

FANTASY TOYS



J. GIUNTA

JULY 1948 - 15¢



FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

JAMES V. TAURASI, editor and publisher

Ray Van Houten and Sam Moskowitz, co-editors
Dr. Thomas S. Gardner, science editor; Alex Os-
heroff, book editor; Milton A. Rothman, Phila-
delphia editor and John Giunta, art editor

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C O V E R

Our cover illustrates the first trip to the moon; a member of the Moon Rocket plants the US flag. It is drawn by John Giunta.

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FANTASY - TIMES

A Cosmic Publication

THESE FANTASY TIMES

ONLY 18 ~~pages~~ this time, which by the way, is more or less standard for our 15cents FANTASY - TIMES. We will from time to time tho, as the situation demands, add more pages. In order to keep the pages down to 18 and thus come out on time, we have had to leave out of this issue THE FANTASY CORNER, cut down a bit on ON THE NEWSSTANDS and leave out bits of odds and ends that had come in. We hope to reach "near" normal in the near future.

As this issue travels in the mails, some of you will be at the TORCON, The Sixth World Science Fiction Convention, held in Canada, the rest of you, like us, wish we were there. We expect to bring the convention to all of you; via the TORCON REPORT, which we hope to have on hand to publish next issue. For those of you who wish a copy of our PHILCON REPORT, published last year, we now have a number of reprint copies on hand. Only 10 cents a copy. Only a limited number was reprinted so if you want it, send for it at once.

FANTASY-TIMES brings a new service to our subscribers! A FREE service to all collectors of fan magazines. Starting with the next issue we will print FREE ads "For Sale" or "Wanted" fan magazines. If you have back issue fan magazines for sale or you need a few issues to complete your collection; send us a list (with prices on the For Sale items) and we will publish them FREE. No strings attached! We reserve the rights to reject any ad, tho. Oh yes, current publishers can offer their back issues for sale, but no ads for current issues, please. Current issues come under our low Ad rates of \$1 a page, 50¢ a half page and 25¢ a quarter page. Books and pro magazines also come under paid advertising.

Now that the Draft is back with us and some of our younger science fiction fans will soon be in the ARMED SERVICE, FANTASY-TIMES will publish, late this Fall, an Armed Service Edition for these boys and this will be mailed to them, FREE. It will be a continuation of our famous Continental Edition that we published for the fans in the Armed Service from Le Harve, France, during the last war. If and when you enter the service, or if you know of a fan that has been called in, let us know and we'll put you or him on our Armed Service Edition mailing list.

-JAMES V. TAURASI, editor

The Cosmic Reporter

by Lane Stannard

Brooklyn, N.Y. July 29 (CNS) This is being typed at the home of John Giunta, at which Jimmy Taurasi, Johnny and us are putting the finishing touches on this issue of FANTASY-TIMES.

John Giunta has done the cover for the next (Oct. '48) WEIRD TALES. It illustrates Ted Sturgeon's yarn, "The Perfect Host". We have seen the roughs for this cover and rate it A-plus. Johnny is also doing a black and white inside illustration for "The Thirteenth Floor" by Frank Gruber, to appear in a future WEIRD TALES.

Johnny has just been assigned a third cover for WEIRD TALES and we'll give you more information on this in the near future.

Johnny's next FANTASY-TIMES cover will illustrate Jimmy Taurasi's reprint of "The Magician Of Space", which appeared many years ago in the fan mag, SCIENTI-SNAPS, and was reprinted in Canada's UNCANNY TALES. It will be Johnny's first "Cosmic Girl" cover.

The current (June 28th) issue of LIFE has a full page picture of the planet Mars. One of the few ever made in full color. A half page write-up tells all about it.

TARZAN COMICS #4 has just hit the stands containing, as usual, all new material. This should be a must for all Tarzan fans.



The May 15 '48 issue of THE NEW YORKER has a story of the only "real" car of tomorrow on the road today. It was built by Russ Case Director of popular music for R.C.A. Victor Records. It seems he got tired of waiting for his new car to arrive and so went out and built his own. It took him two years and \$15,022 to do it. It features an aluminum body and a Plexiglass bubble in place of a top and doors. The bubble rises to let you get in and out of the car. But it seems that our New York tunnel cops are quite used to seeing fantastic cars for when Mr. Case drove up with his "car of Tomorrow", the guard just looked at him and asked for the 25¢ toll.

Col. David H. Keller is the latest member of the FANTASY VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION now being formed. When this organization has signed up around 20 members, then it will actually organize. You can be on the ground floor and actually help the organization by joining now. If you are a Veteran of the United States armed forces and a fantasy fan, write today to James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd, Corona, New York and receive complete information & application blank. Let's make this a live-wire organization.

