

MAR
1940

THE

VOL. 2
NO. 2

MSA



BULLETIN

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE MAINE SCIENTIFUNCTION ASSOCIATION

EVERY RESIGNS AS MSA LEADER

IS FORCED TO QUIT FANDOM —
— SAYS "WILL EXPLAIN LATER"

STARTLING MOVE CLOSELY FOLLOWS CLARKE'S RESIGNATION OF LAST MONTH

In a dramatic series of events culminating Feb. 29th, Jim S. Avery, Executive-Secretary of the Maine Scientifiction Association, turned in his resignation papers to President Gerald B. Clarke, together with an announcement of his severing of activities with national fandom!

The exact reason for his surprise act was not immediately divulged. At the time of his sweeping decision, he was at a height of activity, being Executive-Secretary and general manager of the MSA, publisher of the forthcoming fan magazine NEGATIVE NARRATIVES, and others which were to appear from the "Snowbound Press" which he recently organized. In dropping from fandom, Avery states that he has also resigned from the Science Fiction League and all other organizations with which he was affiliated. He further states that most of his correspondence and fan magazine reading will be discontinued and that he will return to the status of an "undiscovered fan". It is known that he has been forced to quit fandom "under absolute pressure", but present plans call for a re-appearance in three years. Further details on this matter may be found on inside pages.

a month the resignation of Avery, comes as another blow to the already stunned Maine fandom! A formal resignation, however, has not yet been delivered and until a new President has been elected, Clarke will hold his present office: It is learned that personal reasons and an added amount of work, account for Clarke's move. He will continue to be a member of the M. S. A. and hopes to be able to serve in publishing the BULLETIN.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS LOOMS AS MAJOR EVENT FOR MARCH

An election of successors to fill the two leading MSA positions vacated by Clarke and Avery will be started immediately. A Special Bulletin with candidacy papers to this effect will soon be mailed.

RESIGNATION OF CLARKE ADDS TO MSA SETBACK

The resignation of Gerald B. Clarke from the Presidency of the Maine Scientifiction Association, which preceded by nearly

MEADER BECOMES "BULLETIN" CHIEF

Jerry Meader of Rumford has been appointed the new editor of the BULLETIN. The change, however, was not caused by Avery's resignation of the post, since he accepted the job two weeks ago.

R E T R A C T I O N

On February 21st, the Maine Scientifiction Association received a letter from Street & Smith's attorneys in which it was brought to our attention that the article which appeared in the January issue of the M. S. A. BULLETIN was entirely false and without foundation. It was further stated that since such accusations "reflect seriously upon the credit and standing of our client", they, the attorneys, had been instructed to institute appropriate proceedings for restitution of the damages sustained, and to bring the persons responsible to account. Naturally we hastened to apologize to Street & Smith, and we wish to take this opportunity to publicly retract the damaging statements. In our letter which went out to them immediately upon receiving their attorneys' letter, we stated that "I (Avery) am extremely sorry that this article appeared," and "...wish to apologize sincerely for myself and the Association..."

It might be well to explain to those of you who have not already heard that this rumor was started last summer when a set of figures appeared in an early edition of a certain New York daily. A complete retraction was printed in a later edition, but the damage had been done. Upon this spurious article was formed the basis for an article by a prominent fan which appeared in an equally prominent fan magazine, from which the editor of the M. S. A. BULLETIN took his material, added by bits of information contained in his personal correspondence. On the assumption that since it was such common talk in fandom, it must be the truth. We genuinely believed it to be such.

Since that date, a letter from Mr. H. W. Ralston, Vice-President of Street & Smith Publications, Inc. has appeared publicly in which Mr. Ralston assures the readers that his firm is on a sound financial standing and is definitely not in the hands of receivers, such as our article stated. We further learn that both ASTOUNDING and UNKNOWN are in excellent shape, proved by the fact that a year's supply of serials for AST. has been bought and paid for, and that a bonus is being paid for all stories considered particularly good by Editor Campbell.

I feel sure that everyone in the Maine Scientifiction Association will be very pleased to learn that these two magazines have not the dark future we so falsely predicted for them, regardless of the outcome of the matter itself.

