

# FANTASY-TIMES

"World's Oldest Science-Fiction Newspaper"

13th Year - #198

FIRST APRIL 1954 ISSUE

Vol. 9-No. 6 - 10¢

"THRILLING WONDER STORIES"

TO CELEBRATE ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

WITH THE SUMMER 1954 ISSUE

New York, NY, 15 April, (CNS) - The second oldest science-fiction magazine celebrates its 25th Anniversary with its next, Summer 1954 issue. First titled Science Wonder Stories when Hugo Gernsback first published it in 1929. It combined with Air Wonder Stories a year later & became Wonder Stories. It held that title until Gernsback sold it in 1936. When Pines bought it, the name was changed to Thrilling Wonder Stories and it has held that title ever since.

Thrilling Wonder Stories has usually been a bi-monthly, except during the war and during the present s-f recession, when its a quarterly. During the science-fiction boom of 1939-41, it became a monthly for a short time. We expect it to become a bi-monthly again soon as this recession is over. It started out at 25¢, but during its life has been  
(concluded on page 3)

"SPACEWAY" CUTS TO  
128 PAGES

BRITISH EDITION OF "SPACEWAY" OUT IN ENGLAND

Flushing, NY, 16 April, (CNS) - The June 1954 issue of Spaceway came out today with a page cut of 32 pages. The magazine started out as a 160 pager, now with its 4th issue it has cut its pages down to 128. This leaves only a very few s-f magazines, in digest-size, with a 160 pages. Namely they are Astounding, Galaxy, Science Fiction Adventures Beyond, Science Fiction Digest, Fantastic Universe. The rest, of the digests, contain 128 or 130 pages.

Spaceway has used bulkier paper with this issue, so it seems that it still contains 160 pages, when you buy it.

One item that the readers of Spaceway are going to kick about is the use of van Vogt's small article's title on the cover as if it were a story.  
(concluded on page 3)

"SCIENCE FICTION  
STORIES" NO 2  
DUE SOON.

New York, NY, 14 April, (CNS) - Editor Robert W. Lowndes announced today that his "one shot" Science Fiction Stories will see issue #2 sometime this early Summer. Issue #2, will, like #1, contain 130 pages, digest size, sell for 35¢ and will contain no ads whatsoever. Emsh has done a full color front cover and a black and white back cover. Interiors will be by Emsh, Freas, and Erban.  
(concluded on page 3)

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

## THE COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

The World's First Interplanetary Space Craft Convention, at Giant Rock, Calif., got off to a good start when, at 14 minutes to midnight, April 3rd, a giant fireball exploded over the convention site. The blazing object and the subsequent concussion threw some 2,000 flying saucer believers into an uproar, according to The Los Angeles Daily News. What the fireball was is not generally known but many present believe that it was a sign that "they" were near and ready to take everybody for a ride in a giant saucer; other more commonplace ideas as to what it was have also been put forth—for example, it was suggested that it was a starshell from the nearby Marine Base or a weather balloon rigged with hydrogen and a time-fuse—just as a SAC.

The convention was sponsored by George W. van Tassell, Manager of The Giant Rock Airport, who says that he has ridden in a flying saucer and talked "a Ronald Colemanish character" named Solganda, who piloted it. Solganda warned van Tassell that if Earth didn't stop messing around with atomic power the same thing was going to happen to it which happened to Moldek. Moldek was a planet of our Solar System which fooled around with atoms. It blew itself up.

The explosion tilted the Earth on its axis, causing the ice age, dried up Mars, and created the asteroid belt. Solganda says van Tassell is a member of the Adamic race, which inhabits or controls numerous solar systems. Some ten million Adamics are on Earth, running around in human form. He didn't explain what it was that so many "super-beings" found here to interest them.

Van Tassell wasn't the only person present who had ridden in a flying saucer. Orfeo Angellucci saw one parked on the ground near Los Angeles, "felt like someone else", entered it, it took off; there was a short flight after which it landed. He saw no one during this time. (Various Los Angeles fans have received semi illiterate or otherwise incoherent letters and circulars from Angellucci)

Truman Bethurum, a local scientist-logist, has ridden eleven times in a flying saucer. "The Captain was a woman, a pretty girl who looked about 26, but was really a grandmother. Her name was Aura Rhano. She was from the planet Clarion on the other side of the moon—and bossed a crew of 32 men".