Sam Moskowitz and William S. Sykora will fly to the TORCON via American Airlines. It will be the first air trip for both boys.

The newly revived QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE will hold semi-offical meetings through July and August. You can be notified of the dates and places by contacting Frances Sykora, Sec, P. O. Box No. 4, Steinway Sta., Long Island City 3, New York.

We seem to be a little lousy with our prediction powers. In the last issue we predicted that the ESFA would probably vote on the bid to hold the World Convention in New York in 1949, but no vote on this came to pass at the last meeting of the ESFA before the TORCON. The ESFA will NOT bid for the 49 Convention.

And now an important news item from our Cosmic News Service lines:

MOVE TO FORM S-F AWARD COMMITTEE GATHERS IMPETUS

Paterson, New Jersey, June 10 (CNS) The ~~project~~ to form a committee to give awards for admirable work in science-fiction, both amateur and professional, started by Ray Van Houten with the backing of the ESFA, has received widespread attention and favorable comment. Mr. Van Houten revealed recently that the following prominent science-fictionists have agreed to co-operate on the program: Dale Tarr and K. Martin Carlson of the NFFF, Alden H. Norton, of Popular Publications, Rog Phillips of AMAZING's "Club-House", Francis R. Fears, secretary of the "London Circle", David MacInnes, publisher of "NECROMANCER", and Andy Lyon, publisher of "FANOMENA".

Additional comment arrives regularly in the mail, Mr. Van Houten said, so much, in fact, that he plans to put out a booklet - giving the gist of it all sometime soon. Copies will be mailed to all that have become interested.

Although no organizational work is as yet contemplated, the committee is expected to do for science-fiction what the Academy does for the motion picture industry. Certificates of merit, or some other suitable symbol of recognition, will be issued to those fans, authors, editors, artists, publishing houses and magazines who in the opinion of the committee produce noteworthy efforts in the field of fantasy during the year.

Interested persons who have not yet expressed their ideas on this subject may contact Mr. Van Houten at 409 Market Street, Paterson 3, New Jersey.

PUT YOUR AD IN FANTASY-TIMES

\$1.00 a full page -.50¢ for 1/2 - 25¢ for a 1/4—

The World Of Tomorrow Today

XS-1 Is Model For Moon-Ship ? *by Ray Van Houten*

HIS month's cover, by Johnny Giunta, depicts a scene which is brought very much closer to becoming a news item of the future by the recent release by Air Secretary Symington of a tiny inkling of the performance which the Air Force is getting out of their experimental rocket, the XS-1.

Many science-fiction fans will realize what the general public probably won't, that the flight of the XS-1 at a speed faster than that of sound practically cinches the imminent likelihood that a moon rocket is next on the program. No talk, outside of a few obscure mentions in technical journals and as a theme in science-fiction, has gotten around pointing out the immense strategic advantage which would accrue to that country first to establish some sort of base on the Moon.

In this chaotic day and unsettled age, it's a sure bet that the possibility of an American base on the Moon is not being passed by as a stf fan's dream.

As reported in the daily press, the XS-1 burns 8,000 lb. of fuel in something like two minutes of powered flight to reach its terrific speed, which Secretary Symington says is "an interesting figure". Other rockets have travelled faster and with more efficiency of performance. The salient detail in this accomplishment is that a MAN was aboard.

Research and accomplishment on world-shaking projects such as this and the atom bomb are a cumulative thing; each milestone along the road makes the attainment of the next one possible. The flight of a human being through the barrier of sound has proven more than one theory to the military technicians. The next milestone on the way to outer space is now visible.

We've got the space-suits, pressurized cabins, meteor detectors, course calculators and a huge mountain of astronomical and technical data. The XS-1 is the capping milestone, in that it not only is the first man-carrying rocket ever flown, but that it provides ready-made the method whereby the men who will man the moon rocket may be trained for their job.

How many years before the American flag is raised on a Moon mountain peak? We don't care to guess, but it won't be many! -rvh

T h e E n d

If The World Convention Comes To N.Y.

A STATEMENT OF OPINION
BY WILLIAM S. SYKORA

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of the editors. -----

If the WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION comes to New York City in 1949 it should NOT be a picayune or penny-ante affair. On the contrary, it should be on the order of a week-long exhibition at Manhattan Center or in the Grand Central Palace, with a minimum attendance of 2,500 people per day. If the 1949 convention is not planned on this grand scale, there would be nothing new accomplished and it would be almost pointless to hold it here at the center of things.

Planned publicity placed in the hands of a professional Public Relations director or agency would be required to make this hypothetical convention measure up to its potentialities. The Publicity campaign involved would have to be planned as a continuing program over the whole year period preceding the convention. There would have to be full page paid ads in every issue of every fan and pro stf publication up to the date of the convention. The ultimate aim of the publicity campaign would be headline splurges on prominent pages of the literary departments of every big New York City daily paper, supported by paid advertising, on the opening day of the convention.