James S. Avery
Executive-Secretary
Maine Scientifiction Assn.
February 22, 1940

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RESIGNATION STATEMENT

To Gerald B. Clarke, President:

This is to notify one and all that after March 1st, 1940, I shall no longer hold the position of Executive-Secretary of the MAINE SCIENTI-FICTION ASSOCIATION, or shall in no way be connected with aforesaid organization.

It is through no fault of the M. S. A. that I have withdrawn my name from the membership rolls. The reason will be forthcoming and may be found in the March, 1940 issue of the M. S. A. BULLETIN.

In leaving Maine fandom, I have only this to say. Every possible success is yours. You are now at the highest peak of activity since your inception in August, 1939, a scant half year ago. I only hope that you will have the same confidence in my successor that you have had in me, and will give him your every support in making the M. S. A. the successful organization that it rightfully should be. This can be done only with your whole-hearted support. Give it as always.

In leaving the ranks of fandom, I have prepared everything in any way connected with M. S. A. business for immediate shipment to Waterville, from where it will be sent out to various officers as requested. I trust everything will be found in good order.

To all who have been fellow-members with me, I extend the best of wishes and hope the M. S. A. may have a long and prosperous life.

Sincerely,

Jim S. Avery

Former Executive-Secretary

WHY I HAVE LEFT FANDOM

by Jim S. Avery

The following is without doubt one of the last pieces of fan writing to come from my typewriter for some few years. Many of you who I number among my friends and comrades in fandom are perhaps wondering what prompted me to clear out so utterly and suddenly from the fan world. It is more, much more, than a matter of disgust with general circumstances; rather it is an effort on the part of several parties to force me completely out of the fan picture. To them, I must bow down.

This time I shall not be absent for only a few months such as last winter when I quit. At that time I left voluntarily, and could not resist the urge to re-enter. This time, the situation is vastly different. It will be safe to say that I will take no active part in active fandom for at least three years. As many of you know, I am still under 21 years of age, and am, therefore, under the jurisdiction of my parents. In view of the present legal difficulties which my fan activities has brought me, my parents have deemed it wise that I give up all fan connections and return to a mere reading status. That is the major reason why I am dropping from the ranks.

I am not leaving fandom due to ill health as may be rumored. I have, in fact, never enjoyed better health than at the present time, nor more energetic in my fan undertakings. My activities in the fan field were constantly being increased, especially so with my recent acquirement of a mimeograph. I am dropping from fandom with a feeling that I have much to lose in friendship, in happiness, and in reputation. Whatever the other fan journals may have to say on the subject, whether good or bad, let the records stand. I leave fandom only under pressure. My slate is clean. All money and property now held by me which belongs to others will be returned as soon as the present situation develops into one course or another. I shall read with interest the happenings in fandom through several of the fan magazines to which I have long range subscriptions. Beyond that, I can do no more. I am looking forward with all my heart to the day in 1942 when I shall once again become an active science-fiction fan. Until then.....

I wish to take this opportunity to thank publicly Julius Unger of the Fantasy Fiction Field, New York, who supplied me with not less than sixty negatives of s-f celebrities and World Convention scenes. It is indeed unfortunate that these will never be published, as they would have supplied the many fans unable to attend the Nycon with a complete photographic account. jsa.

Due to the "sorry scheme of things" and the lack of time before our going to press, much interesting material has been cut from this issue. In our next number may be found the continuance of the popular M. S. A. PERSONALS, the "Rogue's Gallery #4" and an account of the life of the secretary at the WEIRD TALES office.....

STATUS OF MSA MEMBERSHIP TO DATE

From the original ten on Dec. 30, 1939, one member has been dropped for non-payment of dues, and another has handed us his resignation, his reason being lack of time and loss of interest in sci. On the other hand, we are happy to announce that we are well on our way to gaining four new members, who we hope, will have enrolled by the time this sees print. They are: Bob Fecteau, and Felix Reny of Waterville, Albert Frost, a protégé of the Scandans in Rumford, and George Wolamn, a friend of Clarke's in Waterville. On January 1st of this year, four other known readers of sci. living in Bangor, Ogunquit, Lubec, and Gorham, were contacted by the Executive-Secretary with no results. Not even a reply was forthcoming. Any member planning to be in one of these cities in the next few wks, and who wishes to give the MSA a boost, will be furnished with names and address upon request from headquarters. Two more Maine names have been unearthed! This time by FANTASTIC ADVENTURES. They are: Laurence Dube, 10 Lowell Court, Leurston (obviously Lewiston), and Harrison Cunningham, Pleasant Hill Road, RFD #2, Augusta. The last is a job for you, Eddie! Copies of this issue of the BULLETIN are being mailed to everyone in Maine whose name has been in any way connected with science fiction. To those of you who are seeing this paper and learning of the Maine Scientific Fiction Association for the first time, please write Jerry Meader, 49 Washington Street, Rumford, Maine asking for more information and news of the organization.

