

APRIL
1940

THE
M S A BULLETIN

VOL. 2
NO. 3

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MAINE SCIENTIFICTION ASSOCIATION

DUES SLASHED?

UN-OFFICIAL MEETING OF OFFICERS MARCH 3RD HALVES PREVIOUS
RATE - - - EXTENSION AUTOMATIC

A brief, informal meeting held Sunday, March 3rd in Waterville with Editor Meader, former officers Clarke and Avery, and Elm City member Fred Sawyer, resulted in cutting the weekly MSA dues from 10¢ to 5¢ a week. Norman F. Stanley, Executive-Secretary is at work computing back and advance dues and a report will be made shortly he states. All members whose dues were paid beyond March 1st, will automatically have their dues extended to a later date, in keeping with the five cent rate.

ELECTION RESULTS

Results of the March election of officers stands the same as on the ballot with Carl Paradis of Skowhegan as President and Norman F. Stanley of Rockland as Executive-Secretary. However, less than a week following the election, Paradis stated that he would be unable to remain a member of the MSA due to certain personal reasons. No effort is being made at present to elect a new president, inasmuch as this office is largely symbolical, with the bulk of the work falling on the Secretary and Editor.

S-F GROUP FORMED IN MASS.

A science-fiction fan organization similar to the MSA has recently been formed in Massachusetts: Eastern Mass. Fantasy Society. Art Widner, well-known fan was appointed director of the group, and Francis Paro as

MEMBERSHIP ON RISE

Since March 1st the membership of the M. S. A. has slowly been creeping upward and on March 31st was forty percent above that of February. Those who have joined in the last month are Chris Hall of Houlton and Kirksville, Missouri, Larry Dube of Lewiston, a still unknown personage from Jerry Meader's headquarters, and Carl C. Paradis of Skowhegan. The last named however, dropped membership after two weeks. Mr. Hall has the honor of becoming our first expatriate member, for although the State of Maine is his home, he is now studying at the College of Osteopathy and Surgery in Kirksville, Missouri. He lived for ten years in Bangor, had two years at the U. of M., and says he eventually wants to practice in Maine. Secretary Stanley has also been sounding out various other known science-fiction readers in the State, but has no report to make at present.

(cont.)

secretary. Paro's FANFARE which saw the light of one issue was selected as club organ and plans for its resurrection are under way. The first issue sponsored by the club should be out sometime in May. The editor of the BULLETIN has applied for an exchange news-service and our next issue should carry full details on our "down East" neighbor.

The MSA BULLETIN is published supposedly, the first of each month by the Maine Science-fiction Association. Edited at 49 Washington Street, Rumford, Maine. by Jerry Meader. Please address all mss, letters of comments, subscriptions, and advertisements to Rumford..... Advertising rates are 10¢ per quarter page. Half and full page ads will be done with letter guides if requested. Subscription: 5¢ per copy, six issues 25¢, 12 issues 50¢. Please send cash or 1¢ stamps. Free to MSA members. Contributions are cordially welcomed; aye, badly needed. Humorous articles on some phase of fandom especially desired and also exchange news with similar organizations. Back issues 5¢ each; #2 is not available.

FORMER SECRETARY CRUSADES IN WATERVILLE

Jim Avery recently spent a hectic five hours in Waterville, leading Maine fan center. Upon arriving during the midst of Jerry Clarke's Saturday night supper, Jim comfortably deposited himself beside the new record player and ran thru several Wagner selections from Jerry's fine collection of recordings. Then, wandering downtown with Clarke, Jim was introduced to a prospective MSA member, George Wolman. Many more Waterville excursions were planned--though we can't put the reason down here in black and white! The Primus knows, tho!

How's about dues? Let's pay up. The dues which are now due are due; so let's pay up our dues, please do.

M S A

--- EDITORIAL YOURS ---

--- your ed ---

Maybe I am sticking out my neck by taking on the Editorial duties of our Bulletin, but here goes for a try at it. I haven't much to say this time; shall probably have plenty to say in the future, maybe too much. I intend to use this column to voice my opinions and views on the various phases of science-fiction from time to time. I shall appreciate any suggestions or criticisms; aye, I want them, need them. Let's get together and promote science fiction in Maine. Lastly, but not leastly, my sincere respects to Jerry "primus" Clarke of the "watery" villiage. I hope I shall be able to live up to the mark set by the Primus. (But, the Primus edited only the first BULL, Jerry! Or weren't the other three worth marking?--your erstwhile proof-reader!)

