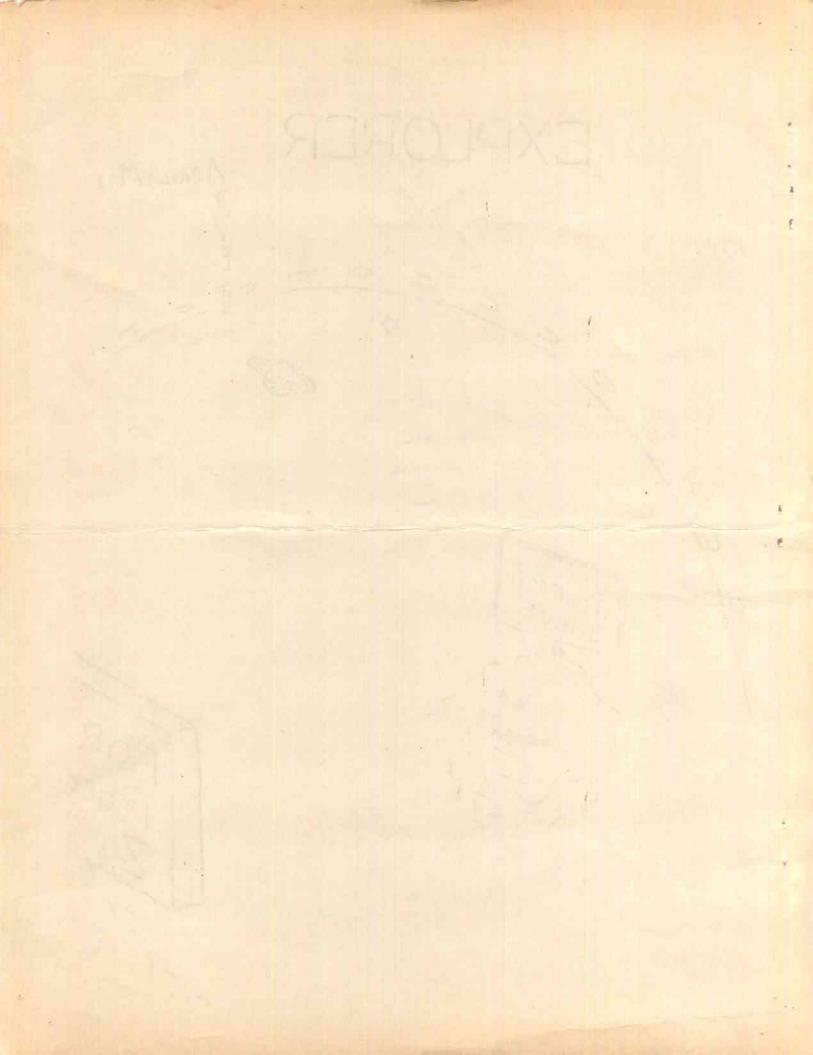
APRIL MAY 10\$



#### - A Sort of Appendix -

Honest, people, I apologize all over the place that EXPLORER is late, later than ever --- meanwhile here are a few more items which may be of some interest among s-ficionados, etc.

An error in address that I've got listed; Walter Cole's address is:

Pvt. Walter Cole, 12362387 512th Sig. Pasa Maint. Co. Camp Roberts, California

I'd had it listed as 516th --- please note that change!

Just had a card from Bill Austin, of Scattle, who notes that he may find it necessary to drop fandom for the summer because of various reasons, but hopes he can keep it up ---

Bill Venable is out 'for the season', anyhow --- Max Keasler's FANVARIETY is to blend in with ALEPH-NULL for the NEF'ers ---

Picked this up from the ether waves on a late news-cast one night: - the Hubbards are on the break-up because the theme of Dianetics isn't working too well for the author. That isn't what the radio said in those words -- the news item was a lot more drastic than that.

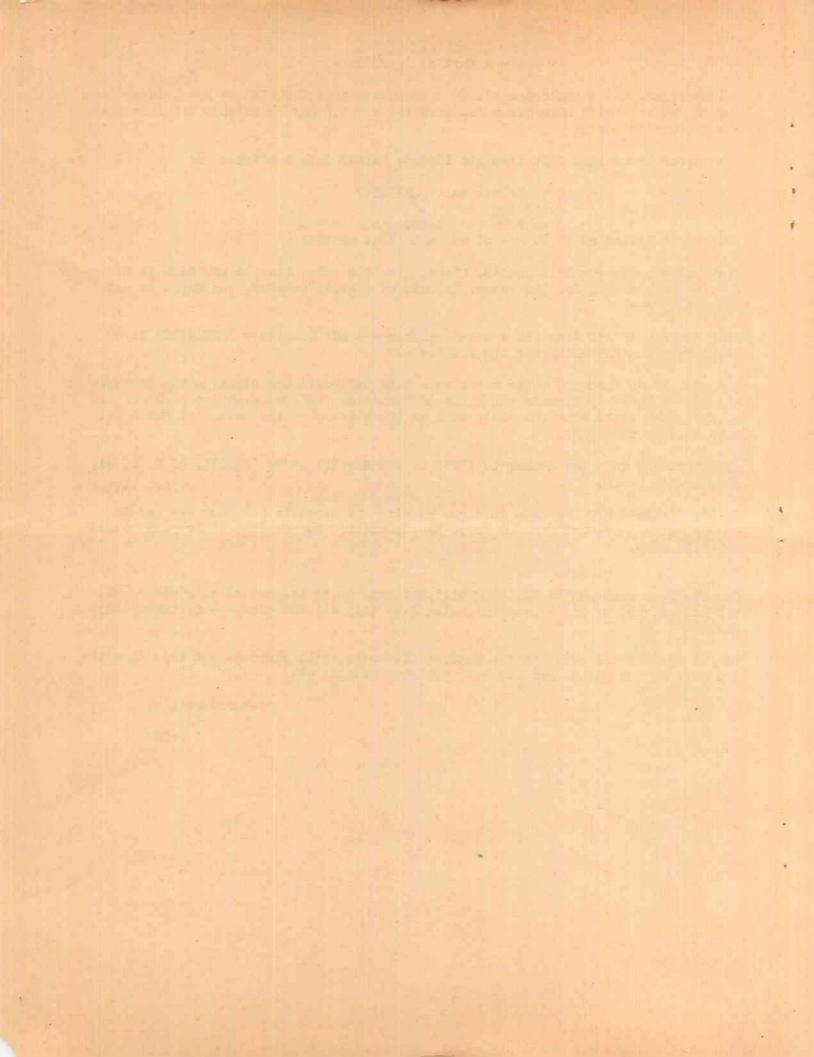
Also arriving as a new member to ISFCC is Ted Serrill or Ted Senill, of R. D. #1, Harrisburg, Penna.

Duggie Fisher's ODD has come in since running off stencils and such --- getting bigger and bigger, but some of those letter-writers oughta have their pens washed out with soap.

One of these fine months EXPLORER will get back on to its normal schedule -- all the various things can't keep happening like this all the time --- or maybe they can.

