

SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER



Published weekly
at 86-10 117 St.
Richmond Hill NY

5¢ copy - 6, 25¢

Vol. II No. 7

Whole Number 33.

July 16th, 1938.

ASSISTANCE VIA THE MAILBOX

From the Cinema City 'cross the plains, forwarded by Weaver Wright via aerial stage coach, comes: "Newsnote Unnecessary or Trivial ata Terrific: A fantascience foursome, consisting of FJA & Morojo, CDHonnig & Pogo, shot a rocket, in the scientifiictionl spirit, off the end the pier at Venice Beach, Calif., the nite of July 4th. Later Pogo & Chas slid down the Dragon Slide (113 foot descent in 12 secs, spield the barker) & Morojo & the J whirld up, down, around & all ways for the 4th of July on the new thrill contraption called The Strato-Ship, a plane circling in space against a painted backdrop of stars, Saturn, supercitys & so forth--" (The News Letter reports with envy that, until the World's Fair rolls around, the only stfish sport in which the Kiddies of New York can indulge---outside of playing jetan on inferior home made boards (Why didn't ERB make an ordinary checker board the regulation jetan field?) ---is manipulating futuristic pin-ball machines in Hubert's Museum on 42d Street. Altho, last Xmas, one of the larger department stores advertised "Board the Space Ship to Mars and See Santa Claus!" We didn't.)

"An item for SFNL," writes R. D. Swisher: "U S Patent 2,121,240 issued this week covers an 'Earth Moving Device.' (Remember Anton, and the famous saying of Archimedes, '...') (Dots indicate presence of Greek---we think it was Greek---of which this typewriter is incapable.) "You need not mention," he goes on, evilly, "that the Device really is designed for moving Dirt." (As if we'd mislead our trusting readers!)

Herbert E. Goudket, who has a case of poison-ivy, writes from 340 Beach 47 St., Edgemere, L.I., N.Y.: "Please tell your 'readers' (We like that! As if there weren't more than one!) "that due to my illness there will be a delay in my sending out all the convention photos. Incidentally, those who haven't ordered as yet may still do so at the same price -- 5¢ a photo or the entire set (33) for \$1.25. Delivery is promised in not more than 10 days."

John V. Baltadonis: "Some news for your newsheet: Another weird (definitely) program on the air is 'The Hand of Destiny.' The last tale 'aired' was one of a real vampire in Hollywood --- taken, I believe, from WEIRD TALES. It's on Station WIP, 9:30 PM, Thursday nites. To quote the program: 'Tune in again next Thursday nite, if you dare!'"

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has acquired the rights to the stage fantasy, "On Borrowed Time." It will star Lionel Barrymore and Freddie Bartholomew. . . . John V. Baltadonis, one of the Philadelphians who won't think (Michelist chant), has won a scholarship to Temple University The second British professional science fiction magazine, to be published by Newnes and edited by T. Stanhope Sprigg, will appear shortly. Title: Astonishing Tales of Science-Fiction. Price: 1/-, 30¢. . . . Dan McPhail's Rocket will be renamed Phantasy Press. And Dan's Fandom is about one-quarter finished. . . . Tarzan addicts among our male readers will be pleased to learn that an underwear manufacturer is putting out gents' undergarments that look like leopard skin, to be known as Frank Buck underwear. . . . Orson Welles, last season's radio Shadow, inaugurated his Mercury Theatre of the air by presenting "Dracula" over CBS Monday night, July 11, in the first person. . . . Dennis King and Vera Zorina, stars of "I Married an Angel," appeared as guest stars on Rudy Vallee's program July 7, but not in that play. . . . The same night Kuda Sux, the Hindu with the X-Ray Eyes, was tested by scientists and newspaper men at the Hotel Edison, reading documents and copying sentences while his eyes were covered by surgical bandages and several layers of linen napkins. The proceedings were aired over local station WHN.

COMMONPLACE BOOK

Its full title is "The Notes & Commonplace Book employed by the late H. P. Lovecraft including his Suggestions for Story-Writing, Analyses of the Weird Story, and a List of Certain Basic Underlying Horrors, &c., &c., Designed to Stimulate the Imagination." The 45-page volume is published by the Futile Press in a limited edition of 75 copies. The price is \$1.00. "This book," to quote the author, "consists of ideas, images, and quotations hastily jotted down for possible future use in Weird fiction. Very few are actually developed plots--for the most part they are merely suggestions or random impressions designed to set the memory of imagination working. Their sources are various--dreams, things read, casual incidents, idle conceptions, and so on." This book, in our opinion, is a very necessary addition to the shelves of a true fantasy fan's library.

SCIENCE ADVENTURE STORIES

The mammoth first issue of Science Adventure Stories appeared at the Wilson stronghold Monday, July 11. (This detail is recorded for posterity--the issue is undated.) The magazine is exceptionally good in appearance and content. There is fiction by L. A. Eschbach, Oliver S. Sævi, John L. Chapman, Oswald Train (the editor), Ralph Milne Farley and Milton H. Asquith. Milton A. Rothman and John V. Baltadonis contribute many pleasing illustrations. Its price is 15¢. Altho no publishers' address is given, we imagine John V. Baltadonis, of 1700 Frankford Ave., Philadelphia, Pa., has a supply for sale.

ALSO IN

Third Fantasy News; bound volume of two issues of R. H. Barlow's magazine of weird prose and verse: The Dragonfly; R. H. Barlow's Leaves (these two available from the Futile Press @ 50¢ each); June Novae Terrae.

(Note: Unlike James V. Taurasi, who laments the lack of news in his Fantasy News, we find interesting (to us, anyhow) fantasy items so numerous as to crowd out reviews of the science fiction fan Magazines. So, hereafter (unless readers register raucous dissent), we shall review only first issues, giving address and price, mentioning old stand-bys in this paragraph each week.