

FANTASY TIMES

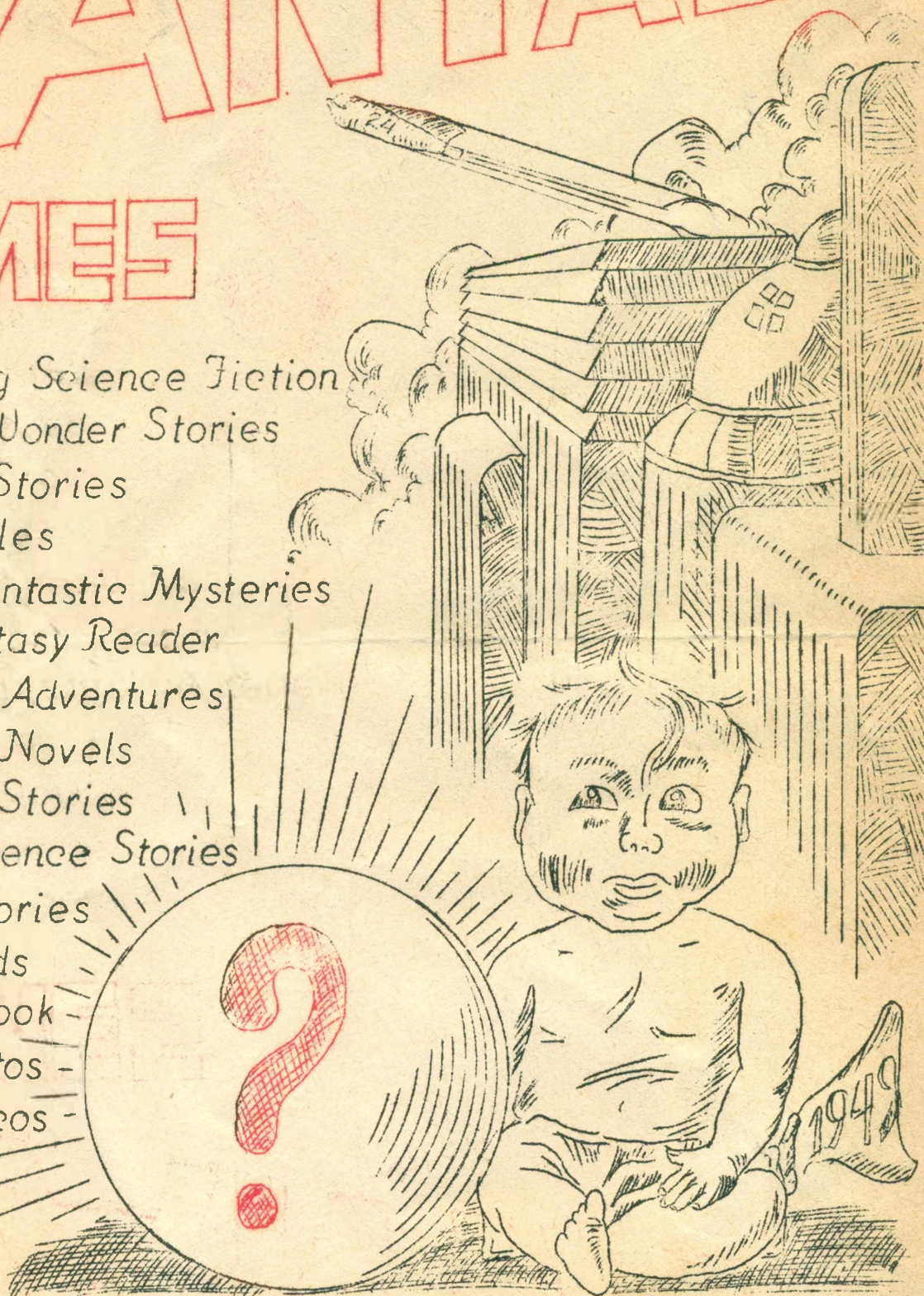
Astounding Science Fiction
Thrilling Wonder Stories
Amazing Stories
Weird Tales
Famous Fantastic Mysteries
Avon Fantasy Reader
Fantastic Adventures
Fantastic Novels
Startling Stories
Super Science Stories
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Los Cuentos -
Fantásticos -