Let's hear from you fellows. Tell me how you like the new departments, have you any suggestions? I'm doing my damndest, but would like all the help you can give. I can't edit unless there is material for editing. Send in all the news and ideas you may have. Make this your Bulleting. Thanks!!!

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PAPER STOCK

When the dummy of this page was sent to the mimeographer, this section of the page was labeled "Controversy", being a discourse on using the regular white mimeo paper, or the cheaper, but better looking yellow. Since then, a friend of Jerry Meader's has donated a ream of the type of paper you now see before you. Of course we don't know how this will take the mimeo ink, but we're told it's high-grade mimeo. Here's hoping--and apologies if needed are herewith given.....

NEW EDITOR GETS ACQUAINTED

Jerry Meader, new Editor of the BULLETIN, and his wife, Marguerite, called on Jim Avery at Skowhegan, Sunday, March 3rd. They were made welcome and much to the surprise of both families it was learned that Jim's mother and Jerry's wife both came from the same part of the coast; Mrs. Avery from Milbridge, and Mrs. Meader from Winter Harbor. Needless to say, both women immediately became friends and compared notes on the home folks. It's a small world after all.

From Skowhegan the Meaders and the Averys drove to Waterville. The women-folks took in a movie while Jim and Jerry hunted up the Primus, Jerry Clarke.

With the Primus and a friend of his, Winston Chumley, Chummy for short, they made the rounds of the magazine stores. Several members of the M S A were called but Fred Sawyer was the only one found at home.... The boys drove out to Fred's home where a meeting was held in the Secundus' Dodge. The illustration which Jerry had won from RAPA Palmer and several old copies of the old MARVEL TALES were looked over and received many favorable comments.

The meeting evolved into a discussion of the various pro mags with everyone agreeing that ASTOUNDING was the best of the lot. Whenever finances were mentioned, a painful silence always followed. It was agreed to reduce the dues from 10¢ weekly to 5¢ weekly, and to institute a membership drive.

After the meeting, the ladies were gathered up after nearly driving Clarke's father crazy hunting for the boys via phone. The party returned to Jim's where a most delicious supper was served by Mrs. Avery...

Jim poured! Coffee and wine followed.

Jim and Jerry spent the evening discussing stf., fan mags, pro mags, the future of the MSA, and everything concerning stf. in general. During the evening Carl Paradis dropped in for a game of chess, but all three were led into looking over Jim's impressive collection; his fan mags are outstanding. Jim is a fine fellow and always welcomes callers. gwm.

Charles Hornig has announced that unless many more subscriptions come in for the proposed SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY it will be dropped and all subscriptions received will be returned. This is a worthwhile project and one that all fandom should back.

Wouldn't you, and you, and you, like to see a new quarterly issued? It brings back memory of the good-old-days, so send in your subscription if you haven't already done so. It is only 35¢ for something that should be good.

van Onlooker Says: I've always wanted to do a column of chit chat in the famous "Van Houten says" style, and here my only chance. Editor Secundus has asked for new and stuff with which to fill his pages, and since none seems to be forthcoming, these columns will be the answer to his problem. You'll find them here, there and other places where you'll least expect them. Some morning you may even find one tucked under your plate of bacon and X. They are written chiefly for my own amusement and benefit, and the only way you can stop them (heh, heh) is by sending in so much news Jerry won't have to use them! You must be doing something in the stf. line!

TWO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS PAY VISIT TO JIM AVERY

Sunday afternoon, February 11, Bob Fecteau and Felix Reny of Waterville pleasantly surprised Jim by dropping in on him for a science-fictional chat. Both fellows have been reading stff. for about three years and find it "great stuff". Highlight of the visit was Reny's surprise at seeing so many mags. in one collection. New and old issues were compared and fan mags looked over. Because Felix had to be back in Waterville by 5:30 their stay in Skowhegan wasn't really long enough to get warmed up in conversation. Before leaving, both boys expressed a desire to join the MSA. By this time they will have been enrolled as members. Incidentally, neither of them had yet met the Primus, having heard of him and the MSA through correspondence and the pro mags.....

