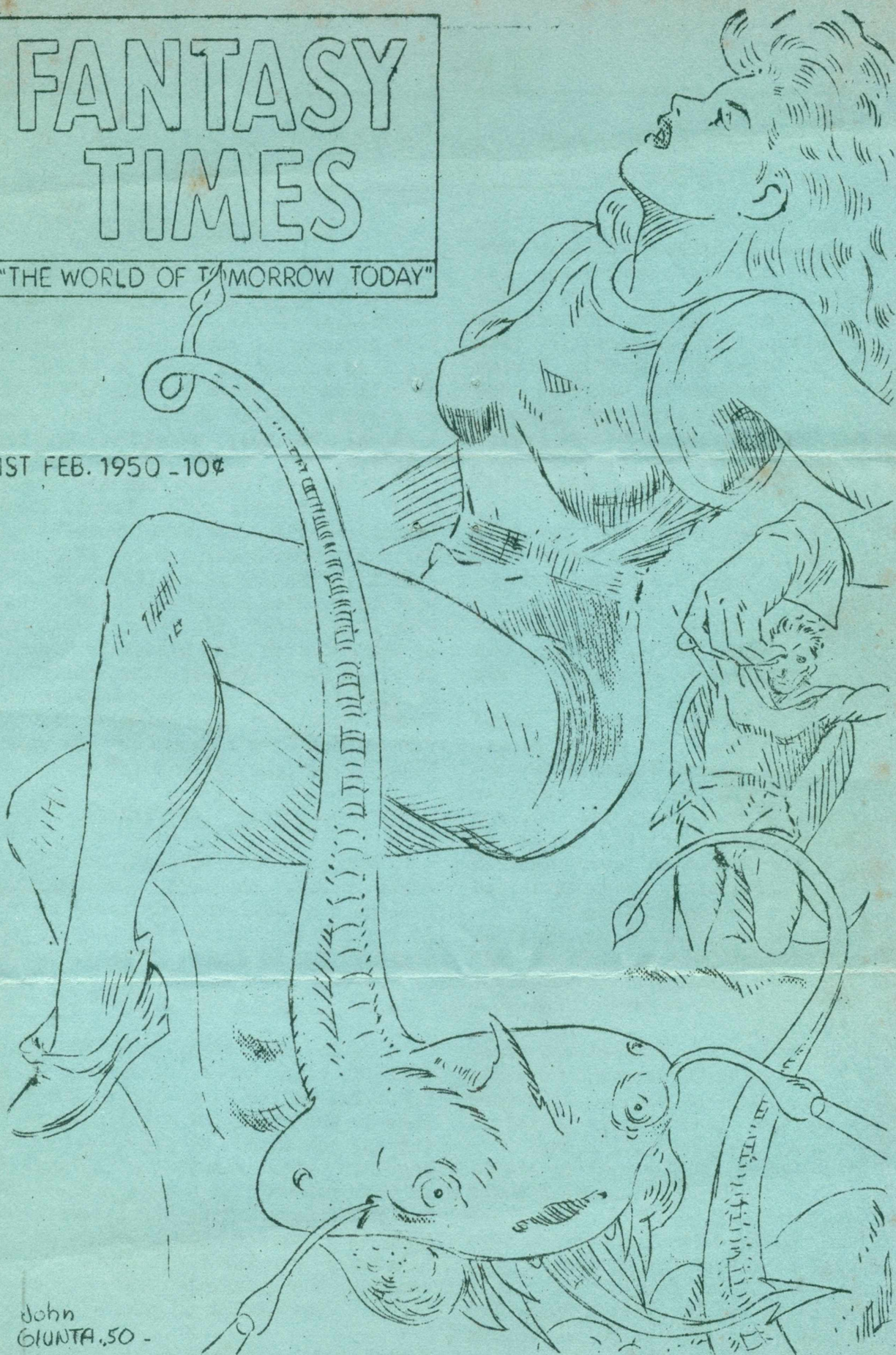


FANTASY TIMES

"THE WORLD OF TOMORROW TODAY"

1ST FEB. 1950 - 10¢



The Cosmic Reporter

by Arthur Jean Cox

The winners of the Ellery **FLASH:** Queen Fifth Annual Mystery Contest have been announced. The interesting item is that five of the prizes were won by science-fictioneers. John D. MacDonald, T. S. Stribling (author of "The Green Splotches"), Miriam Allen DeFord (authoress of "The Last Generation", #2 Fantasy and Science Fiction), and Anthony Boucher; August Derleth won a special prize for the best Sherlockiana, "The Six Silver Spiders". Oh, yes, winner of first prize in the contest (\$2,000) was John Dickson Carr's "The Gentleman From Paris". There were 915 submissions to the contest, With the exception of August Derleth, all the s-fers mentioned won third prize (\$300). A story was submitted from Russia (but did not win a prize).

