

NEWS  
WHILE  
IT'S  
HOT!

# FANTASY-NEWS

the science fiction weekly newspaper.

PRICE:  
THREE  
ISSUES  
TEN  
CENTS.

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 9

SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1941

WHOLE NUMBER 140

- IN MEMORIAM

EARL SINGLETON

A GREAT STAN-

This issue of FANTASY NEWS is respectfully dedicated to the memory of Earl Singleton who died recently. He is said to have taken his life in a fit of despondency.

Singleton was well known as a publisher of Nepenthe, a magazine of fantastic verse, and a co-editor of Fanfare well known stfan mag and official organ of The Stranger Club of Boston, Mass.

This incident cast a shadow of gloom upon the Boskone, (The Boston Eastern Science Fiction Conference) which was to have been a joyous meeting of Eastern fans on February 16 in Cambridge, Mass.

All business was suspended and arrivals simply talked in hushed whispers. Only general discussion was attempted.

We shall remember Earl Singleton as we have remembered J. Francis Hatch, David R. Daniels, Robert E. Howard, and others who took "The Far Way".

Requiescat in pace.

-----  
ODD ITEMS by FN Reporters.

"Devil Asteroid", the story by Manly Wade Wellman begun in the 1st issue of Charles Beling's fan mag, Fan-Attic, will see print in its entirety in the fifth issue of F. Orlin Tremaine's COMET... Wilfred Owen Morley, author of poems in STIRRING SCIENCE STORIES, is really Robert W. Lowndes... A full page ad for COMET appears upon the back cover of AMAZING-MAN COMICS... A new comic book just out is SUB-MARINER.

## NAT SCHACHNER WRITES BEST SELLER?

Nat Schachner, well-known stf author, has a book just coming off the press which has already sold 5000 advance copies. The publishers believe it may prove to be a best seller. John W. Campbell, Jr. Editor of ASTOUNDING and UNKNOWN, has been holding a series of short yarns by Schachner waiting for a chance to cash in on the publicity the book would produce. Schachner has written several yarns concerning the adventures of a space-lawyer.

## THRILLING WONDER GOES BIMONTHLY !

THRILLING WONDER STORIES, the second oldest science fiction magazine, will go bi-monthly again after one year and four months of regular monthly appearance. Circulation complaints were voiced by Leo Margulies, Editorial Director, as far back as June 1940.

THRILLING WONDER has for years been one of the "Big Three", the league-leaders of the science fiction professional field.

With this move, TWS appears to have relingished its long battle to stay up at the top with the leaders. There have never been more than three leading monthlies in stf and apparently there is not room for more than three. What magazine will step into the big three competition to replace TWS?

MORE ODD ITEMS: L. Sprague deCamp's new book, "Lest Darkness Fall" has been reviewed in a recent inssue of The Herald Tribune, a N.Y. newspaper... Molecules one 75-thousandth of an inch long have been revealed by the new electron microscope. Though ordinarily forming in ert, dead crystals they become alive when placed in living tissue.



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# ----- BOOST S C I E N C E F I C T I O N -----

EDITORIAL by Will Sykora.

Does a rabid, fanatical pursuit of science fiction fan activities result in suicide? On the basis of four known suicides in the fantasy field, no sweeping conclusion such as this could be reached. Some fans, whose lack of a sense of values or who appear to have lost a sense of proportion causing them to see things out of focus with some aspects of the question looming huge and other aspects appearing as through Alice's wrong end of a telescope, seem to reach conclusions not borne out by a sufficiency of facts.

On the other hand, neuroses of one sort or another might conceivably develop. Novae in the fan field are common. A fan may start small. He may have only read stf for a year or two. He gets a few sample fan mags. He begins writing for them. Though a mere child, possibly, he is treated as a mature intellect. His ego bloats, and bloats, and finally --- bursts. Linus Hogenmiller is the earliest case I can recall. G.G. Clark, Willis Conover, Corwin Stickney, Jim Avery, Claire P. Beck, C. Hamilton Bloomer, Wilson Shepherd, and a few others seem to be typical cases. Merely as a matter of opinion I would say that Joe Gilbert and some of the Westwood boys are going the same way. There are certain similarities evident in Earl Singleton's case, as witness his super-activity in the Stranger Club.

All this of course is conjecture, and I hope no one will feel hurt by these surmises.

FAN MAG REVIEW by Harry Warner, Jr.  
Specula: vol. 1, no. 1. 86 small, finely mimeod pp for a dime. One of the most professional looking fan mags I've ever seen, with even margins, excellent illustrations, and contents mostly very excellent fiction. Best newcomer of 1941.  
Sun Trails: vol. 1, no. 1. 10 lg mimeod pp of most interesting articles for a nickel. Another nice beginning; both are available from 1426 W. 38th St, Los Angeles, Calif, and most definitely recommended.  
Le Zombie: vol. 4, no. 1. 20 lg mimeod pp with photo on cover, Fan gossip, articles, and such. this copy a dime. Box 260, Bloomington, Illinois.

