

FANTASY-NEWS

the weekly science fiction newspaper.



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WHOLE NUMBER 84

WEIRD TALES & FARNSWORTH WRIGHT PART COMPANY

WAS EDITOR OF WEIRD SINCE 1924

It is with deep regret that we announce that Farnsworth Wright is no longer connected with WEIRD TALES. At the time of going to press, we have been unable to determine whether Mr. Wright was fired, or whether he resigned because of ill health, although from a reliable source we learn that he was "tossed out".

This will come as a shock and a bitter disappointment to thousands of Mr. Wright's admirers who have strung along with him on WEIRD since he began editing the magazine in 1924. Mr. Wright discovered such fantasy favorites as August W. Derleth, C.L. Moore, Edmond Hamilton, Robert Bloch, Henry Kuttner, Manly Wade Wellman, and many, many others.

It is expected that these authors will protest the action of WT's publishers in firing Mr. Wright. FANTASY NEWS likewise joins this protest and urges its readers to deluge the publishers of WEIRD TALES with letters demanding the return of Mr. Wright.

FIVE NOVELS MONTHLY for March 1940 will feature a fantastic adventure of the 23rd century titled "Vandals Of the Sky" by John Murray Reynolds. Earth and Mars battle to rout creatures of outer space planning to rob Mars of its oxygen, destroy it, and then occupy Earth. An stf yarn in a non-stf mag. (Frank Litz)

RALPH MILNE FARLEY ENTERTAINS MILWAUKEE FICTIONEERS

On Wed. Jan. 17th, Ralph Milne Farley, well-known sciencefiction author, entertained "The Milwaukee Fictioneers", a group of well-known pulp mag authors, at his home in South Milwaukee. Among the prominent stf personalities present were: Ray Palmer, editor of AMAZING STORIES, Robert Bloch, Jerry K. Westerfield, Leo A. Schmidt, and Arthur R. Tofte.

A novel feature of the gathering was a rebus game played by those present. The game consisted in guessing what magazine was represented by each of various groups of objects. For example, a stick of wood in the bathtub represented the SATURDAY EVENING POST, and two lead soldiers on horseback on a toy stove represented RANGE RIDERS. Ernest Brent won the first prize, a gilt food-inspection medal on a piece of Harvard Lampoon hat-band for a ribbon; and Robert Bloch won the second prize, a Junior G-Man badge. Ernest guessed 16, and Bob 15, titles out of 28. Palmer failed to guess the title of his own magazine, represented by the letters "MA", a picture of a man singing, and a skyscraper. None could guess MARVEL TALES, represented by a china dachshund with two Marvel cigarets where the tale should be.

Farley's story, "Caves Of Ocean" is running currently in THE VOICE, a South Milwaukee newspaper.

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EDITORIAL by Will Sykora.

In the upper right-hand corner of this issue of Fantasy News will be found a "poster stamp" illustrating some species of dinosaur or other ancient reptile. Every other copy of Fantasy News contains a different stamp, so that only half are duplicated in any given number of copies. These pictures are very reminiscent of the famous still film "The Lost World" which was adapted from Sir A. Conan Doyle's book of the same name. No doubt the new film "1,000,000 B.C." will also feature realistic life size models of these ancient creatures.

Luckily, we were fortunate in being able to obtain a limited number of these sets for the readers of this newspaper. They were originally distributed by gasoline dealers who obtained them from the Sinclair Refining Company, but they are now no longer available from this source and are becoming quite rare. There are twenty-four (24) different stamps to each set, each stamp picturing a different species of ancient reptile in various striking poses. As a means of decorating and individualizing personal letters and other correspondence, they are unsurpassed.

Believing that readers of FN, who are all active sfans engaged in corresponding with other fans, would like to use these stamps on their letters, we supplying them to our subscribers at ten cents (10¢) per set of 24 different stamps.

Any reader, who desires to avail himself of this service, should send 10¢ (coin preferred) to Poster Stamp Service, % Fantasy News at the above address. You may obtain as many sets as you wish while the supply lasts.

BOOST SCIENCE FICTION

FANMAG REVIEW by Harry Warner, Jr.

GOLDEN ATOM: Vol. 1, no. 4, Jan '40. 34 lg mimeod pp, heavy colored covers. Much improved material, including check list of Rochester fan mags. Still leans a little too heavily on reviews, tho. 10¢ from 57½ Lyndhurst St, Rochester, N.Y.

LE ZOMBIE: Vol. 2, no. 9. 8 mimeod pp. Excerpt from ill-fated Nova and gossip. 3 for 10¢ from Bob Tucker, Box 260, Bloomington, Ill.

