

# "S F ADVENTURES" PLANS FOR REVIVAL DROPPED

(story on this page)

A Fandom House Publication

IN TWO  
SECTIONS

## Fantasy-Times

SECTION  
ONE

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

14th YEAR, Vol. 10, p. #313

FIRST MARCH 1955 ISSUE

Ten Cents

"THRILLING WONDER" &  
"FANTASTIC STORY"  
COMBINE WITH  
"STARTLING STORIES"

New York, NY, 28 February, (CNS) - Sad news hit the science-fiction world today with the announcement that Standard Magazines had combined Thrilling Wonder Stories and Fantastic Story Magazine with Startling Stories, effective with the Spring 1955 issue of Startling Stories. Thus after 26 years, the second oldest science-fiction magazine in the world loses its own home and makes its new home with its sister magazine.

The new combined magazine will bear the title, Startling Stories combined with Thrilling Wonder Stories and Fantastic Story Magazine. It will continue the Startling volume numbering, the Spring issue being Vol. 33, No. 1. It will continue pulp-size, 114 pages and 25¢. It will contain stories originally bought both for Startling and TWS. No reprints will be used, unless the readers demand it. If they do; the "Hall Of Fame" department, dropped when  
(concluded on page 4, column 1)

### NO REVIVAL FOR "S F ADVENTURES"

New York, NY, 28 February, (CNS) - Harry Harrison announced today that plans for the revival of his magazine Science Fiction Adventures have been dropped and that all material has been returned to their owners.

For about a year now, Harrison has been trying to revive S-F Adventures and at times also announced plans for a revival of its companion magazine, Space Science Fiction or a similar magazine. Now all plans have been dropped. The plans for revival called for 160 pages, digest-size magazine, selling for 35¢. A monthly schedule was planned, or a bi-monthly schedule and a bi-monthly companion magazine.

(concluded on page 4, column 1)



by Arthur Jean Cox

Here are a few titles of interest to science-fiction readers from the Spring Announcement Number of Publishers' Weekly:

"The Case For The UFO", (Unidentified Flying Objects) by Morris K. Jessup, illustrated, 320 pages, \$3.50, Citadel Press, March 1955.

"The Devil's Pretty Daughter" (and Other Ozark Folk Tales) by Vance Randolph, illustrated by Glen Rounds, \$3.75 Columbia, April 1955.

"The Old Die Rich" (and Other Science Fiction Stories) by H. L. Gold, \$3.00, Crown, February 1955.

"Into Space" by P. E. Cleator, illustrated, \$3.50, Crowell, February 21, 1955.

"Who Goes There?" by John W. Campbell, Jr., Dell pocketbooks, 25¢, April 1955.

"The Edge Of Running Water" by William Sloan, re-issue, \$3.00, Dodd, Mead.

"A Way Home", eleven stories by Theodore Sturgeon, selected and edited by Groff Conklin, \$3.50, Funk and Wagnall's.

"The Exploration Of The Moon" by Arthur C. Clarke and R. A. Smith, illustrated, \$2.50, Harpers, March 30, 1955.

"The Flying Saucer Conspiracy" by Donald E. Keyhoe (at it again!), \$3.50, Henry Holt, May 1955.

"Inquiry Into Science Fiction" by Basil Davenport, \$2.25, Longman's, April, 1955.

"Earthman, Come Home" by James Blish, \$3.50, G. P. Putnam, February 11, 1955.

"The POGO Peek-A-Book" by Walt Kelly, \$1.00, Simon & Schuster, May 16, 1955.

"Salamanders and Other Wonders", Still More Adventures of a Romantic Naturalist, by Willy Ley, illustrated, \$3.95, Viking.

"Earthlight" by Arthur C. Clarke, 35¢ in pocketbook form and \$2.00 hardbound, Ballantine, February 14, 1955.

"Dark Carnival" by Ray Bradbury, 35¢ in pocketbook form and \$2.00 hardbound, Ballantine, March 14, 1955. Six of these stories have never before been published in book form, but I understand that some of the stories in the original edition have been omitted.

