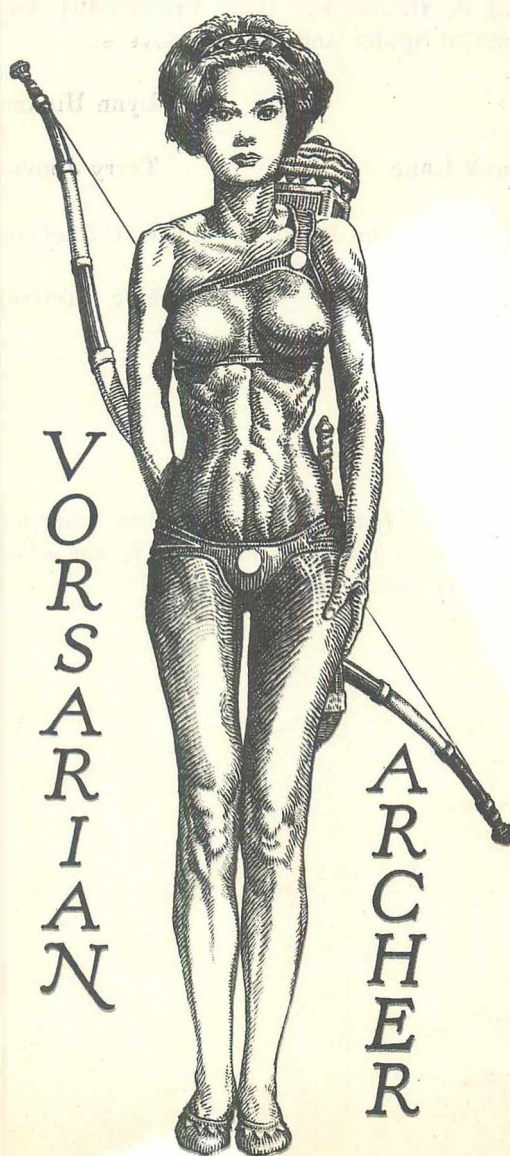


THE PULP ERA



THE PULP ERA is published bi-monthly by The Pulp Era Press
at 413 Ottokee Street in Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Editor: Lynn A. Hickman

50¢ per single copy 5 issues - \$2.25 10 issues - \$4.00.

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*IMPORTANT NOTICE: If an X appears below, your subscription
expires with this issue. To make sure you do not miss any copies,
be sure to renew your subscription at once.*

FEB 7 0

ARGASSING.....

Many things have happened since the last issue of this magazine to slow its production down to a verital stand still. First I was promoted from general foreman on the second shift into production control and of course many duties to learn and perform. This cut into my spare time considerably and I was often too tired to even consider trying to work on the zine. Then in June my father had another bad attack and I went to Florida to stay with him at the hospital for awhile. He then improved considerably so I returned home again to catch up on my work.

Then a few financial things came up like blowing the engine in the Mercury, ruining the clutch in the Ford, etc. I ended up parking the Mercury in the garage, getting a clutch put in the Ford, and buying an Oldsmobile.

I was able to get quite a bit of typing done then and do have a considerable amount of material Vari-typed and ready to plate. At the start of this year, my father suffered another stroke and passed on, so I went to Florida again to pay my final respects to a very fine father.

So I find myself at present with material to put in the zine, but lacking the finances to have all of the negatives made, etc. This of course will take care of itself as a little more time passes on, but in the meantime I'm back to using the regular Royal electric, typing directly on master. So I won't be following the exact plans I had for the next few issues. The material is here and ready to go, but I'm not yet sure just what issues they will appear in. I'll just tell you what is coming up. Captain Satan by Dean Grennell. The Cover Coppers by Robert Lowndes. The Frank Gruber Index by William J. Clark. Nick Carter by Randy Cox. And of course the fine regular column by Terry Jeeves. Stewart Kemble has several columns on some of the old books pertaining to the pulps and Gary Zachrich and myself will continue News and Reviews each issue. Mac McGregor is continuing his fine series on the Spider, and I have a fine article here by Bob Jones.

With the material I have on hand and coming in, I'm quite sure that I can make The Pulp Era bi-monthly this year if you continue your fine support. If your subscription is expiring this issue, send in your renewal right away. Talk the zine up to your friends and get them to subscribe. The more subscriptions that come in the next month or so will assure my getting the next issue out in short order.

I feel fairly certain that I will have more time for the zine this year and by regulating the time that I have, I am quite certain that I will be able to put out 6 issues plus at least two books or booklets.

Another zine that has been more or less in limbo with The Pulp Era, Bronze Shadows, should be out at approximately the same time as this issue. Fred Cook dropped over with the masters for it the other night and I am in the process of printing it now. Fred has taken a different job and is now managing a plant near here. Of course, his new duties have kept him very busy and his hobby had to wait as did mine.

Bronze Shadows is an excellent zine and I hope Fred will have the time to bring us another issue soon. I recommend the zine to all readers of The Pulp Era.

The Artfolio booklet has been finished and I still have around 20 copies to be sold. \$1.00 per copy. Make checks payable to Lynn Hickman.

War in the Air booklet by Dave Prosser will be ready to mail the first of March. The price is \$1.50. There are approximately 50 copies yet to be sold. Make checks payable to Lynn Hickman.

The March-April issue of The Pulp Era should be ready to mail by March 1st.

Lynn Hickman

BRONZE SHADOWS.....subscription rate is 3 issues for \$1.00 from Fred Cook 1722 Maunta Lane, Jackson, Michigan 49201.

THE FAUST COLLECTOR....available March 1st from William J. Clark 1300 N. Scott St., Apt #9, Arlington, Virginia. Write to Bill Clark for details.



DOWN MEMORY BANK LANE

by Terry Jeeves

In the halcyon days of the thirties, one could not read a science fiction magazine without else taking in the ads. They must have had **SOMETHING** even if it wasn't selling power, to have stuck in my thick tank for all these years. Probably the most famous - and still kicking the ball around - is Charles (have a body like mine) Atlas. His beefy body, suitably tagged with his measurements adorned many an advert, as did the strip cartoon depicting a little skinny old 110 pound weasling. Lil' Skinny takes the course, and 'Shazam', knocks the stuffing out of the big guy.

This wish fulfillment technique was widely used, either in strip form or otherwise. My favourite was the Fleischman's Yeast series, their format never changed, only the characters. A typical strip showed a band of teenagers setting out on a picnic. One hickey-ridden character (with enough spots to give even a leopard an inferiority complex) gets left behind because no one can stand the sight of his spot-speckled pan. Somebody gives him a gut full of Fleischman's Yeast cakes, and there he is, spot free and lovely, being drooled over by all the girls in the strip.

Another variation was the chap who mailed the magazine coupon, and learned all about electronics in ten easy lessons. The final illustration shows him collecting a fistfull of lolly from a portly gentleman who tells him, 'You sure know radio, mine never sounded better.' Also using the strip technique, but from a different angle, Ever Ready plugged their 'dated' batteries by digging up a series of 'true' case histories of people who had been saved by the freshness of the batteries in their torches. The magnificent beams shone from mountains, down coal mines, from under water, out of snow drifts, and even enabled aircraft to land. One even purported to have saved somebody's life during an air raid on London as I recall...neglecting the fact that any such beam in operation would have inevitably drawn another stick of bombs on it. One drawback was that the 'Real photo' accompanying the strip, seldom if ever matched up to the heroic character of the drawings. Still it was comforting to know that if you ever met up with a grizzly bear while chopping wood in a pitch-black coal cellar, Ever Ready 'dated batteries' would save your bacon.

Then we had the 'sex' adverts in **WONDER STORIES**. The heading picture showed a fully dressed (or so it seemed) couple engaged in either a wrestling match or a spot of vampirism. Chapter headings of the

books to be sold were droolworthy to a teenager like me. 'How to hold your loved one', 'Secrets of the marriage night revealed', and so forth.

If sex wasn't your tippie, then maybe that secret power within us all, was more your dish. The Rosicrucians served this up on a plate if you sent them a card. A friend of mine sent them one, and was bombarded for several years with different pamphlets, and progressive reductions in the ante for learning all the secrets. Like me, he only got 1/- a week pocket money, so he never got around to joining. Maybe if they had come down to a shilling,

got 1/- a week pocket money, so he never got around to joining. Maybe if they had come down to a shilling, my life might have been different. I guess I'll never know.