CLARKE WANDERS AROUND, TOO!

On January 28th, Hizonner, the Prexy reversed the procedure and called on Jim Avery. The Primus brought with him a careful of BULLETIN supplies and the all-important mimeograph, which now reposes behind the Morris chair in Jim's "office". Official name is Mephistocles, because Jim has the devil's own time operating it!

At dinner it turned out that the Primus was a man after Don Wollheim's own heart, or nearly so, for Jerry eats no butter except on toast, and Don, no butter at all! During the meal, plans for a general MSA get-together at some Waterville restaurant some Sunday came up, but nothing definite was decided upon except the restaurant which will be Maddocks'--where Jerry spends nine-tenths of his spare time. If you ever go to Waterville, you'll find him there.

OUTSIDE NOTES

Fred Pohl, editor of the up-and-coming SUPER-SCIENCE STORIES and ASTONISHING STORIES, has his picture in the 1940 WRITER'S YEARBOOK, now on all stands. He's the gentleman with the feet!

Doc Swisher of Winchester, Mass. in a recent letter to the BULLETIN asked for MSA'ers to look him up whenever they're around Boston. He's in the phone-book, he says, and can usually be found alive. Phil Gilbert is the only one of us who goes to Boston very much, so there's another stop for you, Phil, besides Francis Faro.

Mark Reinsburg, editor of the popular fan-mag, AD ASTRA, has sold a comic plot to Sun Publications. He thinks if the comic magazine which uses it is successful, he will do more for them, an episode every month in fact.

Jim Avery received his illustration from TWS for his suggestion for a contest. 'Tis by Finlay and is the two page spread for Manly Wade Wellman's "Twice in Time", book-length novel in the May issue of STAR TELLING STORIES.

Van Onlooker Says: Funny isn't it how opinions vary so greatly on the merits of the NEW ADAM? For once, it seems that fandom didn't fall in line with play-ups. Some like it immensely, and others didn't. DAWollheim gave it a scathing review in SUPER SCIENCE STORIES, E. E. Smith agreed with him for the first time in years, the Secundus" ditto, and your columnist otherwise. We liked its vastly different and unusual style and interpretation, although admit it had its shortcomings in human psychology.

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ADVANCE NEWS

This idea for a heading I unashamedly "steal" from an early issue. Apologies to Primus or Avery, whichever one of you guys thunk it up.

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Seabury Quinn has just finished another Weirdie with a Funeral Director as hero --- leastwise he tells the story. He's an old time, and re-counts a story of conditions when crepes were still used on doors and "we had a little black horse too light for hearse work, which we used on first calls." Sounds interesting. This story hasn't been sold yet, but will give the tip-off as soon as is.

INCIDENTALLY: Seabury has decided to devote himself to non-fiction for a while and plans to look the rather confusing magazine situation over while doing so. Too bad; he will be missed.

.....

It is with regret we learn that Jim Avery has abandoned plans for his new magazine, NEGATIVE NARRATIVES. Jim says that he is very sorry, but developments beyond his control have forced him to make this decision. It was a grand idea Jim; maybe something will come of it in the future.

.....

There has been some argument among fans as to WEIRD TALE'S policy of payment for stories. THEY PAY UPON PUBLICATION!

Their schedule of payments can be found in the market list of Author and Journalist, and probably in other magazines of the same kind. Their rates are quoted as being "1¢ up"; but I understand that they often pay less, possibly for serials or new authors.

BACK ISSUES

In this column there will be reviewed each month one of the older magazines, each of which are obtainable to MSA'ers from Norm Stanley's lending library.

Air Wonder Stories July, 1929
Vol. 1. No. 1.

Hugo Gernsback, editor. 94 pages. Large size format. Cover by PAUL features a landing field in the air.

Table of Contents:

The Ark of the Covenant-1st of 4
--by Victor MacClure

Islands in the Air

--by Lowell Howard Morrow

The Beacon of Airport Seven

--by Harold S. Sykes

The Bloodless War

--by David H. Keller, M. D.

