

# FANTASCIENCE

## DIGEST



Givato

We don't claim to have the finest line-up in all fan history --- but we do have one of them! In fact, not one professional magazine can boast of having what AD ASTRA, science fiction's newest fan mag offers in its first issue.

Dig into your collection: Has there ever been an issue, amateur or professional, that includes:

MARK TWAIN --- SCIENTIFIC FICTIONIST..By Harry Warner, Jr.

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As you no doubt realize by now, this issue of FD is about two weeks late. However, you'll have to excuse us for this inconsistency, for publishing a magazine the size of FD is not play! Many things can go wrong when you least expect them to. We'll attempt to have the next issue in the mails by June 1st, although this forthcoming issue also may be a little late. Anyway, the next issue will be out within two months. I can guarantee that.

The first mimeographed issue of FD met with amazing success. Practically everyone considered it one of the best fan mags ever to appear, but we, the editors, honestly believe this issue is much superior to the last. We have added four pages and managed to obtain excellent material.

The circulation of FD has taken a nice rise, but we still need more subscribers to continue pub-

lishing a magazine the size of the present FD. If the support continues, FD will become the best fan magazine. Let's work toward that goal together.

We greatly appreciate the fine attitude and cooperation displayed by editors Campbell and Palmer. The notices published in ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION and AMAZING STORIES have helped us a lot.

This issue we introduce the work of two comparative newcomers to the fan-mag writing field. Tell me how you liked the work of Fred W. Fischer and John A. Bristol. Mr. Fischer will probably be a pretty consistent writer for FD. He is already at work on another article similar to the one he has in this issue.

Remember, boys, the date of the World Science Fiction Convention is rapidly approaching. Don't get left out. \*\*\*RAM

# - FANTASCIENCE - DIGEST

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Vol. 2, No. 3

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# "GRAND OLD FAN"

By SAM MOSKOWITZ

The earth seemed to cease its rotation! The hustle and bustle of New York traffic came only as some rapidly fading, very distant and unreal echo. The chance of a lifetime was now laid out before him. The opportunity he had laid awake nights and hoped and prayed for. And it all had come so unexpectedly. The memory of the last words that publisher Jackson had uttered were now and unforgettable record, indelibly stamped upon his brain.

"I think you understand the circumstances of this offer," Jackson had said. "I know that the science fiction fan field trusts and respects you. You have proved that your influence extends even beyond the fan world and that most editors and authors of science fiction realize that when you speak you voice the sentiments of the entire science fiction world. That is why I ask you to accept my offer. I want you to edit this new fantasy magazine of mine. With your influence in the fan world you have already assured me that I can expect a base of 20,000 readers, no matter how poor the magazine is. But with your added influence upon many of the most prominent authors of science fiction, we can arrange to squeeze the life out of the other magazines and take over the field without competition. Let me know if you decide to accept the offer."

The following two days had been one chaotic maze of thought. He had staggered out of the doors of that building with sweat flooding down the round contours of his face. Here was something. Here was the position he had hoped and prayed for for the past two years. Here also was the chance to have

a steady, reliable income, and now depend upon the vagaries of chance when it came to picking up earth's most necessary evil. It would probably mean that he would have to drop out of the fan field. Too much work to take care of both of them. Still, he hated to do that. He had been around so long. How many years now? Oh yes; six years of steady, unremitting activity. He was a veritable fixture in the field now; a pillar that supported a thousand-and-one activities of the fan world. He remembered now. It was in his second year of activity that he had been voted in some sort of "poll" as "top" fan. Since that time, such a similar poll had proved unnecessary. He held to that designation with the tenacity of a bull-dog. He had won for himself an enviable position in the scheme of things. Even his enemies respected him and his word.

It was only two years back that some fan had dubbed him with the title of "Grand Old Fan." Grand OLD Fan, eh? He was only twenty-four and they considered him "old." "Old!" They regarded him as a venerable patriarch with the gathered wisdom of the centuries, and a heart as big as a house. Chicken-hearted, some would call it. But he couldn't help himself. Even when an avowed enemy of his needed help badly, he was always among the first to proffer it. New fans had not found him aloof. He always had time to write a note of encouragement to a newcomer, or see that he got established right.

Hell! It was worth it. Of course, not all of them appreciated what you did for them, but there was always a group who read

beneath his sometimes gruff mask and found him out for what he really was. They were worth all the double-cross and double-dealing the fan field could produce. They made up for all the nasty things that sometimes took place behind the scenes. His stream of thought culminated suddenly as he reached the door of his home and stumbled across the threshold into the house.

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The bell rang sharply. Blear-eyed, Jack Adams raised his head from the typewriter and the article he was dashing off for the FANTASY COLLECTOR. "Maybe it's more dope about that offer Jackson made me," he thought to himself. "I certainly would like to take that offer." He rose quickly from his seat, heaved himself into a small coat and opened the door. His fingers, with an experienced gesture, flipped a couple fan magazines from the rack and then dived into the slot in the letter-box and quickly excerpted half-dozen letters of various shapes. There was a letter from the editor of the FANTASY COLLECTOR. "Please hurry along that article," it read. "I announced it in last issue and I must have it before the end of the week to get it into the April issue."

Letter number two read: "Could you please give me information on the following list of fan mags, etc. etc. Bob Davids told me I could depend upon you to send me a list of the best ones. I'm new in the field and don't know my way around. You wouldn't know someone living in St. Louis who is interested in fan magazines, would you?" Sure he knew fellows in St. Louis; a dozen of them. Good fans, too. He'd ship the fellow a list as soon as he finished the article for the Collector.

The next letter, marked in two or three places, "Important" caused

him a bit of concern as he hastily slit the envelope. It read as follows: Jack, I'm in a terrible fix. I didn't realize the work necessary for a successful convention when I took over the job of presenting the Fifth National Science Fiction Convention. I don't know where to turn. My committees are falling all over one another, and make one mistake after another. Aw! What's the use, everything is shot to pieces. What makes it worse is that I've collected money from most of the fans in the country to pay for the affair, and I've spent more than I can afford to return out of my own pocket. You've got to help me Jack! You've presented two successful conventions and one of them was a world convention, I've got to pull out of this mess somehow or I'll never dare show my face to a fan again. There's only six weeks until the date of the convention left." Jack Adams read no further. Bill Davids was in a fix. Bill Davids, one of his best friends. It wasn't only Bill, it was also all the other fans. They'd skimmed and saved and contributed liberally to make the affair a success and now----. Hell! he'd given more than twenty-five dollars himself and he could not afford it. My god! He'd almost forgotten. He couldn't help Bill! It was either the fans or that professional editing job and he was up against it for cash. He needed that job desperately. But what would the fans think? Would they think he had double-crossed him? "Grand Old Fan," they called him. Called him that because he had never let them down. But what would happen if he did let them down? If he told them he couldn't help with the convention, what would they think? Would they see his side of the thing? Would they see how desperately he wanted that job? What to do? It wasn't as if he had started this latest convention. He hadn't. It was

Bill David's idea. But Bill was his friend. His best friend.

Fists clenching and unclenching in maddening desperation, Jack paced the floor. He had been doing the same thing for hours now. Suddenly he turned to his typewriter, and wrote:

"Dear Mr. Jackson:--I believe it would be advisable to delay issuing that professional magazine until after the forthcoming convention. You can give a big talk at "The Fifth National Science Fiction Convention" regarding your magazine. Pay it up big. I'll even help you on that part. There is no necessity to announce the editor of the magazine at the convention. Just inform them that you plan to issue it. It will cause a great furor and will certainly boost the sales considerably. See you at the convention in six weeks.

Sincerely,  
Jack Adams."