A United Press release, dated **FLASH:** January 26, from Osaka, Japan, stated that a Japanese astronomer, Sadao Saeki, observed a terrific explosion on Mars, January 16. "...the apparent volcanic eruption caused an unusual cloud formation over an area 700 miles in diameter, at an estimated height of 40 miles above Mars."

Saeki is a member of the staff at the Astronomical Observatory of the Osaka Municipal Museum. His telescope is supposed to have a magnification power of 400 times.

"Explosion" was unobserved from the U. S., due to unadvantageous position. Story is being checked with German astronomers (who were in position) to see if they observed it, also.

My comment: Wonder what an atomic explosion on Earth would appear like if observed from Mars?

Avon's science-fiction cartoon magazine will be called Out Of This World. Fantasy-Timer, John Giunta will have a cartoon strip in it, titled "Crom The Barbarian". It should be on the stands within the next few months.

(continued on page 8)

Other Side Of The Pond

by Michael Corper

Weird Tales (British)

On January 12, 1950, the January edition of Weird Tales appeared on the bookstalls. Again, as in the November 1949 number, it says: "All stories are new - no reprints"; and is marked 25¢ as well as "Price in Britain 1/-". Cover shows a "devil" chasing a man across a clock. 96 pp., pulsize. Cover by Matt Fox.

Contents: "Black Harvest of Moraine" (A. J. Burks); "The Ormolu Clock" (A. Derleth); "In That Same Moment" (M. W. Wellman); "The Smiling Face" (M. E. Counselman); "The Urbanite" (E. Whyte); "The Mysterious Miss Malta" (S. A. Coblentz); "The Last Train" (F. Brown); "The Mask of Don Alfredo" (M. Bissell); "Outside of Time" (C. J. Daly); "The Family" (M. St. Clair); "The Cactus" (M. Johnson); "Dark Rosaleen" (S. Quinn); also the verses: "Sea King's Daughter" (D. Quick); "The Vision" (L. B. Drake).*

Argosy (British)

Argosy (the British, not the USA Publication), the 1/6 (20¢) monthly, published by Amalgamated Press, printed in its latest edition (February 1950) a story by Ray Bradbury: "Long Weekend".

Radio (British)

On November 30th, the BBC broadcast a talk by J. G. Porter, Ph.D., F.R.A.S., on "The Night Sky in December". This is the first of a series describing the activities of stars & planets, together with relevant mythology. It is the renewal of a series that ended two years ago. During the latest broadcast he talked about Uranus and the discovery of its fifth moon; plus, of course, the general appearance of the
(continued on page 8)

*Same as American January 1950, Weird Tales.

PLANET GOING BI-MONTHLY

(story on this page)

FANTASY-TIMES

"The World Of Tomorrow Today!"

Vol. 5 - No. 3

New York, 1st February 1950

Whole No. 99

AVON TO PUBLISH NEW STF PULP MAGAZINE

NEW YORK, February 6, (CNS) - Today, Donald A. Wollheim announced that Avon, publishers of the Avon Fantasy Reader, will soon publish a regular pulp science-fiction magazine. It will be entitled, Out-Of-This-World Adventure and be published quarterly at first, but may go bi-monthly after the results of the first issue is known.

The book will be 128 pages, will sell for 25¢, and will stress the thrills of adventure and discovery on other worlds...and the impact of inter-planetary adventure on our own. First issue will feature a new novelette written especially for this magazine by Ray Cummings, entitled "The Planet-Smashers". It will be the cover story. Other stories in the first issue are by A. E. van Vogt, Lester del Rey, William Tenn, Kris Neville, A. Bertram Chandler and others. Interior illustrations by McWilliams and Martin.

Mr. Wollheim states that Avon expects to have the first issue on the stands by the end of March or early in April.

Mr. Wollheim also informs us of their new stf comic magazine, Out Of This World*. He states, "This will, of course, be^a standard comic, selling for 10¢. It will however be of interest to

(continued on page 5)

*For earlier story see Cosmic Reporter on page 2.