In another ad, a bathing costumed woman did an excruciatingly painful (to look at) back bend on a giant feather, in order to advertise a rupture appliance; while elsewhere, two bewhiskered old fogies plugged cough drops - an advert later to be recorded in a tale of the future by the late Doc Smith.

Every pulp reader will remember the adverts for Midwestern Radio, and their 22 TUBE job. No matter how lavishly a plan schematics using extra RF stages, separate mixer oscillators, magic eye tubes and push-pull output stages, I can't design a set to use more than a dozen. A friend of mine assures me that the radio actually USED only six of the tubes, and the rest merely had their heaters connected to give a nice cheery glow if the ignorant owner happened to look inside. How true this is, I don't know, but it certainly sounds plausible.

Then of course two mature old characters whose names escape me, romped around selling whiskey. The back page of **ASTOUNDING** alternated between Camels and Chesterfields, while the long haired character of 'They laughed when I sat down to play' became almost a national catch phrase.

One particularly droolworthy ad advertised casting kits (complete with electric furnace) and moulds for making Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon, and rocket ships ad infinitum. Then if you sold somebody or other's salve, there was a whole page of goodies you could take home merely for selling a few measly ten cent boxes. One of these was a real horror which made us feel sorry for the youth of America.. it was basically a bicycle, but encumbered with double cross bars, dummy petrol tank, headlamps, siren, pennant, and tyres wide enough to fit on a motor bike. Obviously a

once-round the block and collapse on the grass model not meant for serious racing or riding. One of those things probably weighed as much as three of the ultra light racing machines we all used to tour the countryside on. That bike was almost a symbol to us, it showed that in one tiny sphere at least, we had it made over those who lived in that land of plenty (of s-f).

Another item which sticks in my mind was a come-on entry for some competition. The illa showed a major cross roads and umpteen cars jammed in a super blockage. A bewildered traffic cop studied the scene and you were invited to decide which car had to be moved first to clear the jam. Even a blind moron with figs in his ears could have spotted the solution, but of course, this merely entitled you to an entry form for the competition proper. I never did work out just what the competition was, though I suspect it was selling something or other to somebody or other, as so many of the ads. wanted you to do in order to help you become rich.

These adverts may have been corny by the standards of Madison Avenue, but at least they stuck in the memory, even if only because of sheer repetition. I just tried to think of today's adverts, and all I could recall, were ads for the Book Club... 'Make your reservation for a trip to the Moon' and the Edmund Scientific Co. offering giant balloons and magnets. Whatever they had, one thing is certain, these ads and many others all formed a part of that vastly larger thing which came to be known as a Sense of Wonder, and which we stir nostalgically when we look back on the good old days of science fiction. Along with the ads., we had the Science Fiction League, Sergeant Saturn, Brass Tacks, Science Discussions and so on. I wonder what, if any, highlights will remain of today's s-f in thirty years time.....it makes you think.

Terry Jeeves

NEWS AND VIEWS

by Lynn Hickman & Gary Zachrich



BIG NEWS FOR PULP FANS!! An agreement is almost completed by a paperback publisher on G-8 and his Battle Aces and The Spider. They plan to start publication in August with two G-8's that month, two Spiders in September, then one G-8 in October, one Spider in November, and so on. I will bring you more news on this in the next issue after the deal is finalized.

A hard cover release due March 15th should also be of interest to pulp fans. Dashiell Hammett: A Casebook by William F. Nolan. It will contain a 50 page Hammett checklist of all his work and examine in depth the pulp era from which he emerged in the 20's. Published by McNally/Loflin, P. O. Box 1316, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Bantam Books have now issued 32 paperbacks in the Doc Savage series. Dust of Death, originally published in Doc Savage Magazine for October 1935 is the latest.

Popular Library has issued 3 books in the Captain Future series, the latest being Outlaw World by Edmond Hamilton. This issue has one of the **FINEST** covers by Frazetta that I have ever seen. It would be worth the 60¢ for the cover alone.

From Ace Books, on the stands now; Edgar Rice Burroughs: Master of Adventure by Richard A Lupoff at 95¢. This should be on all fans shelves.

The International Textbook Company has aquired Ballantine Books. Ian Ballantine will continue as President and chief executive officer of Ballantine which will maintain its present headquarters. Intext will substantially increase Ballantine Books' capitalization and allow an increase in their publishing program.

Starting in February, Ball ntine will began publishing 15 titles a month.

The good news from Ballantine, on the stands now, is the Gormenghast Trilogy. 95¢ per copy. Volume 1, Titus Groan, Volume 2, Gormenghast, Volume 3, Titus Alone. These books are a must for all fantasy fans.

Lynn Hickman

Reviews by Gary Zachrich

Rite of Passage 75¢ Ace Books by Alexei Panshin.
Starwell 50¢
The Thurb Revolution 50¢

Alexei comes on with a fine first novel, the story of a young girl coming of age in a permanent spaceship environment. It borders on wonderful. Throughout the story you come upon little nuggets that strike you as truly authentic and unique to a young girl.

Her feelings, her motives, her friends, are cradled in a very good setting of situation problems pertaining to the life of the ship and her people. Rate it a very good class A and don't miss it.

Alexei follows this with the start of a series on a gentleman adventurer, with a humerous and intricate outlook on life, that is even better than his first book -- and then Thud!! What has happened? He destroyed in the second Anthony Villiers book all that he established in the first. Was it enthusiasm that brought forth the 2nd book in this series or was it a hurried job to cash in on a previous good book? Buy the 1st two, skip the third, and cross your fingers that he takes some time on the fourth. Reserve your judgement on The Thurb Revolution, it must have been written in haste. Alexei is a good author, and hopefully will come up with another winner.

Star Quest by Dean R. Koontz. Ace Double 60¢. Here we have a good old "after the fall out has fallen" story all about advanced science in a backward society shot full of mutants. But don't get the wrong idea. It's good. A good, well thought out series of personalities belonging to a fish man, a cat woman, and an eternal youth to mention some. The hero is of

'It's A Heck Of A Business'

