened. Both fans met face to face, and almost came to blows. Ellison wanted to forget

the whole thing, but Semenovich (as usual) proved to be the bullheaded one and wanted to prolong the argment further. A little bit of shoving took place, which was observed by several attendees at the Con, but no actual blows resulted. I guess only time will tell who'll win out in this senseless rivalry. Maybe L.Ron Hubbard can help these two idiots. Just as some fans take science fiction too seriously, some also take fandom equally as seriously. Science fiction and fandom are supposed to be fun, not a means of letting off steam for the purpose of receiving egoboo.

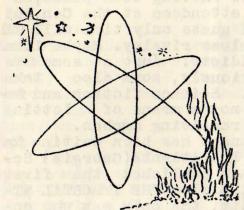
The book that all fandom has been waiting for has finally been published. The Atlanta (Georgia) Science Fiction Organization has published the first authentic history of fandom, titled THE IMMORTAL ST-ORM , written by Sam Moskowitz, the only man who could write with absolute certainty about early fandom. This fine publication sells at a rather high price. \$ 4.95, but is well worth that many greenbacks, for it contains over 200 pages, is loaded throughout with photographs of pros and fans, and has a breathtaking cover by Frank Paul. No collector's library is complete without this publication, and copies are limited, so scrape up some moola right away (some of those eye-sore ties given you at Christmas can bring in some cash at any secondhand dealer) and send it to: Jerry Burge, 415 Pavillion St., S.E., Atlanta, Ga. It contains a complete history of world fandom, not just the States.

Getting back to Joe Semenovich, the King of ALL critics, he has just come out with THE BALTIMORE TUNNELL MYSTERIES, an aid to amateur authors who want plots.

My mailbox contains a great deal more info on fan doings in the States, but I'll save it until the next issue of ETHERLINE. So until then, cheerio, pippip, long live 7th Fandom, and all support a Mooncon in '60.

RAY SCHAFFER.

Slobal Round Up



The Autumn plans for the major British stf publish-ing houses were released a short time ago. Weidenfeld and Nicholson announced for the period January/March, 3 books as follows: THE WEA-PON MAKERS, Van Vogt; THE TITAN & Others, P. Schuyler Miller; and CITY, C. Simak This is well up to the high standard set by their previous releases. Prices are as yet unknown, but as soon as

they come to hand, you will be informed.

Grayson & Grayson announced for the period Jan-June the following three books: 2ND. ASTOUNDING ANTH-OLOGY, edited by J. W. Campbell Jnr. This actually is the material which was left out of the Lst Britishedition, which is out in UK, and due here shortly. THE ROBOT & THE MAN edited by Martin Greenberg, containing short stories by Padgett, Williamson and Van Vogt. STRANGE ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE FICTION edited by Groff Conklin, is already out in UK, priced at 9/6 stg, and will be here in a matter of weeks.

Sidgewick & Jackson plan to issue THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH by Robert Heinlein; and CHILDHOOD'S END by Arthur C. Clarke early in the present month.

Out in UK is the third book from Hutchinson & Co., SOS FROM MARS by John Keir Cross, slanted to-wards the juvenile audience as was their previous two

A new book from Mary Richmond, prolific detective story author is THE GRIM TOMORROW, set some years in the future. Published by Wright & Brown, it is priced at 8/6 stg.

On the American front, there has been a terrific issue of pocket book editions of well-known works.

From Fawcett Publications comes ESCAPE TO ED-EN by Theodore Sturgeon, priced at 35 & This could come out in UK, as Gold Medal Books, the Fawcett imprint, are issued in UK.

Ace Books issued SWORD OF RHIAMA by Leigh Brackett and CONAN THE CONQUEROR by Robert E. Howard, in a Double Ace, priced at 35 & What a bargain.

Another Theodore Sturgeon, MORE THAN HUMAN, was released by Ballantine Books at 35¢, while Dell's January offering was SIX GREAT SHORT NOVELS OF STF, edited by Groff Conklin, again at 35¢.

Permabooks January release was CITY by Clifford Simak at 35%. Lion Books issued CONJURE WIFE by Leiber in January, at 25%, and Avon Books issued AWAY & BEYOND by Van Vogt at the same price on Dec. 16. THE CURRENTS OF SPACE by Isaac Asimov came from Signet on Dec. 30th, at 25%.