Three weeks passed by relentlessly. Jack Adams worked like a madman whipping the convention into presentable shape. Six weeks in which to do it! Six lousy weeks to untangle a mess it had taken his friend nine months to work himself into. But Jack Adams worked! Worked hard! He sacrificed friendship in some cases, money, pleasure; in fact, everything! They called him "Grand Old Fan." Well, he would show them. He'd never let the fans down yet and he didn't propose to do it now. In keeping with his nature, Jack let his friend, Bill Davids, take all the credit for the work he was doing. Fans in the know realized that Jack was the brains behind the affair, but to the ordinary onlooker it will all Bill Davids. Jack Adams had obtained all the glory he desired long ago, and he didn't aim to hog the lime-light. The work he was doing was what any good friend would have done under

the circumstances.

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The day of the convention was at hand. Jack Adams was there as he always was. He sat, however, in the regular seats. There was no hint that anyone but his friend, Bill Davids, had done all of the work. He felt very tired; there had been little sleep that night. It was a matter of getting last-minute affairs taken care of promptly. Still, he couldn't kick. There was a good job waiting for him after the completion of the convention; a job he had wanted all of his life. Even after he had obtained the job, he was determined to help the fan world to the best of his ability.

The convention rolled along as smooth as silk. The attendance was close to three thousand. Not bad for a national gathering. If they only knew the elaborate measures he had taken to see that such a crowd would attend.

There was no end of clodbusters. There was J. Mortimer Hancock, publisher of the first "slick" science fiction magazine, and every other editor and author you could think of. He had even gotten many of the publishers to buy elaborate advertisements in the convention magazines. Advertisements sizeable enough to pay for the entire affair. And speaking of convention magazines, what a mess of them there were! How fans could turn out so many good ones in six weeks was a mystery to Jack. Yet, he had managed to publish a couple himself, so perhaps it wasn't much of a mystery after all.

Bill Davids up on the platform was certainly doing a masterful job. He certainly was a good master of ceremonies. It was fixed so that Bill took all the credit for the affair, and the affair seemed to border upon the miracu-

lous to many of those present. Jackson was somewhere in the audience. There was plenty of time for him to talk later; the job was sewed up. What other fan in the field was capable of doing what he just did, even if it did seem egotistical to say so himself?

Jimmy Withers, editor of the prominent news-weekly, SCIENCE FANTASY NEWS, was giving a talk now. It had been plenty of fun helping Jimmy and he would continue to send him scoops on the new magazine he was going to edit. Then Jack was called upon to give a talk himself. He praised Bill Davids for the excellent job he'd done and answered questions of many of the fans present.

Then it was Jackson's turn. Jackson played up his proposed magazine in grand style, much to the chagrin of many other editors and publishers present. Especially Robert Halmer of STUPENDOUS STORIES, who, being the emotional sort, rose from his seat and dashed out of the hall to telephone his boss the news, arousing laughter from all. The other editors calmly puffed their cigarettes and tried to look unconcerned. Jackson finally ended by praising Bill Davids highly for the fine job he'd done on the convention.

Hours passed, and finally the convention was adjourned for discussion. Jack wandered thoughtfully into the lobby, exchanging pleasantries with many of his fellow fans. He noticed Bill Davids hurrying towards him. Bill was immensely excited; too excited almost to speak.

Bill guided Jack into an inconspicuous corner of the lobby and blurted out: "Everything's going great, Jack. You'll never know how much I appreciate everything you've done for me. Not only that, but publisher Jackson was so

impressed by the fine convention that he offered me a job editing his magazine, providing another fellow he offered it to doesn't accept. I hope I get that job, Jack. My father was crippled in an auto accident a few months ago and we need every penny we can get. Gosh! I'll never be able to thank you for what you've done for me, Jack. You're the grandest pal a guy ever had."

"A-a-and Jackson offered you a job, Bill?" Jack barely whispered between clenched teeth.

"He sure did. He said he'd never seen a convention run like this one, and that if the other fellow to whom he offered a job refuses, he would give it to me. You've got to help me, Jack. You've got a lot of influence with the editors. Put in a good word for me, will you---please?"

"Sure, sure. Anything you say Bill. Got to go now. Got to meet a fellow. See you later," Jack barely blurted. He turned quickly, his throat suddenly choked by an emotion he could not fathom. Quickly he lost himself in the crowd while Bill viewed him curiously.

Dear Mr. Jackson:-After due consideration, I find it impossible to accept your offer at present. Pressure of other business forces this decision upon me. I would especially recommend for the position Bill Davids, who presented in such excellent style, the Fifth National Science Fiction Convention. I know the fan field, and can say that there is not a better man than Bill Davids for the job.

Sincerely,  
Jack Adams

Jack ripped the finished let-

Legion of Time" by Jack Williamson. Those familiar with opera recognize it as the story of Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelungen." Details are different, of course, and the ending is totally different, but the basic idea: of a conflict between two races, and the utilization of dead warriors to protect the one race is present in both stories.

Your friend,  
Jack

The four operas which compose the Tetralogy of the Ring finally ended in tragedy. Williamson's novel ends with a victory for the good people. That, of course, comes from the difference in the two mediums, and because the novel merely tells a story, whereas the opera digs down deep into psychology, philosophy, mythology, etc.

I could go on to enumerate the minor differences, but that would serve no practical purpose, as we are not, as in the previous issue of FD, concerned with comparing the styles of two similar authors.

By Milton A. Rothman

Wagner would have made a wonderful science fiction author. His operas have that sweep of scope, that fantastic, romantic imagination which is so essential. His stories are all on such a big scale they overwhelm with their very massiveness. E. W. Smith's stories are tiny when compared with Wagner. Of course, the music creates a big part of the impression, but the words themselves, and the emotions transmitted by them are so wonderful that they defy description. It is worthwhile studying German simply to read Wagner, for the English translations are not worth the paper they are written on.

A race of gods is menaced by a race of bad people due to some incident that occurred some time in the past. To protect the good from the bad, a beautiful woman goes among the battlefields collecting those who have died there, and carries them off to the land of the gods. These soldiers, dead to the mundane world, have as their duty the task of obtaining a token of that incident than happened long ago.

This task is, of course, opposed by the enemy race, among whom is a beautiful woman who ensnares the men, and finally ----?

Well, then end depends upon what story we speak of. Those who think in terms of science fiction recognize the plot as that of "The

And while on the subject of the connection between science fiction stories and opera, those  
(Continued on page 10)

# "AN ARISTOCRAT ABDICATES"

By Harry Warner, Jr.

There have been in the past, and are at present, something like a dozen magazines, here and abroad, devoted to science fiction and fantasy in its various shapes and forms. Only a few of these, at the present writing, can be said to have any history or tradition or past at all, as most are relatively new publications. In fact, of all the magazines of a fantastic nature today, only THRILLING WONDER STORIES, AMAZING STORIES? and ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION (nee STORIES) can be said to possess any kind of pedigree. (I am purposely not counting weird fiction magazines in this article.) Of the history of these three magazines, that of AMAZING STORIES is by far the most interesting---and in ways, the most woeful.

AMAZING STORIES was the first magazine to appear, devoted entirely to science fiction. Under the guiding hand of Hugo Gernsback, it was not long before it became one of the finest---the finest?---magazines ever published. But in two or three years trouble developed: AMAZING was sold, and, after a few months' reign of some obscure gentleman as editor, whose name is now almost forgotten, the magazine came under the wing of T. O'Connor Sloane.

Mr. Sloane was, in many ways, the most interesting editor to ever be on the staff of a stf. magazine. To begin with, he was very old when he took over the post---in his late seventies---and as he held the job for almost ten years, he was a very old man when he finally lost control. Stf. is generally recognized to be a field for very young men; no editor today is even middle-aged. Therefore,

it is all the more remarkable that Sloane could edit the magazine with the success he did. He had his critics---and plenty of them---but despite this, he was editor longer than any other editor in stf.'s history. Not a bad record.