Leaflets announcing the MSA which were to have been distributed to members to place on newstands are not yet started. All for a lack of fresh ideas on what to say. Suggestions will be welcomed from all, and moreover are needed.....

HORNIG'S QUARTERLY STILL IN DOUBTFUL STATE

On a postal dated February 5th, Charlie Hornig, editor of SCIENCE FICTION and FUTURE FICTION, has this to say about his proposed QUARTERLY: "Your 35¢ is still in the office safe, but the QUARTERLY itself is still an uncertain affair. If the ads in the March magazines do not draw enough thirty-five-centses, your money will be returned." The magazines will not be on sale at newsstands, so if you haven't sent for a copy as yet, do so immediately. Your subscription may mean the difference in having or not having what promises to be something different. We have not been able to learned; however, what material Hornig proposes to use. At present, he is in Los Angeles, thereby becoming the first remote-control editor in scientifiction.

FANS INVITED TO LEND FORMER EDITOR SUPPORT

In a recent issue of LE ZOMBIE, all fans who enjoyed WEIRD TALES under Farnsworth Wright, and who wish to pledge him their support in whatever move he may make in the publishing field, are asked to write to him at the following address: 3545 79th St., Jackson Heights, Long Island, New York.

FIRST ISSUE OF WEEKLY FAN PAPER ARRIVES

The premier issue of fandom's newest addition, SCIENCE FICTION WEEKLY has been published and mailed to subscribers. It immediately takes its place among the leaders in the weekly-or bi-weekly class. It so far surpasses its weekly rival, that comparison is most impossible without reverting to superlatives in all their forms. Suffice it to say, that SFW is here to stay. A review will be found elsewhere.

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"OUR" VIEWS

Norman F. Stanley writes, concerning the second BULLETIN, "...the slightly mad satire is amusing in an extraordinary sort of way. Great stuff-what tickled ~~me~~ was one character's passing off another as the editor of DYNAMIC. I await with interest the concluding installment and in the interim, wonder if most of it didn't actually happen as narrated." (Oh, but definitely, it did, Norm! And maybe that ain't all either. Fans will be fans, you know. Wait 'til we have a state convention! jsa)

Eddie Smart tells us on pretty pink paper that he..."received the BULLETIN the other day and think that it is 100% better than the first issue."

And Phil Gilbert, besides telling us that the 3rd issue was "good", has this to say about the MSA treasury...."regarding the financial status of our club. I am of the opinion that somehow in the near future we should have a more sizable balance on hand. It would be nice to have about \$50.00 to lay back on in case something came up. (Heh, heh, when we do, I'll take a trip to New York and call on the beard and bomb boys! But seriously, Phil, where, when, and how are we going to get a balance of anything over nothing? In order to keep going, we have to spend as much (and sometimes more) than we take in on dues. You figure it out--I can't. jsa)

Jerry "secundus" Leader, upon being asked to be the editor of this "fearless, liberty-loving, death-defying, magnificent, money-losing sheet", said in part,...."so now I am the editor; well, well; shall have to go out and get me a few red pencils. Think I am going to enjoy it, though I realize it

will be a lot of work. Hope I can do a fairly good job. As I said before, have a few ideas

---and "THEIR" VIEWS

Bob Tucker in his LE ZOMBIE #23, reviewed us in effect as follows: "8 legible (get the hint) pages of Mr. Tan news, plus rib-busting article by Wilson on cops and SS men raiding Futurian H'se.

