

Science



Times

Fiction

"The World Of Tomorrow Today"

18th YEAR - #300

SECOND SEPTEMBER 1958 ISSUE

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# 'IMAGINATION' & 'SPACE TRAVEL' FOLD

## FAIRMAN LEAVES Z-D



THE COSMIC REPORTER

by Arthur Jean Cox

MORE ON THE SOLACON

During "The Pro Reports" at the first day of the Solacon, Anthony Boucher, in response to questions from the floor, said that he didn't know how many writers were supporting themselves entirely by writing science-fiction, but said that there were a few. He said that he wished that magazines could pay higher rates, but that they couldn't and continue to exist. In response to another question, he said that he knew nothing about the fact that Fantasy & Science Fiction had shown up in some localities with a 40¢ price on the cover\*, but supposed that it was a regional experiment. He astonished many persons by remarking that fifty cents was really the price which should be charged for science-fiction magazines -- and John W. Campbell, Jr., speaking from the floor, agreed with him. But, said Boucher, none of the magazines had the guts to be the first to

(continued on page 2, column 1)

NEW YORK, 11 September, (CNS) - Paul W. Fairman, editor of Amazing and Fantastic will leave Ziff-Davis September 15th, once more to return to writing. Norman Lobsenz has been named as the new editor of Amazing and Fantastic. Cele Goldsmith will continue as Managing Editor, but her duties will be more extended under the new setup.

Paul Fairman, was first known to the field as a s-f author (who wrote under numerous pennames) and as the first editor of IF in 1951. He left IF in 1952 to join Amazing and Fantastic as Associate Editor. He left Ziff-Davis in 1954 after having been promoted to Managing Editor. He returned to Ziff-Davis as Managing Editor late in 1956 and became full Editor shortly thereafter, after Howard Browne left that position for the greener fields of TV writing in Hollywood. Paul will now return to writing. He stated that he'll write anything that'll bring in \$\$\$, and will also do some science-fiction.

Norman Lobsenz hasn't really done any science-fiction before this, but he is a long-time reader of science-fiction. He was on the editorial staff of the original Quick, the news weekly.

EVANSTON, 5 September, (CNS)- Bill Hamling stated in a telephone call with James V. Taurasi today that he has folded his two science-fiction magazines, Imagination Science Fiction and Space Travel. When asked why he frankly stated that both magazines had lost him a lot of money and he could no longer continue taking the loss. He went on to state that the losses have been very bad and continuous since American News Company gave up distributing magazines over a year ago. He has no immediate plans for any new magazines, science-fiction or otherwise.

His only remaining magazine is Rogue which Bill states has sales of a quarter million per issue, a real money-maker. From time to time science-fiction is published here and s-f authors and artists have non-s-f material in it regularly. For example Harlan Ellison will have "The Last Day" in a forthcoming issue, that Bill thinks all s-f readers will enjoy.

Imagination was begun in 1950 by Ray Palmer. Hamling bought it shortly after when Amazing moved to New York from Chicago and Bill resigned as Managing editor. Space Travel was formerly Imaginative Tales which Bill introduced a few years ago when Imagination went from Monthly to bi-monthly.

Last issue of Imagination is the current October issue, and the -last issue of Space Travel is the current November issue.

A great loss to the fan-field will be the fan-mag reviews by Bob Bloch in Imagination, one of the few places left where fans could have their publications reviewed.

SOLACON PHOTOS ON PAGE 3

1941

300th ISSUE

1958

## THE COSMIC REPORTER

(continued from page 1, column 1)

try the fifty cents price and go into competition with thirty-five cent magazines -- and if all the magazines agreed to raise their prices simultaneously to fifty cents, that would be a Federal crime! He implied that pocket books were a possible solution to the problem, for they seemed to sell where the magazines didn't. He was thinking of something along the lines of Ballantine's original science-fiction anthology series.

A third auction took place during the Costume Ball, (3rd day - Sunday August 31, 1958) in which Sam Moskowitz auctioned off Walt Daugherty and Daugherty auctioned off Sam Moskowitz. The opening bid on Daugherty was 25¢. He was sold to his wife for \$7.00. The opening bid on Moskowitz was 12¢ and for some time it looked as if his price was going to be considerably below Daugherty's -- proving that either he, Moskowitz, was the better auctioneer or that Daugherty was the better piece of property. However, after Moskowitz took down his pants\*\* to show that he was wearing science-fiction shorts the bidding shot up and he was bought (for a period of one hour) by an unidentified woman. Moskowitz's wife was not with him at the Convention.