SCIENCE FICTION COLLECTOR: Vol. 5, no. 4. 32 small, well-hecktoed pp. Excellent format, good contents, worth a dime from 1700 Frankford Ave, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE COMET: first issue, Jan 1940. 24 lg, hectod pp, uneven material but some very good ideas, & good illustrations and makeup. It is going places. 10¢ from RFD # 1, Box 129, Martinez, Calif. (hw)

SPACEWAYS: Vol. 2, no. 2. 25 lg, well-mimeod pp. Article of unusual interest by Moskowitz. Interesting material by Reinsberg, Warner, Haggard. 10¢ from Harry Warner, Jr. 303 Brynn Place, Hagerstown, Md. (sm)

THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz.

The appearance of WEIRD TALES on Jan 17th instead of Feb 1st, when it should have appeared according to its bi-monthly schedule, gives hope that it may possibly publish two six-weekly numbers and then resume monthly publication as has happened in the past... Both Bob Madle, editor of Fantascience Digest, 333 E. Belgrade St, Phila, Pa, and Wally Marconette, editor of Scienti-Snaps, 2709 East 2nd St, Dayton, Ohio, would greatly appreciate any complimentary advertisements they could get for the 2nd Anniversary numbers of their publications, which will be of unusual size and excellence, and of course expense. Your name printed prominently for as low as ten cents. Why not help?... "The Dweller", poem by H. P. Lovecraft, in latest WEIRD TALES originally appeared in the Nov.-Dec. '35 issue of The Phantagraph. Abe Oshinsky has published a first issue of International Con. 4, 3, 2)

OFF TRAIL by John Giunta.

The Feb issue of BLUE BOOK features a fantasy-novelet, "Why the Fitzaldens Are Web-toed", by Hugh Fullerton. It concerns the Irish superstitions about elves, and it takes place in George Washington's time.

The Jan 1940 WRITERS' DIGEST features an article, "The Sky's No Limit" by Jerry K. Westerfield, assistant editor of AMAZING STORIES. To quote some of his phrases:—"the writer doing successful fantasy stories LIVES them while he is writing them..."our printer runs approximately 100,000 of each issue... "our expenses are: total bill paid for stories is around \$650; other costs—paper, \$1500; engraving, \$250; printing, \$1500; art, \$175; editorial salaries, \$200; editorial office supplies, \$100; total, \$4375, plus general overhead, about \$400; net profit, \$1075..."don't get sweat-headed about this quotation gang!..."stf pulps have a big advantage over other pulp mags in that the readers are loyal and are far above the average pulp reader in I.Q...."number one stf writer is probably Eando (Otto) Binder. Otto turns out some 30,000 words per month. He averages about 1 1/2 a word and nets around \$4500. M. W. Wellman runs Binder a close second by pounding out some 200,000 words a year, averaging \$2000..."An stf convention attracted some 200 fans. Fan Will Sykora from Astoria L.I. struck the keynote of the convention when he said, "Let us all work to see that the things we read in sciencefiction become realities". The article is well worth reading. Westerfield practically covers everything of interest in stf in his efforts to get new writers. He tells how we fans work, our deep interest in stf, our conventions, he describes briefly the events taking place at the WORLD CONVENTION and says, "the Mitchelists, as a matter of fact, were literally thrown out" and mentions the coming Chicago Convention of this year.

Full details of a new stf mag scheduled to appear soon will be given in this column in a future issue of FANTASY NEWS.

HORNIG TO LEAVE NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY

Charles Hornig, popular editor, will leave New York right after attending the Feb Queens SFL meeting. He will then journey to California where he will open a critic bureau for stf and other authors. He will also do stf cartoon scenarios, having already worked on some for Gernsback's proposed comic mag. He will still edit SCIENCE FICTION and FUTURE FICTION by remote control. The Queens SFL will give their old friend Charlie a great send-off.

AROUND TOWN by Jimmy Taurasi.

The Jan 20th NEW YORKER had a two page article titled "Captain Future, Block That Kick" by S. J. Perelman, a humorous commentary on the stf mag CAPTAIN FUTURE. The proofs of the second CF and coming THRILLING WONDER STORIES were seen; they are more than good. CF's 2nd issue is again beautifully illustrated by Wesso. The character novel is so long that one department had to be omitted.

The third FUTURE FICTION will be dated June 1940, published bi-monthly on the dot after that. This delay is so that FF will appear between SCIENCE FICTION, so there will be a BLUE RIBBON mag on the stands once a month. Your reporter's FANTASY TIMES column will have a full page starting in June. A history of a local club will be given in each issue. Club secretaries should send these in and they will be printed in the order received. ALL clubs are welcome to contribute.