Jack Lean, one of our very few outside readers and a pal of the Primus's, types..."Ye Bull struggles to life slightly by slightly. Prod him, kick him, do anything but use a red flag. (Now what does he mean by that?) Maybe he'll snort and kick someday. "Metropolitan Exodus" (but it was "Metropolitan Odyssey" in our copy, Jack!) reads nice, but of course I'm unfamiliar with the characters and probably missed a lot of it. (Yes, but what's to stop you from getting acquainted with them?) jsa.

Olson F. Wiggins, editor and publisher of the SCIENCE FICTION FAN sends the following note..."thanks for the complimentary copy of your official MSA paper. I found it very interesting and very neatly mimeographed, a credit to the fellows who work on it. In return for the copy I am inclosing herein a copy of the 3rd Anniversary FAN. I will send a copy of same to anyone in the MSA for a 3¢ stamp....." 918 29th St., Denver, Colorado.

PAENS OF THANKS

The editors of the MSA BULLETIN wish to take this opportunity to thank publicly the following editors in whose publications the MSA received favorable and helpful comment: John W. Campbell, Jr. of ASTOUNDING SFN., Fred Pohl of SUPERSCIENCE STORIES, Charlie Hornig of SCIENCE FICTION, Mort Weisinger of T. W. S., and Ray Palmer of AMAZING....

THE PONG OMNIBUS OF SAD STORIES

By, of course, Hoy Ping Pong

I

Young Smith was quite a character--especially in fandom. A promising young lad in his late ripening teens, Smith was a coming, star a far-seeing fan would hitch his go-cart to. One of the better liked chaps; pleasing personality, very courteous and friendly. No matter how often you sent him a terse postal (if you were one of the hundreds he corresponded with) he always replied with a long and interesting letter in type or neat and legible longhand.

His science and fantasy fiction collection was probably one of the largest in existence--or would have been if the many fans who borrowed from him hadn't failed to return the magazines. They very seldom did so and often Young Smith was obliged to strain his patience and purse hunting book-stalls and back number magazines in effort to replace the "borrowed" items that never returned. Many books he loaned came back in tatters.

One could always call upon him--in the shortest possible notice--for fan magazine material. He had been known to sit up far into the night losing the sleep he needed to whip an article into presentable, interest-catching shape, in order to make the air-mail plane the next morning.

In fact and fancy, Young Smith came closest to unconsciously assuming the title "Grand Old Fan" of any one in fandom.

Smith isn't with us any more.

Smith started publishing a fan magazine. The first issue was a perfect specimen of editing, reading and duplication. It was as legible as a printed page. The margins were even, the spelling and typing absolutely without blemish, the mimeographing without smudge or faint spot. The material was the choicest picking of the fan articles to be had, perfectly balanced humour, serious, and professional contents. The picture on the cover was an exclusive by Finlay.

The second issue appeared as fine as the first, exactly upon the date previously announced. His subscribers forgot to renew.

Smith isn't with us any more.

II

Throckmartin was a genius among editors. His two magazines were the tops in quality, in quantity, in neatness, in reader-interest, in good literature, in circulation, in fan popularity, in art.

Throckmartin had been given two run-down, sleazy, sneezed-at flea-bitten pulps no self respecting editor would have his name connected with, and had built them up to the point where all the other

science and fantasy fiction magazines used them as a goal prize. The man worked wonders with a two-cents-a-word maximum, often dragging or luring in "slick" material that would ordinarily have gone to a national weekly or one of the high tone "arty's".

His reader departments were the pride and joy of fandom. He printed page after page of fan letters, had a quiz page, a science page, a fan magazine review column, a national organization connected with one magazine that was really popular, a small fan newspaper as a supplement to the other magazine; he acted upon every suggestion made.

Throckmartin and his two magazines also aren't with us any more.

He forgot to answer fan letters.

III

Eglethorp would have been a genius if he had ever got started. But he didn't. He got as far as third-assistent manuscript reader at AMAZING STORIES, when he had a bright idea.

He had just finished reading a manuscript about a future war and was casting about for a title. And since it was AMAZING STORIES, he had to abide by the slogan hanging on the wall over Palmer's desk.

"Never use the original title
when you can produce a new
one using the word "Revolt"!"

