

FROMAG PARADE

Science-fiction is in the midst of another boom similar to those of 1939-1940 and '46 and '50. It's a healthy sign unless it gets out of hand and kills off some of the publications by putting too much of a drain on the market.

Without worrying about that phase of the boom we will briefly and concisely recap the present situation for you.

Among those already on sale are SPACE SCIENCE FICTION, IF, FANTASTIC, and FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION. Coming are SPACE EXPLORER, VORTEX SCIENCE FICTION, AVON FANTASY & SF READER, ROCKET STORIES, and maybe even more.

First off let's take a look at those already on sale. IF, Worlds of Science-Fiction shapes up as an O.K. entry appearing in the now popular digest size format. The stories are better than the cheap pulps and slightly under the leaders. The printing and paper are good, illustrations passable to good and the features among the best in the field.

SPACE SCIENCE FICTION appears to be only a pulp in new slick format. Again a digest size zine, its outlook barely escapes that of a pulp. All the standard pulp tricks including "half-the-magazine" stories by editor Les del Rey. Unusually strange is the absence of features. The only question we have is: 35¢ for this?

FANTASTIC (Quarterly from Ziff-Davis) appears a little more on the quality side for a change and we don't have any quarrels with this trend of thought. Good paper, fine artwork, a superb cover and a fine selection of stories and a few Reader's Digest type fillers. We like this one.

FANTASTIC SCIENCE FICTION, the large size slick, long awaited and hoped for, has arrived. 52 pages, 8 1/2 x 11, published bi-monthly, costing 25¢ and edited by Walt Gibson. This initial issue sports a color cover by Lou Morales and features "The Day New York Ended" by Walt Gibson, "The Secret of the Locked Laboratory" by Bruce Crandall, "The Lost City of the Sky" by Wallace Smith, "They Die on Mars" by Thyllis Maye, "The Black Planet" by G.A. Lacksey, and "The Nude in the Microscope" by George Moggatt. Also features and book reviews. Looks like sex on a rocket ship. ((personally I wouldn't know as the magazine hasn't appeared here in Boston

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science

fiction

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they make up fandom

WELCOME

With this issue we have added some new correspondents--

Dick Clarkson, the only BNF in Baltimore at present. Proxy of the local club and active in many fan projects. A valuable addition to the staff.

Jim Harmon, a highly opinionated fellow from Illinois who is no stranger to many of you. We understand Jim is trying to write salable stf.

Tom White, new U.K. newsman is the British B3F mailer, active in OF and in local clubs. Another fellow who knows what is going on.

Jeff Taylor from No.17 Phoenix, Arizona edits a fanzine named THE Vol.2 PHOENIX. Neal Clark Reynolds, popular west June coast fan, has been developing quite a 1952 name for himself of late.

WELCOME TO ALL!!!

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RAMBLINGS and RUBBINGS

because (pause) the editor speaketh

Well here we are with another issue of that glorious fanzine (or newszine) SFF, and late as usual. Last year SFF had the most regular zine in fandom. This year things are just the opposite. Things are different this year as the editor dith labor or as he most aptly phrases it ~~guts~~ pursues his mundane pursuits of mercenary endeavors. But enough of this rambling onward ever onward to the news.... Bowman Gum Corp. now manufacturing, to the delight of kiddies everywhere (meaning fans mostly) a new penny gum-picture card series entitled SPACE MEN... A few new stf comics (strips) have snuck up on the editor. One looks awful entitled TWIF FLATS (have not seen enough of it too pass a final and binding judgment. The other being BEYOND FLATS strikes me as being rather top notch. Lee Elias wields a mighty nice artists pen and the plot is supplied by Jack Williamson. Are we going to quarrel with that? Orville W. Mosher III, who recently renewed his membership in W3F, a resident of Emporia Kansas is putting out a booklet named most intriguingly "How to Form a Science-Fiction Fanclub". This sounds like a waste of time. Everybody knows how to form one as everybody does sooner or later. However I suppose this deals with the right way to form one. An admirable project. Press date: January '53. All clubs contributing info will receive a free copy. PROJECT FAN CLUB stickers have been distributed. Man Gerding, Dick Clarkson, Shelby Vick, and Orv are the ones in charge... A revolutionary trend in fanclubs is being planned. The idea is called FEMA- the Federated Metropolitan Fanclubs of America. After that mouthful you will be interested to learn that it means an organization of all fanclubs into one haply(?) family for mutual benefit. This could be big news and maybe even a SFF exclusive. So read every blurry page of that great and noble newszine SFF, the poor man's SF Newsletter.... Fred Goetz, secretary of the TALL-RESPONDENT, INTERNATIONAL is extremely anxious to enlist the support of ALL tape and wire recorder owner-fans for the club. The organization and idea sound o.k. to us. Contact Fred at 3488 22nd St., San Francisco 10, Calif.... Jeff Taylor reports Phoenix Arizona and thereabouts starting to organize. He'd like to hear from that area fan. Address him at 933 W. Eathan, Phoenix, Ariz. He also reports that L. Ron Hubbard has opened an office there. Dianetics exclusively from now on is the report... TODAY'S SCIENCE a neat little non-fiction science mag is now on sale. Conflicting sources say its from Ziff-Davis and Ray Palmer's company. It doesn't admit to having a publisher. Non-committal-sounds like Rap but Ken Beale is convinced its from Z-D ? Now we turn this zine over to the egoboosting of one Ken Beale, fan extraordinary. Ken has written a 35 page (record length) Molaccon report to be illustrated by Henry Chobot and sold at the Chicon for 15 or 20¢. the same Mr. Beale is starting a subscription service for fanzines. Men desiring to keep abreast of fandoings can contact him. Fanzine editors who desire to boost their circulations are requested to do likewise... This same eager Beale character is organizing a new all New York fanclub with the assistance of Calvin T. Beck. This projected club receives warm blessings from SFF which has been in the middle of a few inter-New York fan club scudbbles... the local TALL branch is planning a local con in July.. about time we might say. Ken Beale, in addition to all these project named above is now writing a column for OOBSEN and supplied tons of news for this issue of SFF. What a swell guy he is.. a credit to fandom. Hats off to Ken (that active boy) Beale.