Men With Wings

--by Leslie Stone

also aviation news and questionnaire. gwm

PERSONALITIES

HANNES BOK:

Here is a newcomer who is going to make a name for himself. His cover for the May issue of WEIRD TALES is one of the few truly weird covers that I have seen. It is different; red and green predominate. Bok studied under Maxfield Parrish and is just getting a start. WEIRD has had a few letters from various parts of the country praising him; let's get behind Bok and give him a boost. Write to WT today and put in a good word for him. We can't have too many good illustrators; there are enough poor ones now.

.....

Addenda: We hear from Doc Lowndes that Wally Marconette, popular fan artist and editor, will do work shortly for Fred Pohl's magazines, ASTONISHING and SUPER SCIENCE STORIES. Pohl had also used work of Leslie Perri and Bok.

THE ROGUE'S GALLERY--#4

Seabury Leader Rumford, Maine

Seabury was born and brought up in Rumford, the paper town. He played football and was quite a sprinter in the local high school. He was captain of track his senior year and was also president of the Athletic Council. We understand he still holds the Oxford County record for the 100 yard dash.

He is now a licensed funeral director and embalmer; is in business with his dad.

He has been a reader of stf. for a number of years, becoming an active fan about two years ago. He numbers among his correspondents Seabury Quinn, "the Spaceway boys", John C. Hiske, the Star-Treader, and Miss Dorothy L. Johnson, secretary at WEIRD TALES. He has written several articles for ASTRA, one a biography of Quinn, and is now doing a column on stf. and fantasy in Ampsy for the new Mid-West Fan News.

Getting personal: He is 24, dark, of medium height, is married and has a 2½ year old daughter who keeps him jumping most of the time. Among his vices he lists smoking, penny-ante, and magazine collecting. He spends hours with them. His collection averages about 1,000 magazines which he is adding to every week. There are over 600 ARGOSIES, most of the WEIRD TALES and many issues of the rarer stf. magazines. He is now branching out into stf. bks, has the New Adam among them for a nucleus. His two ambitions are to have a complete collection of the stf. mags. and to spend at least a week in New York doing the second-hand shops and publishing houses.

PRO MAGS

Are you good at solving mysteries? Then try Amazing's new contest. What became of the Time-Travelling Wise Guy? For the best answer Palmer is offering \$25.00; 2nd, \$10.00, 3rd to 5th, \$5.00 each. For details see the May issue of AMAZING STORIES.

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In the May issue of STARTLING STORIES, page six, it is announced that there is available a limited number of sets of Wonder's Science Fiction Series. This set consists of eight booklets of individual stories never before published in any magazine. They are by such authors as Clark Ashton Smith, Raymond Z. Gallun, Mary Wade Wellman, and others. Here is the chance to make a valuable addition to your collection. And all for the price of a quarter.

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The publishers of WEIRD TALES have done away with the WEIRD Story Reprint. As a substitute they are conducting a department, "It happened To Me", and are paying ten dollars for true psychic experiences. This may be progress! If so, deliver me from progress! The Weird Story Reprint was one of the most popular features of this magazine. R. I. P.

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There is a new Tarzan novelet in the April issue of the BIVE Book Magazine. The ape-man rescues the World's Heavyweight champion from Cannibals! Better grab this issue and read. Rare!

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Jim Avery, former Executive-Secretary is again joining the MSA, but will assume role of passive member. That homing instinct.

SUGGESTION NO. 1

That all members who have unusual stf. books or magazines allow others to read them.
FREE?????

Certainly not!

It is, or should be, a well known fact that our Association is struggling along under financial difficulties, which is to be understood considering its youthful infancy. Members wishing to read these books or magazines to pay postage and a nickel reading fee, said fee to be turned over to the secretary. I am offering The New Adam, Back to the Stone Age by E. R. Burroughs, the latest of his Pellucidar series, The Memiors of Satan, a little known, but very good book, also Switch in The Light, an English book of weird stories. What have you to offer? Let's have more suggestions for this column. Anything you think will help the MSA or the fan world in general. gwm--ed....