(concluded on page 4, column 2)

by Michael Corper

Vargo Statten tells me that his magazine, The British Science Fiction Magazine, will be using the same cover permanently from now on.

The London morning paper News Chronicle on November 27, 1954, reported that when a wall was decorated with a man on a mule at the General Hospital, King's Lynn, England, in a young patients' ward, the older children (9-10 years) objected because it was 'too old fashioned' and 'kid's stuff'. "Let's have spaceships and men from Mars", they clamored.

Tit-Bits, 3d. weekly, in its December 11, 1954 issue announces for its December 18th number the opening instalment of a serial dealing with Marog, a robot monster created by a mad scientist. Background: London.

December 8, 1954 - The film, 'The Creature From The Black Lagoon', is now being shown in London.

The daily News Chronicle, dated November 30, 1954, reports that a 12-day Exhibition of horror comics is to be held at the House Of Commons from Monday, December 6, 1954. It has been borrowed from the National Union Of Theatres (see previous news-item in "British S-F News"). Instead of 30 sets of film strips showing extracts from comics, 50 will be produced following many demands.

December 11, 1954 - Still re horror comics: The Press reported yesterday that the Government came to the conclusion it must consider introducing a Bill protecting youngsters against the mags. This was apparently stated by the Home Secretary, Major Lloyd-George who would, however, prefer that the problem were dealt with other means. The Government is anxious to restrict it to horror comics and not to include other publications. The matter will come before Parliament as soon as possible.

SUPPORT THE FANVETS



Paterson, New Jersey, 1 March, (CNS) - Counter Ray Van Houten of the Fanvet ballots announced today that Frank R. Prieto, Jr. had won the Commandership of THE FANTASY VETERANS ASSOCIATION and that James V. Taurasi, Sr., was the new Secretary. Prieto was the Secretary of the organization for 1954, and at the same time was Acting-Commander as the Commander-elect Bob Adeler had rejoined the US Air Force right after election and could not carry on as Commander.. For full information about the Fanvets write to James V. Taurasi, Secretary, 137-03 32nd Avenue, Flushing 54, New York.

## "FANTASY & S F" MAKES SPECIAL AWARD TO KIRK DOUGLAS

New York, NY, 18 February - Jules Verne, father of modern science-fiction, shared honors recently with actor Kirk Douglas and the Walt Disney Studios when the Magazine Of Fantasy And Science Fiction made a special award to Douglas for his role in the Disney production of "20,000 Leagues Under The Sea".

The award, presented to Actor Douglas by Fantasy And Science Fiction publisher Joseph W. Ferman, was made "for his outstanding performance in Jules Verne's '20,000 Leagues Under The Sea' and in recognition to his contribution in his splendid recreation by Walt Disney of a masterpiece of creative imagination and scientific foresight by the father of modern science-fiction".

In this new Cinemascope production of Verne's immortal chronicle of life in the depths of the sea, Douglas plays the part of Ned Land, the American harpooner captured by Nemo after the attack on the armed frigate.

Although Verne's masterpiece of life below the water was written in 1870, Disney technicians still had trouble with some of the devices he described. Verne claimed that the crew of the Nautilus could don diving suits and walk about without any air hoses or air lines linking them to the submarine. Only one such self-contained suit had ever been tried. The British developed it as an emergency measure, using a chemical rebreathing process, but it was considered so hazardous that it was employed only during wartime on "suicide missions". After months of research, Disney's team of diving and designing experts came up with a practical suit which met all of Verne's requirements.

## FORMER EDITOR OF "ASTOUNDING" ILL

Stony Creek, Ny, 17 Jan. 1955, (CNS) - F. Orlin Tremaine, formerly editor of Street & Smith's Astounding Stories from 1933 to 1937, and also remembered as editor of Comet Stories in the days just before WW II, is recuperating from a serious illness here in the mountains of Northern New York State.