TAURASI
NY

1 JANUARY 1949

FANDOM HOUSE

10¢



1948 IN SCIENCE FICTION

by Thomas S. Gardner

STARTS ON PAGE 3

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

VOL. 4 - No 1

1 JANUARY 1949

WHOLE No 74

"SUPER SCIENCE" IS OUT

NOTICE

The address of "FANTASY-TIMES" has been changed from 101-02 Northern Blvd., Corona, N.Y. to: Fandom House, 1/2 James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Ave., Flushing, New York. All mail to "FANTASY-TIMES" in the future should be addressed thus.

Due to the moving of our office this issue of "FANTASY-TIMES" is about 15 days late, and it has also forced us to skip the January 15th issue. The next issue will be dated February 1st. This has been the first time "FANTASY-TIMES" has skipped an issue since 1946.

-the editors

THE PHILLY CONFERENCE

by Milton A. Rothman

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 31 (CNS) "The 1948 Philadelphia Conference" was held November 21, 1948 with an attendance of between 60 and 70 people. L. Sprague de Camp spoke on "Time Travel and (continued on page 2)

"CANADIAN EDITION" OUT ON DEC 17

FLUSHING, N.Y., Jan. 18 (CNS) - "SUPER SCIENCE STORIES", the latest science-fiction magazine to be revived by "Popular Publications" arrived on the United States newsstands this week. The "Canadian Edition" came out weeks earlier, hitting the Canadian newsstands on December 17, 1948.

Both the U.S. and "Canadian Editions" are printed in Canada, making this the first sf magazine printed in Canada and distributed in the U. S. The editorial offices are, of course, in New York City. Both editions are the same, tho some of the ads are different and the "Canadian edition" has a Canada address on the mast-head.

The issue was delayed one month when manuscripts sent by the New York office to the Canadian printing plant were lost in the mail.

"FANTASY-TIMES" wishes the magazine the best of luck and hopes that it will remain with us for a long, long time. -jvt

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New Worlds Out Soon

BRITISH STF MAG TO BE REVIVED

It has been reported that the lone remaining British pro mag, "NEW WORLDS" will be revived, and that it's fourth issue will be on the British stands sometimes in February. The new series of "NEW WORLDS" will be published by "Nova Publications" a co-op organization of both pros and fans. Indications are that the magazine will appear in pocket-size instead of the large size of the first three issues.

THE PHILLY CONFERENCE (continued from page 1)

the 4th Dimension", and as usual debunked most of the common ideas on the subject. He pointed out that there was nothing mysterious about the use of four or any other number of dimensions, and devoted some time to the mystery of the Versailles Gardens.

Lester del Rey spoke on "Frontiers", also doing considerable debunking. His main thesis was that man could not very well colonize the other planets, and if he must expand, it would be easier to fix up the Sahara Desert and such places than try to build colonies on Mars.

There were the customary messages from publishers, featuring a preview of the FANTASY CALENDAR by the Gnome Press. A movie of "The Fall of the House of Usher" was shown. This was more or less successful, depending upon the state of mind of the observer. To this reporter it was very interesting -- particularly in the way that the phonograph records played for background music synchronized-

perfectly with the action on the screen. Although this was completely accidental, many people thought that the music was designed to go with the film.

The Cosmic Reporter

—edited by Lane Stannard—

With the reprinting of "The Enchanted Weekend", from the Oct 1939 issue of "UNKNOWN", in the Winter 1948 issue of the "British Edition" of "UNKNOWN WORLDS" all the stories that recently appeared in the annual "FROM UNKNOWN WORLDS" have now been reprinted in the various editions of the "British Editions".

"SCIENCE & MECHANICS" (once published by Gernsback) in its Feb. 1949 issue contains an illustrated, two page article on "A Rocket To The Moon". It's based on the "Canadian Rocket Society's" moon rocket which they expect to launch (unofficially) in 1960.

-jrm

Milton A. Rothman, member of the PSFS, has just signed a contract to write part of a textbook on atomic physics.