NEXT ISSUE OF SFF: out in a few weeks barring misfortune may be somewhat of a shock to you. In fact I know it will be. It'll be so different and much much milder. ?????????????????????????????????

Graham H. Stone, Correspondent

On the Australian front things are humming along at a rapid pace.....THRILLS, INC. is still appearing with startling regularity presenting its usual fiction-actually a comic book without pictures. No. 22 features "Meril of the Sea Planet". The University of Sydney is still conscious and the April 3rd issue of Honi Soit, school newspaper, featured an article on the convention held March 22. Titled "Is Modern Science Fiction?", the article covered the con in general and Vol Molesworth's talk in particular..... your correspondent's fanzine STOL GAP continues to appear and covers Australian sf developments accurately and adequately.

The April issue of Stop Gap reported 82 members in the Australian S-F Society. Annual membership is 5/... The ASFS has issued a booklet entitled SCIENCE FICTION PARADOX-- an introduction. It is an excellent study written in the sterling journalistic style of Mr. Stone.....The January issue of WOOLERA (Dick Solntseff, 184 Girraween Rd., Girraween, NSW), recently arrived, a wee bit late. 1/ or 20¢ C, it is a thin but attractive zine printed by the Futurian Press..... Ken Mattin and Vol Molesworth (Box 5166, GPO, Sydney, Australia) have issued a new zine NEWS AND COMMENT featuring 4 legal pages of news etc....

The United Kingdom (all of it) by Tom White

Authentic #21 is convention issue dedicated to the London con...the zine features all the regular departments including Forrest Ackerman's new roundup on US fanclings....Ken Slater's OPERATION MIGHTY ST HANDBOOK for 1952 is out. Chock full of info and data. A fine job as usual from Ken...Eric Bentcliffe of the Norwest Club has compiled a checklist of British SF magazines and pocket editions. Price 5/, address 57, Alldis St Woodsmoor, Stockport, Cheshire, Eng..Walt Willis has issued the first issue of his new mimeo'd zine HYPERION...BRI of FROM URBAN WORLDS, US magazine anthology of a few years ago is out at 2/6. The volume is also available in hard cover...British film "KAT IN THE WHITE SUIT" starring Alec Guinness successful everywhere...stateside reviews giving it good billing....John Collier won the 1952 British sf award for his "Fancies and Goodnights", A.C. Clarke's "Exploration of Space" won the non-fiction award...Derek Pickles' MIGHTY SUGORRI now appearing in a legal size format....Walt Willis will be at Chicago is the report from both sides of the Atlantic.....

Bob Hadle and Sam Moskowitz have sold an article to SCIENCE FICTION QUARTERLY. Bob's first sale.

Forrest Ackerman has donated 2 mint titles to the Willis campaign to be auctioned off with the mimeo mentioned in April SFH.

Incidentally credit is due to Mr. Henry Lanister for the mimeo. After all, he donated the machine. A generous gift. Our editorial hats are doffed in his direction.

Norman G. Browne has received the 1st issue of his new zine from the printers. He claims that it will take the place of Quandry.

Alan M. Fourse, fast selling author of late is ready to embark into matrimony.

Lee Tromper to issue a fanzine soon. Hopes to interest the Indian -a SF Association in backing it.