But the years told on Mr. Sloane. Especially during 1936, '37, and the first months of '38. AMAZING began a slow and steady degradation. Not that there was anything utterly wrong with the magazine. No, not that. To all appearances it was almost precisely the same as years back, with the exception of its size and rate of appearance. But one thing was lacking: progress. The magazine stood still. During these 2½ years not one single change of any kind was made in the magazine. Morey had absolute control over the art (or what passed for art). The price, format, and departments remained the same. Even the letters in "Discussions" began to take on a uniform appearance! There was only one change at all noticeable; and that only to the experienced fan: the stories published were becoming out of date. We know why this was, to a great extent: Editor Sloane would delay acceptance of a story for months, often as long as a year, and then again delay publication of the stories for years longer. Remember: 200 accepted stories were in the files of AMAZING when Ziff-Davis took over. Unfortunately for the writers, not paid for.

Details of the sale of the magazine are well enough known to all fans; there is no need of repetition. But there is one angle not well-known---if at all. Namely, that there was another issue un-

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-conducted by Robert A. Madle-

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Robert W. Lowndes  
Robert D. Swisher, Ph.D.  
Sam Moskowitz

1) The cover of the first MIRACLE STORIES was done by Dold.

3) Stanton A. Coblentz is noted for his satirical novels.

5) False. Arthur H. Lynch became editor for several months after Gernsback left.

7) Edward E. Smith was the author who had six novels published, all of which have received covers.

8) H.P. Lovecraft, despite his popularity, was never awarded a cover on Weird Tales.

AMAZING has a fine future ahead of it if Mr. Palmer does the kind of job we fans believe him capable of doing. Let's hope that AMAZING once more, in the near future, will become the "aristocrat" it formerly was.

9) "Phalanxes of Atlans", was written by F.V.W. Mason.

10) The name of the author A. Merritt threatened to sue is B.H. Barney. The story which aroused Mr. Merritt's ire was titled "Beyond the Veil of Time," and appeared in the Fall-Winter, 1932 Amazing Quarterly.

This issue the column will be conducted a little different than it was before. Mr. Robert W. Lowndes has prepared a lengthy list of questions pertaining to stf. and fantasy, and all of you who answer each and every one correctly will have your subscriptions extended by one issue, at the expense of Mr. Lowndes. Here they are:

1) What stf author has had the most stories published in a single issue of an stf magazine? Name the magazine and the stories.

2) True or false? "The Messiah of the Cylinder," classic four-part interplanetary yarn from Argosy, was written by Victor Rousseau.

3) What two stf titles have been used at least four time each? Give author's names and magazines in which they appeared.

4) What classic stf tale did Amazing reprint twice?

5) True or false? The motion picture "Deluge" was adapted from the famous "Second Deluge" by Garrett P. Serviss.

6) In "The Moon Pool" what was the relation between Von Hetzдорф and Marakinoff?

7) What was the most controversial illustration Amazing Stories ever printed and who drew it?

8) What famous trilogy of stf tales was written in reverse order?

9) Has Dr. Keller ever written

any stories in collaboration with other writers? If so, who were they, and what were the stories?

10) To what famous short stf tale does the opening of Jack Williamson's "Alien Intelligence" bear a remarkable resemblance?

11) How were "The Conquerors" finally blotted out?

12) With what Science Wonder story did Editor Gernsback start off the famous time@travel discussion?

13) The similarity in detail between what two stories, published in what two magazines at what time were responsible for a certain critic in dubbing the author "one-plot" Hamilton?

14) Did Dr. Bird ever catch up with Saranoff?

15) What eventually happened to Duquesne?

16) In what famous stf tale was the earth divested of her water supply by the means of "water motors"?

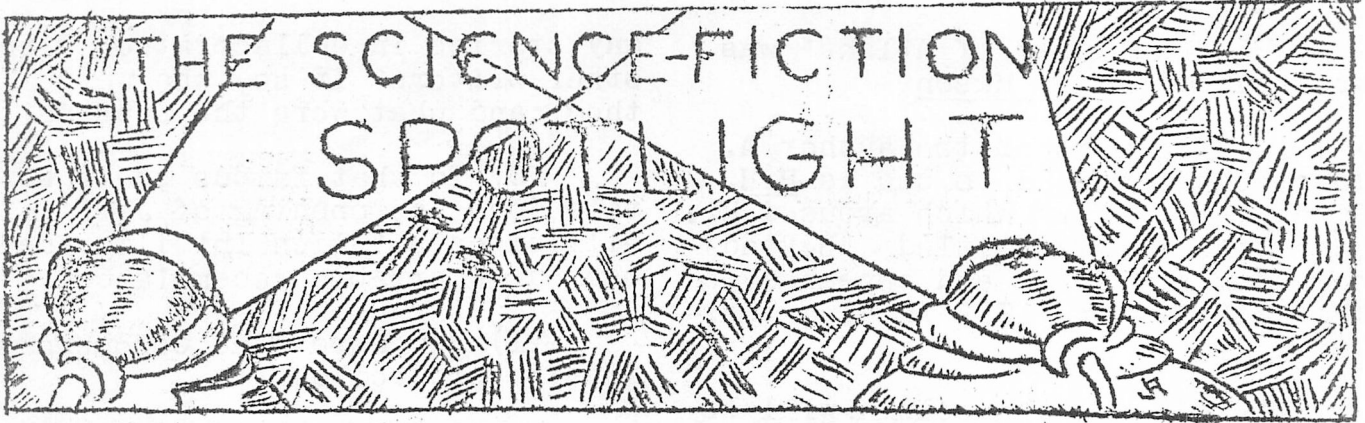
17) What were the first three non-reprint serial stories that Amazing Stories published?

18) Under what name did Allen Glasser write vitriolic letters to Wonder Stories and then attack the pen-name under his own name?

19) What top stf writer was left holding the bag for a large sum when Wonder Stories folded up?

20) The famous "Darkness" stories were written by: Victor Rousseau, Murray Leinster, R. R. Starzl, Ray Cummings, Ralph Milne Farley.

Okeh. If you get all twenty of those questions correct, you must know your science fiction.



Readers of SCIENCE FICTION, Charles D. Hornig's new magazine, will be very pleased to learn that, beginning with the August issue (out the first week in June) the magazine will commence monthly publication. This issue will inaugurate something entirely new in professional magazines; a fan magazine supplement, THE FANTASY FAN, which will be by and about science fiction fans. As many of you know, THE FANTASY FAN was the name of the excellent printed fan magazine Hornig issued several years ago.

If Editor Hornig finds that the majority of readers are in favor of short-novels, such as Binder's "Edge of Eternity," there will be one, at least in every other issue. The short-novel scheduled for the September issue (Vol. 1, No. 4) is "Swordsmen of Saturn" by that old favorite, Neil R. Jones.

In regards to the proposed SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY, Hornig says, "Nothing definite has been decided as yet in regards to a quarterly magazine--but should one be issued, it would probably be of large format, containing one long, foreign novel and several short stories."

\* \* \* \* \*

MARVEL SCIENCE STORIES has proved itself to be not a bi-monthly magazine, but a quarterly. The first issue was dated August, 1938 and the fifth issue will be dated August, 1939. For this issue, which

will mark MARVEL's first anniversary, Editor Erisman has obtained a nice-looking lot of stories. As usual, there will be one long novel, this time by Frederic Arnold Kummer, Jr. The title of the story is "Dark Invasion". Mr. Kummer appears to be one of the very few authors who are able to make a living out of writing s-f. R. De Witt Miller, who may or may not be Richard Tooker, will make his debut in MARVEL with a novella, "Hour of Judgment," and two short stories will complete the issue; "Interplanetary Flatfoot" by R. R. Winterbotham, and "Dust" by L. A. Eshbach.