Mr. Tremaine was editorial director of several non-s-f magazines when ill health forced him to give up work last April. Doctors say, "total and permanent disability", but Mr. Tremaine is not accepting the finality of their statement, and treatment has brought some improvement.

Fantasy - Times wishes Mr. Tremaine all good things towards a speedy and complete recovery, and looks forward to the day when he will again be the editor of a s-f publication.

## "PREFERRED RISK" WINS "GALAXY" CONTEST

New York, NY, 22 February, (CNS) - Edson McCann's "Preferred Risk" is the winning novel in the current Galaxy Science Fiction-Simon And Schuster Novel contest. It will appear in Galaxy Science Fiction as a four part serial, starting with the June 1955 issue. It will be published as a hard-covered book by Simon & Schuster towards the end of 1955. It is a full-length s-f novel of about 75,000 words.

About 300 novels were sent to this contest, with a total wordage of about 20,000,000 words.

They combined a diving helmet, a close-

(continued on page 4, column 2)



"THRILLING WONDER STORIES" AND  
"FANTASTIC STORY MAGAZINE" COMBINE WITH  
"STARTLING STORIES"

(concluded from page 1, column 1)

Fantastic Story was born, will be re-  
vived. It is hoped that the new com-  
bined magazine will show enough increa-  
se in circulation that eventually it  
will be a monthly. For the time being,  
it will continue as a quarterly. This  
combination is an experiment with the  
hope of better stories and eventually

monthly publication. With this news  
the science-fiction field is left with  
but three pulp magazines: The above  
combination, Science Fiction Quarterly,  
and Planet Stories; all 25¢ and all  
published quarterly.

The last issue of Thrilling Wonder  
Stories under its own cover, was the  
Winter 1955 issue, the last Fantastic  
Story Magazine was Spring 1955 issue.

Thrilling Wonder was born in June  
1929 as Science Wonder Stories. One  
year later it combined with Air Wonder  
Stories born July 1929. Both magazines  
were then published and edited by Hugo  
Gernsback. After the combination it  
was called Wonder Stories. Gernsback  
published it until 1936 when Standard  
bought it. The magazine was a monthly,  
until 1935 and has been a bi-monthly  
since, except for a little over a year,  
just before World War II. During the  
War it was a quarterly, returning to  
bi-monthly after the war and going back  
to quarterly in 1953. At its peak after  
the War it contained 180 pages.

Fantastic Story saw the light of  
day in Spring 1950 as Fantastic Story  
Quarterly. Soon after it became Fan-  
tastic Story Magazine and a bi-monthly.  
It went back to quarterly in 1953.

Startling Stories was born in 1939  
as a bi-monthly, went quarterly during  
the War, became a monthly during the  
recent "boom" and also went bi-monthly,  
and then quarterly in 1953.

Both British Editions of Thrilling  
Wonder and Startling folded a few months  
ago. No British Edition of Fantastic  
Story ever appeared.

"S-F ADVENTURE" REVIVAL DROPPED

(concluded from page 1, column 2)

Mr. Harrison states in his an-  
nouncement the possibility of a revival.

of S-F Adventures in the Fall of 1955.

Mr. Raymond, the publisher, is at  
present publishing such pocket magazines  
as Quick, Dare and He.

With the dropping of all plans for  
S-F Adventures it leaves, number of pa-  
ges-wise, Astounding as King with 160  
pages and Galaxy a close second with  
144 pages.

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(concluded from page 2, column 1)

"Science Fiction Terror Tales" edited  
by Groff Conklin, \$3.50, Gnome Press,  
February 20, 1955. To be published one  
month later by Pocket Books at 25¢.

An untitled science-fiction anthol-  
ogy, edited by Judith Merril, 35¢, Lion  
Books, March 1955.

"FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION" MAKES AWARD

(concluded from page 3, column 2)

fitting rubber suit, and the aqua-lung.  
Air from the aqua-lung is piped, via an  
ingenious arrangement of tubes and hos-  
es, into the diver's mouth. Believed  
to be the first practical self-contain-  
ed diving suits ever invented, these  
outfits represent a major step forward  
for undersea exploration.