A. E. van Vogt has written and sold to "ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION" the first two stories of a new series. They are entitled "The Sound" and "The Green Forrest". He has definitely stated that his novel, "The Weapon Makers" will be published by Simon & Schuster near the end of 1949.

-ajc

A biographical article on John Taine (Eric Temple Bell) will soon appear in "SCRIPT". If this issue of FANTASY-TIMES is stamped "Subscription has Expired", please resubscribe at once and thus not miss an issue.

1948 In Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

PART I - FANTASTIC ADVENTURES

I regret to say that FA be came monthly without a corresponding improvement of material. Let us see just how poor a year it was.

January - Not a single readable story in the issue. Even the best rates an "F". None deserve mention.

February - A fair issue, almost passable with Blade's "Silver Medusa", having the old plot with a new twist, and Hickey's "To Dust Returneth" giving a trace of the required outre-ness. Phillips' "Twice To Die" is the best in the issue, and has in it more of good fantasy than usual. England's "They Buried Her Body" is a good weird, but cannot be classed, in my opinion, as fantastic.

March - Reed's "The Court Of Kublai Khan" should be a good story, but for some reason did not click too well. Lee Francis' "Zero A. D." has a good twist, rather plausibly developed. The old problem of the creator or of the creator ad infinitum and ad nauseam crops up. For the love - lorn, Geier's "Spirit Of The Keys" may be recommended. I enjoyed it as being different.

April - A fair adventure story is Irwin's "Lair Of The Grimalkin". Deegan's "The Cat-Snake" and Wade's "Coffin Of Life And Death" are worthy of publication. You may neglect the remainder of the stories if you lack time.

May - I will have to give flowers to two stories in this issue. For adventure, Changler's long novel, "Forgotten Worlds", is good providing you are not expecting something from

"ASTOUNDING". Casey's "My World Died Tonight" is excellent for its type. Not science-fiction, nor exactly fantasy either, but of interest. Read it and think.

June - I want to call attention to Wood's "The Black Arrow" not because it is good, but so damned boring! Two stories are worth reading: Geier's "Shadow For Sale", an "UNKNOWN" type, and Changler's "The Tides Of Time" for a very unusual time-travel twist.

July - Shaver's --- yes, Richard S. Shaver's --- "Mirrors Of The Queen" is worth your time. Shows what he can do when he lays off the "true" stuff. Nothing else noteworthy.

August - Lee Francis' "The Man From Yesterday" tackled a good plot, something reminiscent of Burroughs' "Eternal Lover", but with more twists in it, and almost made a very good story. You may like it. I was also highly amused by Mihlean's "Tanya's Night To Howl" and it isn't what you think.

September - A miracle! Wilcox's "The Lavender Vine Of Death" is a true fantasy type that is interesting. A humorous story by Vance, "Reggie And The Vampire" is a story of the type in which you are always wondering, "Can such people be"? Not the vampire, but Reggie.

October - Sherman's "This Way To Heaven" is a valiant attempt at a possible solution of the present political crisis and its immediate future, with a the ological twist in a fantastic vein. Probably as good fantasy of its very narrow type as any.

November - I would personally like to see a ban on all "Toffee" stories, including the one in this issue. Nothing outstanding in this issue.

December - Two stories are deserving of mention. First,
(Continued on Page Four)

World Of Tomorrow Today

by Ray Van Houten

Announcement was made a few weeks ago that the United States Atomic Energy Commission has let contracts to the Westinghouse Company for the manufacture, assembly and testing of an atomic engine for warships. The theory and blue-prints are the products of the Commission's Argonne Laboratories. The rush tag has been fastened to the project, which is to be completed "as soon as possible".

It is hoped that the new engine will enable both surface and undersea craft to remain at sea indefinitely.

A committee of the Detroit-Edison group has recommended that the Atomic Energy Commission be more liberal in doling out atomic information to US industry. The members complained that their companies are still in the dark as to the profits to be made from atomic energy, as they do not yet know enough about it.

1948 IN SCIENCE-FICTION (Continued from Page Three)

Geier's and Shaver's "Fountain Of Change" just missed being very good. It fell down near the end. Hickey's "A Place Like Eden" is reminiscent of about 1935.