In September, 1946 in a brief talk before THE QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE I said:-

"It has been said that technical inventions have far outstripped our present ability to appreciate their social, political, and economic implications. A valuable function of stf might be an effort to increase our understanding of these implications of technical and scientific advance."

At a recent meeting of THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION, Sam Merwin of Standard, in discussing an article in the SATURDAY REVIEW let weight to this idea when he said that this is probably the most important purpose stf could have. He said stf fans were almost the only people not associated with the project who were not surprised by the atomic bomb. In a later informal discussion, he surprised me by the importance he evidently attached to this aspect of science fiction. There seems no question then, that the keynote of the convention, if it comes to New York, should be:-

"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

Pro support would be enthusiastic and financially generous ,

if the convention comes to New York. And it would be the more certain if a New York Convention Committee could convince the publishers that they mean business. An affair of the scope I have imagined would boost science fiction to heights never before attained. The tremendous advertising and publicity advantages reverting to the pros by the committee's publicity work and the convention itself would more than repay the publishers for their support. And the extent and value of this advertising would be the greater in direct proportion to the support given by the pros.

The convention would be financed by donations from all fans, and pros who sincerely wanted to see an event unprecedented in the annals of science fiction. Exhibition space would be sold to the publishers of books as well as magazines, to fan organizations, authors' organizations, popular scientific societies like the atomic scientists' committee, The American Institute, Museum of Science and Industry, Department of Education of the Museum of Natural History, The Public Library, the astronomy societies, the rocket societies, foreign organizations, and a host of others. I should say space rates would be priced at about \$1.00 a square ft. or \$150 for a 10x14 foot area. And this would be nearly the minimum space. Small organizations could combine and share one space if they were unable to afford exclusive accommodations. Ads in the convention journal at about \$25.00 per page, a tremendous auction of real rarities, sale of booster ads and celebrity notices, membership in the convention society, and outright donations would finance this wonderful affair. And one thing which is not imagination:- I will personally donate to the convention committee one half of my share from the sale of Dr. Keller's new book "Life Everlasting" ---- if the convention comes to New York in 1949.

Of course, there would be sound films and other motion pictures. "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari", "The Golem", "Things to Come", "Metropolis", "Just Imagine" and others would be shown continuously throughout the convention. These films have become readily obtainable and present no problem.

Each day would feature a special aspect of stf or be dedicated to one of the pro publications or fan organizations. The world of tomorrow would be the thread running through all the programs and exhibits.

All this and more would take place if men of imagination and proven ability were on the committee and if all fans and pros gave them undivided and unstinting support in the form of time and money. Yes, this and more, would take place, in my opinion, if the convention comes to New York. -wss

T h e E n d

FOR SALE:

"LIFE EVERLASTING AND OTHER TALES OF SCIENCE, FANTASY and HORROR"
by Dr. David H. Keller. --- only \$3.50
James V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd., Corona, New York

1947 in Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

PART V - PLANET STORIES

FOUR issues, and I fear that PLANET may be slipping. The stories have always been average, seldom super, and seldom poor, but I have the unusual experience of reading each issue and being unable to recall the stories a month later. It is the only mag on the market that effects me that way. I fear that the stories are typed. A little more lee way would improve them.

Spring 1947 issue: Two short stories are worthy of mention, one because of its social implications, Bradbury's ROCKET SUMMER, and the second, because, well, just because, Fennel's ATAVISM - struck me as being funny. Perhaps no one else thought so.

Summer 1947 issue: R. F. Jones' THE MARTIAN CIRCE has all the elements of a super dooper space opera on Mars. Perhaps you will like C. S. Geier's THE VENUS EVIL. I did. Geier can write when he tries. A grim, and human story in some respects is B. Walton's MO-SANSHON! Can an alien have human emotions?

Fall 1947 issue: E. McDowell's BLACK SILENCE tries to be tragic, but turns out to be humorous. Ray Bradbury's ZERO HOUR is very good, but not the best PLANET has presented. There seems to be a growing interest in children taking part in science fiction since the immortal MIMSY WERE THE BOROGOVES. Don't forget to read B. Walton's ASSIGNMENT IN THE DAWN. It will make you wonder about some things.

Winter 1947 issue: This is a poor issue, with no outstanding stories. Probably the best is C. Selwyn's EARTH IS MISSING - as a story of adventure and intrigue.

I find the novelets of PLANET are inferior to the short stories. The novelets strive to be super-doooper space operas and fail in many cases.