PLANET GOING BI-MONTHLY

NEWARK, February 5, (CNS) - Speaking at the Esfa meeting, today, Jerome Bixby, new editor of Planet Stories, announced that his magazine has a 98% chance of going bi-monthly with the Winter 1950-51 issue. He went on to state that the present policy of "space opera" stories was paying off and would be continued, but that he was looking for more (and better) off-trail stories. He further announced that a sequel to the popular "Star - Mouse" by Fredric Brown will be published soon.

NEW EESMITH SERIES PLANNED

NEWARK, February 5, (CNS) - Alastair Cameron, informed the Esfa members today that E.E. (Skylark) Smith wants to start another series, completely different from the previous ones. He went on to say that this series may appear in magazine form, but that magazine will not be Astounding.

"Children Of The Lens", Mr. Cameron informed us, is the last novel in the Lensmen series, but, that Doc. Smith has left loop-holes in the story so that he can continue it if he cares to.

(continued on page 5)

FANTASY FILMS, RADIO & TELEVISION

by Lester Mayer, Jr

Two very important movie-makers, producer Sam Goldwyn and director George Pal, seem to think that movies are to have a still brighter future than was thought possible.

"Three-dimensional pictures," said Goldwyn, "will make present-day pictures look as out-dated as the kinetoscopes from the turn of the century. George Pal's opinion seems to be that scientific-fictional films of the year 2,000 will be made "on location" on the Moon! Shades of Henry Kuttner!

"God, Man And Devil", the first Yiddish picture to be made in this country since the war, was written, after a fashion, on the lines of Goethe's "Faust".

Spurning God, a man takes the Devil as his partner in business. He ruins his associates, casts aside his childless wife for a young niece, and banishes his elderly father from his house. All of these sequences build up to a sudden, tragic, but inevitable climax.

Eagle-Lion films will handle world-wide distribution of "Hansel And Gretel", film version of Humperdinck's opera. Production began in January in Stuttgart and Munich, in the American zone of Germany.

Bing Crosby has formed a company to produce twenty-six-minute movies for television. They will be shown on the "Fireside Theater" program. The first of these features will be Oscar Wilde's "The Canterville Ghost".

The late John Giraudoux was a French playwright with at least half a dozen fantasies to his credit. Only a few of these have been shown in the US, including last year's hit "The Madwoman Of Chaillot". His latest "The Enchanted", which is now playing at the Lyceum Theatre in NY, is a fantasy about "life and death". A living girl is wooed by a ghost. The general opinion of the critics is that it is a good play, although a little mixed up.

On the stage of the Playhouse, 48th St. east of Bway, NY, is "The Innocents", William Archibald's dramatization of Henry James's "The Turn Of The Screw".

"The Innocents" was begun more than ten years ago. It was rewritten several times before the final form was agreed upon. Even the producer, director and backers had changed a few times!

The play deals with two small children who are possessed. Flora and her brother, Miles, are "taken over" by two ghosts who haunt the house in which they live. They cause lamps and candles to float about the rooms. The other two members of the cast, both adults, are also able to feel the presence of the spooks.

Indications are that "The Innocents" will prove to be a hit.

Here is a suggestion for all fantasy fans.

The program; "Escape", CBS, Tuesday, Feb. 7th, 9:30 p.m., EST, presented Graham Dorr's science-fiction story, "The Outer Limit". A postcard or a letter to the Columbia Broadcasting System, New York City, will undoubtedly do a lot to bring more of the same type of story to this and other CBS dramatic shows.

"The Outer Limit" starred Frank Lovejoy, and was the story

(Continued On Page 5)

BOOK NOTES

by J. Russell Mars

Bantam Books of NY have published an anthology of science-fiction in a 25¢ edition. Titled "Shot In The Dark", it is edited by Judith Merrill and contains 23 stories. No. 751, 312 pp. (See also Pocket Review, F-T, First January Issue).

Fantasy Publishing Co., Inc. of California has issued Murray Leinster's book, "Murder Madness" for \$2.75. The format of this book is, in my opinion, way below standard. Otherwise, the book looks good.

A new 25¢ reprint has come out which may be of interest to some fans. Issued by Popular Library, No. 217, the title is "Tales Of Chinatown" by Sax Rohmer. Containing 227 pages, it has ten of Mr. Rohmer's short stories. One or two of the stories could be called borderline fantasies.

(continued on right hand column)

FANTASY FILMS, RADIO & TELEVISION (Continued From Page 4)

of the test-flight of the RJX-1, a rocket-jet aircraft which reached a height of 40 miles --- where it was taken aboard by a ship of the Galactic Patrol. By telepathy, the hero is informed that Earth is surrounded by a force field that will destroy it if an atomic war is started.