Bill Venable and Dick Clarkson to hold sub-con at Chicago this Sept. about MEA. (see pg. 2) The pair will be attending together.

Baltimore BFF Dick Clarkson reports he will be attending Harvard next year. Well! Move a little closer Dick.

Dr. Arthur C. Clarke, British rocket expert and author visiting U.S....He attended the Midwescon.

William MacDonald, appointed to head up New England fan organization has skipped the country. He is now a resident of Canada.

Editor Campbell takes over the project mentioned above despite efforts to palm it off. Thomas Springall promises assistance.

BOOKS

The recent article-feature on Space Travel that appeared in Colliers will appear in book form next fall as "Man's Conquest of Space". It will have an additional 25,000 words of text by Ley and more illustrations. It will complement the previous book and will be the same size although higher slightly in price.....NEW BOOKS: "The Haploids" by Jerry Sohl (Rinehart), "City" by Clifford Simak (Gnome); "Year's Best Science Fiction Novels" edited by Bleiler and Ditky, including stories by Eric Frank Russell ("The Starwatchers"), Poul Anderson and Walter Miller (Frederic Fell); "Takeoff" by C.M. Kornbluth (Doubleday); "Robots Have No Tails" by Lewis Padget (the Gallegher series in book form from Gnome); "The Mixed Men" by A.E. vanVogt (Gnome); "Green Fire" by John Taine (F.P.C.I.); "Outpost Mars" by "Cyril Judd" (Judith Merrill and C.M. Kornbluth), ((Abelard)); "the Planets" by Harold C. Urey, non-fiction (Yale University Press). All above are reprints with the exception of "The Haploids" and "Takeoff".....RECENT BOOKS: "Jack of Eagles" (appeared in magazine form as "Let the Finder Beware") by James Blish; "The Science Fiction Omnibus" a reissue of two "Best of the Year" volumes by Bleiler and Ditky; "Invaders of Earth", a Groff Conklin anthology; The Galaxy, Astounding, and Magazine of Fantasy and SF anthologies; Heinlein's collection "Tomorrow the Stars"; (publishers of the preceding are Greenberg, Frederic Fell, Vanguard, Simon & Shuster, Crown, Little Brown, and Doubleday respectively.....in addition Greenberg has issued vanVogt's "The Weapon Makers" previously a scarce item; Gnome has published "Five Science Fiction Novels" edited by Martin Greenberg -- comprised of "Crisis in Utopia" (Norman L. Knight), "The Chronicler" (vanVogt), "Destiny Times Three" (Fritz Leiber), "The Crucible of Power" (Jack Williamson, and "But Without Horns" (Norvell W. Page). All but the last appeared in aSF with the latter appearing in Unknown. Gnome has also published "The Sword of Conan" by Robert Howard.

Recent pocket book editions: Bradbury's "The Illustrated Man" (Bantam); John Wyndham's "The Revolt of the Triffids" (Popular Library) this is the Colliers version, not the book version as previously published; Philip Wylie's "The Disappearance" (Cardinal-35¢).....Shasta has a couple of van Vogt books coming and also the US reprint of A.C. Clarke's "Sands of Mars".

Ray Bradbury's forthcoming book has been retitled "The Fire That Burns". Previously rejected titles: "The Fireman", "Fire and Frost". It will include "The Fireman" from Galaxy, "The Creatures that Time Forgot" from Planet and some shorts.

Bob Tucker's next book, sf, will be due shortly and is titled "The Long Silence". Originally it was titled "The Common Carriers".

Biblio Press, 1104 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington 5, D.C. has issued a bibliography of H.P. Lovecraft by Joseph P. Brennan of the Yale University Library. It is a 14 paged 5½ x 8½ pamphlet done on a letter press and costing \$1.00.

CONGRATULATIONS: Yes, congratulations to Jimmy Taurasi and his FANDOM HOUSE, which just celebrated its 15th year. This is a record that Jimmy can be very proud of. FANDOM HOUSE has always been a name that meant quality and FANTASY-TIMES, the number one newszine of today, continues to uphold this quality.



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See Page 2

SPLIT IN BALTIMORE

By Dick Clarkson

Oddly enough, the Baltimore Science-Fiction Forum is only three days younger than our Pittsburgh counterpart, having been founded on July 27, 1951. Our founder, Fishel M. Iearkmutter - now in college - was also our first President. When Fishy left last fall, Allen Hewter took over the reins, specifying at the time that he would hold office for only three months, until the club could get on its feet. In December, yours truly was elected Trexy.

We get free meeting space at the Sears Community House (North Ave. & Hartford Rd.), where meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month. Central topics for get-togethers have been, among others: auctions, a talk on atomics by an AEC official, etc. Also we have been known to stay well into the night discussing controversial topics.

