

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER
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SUCH IS FAME

When David H. Keller, M.D., submits material to the fan magazines he send six stories for inspection, two of which may be retained for publication, the other four to be returned. He did this with Robert A. Radle's FANTASCIENCE DIGEST. We'll let Bob tell the rest: "Among the yarns sent us by Keller was one entitled 'The Valley of Bones' which we kindly sent back after choosing the two we considered best. . . This same yarn appears in the current WEIRD TALES."

JEEP NOTE

Far be it from us to encourage (further?) juvenility in scientificiana, but we feel it our duty to report that life size models of Segar's Fourth-Dimensional Jeep, Eugene, are now selling around the country at \$1 a head.

BORIS AGAIN

The title of Karloff's latest Warner Brothers picture, "Strange Honeymoon" has been changed to "Invisible Menace." Each title sounds promising.

LINES ON AN INDEX CARD

Writes James V. Taurasi, gnashing his molars: "CORRECTION: (Science Fiction News Letter - Vol. I, No. 2) That last line about UNITED PUBLICATIONS should have read:- UNITED PUBLICATIONS also intends to publish a COSMIC TALES ANNUAL and a cloth or paper bound book." Okay, Jim?

THIS WEEK'S FAN MAGAZINES

The November NOVAE TERRAE showed up this week with a Dadaist cover by F. W. F. Dobby. "The Paragon" writes "Criteria of the Fan"; this is very well written, and, in spots, very funny. John C. H. Drummond, Eric C. Williams and Albert Griffiths contribute three rather prosy articles on science and science fiction; Ted Carnell quotes the editorial of the December SCIENCE FICTION FAN; and Arthur C. Clarke writes "Science-Fiction v. Mr. Youd" demanding both good science and good writing. Enclosed with this issue is "Questionnaire No. 1" which invites the reader to become a member of the Panel of Critics by answering 14 of the editors' queries and "baring your soul on a further sheet of paper." Q 1 reads: "Would you prefer "Novae Terrae" to be printed if this entailed double subscription rates and bi-monthly appearance?" We, for one, answer, emphatically, Yes! . . . Who can enlighten us as to the identity of the Abominable Snowmen?

Decorated with skulls and Dollens-like females, James V. Taurasi's WEIRD AND FANTASY FICTION arrived, containing "After Death", by Anna Santerella, which is only fair. A full page illustration, by J. V. Baltadonis, accompanies it, poorly reproduced. The other tale is "The Earless Monk of Dan-No-Ura", written by—and illustrated by—an Oriental lady friend of Thompson the Time-Traveler, Yuri Iwabuchi. The story is interesting, the authoress showing great promise, while the 3 drawings are superb. . . W&FF is an experimental publication, the editor informs us, and no further issues will appear unless demanded.

AMONG THE MAGAZINES

The February AMAZING STORIES' cover, by the ever-present Corey, depicts a wooden-soldierish scene from W. K. Sonnenmann's "Great, Queen of (the) Queens." C. A. Brandt's "In the Realm of Books" does the extraordinary this time and reviews seven books, five (imagine!) of which are science- or weird-fiction. Voluble Sam Moskowitz tops "Discussions" with a page and a quarter of his comment, while A. G. Leach's letter, on page 142, is recommended to those that like cryptograms. . . . A superb Brown cover adorns the February THRILLING WONDER STORIES. The all-white background is very effective. The first official announcement of TWS's companion magazine is to be found on the Science Fiction League pages. The same pages also inform us of a (hamam) "Scientificontest" with original Brown covers as prizes. Especially interesting to we guys in the news that WONDER "will be glad to review the various editions of the active science fiction fan magazines in forthcoming issues." At long last! . . . In "The Reader Speaks" Julius Schwartz tells of a mysterious sealed envelope and the predictions---by him and science fiction minded friends---made concerning the future of WS under Standard Magazines. . . . You'll have to rate the stories yourselves---we hardly ever read them. . . . Don't be fooled by page 69's invitation to rush out and buy the current issue of THRILLING ADVENTURES to read Edmond Hamilton's "Power Pit 13." This story will be in the Feb. issue, which is not yet "Now On Sale."

The January issue of ALL-AMERICAN FICTION contains Robert Neal Leath's short novel, "The Obsidian Ape", a tale of fantasy in the lost city of Kandar. . . . BLUE BOOK for January has the conclusion of Edgar Rice Burroughs' "Tarzan and the Elephant Men." . . . URANIA, the organ of the Junior Astronomical Association, for December, features a "curious document, evidently written by a Martian astronomer", called "Is There Life on the Planet Earth?" It is well-, but, unfortunately, anonymously written (tho we have a hunch that Editor Eddie had a finger in the pie).

VIA JIM FARLEY

Jack Agnew: "Both issues of the S-F News Letter were very interesting, despite their small size. With a little imagination it would pass as a personal letter. Hope you can continue to bring it out every week." The Letter, we fondly hope, will appear every week until: (1) we cease to be a science fiction fan, (2) we depart this mortal coil, or (3) doomsday. Uneven edges would heighten the deception that this were a personal letter. Hama . . . Baltadonis again: "The heliographing this issue is a great improvement over the first issue. Congrats. I still like the general idea behind your noggin at issuing the magazine (can I call it that?--Idoubt it); but, I still think is not worth the price demanded. Guess you might as well have reader's department--it's as good a method as any to fill up a . . .for that's why you have it, n'est-ce pas?" We have ourselves readers' dept., Mr. B., because we think such sections are the s of any periodical. Furthermore, we receive all manner of spirit epistles from our clientele, and don't wish to be selfish, keep them just for our own edification. As old J. Caesar would've said: "Non sibi, sed omnibus." As for such departments filling space . . . well---now that you mention it, they do, don't they?

Sincerely,

Richard Wilson, Jr.