Frontier: vol. 1, no. 4. "The magazine of significance", containing "different" articles and features. If you're a bit tired of the usual fan scandal, this ought to perk you up. 28 lg, excellently hektoed pp, a magazine no fan should be without. A dime; 3031 N. 36th St, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## ----- BEG PARDON -----

Recent material published in FANTASY NEWS re the Chicago S-F Convention (1940) seems to have been in error, although based on an eye witness report made at a meeting of the Queens SFL by Director Hyman Tiger, and Julius Unger.

According to an article in the last issue of Le Zombie, written by Bob Tucker, the register of the Chicon was signed 128 times, not 92 as reported in an editorial in FN, no. 131.

Rumors that Bob Tucker, Mark Reinsberg, and Erle Korshak, promoters of the Chicago Convention, pocketed the proceeds of the affair without authorization, are also without foundation according to Tucker, writing in Le Zombie. Actually, writes Bob, the members of The Illini Fantasy Fictioneers, in special session had VOTED to "give" all Chicon profits to the officers named.

Also contrary to a remark made by the editor of FANTASY NEWS in the above mentioned editorial, all questions were put to a vote.



**SCIENTIFILMS** by Mario Racic, Jr.

The new COLUMBIA Karlofffilm, "The Devil Commands", opened at the RIALTO in N.Y. on Feb 13. Karloff plays the part of a scientist seeking a method of communicating with the dead. His method consists of placing several corpses stolen from a local cemetery in metal suits looking like those used by deep sea divers and exposing them to electric discharges of terrific intensity. One of the "corpses" is not a corpse at all but the living body of a spiritual medium whom Karloff has exposed as a charlatan but who, he finds, is able to withstand extremely high voltage electricity. Slightly overdone to the point of absurdity in some scenes, this weirdly depressing melodrama is nevertheless well worth viewing.

Your scientifiilm editor, and Miss Frances Sykora, Mr. and Mrs. Will Sykora, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sykora recently formed a theatre party and saw Walt Disney's remarkable new artistic composition, "Fantasia", the former two for the second time. They all attest to the opinion that this work of Disney's is not a concert, nor a photoplay, nor a cartoon, but that it partakes of all three. You hear pictures and see music is about the only way it can be described.

WARNER BROS. will film "Arsenic and Old Lace", the current Karloff play. Eric Von Stroheim has been signed for the Karloff role when the play reaches Chicago. Bela Lugosi was a previous candidate. This will be von Stroheim's first appearance on the American stage, though he was an old silent film favorite and has been making movies in France for several years.

A possible weirdrama is PARAMOUNT'S, "The Mad Doctor", starring Basil Rathbone. The film opens at the CRITERION in N.Y. on Feb 26.

"King Of the Zombies", starring Bela Lugosi, has been scheduled as the forthcoming MONOGRAM production. Howard Bretherton has been signed to direct with Lindsley Parsons producing.

Bela Lugosi, in his(next col.)

**SCIENTIFILMS** Cont'd: first film for UNIVERSAL since "Black Friday", the horror hit of a year ago, will play a featured role in "The Black Cat", with Hugh Herbert, Brod Crawford, and Anne Gwynne. In "The Black Cat" a mystery comedy, Lugosi will essay the role of a dim-witted, cat-faced gardener, with appropriate make-up by UNIVERSAL'S facial wizard Jack Pierce. Production started Feb 20, under direction of Albert S. Rogell, with Burt Kelly as associate producer.

"Man-Made Monster", the Lon Chaney, Jr. horror-science film, is apparently the final title. The picture has been successively called "The Mysterious Dr. R", and "The Electrical Monster". Chaney, Jr. has been signed to an exclusive long-term contract by UNIVERSAL, under whose banner his late great father flourished in the silent film days. This may mean the production, soon, of more science-fantasy films by UNIVERSAL, such as "One Million B.C." and "Man-Made Monster", with Chaney, Jr. in important roles.

The 5th AV. PLAYHOUSE (which incidentally should be watched constantly for fantafilms) recently had an interesting psycho-analytical film program. The double feature included "Secrets Of a Soul", produced in republican Germany in 1926 under the supervision of Dr. Hans Sachs and the late Dr. Karl Abraham, collaborators of Dr. Sigmund Freud. Critics have called this picture "A triumph of sheer imagination...this FREUD picture combines pictorial effect with scientific accuracy..." and "it is stirring stuff, replete with symbols so erotic, that children will not be permitted entrance to the theatre during its run." and "The dream scenes are triumphs of ingenuity in the picturization of fantasies." The second feature was the well known "Eternal Mask", an enormously absorbing study in madness of a doctor's journey beyond sanity.

"The Face Behind the Mask" is a new Peter Lorre film which promises to be fantasy.



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