Pretty corny as stf goes, but maybe fandom can educate radio producers, to. I'll bet Campbell's "Who Goes There?" would make a swell radio show!

Join the "Norwescon Committee" and make the 8th World Science-Fiction Convention the best yet held. Membership is \$1. "Norwescon", P.O. Box 8517, Portland 7, Oregon.

(continued from left hand column)

Isaac Asimov's "Pebble In The Sky", published just four weeks ago, is a March selection of the Unicorn Mystery Book Club, and is being featured in the next Book-Of-The-Month Club News.

Jack Williamson's "The Humanoids", published by Simon & Schuster last August, is being reprinted in France this Spring.

Fredric Brown's "What Mad Universe", published by Dutton last October, is being reprinted in a paperbound form by Bantam Books next fall.

Avon Publishing Company is bringing out a series of four fantasy novels, starting with one each by Jack Williamson, Stanton A. Coblentz, Ralph Milne Farley, and Ray Cummings.

Checkerbooks, Inc., is bringing out paperbound editions of two Jack Williamson novels, "The Fortress Of Utopia" and "Gateway To Paradise". The first will be on sale in about two months - the other a month or so later.

AVON TO PUBLISH STF PULP MAG (continued from page 3)

the fantasy enthusiast for it has been produced with an eye to a better type of fantasy - comic story such as Till have interest for fans. Two of the writers for this book are known fantasy names - Gardner Fox and John Michel. The well-known John Giunta was the artist for one of these stories".

NEW EESMITH SERIES COMING (continued from page 3)

As to the "Storm Cloud" series: E. E. Smith is working on five more novelettes of this series and that they may appear in magazine form before all eight will appear in book form by the Fantasy Press, under the name of "The Storm Cloud". The first three of this series were written for F. Orlin Tremaine for publication in his magazine, Comet. When Comet folded after publishing only one, Fred

(continued on page 6)

WINCHELL & DIANETICS

by Arthur Jean Cox

LOS ANGELES, February 6, (CNS) - On Sunday, February 5th, Walter Winchell had a rather astounding item in his evening broadcast; "Dianetics..... a new science which will immeasurably aid mankind...." Winchell released rights in his broadcast to Life magazine to publish, say, a full page on "the new science". Astounding Science Fiction, John W. Campbell, Jr., and L. Ron Hubbard -- who invented or developed "Dianetics" -- were not mentioned. It is assumed that Life will publish an article on the subject. Astounding Science Fiction, as reported previously in Fantasy-Times*, will publish a 16,000 word article on the subject in their May issue.

* 2nd January 1950 issue.

NEW REESMITH SERIES COMING (continued from page 5)

Pohl, then editor of Astonishing Stories, obtained the remaining two for that publication. They were later reprinted in the Canadian Edition of Super Science. What magazine will obtain these other five is not known, but, Mr. Cameron informed us, it will not be Astounding.

FANDOM'S MARSHALL PLAN

REPORT NO. 2

SHARONVILLE, Ohio, February 8, (CNS) - Mr. Don Ford, in charge of "Fandom's Marshall Plan", for which the recent World Science Fiction Convention, the Cinvention, donated \$300, reports that he has sent 56 books to England. He will now concentrate on mailing the books he has on hand, which are earmarked for Australia. After that he will use the rest of the money on ob-

BUCK ROGERS RETELLING OF OF HIS 500 YEAR SLEEP —

IS FALSE

by James V. Taurasi

FLUSHING, N.Y., February 12, (CNS) - In the current Sunday comic strip of Buck Rogers, now written and drawn by one Rick Yager, Buck Rogers is retelling of his 500 year sleep and "rebirth" in the 25th Century. Don't believe it, it is a fake!

In the current strip, Buck says: "Being a restless flyer, fresh from a front-row seat in the theater of war -- World War II ----". Nuts!, our hero was sound asleep during all of World War II. In a booklet, titled, "Buck Rogers in the 25th Century", copyrighted 1932 by John F. Dille Co., who still handles the comic strip, and 1933 by the Kellogg Company, who published the booklet and who was sponsoring the Buck Rogers' radio program at that time, it states: "....I (Buck Rogers) was just twenty years old when the great World War of 1914-18 ended and I was mustered out of the Air Service....." Then it goes on to tell of his getting a job surveying the low levels of an abandoned mine, being caught in a cave-in and sleeping 500 years. This booklet version was written by Phil Nowlan and Dick Calkins, originators of the comic strip. It was based on two stories by Phil Nowlan that appeared in Amazing Stories in 1928 and 1929.