So you can start looking at the rest of the 'zine, I'll sharrop, put this in with the rest of the pages, and get busy with the mailing ---

S-Fictionately,



# 1H3 EXPLGAET

The B-I-G item of s-f news for the Spring months is to be the World S-F Convention to be held in London, England from the 10th to the 15th of May. While it's rather doubtful that there shall be too many ISFCC members from state-side present at the meeting, EXPLORER hopes to have an "on-the-scene" report from the affair —

To S-Ficionados who do attend, it will be workhwhile to note that England is to have its Festival Exhibition this year, and it's to be one of the tops in one of the best in exhibitions. It's been a long time since there's been a World's Fair-

A lot of name fans and authors and such are planned for the convention - it should be an interesting affair, and while we can't get there, we hope it'll be a howling success --- one of the fans intending to be there is Lyell Crane of Toronto, who is one of the ed's of the Interim News-Letter, one of the better fan-mags - Walter Willis, editor of SLANT, the best of the fanzines that comes out of the UK, warns all who attend that he shall be there

ISFCC'ers Exploring armed Services --

Quite a few of the s-ficionades who belong to ISFCC have been exchanging mufti for conventional uniforms these days. Sometimes it has been by the request of that "committee of friends and neighbors" and sometimes it has been via the recruiting and enlisting offices of Army, Air Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard.

Tom Covington, who is of Wilmington, N. Carolina, is in the Coast Guard, address otherwise unknown. Along with being an active ISFCC member, Tom edited the first issue of USCO's BIZARRE.

Walter Cole writes in from Camp Roberts that he's with the 516th Signal Base Maintenance Co. and well in the program of drill, KP, guard duty, and such that the Army calls basic training.

Sue Chadwick (Pvt. Margaret Chadwick) AA8306072 is in the 3741st WAF Training Squadron at Lakeland Air Base, San Antonio, Toxas.

At this writing Yvonne K. Worth is either waiting orders or is already in the WAF - den't know for sure, but she signed up, according to last reports.

Then there's the regular army S/Sgt. Francis Brownley of the 3415 Field Service Squadron at Lowry Field in Colorado.

If there are others in service, and addresses of the above (where addresses are not given), how about sending EXPLORER the information so we can send out the 'zines -

THE EXPLORER

Published for and by the International Science Fiction Correspondence Club--

Editor: Ed Noblo, Jr.

Box 49, Girard, Penna.

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Lyons Falls, N. Y.

KOLLEKTOR'S KORNER - Boa Glass 97 Baker St., Dover, N. J.

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#### EDITORIAL

Here we go again, guys'n'gals ----I know this one won't be on time! That bug which has been so prevalent around the country, the 'flu-bug, kept this ed parked in the sack for over a week, and EXPLORER rosted, staying in the formative stago. Still with a voice that makes one Andy Devine sound like an operatic baritone, I tackle the job of getting out an issuo.

Elections are coming up in the near future. Let's start thinking of those who should be heading ISFCC in the coming year. According to what I hear from Larry there will be a vacancy in that office as his term of office is completed this Fall.

Perhaps there are some among you who

should like to run for an office in the ISFCC -- if so, wonderful! Let Larry or Paul Ganley know about it. Paul is the secretary, from whom we haven't had much news of late, but he lives at 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y.

It is hoped that a roster of candidates may be ready early this year so the overseas members can be in on the voting, too. Last year the ballot of candidates was so shaky at times that it was even changed after it had been mimeo'd!

The Constitution of the ISFCC is designed in such a way that the same ones can not romain in office year after year indefinitely. After having served his terms as an official, Larry says it's time to retire -- ISFCC is a growing club and needs a good leader at the head of it, so let's be thinking of a potential bunch of candidates for that office.

. . . . . .

#### To All ISFCC'ers -- "Ad Stellas"

A few minutes ago I looked up at the calendar and noticed that today was my day to write this letter to members. So here I am, very busy --

First, I will let you in on the fact that our hoped-for Librarian, Stan Serwner, will now be unable to handle the library work --- Stan is in in the army, and being on the move all the time, it would be too inconvenient for him to run the library. A couple of weeks ago I contacted one of the feminine members of the club, who had written that she would like to handle any office that was open should one become vacant. However, when I received an answer, she wrote that she was joining the Women's Air Force or WAF --- that possibility folded before it got started. For awhile I also had Walter R Cole as a prospect for the Librarian Post -- but look at wha hoppin --- Pvt. Walter Cole, 516th Base Signal Maint. Co., Camp Roberts, California ---

A number of members have written in to me with willingness to take part in round robin lotters, and this program will be under way very shortly. One member from England, Mrs. Dorean House, has asked to be on the round-robin, and I have suggested that a round-robin be made up of members overseas, so that they might swap ideas among thomselves, as well as exchanging letters with other members of the club.

Our vacation trip looks a lot more promising -- as I wrote before, we're planning a trip of two weeks duration, going first to Lima, Ohio, to visit relatives, and from there we plan to go to Canada for some fishing. At the beginning of planning for this trip we wanted to go all the way to New York City, but such a trip would involve too much driving, and we'd lose out on that fishing, and the fishing trip is the main reason for travelling. Before we leave we hope to make out a list of ISFCC members that live near the proposed route of travel, and we hope to visit a few minutes with club members on the way. (cont. on page 4)