This stumped Eglethorp for perhaps two seconds. Then he had it! He jotted down the title for this future civil-war story ---

"REVOLT OF THE TAX-PAYERS"

Palmer fired him.

IV

Julius Uppenzilch was all set to be a "top fan". He figured he would need a platform to work on in fandom. So he sat down and wrote to one Donald Wollheim, who he had heard was a "big-shot", his platform.

"I am going to be a fan. I am in favor of deporting
all communists and atheists from this glorious land.
Write."

Julius Uppenzilch isn't with us any more, either.

V

The saddest of all is that this is the end of this omnibus.

ANNOUNCING THE NEW 1939 YEARBOOK

OF SCIENCE, WEIRD, AND FANTASY FICTION

What is the YEARBOOK? The Yearbook for 1939 is one of the most ambitious fan publishing projects ever undertaken. It is absolutely indispensable to every reader of science fiction, every collector, every fan, every author. It is a vast index of every story and article published during 1939 in the science fiction magazines both here and abroad. Over 700 titles alphabetically arranged together with the name of the magazine and the date which it appeared comprise the first section of the YEARBOOK. In the second section each magazine is listed chronologically with its entire contents, author's name, artist's name, length of story, and the classification into which it falls--interplanetary, time-travel, invasion, biological, etc. The cover-artist for each issue is also recorded, as is the editor the price, the publisher, and the number of pages.

YEARBOOK for 1939 is now being mailed. Over forty fans have already received their copies. Have you ordered yours? YEARBOOK is mailed flat in large envelopes and weighs about one-fourth pound. So important a publication is this that its editor has had it copyrighted for protection, a distinction few fan publications enjoy.

The price of the YEARBOOK is only 20¢ a copy. Send today at the below address. You can't think of a "twenty-cents" better spent.

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YES! Rush me the 1939 Yearbook! Here's my 2 dimes and my address and stuff.

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FROM MSA BULLETIN

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FOR SALE: Have about 200 bound serials, mostly from AR-GOSI, Detective, adventure, Western, and mystery, by such authors as Fred MacIsaac, Lester, Seltzer, Frank L. Packard, Dunn, Worts, W. Wirt, Eustace L. Adams, etc. Will sell, swap for what have you. Am particularly anxious to get old AR-GOSIES, and stf. mags. Will answer all letters. Write--- Jerry Meader, 49 Washington St., Rumford Maine.

Free advertising to members up to one-half page. Half-rates apply to all space over that.

The M S A BULLETIN is published supposedly the first of each month by the Maine Scientific Association. Published & edited for this issue at 55 Middle Street, Skowhegan, Maine by Jim S. Avery. Address all subscriptions and advertising copy to Skowhegan, and all manuscripts and letters of comment to Jerry Meader, 49 Washington Street, Rumford, Maine. Advertising rates now in effect are 10¢ per quarter page. Half and full page ads will be done with letter-guides if requested. Please send cash or 1¢ stamps. Subscription: 5¢ a copy, six issues for 25¢, 12 issues, 50¢. Free to M. S. A. members. Contributors are cordially welcomed. Humorous articles on some phase of fandom especially desired. Back issues 5¢ each; no #2 available.

THE SNOW BOUND PRESS TAKES PRIDE

-IN ANNOUNCING-

The Second Fan Magazine to be Published in Maine!

NEGATIVE NARRATIVES--A fan magazine devoted solely to photographs of the fans. In the first issue will be found pictures of many of the most prominent fans including Forrest J Ackerman upon his graduation from the famed Miskatonic University in Arkham, seat of the occult and forgotten elder lore; Bob Tucker, Sully Roberds, Mark Reinsburg, Erle Korshak, and the car at the Barn Yard Conference which gave birth to the Chicago 1940 Convention and the IFF.; Russ Hodgkins, three times director of the very successful Los Angeles Science Fiction League, your editor, an exclusive shot of Saturn from a space-ship, and many other equally interesting and unusual fan photos. Of necessity, this will be an extremely limited edition and it is advisable that you order your copy reserved as soon as possible. Only 20 will be printed for the first issue. Over ten paste-in photos in neat hektographed captioned pamphlet for only 10¢ from Jim S. Avery, 55 Middle Street, Skowhegan, Maine.

Our first issue to be mailed in March