

Fantasy-Times

2nd Sept.

No 186

10¢



SEE
PAGE 3

WORLD'S OLDEST SCIENCE-FICTION NEWSPAPER

THE ACKERMAN REPORT

by Mr. Science-Fiction

"The Crooked Man", a narration of future aberration by Charles Beaumont, considered too hot to handle by McComas of F&SF, has rec'd an enthusiastic reception by anthologist J. Vernon Shea, Jr. who would like to use it as the tailpiece of a projected pocket-book anthology, "Odd Patterns of Love". For the records: Laura Jean Emsayne wrote the first known science-fiction yarn with lesbianism as the denouement but Curtis W. Casewit may be the first author to hit print with the no longer so verboten theme....Nudist Theodore Sturgeon has had five offers to date for reprint rights to his homosexual "World Well Lost" in #1 Universe...The cover of Uni #3 will be a collaborat'n between Mel Hunter & Malcolm Smith.... "Dinner at Garibaldi's", introducing Len Pagan, will be the feature fantasy in issue #2 of Malcolm's Magazine; L. Major Reynolds authored the fantasy in the first.

An estimated 2000 attended the first Flying Saucer Convention, 3-day display of psycho-ceramics (crackpots) in Hollywood, Aug 16 thru 18. Science fiction fans were notable by their absence. One note of substance and sanity: a one-man show of 59 pieces of the Space Art of Mel Hunter in an adjoining annex. One immediate result of the exhibit: 8 original Hunters will dress one set of Ivan Tors' next scientific, the 3-dimensional wide-screen technicolor production, SPACE STATION - USA.

(Aug 28): Nothing but the biggest news on the eve of my departure for the Philcons:

Four sales in 1 week for Charles Beaumont, starting off with the off-trail s.f. yarn, "The Crooked Man", to Esquire. His 10,000 word "Quadriopticon" bought by Boucher & McComas. In the Beautiful People series, "Mass For Mixed Voices" taken by Landes. And "The Duplicity of Brutus Dubois" purchased for the new one, Stardust!

(Concluded on page 8, column 1)

FILMS, RADIO & TV

by Lester Mayer, Jr.

I saw "War of the Worlds" the other night. I'm going on record, here and now, as saying it's one of the three greatest s-f pictures I've ever seen. It has everything a s-f fan could ask for: space ships, death and disintegration rays, anti-gravity rays, invisible force shields, real live BEMs, and more. All in color.

The picture is "based" on the Wells novel. The action is brought up-to-date and takes place in America, not England. Also a love story has been added. I'm satisfied and I think the majority of you will be, too. Wells' method of eliminating the aliens is left in the picture. It's still the most logical way.

I warn you, you'll be very sorry if you miss this one. I forgot to add one other enticement the picture has to offer. We are taken on a pictorial tour of the solar system. The artist responsible is - you guessed it - our old friend, Chesley Bonestell.

G. C. Pal, producer of WOTW, has another fantasy picture ready for release. It's the one about giant ants ("Lenington Versus the Ants"?). And "The Conquest of Space" will start production any day now.

One which has been in circulation several months now is "The Maze", based on the Maurice Sandoz novel. If you're a weird story enthusiast (I am) you'll want to see it. It's been years since I saw one like it. The picture has a very eerie atmosphere about it, Lovecraftian in fact, which is heightened by the 3-D process employed. The BEM in the picture is particularly gruesome.

On the other hand, "Tarzan and the She-Devil", which is being loudly ballyhooed as the "best of the Tarzan's" is the worse one I can remember seeing. Acting requirements, which never were very high, set a new low in this picture. Just plain pitiful. I won't pain you with the details of the plot. The series better liven up, though, or they won't be around much longer.

SUPPORT THE FANVETS

Fantasy-Times

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

13th YEAR - #186

Second September 1953 Issue

Vol. 8 - No. 18 - 10¢

SCIENCE FICTION DIGEST out in month 2nd VORTEX has 25 yarns

New York, N.Y., 12 Sept., (CNS) - The second issue of Vortex Science Fiction will contain no less than 25 short stories within its 160 digest-size pages. Proofs of the second issue show a better layout, better interior illustrations and cover. The stories have also improved.

About the issue, Chester Whitehorn its editor, states: "Its nature is that of an anthology, a cross section of American science-fiction in the shorter length. It contains more short stories than any magazine of its kind in the world, and its contributors were gathered, literally, from the four corners of the United States".

