

THE SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER
An EMPRESS Publication
Five cents the copy; 6 for 25¢.

Published weekly at
86-10 117th Street,
Richmond Hill, N.Y.

Volume III, Number Nine. Whole Number 61. January 21st, 1939

BCC, Jr.

New Universal's "Son of Frankenstein" opened Friday the 13th in Hollywood. The reviews (which Forrest J Ackerman airmailed east) show that this can't strictly be called a sequel to "Bride of Frankenstein", inasmuch as, in the latter opus, Karloff, the Monster, blew himself and the top of a mountain to smithereens with tons of explosive; whereas, in the latest, Baron von Frankenstein (Basil Rathbone) discovers First Gravedigger (Bela Lugosi: no relation to Hamlet) caring for Monster, who's been in a coma. All the ads, incidentally, spell "weird" incorrectly.

FRANKENSTEIN--UNLIMITED !

According to Vague, the Hollywood film-trade journal, 5 new "Frankenstein" titles r anticipated for 1939-40 : "The Fantom of Frankenstein, Frankenstein at Cambridge, The Frankenstein Family Way Out West, Frank N. Stein vs Dracula, & Frankensteins with Dirty Faces (in Technicolor)." --"Farce" Gay Ackypuss, N.G.!

AMATEUR PUBS UNDER WHICH OUR MAILMAN GROANED THIS WEEK

Voice of the Imagi-Nation, Jan '39, V1#1. Imagination! was unfortunately laid away in an early grave, but her publishers, the Los Angeles Science Fiction League, have taken her best-liked feature & made a highly-enjoyable vox pop sort of mag of it, with chit-chat between reader & editor, an editorial, ads & a book review. Priced at 10¢, it may become a quarterly. (Box 6475, Met Sta, LA/Calif.)

Yearbook of Science, Weird and Fantasy Fiction, 1938. First Edition. Bob Tucker's prodigious research into professional science-fiction sees print in a well-mimeographed booklet wherein are listed, alphabetically & chronologically, all the stories that appeared in Astounding, Amazing, TWS, Weird, Dynamic, Marvel, Tales of Wonder & Fantasy, together with a list of the 1938-Argozy fantasies. An invaluable reference. Order from Box 260, Bloomington, Ill. 15¢.

Fantasy-News, Jan 15, V2#4

Le Vombiteur, Jan 21, V1#10

Le Zombie, undated, #2

NOTE

We are desolated to announce that The Science Fiction News Letter, First Anniversary Issue--incorrectly referred to, by some, as "The Annual"--will not appear. This is because Mr Cyril Kornbluth (an otherwise estimable gentleman), who undertook to publish it, proved himself unreservedly buffaloed when it came to things hectographic.

In place of "Nell Ann", as FJA dubbed it, we announce a mimeographed, large-sized magazine of a considerable number of pages, to be published for the NY World's Fair SF Convention this summer. This as yet unnamed bit of journalism will contain much of the material that was to've appeared in the Anniversary Issue, and will be distr'd without charge, to Nell's subscribers as well as to editors of similar convention booklets.

SCIENTIFICINEMACTOR DIES

Jameson Thomas, star of "Hi Treason", 1930 film-forecast of 1940, & player in such other stf pix as "The Invisible Man" & "Sing Sing Nites", playd his last part in life on Weds., 11 Jan. Taken by tubercular trouble at the age of 45, he lived within one yr of the date of the profetic British picture in which he portrayd the major role of Major Michael Deane. An autograft interview with Thomas apeard in Imagination! 38 Mar. j

THE VOICE OF MANHASSET

In "Li'l Abner", Mammy Yokum saw the Sign of the Polecat. Which means that Mammy, who ordinarily can envision the present, can now envision the future. She did, choosing the year 1949...The first one in the NY Journal & American's new limerickial Best Last Line contest is scientificfictional. It goes as follows:

A gang of your rockets from Mars
Shot to Earth like exploding cigars,
But when they inspected

Our World, they elected.....and that's where you're supposed to start adding...There's a rumor going around that one of the big New York afternoon papers will start publishing "Superman", now, as you know, in Action Comics...Another funny coincidence: In "Flash Gordon", Barin's kingdom on the planet Mongo is called Arboria. That was also the name of a fictitious European country in J. Harvey Haggard's story, "The Light that Kills", published in the Feb. '39 issue of Amazing Stories. rgt

LETTER

From Jack Speer: "Guess Man Mountain Marconette has told you I dropped in to see him coming back from Oklahome. Boy, was I surprised.... Hear Benny's New Year's program? I was listening to it as we pressed into Indiana. Lotsa stuff bout the Martian invasion, current events, &c.... Your correspondent's 'After 1939--What?' ('After 1938' woulda been more correct) netted him something else besides a dollar from the Lasfl and a swelled head. M'sieu Ed. J. Carrell had offered a prize of his own: 'World Without Time', form Passing Show, bound."

ETC.

Altho the ads call it "a fantastic adventure", Mosfilm's latest, "Captain Grant's Children", taken from the Jules Verne story, isn't. Not, at least, fantastic in the stfl sense...Wally Marconette's Sci-enti-Craps goes minecd, large-sized...A bit late, but: Daw advises: "Doe 'You Can't Take It With You.' It's a preview of Science-Fiction House."

"CONTINUED NEXT WEEK..."

"Hawk of the Wilderness" is 1938's last fantascience film. It opened Dec. 31 at N. Y.'s Loew Theaters. Starring Herman ("Tarzan") Brix as Kloga, the 12-episode Republic Picture--taken from William Chester's novel & Blue Book serial of the same name--is concerned with a tribe of pre-Indians in the far north.

BACK ISSUES OF NELL

Now 5¢ each, or 12 for 25¢, postpaid.

Lick Wilson