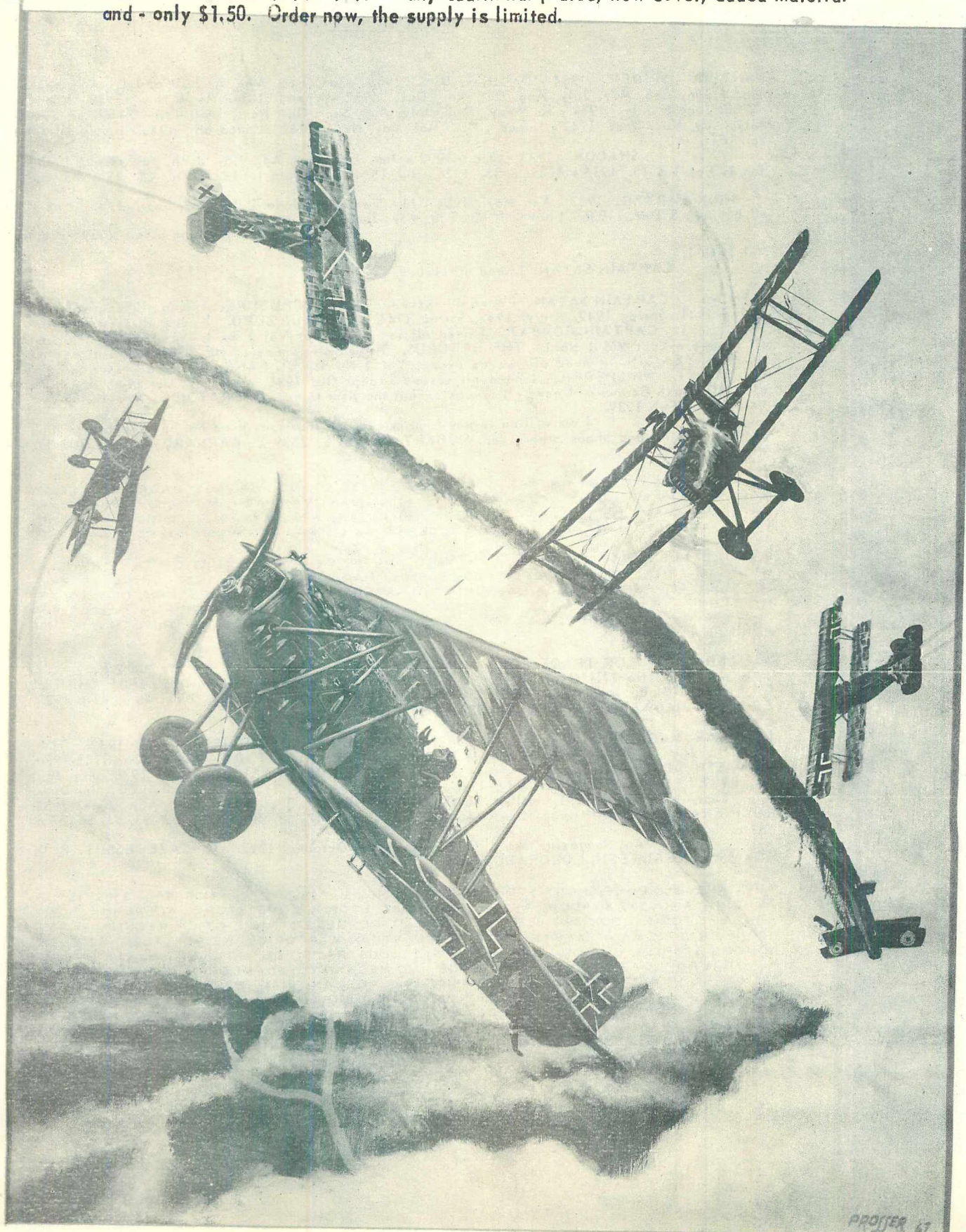


L. ANLEY
1-8-67

NOW ON SALE!!

DAVE PROSSER'S FABULOUS BOOKLET!!

WAR IN THE AIR 1914 - 1918. Many additional plates, new cover, added material and - only \$1.50. Order now, the supply is limited.



CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED -- SPIDER. 1934 - Oct, Nov, Dec. 1935 - Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, June, July, Aug, Sept. 1936 - Jan, Feb, May, July, Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec. 1937 - I need all but Mar & Nov. 1938 - I need all but June & July. 1939 - Jan, May, June, July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov. 1940 - Jan, Feb, Apr, June, July, Aug, Nov, Dec. 1941 - I need all but Mar, May, Nov. 1942 - I need all. 1943 - I need all but Jan, Feb, Aug.

SHADOW. 1931 - Dec. 1932 - Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Aug. 1933 - Jan 1, Feb 1 & 15. 1935 - Aug 1 & 15. 1936 - Jan 15, Mar 15, Aug 1. 1941 - Oct 15. 1949 - Summer.

NICK CARTER. 1933 - Apr, May. 1934 - Jan, Feb, May, June, July, Aug, Sept. 1935 - I need all but Aug & Dec. 1936 - I need all but Feb, May, June.

G-8. I need anything before 1939 except

Vol 1 No 1.

CAPTAIN SATAN. I need all issues.

Vol 1 No 1. CAPTAIN SATAN. I need all issues. CAPTAIN FUTURE. I need all issues except Spring 1941, Spring 1942, Winter 1942, Spring 1944. CAPTAIN ZERO. I need all issues except Vol 1 No 1. CAPTAIN COMBAT. I need all issues except Vol 1 No 1. SECRET SIX. I need all issues except Vol 1 No 1. THE OCTOPUS. I need all issues. THE SCORPION. I need all issues. YEN SIN. I need all issues except Vol 1 No 1. WU FANG. I need all issues except Vol 1 No 1. WHISPERER. I need all issues except Oct 1936, Mar 1937, Oct 1940, Apr 1941. WIZARD (Cash Gorman). I need all issues except the first three. OPERATOR 5. I need Nov-Dec 1938 & Jan-Feb 1939.

I am willing to pay high prices and the mags need not have covers as long as they are in good shape otherwise. ROBERT DANIELS 3839 E. BARNARD AVE. CUDAHY, WISC. 53110.

I WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING ISSUES OF DOC SAVAGE MAGAZINE. 1933 - MAR, APR, MAY, JULY, AUG, SEPT, OCT. 1934 - JAN, MAR, APR, MAY, NOV. 1935 - JAN, MAR, APR, MAY, JULY, AUG, NOV, DEC. 1936 - JAN, APR, MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUG, DEC. 1937 - JAN, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JULY, SEPT. I WILL PAY PREMIUM PRICES FOR THESE.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO OBTAIN ANY AND ALL SPICY TYPE TITLES OF THE THIRTIES, SUCH AS SPICY STORIES, BEDTIME STORIES, PARIS NIGHTS, SILK STOCKING STORIES, SCARLET ADVENTURES, LA PARISIENNE, 10-STORY BOOK, SPICY WESTERN, DETECTIVE, MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE, AND SO ON. I WILL GLADLY PAY PREMIUM PRICES FOR THE FLEAS. JOSEPH GILBERT 1313 SOUTH EDGEWATER DRIVE CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29407

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE FOR -- JUNGLE STORIES. Vol 1 No 3, 4, 12. Vol 2 No 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9. Vol 3 No 11. (I would like to have copy of contents page if you won't sell) THRILLS OF THE JUNGLE. Dec 1929. TROPICAL ADVENTURES. Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Aug. 1928. POPULAR MAGAZINE. Apr 7 & 14, 1928. THRILLU

POPULAR MAGAZINE. Apr 7 & 14, 1928. THRILLING ADVENTURES. Jan, 1932. TOP-NOTCH. June 2, 1930. ARGOSY. May 28, June 4, 1932. ALL-STORY. Most issues 1905-1920. MAMMOTH ADVENTURE. Most issues 1946-1947. GOLDEN FLEECE. Nov, 1938, Jan, Mar, Jun, 1939. PIRATE STORIES. Nov, 1934, Jan, Mar, July, Aug, 1935. WEIRD TALES. Jun-July, Aug, Sept, Nov, Dec, 1931. HIGH SEAS ADVENTURES. Dec, 1934, Feb, Apr, June, 1935. PULP ERA 64 & 68 (will trade JD-ARGASSY 7, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57 & 58, or offers?)

Any magazine dated 1912, especially October, 1912! C. CAZEDESSUS P. O. BOX 550 EVERGREEN, COLORADO 80439

FOR SALE 300 PULP SHORT STORY MAGS. 1920S (65), 1930S (200), 1940S (30), 1950S (15) INCLUDING ARGOSY, SHADOW, ASTOUNDING, ALL STORY, LOVE STORY, WESTERN STORY, WONDER STORIES, DOC SAVAGE, BEST DETECTIVE, DETECTIVE FICTION WEEKLY, SPORT STORY, HAPPY MAG, SWEETHEART, CLUES, STRANGE STORIES, WEIRD TALES, SCIENCE WONDER STORIES, CUPIDS, LOVE MAGAZINE, ILLUSTRATED DETECTIVE, AND MANY MORE. ALSO 184 POPULAR SCIENCE, 71 SCIENCE AND MECHANICS, 202 MECHANICS ILLUSTRATED 227 POPULAR MECHANICS MOSTLY 1935-55. 148 MECCANO MAGAZINE ALMOST COMPLETE 1927-39. 200 BRITISH BULLSEYE PIONEER SCHOOLGIRL GEM (1930S). SATEVEPOST AND COLLIERS COMPLETE AUG 41 TO DEC 45. OTHERS. SEND FOR LIST. BEST OFFERS FOR WHOLE OR PART BY DECEMBER 31ST. COTE 748 ROCKLAND, OUTREMONT, MONTREAL, CANADA. EXCELLENT CONDITION, SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

FOR SALE

BLUE BOOK Sept. 1940. Masthead cut from cover, otherwise in fair shape.
Contains stories by Nelson Bond and H. Bedford-Jones \$1.00

FACT DETECTIVE STORIES May 1939 Vol. 1 No. 2. No covers. 35¢

HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVE Dec. 1943. No front cover..... 50¢

SPEED MYSTERY Jan. 1944. No front cover. Stories by Victor Rousseau
and Clive Trent50¢

FACT SPY STORIES Sept. 1939. Masthead cut from cover.... 50¢

THRILLING MYSTERY NOVEL May 1946. Good condition75¢

10-STORY DETECTIVE Nov. 1939. Good condition 75¢

DIME MYSTERY MAGAZINE May 1946, July 1946. Good condition \$1.00 each.