-tsg

Thomas S. Gardner will review the 1947 issues of THRILLING WONDER STORIES and STARTLING STORIES in the next issue. -the editor

ARE YOU A FAN OR READER OF SCIENCE, FANTASY or WEIRD FICTION?
ARE YOU A ARMY, NAVY or MARINE VETERAN TOO?
If you are you should join the FANTASY VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION!
write to: J V Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd., Corona, New York.

Book Reviews

by Joe Schaumburger

TRIPLANETARY By E. E. Smith, Ph. D. (Fantasy Press, 1948) \$3.00, 287 pp.

The latest book to be published by FANTASY PRESS, TRIPLANETARY, is well up to the high standard that they have maintained so far. It ranks in literary quality only slightly below another of their recent publications, THE BLACK FLAME.

Indeed, there are quite a few similarities between the two books. Both concern themselves mainly with the civilization arising out of the ruins of the atomic wars of the twentieth century. Both books picture a growing, vital civilization expanding outward into greater and greater glory. Both books tell of a powerful love.

However, while in THE BLACK FLAME the love story is the main-spring of the plot, in TRIPLANETARY the love story plays only a relatively minor part. TRIPLANETARY concerns itself with forces of galactic magnitude, and the basic conflict is between good and evil. This adds tremendously to the effectiveness of the story, since this fundamental conflict is much broader and more powerful in scope than any trite love story could possibly be. This is not to disparage Weinbaum's masterpiece. From a purely literary-standpoint, it stands head and shoulders above Smith's story.

TRIPLANETARY, however, has a cosmic grandeur that lifts it to heights beyond anything that Weinbaum ever attained. The steady, gradual growth of galactic intelligence; the vast, expanding panorama of developing civilization on a billion different worlds in two mighty island universes, is many thousands of times more interesting than the love affairs of a woman who lived for several hundred years on a half-barbaric planet in a small, semi-feudalistic society.

TRIPLANETARY properly begins with the emergence of the planet Eddore from an alien dimension. The Eddorians are cold, merciless creatures that have but one consuming lust -- the acquisition of power. At first, they fight among themselves for supremacy, but gradually they realize that it is much easier to conquer other, less-intelligent beings. Eventually, they unite.

They are opposed by another race, the Arisians, a benevolent race of much greater power, but a race bound by moral scruples not to use these superior powers to the greatest advantage. The Arisians try to preserve civilization as it develops on the innumerable worlds of the First and Second Galaxies, and the Edd-

orians try to keep these worlds at a barbaric level of development. However, the Arisians are forced to work secretly, as the Eddorians must not suspect their existence for many thousands of years.

Most of the action of TRIPLANETARY takes place on, or in the vicinity, of Tellus (Earth). We see early civilizations rise to un-dreamed of heights, and collapse like a punctured balloon as the Eddorians sow dissension among the leaders of mankind. Atlantis dies in a burst of atomic flame. Rome destroys its democratic system and plunges along the road to dissolution.

In our own century, war after war flares into being and destroys more and more of human knowledge. Finally, the Eddorians lose interest in our ruined and gutted world and ignore it for a few hundred years.

The Arisians manage to relight the flame of civilization again. Slowly, hesitantly, man rebuilds his destroyed cities, and starts again on the road to stellar empire. The planets are reached, and colonized. Interplanetary war flares briefly, and then the whole human race on the three inhabitable planets unite to form a solar government, the Triplanetary Federation.

At this point, Eddore becomes interested once more, and sends an Eddorian to attempt to destroy this developing civilization. He becomes Gray Roger, an interplanetary pirate, and preys on the ship-ping of the worlds.

However, Arisians now hold (unknown to anyone) many of the high posts in the Triplanetary government. Gray Roger's base is searched for constantly, and when it is finally discovered, the Triplanetary Fleet launches an all-out attack on it.

A colossal spacial battle occurs, and both sides suffer heavy losses. The battle is interrupted at its height when a strange, non-solar space-ship appears and destroys much of both fleets. A new factor has entered the galactic scheme. A race has discovered inertialess flight, which makes interstellar flight feasible.

At this point, the book gets into its stride. From their observations of the alien ship, the Tellurians are able to reconstruct the inertialess drive. A super-dreadnought is equipped with this drive, and on one of its trial flights, meets and destroys (or thinks it does) Gray Roger and his associates. They travel to several nearby stars, and discover that other intelligent races exist. Eventually, they discover the race that attacked them originally, and engage some of their war-ships in battle. This other race, in the meantime, had been attacking cities on Tellus. After a great deal of mutual destruction, the Tellurians finally make peace with these alien beings, and thus lay the foundation for the galactic federation that is to come.

The book ends on this note of expectancy.

While Kimball Kinnison plays no part in this book, several of

his ancestors cross the scene at various times, and several inexplicable things about his background are partially explained.