# EX-SOL III BOOK NOTES A. Newton

We welcome the addition of THE LEGION OF SPACE by Jack Williamson and PRELUDE to SPACE by Arthur C. Charke to the ranks of the novel length s-f p-b's. lished by World Editions, 105 40th St., N. Y. 18 N. Y. at 25d each, they are in the group that might be a "mist" for the s-f book shelf. The SPACE LEGION effort is ye old tyme space uproar, while the PPELUDE TO SPACE is a factual account of the vast English organization which developed, built, and launched the mirst manned moon rocket. This book suffers from a comparison with the recent technicolor presentation of DESTINATION MOON on the same theme. . . . for some high class morbid reading on the serious side, HUMAN BREEDING AND SURVIVAL by Burch and Pendell is available at 35% net from New American Library at 501 Madison Ave., N. Y. 22, N.Y. This book is dedicated to the thesis that the world is going to the demnition bowwows as a result of popularity of boudoir calisthenics. It covers much the same ground as the more expensive ROAD TC SURVIVAL by Wm. Vost, which is currently required readings in the ranks of the American cognoscenti. Despite the book's excellent presentation of the theory that over-population causes lower standards, this reviewer stands pat on the statement that some of the most God-forsaken areas that he has seen have been those with smallest population density. He would also like to see proof that the results obtained in areas practicing eugenic sterilization are better than in more "backward" areas.....one of the first and best of s-f p-b anthologies is The Pocket Book of Science Fiction, still available at 25d net, from Po ket Books Inc., at 18 W. 48th St., N. Y. 19, N. Y. Among other items, it has Stanley Weinbaum tell a story calculated to evoke favorable reader response. ....Avon Books at 575 Madison Ave., N.Y. 22, N.Y. have re-issued the ever highly popular THE METAL MONSTER by A. Merritt. This book has been one of the most popular over published in this field .... Signet Books, which recently oublished Ri-YOND THE MOON, 1984, and OUT OF THIS WORLD by Fast (unpaid advt.) has rung the bell with THE MAN WHO SOLD THE MOON by Robert a Heinloin. This p-b edition contains four stories from the original edition, and has Heinlein's chart of FUTURE HISTORY - - available at 25d net from New American Library at 501 Ladison Ave., N.Y. 22, this book is a worthwhile addition to the s-f shelf..... Young fon and "completists" might like to get the Australian edition of THE THREE STERNALS by EandO Binder...published by the Whitman Press of 21 Macquario Place, Sydney NSW, at 6d. (about 7d US) - Itis a sorry thing .... 'Twould appear that author Brown, while writing WHAT MAD UNIVERSE to meet a deadline to keep out of the breadline, had been reading Bishop of Moyne's Bork ly's thesis concerning the subjectivity of the world of realitat. Sadistically he plunges his here into a world more bizarre than the bazaer which is straight from the pages and covers of the more lurid pulps. Tie not a plain tale of other planes, but like the tail of the pig, it has its own twist.... (Bantam Books, 25d, 830 W. Haines St., Chicago 22, Ill.).... Readers of a serious turn of mind will welcome the advance news of a foreign publication giving case-histories of psycho-crotic experiments with thiotimeline. The authors roco nized the difficulty in measuring responses due to fact that final dogradation products varied with the purity of the product and shill of the operator. To minimize these subjective factors they studied the effects on central control groups made up from many races. The hope to extend this study by comparing in similar manner the synthetic 'thiotimoline' with the botanical 'yohimbine', the biologic 'testesterone' and with organic derivatives from canabis indica. There was no lack of volunteers to make up the control groups. \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Road ad-O-Zino

The 'Zino With the Ads

5d a copy or 25d a year Write to: W. C. Butts, 2058 E. Atlantic St., Philadelphia, Ponna.

"To All ISFCC'ers - cont."

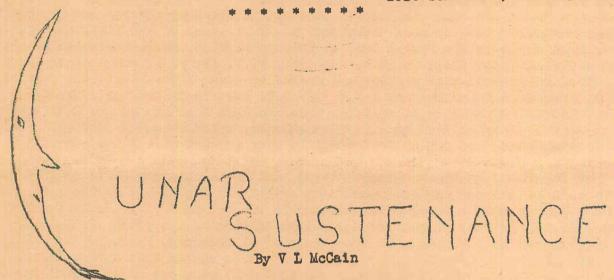
Some rumors have been heard among the various officers that it is about time that we got out membership cards for the ISFCC. It is a possibility at the present time, because we do have the cash on hand from the Auction Sale, which was ably handled by W. C. Butts. I'd like to hear from anyone who may be able to get a line on having cards printed, or any ideas on what the membership card should look like,

Since there are a number of members in the club who do have their own mimeograph machines, I've also been wondering if such cards might not be run off on a

stencil. What do you think of this deal?

Well, nice people, this is IT once more. I hope to visit with some of you this Fall, even if it be only to say "hello" - "Who's your favorite author?" and "Goodbye." So long, then, and the best of luck to all of you. Note new address, please!

> "Ad Stellas" Lawrence Kiehlbauch Pres., ISFCC 1516 Tenth St., Billings, Montana



John Bradey said: "Brace yourself -- this is it."

"Doesn't she look beautiful lying down there?" observed his companion, Carl Reece. "Good ol' moon, Just think -- she's been sitting up here all these centuries waiting for us to be the first ones to come up and set foot on her. The first is what we are, Johnny, the first!"

"Never mind that," said Bradey. "Get over there at your control panel or we are liable not to live to set foot on her. Only five minutes left and this land

ing has to be perfect."

The two men worked in perfect coordination to bring the first jet spaceship into a perfect landing on the moon. There was a decided jar as they met with the satellite, but nothing serious.

"Which crater did we land in?" asked Reece.

"I couldn't tell for sure," was Bradey's reply, "but the automatic camera's got all the data. We'll check it later. Right now I'm too anxious to see what the moon's like. Get out those spacesuits."

The men quickly donned their suits and experimentally emerged from the ship

in which they had been confined for so long.

"It's a historic moment," declared Bradey. "I know," agreed Reece. "And it's happening to us. Let's explore --- The two men started walking across the uneven plain at a 90 degree angle. They hadn't gone farther than five yards, however, when Reece stopped.

"Hey, Johnny, do you notice something funny?"

"What ?"

"Haven't all the astronomers and physicists been saying for years that there's no air, no moisture, no life of any kind, nothing but eroded rock on the surface?"

"That's right," said Bradey - "But-- Oh, I see what you mean -- the ground!"

"Yes," Reece commented. "I may be wearing a space suit, but even so I can tell

that this isn't rock we're walking on. Feel how it gives."

"Uh-huh---I've never felt anything quite like it myself. It reminds me more of the feel of a swamp or a peat bog than anything else."

"A swamp!" said Reece. "How'n'ell would y' get enough water for a swamp on the

moon 711

"Don't ask me," Bradey retorted, bending over and hacking away with a knife, a convenient bit of gear from the equipment portion of his suit. He cut away at the oddly tinted, sickly looking stuff. "I'm gonna find out what this is."

"Got it!" he exclaimed triumphantly, rising erect with a chunk of the ground in one hanlike glove. "Let's get back to the ship. I want to analyze this stuff."

Back in the cabin again, Bradey hastily started using his microscope on a section of the "soil" they had removed. Then he started to working with test-tubes and beakers while Reece stood by impatiently.

Finally Bradey stood up, wiped his brow, and looked at the speciment with a peculiar expression. Quickly he picked up a bit and popped it in his mouth. He made a wry face and grimaced as he spat out the portion.

"'Tain't right," he said, holding out a bit of the sample to Carl. "Here, try

1t."

"But, Johnny ---- Reece started to protest.

"Go on --- it won't kill you --- try it."

Looking apprehnsively at the offered sample, Reece bit into it and hesitantly chewed at it. His eyes opened wide --

"It can't be --- it absolutely can't be ---"
"Can't be --- but it is --- green cheese!"

000 000 000 000

# THE MIND OF SAMUEL MERWIN ( Views SLANTed by W. A. Willis )

Sometimes one gets the idea that Merwin hates fandom's guts -- that is, if he thinks it has any. Not that you could blame him, when you consider that he has read through more fanzines than any man still alive and sane, not to mention countless silly letters about trimmed edges and covers and such from people who should know very well that he is tied hand and foot by the publishers in these matters. So you can partly understand his temptation to be absolutely rude to even the most wellmeaning correspondent; nor is it safe to write him down as one who hates his fellow man, because he yields to it so often. He actually means no harm, as you can see from his occasional expressions of naive wonder as to why people so often stop in writing to his magazines. He has no conception of how irritating it is to some people to have their meanings deliberately misunderstood for the sake of a smart crack, or to be held up to ridicule in front of some 100,000 people without the slightest chance of being able to hit back. To him it is a contest between equals, and he will bring as many guns to bear on a miserable fanzine editor with a circulation of 70 as he would on someone of his own size. And, to his credit, he has a heart of gold. He publishes dozens of shameless letters from English fans too lazy or stupid to search for books or to exchange for 'zines they want. (This comes from England ---Ed. note) Not only does he print this panhandling, but urges his readers to rally 'round, as indeed he does himself in more seserving cases.