G-MEN July 1938. Fair 75¢

BEST DETECTIVE MAGAZINE Spt. 1936. Contains THE CRIMSON CLOWN by
Johnston McCully.....\$2.50

BLUE BOOK Feb. 1942. Masthead cut from cover, otherwise very good shape.
Contains stories by Nelson Bond, H. Bedford-Jones, and Donald Barr (hidsey...\$1.00

BEST DETECTIVE MAGAZINE Oct. 1932. No cover.... \$1.00

COMPLETE DETECTIVE NOVEL June 1934. No cover....\$1.00

DETECTIVE TALES March & June 1937, Jan., Feb., & April 1938. No covers.
50¢ each.

DETECTIVE ACTION STORIES June-July 1937. No cover 50¢

SPEED MYSTERY May 1943, Sept. 1943. Masthead cut from cover.... 50¢ each

HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVE Nov. 1943. Masthead cut from cover ...\$1.00 Also
a copy without a cover for 50¢

CAPTAIN SATAN June 1938. No cover.... \$1.50

Postage paid on orders of \$1.50 or more. For orders of less than \$1.50, add 10¢
per magazine.

None of the above magazines are in mint or excellent condition. They are from
fair to good and as described. Have many other pulps in from poor to absolute
mint condition. Prices ranging from 20¢ to \$8.00. Also have many original
covers and interior artwork for sale. Prices ranging from \$20.00 to \$175.00.

LYNN A. HICKMAN 418 OTTOKEE STREET WAUSEON, OHIO 43567

THE

33

MASTER OF MEN!

DECEMBER

10¢

SPIDER



**WINGS
OF THE
BLACK
DEATH!**

FULL-LENGTH SPIDER NOVEL

84

GRANT STOCKBRIDGE



Lead story by Grant Stockbridge.

Interior illustrations by J. Fleming Gould.

Cover by John Howitt - A huge, emerald-green snake, fangs bared, is coiled around a blonde in a red evening dress. The hand of the Spider is reaching for the serpent.

Cast of The Serpent of Destruction:

Wentworth, Nita Van Sloan, Kirkpatrick, Ram Singh, Apollo,
Jenkyns, Prof. Brownlee.

Alice Cashew, an ill-fated gangster's moll.

Big Mick Harrigan, a criminal lieutenant.

Nino Carlotti, a restaurateur.

Grace Puystan, a pretty society girl addicted to dope.

Jim Hendricks, Dept. of Justice - Chief of the Narcotics Division.

Grayson, Agent C17, on the trail of the dope kings.

Tarleton Bragg, a U. S. Senator.

Tess Goodleigh, Bragg's secretary - associating with the criminals.

Conrad Burns, banker.

Pelton Hobbs, one of the idle rich.

Claudius Mobo, in attendance at a dope party.

Randall Towers, in love with Grace Puystan.

Whitey Maxwell, an underworld king - challenged by the Spider.

Marcus O'Tooley, another underworld lieutenant.

The Bloody Serpent, a mysterious man in a muffler.

Dr. Horace Skeen, one of the Serpent's aliases.

Snuffer Dan Tewkes, a Wentworth disguise.

The Story: Wentworth goes to see Alice Cashew, girl friend of Big Mick Harrigan, to learn the nature of Big Mick's new criminal operations but finds her stabbed. As she dies, she mutters, "Dope - The Bloody Serpent." When police arrive, Wentworth disguises as a cheap hood and escapes to a neighboring apartment where he finds Tess Goodleigh, a blonde moll, a man in a muffler who looks like Senator Tarleton Bragg, two gangsters, and two apparent captives, Grace Puystan and Nino Carlotti. Wentworth escapes and goes to Washington to contact Jim Hendricks, head of the Dept. of Justice's Narcotics squad. Hendricks reveals that dope smuggling and sales are running rampant and that many of his best agents have been murdered. As Wentworth leaves, he sees Hendricks' chief agent, Grayson, being kidnapped by Tess Goodleigh and a gang of criminals.

Following the kidnappers, Wentworth kills all but Tess and the man in the muffler, and rescues Grayson.

Returning to New York, Wentworth disguises himself as Snuffer Dan Tewkes and goes to Nino Carlotti's restaurant, only to find that it has been taken over by Big Mick and dope is sold openly. When an honest policeman arrives, the dope addicts attack him and Wentworth fails in an attempt to save his life.

Wentworth and Nita attend a party held by Grace Puystan. She is under the influence of narcotics, and narcotics are openly served to her guests. At the party, Wentworth meets Conrad Burns, a banker, Pelton Hobbs, a playboy, and Claudius Mobo, a reformer. Grace's boy friend, Randall Towers, is repulsed by his drug-crazed girl friend, and Wentworth solicits his help, asking him to trail Mobo.

When Kirkpatrick is accused of bribery, Wentworth is outraged at the Serpent's audacity and decides to strike openly. He sends a threat to Whitey Maxwell, one of the Serpent's lieutenants, and says that the Spider will kill him at 11:00 p.m. in full view of a nightclub audience. Prof. Brownlee designs a cane which carries the Spider seal and which will release a fatal dose of Black Widow Spider venom when pressed against a victim. Using the Tito Caliepi disguise, the Spider carries out his threat.

Wentworth next corners Big Mick and learns that Marcus O'Tooley is one of the Serpent's top aides. O'Tooley, before he is killed by the Spider brand, reveals that a truck shipment of dope is coming through. Kirkpatrick and Wentworth stop the shipment.

The Serpent is now outraged at Wentworth's audacity and kidnaps Nita. He tells Wentworth that unless the Spider joins the gang, Nita will become a dope addict. Wentworth apparently complies and most of the criminals in the dope ring meet at the Wentworth estate. Through very ingenious planning and with the aid of sliding panels designed by Prof. Brownlee, Wentworth is able to capture the entire gang and unmask its leader.

Critical Comment: Serpent of Destruction is a highly satisfactory Spider novel. It differs somewhat from the four previous Grant Stockbridge stories, being more than a little reminiscent of the Scott novels. First, it is not so frantic or hectic, allowing significant pauses between episodes. The episodes themselves are well-planned and well-written, each resolving something within itself - the rescue of a secret-service agent, the death of a gang lieutenant, or the securing of information essential to the progress of the plot. The episode wherein the Spider challenges and openly confronts and kills Whitey is somewhat difficult to believe but thoroughly effective.

There is a return to sex, also. Although modern studies indicate that dope deadens the sex drive, in Serpent of Destruction the female addicts seem to be stimulated by the drugs. When the Spider barges into Big Mick's apartment, Big Mick is telling Tess Goodleigh, "You'd better come across or else"; and there seems to be no doubt about

what he wants her to come across with. Again it should be emphasized that the sex element in The Spider magazine is in the form of awareness or recognition, rather than action; it never approaches the tasteless and sordid details of so many of today's paperbacks and best sellers.

It is perhaps not inappropriate to say that the Serpent of Destruction combines some of the best elements of the Scott and Stockbridge novels.

General Comments: In the first Spider novel, one footnote was used. When Wentworth applies artificial respiration, the editor notes that he asked the author to describe the procedure in detail so that readers might learn something which could save lives. In this novel, three footnotes are included - all to substantiate some fact which might seem far-fetched to the reader. The first footnote describes knots that can be loosened from afar; the second discusses the venom of the Black Widow Spider; and the third offers proof that some dope actually carried brand names.

Additional Contents:

Arthur Leo Zagat, Deadlock (a Doc Turner short)
George A. Starbird, The Death Yacht.

[illegible]

STAND BY ... ON THE AIR a new magazine for the collector of old time radio. Now for the first time you can again hear the sounds of your favorite radio shows. The comedies, mysteries, Science Fiction and juvenile adventures in complete form. It's all free and yours for the asking.

STAND BY ... ON THE AIR also contains stories about all of your favorite stars and shows like, Fred Allen, Amos & Andy, Kate Smith and many more, plus many photographs. Also a huge list of collectors of Radio shows. If you enjoyed the thrills of old radio, don't miss out.

Subscription rates are: single copies \$1.00 or \$4.00 per year.

Issue number 1 & 2 are 50¢ each, mailed flat in a large envelope.

write to:

ROBERT VITO
1369 E. 38th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Lead story by Grant Stockbridge.