STAR SCIENCE FICTION, 2nd Series, edited by Frederik Pohl, was issued by Ballantine Books in both 35¢ and hard covers at \$2.00 on Jan. 18th.

A reissue of the old classic FRANKENSTEIN, by Mary Woolstencraft Shelley came from Heritage Press, priced at \$4.50, in a deluxe limited edition.

Milton Lesser edited LOOKING FORVARD, a 400 page anthology from Beechmont Press, priced at \$4.95.

Gnome Press issued MUTANT, a new Lewis Padgett offering, priced at \$2.75, while Abelard released a new Fritz Leiber, THE GREEN MILIENIUM, priced at \$2.75, a fantasy about a green cat.

The covers of NEW WORLDS 22, NOVA NOVEL 2, & SCIENCE FANTASY 7 have been sighted, so the rumor can now die officially. However, no date on the rest of the issue as yet, and Carnell hasn't said a word of explanation. Still, the cover is something.....

SPACE SCIENCE FICTION has finished. Last U.S. edition sighted was dated September, 1953. As the UK edition was running a month behind, it is possible that Vol 2, No 2 was the last to be seen also. Right in the middle of a serial....!

HOW TO WRITE A SCIENCE FICTION SERIAL WILLIAM F. Temple

PART 2

This week, of course, we can't just let Temple smash to pieces on the ground! It would spoil the story -- to say nothing of spoiling Temple. So we have

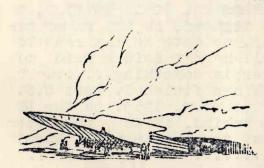
ve to think up a way out.

Clarke is pretty hot stuff with mathematics, as we know from his writings -- I enjoyed every figure of his last article. So here he does some lightning calculations and finds that if the ship be rotated three times rapidly about its own axis at a height of 7.77 recurring miles above the Earth's surface, it will, at that point in the gravitational field, owing to the Doppler Effect, The Nebular Hypothesis, and Bode's Law, rotate through Hyper-space, and so reach the Moon that way.

At that height, Clarke fires the side-jets & rotates the ship. The ship instantly vanishes and

is never seen again by mortal eye.

The world honours the two martyrs -- these valiant men who fell in the cause of space travel, etc., these heroes in the vanguard of human progress, etc., these symbols of Man's unconquerable Mind, and so



forth. And Mankind builds noble monuments to them, hallows their names in biographies, prints articles about them in READ-ER'S DIGEST and -- Greatest honour -- NEW WORLDS.

And then Mankind makes no more attempts to get to the Moon because:
(a) if Clarke couldint do

it, nobody else could hope to do it, (b) rockets won't work in a vacuum, (c) who the hell wants to go to the moon anyway? They just sit back and cultivate their gardens and enjoy the boon of a Clarke-less world.

A couple of generations pass, and now we borrow an angle from the film THINGS TO COME, and pickup the story again with the grandsons of Clarke and Temple respectively. (As Mr. Clarke isn't married, we shan't go too deeply into family history.)

Clarke 111 has inherited all of his grandfa-ther's enthusiasm for getting to the moon. Indeed, he wants to vindicate his grandfather's great project. Rockets won't work, but there must be other ways.

Now we introduce our solitary completely original idea. Clarke 111 happens upon a scientific discovery that was made as long ago as the 1930's. not that anyone took much notice then. Common or garden vegetables emit certain peculiar rays, called mitogenetic rays. These rays have a definite measureable thrust -- not much, but detectable and measurcable by scientific instruments. And easily the strongest emitter of these rays is the Spanish Onion. It's really fierce! Clarke reasons, logically enough, that the larger the onion, the larger the output of these thrusting mitogenetic rays. So he employs a champion marrow grower to grow a champion onion. This fellow is really good at his job and grows an onion as big as a house. Its output of rays is so strong, it develops such a thrust, that steel cables have to be fastened around the thing to hold it down.

Clarke 111 conscripts Temple 111. More housework. Also he shoots him a line about "It's our duty to carry on the tradition of our grandfathers and conquer the Moon for the benefit of me and all humanity, etc." In fact, he sounds just like his father's old man!

So the two scoop out a small, egg-shaped cavity in the interior of the onion, fix it up as a cabin for navigation, and get in. The cables are thrown off.... Propelled by the rays from the onion, the onion-ship

rises rapidly and speeds off towards the Moon.