There you have it. A lot of reading without very much being good.

(Continued in our next issue)

OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE DATED FEB 1st AND BE MAILED OUT SAME DAY.

NEW SPANISH MAGAZINES

by Arthur Jean Cox

The readers of "FANTASY-TIMES" are familiar with "LOS CUENTOS FANTASTICOS" which has so far published 10 issues in Spanish and reprints stories and illustrations from American sf magazines. As you know this magazine comes from Mexico. From Buenos Aires, Argentina, there is published "NARRACIONES TERRORIFICAS", of which about twenty issues have appeared. This magazine also reprints American science-fiction, but they do not reprint the illustrations. They lean towards the fantasy aspects rather than science-fiction as does the former. And, now, still another magazine has appeared: This time it's "FANTASTICAS", which is published out of Barcelona, Spain. As far as can be told, it publishes original stories!!! Profusely illustrated. These magazines were brought to our attention by Forest J Ackerman.

NEW FAN ANNUAL

It is unofficially announced that Don Wilson and Redd Boggs are co-editing a new Fantasy Annual, similar to Joe Kennedy's two Fantasy Reviews for 1945 and 1946. This fan project, which will be as large or larger than JoKe's 70-page Fantasy Review for 1946, will probably be financed by the "FANTASY FOUNDATION" and published by the IASFS, according to tentative plans. Many well-known fans, including Francis T. Laney, Arthur H. Kapp and others, have promised to assist in writing the book. Those interested should contact: Redd Boggs, 2215 Benjamin St. NE, Minneapolis 18, Minn

**FANTASY FILMS
RADIO & TELEVISION**
by Lester Mayer, Jr.

MOVIES AND THE STAGE

Abbott and Costello's forthcoming picture, "Africa Screams", will be partly fantastic in nature. According to the "Journal-American's" pictorial feature, "Seeing Stars", one of the attractions of the picture will be a 50 ft. gorilla.

In a recent issue of "LIFE" magazine, there was an article on the Fabulous King Brothers of Hollywood, the producers. There was no mention of the picture which they are supposed to have scheduled for production. "Bandits on the Moon", mentioned in Louella O. Parson's column several months ago. At the time she seemed rather amused that a million dollars should be spent on such childish nonsense. -ajc

The veil of mystery surrounding the forthcoming "Mr. Joseph Young of Africa" seems to become denser every day. The Dec. 12th issue of the New York "HERALD-TRIBUNE" says that the picture will have in its cast ten popular athletes, such as Primo Carnera, The Swedish Angel, Man Mountain Dean, and other wrestlers. What can they be doing in a jungle picture?

The comic strip, "Prince Valiant", will be brought to the screen by 20th Century-Fox in a technicolor production, starring Cornel Wilde in the title role. The only reason I mention this is because from time to time this comic strip has contained some fantasy.

About two or three columns back, in my "Idle Thoughts" department, I mentioned that there

was no more news about the remake of "King Solomon's Mines" in the papers. Today (Dec. 16) I read in "Hedda Hopper's Hollywood" column that M-G-M has a camera crew in Africa shooting scenes in technicolor for "KSM". It's too much to hope for to think that my column had anything to do with it!

After seeing "Unknown Island", I'm convinced that the art of trick photography is going backwards instead of forward. The animation of the "monsters" is very unreal, as if it were done with puppet strings, compared with that used in "King Kong" and "1,000,000 BC". The plot of the picture is fair. However, I enjoyed it, if only for the fact that this type of picture is very rare.

Fantasy fans everywhere will be glad to hear that the re-issue of "She" is doing great business everywhere. The news item I read said it is cleaning up a "small fortune".

James Mason and Ava Gardner will star in "Pandora and the Flying Dutchman". Ava will play the role of the Greek mythological character who opens a jar and sets loose a host of evil things on the world.

The B-picture, "Inner Sanctum Mysteries", currently showing, is a fantasy somewhat on the order of "Night has a 1000 Eyes", only a much poorer version. The "prophet" in this one is Fritz Leiber-stf writer. -ajc

RADIO AND TELEVISION

On Dec 26th, Fred Allen, was heard on the Theatre Guild (WJZ) playing "Rip Van Winkle".