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Jim Avery recently acquired a new copy of Ray Cumming's famous book, "Tarrano the Conqueror", for 19¢ from the Variety Shop in Skow. Your editor picked up the same item at the Waterville shop for 17¢. Woolworth's has "When Worlds Collide" for 39¢, well worth getting, which the Secundus also has.

Van Onlooker Says: The supply of these things is terrific and huge quantities can be turned out in practically no time at all. Present plans call for one a day and two on Sundays. Maybe at the end of the year, 400 of them can be gathered into an omnibus and distributed gratis to my friends a la SaM. Needless to say "present plans" mentioned above have not materialized and Editor Secundus may not get more than a dozen!

We understand that some of the authors who write for WEIRD TALES are forming a boycott, not to send WEIRD any more of their stories until Farnsworth Wright has been reinstated at his old desk.

We also understand that Wright doesn't want to be reinstated. You can take this info for what it may be worth; we have heard the rumor; and where there's heat there should be a fire.

PRO MAGS

H. Bedford-Jones who wrote for WEIRD TALES a few years ago, has written a series of adventures of a Professional Corpse. The first, "The Artificial Honeymoon" will appear in the July issue of WEIRD.

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Margaret Brundage (who doesn't remember her lovely and much-discussed nudes?) has done the cover of the July WEIRD, illustrating the Bedford-Jones story. Other authors to appear in the July number are Gans T. Fields, Seabury Quinn, and Helen Weinbaum.

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ARGOSY: The magazine which is featuring some of the finest stf. and fantasy published today; the magazine from which F. F. M. gets its popular and acclaimed masterpieces. There have been nine stf. and fantasy stories featured so far this year. "Thunder Tomorrow" another in the popular series by Arthur Leo Zagat ... There have also been two serials; the Green Flame by Eric North; the other a sequel to the "classic of tomorrow" Minions of the Moon by Wm. Gray Beyer; Minions of Mars, the further adventures of Mark and Omega.

.

Send in your news items, articles, or ideas today. gwm.

"OUR VIEWS"

10 Lowell Ct.
Lewiston, Me.

Howdy Jerry,

I'll make myself at home, sure enough. I'm sorry to hear that Negative Narratives is to be cancelled, but I certainly hope it will come out later. I was surprised to hear that there were so few members. There must be quite a number of Scientifiction readers besides those already known, else the Scientifiction mags on the newsstand wouldn't disappear so quickly. I have about fifty back issues, but they are only two, three, and four years old.... By all means, let's have some of those superb M. S. A. stickers. (And now, he's a member!)

Jerry Dube

"---and THEIR'S"

Red Bank, N. J.

Editor: MSA Bulletin:-

I'm in receipt of your note of acceptance. It's rather encouraging after some of my brushes with the almighty snobs and commercialist of super-fandom. I'll appreciate any changes you make in the "Thing". The title would be a good place to begin with. Shortly comes a disconnected attack on editors who fill the backs of their mags with "goody-goody" letters...if the coffee holds out. (Evidently the coffee didn't, for we haven't received this article yet. Your story will be coming up soon, gwm.)

*Jacques
(Dean)*

HARRY BATES RETURNS

Mar. 31: Harry Bates, editor of the original Astounding Stories of Super-Science, who authored two well-taken novelettes in the Remaine Astounding, returns to stf. in the July issue of TWS with a lead novel entitled, "The Experiment of Dr. Sarconi".from the March 31st issue of SCIENCE FICTION WEEKLY.....

.....

We learn also from the same issue of SFW that Ted Carnell, prominent British fan has just been appointed editor of a new English stf. mag! The title is set as NEW WORLDS and Carnell promises it will be on the same terms as AST in this country. According to our figures, Ted is the fifth fan to receive an

(cont.)

editorial position in the professional publishing field.

Van Onlooker Says: Didn't you think that Paul's cover on the April PFM looked like an escape from a "comic" magazine? If that's what the fans want from Frank, they can save a nickel by buying Superworld Comics--er sumpin!

"CRIMES OF THE YEAR 2000"

Have you heard of this unique series of stories by a well known stf. author? The chances are you haven't. Explanation next issue.....

.....
-formula-

21 days plus date of BULLETIN schedule equals actual public'n.

Last minute news received March 27th

from the Pacificoast via Airmail ,

"45J" Ackerman being the sender.