Now we'regetting near the end of the install ment. We've got to provide Climax II. So we borrow a remarkable idea from a remarkable film, ROCKETSHIP X M. The crew has underestimated the speed of ship. It misses the Moon altogether and flies on into outer space towards Mars.

For the next installment we can work up towards a climax over the food situation. Naturally, the voyagers have taken only enough food for the short trip to the Moon. Now they're committed to the longer trip to Mars. They run out of food. The last baked bean is gone. They're forced to live on the onion itself. They start nibbling away at the walls.

The cabin becomes larger and larger. But never large enough for them. Not when they're eating onion all the time. Their respective breaths smell of on-ion so strongly that the atmosphere becomes insupp-ortable. They're choking each other.

Then Temple remembers that in the medicine chest there's a bag of cachous. Faint and weak, almost overcome, he crawls towards it. Will he reach it in time ? Climax III. To be continued next week. your breath has a smell, you can't feel well.



All Inside Instrations By Keith Michand

POCKET BOOK BEVIEWS

THE URANIUM SEEKERS (Zeigfried) . Earth, Mars, Venus of the future make a raid through time and grab scientist and girl friend. Want Earth's fissionables to run machines in 20,000 . Query : what goes on between 1974 and 19,999 if all fissionables have been transferred. Just another Statten!

THE THIRD MUTANT (Elloit). The third mutant is an Earth spy on an iron curtained planet called Trone . How he is rescued makes a fairly good piece of blood and thunder. Recommended.

RESEARCH OPTA (Charles). Scientist makes three microscopic entities who have very powerful minds and by dominating their creator, seek to dominate Earth. Full of involved and not too well-thought-out philosophy. I couldn't follow it owing to nausea. So be warned in time!

LIFE COMES TO SEATHORPE (Bell) A Guild Book at 3/from McGills. A story that opens very slowly in an idyllic village, then strange things begin to happen. They are finally traced to a scientist, an extreme paranoic, who has a theory on the origin of life, and performs several too-successful experiments. written and good.

THE RED PLANET (Campbell). Two men are margoned on a planet where Earth conditions are reversed. The plants are humanoid and intelligent, the animal life is fixed and looks like vegetation. The story is worked out logically. This is the best TB since RESUR-GENT DUST.

THE IMMORTALS (Garner). This is a continuation of the story of Ertman Kennet, the hero of RESURGENT D-UST, and a good piece of writing. The Immortals hold the secret of atomic power, which Kennet needs to ensure the growing prosperity of Venus. A good one, but Contd. page 16

ETHERLINE

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IT'S NEARLY HERE !!!!!!!!!! EASTER, 1954 !!!!!!!!!!! THEN.

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MAGAZINE REVIEWS....

ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION US ED. December 1953 A brilliant cover by Van Dongen illustrat "Hide Hide Witch !" by Mark Clifton and Alex Apostolides. story rates fair to good. "Ill "lind" by Lee Corey --fair. Tom Godwin's "Mother Of Invention" is a trifle too much for your reviewer. Five men in a wrecked spaceship, on a planet with a sun due to nova in six or so months. where machinery with moving parts will not function. Mighty tough spot to be in. Whadda they do? They scratch their heads a little -- then anti-gravity. "Counterspy" by Kelley Edwards is good. Two articles, "The Mystery of the Blue Mist of Mars", by R. S. Richardson, and another written in double -talk by Isaac Asimov, "The Micropsychiatric Applications of Thiotimoline". NB. Thiotimoline is unique in that it will dissolve 1.12 seconds prior to the addi-A fair issue. Tony Santos. tion of water.

AUTHENTIC SCIENCE FICTION 40. Cover by Davis - fair. Contents - fair to poor. Mostly poor. One real stinker, "The Best Laid Schemes" by Kelvin Strike. Two mediocre efforts, "Amateur Effort" by Dan Morgan and "The Inner Worlds and My Uncle" by M. Dogge. "For You The Possessed" by J. F. Burke, was the best in the issue, but fair only. Martin Jordan's "Cuckoo" had a good idea, but a poor ending. The amateur writer for this month, A. P. Kift, was as good -- or as bad -- as anyone else with "Go To The Ants".

Tony Santos.