(The Mind of --- cont.)

The only thing it is safe to predict about the man is that he will be unpredictable. Take, for instance, the case of the unfortunate fanzine editors who expostulated about the random character of his reviews. You might reasonably have expected him to do one of three things: First, print the most unguarded letter in full, with a scathing commentary on it, gaff by fagg gaff - he has a positive genius for this sort of thing -- ask the wretched authors of the open letter to the Saginaw Insurgents. Second, write a friendly and contrite personal letter to the victims, and probably cut their fanzines to ribbons next time. Or third, publish a handsome apology as he did to the Burroughs Bulletin on receiving Mr. Coriell's dignified rebuke. But, of course, he does none of these things. Instead, he says, like a sulky boy: I'll say either nice things or nothing at all. You night think this to be a brilliant piece of tactics. At one blow he has saved himsolf the trouble of reading all the stuff to find something to say, whitewashed his reputation for savagery, and thoroughly discomfited the unfortunate correspondents by diverting on their heads the wrath of the editors whose 'zines will now be dismissed with a dishonorable mention and of the ordinary readers who got a lot of fun watching Merwin lay round him with editorial pikestaff. He may have thought all this out, but I doubt it. I don't think he's the sort of cold-blooded character who would work out a Machiavellian move like this. He is a bundle of contradictions and to find any common metivation for his various actions is impossible. A creature of impulse, he says what he feels, and looks for the reason afterward.

An extraordinary character -- and in some ways a very likeable one -- we really know very little about him -- even his name is a secret, in theory - but he does occasionally drop a revealing remark from which one can try to make a mental picture. He is well read, as witness his stray allusions to people like Cyril Connolly, but he is probably largely self-educated, because his learning is often inaccurate. He quotes French phrases with relish, but he spells them wrong ----"chacun a son goute" for example. Even his English spelling is apt to be eccentric --- "just desserts" - "all star caste" --- it's the easy words he gets wrong, you note. I would guess that he missed a lot of schooling, through illness or other misfortune, but did attend a university, maybe working a way through. He has not the introverted character of the invalid so I would guess his misfortune to be an unhappy home life. He gives the impression of someone who has knocked about the world a bit, and knocked about by it a lot. He can be bitter at times as if he had had the whole world against him and hasn't forgiven it. He has fought his way up the hard way and you can still see the rarks in the way he resents the pampered adolescents who criticize him. He says he doesn't mind, but look at his comments when one of them hits a sore spot. I should think he warries about his job. There is an air of tension about the fan sections of his magazines. Phillips just wanders on in his CLUB-HOUSE, occasionally talking the most ridiculous rubbish, often being brilliantly entertaining, but always exhibiting a likeable and easy-going personality. Merwin, on the other hand, is always on his toes, searching for something witty to say, forever impressing with little bits of erudition, but never coming down to the cormon level with the readers, as Phillips is not afraid to do. The fan sections are probably done with the copy boy standing at the door, and it's not surprising he schetimes lets rudeness take the place of wit and patronage of sympathy. Which of us could do better in the spare time from a full-time job?

So what have we get? A deprived child, maybe even a depraved one, left to fend for himself at an early age, and meeting a lot of hardship in the process. Self-made, he's determined to show the world he did a good jeb of it. Toughened by adversity and semetimes thoughtless of the feelings of others, but the sould of generosity when he understands. Not such a bad guy on the whole.

Read FAN-FARE -- a fan-fiction-zine -- 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, New York

INDICES of S-F Pro-Bags

We continue the series of invices to various science-fiction and funtasy magazines, as compiled by Bob Moskins. Thanks for your comments about them.

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The Pineys - short - Sopt.
Whyte, Ewen - The Urbanite - short - Jan.

Compiled By Bob Hoskins
Lyons Falls, N. Y.

CHALLENGE CHANGES

One of the 'zines that put in its appearance is going into a merger with a companion 'zine. Notice comes from Lilith Lorraine that CHALLENGE, poetry magazine designed along s-f lines, shall be merged with their slick effort of DIFFERENT. Exchanges continue on the same basis with some difference in ad swamping that exchange editors already know. DIFFERENT is a neat slick and will be enhanced by incorporation of CHALLENGE. Write to DIFFERENT, at Rogers, Arkansas for details of the switchover. DIFFERENT is \$2 per year - quarterly.

MOSTLY STUFF LIKE DAT DERE --

It's a miserably rainy Sunday afternoon as this offort gets under way — in the lead-off spot is a request from Ivan E. White, of 123 George Washington Way in Richland. Washington, asking for comments from ISECC'ers, pro and con about that highyldebatable question of Dianetics —— he's looking for those who may be in the process of being 'audited' or for 'clears' —— SHADDAP! I said 'clears'— or for anyone who has decided opinions either way on the subject of L. Ron H's prolific penny provendor —— and, guys'n'gals, the United Kingdom section of the ISECC is 'way ahead of us slow state-siders —— they've got their round-robin on the way and doing good at it, according to a letter just received from Chuck Harris, of Dagenham —— Harris is wrapped up in the mass of getting a house put up in England, and it seems to have a bit of red tape ——

Hope all you have noted that Larry (Kiehlbauch) has changed his address - it has appeared twice in the 'zine already, and is now 1516 Tenth St., Billings, Mon-

There are other address changes, too, but a lot of 'en I dunno --- what about the addresses, when available, of Yvonne Worth, who's in or about to be in the WAF --- or Stan Serzner -- or Tom Covington -- or anyone else who is in service? Would like to get their copies of EXPLORER to them when they are published Covality of the Cole writes in that he's in the Signal Corps, with the 516th Base Signal Maint. Co. at Camp Roberts and would like to hear from members ---

Several copies of EXPLORER bounced back this time, too, with addresses unknown -- Jack Schwab --- Jean Carrol -- if any of you nove, let us know -- we gotta pay twice if you don't --- once for the mailing and once for its being sent back --- that ain't too good for the budget.