\* \* \* \* \*

It may surprise many to learn that Milton A. Rothman, of PSFS fame, has finally made good. Rothman was recently informed by his agent that ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION had accepted two of his stories. The first, "Heavy Planet," will appear in the July issue, and the other, "Shawn's Sword" is also scheduled for an early issue. However, do not look for Rothman's name on the contents page of the July issue, for "Heavy Planet" will appear under the pseudonym of Lee Gregor, and, judging from all indications, "Shawn's Sword" will also be accredited to Mr. Gregor. It seems that Mr. Campbell did not like Rothman's name.

It seems that luck comes all at once, for Rothman just learned

recently that he has obtained a position with the Civil Service Commission in Washington, D.C. He will leave Philadelphia for Washington Sunday, April 30th, and will be the recipient of a nice send-off by the members of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. David H. Keller will make his reappearance in WEIRD TALES soon with a fantasy-science novellette entitled "Lords of the Ice Age". According to Editor Wright, "It is fully up to the high standard of Keller's best stories. . . . E. Hoffmann Price will have a short story, "Apprentice Magician" in the September WT. This story will cop the cover, and will show the Goddess Sekhmet in the leaping flames. The name of the hero is Panther! . . . . P. Schuyler Miller has crashed WEIRD TALES with a very powerful and unusual story. It is a fantastic yarn entitled "Spawn". . . . Merlin in one of the principal characters in the forthcoming serial by H. Warner Munn. This novel will immediately follow "Almuric".

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A note from Ralph Milne Farley reads as follows: "Item about Robert Bloch, who is at the moment selling more STF and weirds currently than any two other authors. He is now in New Orleans, tramping through the swamps, and interviewing Cajans: getting a lot of info about zombies and vampires and intelligent man-eating-mobile plants, etc. While there, he finished an 85,000 word novel, including revisions and retypings, in less than nine days! And without working overtime!

Both Bloch and Henry Kuttner appear to be crashing the new STRANGE-STORIES with amazing consistency. Tarlton Fiske is one of Bloch's pseudonyms, while Kuttner

employs the names of Will Garth and Keith Hammond. Kuttner has had eight stories in the first three issues of STRANGE while Bloch has also had about as many. . . . "The Bottomless Pool" in the April issue of STRANGE, accredited to Farley, was really a collaboration between Farley and Bloch, but they dropped the latter's name because he had another story in the same issue. . . . "The Body and the Brain" in the current STRANGE is the work of Bloch and Kuttner. This story was written last summer when Bob Bloch paid a visit to Kuttner.

\* \* \* \* \*

The August issue of THRILLING WONDER STORIES will contain a short story by Kelvin Kent, which will sound like a pseudonym to many readers. And they'll be right, for the story, "Roman Holiday," is the work of Kuttner and Arthur K. Barnes. . . . Kuttner (how does that guy take up so much space in this column?) has received an acceptance slip for "The Suicide Squad," all about the space-stunt-fliers of the future. . . . When Charles Cloukey departed on the Great Adventure in 1932 he left a story partially finished. Kenneth Cloukey, his brother, is considering finishing it. . . . David V. Reed, who wrote that hoax, "Where is Roger Davis?" is in reality Dave Vern. Vern will appear in a future issue of THRILLING WONDER with a short story. . . . Mark Reinsberg is at work on another story, not in collaboration with W. Lawrence Hamling this time. . . . Another collaboration of Kuttner and Barnes is "The Energy Eaters," in which Anthony Quado and Gerry Carlyle raise hell on the moon. . . . Some fans still don't believe that Anthony Gilmore was Harry Bates and Desmond Hall. Oh well, no one can definitely prove it, but it is a decided fact to those in the know. See ya next issue with more news and gossip!

# THOSE WERE THE DAYS!

By Fred W. Fischer

Science fiction magazines are hitting the newsstands with the regularity of a prize fighter punching a similarly helpless bag. Some are good and some are so bad they almost emit a singularly putrid odor. Some will live through the coming years and enjoy prosperity; others will thrive for a time on the known avidity of sci-entification fans -- who are prone to gulp down all fantastic literary pills, no matter how bitter -- and then die a sudden and natural death as reader appreciation, rather than discoverer's jubilation, tilt the scales against them.

It is hoped that this influx -- this wave of fantasy, will wash upon the shores of Futurism some few new authors to rank with Weinbaum, Merritt, England, or Keller. But it is more natural to believe that an unreasoning, ravaging demand for stories to fill these magazines, will more assuredly work the present group of writers to death, and perhaps convert them into desperate hacks attempting only to sell off all that musty collection of manuscript which had been rejected so many times that the individual stories have almost developed a homing instinct.

But since we have approximately ten magazines on the American market which specialize in off-the-trail-fiction, and some even in horrendous poetry, comic strip-page, and so-called fact articles, let's hope the writers make the best of their new opportunities, instead of the worst. Let's hope they realize that this deluge of science fiction magazines must be definitely inspired by a DEMAND for it, and that back of this ob-

vious demand is a gradual awakening of the general public -- rather than a comparatively select few -- to the profound truth that fantasy has definitely GOT SOMETHING! And, providing the authors understand this basic argument, let them further realize that by developing worth-while literary products while the demand prevails they may even immortalize themselves in the writing field.

Which reminds me, paradoxically enough, of the good old days. I used the word paradoxically advisedly, because "way back when" -- why, there weren't enough odd stories published to fill even a 300 page book in a year's time.

Scientifiction was then something queer, something sensational. Magazines printed occasional stories of this type while the editors hid in private sanctums with crossed-fingers, dreading reader-reaction. And authors submitted the stories timidly and with many apologies, fearing that as soon as their manuscripts were read they might themselves be summarily confined in the most convenient booby-hatches.

The old All-Story shyly called them "different" stories. Adventure Magazine admitted they were "off-the-trail" stories. Other magazines neither named them nor admitted them, but turned dignified noses skyward and gently squirted the flit about to make sure no such vulgar and preposterous disease germs invaded THEIR premises.

Those old-time fantasy writers had courage. They knew they

had a message to deliver. -- although even to them it was a queer sort of message they HAD to get off their chests, no matter how it hurt their reputations as writers.

Burroughs didn't start it. He popularized it. "Tarzan of the Apes" was an incident in a growing chain of incidents which made a small section of the reading world suddenly aware of books by Jules Verne, and goofy stories by Edgar Allan Poe, heretofore read in attics, and best forgotten afterward.

Why, these new-fangled streamlined yarns can't hold a candle to the ones the old boys used to pen purely for their own hair-raising amusement or slack-jawed amazement, wondering even as they wrote why it was they continued to dash off such utter tripe. Those fellows just had imagination and hunches. They didn't know a space-warp from a rocket-jet; they didn't dimly comprehend infinity as it is so casually introduced by our present ink-slingers; they didn't whiz past planets in their faster-than-light machines -- if they did any planetary touring at all they did it naturally; in slow, plodding vehicles which acted quite normally and took a reasonably long time to get anywhere.

The world of these budding scientifiction authors wasn't always being threatened by extinction from other worlds, cometary side-swipers, or mad scientists bent on conquest. It was a normal world -- until George Allan England wrote "Darkness and Dawn." He never bothered to explain the exact chemical content of his gas which extinguished life like a blown-out candle flame. He just stuck in the gas as an explanation, and it was twice as forceful as any of these modern gases so frequently mentioned nowadays, which are taken apart, molecule by molecule, for the edification of

the readers. Gosh, what do WE care how the gas is manufactured, or what it's composed of? We're not taking a course in post-graduate chemistry or physics or what-do-you-call-it -- we want to know what the gas does!

Be that as it may, England very neatly wiped out humanity -- ah, all except the man and woman, that is! Personally, his dexterity was childishly delightful, but it gave rise to the fanciest gases -- which he never DREAMED of, himself.