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION BRE 4. All the stories in this issue are from July , 1953 US edition, except INTERLOPER by Poul Anderson, which is from April 1951, and was the lead story in

that issue. Three stories in the July issue were left out to accomodate the Anderson item. Best stories in the issue were THE STAR GYPSIES by William Lindsay Gresham - who wrote the unforgettable DREAM DUST FA-CTORY - and INTERLOPER. The first mentioned is a believeable tale about a post atomic war band of wanderers, and that Anderson's yarn is about such incompatable things as elves, fairies and extraterrestr -ial invaders ! Of the other stories, only two shine. They are Bester's STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT, and Sheckley's THE KING'S VISHES. In all, an issue not to be missed.

Dick Jenssen

GALAXY SCIENCE FICTION BRE 9

Dropped from this issue is SOLDIER'S BAY by Michael Shaara, which appeared with the rest of the contents in July 1953 US edition. It would have been better if they had dropped two of the short stories, namely HOME IS THE HUNTER by Moore & Kuttner and BAD DAY FOR SALES by Leiber. I was extremely surprised on reading these two that authors like the three involved could write such trash. However, they are made up by KINDERGARTEN by Simak, a story of a square box like object which dispenses free gifts to all and sundry, with differing effects. The other novelet, THE WEATHER ON MERCURY by Morrison was something I could'nt quite make out. I felt it was written with a tongue-in-cheek attitude. The remaining shorts, CAR-ETAKER by Schmitz anf GREEN GREW THE LASSES by Wainwright were both good. All these stories add up to a better than average issue. Even the cover by Emsh, is better than most I have seen.

Dick Jenssen

IF BRE Vol 1. No 1.

Cover by Ken Fagg is very good. Inside cover illustrations be Ed Valigursky are excellent, almost

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photographic. Lead story, DEADLY CITY by Ivar Jorgensen is a fair, very wordy psychological study. THY NAME IS WOMAN by Ken O'hara presents a new way to populate a planet. Good. THE VICTOR, R Deeming; THE pulate a planet. Good. THE VICTOR, R Deeming; THE SWORD, B. Walton; and THE SALESMAN, Waldo Boyd are all very good, particularly the last. The other two, THE ROTIFERS, Abernathy and BLACKTIDE, Stangland, fair. PERSONALITIES IN SCIENCE features Galilleo. On the whole, a fine first issue, but they named the illustrators but forgot the illustrations!

IF BRE Vol 1. No 2.

Cover by Ken Fagg, better than the first issue. Two more excellent inside cover illustrations by Ed. Valigursky. Lead novel JUPITER FIVE by Arthur Clarke, lengthy short on interplanetary exploration. SHE KNEW HE WAS COMING by Neville. Phew ! PIPE OF PEACE, Mckimmey presents an interesting solution to sit strikes. THE HUDDLERS by Gault, another interplanetary inspection, and we don't measure up, tch, tch. THE KENZIE REPORT, Clifton. He talks to ants. Guess what. They don't answer ! FIELD TRIP, Hunter. New angle on time travel. DERELICT, Nourse. Space opera, but not bad. CIRCLE OF FLIGHT, Stockham. Interesting theory on curvature of space. SAY HELLO FOR ME, Coggins.. Robinson Crusoe brought up to date. THE CONTEST, Hyde. Chess with pictures. PERSONALITIES IN SCIENCE. Number 2 slipped on number 1, but still good. Jack Keating

From page 11
like all sequels, not quite up to the standard of
the original,



Bob McCubbin

BOOK REVIEWS

THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN Ray Bradbury.

Rupert Hart-Davis. London. 13/3.

I will not enter into any controversy as to whether Bradbury writes fantasy or science fiction. But whichever it is, he does it brilliantly. This is a book for readers of either. Twenty stories (nine of which I have seen in various issues of slick mags), with some fine line drawings by Joe Mugnaini (see particularly his heading to THE FRUIT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOWL). Verdict - a must.

Tony Santos

GREAT STORIES OF SCIENCE FICTION Edited by Murray Leinster. 318 +xxiv.pp. Cassell & Co. London. 18/9

A verbiose and florid introduction by Clifton F-adiman is compensated for by Leinster's preface. In this he gives some more on the FBL Investigation of Cleve Cartmill's DEADLINE, tells of the British High Command's use of science fiction on the enemy and let's us know why he likes writing it.

Twelve stories of which (from memory) only three have previously been anthologized, eight of which are from ASTOUNDING circa 1943-50. Two I was particularly pleased to see again were BLIND ALLEY by Malcolm Jameson and Sturgeon's CHRONIUM HELMET. One which was good and new to me was SYMBOSIS by Will Jenkins. There were only two poor stories, THE FASCINATING STRANGER, by Michael Fessier and LIQUID LIFE by Ralph Milne Farley. Verdict, worth the money.