Noted recently that FAPA is on the lookout for potential editors to add to the FAPA list --- there are several openings if there are interested ones -- y gotta put out at least eight pages a year, from what the circular reads --- worth it if you like to get stacks of fanzines every once in awhile --- write Walt Coslet, Box 6, Helena, Montana for info on the deal ---

Got the current issue of GALAXY tother day --- didn't do much else but give it a quick glance so far, but take off that cover and the format is so much like aSF 'tis anazing (not the Z-D one, either) --- Basil Wells, of Springboro, dropped in for a few minutes a couple Sundays ago --- brought ever a couple beeks and left with a couple --- his new anthology is still in the process of being published -- Elsberry writes that CTB is unhappy about the last EXP and its articles --- and now I shaddap for this time ---

Ye ed, Ed

DESTINATION MOON Gets An OSCAR --

Although it is no longer a news item as news items go, it is of note that the George Pal production of Destination Moon received an Oscar for special effects when the Motion Picture Academy of A and S came out with their annual awards—and this is a good time to possibly get in a plug for BORN YESTERDAY — if there are those who have yet to see it, when it comes around to your local theater try to make it for one of the showings — one of the best in years — that Judy Holliday voice is incomparable;

Recommended seeing: - PREHISTORIC WOMEN purports to be an episode from the lives of our ancestors. 'Tis presented all wrapped up in color. The chorus, male and female, apparently has its points. Some might consider the full-moon mating dance stimulating -- others will find it hard to stifle yawns during scene -- despite undoubted fact that many of characters possess terrific "charge". The black panther is photogenic and gives a most excellent performance. Don't go out of your Republic Pix has issued Curt Siodmak's DONOVAN'S BRAIN under the way to see it. very mis-leading title of TIGER MAN. Though pic noticeably follows book plot it suffers from ye olde corn in efforts to capture atmosphere of eldritch horror a la Dracula-Lon Chaney-Bela Lugosi school. It even has a crippled mad-scientist --- obviously a German yet! - in one of the leading roles. If you see it, it is suggested that a half-price matinee is best means of getting your money's worth ... Destination Moon, mentioned above, has received favourable comments in the South African newspapers, according to reports from our Durban correspondent. Tis reported that public response to the film was good.

A. Newton

## TRADING CORNER Larry Gage

Before we get into what is not an overly large Tradin Corner this issue let's take a little look at the companion of science-fiction, the realm of fantasy. One of the more conventional phases of fantasy is that it is found in so much of the classics. These fantasies would number more than you ordinarily think they would, so let's make a quick tabulation of some of the more important.

First in such a list would come the so-called 'mursery' books like ALICE IN WONDERLAND by Lewis Carroll or Swift's GULLIVER'S TRAVELS. Now, are these really 'nursery' tales? Far from it, they are quite adult. The fantastic adventures of Alice in Wonderland set a pattern for some of the more modern fantasies, but who could create such fantastic characters or such fantastic episodes as did Lewis Carroll in this masterpiece? Forget that it is only a dream and forget that it's supposed to be for children and I think you'll find as much enjoyment as in any of the FFM's. GULLIVER'S TRAVELS may be read, tue, for its fantastic situations among the Lilliputians, etc., but it can also be interpreted as one of the most biting of satires on governments that has ever been written. You'll find satire in generous heaps in this epic, and others, by Swift.

Poe's tales usually aren't too fantastic, except in atmosphere. Of course, some of his lesser known works, such as "The Man Who was Used Up" and "The Unusual Adventures of Hans Pfall", etc. do have the elements of fantasy; but these are usually more in the comic phases of fantasy. Take "The Unusual Adventures of Hans Pfall" for instance; the whole yarn is intervoven with a sense of comedy, and a ridicule of humanity in general. "The Man Who Was Used Up" is more earthly than the former, and is rather umusual, relating the story of a man who was really "used up."

Anyone who cares to delve into ancient literature can usually find abundant examples of fantasy, but for myself, I've never cared for the classic myths enough to tackle them. You can read of the Labors of Hercules, the Iliad and Odyssey, and the Aeneid, or such more modern and satiric versions of them as John Erskine's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF HELEN OF TROY, PENELOPE'S MAN, and Christopher Morley's TROJAN HORSE dealing with Troilus and Cressida. For those who like excellent reading in fantasy dealing with the myths and legends, two fine examples are James Branch Cabell's JURGEN and the less classic and more modern SILVERLOCK by John Myers Myers.

The craze for the Gothic Romances in the 19th century produced several readable fantasies, but for the most part these were 'period' pieces, but everyone should be acquainted with Jules Verne and his writings, both fantastic and yet s-f-wise, having such machines as the yet uninvented submarine, flying machine, and space ship,

the latter (earthwise) still being kept under cover if designed.

UTOPIA, by Sir Thomas Moore, is fantastic, but rather hard to digest, and not recommended to anyone but the more studious. Goothe's FAUST is, in one respect, like UTOPIA -- it isn't easily read. The same may be said for Shakespeare's plays. (Ed. Note --- now, whoa -- I useta teach Shakespeare -- dart guns at sunrise!)

Mark Twain succeeded in writing several interesting fantasies that get to grow on one. Who can forget, once having read it, the exploits and adventures of the Connecticutt Yankee in King Arthur's Court, or the wistful Prince and the Pauper, or the utter strangeness of the Mystericus Stranger? 'Long about that time, too, came Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", a tragedy, a mystery, and a darned good yarn. And later, but not too much, the fantastic "Picture of Dorian Gray" of the Wilde Oscar.

Most of fandom is acquainted with the fantasies of A. Conan Doyle, Edward Bellamy, H. Rider Haggard, H. G. Wells, and F. Marion Crawford. Most of Haggard's novels are adventurous, and have too much of "dire forebodings and horrible predictions." Some of Burroughs' themos are patterned from Haggard and even Kipling. And around the turn of the century Jack London had several good fantasies, such as the Star Rover and "The Shadow and the Flash." And let's not forget Robert Chambers and his early writings of SLAYER OF SOULS, etc.

There are two novels, about a century apart, but about equally entertaining, and in my opinion; not aging too rapidly; namely: FRANK INSTEIN by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley and DRACULA by Bram Stoker. Both are masterpieces of fantasy and horror.

While not being genuine fantasy, "The Casting Away of Mrs. Locks and Mrs. Aleshine" should prove interesting to the fantasy reader. There's many an honest laugh in the misadventures of these two lovable old ladies. Another unusual one is Honore de Balzac's "Passion in the Desert." Other authors, such as Bulwer-Lytton, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Washington Irving, and many more have contributed goms of minor importance to the realm of fantasy.

Regretfully admitting that I have neglocted to mention many great fantasies that are classic, I close with this: Fantasy, good fantasy, didn't start in the 20th century any more than sleeping did. The crave for fantastic and unusual tales start

ed when the world began, and that craving will end when the world ends.

and now, to the CORNER -- slim, but quality-wise

GARY C. CLIFTON, Orchard, Nebraska - Wants certain A. Merritt Books, and needs "Shades of Toffee".

KEN PARKIN, Rt. 1, Box 39, Sault Sto. Marie, Michigan - Has for trade of sale certain FFM's dated from 1945 to the present, including all 1949 and 1950 issues.

RICHARD ELSBERRY, 413 East 18th St., Minneapolis, Minnesota - has for sale or trade various issues of the following ragazines: aSF, FFM, FN, AS, Amazing, FA; also books by Burroughs.