And then there was "The Sea Demons" by Victor Rousseau. We'd hate to count the revamps that have been taken from that plot. And his "Draft of Eternity," followed by J. U. Giesy's "Palos" trilogy, had people plunging thru trances to other planets and times for the next twenty years. "Palos of the Dog-Star Pack" remains one of my most prized possessions, both in physical form and in my reminiscences.

Take "The Moon Pool". Oh, you will? People will be imitating the style employed in that story for years to come. Why can't the present authors imitate it any better? Why, because they've got to contend with a bunch of people who demand that the Shining One be dissected and explained by modern scientific possibilities, and that this or that invention be plausibly put together. "The Ship of Ishtar" wasn't scientifiction any more than was "The Face in the Abyss," so we will skip them. But "The Metal Monster" was, and because Merritt suddenly acquired a feeling that he must have reasonable scientific explanations with his plots, it was dull and plodding, nere for a second approaching "The Moon Pool."

Austin Hall and Homer Eon Flint co-authored "The Blind Spot," and made history. It was an

stand this: It's not the science--  
it's the plot and the continuity  
and the characterizations! -- Why,  
then they may beat the old-timers  
handily, and fulfill their dest-  
inies of writers of fiction that  
will LIVE!!

As an afterthought, Weinbaum, Keller, Lovecraft have threatened the throne-room upon numerous occasions. Maybe I'd better put them on my team, too! At least I might as well make my group unsurpassable. And oh, yes! Smith, and Campbell -- as they were when they BEGAN writing.

FINIS

Jack Williamson's Vahalla  
By Milton A. Rothman  
(Continued from page 8)

\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*/\*\*  
 AUTHOR'S DREAM (4)  
 "Spaceship"

A human back at home could see  
Against a background high  
In letters free the name of he  
Who could defeat the sky.

\* \* \* \* \*

When these up-and-coming authors can beat Merriitt, Hall, Guiesy, Rousseau, and Cummings at their OLD-TIME best, they'll have to start to work awfully early. And don't let me forget to include England, either.

And when these newcomers under-

# AMAZING

## news

BY MARK REINSBERG

Things were very quiet on the AMAZING front as Ziff-Davis and Palmer assumed a policy of watchful waiting in regards to FANTASTIC ADVENTURES. Scattered reports indicate that the newest member of science fiction's growing field has been a success, however, the next few days will decide whether FA will be continued. The first issue was tentatively dated bi-monthly in compliance with postal regulations, but if it is undertaken, FANTASTIC will become a regular monthly publication. Naturally, the second issue will be under a slightly different policy, as the inaugural was more or less a "feeler" on the public. It was necessary to determine just what the majority of the readers wanted in a magazine. Thus, Palmer found out that pseudo-scientific detective stories were not desirable to the balance of the public, soon after the magazine was issued. He will continue with this policy until he has discovered the exact type which sells the mag best, and which has the approval of the majority of the readers.

Then, too, the interior illustrations will be toned down a trifle, and the cartoon will probably not be continued. Paul will definitely become a fixture in FANTASTIC with his interesting "solar system" series, while the art work seemingly, will be juggled between Krupa, Fuqua, and whatever newcomers pop up. All in all, the outlook is bright and the future appears due to surprise even the pessimists.  
(next column)

Certain sources have been spreading rumors which, in the light of the truth, are not only unfounded but utterly ridiculous. Among them, is the statement that AMAZING is on its last leg and will fold up shortly. A glance at circulation statistics alone disproves this. With every issue AS has jumped thousands until now it is as firmly established as any magazine could be. Nor does it occupy a subordinate position in the science fiction field by any means. In fact, if the exact circulation figures were disclosed many editors would sprout gray hairs. Other propagandic declarations claim that AMAZING is contaminating s-f, and lowering its standards, etc., etc. Why this should emanate from a fan's lips cannot be attributed to anything but a personal grudge. Certainly Palmer has shown a friendly face toward science fiction --- and fandom for that matter. By his willingness to cooperate, he aided in the great upswing in the field of pseudo-science. But--- every man to his own taste. This paragraph biased? Hell, yes! If those dissenters could see what really goes on behind the scenes, they'd change their opinions, too.

Few authors, in science fiction at least, can claim seven stories printed in the same magazine --- in consecutive order, in four issues. Ed Earl Repp can. As many know, his pseudonym, Bradner Buckner, appeared twice in issues containing another story by Repp. On the other hand, Raymond A. Palmer stakes his claim for glory  
(Continued on Page 28)



Our household has lately been disturbed by a goat which occasionally wanders into the kitchen through some aperture or other. We have not been able to find out how she gets in. The windows are always locked, and there are no doors. It has led me to ponder on the strange things that occur in the most stereotyped lives, and reminds me inevitably of the curious affair of John Eleazar Geech.

At the time of which I write Geech was employed in a factory near Pasadena. Nobody seems to know what the factory produced, and, all in all, a great deal of mystery surrounds the whole thing. It is enough for our purposes to state that one day the factory suddenly vanished, leaving on the site merely a good-sized pool of liquid which was discovered to be whale-oil. Mr. Geech was seen several blocks from the scene running like hell.

To outward appearances he was unchanged, except for the singular fact that he gleamed with a peculiar yellow radiance, and the additional extraordinary point that a steady and inexplicable sound of clanking was audible. He had, as a matter of fact, turned into gold. Oddly enough, Geech was not injured by the transformation. Whether or not he knew the reason is problematical; he never explained it to anyone, and of course, no one can ask him now. We cannot help wondering what happened in that strange factory, especially in view of the fact that after Geech cross-

ed the Pasadena bridge he turned to bronze, which caused some to mistake him for Doc Savage.

Some blocks further his mad flight was arrested by an officer by the name of Ferdinand Whelk. Whelk stepped into Geech's path, raised his hand, and said commandingly, "Where do you think you're going?" To this Geech made no reply, pausing only to turn into pig-iron on which Whelk's nightstick cracked and broke. Geech rushed out and vanished. Whelk afterward declared that the man's face was contorted with rage or fear, and that he was breathlessly repeating the curious phrase, "The rabbits have risen." We can only guess as to the meaning of this bizarre comment. Incidentally, no traces of rabbits was discovered on the site of the missing factory.

Doctor Horace Tizzy of Glendale was the next to encounter Geech, and his story is illuminating. By the time the encounter took place Geech had turned to glass--the best kind of optical glass, contends Tizzy, who is an optician by profession. The most intriguing theories are suggested by Tizzy's declaration that he could see through Geech's head, and that seated within the fleeing man's skull, slowly devouring a lettuce leaf, was a Belgian hare. It is of course possible that Tizzy had an hallucination or was drunk. But it is inevitable that the conclusion should arise that all these scattered points of

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By MILTON A. ROTHMAN

The April issue of Wonder Stories had an exceedingly excellent cover by Paul for "The Moon Devils," by John Beynon Harris, a mediocre story. The Science Fiction League was announced for the first time. A novelette by A.C. Stimson, "The Land of Mighty Insects," was featured. One John Edwards had a story with the very original title of "The Menace from Space." A short-short, "The End of the Universe," by Milton Kaletsky, "The Last Planet," by R.F. Starzl, and part two of "Xandulu" complet-

ed the array. Many still-active fans had letters.

The March Amazing Stories had a very good cover by Morey, in the blue color harmony prevailing at that period. This cover illustrated the third installment of E.E. Smith's wonderful novel, "Triplanetary." Bob Olsen with another ant story, "Peril Among the Drivers." H. Haverstock Hill had the second part of "Terror Out of Space," a mediocre serial. Henry J. Kostkos was represented by "The Man Who Stopped the Earth," Victor Endersby had a clever short-short by the name of "A Job of Blending," and a little-known author, whom some will remember, Edgar Allan Poe, had "A Ms. Found in a Bottle."