SCIENTIRADIO by Millie Taurasi.

The play "The Man From Yesterday" will be heard over WEAJ (NBC) on Wednesday, Jan 31.

OUT THIS WEEK by Will Sykora.

ASTOUNDING S-F with daring religious-political satire by Heinlein. A NOVA. SHADOW COMICS, a high class stf comic mag (first edition) by STREET & SMITH. ODD, THE UNIQUE MAGAZINE, a non-stf mag highly recommended to stfans. Contains an article about the Fourth Dimension and other items of interest. Blurbs are: "Proof Of the Impossible".... "Assurance Of the Improbable". Not to be taken too seriously, however. (last it, SM) TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FANTASY NEWS!

SCIENTIFILMS by Marie Racie, Jr.
 "The Bluebird" 1939. 20TH CENTURY-
 FOX. 80 Minutes:

Fantasy film starring Shirley Temple, from the novel and play by Maurice Maeterlinck. In Technicolor. The allegorical story of the child who looked everywhere for "The Bluebird", the symbol of happiness, only to find it right in her home. Mytyl (Shirley Temple) is selfish and unkind to her parents, because they cannot have the luxuries, like that of some of the wealthy homes that she had glimpses of. That night, (in a dream, for that is the fantasy part) the Fairy Berylune sends Mytyl and her little brother, Tyltyl to search for the bluebird. Before they go, the Fairy changes their dog, Tylo (Eddie Collins) and the cat (Gale Sondergard) to human beings, who then accompany them. At this time appears the Spirit Of Light (Helen Ericson) who guides them and lights the way for them. The first stop is the Land Of the Past, reached via the cemetery, where Granny Tyl and Grandpa Tyl are buried. After a short visit with their departed grandparents in "the other world", they return without the bluebird. Light again appears and leads them to the Land Of Luxury, where they are so busy fighting over their new found luxuries that they cannot find time to search for any bluebird. Again Light returns and leads them through the Great Forest where the Spirits Of Oak, Pine, Elm and the rest of the trees try to frighten the children into turning back with fire and lightning, but they escape and Light leads them to the Land Of the Future. Up in the clouds, where they find all the children of the future who are yet to be born, Mytyl and Tyltyl find their little sister-to-be, who tells them that after she is born she will have to leave again very soon. Father Time appears and calls several names, all those to be sent to earth that day. This is done via a beautiful swan-shaped sail boat which sails through the clouds. (In some of the posters, advertising the film, this boat resembles very much (Cont. next col.)

the one in A. Merritt's, "The Ship Of Ishtar".) Finally, still without the bluebird, they return home, where Light leaves them by disappearing into the morning sun's rays. When the children wake up they can not believe that it was all a dream. Downstairs they find "The Bluebird" in a cage, a bird which the day before had been an ordinary bird that Mytyl had caught in the Royal Forest. The film is a beautiful fantasy with excellent technicolor sequences, definitely recommended to science and fantasy fans.

Arthur Lubin, young director, has created a new kind of horror film by making a horror picture without being horrid, and he is currently filming such for UNIVERSAL. Karloff and Lugosi are co-starred, and what a team! No hunchbacks, no leers, no club feet, no sliding panels, no scars or putty noses. Just their natural selves. "And", says Lubin, "it will be the most horror-filled picture ever made."

Adolphe Menjou and William Gar- gan have been signed for prominent roles in HAL ROACH'S production of Thorne (Topper) Smith's "Turnabout", starring John Hubbard.

Sabu, the famous Indian star of "Elephant Boy" and "Drums" will arrive in N.Y. Feb 1st. for a personal appearance tour in connection with the release of his latest picture, Alexander Korda's "The Thief Of Bagdad", the spectacular romantic fantasy film in technicolor. After completing his tour he will go to Hollywood. The film also stars Conrad Veidt and June Duprez and introduces John Justin, the new Korda discovery. REVIVALS: Amphytrion, French Fantasy Film (1937) at the ALDEN, B'way-67 ST. Feb. 1, 2, 3rd. "The Man Who Could Work Miracles" H.G. Wells fantasy starring Roland Young at the SUTTON 57th St, between 2nd & 3rd Aves, January 30th and 31st.

TIME STREAM Cont'd. Astronomical Society News, official organ of an astronomical society he heads... "Requiem", a yarn in the Jan. ASTOUNDING has same title and blurb used by this reporter in a story he has written for FANTASY NEWS Quarterly... Interesting items in SFCollector by SM.