Among its 25 authors can be found: Marion Z. Bradley; L. Major Reynolds; J. T. Oliver; Gene Hunter and others. The magazine continues to sell for 35¢, and will have a somewhat quarterly publication date. As the first issue, this second issue is undated.

Cover by Martin, see reproduction of it on page one of this issue.

The ANNUAL FANVET CONVENTIONS held in New York are rated as the best ever held on the Eastern Coast. The next one will be held on April 13, 1954.

New York, N.Y., 12 Sept., (CNS) - The publishers of Vortex Science Fiction, will within a month have a new magazine of science-fiction on the newsstands, called: Science Fiction Digest. And following its title, it will be just that: a digest of s-f stories and articles from the slick usually non-s-f magazines like (the new) Argosy, Ecce, Impact etc. Chester Whitehorn is the editor and his aim is to do with science-fiction what Readers Digest has done with the regular reading field. This new publication will also contain numerous cartoons, also reprinted from the slicks. It will also reprint one or two items from the pulps to sort of round out the issues.

Cover will be by Martin, who will do some of the interiors also. It will be digest-size, 160 pages, 35¢, similar in general format with Vortex.

NEW LARGE SIZE S-F MAG COMING

Rumors and reports are coming in, so far unconfirmed, that a Chicago publisher is soon to put on the stands a new s-f magazine, in a size similar to Gernsback's Science-Fiction Plus.

SUPPORT THE FANVETS

british ASTOUNDING goes digest & 1/6d

by Michael Corper

London, England, 4 Sept., (CNS) - Starting with the November 1953 issue, the British reprint edition of Astounding Science Fiction will become digest size 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", contain 128pp and cost 1/6., and will contain double the reading material it has been presenting up to now. It will include many of the articles and departments that had been left out up to now. The covers, bordered on two sides only, will be careful reproductions of the USA originals. Its publishers Atlas state that it will be a much more worthwhile magazine. At present the British edition is published pulp size, 64 pages and sells for 9d. This is the first major change in size since Atlas first brought it out in 1939.

The November '53 issue will present to its readers: "...and a Star to Steer Her by" (Correy); Part III of Clements' "Mission of Gravity"; "Quiz Game" (Robinson); "Imposter" (Dick); "Secret" (Cahn); and "The Cog" (Fritch). With the exception of the two last named stories, the yarns derive from the USA June '53 edition, from which also "In Case of Fire" and "Whirligig World" (articles) and departments have been taken. Correy has done the cover.

BRITISH NEWS

by Michael Corper

Here is advance info. for Authentic Science Fiction, November 1953, as given me by Editor Campbell. Lead novel, "Subtle Victory" is by E. C. Tubb; short stories: "Highway i" (Chas. Eric Maine, author of "Spaceways"); and "Blemish" (John Christopher). Campbell says that no entry for the Competition was worth publishing.

As features there will be a "Solar

BRITISH "F&SF"

OUT SEPT. 11

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

by Michael Corper

London, England, 7 Sept., (CNS) - On September 11th, there will be another reprint magazine on the British stands. The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction will be reprinted here monthly, digest-size and cost 1/6 per issue. The first reprint issue will contain: "Mother" (Coppel); "The Spaceman" (Sauri); "Built Up Logically" (Schoenfeld); "Jetsam" (Chandler); "One In Three Hundred" (McIntosh); "Huge Beast" (Cartmill); "Conroy's Public" (Goulart); "Minister Without Portfolio" (Clingor-man); "The Isle of Voices" (Stevenson); "Soap Opera" (Nelson); and "Inefficiency Expert" (Robin). Cover is by Emsh, from the Sept '52 USA edition. The publishers in Great Britain are The Mollifont Press, Ltd., 1, Fumival Street, London, E.C.4, England.

System" article about Jupiter; an article on the electroencephalograph (second in the new series of science features on s-f topics); book reviews etc.

The cover will show the complete artificial satellite, of British design.

The British Astounding for October 1953 64 pp, 9d, will be the last to appear in its present form (see story on this page). The Oct. number will contain: "Medicine Show" (Robt. Moore Williams); Part II of Clements' "Mission of Gravity"; "Multifarious" (Budrys); and "Lady With A Past" (Irving E. Cox, Jr.) This issue is taken from the USA May '53 issue, with cover by Baer.

