

Volume III, Number 24, Whole Number 76. May 15th, 1939.

#### PHANTASIANA

The inspectors' cars of the Richfield Oil Co. are like nothing so much as rocket-ships on wheels. They have surmarine-like bodies, with finnish rudders, and look positively unearthly....Thorne Smith's "Topper" may now be had in an American pocket-sized edition, substantially bound, at 25¢ per, as may James Hilton's "Lost Horizon" and Emily Brontë's "Wuthering Heights". All of which, incidentally, have been made into excellent movies..."Even better than 'To Walk the Night'", says Will Cuppy of "The Edge of Running Water", William Sloane's second fantastic thriller, published at \$2.50 by Farrar & Rinehart...R. C. Sherriff, author of "Journey's End", has written a novel about a world cataclysm, borrowing, they say, of Wells', Anatole France's and Jules Verne's methods. The book, called "The Hopkins Manuscript", is published by Macmillan at \$2.50.

#### RECOMMENDATION

"Blind Alley", a Columbia picture starring Ralph Bellamy and Chester Morris, is a film worthy of your attention. It is the story of a professor of psychiatry who probes the subconscious of an escaped killer to find out what makes him that way. There is an excellent, eerie scene where the camera invades the murderer's mind, disclosing the recurrent dream thru which the psychologist finally frees him of his obsession.

#### NOTICE

In the April 8 issue of The Science Fiction News Letter there appeared an anonymous contribution which implied plagiarism on the part of Mr Willy Ley.

Mr Ley writes: "In connection with this matter I wish to state that I do not read the Scientific American at all and never did and that my information came from Germany directly. The article in question was submitted as fourth part of my series Power Plants of Tomorrow to Astounding Stories on July 27th 1937, it was mailed back to me on September 3rd, 1937 ( -- I have Mr Tremaine's letter on my desk -- ) and later re-written in its introductory parts so as to make it a complete article in itself. As such it was submitted to Marvel on May 14th 1938. I wish to add that I wrote an article on Goergel's plan as early as in 1931, the article was published (in German) in the 'Arbeiter Zeitung' (Vienna) on April 20th 1932, a copy of the paper is still in my files."

We wish to apologize to Mr Ley for the questionable taste shown both by the News Letter and the contributor, in this respect, and to thank him for his letter of explanation.

#### PARIS LETTER by Georges H. Gallet

"Since April 10th I have delayed answering your kind letter because I hoped from day to day to be able to send you good news about my proposed magazine. But it was so difficult to sell the idea to a large firm that I despaired of success and even was on the verge of dropping the whole thing. Hoping, nevertheless, I stuck to it, and now I have the pleasure of informing you that under the big firm of 'Le Petit Parisien' (dailies, periodicals, Broadcasting station, advertising service, distributing organization, &c), I am now preparing

the launching of the magazine.

"First number due to appear on Friday, Sept. 15th next, it shall be a weekly, 24 c/m by 32 c/m, printed in rotogravure. 16 pages; pages 1, 8, 9 and 16 done in four colors (cover: color drawing like American magazines, middle: double page, and page 16: mechanical drawings).

"2 fantasy serials, 1 short story, several special features, &c ...illustrations for serials done in two colors...foreign and French authors and illustrators. Of course, as I wrote you some time ago, it is not yet a full-fledged science fiction magazine, but it is a step in the launching in this country of such a magazine which will come later.

"I was sorry to learn about Nell's premature death but on the other hand rejoiced in the birth of Escape, the first copy of which is impatiently awaited."

#### DEP'T OF THE FAVORITE FANTASY FILM

John F. Burke, Liverpool: "If it's any use to you, my favourite fantasy films were 'The Invisible Man', 'Lost Horizon', 'Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde' (as the funniest show in history), 'Man Who Could Work Miracles' & 'Just Imagine'."

When questioned about his parenthetical remark, Johnny wrote: "...when I first saw it, I was a very small child, and was conducted from the cinema in the middle trembling with fright. When I saw it recently, tho, I was hardly moved at all. Bill Temple's crack about 'a little dorg out of breff' kept on recurring to me as I watched Jekyll change countenance, and I chortled out loud, to the annoyance of my very impressed neighbors. And that love-scene....."

FLASH-FLASH STUFF in one of the manners of columnist Leonard Lyons

Ø POHL: It will no doubt leave you cold to learn that the name of the villain of David Belasco's play (& book & film), "The Return of Peter Grimm", is Frederik--also without the c...J. HARVEY HAGGARD: We're in complete agreement with your campaign to have Amazing Stories leave its back covers free of printing so that they may be framed and grace the dens of stfans...DAVID A. KYLE: At various intervals we recall with considerable emotion the time you stood on a corner of Times Sq. and sighed, "Gee! Aren't women nice?"...SAM MOSKOWITZ: You may inscribe under Useful Information in your Book of Future Skull-duggery that Michel & Wollheim turn absolutely pale when confronted with a white horse at night...CARL DENHAM: When your giant pal paid a return visit to Clarksburg, W. Va., the streets of the city bore trails of painted footprints, with the words "KING KONG" beside them, to one of the theaters. The old boy himself (in miniature) was to be seen climbing over the cinemansion's roof.

#### DEP'T OF DOUBTFUL INTEREST

The City College Mercury, once edited by ex-fan Milton Kaletsky, features a rather stupid remark in its May issue which should be of interest to somebody. We quote: "He wrote about the future for Wonder Stories, and gave me a past."

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*Dick Wilson*