(continued on page 8)

Forecasts

What's Next In The Pro Mags

The March 1949 issue of "FANTASTIC ADVENTURES", out on the stands January 21, 1949, will contain a lead novelet, "The Mermaid of Maracot Deep" by Alexander Blade, which will be illustrated on the cover by Arnold Kohn. The novel in this issue will be "City of Sand" by Berkeley Livingston, a thought-variant story. There will be four short stories in the issue. "The Return of Ian-ning" by Guy Achette; "A Nickel Saved..." by Robert W. Krepps; "The Plaid Pterodactyl" by Geoff St. Reynard; and "Checkmate to Demos", a story of alien intelligence pitted against Earth intellect; with an unusual twist ending, by H. R. Hickey. The issue will be rounded out with 18 articles and features. Inside illustrations will be by Bill Terry, Ronald Clyne, Julian S. Krupa and Rod Ruth. Mng. editor, William L. Hamling comments, "We are injecting more science-fiction in "FANTASTIC ADVENTURES" these days. The trend is towards stf and away from straight fantasy."

The Summer issue of "PLANET STORIES" out on the newsstands March 1, 1949 will contain a lead novel, "Queen of the Martian Catacombs" by Leigh Brackett which will be illustrated on the cover by Anderson. Two novelettes, "The Starbusters" by Alfred Coppel, Jr., "Stalemate in Space" by Charles L. Harness and four short stories, "The Madcapmetalloids" by W. V. Athanas, "SOS Aphrodite" by Stanley Mullen, "Peril Orbit" by C. J. Wedlake, and "Garden of Evil" by Margaret St. Clair will round out the is-

(continued on page 8)

Fantasy Clubs

by the fan editor

Our readers may be interested to learn that the "SCIENCE FICTION INTERNATIONAL" is now seeking new members, and will shortly consider a club constitution. Those interested may obtain further information from Daniel Mulcaby, 4170 Utah St., St. Louis, Mo.

At the December meeting of the "EASTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION", a science-fiction quiz was put on by Ray Van Houten which was well received by those present. Lloyd Alpaugh took first prize. It was decided to postpone the date of the next meeting one week, to Sunday January 9, due to the New Year's holiday. Tentative arrangements were made to show the old silent version of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame", starring Lon Chaney, Sr.

The October 28th meeting of the "LOS ANGELES SCIENCE-FANTASY SOCIETY", the 463rd consecutive meeting of the society, was a Halloween party at the new club rooms at 336 West 31st St., Los Angeles, Calif. The entertainment included records made by Ray Bradbury and others.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

1 cent a word including address

WANTED: A copy of "Unveiling the Universe". Cloth binding preferred. Must be in good condition. John Giunta, 1355 80th Street, Brooklyn 28, New York.

WANTED: Canadian editions of SUPER SCIENCE, ASTONISHING STORIES, & SCIENCE FICTION. J. V. Taurasi, 101-02 Northern Blvd, Corona, N.Y.

Fantasy Book Notes

—by J. Russell Mars—

'The Devil's Foot Bookshop, P. O. Box 103, East Side Station Providence 6, R. I. is sending out their latest printed catalog. This firm, run by two fans, James J. Donahue and Donald M. Grant, has developed a method to avoid the difficulty of several refunds on the same item. All the purchaser does is drop a card with the name of the book he wishes, and he is billed for it later. Drop them a note for the printed catalog.

Malcolm - Smith's fantasy-novel, "The Grass Is Always Greener", is now obtainable for 25¢ in Bantam book form. -ajc

E. Everett Evans has sold the book rights of his story "Guaranteed" to the Lantern Press.

A. Merritt's book "The Ship Of Ishtar" should be ready about the time you read this column. It will be illustrated by Virgil Finlay and cost from three to four dollars.

"The Fantasy Book Club Bulletin" is now ready from The Fantasy Book Club, 300 West 67th Street, New York 23, N. Y. This is an eight page printed job and is edited by David A. Kyle. A card will bring you a copy.

