

THE
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NEWS
LETTER

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BECK BACK

Claire Beck has ended his pererrations thru God's Country and once more takes up abode in Box 27, or vicinity, Lakeport, Cal.

ONE HIT, ONE ERROR, ONE RAIN CHECK

This somewhat crude and out-of-season metaphor has to do not with baseball, but with the theatre, much, no doubt, to the disgust of one Mr. Baltadonis, who rants each time we devote space to things theatrical. The hit is Hart & Kaufman's latest, "The Fabulous Invalid," which opened October 8 at New York's Broadhurst Theatre. It deals with the history of one of the city's (mythical) playhouses, the Alexandria, from its opening, around 1900, to date. The story deals with Paula Kingsley, an actress, and Laurence Brooks, her leading man. When Paula dies and Brooks commits suicide for love of her they learn from a spectral doorman that they need not go to heaven, but may remain and "haunt" the theatre until it dies. The ghosts then follow the house thru the years and thru its many changes, from a legitimate theatre, to a Screeno-ridden movie palace, to the era of Billy Minsky and Burlesque. There is, however, a happy ending when the playhouse is taken over by a group of eager young actors, experimentalists, patterned probably after Orson Welles' Mercury troupe. . . . We mustn't forget that there is another ghost in the play, named William Shakespeare.

J. B. Priestley, who annoyed Broadway a while back with "Time and the Conways," returned Oct. 13, at the Guild Theatre, with his new offering, called "I Have Been Here Before." It bids fair to go floppo, since Mr Priestley doesn't seem to be able to stop theorizing about Time long enough to write an interesting play. The theory presented thistime seems to be that people live one life over and over again, thru all eternity, unless they exert enough will to change their destiny. Most of the critics not only were confused by the play, but admitted it.

The Drama Critics Circle Prize Play of a year ago, Maxwell Anderson's "High Tor," returned for a week's engagement at Werba's Brooklyn Theatre, with Jean Muir, of Hollywood, in the feminine lead.

The two other play-fantasies in New York are "I Married an Angel" and "On Borrowed Time." The latter is in its last four weeks here, with a company now doing it in London.

NOTES FROM THE AIR CITY by WEM

Scoop! A new magazine will shortly appear from Dayton's branch of Empress Publications (W. E. Marconette - 2120 Pershing Blvd. - Dayton, O.) containing a large selection of the very finest drawings obtainable in fandom. This magazine will bear the name "Odd" and will be cheerfully mailed to anyone remitting 10¢. Advance work indicates "Odd" will prove to be the most beautiful fan publication yet attempted!

Scienti-Snaps' complete lineup for the fall issue well be as follows: "A Tale of Woe" which really isn't a tale at all but merely a poem by Louis and Gertrude Kuslan; "Science or Fiction?" is a "new angle" article by Fred Jackson; Jack Speer tells of "A Fan's Visit to Washington"; Sam Moskowitz asks "Can You Remember?"; Hoy Ping Pong informs the world "How to Publish a Fan Magazine" (but don't follow his advice!); "A Prince of the Ringed Planet" continues his wanderings as told by H. H. Hunter; a new department called "On the Cover" makes its debut; and a generous slice of readers' comment closes the issue. The publisher promises anyone who cares that Scienti-Snaps will appear within the next week or so.

"Madge" We're sure friend Wilson won't mind if we use a small bit of the NL to pay our respects to the organ of the Los Angeles group. With all her faults (and what fan mag hasn't faults?) she was a gallant gal. We like to think of Madge as another Snow White waiting for her Prince Charming to awaken her to new life. Until then: Requiescat in pace.

SNOP TALK

Plans are afoot to liberalize and de-communize the Futurian Science Literary Society. . . . Novae Terrae, S-FA's British organ, may go under within 3 issues unless more support is shown. . . . That movie Leopold Stokowski & Deems Taylor have been working on for Walt Disney is "Alice in Wonderland" . . . "The Music of Tomorrow" is what orchestra leader George Olsen calls his offerings at the Waldorf-Astoria. . . . The new Karloff picture, "Devil's Island," will have its title changed because France objected. . . . MGM is bidding for the movie rights to "The Fabulous Invalid" . . . The N. Y. World's Fair is sponsoring a carnival on its fairgrounds, called "The Whirl of Tomorrow" . . . Rudyard Kipling's "The Phantom Rickshaw" was heard over NBC Blue Oct. 14. And, tho it's been ages, the Good News Hour of Sept. 22 presented an original fantasy by George Best, "Literary Gem," with Henry Stafford as an author whose characters, Robert Taylor & Florence Rice, stepped out of his typewriter & berated him. . . . From Nell's Dec. 25, 1937 issue: "Observations while Christmas shopping: A new Big Little Book, 'Flash Gordon in the Water World of Mongo.' Bet a purty that the next one will be 'In the Forests of Mongo.' --Jack Speer." JS loses by a hair. It is called "In the Forest Kingdom of Mongo" . . . Same Speer sent out hectoed postals this week exhorting FAPA members not to vote upon any new constitutional amendments until they've had a chance to be discussed.

FREE FOR NOTHING

Season or so ago Walter E. Marconette did up an edition of a magazette, called The Protestant, for an FAPA mailing. "Mail them we cannot," said officious gents in charge, "on account of some copies're typewritten & some carbon copied." Nell looks down her patrician nose at FAPA persons & herewith sends to each subscriber a copy of the WEMag. Those envelopes enclosing typed or carboned Protestants go out first class.

SPEER AGAIN-

"For the NL, if possible: I am prepared to support, with a quotation from one of Michel's letters, the statement of Master Moskowitz that the CPASF is the Communist Party's representative in stfandom, trying to turns us all into YCs; provided the aforementioned Mister Michel will give his permission. How about it, Mohnny? Are facts still clean?"

IN

Novae Terrae, Sept.; Science Adventure Stories for Oct.; Fantasy News thru Oct. 9th.

Richard Wilson, Jr.