The evening the convention started some of the saucerites got together and sang "Get In The Beam", which was supposed to attract flying saucer pilots. Van Tassell explained: "That's because we act like a generator, developing mental tele- (concluded on page 3)

## FANTASY BOOKS

by William Blackbeard

E PLURIBUS UNICORN, by Theodore Sturgeon, Abelard Press, 1953, 276 pp, \$2.75

In this necessarily truncated space, it is impossible to enter upon the extensive eulogy Theodore Sturgeon's best work deserves. But would such a eulogy be relevant here? Few, if any, of the readers of this journal can have remained unacquainted with or unenthused by the unique and enchanted imagination of this man. His stories have appeared in nearly every major magazine in the field (a minor ambition of his is to reach the contents pages of all science-fiction and fantasy magazines extant: an ambition frustrated by the mounting necrology of recent hopeful entries in the newsstand contest) and the faithful devotees of Planet Stories and of Galaxy alike have been exposed to the radiant prose and fey power of his fiction.

E Pluribus Unicorn comprises a long overdue second collection of Sturgeon's shorter pieces. Like Bradbury's The Golden Apples Of The Sun, this book contains two or three pieces which are not fantasy or science-fiction at all, and one of these, "Die, Maestro, Die" (an unfortunate title which was not changed in the book, as planned, to "Fluke") is the piece de la resistance of the col-



lection, a position narrowly contested by the tour de force grande, "Bianca's Hands", and the tour de force petite, "The World Well Lost". Actually, it is hard to assign any of the stories in this book to positions of prominence over the others; all are equally excellent, with the possible exception of the amusing and touching stag party anecdote, "Scars", which is hardly a story at all.

However, it must be admitted that none of the pieces in this collection equal some of the stories in Sturgeon's first, and best, anthology, Without Sorcery (Prime Press, 1946, \$3.00). The author himself has yet to equal such tales as "Microcosmic God", "It", and "Maturity" in his short fiction of the past few years. Let no one read an implication here that Sturgeon's talents are failing, however: his recent novel, More Than Human (Ballantine, 1953, \$2.00, 35¢ pb) is the most exciting and compelling piece of fiction he has ever written.

E Muribus Unicorn is further distinguished by an amusing and perceptive introduction by Groff Copelin, an appendix listing all the Sturgeon tales to be anthologized in hard cover and paperback anthologies to date, and the worst book jacket of 1953, an atrocity perpetrated by someone named A. M. Janss. (Mr. Blackbeard will review The Green Millennium, by Fritz Leiber, in issue #199 of Fantasy Times.)

"THRILLING WONDER STORIES" (concluded from page 1) mostly a 15¢ magazine. During the post-war period it jumped price to 20¢ and then to its present-day 25¢. Once its page number was as high as 180 per issue.

The 25th Anniversary issue will contain: "The Golden Helix" by Sturgeon; "Time Pawn" by Dick; "The Wall" by Stearns; "End As A Robot" by Marsten; "Process Shot" by Merwin; "A Dream Dying" by Reynolds; "Trade In" by Marks; "Lost On a Magnetic Field" by Richardson and "The Masters" by Cogswell. Editor Sam Hines will have an editorial on the 25th Anniversary and the cover by Goggins will have a bold strip proclaiming its 25th Anniversary.

Our congratulations to Sam Hines, Mr. Pines, and the rest of the boys and girls at Standard, may we both be around to celebrate its 50th Anniversary.

#### "SPACEWAY"

(concluded from page 1) We feel that we must slap editor Crawford's wrist, for this, as it is not the thing to do to win the confidence of his readers. Let's keep Spaceway on the level, eh Bill?

The first British Edition of Spaceway is out in England, reports indicate. It will be issued there bi-monthly at 1/6 per issue. The first issue there features "Spaceways To Venus" by Charles Eric Raine, and "Slaves Of The System" by J. T. Oliver among other stories. Copies can be obtained

from MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE  
Dept. FT, 68 Victoria St.,  
LIVERPOOL 1, ENGLAND.

#### "SCIENCE FICTION STORIES"

(concluded from page 1)

The only stories picked so far are by H. C. Pease, Winston K. Marks, and Lesser.