Interior illustrations by J. Fleming Gould.

Cover illustration by John Howitt - The Spider, masked, is firing at Death, a skeleton in a black cape which features the head of a rabid wolf. Death's bony fingers are clutching at a green-clad girl who is fleeing in horror.

Cast of The Mad Horde:

Wentworth, Nita Van Sloan, Ram Singh, Prof. Brownlee.

Rusk, Captain of industrial guards - the first victim.

Douglas Brent, master of the Mad Hordes.

Berthold Healy, an industrial giant.

Sybil Healy, his wife.

Doris Healy, his daughter.

Jack Collins, young guest of the Healys.

Heinrich Scarlett, another guest of the Healys.

Dern Bierkson, mad professor, responsible for the Horde.

Brig. Gen. Francis Lansing, head of military personnel fighting the Horde.

Sven Gustafsson, Patrick O'Roone, two of Wentworth's disguises.

The Story: Wentworth and Ram Singh are in Cologne, Ohio, on the trail of master-criminal Douglas Brent. Wentworth is especially disturbed because he has learned that 5,000 dogs have been ordered and shipped to the same area. Intercepting a police call, Wentworth goes to the address mentioned and encounters a murderous maniac who has just killed his family. The man is suffering from hydrophobia. The crazed man is trailed to the estate of Berthold Healy, a prominent industrialist. Wentworth, disguised as Sven Gustafsson, enters the house to warn the occupants - Berthold, his wife, Sybil, his daughter, Doris, and two house guests, Jack Collins and Heinrich Scarlett. When the madman enters, he is identified as Rusk, chief of Healy's industrial guards. In a moment of sanity he warns them of a Dr. Brent before he dies.

Wentworth, searching the grounds, hears the barks of a truck load of rabid dogs. As he and Ram Singh attempt to chase the truck, an assailant in a tree drops a maddened cat on them. Wentworth kills the assailant and the cat, but not before Ram Singh is bitten. Wentworth gives Ram Singh the serum he has brought along for himself.

Wentworth pursues the truck but its cargo of rabid dogs, cats, and rats is released on a helpless community. Rabid wolves are found in the countryside. Attempting to contact a laboratory which produces serum, Wentworth finds that it is under attack as are all the laboratories in the country. Flying to escort a plane carrying serum, Wentworth is unable to save it from an attacking plane, although he does down the enemy plane.

Nita visits the Healys and Wentworth, as himself, joins her. He confronts Berthold with the information that only his factories and factory towns are escaping from the Horde's attacks. Healy is enraged and denies any part in the hideous plot. Prof. Brownlee is put to work designing a gas which will hug the ground and kill animals while proving harmless to humans.

Wentworth, working with Gen. Lansing, helps to thwart an attack on the Indiana steel town of Hurzon, but deliberately allows himself to be captured so that he might get a lead on the master villain. Caged, Wentworth finds that Ram Singh and Nita are also captives. Held in other cages are men with various stages of hydrophobia. In charge of the compound is Dern Bierkson, a crazed professor who is working for the Master of the Hordes and is using the captives as human guinea pigs. Wentworth escapes and frees Nita and Ram Singh. Learning that Gary, Indiana, is the next target, Wentworth calls Gen. Lansing and defenses are set up. As Prof. Brownlee manufactures quantities of his gas, Wentworth returns and destroys Bierkson's laboratory, then flies to Gary with carboys of the gas. The battle is at its height and Wentworth is kept busy dropping gas into various breaches in the lines. Other military planes arrive armed with the gas and the situation is saved.

Wentworth then returns to the Healy estate and with carefully prepared plans tricks the Master of the Hordes into revealing his identity.

Critical Comment: For successfully sustained action and for magnitude of peril, The Mad Horde may well be one of the best pulp adventures ever written. It proves what a skilled pulp writer can do when he really gets the bit in his teeth and is inspired. It has been stated previously that when a peak of activity is reached early and is sustained at that level throughout, the story suffers. This is one of those delightful exceptions to the rule. During this entire adventure the reader never leaves the hero's side, and in the first half of the story Wentworth goes continuously for 60 hours without sleep - yet the reader is not wearied.

That Kirkpatrick and New York City do not appear in the story is a pleasant change. That there are only minor attempts by authorities to capture the Spider is not only a welcome change but actually adds much to the story's success - the hero is able to concentrate on the villain and even more so on the peril, the Mad Horde. Actually, even though the Spider seal is affixed occasionally, it is really Richard Wentworth who is the hero - most of his accomplishments are achieved while he is acting as himself. Ram Singh, too, comes into his own as a worthy ally to the Spider.

Perhaps the only legitimate adverse criticism would concern the uncanny success of the hero. It is almost impossible to believe that the Spider, Doc Savage, or even Batman could encounter so many rabid beasts and not suffer a single scratch or minor nip - either of which would prove fatal.

The Mad Horde is a classic example of the action-filled pulp novel.

General Comment: Some mention should be made of Gould's illustrations - although some of his figures seem occasionally to be out of proportion, he has a wonderful ability to present panoramic scenes - and he does a great job in this issue.

Footnotes again abound and they are quite erudite. The reader learns in detail the symptoms and ravages of hydrophobia, and one-third of a page - in fine print - relates the various injections which are used to combat rabies, including the methods for preparing or manufacturing the serums.

Additional Contents:

Arthur Leo Zagat, Death on Morris Street (a Doc Turner story)
Winston Bouve, An Unfilled Grave (short)

Lead story by Grant Stockbridge.

Interior illustrations by J. Fleming Gould.

Cover by John Howitt - Forming the background is a huge, round bomb with an ignited fuse - a girl is tied to it. In the foreground, the caped and masked Spider is fighting the Devil - complete with horns, tail, and a pitchfork.

Cast of Satan's Death Blast:

Wentworth, Nita, Ram Singh, Kirkpatrick, Jackson.
Senator Calles Beach, first victim of Satan's death blast.
Ann Beach, the Senator's brave daughter.
Angelica Patrici, a guest of Ann Beach's.
J. Osborne Pierce, a radio commentator.
Reed, Albany's Chief of Police.
Delancey Howard, a lawyer - front man for Satan.
Peter Isonq, Satan.

The Story: Richard Wentworth is in Albany, New York, to offer protection to his friend, Senator Calles Beach, who is providing stiff opposition to a proposed bill which would give control of the state parks to a corporation headed by lawyer Delancey Howard. Trailing a man from Howard's house, Wentworth, masked as the Spider, overhears a plot to send the Senator "up in dust" as he takes his afternoon walk. Confronting the four conspirators, Wentworth is shot through the leg, and is forced to kill them. All receive the seal of the Spider, including the leader who is a Devil-faced man wearing a full, red cape.

Wentworth phones the Senator's daughter, Ann, and each attempts to reach the intended victim but arrives too late - as the Senator lights his cigar, an explosion destroys the entire block. Wentworth determines that the explosive was contained in the cigar and that a powerful, new criminal weapon has been loosed on mankind - and, in an escaping car, Wentworth spots the Devil-faced man he thought he had killed.

Wentworth is almost killed when Ram Singh, hypnotized, tries to stab him. Despite his aching leg wound, he rushes to Ann Beach's house where he meets Angelica Patrici and J. Osborne Pierce. After they leave, Wentworth tries to find out about the suspected park-land swindle but the Devil appears and kidnaps Ann. Before he passes out from loss of blood, Wentworth tells Jackson, his chauffeur, to trail the Devil's car.

Recovering in a hospital, Wentworth is told that his leg needs immediate attention but he rushes to the Governor's office to request that the bill be defeated. Delancey Howard, outraged, has Wentworth kidnapped. Taken to an underground cavern, Wentworth must cross, on narrow planks, a dark lake filled with electric eels. When the Devil appears to gloat, Wentworth overpowers him. Although his men are killed by the eels, the Devil does not hesitate to plunge into the lake and escape. Wentworth receives a second wound and suffers partial amnesia.

Returning to the city to confront Howard, Wentworth finds Nita with him - and she attempts to shoot the Spider. Knowing that she is not under hypnosis, Wentworth, in feverish condition, fears she has betrayed him. He locates Jackson and the two of them return to the cave. It is determined that the cavern lakes, located on park property, are the sole habitat of the species of eel that is used in making the powerful new explosive. Wentworth sends Jackson for the police while he tackles the Devil's men single-handedly. He succeeds in stealing enough of the explosive to blow up the entire cavern and kill all its occupants.