PICNIC ON THE PACIFICOAST

by Weaver Wright

The imagi-natives of Los Angeles had an Easter outing. 4e's flat was selected as the meeting place for the start, since we were not certain, to begin with, whether we should go to the beach or the hills--depending on the weather. Griffith Pk (the hills) won.

First to arrive was Bruce Yerke, almost a half hour early. Then came Bill Crawford and Paul Freehafer, from Pasadena; closely followed by Ray Bradbury, Charlie Hornig and Pogo. Morajo showed up soon after, then club director Laugherty; Russ Hodgkins, & finally Virginia "Jimmy" Laney & Eleanor O'Brien. We were 12 in all.

For a while it looked like the gang wasn't going to be able to break away from 4e's mags, bks, excerpts, illustrations, fotos, fonograf records & whatnot; but we finally got going around 11. The 12 of us were accommodated in 2 cars. A stop was made along the way to stock up on hot dogs, potato chips, & salad, pickles, cookies, marshmallows & soft drinks--(the which ran each only 30¢ (we'd better move to Sunny Cal!-ed.) Then back into the sardine cans & up to the picnicking place where the various Angelenos sprouted wings & went soaring about on cliff & crag, occasionally beating on chests & emitting Tarzan cries. Laugherty got a fire going with some dryd leaves & the old Scout formula (for which he used a shoe string)- plus 4 or 5 matches. In the process he nearly made an ash of himself.

Supermen Hodgkins, Laugherty & Crawford engaged each other in contests of javelin-throwing, stump-puts & standing jumps.. (Who won? ed.) Now & then a motion was made to go to the zoo, but with Bradbury along we were afraid we myt lose a member. However, we finally riskt it--oh blind fools that we were; we should have noen. & now U may ryt to Ray c/o the Laffing Hyena Cage. (He will continue to publish "FuFa".

The day was climaxt by a thrilling & spectacular ride on the merry-go-round, its dizzy spin being dared by Paul, Morajo, 4e, Pogo, & Ray.

In the eve, as others went their respective ways, Paul, Morajo, 4e, & Pogo stuck together for some stf shopping at Shep's 2d-hand mag--mart where some ryt-smart items were pickt up; & concluded the day in a most fitting way. That morn, Walt had distributed the first ish of his 30-pg (plug) fanmag, "The Rocket". --Egyptian Edition. That eve, the aforementioned 4 went to Grauman's Egyptian Theatre.

In a short footnote with this item, 4e had this to say--- "Hope foregoing acceptable & arrives in Time for next no of your fine club organ--Good luck in editing it.

Hastily,-

----- 4e -----

The foregoing was most welcome and timely. Our thanks 4e, to you and the LASFL. -ed. gwm.

ADVANCE NEWS

The 2nd of Seabury Quinn's popular "funeral director stories" will appear in an early issue of STRANGE STORIES!

It's a fantasy, not about werewolves, vampires, or things, but just about a kind old man who died all alone, and to whose house the animals he'd been kind to came to hold a wake. The narrator is a middle-aged funeral director who saw it with his own eyes when he was working as an apprentice.

.....

The new June issue of Action Stories contains a story by Barrie Biner, "The Destroyers From Mars". Once again the Earth is attacked, of course and hero saves the "dear old earth" from the Martian tyrant. Which Van Onlooker Says:--- Three years ago I'd have broken a neck to read this story: now--!

SCIENCE FICTION WEEKLY

Edited by Robert "Doc" Lowndes
Published every Monday.
3574 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.
3 issues for 10¢--8 for a quarter.

"Up-to-the-second" news & items.
A must for the well-informed fan;
A must-must for the uninformed.

.....

LE ZOMBIE! Featuring material by all the leading fans, such as :
, & , & , and
. What an array! Musso-
lini says LE ZOMBIE is the only
American rag not banned in Italy..
Over the dead are coming back to
life the latest copy of the Ghoul's
Gazette! 3 issues 10¢ Box #60
Bloomington, Illinois

(exchange
adv..)

A few copies of FANTASY, Maine's first and only national fan mag are still available from Jim Avery at 10¢. This "pan-mag" was published over a year ago and has been

Gerald W. Meader
Editor—MSA BULLETIN
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