Newspapers, radio, and tv have given us quite a bit of publicity, having been a considerable help to us.

There was once talk of a second Baltimore fanclub. Many of you have heard from one Mr. Adam Goetz. I can find no better place than here to state that there is but one club in Baltimore, as Mr. Goetz's plans never went through.

THE BSFF has its own self-supporting library and also manages to produce its own fine fanzine, "Views in S-F", of which Ray Sienkiewicz is the editor.

An important question seems to be: Is Baltimore a candidate for The 1953 World Science-Fiction Convention? The answer is a long, loud resounding NO! Somehow, behind our backs, somebody has been going all-out in a campaign for Baltimore in 1953. We won't, we won't do it! No! I suspect that Willis and Dard may be behind the scenes in this, as we are notorious for giving them a rough time. Whatever the story may be, it's a plot!

(Dick reports that the group while active and thriving is made up mostly of local fans rather than the active fan whose fan interests circle the globe. In this vain Dick will be the only member of the BSFF to attend the Chicago convention two months hence.)

All in all, no fanclub has more fun than we do. And that's it for Baltimore.

NEXT MONTH: REPORT ON FANDOM -5 : ATLANTA

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yet, as usual. What a lousy place for a newszine editor to live. When the rest of the world knows about something then it reaches de-ar old Boston. (*) editor)

Then there are those yet to come....can we wait? I think so. Sol Cohen promises a new magazine to appear this fall from Avon. Probably another typical Avon magazine. A combination of the two Avon Readers....Isn't that just wonderful, friend collectors?

What about the tentatively titled Space Explorer, tabloid size, and 2 color illustrated to appear bi-weekly in the food chain stores for 5¢ a copy? Is this still coming or just a pipe dream.

VORTEX SCIENCE FICTION is currently buying stories for its 1st issue. We may have to wait for this one too. They are having trouble getting enough good short-stories to fill the magazine. We wonder, although we like the short-stories, whether this kind of a magazine is advisable in a field where the readers want 100,000 word serials. If VORTEX does appear this fall it will be digest size and again 35¢.

Lester Del Rey has another one up his sleeve in the promised but not awaited ROCKETS STORIES. This one sounds strickly from Langer.

The editor has promised it for fall if not sooner. Fantasy-Times on the ball as usual comes up with the wonderful news that prolific editor Les is planning two additional titles for his stable. Let's all hope not, eh? Please Les pity the lowly fan and keep your bunk to yourself. After all we've got ASF, Galaxy, MOFFSF and Hodge, we don't need any more. If you're listening Sol, that goes for you too. (This is not a complete condemnation of the talented Del Rey but more of an earnest and logical plea)...Here's some more BIG news...IMAGINATION is now published 9 times a year and will be monthly by the end of the year. ((This has been a consolidated report of Fandom in Press correspondents but is mostly the work of the editor and Jim Harmon and Thomas Springall.))

Republic Studios has just released a new 12 part serial entitled "Radar Men From the Moon.....B-film" here Richard Crane is to portray "Rocky Jones, Space Ranger" in a new tv series. His contract includes that he wear his costume at all public appearances...."Red Planet Mars" concerning communication with that world cut now. It is not related to the Heinlein story. Arch Oboler is making a "trio" film of which one third will be Henry Kuttner's "The Twenky"

Sol Lesser is to make a new movie series starting with "Cave Girl" (it is not known whether this is the ER Burroughs story or not... John Collier is to do a screen play for a ballet sequence with Moira Shearer in MGM's "3 Love Stories"... There will be no more Lippert Films (thank goodness) as the firm will distribute exclusively...Despite Arch Oboler's current effort the first three dimensional film has already been made. A non-fantasy "Claimed" produced by students of the University of Calif...."Venus Woman" is the title of a to-be-released-by United Artists film. All that is known about it is that it will be released sometime between July 1 and the end of 1953!!

Howard Hawks' "Lost in Space" may be out any time now...A new film now touring the nation is "Strange World" No details yet.

The ABC Radio Network is presenting a new series entitled "Time Capsule" on Sunday nights at 7:30 EDT. It features a roundup of news and trends of 1952 to be preserved for rebroadcast in 2052

The Mutual Broadcasting System's excellent documentary series "OUT OF THE THUNDER" (Wed. 9:05pm EDT) featured "Rockets, Jets and Space Travel" on its May 21st edition and the next week presented "Is there life on Mars?" Both were well done and very interesting, especially the former.

The tv show LIES OF TOMORROW on ABC-TV Fridays has been heralded by one of its sponsors as a tremendous advertising medium. Company sales since sponsoring the show have spiraled.

Summer stuff on radio has not appeared as anticipated yet. Nothing on tv front either. Conventions will disrupt schedules anyway.