Another "first" was chalked up wh-  
en the standard Mitchell movie camera  
was made into a self-contained unit,  
without entangling air and power lines  
to the surface. Housed in a pressuriz-  
ed, water-tight case, it had precision  
external controls to adjust the lens  
stop and focus, plus a special automa-  
tic device which kept the pressure in-  
side the case three pounds greater than  
the outside pressure at any level.

This is the first award of merit  
that Fantasy & Science Fiction has made  
to a motion picture. Commenting on it,  
publisher Ferman declared, "Our sincere-  
est hope is that there will be more and  
more pictures in the science-fiction  
and fantasy vein which merit awards.  
We'll be looking forward to better stf  
pictures and we hope they won't be long  
in coming."

COME TO THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE EAST-  
ERN UNITED STATES: THE 5th ANNIVERSARY-  
FANVET CONVENTION, Sunday, April 17 '55,  
at Werdermann's Hall, 3rd Ave & E. 16th  
Street, New York City. ADMISSION FREE,  
Program starts at 1:00 P.M.



conducted by J. Harry Vincent

### "GALAXY NOVEL" #23 OUT IN MARCH

Galaxy Novel #23 will be on the newsstands during March 1955, and will contain "Murder in Space" by David V. Reed, a reprint from Amazing Stories.

### "BEYOND" DELAYED AGAIN

Beyond Fiction #10, has been delayed again. The new schedule calls for it to be on the newsstands near the end of March 1955, while subscribers should be getting it around the 15th of March. Mr. Guinn still has plenty of trouble with his new press. It is probably one of the largest in the East and has a paper folder and stitcher attached to it. When they get it in full operation it can turn out 7,000 complete magazines (without covers) an hour. Bob Guinn bought the press in 1951, and to date hasn't been able to get the bugs out of it. Two experts he has called in, one from Canada and another from an engineering job in South America, have died (of natural causes) while attempting to get the press in operation. It seems a perfect "hexed" press to publish Beyond on.

### BABY GIRL BORN TO THE ASIMOVs

Waltham, Mass., 23 February, (CNS) - On Saturday, February 19, at the hour of 4:30 A.M. Isaac Asimov (with the kind cooperation of his wife, Gertrude, to whom he can never be sufficiently grateful) became the proud father of a baby girl. This is his second child, the first being a boy (David), now 3½ years old. The little girl's name is not yet officially decided upon.

### 2nd "TOPS IN S-F" OUT IN ENGLAND

Tops In Science Fiction #2 is out in England. It is digestsize, 128 pages and has 3 stories: "The First Man On The Moon" by Alfred Coppel; "The Rocket-teers Have Shaggy Ears" by Keith Bennett (the no author is listed in this British Edition); and "Black Friar Of The Flames" by Isaac Asimov, all reprinted from the 1st American Tops In

### Science Fiction.

This issue is printed by Hollyfield Printers, Ltd., Friern Barnet, London, N.11, and is distributed by Gaywood Press, Ltd., 30 Gaywood Street, London, S.E.1, England, and sells for 1/6.

The cover has a nude green alien, who is looking at an Earthman who looks like he's warning the alien not to come closer. In the background is a wrecked spaceship at the base of a mountain range.

The cover and printing is very good this issue. -Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

### "FATE" OUT IN ENGLAND

A British Edition of Fate is now being published in England. The first issue was published in November 1954. It comes out monthly and sells at 1/-. The editorial staff there consists of: James Leigh as editor; Robert N. Webster (Ray Palmer) as associate editor along with Chester S. Geier; Mary and Curtis Fuller, and Ardienne Arden. It is published by Press Books Ltd, The Manor House, Worcester Park, Surrey; and distributed by Atlas Publishing & Distributing Co., Ltd., 18 Bride Lane, London, EC4, (Publishers and distributors of the British Edition of Amazing). The British Fate is a combination of American articles and British material, with what seems like a predominant of British material. The February issue (current) has a cover by Virgil Finlay and 9 stories, 8 articles, 5 features and 3 forecasts. These forecasts are on the nature of predictions for your personal guidance like horoscopes and astrology.