Super-imposed over this web of gorgeous complication (and I haven't given you a hint as to how complex the book actually is) - there is a trite boy-wins-girl plot which adds nothing to the story, and is thrown in mainly for human interest, a function that it fulfills admirably. The love interest serves mainly to keep Tellurian headquarters in touch with what is going on among the aliens, and so I have omitted these incidents from the plot synopsis as they serve no purpose.

The cover jacket is rather silly. Imagine, if you can, a large something, with the general outlines of a grapefruit in cross-section, on a blue background. Pouring out of it, or perhaps falling into it, are several bomb-shaped objects which, with a slight straining of the imagination, and a partial suspension of the critical faculties, might possibly look like spaceships.

The only artwork is an uninspired frontispiece, unless you want to consider the chapter headings, which are competent, though nothing to rave over.

The binding, too, is nothing exceptional, but I suppose it could be worse.

Weighing the book's few defects against its definite 'good' points, it's well worth the three dollars it's selling for. -js

T h e E n d

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY

Flying Low

by Ray Van Houten

WELVE-hour rail service between New York and Los Angeles would be a distinct advantage in years to come when convention time rolls around in science-fiction. Such is the possibility held out by a scheme proposed by a group of promoters in Dayton, Ohio, who are considering building a short experimental line of what they call the "Railplane". This is the familiar stf. idea of the propellor or jet car, suspended a score of feet or so off the ground, humping along at about 3 miles a minute. This system has been tried in Europe with success. If this American follow-up is built, and becomes the financial success which its backers hope, the New York-Los Angeles line will be but a matter of time.

T h e E n d

Solution Strictly Phoney

by Thomas S. Gardner

THE July 1947 ASTOUNDING featured Jack Williamson's "With Folded Hands...", and the March, April and May 1948 issues the sequel, "...And Searching Mind". The plot concerns the ultimate in robot aid and help for man to such an extent that he is left without anything at all to do. All professions are closed, especially science, as they might do him harm. The development in the first story is such that no planet could escape, as the obtaining of control by the robots is so cleverly carried out, and the rewards so great that all peoples voluntarily sign up. The results is complete stasis for all people as no action or effort known to us today, mental or physical, in which adults engage is permitted except, by extrapolation just enough sexual activity to perpetuate the races. Of course such an existence is anathema to the vigorous minds and bodies of people, and one must read the story in order to get the full picture. The story left cold chills playing up and down my spine. Frankly it was terrifying in its development.

Then came the sequel as a solution to such a set up. The sequel, as well as the first novellette, are excellently written, and so cleverly written that almost every one is fooled, and I suspect even the author, Williamson, and the editor of ASTOUNDING may have been fooled! In the novel the conflict is between the robots and the wild talent type of mind, such as mental control of natural forces, sliding across space, mental precognition to some extent, extra-sensory perception carried to the ultimate development, etc. The plot apparently hinged on the development of a super-war weapon as a rocket that bridged space via dimensions, and whose effect was the complete conversion of matter into energy on such a scale that one rocket could probably disrupt a planet. The second stage concerned the attempt to deliver the rocket and destroy the robots' Prime Directive, or to change the Prime Directive to allow mankind greater freedom of action and a chance to develop. The scientist, Claypool, who develops the super energy conversion also learns some of the psysical controls of space and matter and is the chief character. I am not going to give the plot in detail, but just enough to show the phoney solution. The first mistake was in not destroying Prime Directive without attempting to change it, but that could be. The few who resisted robotical control thus lost the first round. Then Prime Directive and the robots with some humans constructed a machine that reoriented the individuals so that they were allowed complete freedom. Now with literally hundreds of billions of human beings under a form of paradise-slavery that would drive any human being insane eventually, the robots plan to use the conditioner machine on those who have the wild talents that make them menaces, the rest of mankind remain in worse than slavery or death! The beauty of life of the re-conditioned subjects is developed so well that the reader forgets the rest of