The April Amazing cover used the same colors as the previous issue. It illustrated "The Metanicals," by Francis Flagg. Bob Olsen, with one of his fourth dimensional stories, "Cat's Eye," and Edgar Allan Poe, again, with the "Gold Bug." (Editorial Note; there is a mistake in this paragraph. See how many readers can discover it.)

You wouldn't think that Astounding was already under Street and Smith five years ago, but the March, 1934 issue was the sixth under the new reign. The cover was for "The Man Who Stopped the Dust," one of John Russell Fearn's more lucid yarns, and was done, as usual, by Brown. Jack Williamson had a very thought-variant by the name of "Born of the Sun." "The Man Who Never Lived," by Donald Wandrei, and "Manna from Mars" by Stanton A. Coblentz, were short stories. "Black Death," by Henry J. Kostkos filled up several pages. Outstanding, of course, was the conclusion of "Rebirth," by Thomas Calvert McClary. "The Time Imposter," by Nat Schachner, reminded one of a story further back in Amazing. "The Retreat from Utopia," an amateurish yarn by

Wallace West, completed the issue.

The April Astounding was very outstanding. The cover, illustrating the opening of Williams's "Legion of Space," was excellent. "Lo!" by Charles Fort, also began. "He From Procyon," wonderful novelette by Nat Schachner was included, complete, as also a better-than-average yarn by Harry Bates, "A Matter of Size." The short stories were all little better than space fillers. They were: "The Green Plague," by Stanton A. Coblentz; "The God Box" by Howard Von Drey (Wandrei?); "The Atom Smasher," by Donald Wandrei; and "The Tooth," by Neil Moran.

At this period there were a lot of good things floating around. In these two months I have listed, the outstanding names were: "Triplanetary," "Exile of the Skies," "Rebirth," and the four big things in that April issue of Astounding.

### Ten Years Ago in

### Science Fiction

In March, 1929, there was only one regular science fiction magazine, and that was Amazing Stories, together with the Quarterly. That issue of Amazing had an excellent cover by Paul illustrating "The Airlords of Han," by Philip Francis Nowlan. This story told of the adventures of one Buck Rogers. Ever hear of him? "Into the Green Prism," outstanding serial by A. Hyatt Verrill was starting. "The Face of Isis," by Cyril G. Wates, was fair, and "The Worm," by Keller, was in the typical Keller manner.

The cover of the April issue was not quite as good as the previous one, but even so, it compares extremely favorably with those being done today. It illustrated "The Revolt of the Atoms," by V. Orlovsky, a bol-

shevik. "The Terror of the Streets" by George McLociard, was excellent. Miles J. Breuer explained a novel code in "Buried Treasure."

The cover of the Spring, 1929 Amazing Quarterly illustrated a satiricle novel, by Stanton A. Coblentz: "After 12,000 Years." That was ten years ago. Practically the same plot was used in "Lord of Tranerica," in Dynamic Science

Stories, by the same author. Edmond Hamilton had "Locked Worlds," not utterly different from Nat Schachner's "Simultaneous Worlds" in Astounding recently. "The Cry from the Ether," and "The City of Eric," by Aladra Septama and Quign Sabe, respectively, wasted some space.

(Editorial Note: Do you readers desire this department to be continued? Let us know.)

REPORT OF THE TWO-HOUR CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY INVESTIGATION  
INTO THE AUTHENTICITY OF REFERENCES GIVEN IN FOOTNOTES  
TO "WHERE IS ROGER DAVIS?" IN AMAZING STORIES  
FOR MAY, 1939.

By John A. Bristol

(The above-mentioned story, by David V. Reed, it will be remembered, purported to be only a slight revision of a manuscript sent the author by Roger Davis, to which the author appended, in footnotes, corroboratory evidence taken from newspapers, etc., supporting Roger Davis' tale of invisible Martians who came to New York City and raised havoc in more ways than one. --John A. Bristol.)

1. "(Following is a transcript of the Record of Employment: I copied it from the files of the Metropolitan Sight-Seeing Corporation. - D.V.R.)"

Polk's Directory for New York lists no Metropolitan Sight-Seeing Corporation.

2. "From Variety, July 27, 1938. Gift of Gab Goes Ga-Ga!...."

A search of the issue of the magazine in question fails to reveal any such headline. It is noted that, without mentioning any name, David V. Reed speaks of "the famous radio ventriloquist." There is a short article in this magazine on Edgar Bergen, which makes no mention of the

incident.

3. "(Excerpt from the New York Herald Tribune, August 4, 1938. Page 3.)

BANK TELLERS HELD IN DISAPPEARANCE OF \$5,000.00....."

Unfortunately, in this, the most specifically located reference, the issue of the Herald Tribune was being bound, and therefore not available.

4. "Roger Davis evidently refers here to the Cherry Street fire...on that black Friday of August 12, 1938...."

Such a fire actually occurred, but on August 22, rather than August 12. (Note: Due to an oversight on the part of the committee of one, this was not looked into at the Library of Congress, but it is assumed that the New York Times Index in the Carnegie Library is just as authentic as the one, printed from the same plates, in the Congressional Library.)

5. "COUNCILMAN VELDON DIES ON FLOOR OF CHAMBER LEADING REVOLT AGAINST CHAIRMAN"

\* Note: Roger Davis here quotes almost verbatim the headline

August 28, 1938....."

Diligent conning of the New York Times Index fails to reveal any item concerning a deep green brilliance in space on the previous morning.

Conclusion, by the Chairman  
of the committee:

MY FAVORITE SCIENCE FICTION STORY

My favorite science fiction

In magazine science fiction, I believe that my favorite story is "The Blue Barbarians," by Stanton A. Coblentz. It is a grand piece of satire and enthusiastically lampoons most of the foibles of humanity. By placing the action on another planet at another time, delicacy is avoided. There's something about the writing, too, that attracts one. The continuity of the story is very good, and the story has characters, which is unusual.

—○—○—○—○—○—○—○—○—○→○—○—○—○—○—○—○—○—○—

"S P A C E L O G ----- Y 486 G"

Joseph Mitchel Boyer.

"From Heywood Broun, in his column, "It Seems to Me," in the New York World-Telegram, August 21, 1938....."

"From Arthur Klock's column  
in the New York Times....."

"From an editorial in the New York Post, August 20, 1938....."

7. "From the Hayman's Cor-  
ners Free Press, August 27, 1938."

8. "From the New Haven Cour-  
ier, August 30, 1938....."

9. "From the New York Times,



By OSWALD TRAIN

Just the other day I bought the tenth anniversary issue of Thrilling Wonder Stories, and it really is a fine collection on science fictional greats. For the first time, too, we have a story by the sons of a world-famous author, John Coleman and Hulbert Burroughs. They have inherited a great deal of of the talent of their illustrious father, and should go far. John Coleman Burroughs bears a marked resemblance to his father, by the way. Wonder if he could be persuaded to do any illustrating for the magazines? He has illustrated a number of books already, you know. Fine work it was, too. John Taine's story should be good---that man can write! Edward Elmer Smith's story seems to be a rewritten version of his chapter to "Cosmos," "What A Course!"

As for "The Dawn of Flame," it is only right that such a great story should be given to all of Weinbaum's fans, rather than to a limited few who could get the privately published book. The only thing from that mighty pen we have to look forward to is "The New Adam," and reports are that it will appear in book form.

For some reason or other it was just a few days ago that I finally read "The Mightiest Machine" by John W. Campbell, and it really was a swell story. Somehow, though, it lacked the stuff necessary to compete successfully with Edward Elmer Smith's mighty stories. It seems a shame, though, that we may never have the opportunity to read

the sequels that Campbell wrote to the story.