The issue, in keeping with an anthology atmosphere, will contain no date or volume number.

#### THE COSMIC REPORTER

(concluded from page 2) pathis powers raised to the power of the number of people present". Shortly after this, word got around that there was "a real girl from Venus" present, and the singing party broke up to search for her. It turned out to be pretty Dolore Barrios, 24, of Venice (Calif.).

The convention lasted through the 4th.

#### QUICK CASH NEEDED AT ONCE!

More of my collection must go! ASTOUNDING: Large size very good - 1942: Jan, Feb, June. 1953: Jan. ASTOUNDING: Regular size - good to very good, with only two back covers missing. 1931: Apr, June. 1932: June, Sept, Nov. 1933: Oct, Nov, Dec. 1934: Jan (like MINT! Beautiful cover!), May, Sept, Oct, Nov. 1935: May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct. MORE MORE LATER. John Wassco, 119 Jackson Ave., Pen Argyl, Pa.

NEW BRITISH S-F BOOKS IN EXCHANGE FOR AMERICAN S-F MAGAZINES, write for details. MILCROSS BOOK SERVICE, (Dept. FT), 68 Victoria St. LIVERPOOL 1, ENG.



## FANTASY - TIMES

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Today!"

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Published semi-monthly by  
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RATES: US, Canada & Mexico  
10¢ a copy, 12 for \$1 from  
James V. Taurasi, 137-03  
32nd Ave., Flushing 54, NY.  
BRITISH RATES: 9d per copy  
15s0d. per year from MILL-  
CROSS BOOK SERVICE, 68  
Victoria St., LIVERPOOL 1,  
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### FANTASY-COMICS

by James V. Taurasi

For the past few weeks,  
there have been numerous  
items in the newspapers on  
the investigation into the  
horror and crime comic  
books published in the US.  
William Gaines has been  
in the midst of this with  
his publication of many of  
the horror comics. (We  
were happy to see that no  
word was said against his  
super Weird Science-Fan-  
tasy and the excellent  
AD.) The we do not care  
for the horror or crime  
comics, we must take a  
stand against the ugly  
thought of censorship that  
has come up. We are ag-  
ainst censorship in any  
form. We feel that once  
censorship is placed a-

gainst even the worse hor-  
ror comics, it will be the  
open door to censor every-  
thing, including this  
newspaper. Once censor-  
ship comes, WE HAVE LOST  
ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT  
FREEDOMS. Then we'll see  
in the U.S., what has hap-  
pened in Australia so many  
times. There GIFT packag-  
es of the most conservative  
science-fiction magazines  
have been confiscated, op-  
ened and burned. What the  
answer is to prevent the  
publication of bad horror  
comics is we do not know,  
but we do know that any  
form, no matter how mild  
or sugar-coated, of censor-  
ship is NOT the answer or  
the American way.

SLICK S-F

by Donald E. Ford

### Mechanix Illustrated.

May, 1954:

Some stills from the  
current 3-D s-f movie  
called: CREATURE FROM THE  
BLACK LAGOON. Cover also  
has a photo of the Gill-  
man.

Life also had some sim-  
ilar coverage.

Adventure, June 1954:

"The Secret Weapon" by

### FANTASY-TIMES

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John Ruge. Good story by  
Clarke. New detergent is  
developed in England. St-  
clen by Red Spy. Hero  
discovers a counter reag-  
ent to it, or whole coun-  
try would be covered by 50  
feet of foam if Reds would  
drop this stuff in Atlan-  
tic Ocean. Clarke also us-  
es fan names for charact-  
ers' names in story. Get  
this issue.

Collier's, April 30, '54

"Is There Life On Mars?"

by Dr. Fred L. Whipple;  
"Can We Get To Mars?" by  
Dr. Wernher von Braun &  
Cornelius Ryan. Illos by  
Bonestell. These two ar-  
ticles cover 9 pages & al-  
so cop the cover. I thought  
the article was dull &  
didn't finish reading it;  
however, the art work is  
worth getting the mag for.

Another good reason is  
the 3rd installment of:  
"Dark Dominion" by David  
Duncan.

Life, April 12 & 19, '54

Both issues have lead  
articles on the H Bomb.

The number after your name  
on the address sticker is  
the number of the last is-  
sue of F-T you have coming.



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