Tony Santos

WATCH FOR IT AT EASTER. THE SPECIAL LARGE ISSUE OF ETHERLINE, WHICH WILL BE ON SALE AT THE CONVENTION AT THE USUAL PRICE OF SIXPENCE

Film News

a new pseudo science fantasy film has been completed. Titled THE CREATURE OF BLACK LAGOON, it is about scientists searching in 'danger ridden jungle' of the Amazon for a mysterious underwater creature . Starring Richard Carlson and Julia Adams, it is a UI production. This company intends to put into production very shortly ELECTRONIC MAN, an original screen play. Cost has not yet been announced. In the fantasy line, SIGN OF THE PAGAN has been completed, This is about Attila the Hun, who, I think, has not been 'in the movies' before. Another one is THREE SOMS OF Za-NTOR, an 'extra waganza set in the Near East in Middle Ages'.

REVIEW:

Really not stf, but right on the borderline, this is an unpretentious film which tries to show that only luck may prevent an atomic disaster. There is the inevitable anti-red propaganda although it is at a minimum and is done in a circuitous way. Briefly the story is - - parts of a portable A-bomb are found in a wrecked car and security men are called in . The trail leads to France where the culprits are discovered. The hero then discovers that it was only a game created by the Army to test security defences ! but realises that in actuality a 'foreign power' is working under Ithis cover smuggling real A-bombs into the country ! What happens then makes up an average film. If you've got a couple of hours to spare, then see this film - it's worth it.

Dick Jenssen.

YES , IT'S OUT !!! QUESTION MARK 4 ON SALE AT THE USUAL SELLING POINTS AT 1/-

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McGill's Newsagency, 183-5 Elizabeth St., Melb. THE SCIENCE FICTION SPECIALISTS

Melbourne Sroup Reports

4/2/54.

Bob McCubbir in the chair, eleven present. Dick Jenssen is back from Queensland looking very fit. Eric La Motte is back from Lakes Entrance, ditto. Ted Butt came in from Newcastle. A very quiet evening, spent mainly in chess.

An American correspondent of the Chairman's is of the opinion that Nebula Vol. 2 No. 2 stinks. was thinking of subscribing until he read it. Another wants a USA-Aust money conversion table, as he has a yen to subscribe to some of our Melb fanmags.

12/2/54.

As usual, Bob McCubbin in the chair, attendance being ten.

Ted Butt has gone back to Newcastle, just a

stub, or butt, of his former self.

Bob has been offered a directorship in Federated World Fanclubs, sponsered by Orvill Mosher, of Project Fan Club fame. FWF is, at present, just an idea, and Bob wants some more info before he sticks his neck out.

Lyell Crane expects Melbourne to fill in 10 minutes of the business session at the Sydney Convention, and 20 minutes on the second day. Bob looks like taking the first session, perhaps Mervyn will describe AFP4 for 20 minutes. (?.Ed).

The Observatory is again being contacted for

definite dates for our visits in April.

YES, IT'S OUT !!! QUESTION MARK 4. ON SALE NOW

TRADING BUREAU

STAP SECTION Ian J. Crozier, 6 Bramerton Rd., Caulfield S.E.S., Victoria, has a copy of SCIENCE FICTION QUAR-TERLY, August, 1953, to swap for a copy of FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, October, 1951.

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WANT SECTION

John A. Vile, 82 Wollambi Rd., Cessnock, N.S.V., wants ASTOUNDING STF, US. Nov, Dec, 1952.

UNKNOTN US. April, 1939

NET WORLDS 1.

GALAXY US. September 1953.

John Gregor, Newhaven St., Everton Fark., Brisbane, Queensland, wants any US editions of UNKN--O'H.

M. A. Bos, 24 Spencer Rd., Killara, NSV., on behalf of the North Shore Futurian Society, wants the following magazines:

ASTOUNDING BRE 1941. All except Feb., Apr.

A11 1942

All 1943 except Dec.

A11 1944

All 1945 except Nov.

All 1946 except July and Dec.

Any before 1941.

AUTHENTIC 1/6, 9. 10. 12. 13. 14.

GALAXY US. All 1950

1951: Jan, Feb, Apr, May, July, Aug,

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