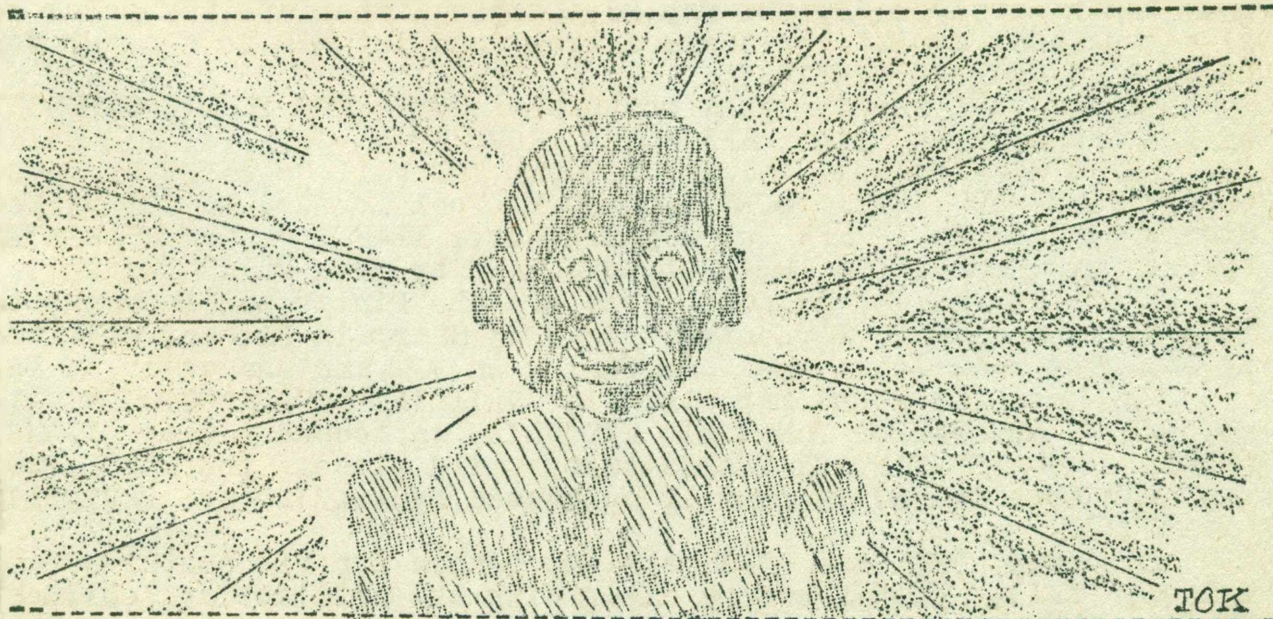
mankind!

Frankly the logic in part of this story is screwy. Particularly the inability of the main character to detonate the super bomb! Tain't true Mr. Williamson. Just wishful thinking. The mind doesn't work that way. Also the use of sex to help condition the main character, Claypool, is a favorite trick of the totalitarian mind. So Claypool was re-conditioned over a period of many years, which also precludes many people taking the treatment, and also conditioned via sex to accept his destiny -- freedom, to do anything he wants to, but he doesn't want to free mankind any more! A beautiful set-up. Frankly, and brutally, I believe most of mankind, even as advanced as the story describes, would prefer death to life under the circumstances described, except, of course those re-conditioned.

I have heard many people compliment this story, until it was pointed out that the solution was not a solution. Unless you think that the way to solve the terrific problem presented is to take the few who are menaces and re-condition them to accept the conditions, and allow the rest to remain in hell. Perhaps author Williamson has a sequel with a real solution. I hope so. If not the best, or almost the best story of 1948, is strictly phoney. - The rarest combination in science-fiction. What about it, author Williamson?

Incidentally the same thing happened to some extent in James Hilton's "Lost Horizon" which took everyone by storm. Remember? Several thousand people slaving on a crude agricultural and mechanical level to support half a dozen people in the castle? Not only feudalism, but strictly totalitarianism, and not in the ideals of Americanism, Democracy, and Freedom. Has it got to the point that authors can no longer write about a free society? -tsg

T h e E n d



TOK

On The Newsstands

by Lane Stannard

STF MAGAZINES OUT THE PAST MONTH

Avon Fantasy Reader - No. 6
 Amazing Stories -- August
 Astounding Science Fiction - July
 Famous Fantastic Mysteries - Aug.
 Planet Stories - Fall
 Thrilling Wonder Stories - August
 Fantastic Adventures - August
 Fantastic Adventures Quarterly
 Reissue -- Summer (1st postwar)

THE "new" magazine this month was the first "postwar" issue of FANTASTIC ADVENTURES QUARTERLY. Tho we dislike the Shaver contents of this magazine we must state that this reissuing of the monthly magazine at a "bargain" price is a good way to get new stf readers. It's just too bad that a good magazine is not the one doing this. The nearest thing to this is the proposed UNKNOWN

"annual" scheduled to appear on July 15th. We hereby put in our plug for an ASTOUNDING and WONDER ANNUAL.

THRILLING WONDER STORIES and STARTLING STORIES made the headlines this month with their announcement of an increase in number of pages and price. We hope that the next step will be a monthly TWS or SS and serials.

Wollheim really came thru with an excellent collection of yarns in his latest issue of AVON FANTASY READER. We really enjoyed all the stories for a change. Now if Avon could see to it to reduce the price to a fair 25¢, we could really go for this reprint booklet.

The best covers this month are FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES' super Lawrence pic and ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION's photolike Bonestell, tho they just about ruined this one by the top and bottom black strips. By the way Mr. Campbell when are you going to give your best artist, Cartier, a break and let him do a cover for ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION?