WANTS books by Leslie Charteris and new s-f books.

IARRY GAGE, Route 4, Paris, Toxas - has for trade or sale the following books:Haggard's NaDa, THE LILY (mint); SHE AND ALIAN (lst ed.); and MONTEZUMA'S DAUGHTER; Burroughs' TARZAN and the LICN MEN.

Trading Corner - cont.

ED NOBLE, Box 49, Girard, Penna. - Copies of almost every issue from '48 - '50 of SS, TWS, Amazing, F A, Planet, some Super-Sci, aSF, OW, and Imagination. Most of them unread because editing takes too much time. Will swap for books or FFMSs--FN's -- looking for SHE AND ALLAN (if I can find 'em -- they're reputed to have been together once) -- Anthology titled TWO BOTTLES OF RELISH --

BASIL WELLS, RD 2, Springboro, Penna. - Has a lot of books, for trade or sale at cover prices -- all new, minto to excellent, with dust-jacket - WITHOUT SORCERY...

LEST DARKNESS FALL...AND SOME WERE HUMAN...FINAL BLACKOUT...MAN WHO SOLD MOON....

INCREDIBLE PLANET..MY BEST SF STORY..OMNIBUS OF TIME..THE DARK OTHER..KINGSLAYER..

WHO GOES THERE..PEBBLE IN THE SKY..SIXTH COLUMN..AFTER 12,000 YEARS .. DEATH'S

DEPUTY...THE BLACK WHEEL...TRITON...THE BLACK FLAME...LORDS OF CREATION..NEEDLE..

HOMUNCULUS...PORT OF PERIL...PLANETS OF ADVENTURE...and others. List your wants
and what you have to swap in exchange...most of these are single copies, so list
alternates...WANT -- ERB novels, Checklist, Arkham House books, certain Zane Grey

novels, Fantasy Press firsts, autographed...

That takes care of the Trading Corner for this issue, folks. Remember, if you have books or magazines you'd like to trade, swap, sell, or buy --- send in a letter to the Trading Corner, c/o Larry Gage, Route 4, Paris, Texas --- it's a column for the members.

Trading Manager Larry Gage, Rt. 4, Paris, Texas

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Add Trad Cr - p 12 --- etaoinshrdlu and such---

A CHARLES CATANIA, 620 West 182nd St., New York 33, N. Y. - For Trade or Sale:-Wells' TIME MACHINE; Leinster's MURDER MADNESS; Smith's NOMAD, Harris' AWAY FROM HERE AND NOW; Moore's GREENER THAN YOU THINK; Fletcher's WELL OF THE UNICORN; Kutner's "FURY" - Van Vogt's WORLD OF A (Simon & Schuster); Williamson's LEGION OF SPACE (p-b) Also following mags - fairly current: Planet, Galaxy, Future, COTWA, SS, F-Story Annual; 10 Story Fantasy; Fate; Afr # 10, 13

Wants:- aSF, Oct, Dec.'49 and issues before Sept. '48 except Oct. '47; OW for May '50; Dollar editions of World of A, Humanoids, and Island of Captain Sparrow. Also wants Mr. Mergenthwirkler's Lobblies & Others by Bond, current s-f books and anthologies; Operation Interstellar - p-b.

GREGG CALKINS, c/o CAA, Panguitch, Utah - Trade: Books - Object adventure- Courtney; Wine of Satan - Gay; What Mad Universe (p-b) Man who Limped - Kline (p-b) and Into Plutonian Depths (p-b); has also reading copies of FFM June '49, Dec. '48; June '50 issues inclusive; also several magazines from good to poor condition for 15d-25d

Wants: - Pre-1945 FFM's

DAVID RIKE, Esq. - Box 203, Rodeo, California - Wants: - Magazines - Uncanny, S-F Digest; True Supernatural Stories; Thrill Book; Ghost Stories; Unusual Stories; Doctor Death; Golden Fleece; Magic Carpet; Unknowns; Amz. quarterlies; Cap Future; Comet Stories; Strange Stroies; Fant. Book; Pre-'37 Weirds; Munsey FFM and FN; SS; Large format FA's, Tales of Wonder; pre-'36 AMZ; pre-'38 Astoundings; Doc Savage; Astonishings, Miracle Science.

Books: - P-B of Science Fiction; Hound of Death & Others; Frankenstein; books by Haggard, Merritt, Wells, and Dunsany; The Other End by Roberts.

H. T. WEST, 9 Westfield Rd., Malpas, Newport, Mon. S. Wales, Eng. - would like to swap US s-f pro-zines for UK s-f pro-zines. (This sounds like a good deal for you guys and gals who would like to strengthen bonds of s-f friendship across the seas -- it ain't easy to get US mags in England --- somep'n like \$10 a year for aSF --- that is cabbage in big letters!)

EXPLORER Looks at Its Contemporaries ---A number of 'zines have come around this way since last tripetyping a section like this ... one of them, a good one, has folded because of the Army ... fans will find it necessary to wait for awhile to see more of SIRIUS by Stan Serxner ... and Tom Covington, who did the first editorial job on BIZERRE (That's BIZARRE), is in the Coast Guard ... enough of those, pro tempore .... an interesting one came in from Lyell Crane, 64 Airdrie Rd., Toronto 17, Ontario -- INTERIM NEWSLETTER ... the ex-0-0 of Science Fiction International ... listed as a Free Fanzine Produced in the Interests of International Fandom ... Lyell, about this time, is heading for England and the World-con of London ... FANFARE, Paul Ganley's magazine of fan-fiction, arrived t'other day, treating this writer very kindly in it ... FAN-FARE is well worth its 15¢ per copy or 65¢ per annual subscription ... write to Paul Ganley, 119 Ward Rd., North Tonawanda, N. Y. ... and Lee Hoffman's excellently littlepeopled QUANDRY came in, full of columns and a thing by one F. Towner Laney who appears to enjoy flirting with the wrath of postal officials ... QUANDRY continues as one of the tops in the field ... a dime will bring you a copy if you write to Lee Hoffman, 101 Wagner St., Savannah, Georgia ...

Coming here for its First Issue is COSMAG, done by I. T. Macauley, 57 East Bark Lane, atlanta, Goorgia --- the initial issue is a ten-pager with three stories and some pretty fair art work ... the cover is quite quite ... this is another "log a copy and 6 for 50g" 'zine, and as it progresses it can be well worth it ... in the last issue of EXP didst fail to mention Vernon McCain's WASTERASKET, which was a sad oversight on account of because it's a nicely put together job and should not have been thus overlooked ... for information as to how to get it, contact Vernon McCain at RD 3, Nampa, Idaho --- and W. Max Keasler's FANVARIETY has been coming this way and has been enjoyed considerably .. the illo's are very good, both by Keasler and by cohorts Rotsler and Nelson ... editor is W. Max Keasler, 420 South 11th St., Poplar Bluff, Missouri ... and from the same town comes ODD, the work of Duggie Fisher, Jr. as editor and Rich Elsberry as co-editor (he ain't a co-ed-) the editorial office of ODD is 1302 Lester St., Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and its cost is a dime per --- 'tis reported that FANVARIETY, rife with rumor about a title change, will absorb Bill Venable's ALEPH-NULL as Bill retires from active

activity in fandom --- too much Konnigih Tack.