UNKNOWN is one of the best magazines to ever hit the newsstands. The lead novel in the second issue was pretty hard to swallow, but yet enjoyable when you remember the policy of the magazine. "Divide and Rule" is a swell serial, and the slogan, "Givem the Work" sort of gets you. I predict that L. Sprague de Camp will develop into one of the best-liked authors if he keeps up the good work he has been doing.

I don't know how many of you know this, but when a Burroughs book first comes out in the 75¢ edition, if you act quickly you may be able to obtain a first edition at that price--look at the binding underneath the Grosset & Dunlap wrapper. By the way, who was it who said recently that "Carson of Venus" was published in book form by Scribners? All the copies I have seen are in the Burroughs edition.

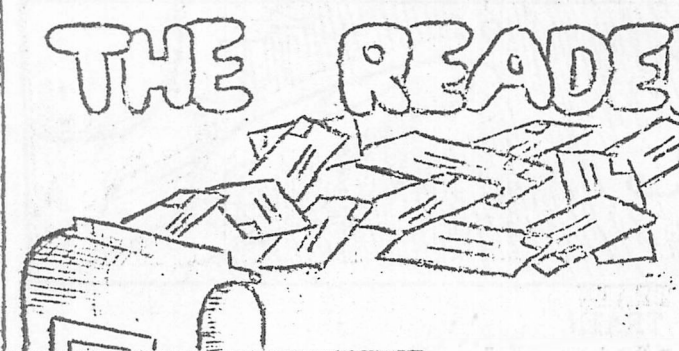
I am still optimistic enough to hope the A. Merritt will get his novel finished up sometime. I have really missed his stories during the past few years. I'll have to start rereading all of his stuff again, I suppose.

And that's just about all for the time being.

--Ossie--

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# THE READER COMMENTS



CHARLES D. HORNIG: I just received a copy of your Jan.-Feb. Fantascience Digest, which you sent to SCIENCE FICTION.

I read your little journal thoroughly, and must say that I enjoyed every bit of it. It is the best fan-article publication that I have seen since Julius Schwartz ran Fantasy Magazine.

All of your articles are interesting, and many are informative. I got a good kick out of "Something Different" by Conover.

It also pleased me to see such a fine job of mimeographing. That makes the Digest readable in both ways!

Congratulations on your fine work, and I wish you much success in the future.

Harry Warner, Jr.: Congratulations on the superb mimeoing! In my opinion, you'll have to go a long way to find any that's better, and very, very few are even this good. Every page has just the right amount of ink, and in the right places, too---not in the form of spots on the edges! Illustrations are pretty good, too, though the cover shows a little lack of experience with the stylus. Oh, well---that's only natural, especially when you have only one to work with.

As for material, most of the fiction is good, especially Dennis' piece. Hang on to that fellow. Mand hasn't enough room to expand, and Thompson does a fair job with about the worst plot I've ever witnessed. Your new department is very good, but keep the news news, and don't put things

several weeks old in it. Leave it for the last stencil, is possible. Is Conover trying to be funny? Reinsberg running as usual---much the same, and good. Questions a lot better this time; I suppose I could show my ignorance by trying to answer them, but won't as there's no point in getting an extra FD as I'm getting it regularly. Various other articles are swell, and I like the little "Favorite Science Fiction Story" fillers scattered here and there. Why not keep them up, using fans outside of Philly too? Also, keep the letter department good and long. Fear I must disagree with Dick about the "Flash Gordon" cartoon. The art is okay---but that's the case with most cartoons. Rather it's the plot (or what is called 'plot') that I think so lousy. As for Burroughs: he can rarely do anything but amuse me. I almost suffocated from laughter over "The Synthetic Men of Mars." Oh, well.. while I think of it, Buck Rogers has disappeared from the Washington newspapers, but is back in the Philadelphia Record.

JIM AVERY: I hate to say it, but I'm afraid Fantascience Digest surpasses Spaceways in many ways---mostly in reader interest---if not in literary excellence. Beginning with the editorial: I don't think, as you do, that your illustrations are inferior to the regular fare. It's really an amazing job for one stylus and probably no scope. By the way, if Agnew is available, I'd like to have him do a heading or two for some of Fantasy's departments. His for "The Science

"Fiction Spotlight" is strangely reminiscent of "Spilling the Atoms" with Rap, in the old Fantasy Magazine. But who cares if it is? A darned good job. Oh yes, his cover might be called a DOLD when he uses only lines with the usual black shading.

I haven't completely read the magazine yet; only the articles that I think will appeal to me. Moskowitz was good, but surprisingly short for him. I resented his title a bit, however, because it sounds a wee bit sarcastic if said in a certain tone of voice. But I won't hold it against him. Harry Warner covered the British field rather well; I'll be looking forward to his review of their fan field. Pohl's article hit the hi-spot with me. If I had known about it, I would have grabbed it for TIZZIE, for that's just the kind of stuff she uses.

Your "Spotlight" is reminiscent of Rap, as well as the before-mentioned art-work. I wasn't terrifically enthused over Rothman's comparisons...perhaps I can't attune myself to the fellow. Train's column was comparable to your own as to the material and excellence. Reinsberg's "Amazing News" is probably your best regular feature. I surely hope he's right about FANTASTIC ADVENTURES being LARGE SIZE!

JOE RIPA: I was quite happily surprised to see the change that has come over Fantascience Digest. The mimeographed magazine looks much better than the hectographed affair. The articles are as good as ever, in fact, even better.

I get quite a kick knowing that AMAZING will publish a companion magazine. They are trying to hold us in suspense by placing a small notice at the bottom of the page of the current issue. (April issue.)

About your departments: Why not lump "The Science Fiction Spotlight," "The Eternal Wanderer,"

and "AMAZING News" into one big column?

Incidentally, Mr. Madle, you did a fine job with your column. Make it bigger and you'll really have something there.

I happen to be a reader of 16 magazines regularly, and I was quite pleased to see your remark about STRANGE DETECTIVE MYSTERIES. You're correct when you state that they might be termed fantastic; some are even science fiction.

Talking about columns; how about a column for WEIRD TALES, STRANGE STORIES, EERIE MYSTERIES, and UNKNOWN? To do this, you'd have to cut a story out, but after all, FD is a fan magazine. (The weird fiction magazines will be taken care of in "The Science Fiction Spotlight" for the present. Perhaps in the future your suggestion will be followed--RAM)

Hoping to see some of the pictures you say you'll print in the near future.

JOHN A. BRISTOL: Fantascience Digest was really a pleasant surprise. It is very near, if not actually, tops.

Most of your short stories were good. I didn't think "Out of Space" was excellent, but it wasn't bad, and the others were space well-spent.

The little paragraphs on "My Favorite Science Fiction Story" are interesting as fillers. Maybe someday I'll figure out what my favorite is, and write a paragraph on it.

Sam Moskowitz's article was written so long ago, according to Fantasy News, that it can't be judged on the basis of the way things look today.

Frederik Pohl's article was very amusing.

"The Science Fiction Spotlight" was good for the most part, but some of the news also appeared in Fantasy News, and some of the magazines previewed were already on the newsstands.

The article comparing Campbell

and Smith was a very good analysis.

I disagree with the statement of "The Eternal Wanderer" that the "Black Flame" was just an adventure story laid in the future. You couldn't take any place in the world today and have a situation on which you could place a plot like that of "The Black Flame."

Mark Reinsberg's column of AMAZING news was good, except that he seems a little bit too much pro-AMAZING and anti-all other magazines.

I can answer some of the questions in the question department, but I know I can't answer them all, so I'll just keep my guesses to myself and wait for the answers next issue.