Recommended reading this month are: FFM's THE PURPLE SAPPHIRE by the famous John Taine; AFR's THE DROME by A. Merritt, THE THING IN THE CELLAR by Col. Keller, BEYOND THE WALL OF SLEEP by Lovecraft; TWS' MR. ZYTZTZ GOES TO MAKE by Noel Loomis, MEMORY by Ted Sturgeon, THE EARTH MEN by Ray Bradbury; PLANET's MARS IS HEAVEN by Bradbury; and ASF's DREADFUL SANCTUARY by Eric Frank Russell.

The best inside illustrations are the Finlay and Lawrence in TWS; Cartier in ASF; Leydenfrost in FFM; Sharp in FA; and Williams in FS. The real lousy ones are Finlay in FFM and the cover of FA.

The best all-round magazine is THRILLING WONDER STORIES with ASTOUNDING and FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES in second place; PLANET STORIES and AVON FANTASY READER takes third place. The last place (and way down there) is heavily contested by AMAZING and FANTASTIC ADVENTURES.

As usual FFM and TWS take top honors for the best readers' column, while PLANET creeps along with the silliest and childest of them all.

The Fantasy Clubs

Organized Fandom Reports

THE PHILADELPHIA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

Meeting of May 23 featured a talk by M. Rothman on "Wavicles". He showed that in many science fiction stories the idea was used that matter is composed of waves, rather than particles, and described a number of experiments which back up the new ideas concerning matter.

Meeting of May 9 was a gag meeting. James A. Williams took the chair, and a number of members were forced to give impromptu five-minute talks on such abstruse subjects as: "The effect of the high tariff of Terra del Fuego upon interplanetary communication". Character guessing games were held, and an auction completed the program.

Meeting of June 6. Jack McKnight presented a talk on precision machining from the point of view of a science fiction character. He presented the case of a guy stranded on a planet in a wrecked space ship with the Grulniks coming at him. The guy is required to manufacture a gadget to repair his ray gun with, and while in the standard story this is done in about 10 minutes, McKnight showed us the problems that would be encountered in actual practice.

-mar

THE QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE

The meeting of May 23 was called to order by Director William S. Sykora at 3:00 P.M.

The Director then explained the lapse since the last meeting, being of course the difficulty in obtaining a meeting hall. This present one was good and if we held meetings regularly we would receive a special rate of rental.

The Director then gave a talk entitled "If the Convention Comes to New York". During and after the talk there was a great deal of discussion with all members participating. Then there was a motion made by Frances Forman that all people present at this meeting go on record as being in favor of seeing a convention in N. Y. in 1949. It was seconded by Phil Froder and passed unanimously.

The next discussion was should THE QUEENS SCIENCE FICTION LEAGUE be dead or should it be revived. The opinion of the majority was to revive the QSFL because it was the only science fiction club

in New York holding open meetings.

There was a recess for dues and the sale of raffle tickets.

The Director then showed two cartoon films, "The Pincushion Man" and "Mickey's Mechanical Boxer" and also two of his own films of fandom. The 1939 (World Convention) Softball game and the Philadelphia Conference of 1938.

The raffles were chosen and Kay Brickman won 1st prize, a black and white illustration from ASTOUNDING. 2nd prize went to Joe Schaumburger who picked a 1939 World Convention Program Booklet; 3rd prize went to Sam Moskowitz who chose the book "Whom the Gods Destroy" by Richard Gordon Benett.

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:55 P.M.

THE LOS ANGELES SCIENCE FANTASY SOCIETY

Meeting of April 29; 438th Consecutive Meeting.

Present were FJA, Walt Dougherty, Gus Willmorth, Mike Scoles, Seth Shepard, Dave Fox, Louise Lupier, Mr. Roach, EEEvans, Jean Cox, Bill Cox, Russ Hodgkins, Dale Hart, L. Ron Hubbard, A. E. van Vogt, Robert K. Murphy and Elmer Perdue.

After hearing that the treasury amounted to \$13.25, those present were treated to a talk by Mr. Hubbard on the subject of immortality, in which he expressed the opinion that a very much increased life-span is possible with today's medical knowledge.

Meeting of May 6; 439th Consecutive Meeting.

Regular members present were FJA, Bill Cox, Jean Cox, EEEvans, Dave Fox, Dale Hart, Russ Hodgkins, Louise Lupier, Mike Scoles, Seth Shepard and Gus Willmorth. Visitors and occasional-members were Kenneth Bonnell, Dick Timmer, L. Ron Hubbard, Eph Koenigsberg, and Elmer Perdue.

After a quite lengthy discussion of mystery story writing, brought on by a mention of one of the "how-to-write-them" books, a few words were said regarding the possibility of space-travel being just around the corner, with particular attention to an article published in the "Los Angeles Times" which featured Robert A. Heinlein's picture.