This is the second series of British Editions to appear. The first appeared in England a number of years ago and unlike these that reprint the American covers in full colors, they had black and white British covers.

-Frank R. Prieto, Jr.

### "AMAZING STORIES" GAIN

With the return of the departments in Amazing Stories, Howard Browne reports a sharp upward swing in circulation. Although it is too early to gauge, it seems that the better covers, illustrations and departments was just "the shot in the arm" that Amazing needed to bring it out of its slump.



# FANTASY - COMICS

by Lane Stannard

Space Adventures which just about quit being a science-fiction comic a while back when it featured, almost entirely, "The Beetle", a detective comic, now has returned to the s-f field and has renamed itself Space Adventures - Rocky Jones, Space Ranger. Almost the entire book is taken up with adventures of Rocky Jones. It is pure space adventure, and not as good as Space Adventures used to be. Current issue is #15 dated March 1955 and is published bi-monthly.

Tom Corbett, Space Cadet has been sold by Dell to Feature Publications. While Dell had it, it was a quarterly, under Feature it's a bi-monthly, still 10¢ and 32 pages. Their first issue is dated May-June 1955 and Vol. 2, No. 1. Under the new owners the stories are much poorer, as is the art work. Also under Dell each issue contained one long story while under Feature a number of short stories are used. While poorer than when Dell had it, it still is a good space opera comic.

Feature was once the publisher of Frankenstein Comics, which folded last year.

Editora Sol, has just published their #8 edition of Fantastico, March 1955. This magazine is printed in Spanish and published in Mexico & reprints from the United States science-fiction comics. This issue is a reprint of one of the issues of Speed Carter, Spaceman, an Atlas Comic, no longer being published.

## FANDOM HOUSE

Publishers of Fantasy-Times

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# FANTASY - TIMES

S-F Newsoscope and Fantasy-Comics  
"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

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# Fantasy-Times

## BOOK REVIEWS

SECTION

2

HELL'S PAVEMENT by Damon Knight, Lion Books, 1955, 192pp, 35%.

Damon Knight's maiden novel is a weird and wonderful account of the most intellectually terrifying future society conceived in fiction since the late George Orwell's "1984". And Knight's grisly world of 2134 is a good deal more convincing than the one the English novelist wove out of a defensible but overwrought political pessimism: given the initial premise of Knight's analogue machines, what follows from their misuse by mankind's mentors is a matter of simple and inescapable extrapolation.

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Precisely. And, in Knight's Hell's Pavement, it is even frequently guarded by "angels" with flaming swords. These "angels" are the products of the hideously efficient analogue machines, which, by the time the novel gets under way, have been used to instill inhibitive illusions into the minds of almost every human being on earth. These illusions take many guises, and "guard" their human hosts against a myriad of "anti-social" acts, depending on which of the multitude of self-delimited societies the hosts inhabit. In the hypertrophied world known to the novel's hero, Arthur Bass, the illusion takes the shape of an angel with a sword, which appears as a fiery warning before the temporarily insane eyes of the potential "wrongdoer". Children are even forewarned of the visitation they can expect after processing from the sacred analogue machines:

"If a sin I would commit,

Angels stand 'twixt me and it.

If I would a duty shirk,

Conscience guide me to the work."

The vision is so terrible and convincing that, in a society which believes it to be the visitation of an actual angel, it need appear at a crucial moment but once or twice to an average person. After that, they watch their step.

which, of course, makes the introduction into the story of "lesser breeds without the Law" a necessity for the development of conflict. Bass is one of these, an "Immune". Although processed by the analogue machine like all of his fellows, at the age of seven, Bass never acquired an angel. Since seemingly terrible things happen to known Immunes, Bass keeps the knowledge of his lack to himself -- he is at once fearful and ashamed. By the time the novel begins, he has become something of a neurotic wreck as a result. But it's not long before he encounters other Immunes, and then -- however, it's Knight's story from there, and a damned delightful one it is, too.