The city of New York has been threatened and asked to pay \$75,000,000 or the explosive in the possession of the Devil will be used to blow up the metropolis. Knowing the Devil's true identity, Wentworth manages to wreck the villain's plane, rescue Ann Beach, and destroy the mastermind.

Nita, of course, has remained loyal to the Spider and was only seeking to obtain information which could end the menace. She is with Wentworth when the doctors inform him that his wounded leg can be saved.

Critical Comment: Satan's Death Blast departs somewhat from the typical Spider novel and it is not altogether satisfactory. The beginning episodes, though full of violence, are paced somewhat leisurely, but the plot is extremely contrived and the contrivances are awkward.

Wentworth, capable as always, is wounded at the start and is handicapped by the wound throughout. Added to this is a head wound and a slight case of amnesia later in the story - then comes constant pain, fever, and exhaustion. It's not unlike a championship team playing with an injured quarterback - even if the game is won, the spectator feels it would have been much more satisfactory had the star been at full strength. Then, too, Wentworth

believes that Nita has betrayed him. Certainly the reader never believes this and, since it is essential to the plot, it weakens the story. Angelica Patrici appears twice and is completely superfluous to the story - if the author had plans for her, he never developed them. The character of Satan, too, is rather ludicrous - a masked man is one thing, a fully-costumed criminal quite another.

Although some of the individual sequences are quite good, Satan's Death Blast is an uneven and not very satisfying novel.

General Comment: This story is important in The Spider series because of the attention it gives to Jackson, the chauffeur. In the last half of the story, he supplants Ram Singh as Wentworth's number one aide and is quite heroic. Even here, however, he is not aware that his master is the Spider.

A footnote offers fascinating facts about the effectiveness of silk as a bullet-proof substance, and relates some of the experiments carried on during World War I.

Added Note: In this issue, Inspector Leslie T. White, retired from the Los Angeles Police Department, takes over the Spider's Web Department.

Additional Contents:

Arthur Leo Zagat, Doc Turner's Death Antidote
Emile C. Tepperman, Painted Fangs

Lead story by Grant Stockbridge.

Interior illustrations by J. Fleming Gould.

Cover by John Howitt - Standing in the aisle of a Pullman car, surrounded by horrified passengers staring from their berths, is the spectre of Death clad in a pirate costume - in his right hand is a green lightning bolt. The hand of the Spider, parrying the bolt with a rapier, is seen in the left-hand corner.

Cast of The Corpse Cargo:

Wentworth, Nita Van Sloan, Stanley Kirkpatrick,

Ram Singh, Apollo.

Jimmy Walsh, a brave lad who possesses a Spider ring.

Ralph Donaghue, private investigator for the Black Detective Agency.

Jack Curley, a boy - first victim of the Green Fire.

Jonas Curley, Jack's grandfather - inventor of the Green Fire.

Capt. Kidd, voluptuous brunette - sadistic dealer of death.

Bolo, Capt. Kidd's giant, bearded lieutenant.

Bill, Bolo's brother, a victim of Kidd's wrath.

Nellie Curley, Jonas' granddaughter - in love with

Dutch Brogard, an underworld gunman.

The Story:

Responding to an urgent call from Commissioner Kirkpatrick requesting that he contact him secretly, Wentworth attempts to slip onto the Commissioner's estate but is surprised by Ralph Donaghue, a private investigator who has the grounds under surveillance. Subduing the detective, Wentworth sees Kirkpatrick who gives him a Spider ring which he says was received from a lad named Jimmy Walsh.

Wentworth, in disguise, goes to see Jimmy who holds "Spider Club" meetings in an old shack. He kills a gunman who is standing guard at the shack and finds, inside, that six other boys are being held at gunpoint. One gunman is burning a pirate flag with a strange, green-glowing knife on the chest of a boy. Killing the gunmen, Wentworth learns that Jim Walsh has been kidnapped and that the tortured boy, now dead, is Jack Curley whose grandfather, Jonas, has invented the green-glowing electrical device. Rushing to Jonas' house, Wentworth foils a kidnapping attempt and warns the inventor to take refuge in a hotel.

Wentworth follows the kidnappers and discovers that an auto full of detectives is already on the trail. Suddenly, the detectives' car bursts into green flames. Investigating, Wentworth finds the occupants dead - all by electrocution. Discovering the wires

which carried the current, Wentworth follows them but is surprised and captured by gunmen and taken to the gang's headquarters. Their leader, a voluptuous brunette who calls herself Captain Kidd, is outraged because her men used the electrical device and kills Bill, the gunman in charge. She has Wentworth taken to the basement where he is bound alongside Jimmy Walsh. Electrical wires are attached to the two captives and Kidd confides that she is on the way to supervise the high-jacking of a train but will stop, in fifteen minutes, at a remote switch which she will throw, thereby electrocuting Wentworth and the boy. This she does and is rewarded by seeing the house go up in a mass of green flames.

Waiting for Kidd beside a remote section of track is Bolo, her giant, bearded lieutenant, and a band of henchmen. She tells them that the Pennsy Limited, a deluxe passenger train, will be charged with the Green Fire and that they will have five minutes in which to loot the baggage car and the victims. At the end of five minutes, a second charge will hit the train. The train is looted as planned, although one criminal loses his life when he fails to leave on time.

Wentworth and Jimmy escape the death trap and call Kirkpatrick to warn him of the high-jacking plans but he reveals that they are too late - the train has crashed into the terminal with its cargo of corpses.

Learning that Jonas Curley has been abducted, Wentworth turns his attention to mail planes that are being destroyed by the Green Fire. Boarding a plane, he discovers how the criminals lure the planes from their regular routes. Tracing the source of the false signals, he rescues Jonas.

Knowing that Jonas' granddaughter has been keeping company with a gangster, Dutch Brogard, Wentworth asks Nita to visit various nightspots in an attempt to locate them. She succeeds and notifies Dick. He trails them but finds that Capt. Kidd has murdered them and taken Nita prisoner. Faced with Nita's death, Wentworth surrenders.

When Capt. Kidd leaves the Spider to die, he escapes and kills the gunmen on guard, placing the Spider seal on their foreheads. Capt. Kidd, however, has arranged hidden cameras to capture the action and threatens to expose Wentworth as the Spider if he does not withdraw from the case.

Pretending to do so, Wentworth takes the place of a criminal who is to ride aboard a train in an insulated coffin - it is thus that the trains are stopped after their passengers are electrocuted. Wentworth succeeds in clearing the train of its occupants. After the looters board the train, Wentworth reverses the engines - the train again hits the hot wires, and all of the looters are killed. Bolo, believing that Kidd has purposely killed all the men, faces her and is shot even as he strangles her to death.

Critical Comment: The Corpse Cargo is a good Spider novel although, in all honesty, it appears to justify some of the invectives used against pulp fiction, being brutal, blood-thirsty, and sadistic in the extreme. Capt. Kidd must be one of the most vicious females in the annals of pulp literature, and that she enjoys her vicious deeds prevents her from being as fascinating as some of her earlier counterparts.

That The Corpse Cargo is not rated an excellent story is due to a poor start, making it somewhat of an effort for the reader to become really involved in the plot. Wentworth follows three short threads, none of which resolves anything (Ralph Donaghue and the Black Detective Agency are completely superfluous and would have better been left out of the story altogether), before he really gets on the trail of Capt. Kidd. From that point on, the story really moves and does engross the reader.

The completely unexpected denouement might well surprise even the most jaded Spider fan and, of course, adds to the story's success.

Added Note: Grant Stockbridge's memory is not up to his narrative skill - the Spider gave his ring to Tim Walsh, not Jim Walsh. Apparently, interior illustrator Gould suffered no such lapse. In his character illustrations, he has identified the boy as Tim and one can clearly see where a reverse tail has been added to the "T" in Tim to make it appear a "J".