Meeting of May 11; 440th Consecutive Meeting.

Present were FJA, Bill Cox, Jean Cox, Dave Fox, EEEvans, Russ Hodgkins, E. Mayne Hull, L. Ron Hubbard, Eph Koenigsberg, Louise Lupier, Elmer Perdue, Tillie Porjes, Mike Scoles, Seth Shepard, A.

E. van Vogt, and Gus Willmorth.

Feature of the meeting was the giving by Mr. van Vogt of several of his original manuscripts, including the one of "Slan".

Meeting of May 19; 441st Consecutive Meeting.

Present at this meeting were Forrest J Ackerman, Pat and Mike Catinas, Bill Cox, Jean Cox, EEEvans, Dave Fox, Eph Koenigsberg, Louise Lupeir, Mike Scoles, Seth Shepard, Gus Willmorth, and A. E. van Vogt. There was \$6.75 in the treasury.

Ackerman told us that NEW WORLDS, the English ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION, has just seen its last issue. That is what Ted Carnell, its former editor, has written to him from England. The Magazine did not collapse for circulation reasons; it was doing very well. The cause was laid to other commitments made by the publishers. However, all is not lost. At the recent Science-Fiction Convention held at the "White Horse Tavern" in England -- which was liberally attended by such celebrities as A. B. Chandler, Walt Gil- lings, Ted Carnell and about fifty less well-known fans -- it was proposed that the fans start their own publishing company and put out NEW WORLDS themselves. This was enthusiastically received. Shares are being sold in the company -- to be paid for by next Fall -- at a dollar a piece. Several members of the club decided to get in on it. Writers and artists pledged materials with the understanding that they are to be paid later. Everett stated that he would pledge his story, "Was Not Spoken", which was to be published in the next issue of NEW WORLDS, to the new magazine despite arguments from his friends that AMAZING would probably like the story better -- and that they had far more need for it.

At the English science-fiction convention there were big do- ings. Besides the resolution to keep the English pro-science-fiction field alive (which, according to Carnell, will probably be Britain's final attempt) there was much discussion over the "Big Pond Fund"; they're collecting money over there by which to send a representative -- possibly two -- to an American science-fiction convention. However, it will not be until the next one is held in New York, which may be a couple of years or so.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Meeting of May 26; 442nd Consecutive Meeting.

Eighteen persons were present. They were FJA, Kenneth Bonnell, Bill Cox, Jean Cox, EEEvans, Dave Fox, Dale Hart, Russ Hodgkins, Eph Koenigsberg, Louise Lupier, Elmer Perdue, Mike Scoles, Seth Shepard, Gus Willmorth, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. van Vogt, Morris Kamman and Dave Elders.

After noting that the treasury contained \$17.50, short dis-

cussions were held on the subjects of Ray Bradbury's writings, the trend in book-buying, current stf, news and hypnosis. -Jean Cox

THE EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

The June meeting of the EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION was called to order by Director Sam Moskowitz at 2:45 PM, with an attendance of 28.

After the minutes of the May meeting and the Treasurer's report were accepted as read, Director Moskowitz then called for old business. Hugh S. Guthrie made a motion that Secretary Ray Van Houten be impeached for exceeding the powers of his office in the mailing out of a letter between the May and June meetings. The motion was second and the Director called for a closed ballot.

Before voting could begin, Secretary Van Houten called a point of order in that the dues collection, which usually follows immediately after the treasurer's report had not been attended to. The Director then asked the Treasurer if he wished to collect dues at that point. While dues were being collected, blank ballots were passed out. The results were 8 for impeachment and 15 against.

A motion was then made and second, that the Secretary be reprimanded, which was carried with two dissenting votes. The Secretary was sent from the room for this vote.

A motion was made and second that the next, July 11th, meeting be turned into an outing. The motion was passed.

A motion was made, second and passed that a committee be formed to frame a constitution for the ESFA. The Director appointed Joe Schaumburger, himself and Kay Brickman as the Constitution Committee.

The Secretary then announced that due to the fact that his duties were becoming an increasing burden upon his time, he tendered his resignation. After some discussion, it was decided that the resignation would not be immediately accepted, but if the Secretary would confirm same to the Director by letter, it would be acted upon at the next meeting.

The program consisted of miscellaneous news items delivered by Sam Moskowitz, and a lengthy discussion about ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION. Leslie Mayer promised to try to contact an amateur fantasy film maker in Passaic, New Jersey.

The meeting adjourned at 5 PM.

This department is open to all science, fantasy or weird fiction organizations. Let us hear from you. -the editor

NOTICE: The deadline for the August issue is July 20th. -ed