Bill Austin, of 3317 W. 67th St., Seattle, Washington has come out with a very good idea about getting the news of fanzines spread around, a listing of the many fanzines that are put out or perpret---(Noble, when will you learn to spell) perpetrated or published through the nation ... it's to publicize all fanzines that would like to get further publicity, and this one will try to cooperate with a response ...

Lilith Lorraine writes that CHALLENGE will be incorporated into DIFFERENT as production costs go up ... a very good poetry 'zine, and it'll be a part of the 'slick' Different instead of being separately mineo'd --- Different is 50% per

copy --- write to DIFFERENT, Rogers, Arkansas for info.

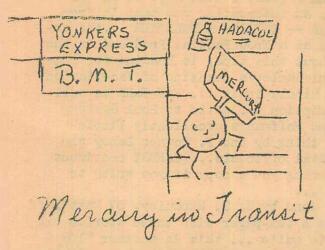
I hope I haven't skipped anyone this time --- these are hectic days, and they will probably be just as hectic-ish or hectic-ish-ler as months go by --- (hey, you dope, you didn't s word about SLANT - w.a.w.!) Oh, yes --- then there's that Irish well-printed job, SLANT, done by Walter a Willis, 170 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland --- well worth the cost of sending Walt a pro-mag to get y' copies.

and there is Stanley Crouch's Science & Culture --- it's the O-O for the USCO, and Stan has asked me to put in a good word for USCO, cause it's a fairly good li'l group of guys'n'gals and the 'zine is designed for non-fiction interests in

s-f and scionce lines.

Emough for this page --- if you lock for an interesting 'zine, send for some of these. You should get your money's worth, and may consider them worth dishing out the dinero for a subscription.

### MERCURIAN LIFE Fred Chappell



White crawlers -- these are creatures about 2½ feet tall, oval shaped like an over-size dinosaur egg -- except for the legs, which are to be compared womewhat to the tentacles of the Terran octopus. These legs are practically devoid of any feeling whatsoever. This is by reason of the 800 degree temperature of the rocks among which they live. These creatures reside on the 'hot' side.

They live for about four hundred years Terron time. They breed often and devour their young for food. Every 300 years a generation of young is allowed to live, to keep the race in continuance.

Their shells are white; almost as reflective as mirrors, thus ridding them-

selves of some of the intense heat which is prevalent on the hot side of Mercury. The shells are approximately ten times as thick as the hide of a Terran rhinoceros, which makes them very small individuals if you try to remove the shell, something that they should undoubtedly resent.

Ice-eaters --- these critters live on the cold side of Mercury. They feed on the ice that is all over the dark (also the cold) side of the planet. This ice is really frozon gases, and the diet often leaves the poor ice-eater wishing the bicarb were available, particularly since the ice-eater eats great quantities of ice

at one time, and takes two to three weeks to digest it.

These animals (?) have no appendages to transport them from place to place for the plain and simple reason that they have no reason to move. Food is always plentiful. They do not reproduce themselves, for they are too lasy to bother dying --- one ice-eater has been observed near a certain rock of gaseous ice for a millenium. These creatures faintly resemble a Terran ant - they are deaf and have very poor eyesight.

(If anyone wants to give me a good argument about all this my address is:

Fred Chappell

Box 182
Canton,
North Carolina

fdc)



by "Geoffrey Williams"



He came in out of the rain one evening. No one had ever seen him before, yet he was familiar - hauntingly so - to all who happened to see him, no matter where. To all he imparted a feeling of evil; to a few his gift was mortal fear that dug deep into the cellars of their souls.

The hotel staff would not go near him if it were possible to avoid it. The chambermaids would not clean up his rooms if he were present. But he seemed to take no notice of their aversion. For that matter he appeared quite indifferent to almost everything.

Each morning, just before sunrise, he left the hotel, not returning until after darkness had fallen. During the night he had a continual stream of visitors, all of whom took great care in trying to conceal their identities

The air in the hotel was constantly alive with new and stranger rumors of this unknown each day. Like all rumor, none could be based on fact; none was ever proven, one way or the other. Nevertheless, the longer the mystery continued the wilder the rumors became, until one old lady on the fourth floor insisted she had seen the vampire-bat man, Dracula, go into the stranger's room shortly after midnight. But this was quickly discredited when it was learned that the old lady was a

devotee of ghost stories, and read them constantly.

The mystery of the stranger continued for a long time. Then one day, as suddenly as he had appeared, the stranger vanished. He went out just before dawn one morning and just never returned.

The hotel management inspected his rooms and found virtually nothing as a clue to his identity. He did leave a large collection of books of ancient and hidden lores, along with a queer little statuette, very black, oddly distorted, and very offensive to the eyes of the hotel manager. He threw it out, and it wound up on an ash heap where it was forgotten. But he sold the books - they were rare and quite valuable. The hotel manager cleared a neat profit on the sale, but it never was put down as such on the ledgers.

Years went by, one after another, as they usually do. The small city in which the hotel had been located grew to be the world's largest metropolis, and then the capital of the new galactic civilization that was developing. For more than ten thousand years the ash heap remained buried beneath the Administration Building, scene of airing the problems of ten thousand planets and ten trillions of beings.

But finally that great civilization decayed, and the magnificent city crombled into dust. Man had vanished from the universe, but others had followed him. One of his successors got his start in man's original home.

Brryll, the bird-man, stopped to rest at the foot of a small mound in the Valley of the Ancients. He was a youngster, just developing the use of his wings, so he was often forced to rest.

Half buried in the dirt at the base of the mound he saw a curiously shaped stone. Out of boredom he scratched it out with a talon and held it up to the light. He saw the figure of a creature never before discovered by a member of the race of Trylyans, as the bird people called themselves.

Forgetting his tiredness, he immediately resumed his flight and flew to his home village as fast as he could. Once there, he presented his find to the high priest, who closely examined it. It was then placed in the spot of honor of the temple where it was worshipped as a sign of the Gods.

Again, the years quickly passed / The Trylyanni advanced and built themselves into a great civilization. The Gods of the early days were forgotten, and the temples fell

into ruin, and were quite often buried and lost.

One day a scientist was digging for specimens at a spot that coincided with the site of the ancient temple that housed the little statue. The temple itself had long since returned to dust, but the statue was as good as new, and was found. The scientist took it home and began to tinker with it.

He could make nothing of it, so it was presented to a science museum as a relic of the dead past. Occasionally young students with great dreams and ambitions took

the statue and dtried to decipher its secret.

Then one day one such hopeful happened to touch a certain combination of hidden springs.

Earth ceased to be.