Additional Contents:

Arthur Leo Zagat, The Murder Torch (Doc Turner story)
Wyatt Blassingame, Police Escort (short)

A STREET AND SMITH PUBLICATION

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1933

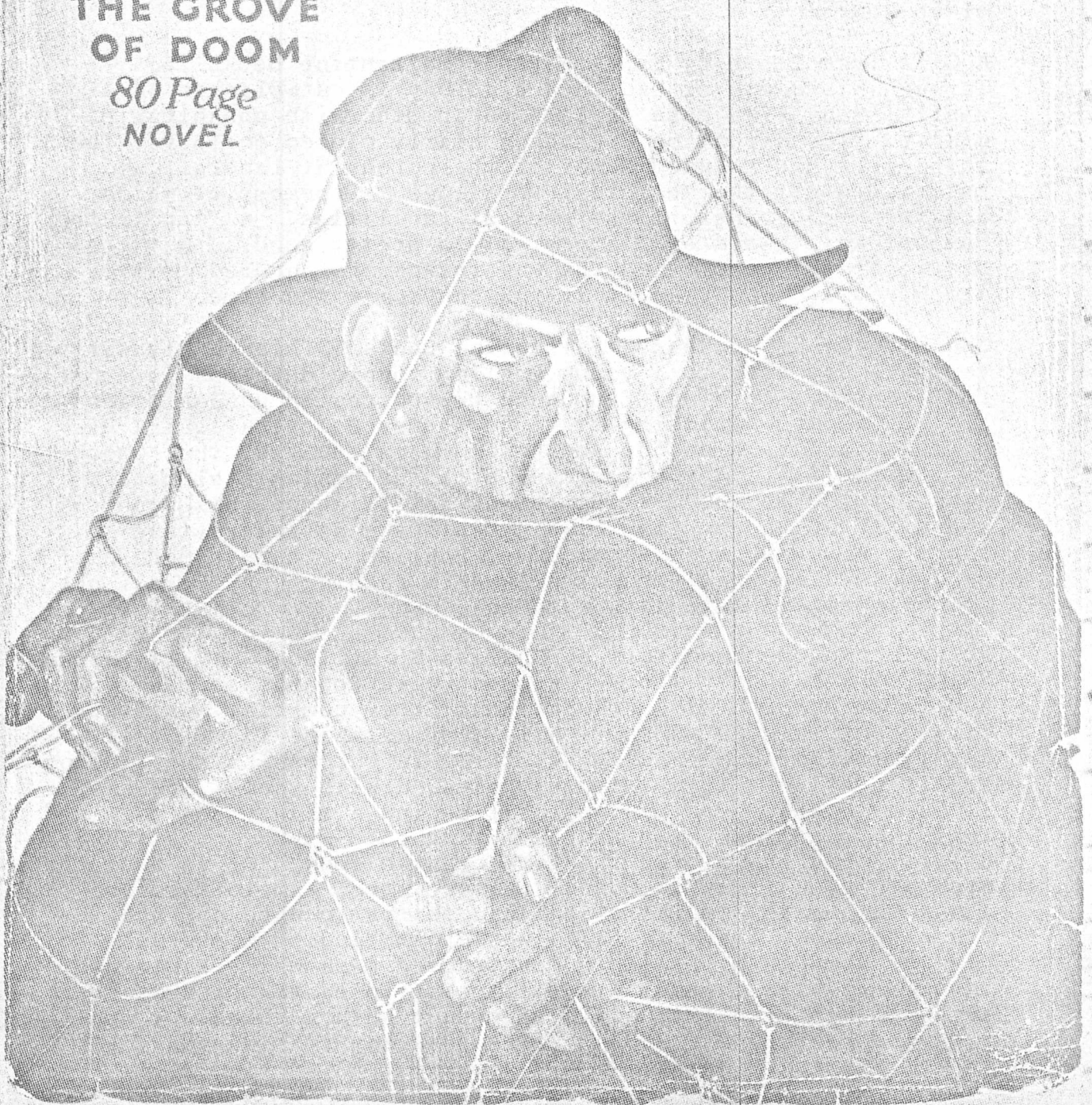
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CENTS

THE *Shadow* ★

MAGAZINE
TWICE A MONTH

THE GROVE
OF DOOM

80 Page
NOVEL



course normal, having only been detached from his issue body and put into the control center of a massive fighting machine. He avoids the built in safeguards, lands and places his brain in the ready made body he carries in the belly of the mighty hulk he controls. Class A, considering it's half of a double. The other half is Doom of the Green Planet by Emil Pataja, which is pretty good. The two are more than worth the asking price.

Sorceress of the Witch World. Ace Books 60¢. By Andre Norton. Last of the Witch World novels, it continues the high quality of an extremely interesting series of adventures. Sword and Sorcery through different worlds amid the turmoil of human and believable characters. Toe to heel adventure in almost any type of environment. Class A as usual. Keep it up Andre.

A Gift From Earth by Larry Niven. Ballantine Books 75¢. Through mischance or bad luck a colony is established on a small island like mass of land on an otherwise uninhabitable planet. The situation creates a nearly closed ecology. The ships crew had assumed power of the colony at landfall and maintained all the technical knowledge. Foremost of which are the organ banks of the medical facilities. A "topple the unjust way things are" story, it is pretty good.. Not the plot, but the people and the way things are handled. Give old Niven a B and read it if you can spare the time.

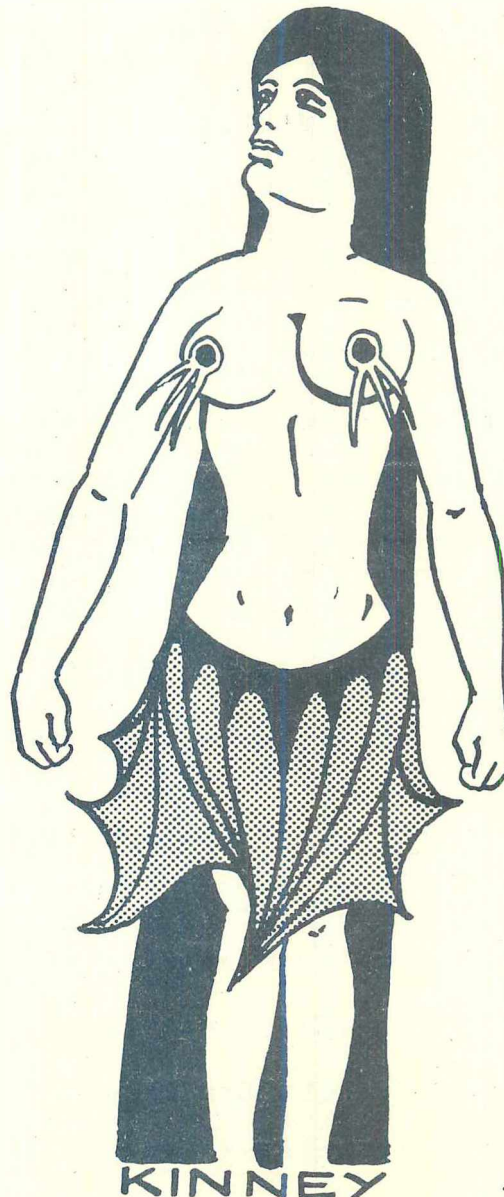
Chocky by John Wyndham. Ballantine Books. Through his early years, a boy born to a young English couple develops in a perfectly normal fashion. Suddenly he acquires an unseen friend called Chocky. Thinking it to be a psychological quirk his parents call in a doctor and he confirms the fact that Chocky is indeed real. A young member of a far distant telepathic race devoted to the development of intelligence, his problems and mistakes on his first assignment make an interesting story. Wyndham is an upper level English author (something I seldom say) and delivers a well worth reading book. This one is well paced. Rate it a good B.

Polaris and the Immortals by Charles B. Stilson. Avalon Books \$3.50. Last in a trilogy beginning with Polaris of the Snows and followed with Minos of Sardanes, they comprise a serial first published in Munsey's All-Story Magazine in 1917. I have just finished reading all three in succession and two for the first time. I am extremely pleased with them. How easy it is even today, to put yourself behind a mighty dog team and feel the sandpaper rasp of the biting cold wind as the runners of your sled shirr over the hard crusted snow. Or to feel the strength of a mighty armored cruiser, steel ram to the fore and girded with special plates and skirts to ward off the crushing ice. There is still wonder in finding a man able to breathe through a specially constructed mask while submerged in cold seawater, and it is still easy to taste the mystery surrounding a man that could construct such a thing. I won't rate them. They are GOOD. Let's just say it's damned good to see them published/.