\*See Science-Fiction Times #299.

\*\*See picture on page 3.

## THE COSMIC AGE

by Bill Blackbeard

## MORE SOLACON HIGH &amp; LOWLIGHTS

The auction, held Saturday August 30, 1958, at which long-time LASFS Walt Daugherty presided, was rather incompetently handled and rather poorly attended, in keeping with the generally poor quality of the material on sale. Even excellent items went for startlingly low prices: a beautiful Emsh interior illo from *Super Science* was knocked down for 75¢, and the top price for any Orban (paid by AJC) was one single solitary buck. The one Emsh cover, from *Space Stories*, although in sad shape (covered by dingy spots of some unknown substance) did exchange hands for \$11.50, however. Various mss and magazine bundles were sold for pittances, and the auction ended with a large amount of material still unsold -- on which the fans are asked to write bids, the items to be bid for to go to the highest bidder at the end of the convention. Daugherty was so unaccomplished an auctioneer that he even openly perched at the items he didn't like (especially Orbans) and this didn't help pick up money for the convention. The general attitude displayed by both fans and the convention committee was: let's

get this dull junk-auction out of the way; there aren't any collectors anyway and all this stuff is worthless, so why waste time or interest on it? Probably the worst handled and attended auction in Convention history.

The same evening (8/30/58), about 15 minutes after the scheduled opening time of 7:00, the nocturnal events began with the NFFF awards, presented by EEEvans. This procedure was called "Time A NFFF" in the program. A life membership was given to Dr. David H. Keller for his general service to the fan movement over many years, followed by awards to Robert Silverberg as the best new fan-turned-writer in the field, and to "the fan pro", Robert Bloch. All were lustily applauded by the audience.

EEEvans has a collection of "demon stories" entitled, "Food For Demons" due soon. Forthcoming from Charlie Beaumont is a new Bantam paperback collection to be called "Night Ride". Beaumont has also edited an anthology of hot-rod stories, to be named "Speed".

Entire spoken part of formal convention sessions were recorded on tape by Frank Dietz.....three motion picture cameras, included one wielded by Dave Kyle and another by local fan, Kenny Bonnell have been grinding away at photographable events.

The banquet was very well attended and almost everyone seemed to like their meals, in contrast to the prevailing attitudes at some previous World Conventions. Non-eaters were freely admitted to the speeches following the feed; several rows of chairs were arranged across the rear of the banquet hall to accommodate these people. Speeches by toastmaster Boucher, Ackerman, Bloch, and the TAFF delegate from England and a New Zealand fan were amusing and deftly witty.

Give the Solacon Committee an "A" for effort and achievement, so far as the program was concerned.

## SCIENCE-FICTION BOOKS

by Stephen J. Takacs

## NEW SCIENCE/FANTASY BOOKS RECEIVED

H N ECKOON I N HELL by Fredric Brown, Bantam Books, NY, 35¢, July 29, 1958.

THE EDGE OF TIME by David Grinnell, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.75, August 1, 1958.

WALDO: GENIUS IN GUTT by Robert A. Heinlein (Walden Magic, Inc) Avon Books, NY, 35¢, August 6, 1958.

A TOUCH OF STRANGE by Theodore

The number after your name on the Mailer is the last issue you have coming to you. RESUBSCRIBE AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

## SOLACON PHOTOS

Top Row (left to right): Ron Bennett, TAFF winner, from England - Mike Hunge of New Zealand - Guest of Honor: Richard Matheson.

Center Row (left to right): Walt Daugherty auctioning off Sam Moskowitz; Sam is displaying his science-fiction shorts (see page 2); on platform (partially hidden): A. E. van Vogt, Bjo, and Fritz Lieber. - Some of the Solacon Committee: George W. Fields, Rick Sneary, Len Moffatt and Rog Phillips.

Bottom Row (left to right): Anthony Boucher and John W. Campbell, Jr. - The Fashion Show: Jill Vuerhard, Forrest J. Ackerman, and Guy Gifford.

All are Cosmic News Photos (CNP) taken at the Solacon by Al Lewis.

Sturgeon, Doubleday & Co, NY, \$2.95 August 7, 1958.

STAR GATE by Andre Norton, Harcourt, Brace & Co., \$3, Aug. 7 '58.

THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING by T. H. White, Putnam, NY, \$4.95, August 8, 1958.

THE COSMIC RAPE by Theodore Sturgeon, Dell Books, NY, 35¢, August 12, 1958.

M E N, MARTIANS & MACHINES by Eric Frank Russell; Berkley Books, NY, 35¢, August 19, 1958.

NO PLACE ON EARTH by Louis Charbeneau, Doubleday & Co., \$2.95 August 22, 1958.

THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU by H. G. Wells, Ace Books, NY, 35¢, August 27, 1958.

THE TOWER OF ZANID by L. Sprague de Camp, Avalon Books, NY, \$2.75 August 27, 1958.

A M A N CALLED DESTINY by Lan Wright; plus STEFSONS OF TERRA by Robert Silverberg, Ace Books, NY, 35¢, August 28, 1958.

STATION I N SPACE by James E. Gunn, Bantam Books, NY, 35¢, August 29, 1958.

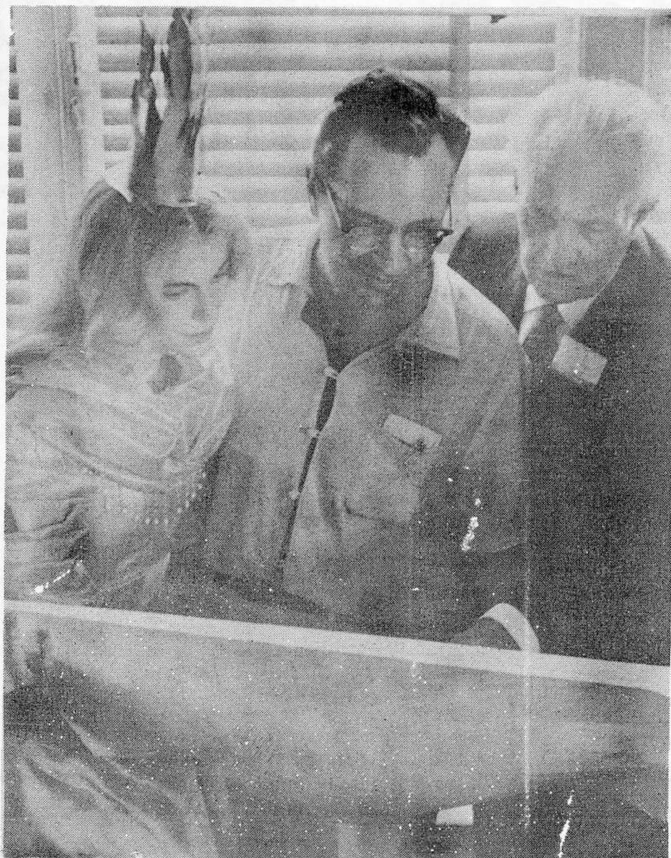
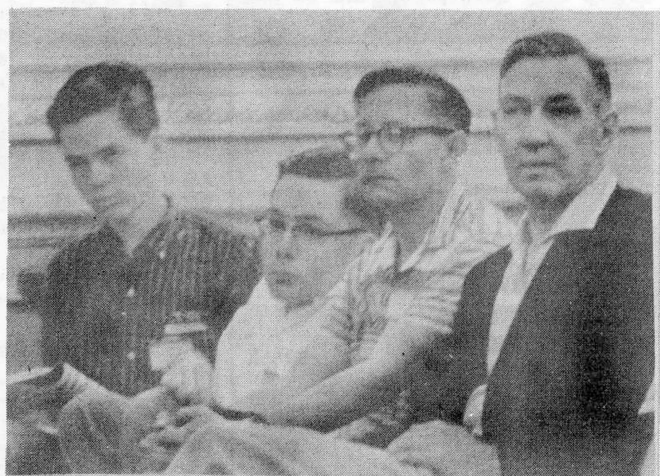
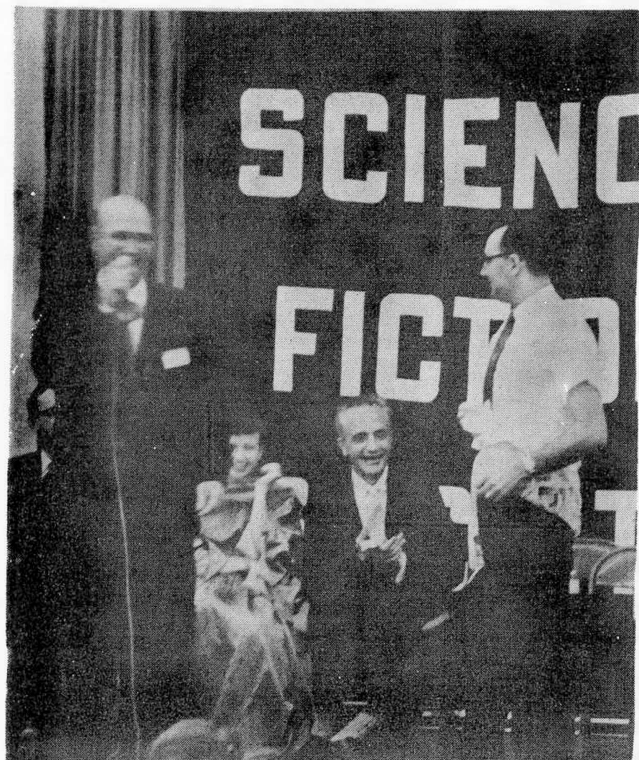
ESPER by James Blish ("Jack Of Eagles") Avon Books, NY, 35¢, September 3, 1958.