Far away, in the nethermost regions of Tophet, Lucifer grinned to himself when one of his imps brought the message. At last his work of so many millions of years ago had been finished. Earth, the home of Heaven and Paradise, had been destroyed! Finally, after billions upon uncountable billions of years his feud with the Lord had come to a climax, with his being the winner.

"Expel me --- hah!" he said to himself, as he walked away to the supervision of some new initiates in their tortures. They had come from a sun on the opposite side

of the universe from the former position of Earth.

"H-mm-mm," he mused. "Maybe I wasn't so smart after all. I gotta work a hell of a lot harder now that I've elimnated all competition!"

## 000 // // 000

LITTLE MONSTERS Soon To Be Out ---

Word has come from Lynn Hickman that The Little Monsters of America will have its 'zine roadied in about two weeks. Lynn had figured on having the job done via offset, but found the cost prohibitive, and solved the situation by buying a mimeo graph to publish the club's 'zine.

The Little Monsters is a rather interesting group of s-f'ers, and maybe some of you might like to investigate it (not like Kefauver, but for the fun of s-f)-

if so, write to: Lynn Hickman, 408 W. Bell St., Statesville, N. C.

ADDITIONAL TRADING CORN... ERR, arriving just in time ---

BRUCE LANE, 1630 Old Shakopee Road E., Minneapolis 20, Minnesota - WANTS Dunsany firsts; early SSS, FFM's and FN's. Still wants Clark Ashton Smith verse collections RICH ELSRERRY, 413 E. 18th St., Minneapolis 4, Minnesota - For Trade - The Man Who Sold the Moon - Heinlein (Shasta Pubs) and "Final Blackout" - L. Ron Hubbard (Hadley pubs) --- both are mint with d/j's ---

WELCOME and Hello!

NEW ISFCC'ers -David Stone - 137 Rochampton Ave., Toronto 12, Ontario
Doris Carter, 5444 Broad St., Pittsburgh 6, Penna.
Anthony Lauria, Jr., 873 E. 181st St., New York 60, N. Y.
Mrs. Allan Kolb, 897 Bryant Ave., Bronx 59, N. Y.
Mrs. Jo Ann Johnson, 37 Pennside, New Castle, Delaware
Mrs. Maude Yardley, 2500 Webb Ave. (5-F), New York 68, N. Y.
Mr. Jack Stearns, 71 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn 2, N. Y.

LIFE and TV on FANTASY and Such --

For those of you who like pictures of the famous monsters of the classic lines, get the April 23 issue of LIFE magazine --- there are a half-dozen paintings of 'mythical' monsters --- now this one can't verify whether they're mythical or not, but it's in print, so it must be so -- actually, they are six very good paintings done by Rudolf Freund.

And Kraft Theater came out with, they tell me, "Mr. Mergenthwirkler's Lobblies" during the past week or so --- had to translate the words for those non-s-f lis-

tenors.

Added Reviews :-

S-F NEWSCOPE - comes in from Lawrence Campbell of 43 Trement St., Malden, Massachusetts --- this one is a general news-zine and Larry says they expect to expand in the coming issue or so, particularly with a letter column. ...5¢ a copy or 50¢ a year and quite well worthwhile....and from The Nameless Ones comes The CRY of the NAMELESS...mostly news and letters and such of the activities of the Nameless Ones of Washington...don't see any price on it anywhere, but it's a nicely done little job ---address: 3200 Harvard Ave. N., Seattle 2, Washington.

## MYTHOLOGY OF THE ANCIENTS by Toby Duane

The First Fantasy

Did the ancient Greeks and Romans actually believe the stories of their large pantheon of assorted gods and goddesses? Or were all these merely folk-tales, a type of a fairy tale, that they told and and retold about their deities?

In the beginning, according to the Greeks, Uranus and Gaca (Hoaven and Earth) were the first rulers of the universe, and parents of the Titans, the Cyclops, and the Giants. Cronus (Saturn) and Rhea were the parents of the first six gods, namely: - Jupiter (Zeus), Vesta (Hestia), June (Hera), Neptune (Poseiden), Pluto (Hades), and Cores (Demeter).

According to one account, Cronus feared that one of his progeny might oust him from his supreme position; accordingly he swallowed them as they were born to Rhea (possibly "swallowing" could be a symbolism for imprisoning them, as occurs in another version).

Eventually Rhea grew weary of her husband's unnerving practice, and she therefore rescued her sixth child by substituting for it a stone enwrapped in the babe's clothing. The child was then concealed and she sent him to the island of Crete where he was cared for by a goat named amalthea. When he wailed, the mountain deities drowned the noise by rattling their weapons and armament so that Jupiter might not be discovered by his father.

Having grown up, he determined upon vengeance. Consequently he compelled his father, Cronus, to imbibe a strong potion which made Cronus very ill, and he was thus forced to disgorge the children whom he had swallowed. They seemed to have been very capable of growing; ovidently Cronus' digestive system was not overly potent.

Irrediately thereafter Jupiter gathered his little band of brothers and sisters and waged war upon his father. This battle, which lasted for a decade, was a very terrible one, its fure increased by the addition of the Titans to the forces of Cronus and of the Cyclepes and the hundred-handed Giants to Jupiter's cause. Of all the Titans, only Prometheus---who was equipped with a gift for prophecy and who consequently knew how the war would turn out --- fought on the side of Jupiter.

Finally, as foretold by Croms, Jupiter and his forces were successful, and Croms was defeated. The Titans were sent to Tartarus as punishment - all except Prometheus, to whom - with his brother- was delegated the task of populating the earth with animals and men.

Mythology of the Ancients --

Jupiter received the supreme rulership of both gods and men, as well as a special responsibility for the sky; Neptune had charge of the seas of the earth; and Pluto dominated the Land of the Dead, also called Hades.

Juno, Jove's (another form of Jupiter) sister, also became his wife, as well as presiding over family relationships; Ceres looked after the green things of the earth and the farmer's harvest. Vesta presided ever the hearth and the home.

L'Envoi or Somep'n ---

There you have it again, people --- it's another issue of EXPLORER --- late as has all too sadly been the case --- y'r ed has promised himself more than once that such things shall not happen some more, yet, too, besides, furthernore -porhaps it won't be the case next issue, and we'll have to wait and see -- Bob Hoskins has volunteered to help with typing stencils, so I'll probably call on him for holp ---

As a finale, here's a little item that night be of interest --- Nelson Bridwell of 120 N W 29th St., Oklahoma City 3, Oklahoma, is conducting a sort of a poll on all-time favorites of s-f and fantasy, and would like all who'd like to ballot to

send him a list of the top thirtoen to him --- sounds like a good idea.

So we draw this thing to a screeching halt, look up at the clock, woefully shake our head (or heads) at the calender and say

New Members Just Entering the Group - Welcome --Richalex Kirs - 1441 Overing. Bronx, N. Y. Avis Melander - 1308 Wellington, Chicago, Illinois

This is the April-May issue of the EXPLORER

Box 49 Girard, Penna.

To:

Paul Gauley

119 Ward Rd

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