The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects by Edward J. Ruppelt. Ace Books 75¢ reissue. Worth a mention. An unbiased report on UFO cases. Ed was head of the US Air Force Project Blue Book, the final authority on reports. He has reported many cases in this book pointing out the few that could be. Of the overall 1593 sightings, he has presented probably 3 that would seem to point to a definite "something". If you are interested in UFO, it can be an interesting book for you.

The Great Radio Heroes by Jim Harmon. Ace Books 75¢. Nick Carr presented a fine review of the hardcover edition of this book in The Pulp Era #69, but to me one of the best happenings of the year was when Ace brought this out in paperback so that now fans with limited budgets can also have this fine book on their shelves. Actually, this is a book almost impossible to review adequately. Mainly because all the things that Jim has written about bring back memories of childhood love. Imagine listening to the hero you'd like to see, with no midriff bulge and no slipping mask. They looked exactly like you wanted them to! The deeds they performed were never infringed upon by safety nets, trick cameras etc. YOU made these heroes in YOUR mind. They never looked quite the same to anyone -- no stereotype Jimmy Allen, Jack Armstrong, Captain Midnight, Tom Mix and the Ralston Straight Shooters. You knew them exactly.

Jim brings you the memories of these days when you hurried home from school to listen with your brother, your family, or by yourself to the latest adventures of your favorite serial. And then hurried to remind Mom to buy your favorite cereal no matter how much you detested it. Jim has it ALL in this book. Buy it if its the only book you can get all year.



Horror Times Ten Edited by Alden Norton. Berkley Books 60¢
Masters of Horror

Two books read by a non horror fan reader seemed at first to be uninteresting, but both are carried by two stories which render even the most heartfelt reader to a quivering jelly like substance at 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning when I'm prone to read. 90% filler and 10% goody. They make even the most stalwart unbeliever listen to the creaks and groans of even a new house, with anticipation. If they were just a little better they might turn me into a horror fan. The Dead Valley in Horror Times Ten by Ralph Adams Cram. This reminds me of when I was a kid. A real fantasy and good.

The Women of the Wood by Abraham Merritt in Masters of Horror is of course a classic, and deservedly so. The Transformation by Mary Shelley is probably the most chilling series of words ever condensed into a short story. I've read it several times and will read it again.

The Years of the Sky Kings by Arch Whitehouse. Award Books 75¢.

Through all my remembered years I've read everything pertaining to the war in the air 1914-1918. Generally the subject of every book has been glorified beyond his deeds. After some years, I realized the same stories and references continually described the leading air fighters, in a biased frame. For years I thought no one would devote an effort to describing the participants of this era as they really were. Arch Whitehouse has done this, with some qualifications, but remains the outstanding pictorial writer of a dead age. Many authors write from the viewpoint of a dim memory. Whitehouse writes as though these events took place yesterday and he was still living them. The conflicting reports of events written in detail by eyewitnesses of those times, as written by Whitehouse, seem to fall in place, detracting from some, and adding basis to others, but best of all following what seems to me to be the most realistic and believable possibilities. Of all my extensive interests, the one really nostalgic thing that I do is buy, read, reread, study, and correlate anything pertaining to the realistic side of the war in the air 1914-1918. My favorite subject, by whom is now my favorite author. Buy it and put it on your shelf if you are an air war fan.

P.S. I never have found a satisfactory ending to Manfred Von Richtofen.

Gary Zachrich

THE WAR IN THE AIR 1914-1918 by David Prosser is now ready.

\$1.50 from The Pulp Era Press 413 Ottokee Street Wauseon, O.

LETTERS

As far as this fan is concerned the PULP ERA could never appear too often to outwear its welcome. I believe I'm on record for requesting more reprints of the old covers and original artwork from the pulps (particularly the character series) so I was naturally delighted by the Belarski covers for the TERENCE X. O'LEARY series. Gad, you reprinted the covers for the entire series. A beautiful hunk of nostalgia! Yes, the stories do sound pretty awful (as were the DOCTOR DEATH yarns). I also enjoyed Gaughan's SHADOW pastiches; the one on page 29 was particularly evocative.

A good issue I think, although I missed THE SPIDER resume. Hope you can print some SPIDER covers to match McGregor's upcoming episodes. Or how about some of John Fleming Gould's excellent interiors?

Yes, number 69 was certainly a mixture of printing styles, but interesting for it in any case, and an exciting hint of things to come. The contents page was a beaut, but, unfortunately printed through to the cover, at least on my copy. The work you did on Nick Carr's review of Harmon's book (a good review I thought) was truly outstanding. The double columns, the justified margins, the use of artwork, etc. made pages 28 onward really beautiful. I can appreciate the amount of work that must have gone into this. In any case, congratulations on what is undoubtedly a labor of love.

Don Hutchison, Toronto, Canada

(Editor's comment: We will use cover and interior illustrations from the pulps whenever possible and when I can afford them. I do spend more money and time on the zine than I can really afford. However, you are right, I love it! There will be further experimentation in this and the next couple of issues with single, double and triple column pages until I come up with what I think is the most readable format allowing me to cut pages from the zine without cutting the number of articles or wordage. I will continue justifying the margins as long as I can find the time to double type with this Vari-typewriter. After setting it, it will automatically justify on the second typing of the line. Then I cut out the justified columns, make pasteups, negatives, burn the plate and print. Lynn Hickman.)

Received PULP ERA 69 and it always amazes me how you find the time to do the mountain of hard work that is involved in getting a mag of this quality out!

I was extremely interested in Art Burkes article. He was an idol of mine in the 30's. He was also the commandant of Parris Island Boot Camp when I had my training there

in 1944. He was Major Burkes then. He was responsible for eliminating the wearing of neck ties (field scarfs) on the base and he also inaugurated the use of a red flag to signify that temperatures were too hot to drill boots. Many marines owe special thanks to Burkes for that ruling.

The article on Burroughs was very interesting. I especially enjoyed Madle's article. Likewise I enjoyed the article on Max Brand. He was one of my alltime favorite cowboy writers when I was a kid.

Wilkie Conner Gastonia, N. C.

Note new address: R. E. Briney 233 Lafayette St., Apt. 2, Salem, Mass. 01970. Issue 69 interesting as usual. The different typefaces make a nice array. On some of the pages it looks like you were influenced by memories of the old Royal, and left wider margins than necessary. With the very small print, as on the 'Letters' page, there are the twin dangers of over and under inking. In my copy, parts of the left hand column are dark and blurred, while about half-an-inch of the right hand side of the page is too faint to be read. I expect that these little troubles will be cleared up by experimentation. I like the variety of different type faces in the same issue, by the way, though I wish you hadn't changed type or color in the middle of an article. I'll be interested to see what future issues look like.

Bob Briney Salem, Massachusetts

PULP ERA

FORECAST

While the next issue is by no means set yet, it appears at the present time to run something like this. Cover by O. Raymond Sowers. Materialwise, NICK CARTER by Randy Cox, The SPIDER by Mac MacGregor, plus articles by Stewart Kemble and Bob Jones, and the regular news and views column. A new feature each issue will be a review of an old pulp magazine including a cut of the cover. These will be varied between all types of magazines with the first one either TEXAS RANGERS or DARE-DEVIL ACES.

The March-April issue will be mailed in March, with the May-June issue following in April. So keep in mind any articles or advertisements, letters, etc., sent in to be included in these issues should be sent within two weeks of receipt of the previous issue.

FOR SALE

Many mens magazine such as ADAM, SIR KNIGHT, ROGUE, PLAYBOY, DUDE, GENT etc. As I have many issues and the list is too long to appear here, I would appreciate your sending a list of your wants.

I also have for sale many issues of comic magazines such as MAD, PANIC, ANIMAL COMICS, etc. Will sell any of the above or trade for issues of old pulp magazines.

Wanted especially are issues of G-8 and his Battle Aces, The Lone Eagle, Skyfighters, Sky Birds, Flying Aces, Black Book Detective, Double Detective, Black Mask, and Speakeasy Stories.

LYNN HICKMAN 413 Ottokee Street Wauseon, Ohio 43567

WILL TRADE

Many duplicates from frowzy to mint of ARGOSY from my Munsey collection. A few examples, September 14, 1918, October 25, 1919, December 13, 1919 and many many more. These are NOT for sale but ONLY for trade. What have you?

LYNN HICKMAN 413 Ottokee Street Wauseon, Ohio 43567