Kris Neville
Weaver Wright
Edward Ludwig
William Nolan
Arthur Jean Cox

write

The Skipper
The Lady Takes A Powder
A Comedy of Terrors
The Bradbury Years
Two Stories by Jack Vance

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PALMER'S THREE NEW MAGS TO BE PUBLISHED UNDER "PALMER PUBLICATIONS, INC."

Evanston, Ill., 18 Sept., (CNS) - Ray Palmer's three new magazines, Science Stories, Universe Science Fiction, and Mystic Magazine, will all appear under the banner of Palmer Publications, Inc., in the future and their office address will be 1144 Ashland Avenue, Evanston, Illinois; the same address as the old Other Worlds and Fate, before they moved.

Ray's new magazine Mystic is now on the stands containing occult, supernatural and fantasy stories; plus an excellent cover by St. John.

All three magazines will be edited by Ray Palmer and Bea Mahaffey and the Art Director will be Alfred Bernhard.

About the three mags, Miss Mahaffey had this to say: "We think we've got some good stories, well illustrated, in the next few issues of these mags—and we want to keep on improving."

The November 1953 issue of Universe Science Fiction will contain: "The Hungry Hercynian" by L. Sprague de Camp, "Everest" by Isaac Asimov, "Not In The Books" by Gene L. Henderson, "The Savages" by George H. Smith, "The Adventure of the Misplaced Hound" by Paul Anderson & Gordon Dickson, "Mr. Peavey's Tiger" by Holly Wolcott, "The Seasoned Traveller" by F. L. Wallace, "Night song" by William T. Powers, and "On Mars We Trod" by Eando Binder. Cover by Mel Hunter & Malcolm H. Smith (illustrating "Sunbathing In Space"); interiors by Donald Mills, Lawrence, John Grossman, Joseph R. Eberle, Edd Cartier, & Finlay.

The December issue of Science Stories will contain: "People Who Write" a bio of Edward Wellen, "Editorial", "Potential Zero" by John Bloodstone, "Root of Evil" by Edward Wellen, "The Bridge" by S. J. Byrne, "Quarterback Sneak" by T. P. Caravan, "She Was Sitting In The Dark" by Richard Dorot, and "Optical Illusion" by Mack Reynolds.

SLICK S-F

by Donald E. Ford

Bluebook, September 1953:

"Speak Boy!" by H. Allen Smith.

This couple got a prescription for their dog that gave it the ability to talk. After he did they were sorry. Fortunately the ability only lasted for 14 days on one dosage. One of those wacky fantasy things that is pleasant to read every now and then.

"The Great North Pole Lie" by John Fuller.

In this same issue there is this nine page article stating that Peary did not even reach the pole...it was a fake.

Saturday Evening Post, Aug 15 1953:

"The Day the Rocket Blew Up" by Lee Correy.

There are 4 rockets supplying the artificial satellite. This takes off from New Mexico and 400 miles up goes haywire. The crew jumps out (in pods) and the Pilot rides it down, rather than let it hit the town where his family lives. Pretty well done, however, it's a story more on the lines of the SEP than a Science Fiction story. I liked it, but there's that aura of sticky sweetness that the slicks emphasize in slanting to a women's market.

There's a photo of Correy in the back and they say Correy is a pen name. Also say he's a member of the American Rocket Society & the BIS.

LOOK for a FULL-PAGE of inside news and personal comments in "COSMIC REPORTER" by A.J. COX in our next issue.

Cover is by Finlay, interiors by Finlay, Michael Becker, Hornstein; also cartoons by Pierce & Burdoff.

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THE ACKERMAN REPORT

(concluded from page 2, column 1)

Stardust is also enthusiastic about the quality of writing in Kris Neville's "The Spark and the Fuel".

"FANTASY - TIMES"

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Chad Oliver doing the film script for the vidiversion of his own PSE science hit, "Technical Advisor".

Half hour telephone call to me re possibility of cinemadapting THE BLIND SPOT. Decision expected by time of my return to Hollywood.

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COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

L. Sprague de Camp discovered among Robert E. Howard's papers some half dozen manuscripts detailing the adventures of various barbarian warriors in mythic lands. He is revising them somewhat & they'll be published as "Conan" stories.It looks as if Campbell is once again doing "creative editing"; he's submitting prospective plots to various writers for development into stories for Astounding. ...I hear that Reginald Brethor's volume of Science Fiction has sold 1300 copies.

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1953



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