The M. P. Shiel Book "The Purple Cloud" which sold for a dollar is now going for 59¢ in New York City book stores.

Grosset and Dunlap, in their illustrated Junior Library, are putting out many excellent books at low prices. For example, it is now possible to obtain such

books as Lewis Carroll's "Alice In Wonderland", with the original Sir John Tenniel illustrations, for as low as \$1.25. One excellent volume is "Andersen's Fairy Tales", a collection of many and well-known 'fantasies', which is illustrated by the famous artist and illuminator, Arthur Szyk. For those not familiar with this artist, let me say that Arthur Szyk is the fellow who often "illuminates" the poetry and prose which was, or is published on the back of "CORONET'S" front cover. His work should be pleasing to fantasy fans as he has a strong sense of the bizzarre and unusual; his often-slightly-slant-eyed characters make me think of him as a "mongolid Cartier", although that may sound irrational; his sense of "spotting" and relief figures remind me of Bok. Many of his illustrations for the book are done on the cover; its worth the price to obtain them alone. -ajc

Shasta Publishers have just purchased the book rights to Bob Heinlein's story "Mathusalem's Children".

Ray Bradbury is to have a volume of short stories published titled "The Illustrated Man" after one of the stories.

The Gnome Press plans to publish a collection of short stories by Nelson Bond titled "The 31st of February" at \$3.

Join the Cinvention Committee, and help make the coming 1949 "World Science Fiction Convention" the biggest, best and most enjoyable convention to date. Membership is only \$1.00. Write to Donald E. Ford, 129 Maple Ave Sharonville, Ohio. ft5

- SUPPORT THE CINVENTION -

FANTASY - TIMES
"The World of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 4 - No. 1 1 Jan. 1949

Published twice-a-month by
Fandom House, % James V. Taurasi,
137-03 32nd Ave., Flushing,
New York. 10¢ a copy,
3 for 25¢ and 12 for \$1.00.
ADS: \$2 a page, \$1 a 1/2 page,
and 50¢ a 1/4 page.

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THE FAN MAG COLLECTOR

This column is for our readers
who have fan mags to sell or who
want to obtain fan mags to com-
plete their collection. It is
FREE, but the editor reserves
the right to reject any item.

WANTED: "Dream Quest" No. 1,
"Fantasy-Times" Vol. 1 - No. 3,
"The Burroughs Bulletin" Nos. 3
& 5. James V. Taurasi, 101-02
Northern Blvd, Corona, New York.

FORECASTS

(continued from page 6)

sue. Inside illustrations will
be by McWilliams, Mayan, Vestal
and Evans. "Vizigraph" and a

FANTASY FILMS, RADIO & TELEVISION
(continued from page 5)

Radio's outstanding mystery
and sometime fantasy program,
"Suspense", is being groomed for
a television series. It will
appear over Channel 2.

Doodles Weaver, of Spike
Jones' "Musical Depreciation
Program" is still at it. At a
recent show he made over four
reference to 'science-fiction
("rocket ships!") and more spec-
ially van Vogt, ("The E. Mayne
Hull Tobacco Co."). Neison
Himmel, wanted to know what was
going on. (He's a science-fic-
tion reader and knew what Weaver
((Doodlesire-member)) was talk-
ing about.) -ajc

"The Medium" was televised
over Channel 2, Sunday Dec. 12.
The critics rated it very nicely.

Arch Oboler has just re-
turned from Africa where he
spent eight months making films
for a television series. He will
produce and direct a full-length
picture in Hollywood. He was the
author of the late radio-fantasy
program, "Lights Out!"

IDLE THOUGHTS DEPARTMENT

"Mr. Adam", the highly suc-
cessful best-seller, was being
written into a stage play. It
was receiving quite a bit of pub-
licity, up until a few months
ago, when suddenly all mention
of it vanished from the newspap-
ers. What Happened?.....
page feature. "Per Aspera Ad As-
tra" will be features of this
issue. The readers will be ask-
ed in this issue as to whether
they want the "Vizigraph" (Read-
ers' column) continued or not.

- SUPPORT THE CONVENTION -