At last comment on the plot, incidentally, might be in order here: as its traditional in science-fiction stories dealing with a seemingly hopeless future, there is in Hell's Pavement One Last Best Hope. In this case, the "Hope" is the subversive organization of the Immunes. Usually, such benevolent organizations are presented "straight", in clear-cut conflict with the powers of evil, with the hero steadfast in the right corner. However, Knight is too subtle and careful a writer to lose any chance of tautening the reader's interest and sense of engagement. During much of the last half of the novel, therefore, the hero entertains growing doubts about the moral worth of the Immune organization, and even wonders what sort of threat it represents to himself. Certainly he



has good reason to do so, and the reader shares his anxieties. When at last he learns that some of his worst fears are grounded in fact, his -- and, I suspect, the reader's -- reaction will prove altogether unexpected.

But the bare bones of an introductory summary of this sort can give little more than a hint of the full-fledged charm and intelligence with which Knight tells his tale. His handling of his complex material proves continually provocative and original. Especially is this true in his manner of narration. Some readers are going to be briefly perplexed at points, for Knight is apt to introduce some of the uncannier aspects of his future world suddenly and without any introductory warning -- the explanation or clarification comes later. One such scene is that of Bass in a "shooting gallery", which takes on a gruesomely knightmarish character as a result. This technique is effective in continually engaging the reader's curiosity, provided he recognizes the technique for what it is, and not as a malign attempt to confuse him.

The structure of the novel is not without flaw, unfortunately, especially in its last third, where internal evidence would seem to indicate either extensive cutting or careless and hurried writing. This particularly affects the entire episode in which Bass and a female Immune are trapped in the fantastic community known as "The Blank". The weirdness and uneathliness of the scene is so much at variance with the relatively mundane backgrounds previously encountered by Bass that it needs to bulk larger and more effectively in the substance of the novel as a whole, or should have been omitted entirely. Nor does the cramped space allotted the episode in the book apparently permit Knight a sufficiently convincing explanation of how the inhabitants of The Blank manage to accomplish their apparent mental wonders, or what their accomplishments may mean to the "good" future the Immunes are theoretically engaged in building.

To finally summarize, Hell's Pavement -- despite a title which, regardless of its origin in a familiar and

appropriate maxim, manages to suggest something Norvell Page might have bestowed on one of his selections from the notebooks of Richard Wentworth, The Spider -- is a bright and promising first novel. It is, too, one of the rare pieces of science-fiction to deal more than subconsciously with the problem of morality -- a concern also noticeable in the writings of a science-fiction author who deserves more critical attention than he has received, Jack Vance. A quotation from the un-Wentworth-like notebooks of Knight's character, Archdeputy Lauder milk, will serve to illustrate this unusual aspect and to close this review of what may be the best science-fiction novel of 1955:

"10414. The conviction that we are all put here to work out a series of complex ethical problems, the rules of which are never stated. An inner thing, stronger now than ever; I am less and less able to believe that it has anything to do with childhood conditioning. I find the same note everywhere; it's the one essential; you can feel it under the most diverse and hardened patinas of dogma and disbelief. Man, the problem-solving animal; but at bottom all the problems are moral."

--Bill Blackbeard

#### ANNOUNCING

The revival of that famous pre-war fanzine

#### FANFARE

Quarterly, Spring issue due March '55  
sixteen printed pages  
Sub: One Dollar Yearly

Editor: Frank Paro, 252 West 3rd St.,  
South Boston 27, Mass.

Wanted: To complete the files of Fantasy Times; The British SCOOPS #10. Write to Fantasy-Times, FANDOM HOUSE, P. O. Box #2331, Paterson 23, New Jersey.

Wanted: Toy Train catalogs before 1946. Taurasi, 137-03 32 av, Flushing 54, NY.