I am very much in favor of having even margins on both sides of the column, unless they are as much trouble as Harry Warner says they are. They improve the appearance and readability of the magazine 100%. (They definitely are a great deal of trouble; perhaps even more than Harry Warner stated they are. It takes at least twice as much time to have even edges, and I, for one, don't believe they are worth the time expended--RAM)

SAM MOSKOWITZ: I certainly did like the latest FD immensely. (I would use tremendously, etc., but I must save something to describe the next issue.) But seriously, you certainly pack plenty of pleasure into your pages, and your position as one of the best 5 fan magazines should go unquestioned.

Cover was passable. Your mimeographing made even punk stuff read good. I hope you can keep up the quality mimeographing.

Now for the material. "The Arts" was just so-so. Warner is very good at writing articles. You should be happy that he plans to flood you with same. I already knew most of what Warner wrote; his own opinion was what I liked. I wish you would print this explanation in re "Keller, the Great." This article was the second I ever wrote; way

back in February, 1937. I sent it to Fantasia where it was accepted. Hahn has since turned it over to Bob Madle. I didn't have a chance to rewrite it, either. Incidentally, Bob Madle has the first article I wrote; "Case History," which is even worse than "Keller the Great." (How many of you wish to read Sam's first attempt at fan writing? Let me know, and if most of you are in favor of it, it will appear in an early issue.) "Whither Science Fiction"--inane. "The Spotlight" is VERY good. Doesn't Rothman ever get tired of comparing Smith and Campbell? Campbell is certainly a much more talented and versatile author. Smith seems to have a one-track mind. "The Eternal Wanderer" told us nothing new, although it was tolerably interesting. Reinsberg hit a new high in quality this issue. Tell him to keep it up. "Out of Space"--there is little to comment on. Maybe you should have a hundred questions and give a prize for the three highest marks or something. Thompson wasn't bad; in fact, he was quite good. Readers' comments in this issue decidedly superior to last, and very, very interesting. Finally, Helen Cloukey constructed her short article quite nicely. The entire atmosphere of the magazine is one of pleasure. I can't see how anyone could help but like it.

RALPH MILNE FARLEY: Tell Willis Conover, Jr., to write up his "Something Different" as a real story of about twice its present length, with serious names for the newspaper and the Russian scientist, keeping the same O. Henry twist (no pun intended) at the end, and I bet he can sell it to an sf mag.

DANIEL MCPHAIL: A bit of comment on the Jan-Feb ish: The cover was a bit crowded, but considering the difficulty of transferring drawings to a stencil,

Agnew deserves credit. The title headings are all mighty neat, and the cuts are well-done; especially did I like the one for "The Readers Comment." Best liked material this issue was the short by Dennis, articles by Rothman and Pohl, and the columns of Train, Madle and Reinsberg. Couldn't you combine these last two; there seems no point in one column reviewing one magazine, and the other reviewing all the rest. The questionnaire is a treat to the memory; let's keep it. Mimeographing good.

JACK SPEER: Why not write clear across the page? If you do that, you'll not only be able to get more on each page, but you'll also be able to double-space between paragraphs and let the right-hand margins run free, without the paragraphs looking like the islands of the Pacific surrounded by oceans of white.

C. J. WILHELM: At last I've found a real fan magazine, the first, in my estimation, since Fantasy. I enjoyed every darn department.

JOHN GIUNTA: Agnew's cover is quite good. I did not expect him to make one so neat on his first attempt at stenciling. My congrats to him.

Your own department clicks with me, and I would like to see it each issue. The best thing in it, I think, was the item about John Taine being featured in MARVEL Boy, that is news! What need there be said about "AMAZING News" but that it is good? "Something Different" by Willis Conover, Jr., was good, unlike "Whither Science Fiction," which failed to please me. All the rest of the material was quite good.

DALE HART: Agnew had a pretty good cover, but the title lettering should have been shaded. I liked Mand's story--which is surprising, for I'm not overly fond of the pure

weird tale. Warner's piece interesting and timely. Moskowitz had a nice tribute to Keller. Pohl, with one of his not-too-numerous articles, pleased me no end. Madle's new column is just the thing and Rothman's academic piece was a real contribution. Train and Agnew presented nice articlettes on their favorite s-f story. Train had his usual good column. Reinsberg has the column I always latch into first--you must have him to sign a long-term contract with FD. "Out of Space" was a nifty bit of fan fiction. And I wish you would keep the quiz as a feature. As to Conover, his burlesque was thoroughly enjoyable, and I move that more on this order be published. Thompson's half-page whimsy is, I believe, the most meritorious piece from his pen. Keep the readers' column at four pages. Cloukey contributed an ok item and the filler about MIRACLE STORIES was all right. ---- Summing it up: a great issue and a great improvement.

FARNSWORTH WRIGHT: The current issue of Fantascience Digest is quite intriguing. Congragulations.

MELVIN C. SCHMIDT: I received the Jan-Feb issue of the FD a few days ago and was surprised at the improvement over all former issues I have received. The mimeographing was very good; the departments and columns were uniformly interesting.

WALTER SULLIVAN: You sure did a good job of mimeographing on the Jan-Feb issue. It is much better than most mimeographed magazines. The cover is one of the best illustrations I have yet seen by Agnew. I do not think that "Keller the Great" was up to Moskowitz's usual standard. I liked your "Science Fiction Spotlight" very much; the same applies to Warner's article. Keep the readers' department as long as possible.

(We are sorry that many interesting letters were necessarily crowded out of this issue--Editor)

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"Amazing News"

(Continued from Page 17)

Evidently, when "The Now Adam" finally appears --- wherever and whenever that may be, many fans will be surprised. A cloak of mystery still surrounds it but the info is that it will see publication at an early date. Previously, a legal question had to be ironed out before Ziff-Davis could act. The original title to Weinbaum's "Revolution of 1950" was "The Dictator's Sister."

The five hundred copies comprising the edition of the Weinbaum Memorial volume has long been exhausted. Palmer is wishing he had five hundred more! It seems that the current upsurge in s-f has not ended. Recently an announcement was made to the effect that good old Buck Rogers is returning to the air on May 1st.

In the recent coupons printed in AMAZING, containing on one side the story vote, and on the other, a ballot of likes, dislikes, and desires, many curious facts were discovered. For one thing, it was found that those who voted had quite different opinions from the fans who preferred not to mutilate their mag and wrote in instead. They represented the true general public, while the "fans" only a minority. It was then revealed that most editors had been following the group who made the most noise --- not the comparatively inconspicuous average reader, and thus had been sacrificing the mag's general appeal by catering to the fan alone. The sooner editors realize the letter-writing fan is not the only one reading his magazine, the higher the circulation will soar. This is not a crack at fandom, but solid truth. To illustrate the point; the tabulated results proved that the average reader preferred a smaller readers' column.

And they're right. Who ever uses the readers' column other than a "fan"? But then, who cares anyway?

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The more subscriptions we receive, the more FD will improve. Come on fellows, help make FD the magazine that has been sadly lacking since FANTASY MAGAZINE was discontinued. Only you, the reader, can put FD over.

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- Or -

-----Fred W. Fischer

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I have many amateur fan publications which I wish to exchange for professional magazines I do not have. When writing, please state what you have to trade. I need magazines before 1933.---Jack Agnew, 2308 E. Belgrade St., Phila., Pa.

If you wish to complete your s-f collections, write to me, stating specifically what you desire. I have many issues of SCIENCE WONDER, Clayton ASTOUNDINGS, etc. ---Robert A. Madle, 333 E. Belgrade St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FANTASY NEWS, the regular weekly science fiction newspaper that supplies you with news while it is news! 5¢ per copy, three issues for a dime.---James V. Taurasi, 137-07 32nd Avenue, Flushing, N.Y.

Nils H. Frome and Robert G. Thompson are among those who have stories in the latest issue of SCIENTI-TALES. 15¢ a copy from John Giunta, 1355 80 Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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