What are you trying to do, Mr. Yager?

taining the latest books and mailing them to their destinations, (A fuller report on "Fandom's Marshall Plan" appeared in the 1st December 1949 issue of Fantasy-Times.)

WANTED: A complete set of "Scoops" and Canadian Edition of Astonishing Stories, James V. Taurasi, 137-03 32nd Avenue, - Flushing, New York.

1949 In Science Fiction

by Thomas S. Gardner

PART III - Planet Stories

Good old Planet Stories drifts along on the same even keel -- nothing exceptionally good and nothing awfully bad. Just mediocre, good adventure, and entertainment. And I for one, insist, that there is a place in the professional field for such a magazine. So let's look at the four issues of 1949.

SPRING 1949: Hasso's "Eternal Zenned - Must Die" is a quick action story but it lacks some of the sheer fantasy in the second novelette, Abernathy's "Hostage of Tomorrow". The latter story concerns another time track. Some may object to my use of the word fantasy for Abernathy's story, but I consider it so. Wells' "Animat" is a good character story of the type, who am I? Bradbury's grim "Dwellers in Silence" has some good, Bradburyish type of writing. Grim, short, tense in spots, and leaving with you an all-out fooling of futility.

SUMMER 1949: I thoroughly enjoyed the swashbuckling adventure story of Brackett's "Queen of the Martian Catacombs". It has a haunting beauty in spots that are hard to forget. Coppel's "The Starbustlers" could possibly be used as a warning that mankind should not be underestimated. St. Clair's "Garden of Evil" appealed to me, as evil of a sort appeals to everyone. We like to lie about it, but some kinds of evil may be necessary to life. Harness' "Stalemate in Space" is excellent as the contrasting emotions are powerful and their results are too, too probable.

FALL 1949: Brackett's "Enchantress of Venus" is some more good adventure. A very grim and in some ways, horrible, story is Abernathy's "The Giants Return". Better that mankind die now than face the type of future depicted by the earthlings. Dee's "The Wheel of Death"

FANTASY - TIMES

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Cover by John Giunta

A FANDOM HOUSE PUBLICATION

is the type of story that gives one - the jim-jams for the utter futility of effort, and the thought that there are many people today who prefer static lives forever, to change, or danger of change that might make their lives more insecure. Osborne's "Action on Azura" is worth reading for its treatment of how to deal with alien psychology.

WINTER 1949: Abernathy's "The Dead-Star Rover" is the outstanding novelette of the year for Planet Stories. MacCreigh's "Let The Ants Try" is a repeat theme and not much better or worse than previous efforts. Coppel's "Flight From Time" is a good study of the difference in time frame of references and the mix-up of chronological and biological time.

The best short story, believe it or

not, is St. Clair's "Garden of Evil", with the prediction that very few fans will agree. It is not a classic, but re-read it for the over-tones of emotion. There are plenty.

Thomas S. Gardner will review the 1949 issues of Fantastic Wonder Stories in the next issue of Fantasy-Times. -ed

OTHER SIDE OF THE POND
(continued from page 2)

skies in December.

A few days ago I happened to visit a bookshop in the West End, and discovered a stock of dated USA science-fiction magazines, some of them pre-war. The price was, for the pre-war issues, rather high: 5/-, or about 65¢, and most of them were in poor condition. I was told they allowed 50% on return of the copies. Which means that, for the privilege of merely reading one's favorite literature, one pays in London 50-55%. It may be that, for the USA, this is not much; for the UK it is. Post-war issues, such as Astounding, sell (secondhand) at 3/- or 40-45¢.

SUPPORT THE NORWEGIAN

THE COSMIC REPORTER

(continued from page 2)

Sky And Telescope recently gave Bonestell's and Loy's "Conquest Of Space" a good review. Magazine is edited by one Lederer who a few months back gave a lecture in which he stated that space travel was "Highly unlikely"; was widely quoted in press and magazines. Perhaps he's changed his mind? Book is sold at Griffith Observatory.

February issue of Popular Science has two articles of interest to sci-fi fans: "Five Ways The World Might End"; "Your Life In 2000". February issue of Popular Mechanics has an article on space flight.

The February 1950 issue of the American Cinematographer devotes its cover and three inside pages to the filming of Bob Heinlein's "Destination Moon".....

Ziff-Davis is dropping all book publications in line with a plan to bring out several new magazines. Hope for science-fiction in there, maybe....

A. Bertram Chandler has sold "Hunt" to Fantasy and Science Fiction.

Emmett McDowell's "Sword Of Fire" will appear in Planet Stories.

FANTASY-TIMES

the world of tomorrow today

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