

LETTER
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ANNOUNCEMENT

We smooth out the wrinkles in our threshold and take pleasure in welcoming to the staff of the News Letter, as Contributing Editor, Forrest J Ackerman, of Hollywood, Cal., who is prepared to give you the benefit of his inside information re scientifilms, magazines & all manner of fantastic goings-on, beginning last week. One of his first acts (in collaboration with Morojo) will be to publish for Nell, in the very near future, The S-F Dividend #5.

NOTES by Nell

"On Borrowed Time," which opened in New York early in February, has just departed herefrom after a run of nine months. . . . "On the cover of ENIGMATIC," says Dale Hart, speaking of his FAPA magazine, "will be a drawing of the Sphinx. The mystery of the Sphinx is no more enigmatic than the contents of the mag will be. Contents, by the way, will be poetry by me." . . . Sequel to "Skylark" Smith's "Galactic Patrol": "The Gray Lensman" . . . Bob Tucker claims to've arrived at the point where he'll have to start another weekly news sheet, printing nothing but photos of actual happenings, because of discrepancies in reports of the same occurrence printed in Fantasy News & in the News Letter. Tucker is also thinking of doing some sort of Annual for this Year's End . . . The Futurian Society's bi-weekly meetings have features five-cent raffles of science fiction novels to raise funds & meet expenses. Books won thus far by members have been: Olaf Stapledon's "Odd John," Cwen Johnson's "The Coming of the Amazons," & Gawain Edwards' "The Earth-Tube."

Maurice K. Hanson writes from London re the fate of Novae Terrae: "I don't know quite what will happen to N.T. but there will most probably be great changes in the near future. After the December issue it may become a quarterly alternating with SATELLITE and TOMORROW. Or something else may happen but there is no doubt that a monthly appearance will not be maintained if I continue to publish it."

Robert A. Madsen (who reveals himself as, thus far & to our knowledge, the only fan to have heard the much-discussed radio program: "The War of the Worlds") says: "According to Writer's Digest, Fantastic Adventures will print very few interplanetary stories, sticking mainly to fantasy. Perhaps it is for the better."

AFTER MARS--WHAT? Or, Some of the Aftermaths

Ad in the Los Angeles Evening News, Nov. 3: "America gets the jitters as Mars attacks! Panic--Terror--Hysteria. Now at 2 Theatres scooping the theatre world!! Exclusive Limited Engagement. El Rey & Million Dollar. We paid thousands to show the Miracle News Story of the Hour! H. G. WELLS' Original Amazing Thrill Program: 'The Man Who Could Work Miracles' 'Things to Come.' You'll see 2 hours of Petrifying, Electrifying, Mystifying, Awe Bewildering, Spell Binding Realism!" Realism, is it? Yet, when the pictures were released, they were panned by many critics for being far-flung fantasy

Universal cut chunks out of its recent 15-chapter serial, "Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars," spliced in some extra shots & re-released it as the feature: "Mars Attacks the World." At the same time, all Paramount's principal players are being recruited for a super-cast to emote in a tremendous war-scare prophecy picture: "Invasion!" ... Orson Welles & his Mercury troupe have already materially profited by their rendition of H. G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds." Beginning Dec. 9 they will replace the Hollywood Hotel program, aired Friday evenings. Perhaps you noticed all the venom Mr Welles put into his voice when announcing that, hereafter, they were to be sponsored by Campbell's Soups! fja & nl

WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 31 --Jack Speer

"Enjoyed Hallowe'en parade here very much. Many and varied were the monsters that I, Zaccharias-like, saw weaving down the Avenue (Constitution Avenue, of course; five times as important as Independence Avenue, across the Mall, which has a bearing on the Michelist fight too abstruse to go into here). Cutest was carrot-bodied critter, with six legs, feathers and scales. and very friendly smile."

BREAD-&-BUTTER DEP'T

Our thanks to Forrest J Ackerman, Dale Hart, Mororojo & Jack Speer for clippings of the Martian "invasion" from their cities' newspapers.

FANMAGS RECEIVED

First Issue #1 this week is the two-paged, mimeographed-cum-silk screen-titled Futurian News, "published occasionally by the Executive Committee of the Futurian Society of New York for the edification and entertainment of its members. November 5th, 1938. No. 1." This issue is devoted to foolishness wherein fans are invited to attend a meeting to hear Donald A. Wollheim & Cyril Kornbluth argue why, (a), the Tellurians should vacate Earth in favor of Mr Welles' Martians, and, (b), why there is no such thing as science fiction poetry, respectively. Messrs Isaac Asimov & Frederik Pohl will oppose the above named in debate, also respectively.

The second First Issue is Bob Tucker's rejuvenated D'Journal, a quarterly. Cosmic. Vulcan, mimeographed, 14-paged pub. dated Jan., 1939, large sized, priced at 10¢ & published at Box 260 (or thereabouts), Bloomington, Ill. Various people called Namahapa, the Denver Wiggins, James V. Taurasi & Walter Fleming make stabs at being hilariously funny & fail miserably. There is good stuff by Jack Speer (his excellent burlesque on his own IPC Poll "The O.P.U. Poll"), Hoy Ping Pong (his parody on Orson Welles' Halloween eve Mars shocker) & Ray Bradbury. The rest is utter tripe. We don't know whether our copy was stapled on the wrong side thru accident or design, but it didn't help matters either way. The mimeographing is bad, too. In case you didn't know, D'Journal is called "Fantasy Fiction's First Fun-fan Folio; Featuring Funtastic Foolery!" Faugh!

The Satellite, Vol. 1, No. 2; official organ of the Liverpool Branch of the S-FA. 24 hectographed pages; dated Nov., 1938. (NB: This magazine joins the ranks of those bearing frivolous nicknames. Co-editor John F. Burke refers to it as "Sally.")

Fantasy News (or Fantasy-News, whichever), Nov. 6.

Richard Wilson, Jr.