## THE TIME STREAM

by J. Harry Vincent

With some editors complaining that they can't get material they want and thus they have to print what they get. With some editors and publishers wanting to charge 50¢ for s-f mags that actually aren't worth the 35¢ they now charge. With some editors rushing into print articles on what was science fiction years ago and is now fact, it's no wonder we don't have one s-f magazine today that can demand the attention and support that the old-timers Tremaine, e a r l y John W. Campbell & Hugo Gernsback

(continued on page 4, column 3)





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If Approved, you can advertise your s-f fan mag here for 1¢ per word, under special "Fan Mag" listing. Write for details.

**THE MIDWEST CALLING**

by Donald E. Ford

At the Midwestcon, Harlan Ellison told everyone he was going to do the continuity for the Buck Rogers cartoon strip. Since then, I have heard they are giving out 13 week contracts to do this and that Bob Silverberg has one such contract and that Judy Merrill has a 39 week contract.

A "PICNICON" was held August 31, 1958 near Muncie, Indiana for a few fans who could not go to LA. Attending were: Ray &amp; Susie Beam, &amp; family; Lee Anne Tremep; Bea Mahaffey; Bob Christenberry; Frank M. Robinson; Lou &amp; Carrie Tabakow &amp; family; Don &amp; Margaret Ford &amp; family; Delray Green; Jim Henry; Bob &amp; Billie Madle &amp; family. A telegram was sent to the Solacon from the group. The Cincinnati bunch left while the Hoosiers were preparing to join Ted Cogswell in town.

Bob Leman of Denver, Colorado was in Cincinnati a couple of weeks ago and stopped by my house for an evening's visit.

**NOTICE:** A number of copies of the Fantastic Novels Checklist have been returned because of wrong postage. They will be remailed shortly. If you haven't received your copy as yet, please forgive us, we'll get it to you as fast as we can. —James V. Taurasi.**THE TIME STREAM (cont. from page 2)**

and others commanded.

These current watered-down excuses for s-f stories are actually horror, weird or occult stories thinly screened to appear as science-fiction.

With Dienatics, shaver, flying saucers, psi, and other occult themes that certain editors love so well blinding them to whatever good science-fiction might pass before them, it's no wonder they can't find good s-f.

Then that personal touch with their readers is gone. Readers' columns are fast disappearing. Fan columns of any kind are about gone and editorials are almost completely non-science fiction, it's no wonder their readers are leaving them by the hundreds.

There is good science-fiction being written (or could be written) by good authors, but editors who would buy them or recognize them are few and far between.

What the field needs is editors who'll not follow the black sheep that'll lead them into the slaughter of sameness. We need editors who recognize that this is a limited field of about 150,000 more or less steady readers, who knows that his readers want a special item called s-f. An editor that is skilled enough to combine the good writing of today with what Moskowitz calls "A Sense Of Wonder". An editor that will go out of his way to cater to his most faithful reader, the science-fiction fan.

**AND MOST OF ALL HE MUST BE CONTENTED TO PUBLISH SOMETHING WHICH IS GETTING RARE TODAY----- SCIENCE-FICTION!**

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