

SF/Fantasy News/Review 'Zine -- 1st Sep. '73 Issue -- (Vol. 18, #2; Whole #104)
Editor & Publisher: Don Miller - - - - - 25¢ per copy, 10/\$2.00

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In Brief --

Sort of an odds-and-ends issue this time.

TWJ Status Report: #82 now mostly on stencil--will pick up 20 more pages
this Friday, and should complete the issue by end of weekend; how long it will
take us to get it into the mail will then depend on whether we get any collat-
ing help (and when our resupply of mailing envelopes arrives). ## No further
word on #80--we're now looking for it by Philcon....

Started classified ads section this issue; need some more for future issues.

A couple of quick media notes: WAMU-FM (88.5) has a new ½-hour series on Sun-
day evening at 6:30: "Tales of Time & Space", which consists of Drusilla Camp-
bell reading an SF story (last Sunday: Ellison's "The Beast That Shouted Love
at the Heart of the World"). ## NBC's "Monitor" series has been running "X
Minus One" on Sunday afternoon. ## Les Mayer (who alerted us to "Tales") re-
ports that The Unholy Three (with Lon Chancy) will be on Baltimore's TV Channel
67 at 8 p.m. on Sat., Sep. 8 (he thinks it will be the silent version).

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It took a whole evening and a lot of phone calls, but we finally rounded up enough info on what happened at TORCON 2 to give you a quick rundown on what transpired: (Thanx to Bill & Betty Berg, Don Cochran, Alexis Gilliland)

Hugo Winners:

- Best Novel -- The Gods Themselves, by Isaac Asimov (Doubleday, Gollancz, GALAXY and IF).
- Best Novella -- "The Word for World is Forest", by Ursula K. LeGuin (Again, Dangerous Visions).
- Best Novelette -- "Goat Song", by Poul Anderson (F&SF, 2/72).
- Best Short Story -- TIE: "Eurema's Dam", by R.A. Lafferty (New Dimensions 2) and "The Meeting", by Pohl & Kornbluth (F&SF, 11/72).
- Best Professional Artist -- Frank Kelly Freas.
- Best Professional Editor -- Ben Bova (ANALOG).
- Best Amateur Magazine -- ENERGUMEN (Sue & Miko Glicksohn).
- Best Fan Writer -- Terry Carr.
- Best Fan Artist -- Tim Kirk.
- Best Dramatic Presentation -- Slaughterhouse Five, by Vonnegut (CIC).

Miscellany:

- Australia won the bid for the 1975 Worldcon. Will be held in mid-August rather than over Labor Day weekend.
- NASFIC will be held in Los Angeles over Labor Day weekend in '75.
- Winner of First Fandom Award: Clifford Simak.
- Don't know who won Big Heart Award or other special awards.
- One of Freas' paintings (worth \$75) was stolen from Art Show.
- Hotel got a standing ovation at Hugo Awards Banquet (and a fine compliment from Lester Del Rey).
- Attendance was very close to 3,000.
- All those to whom we spoke said it was a "real fine" convention, and all had a good time there.

Allen & Unwin, publishers for the late J.R.R. Tolkien, said that the unfinished sequel to Lord of the Rings (The Silmarillion) will be completed (probably by Tolkien's third son, Christopher), and will probably be published in a "couple of years". (They describe the manuscript as a "series of legendary tales", which at the moment are "all unconnected", and said that it is "enormous . . . as large as Lord of the Rings". In the interim, they plan to bring out a play written in verse and some other material handed over to them about two months ago.

Add the following to the "Con Game" Sept. '73 listing in SOTWJ #103: Sept. 14-17: SFRA Annual Conference on "The Writer and Science Fiction", at Penn State; for info: Dean Arthur Lewis or Prof. Philip Klass, #410 Keller Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. (Info from LUNA MONTHLY #48)

Also from L.M. #48: Roger Delgado ("Dr. Who") is dead at the age of 53 from an auto accident. ## Winner of the Golden Asteroid at the 11th International S.F. Film Festival in Trieste was the American film, Schlock, by John Landis. (Further Trieste info in SOTWJ #105 or 106.)

Kohoutek's comet, reported to be "bigger and brighter than Halley's comet", will come to within 13,000,000 miles of the sun just after Christmas, then pass behind it and head back into the solar system in early January '74. The comet is somewhere between 10 and 100 miles across; the coma surrounding its head may be as much as 10,000 miles across at its closest approach to the sun. It should become visible to the naked eye in mid-Nov., and at its brightest will rival Sirius.

S. F. PARADE: Book Reviews

All the Gods of Eisernon, by Simon Lang (Avon Books). (DON D'AMMASSA, reviewer)

This is yet another SF parable of the war in Vietnam. The evil Krail and the almost equally evil Terrans are fighting a vicious guerilla war for control of the planet Eisernon. Naturally the planet's inhabitants, the Einai, suffer the most. Lang (who is probably a pseudonym of Darleen Hartmann) lays it on so thick it often approaches farce. He introduces too many characters in too brief episodes and it becomes almost impossible to follow the action. Subplots seem to multiply like rabbits. What results is 300 pages of confusion, sprinkled with some very well-written parts. If Lang drops the propaganda and develops a bit of self-discipline, his next work should attract a great deal of attention.

The Waters of Centaurus, by Rosel George Brown (Doubleday). (DAVID STEVER)

This novel is the sequel to the now seven-year-old Galactic Sibyl Sue Blue. Having vaguely pleasureable memories of GSSB, I read The Waters of Centaurus. (My selection was, of course, aided by the best example of Gene Szafran's art I've ever seen.) For full enjoyment, the books should be read together, so that certain passages early in the second volume aren't so confusing...but Waters... is better-than-average adventure fiction on its own. Sybil (and it is spelt differently in the two books) is on vacation on Centaurus, with her daughter and the children of Stuart Grant (a character from the first volume). First one of the kids vanishes, then Sibyl's daughter Missy disappears beneath the waves of the sea. Sybil finds the method by which the transformation took place, and she is off on an undersea chase. The only real character development in the book, that of Sibyl herself, is a good study of a widow, whose only link with her dead husband (her daughter Missy) is drawing away from her. Possibly the late Mrs. Brown felt her own child(ren) doing the same. Good fiction.

The Beast with the Red Hands, by Sidney Stuart (Popular Library). (DON D'AMMASSA)

Sidney Stuart is really Michael Avallone, and Michael Avallone is one of the world's worst writers. Popular Library's Frankenstein Horror Series has provided us with some of the best examples of how not to write a book ever to see print. Avallone is not one to break with tradition. This is the story of a psychopath who undergoes a horrible transformation at night: his hands become gigantic and bright red. Then he goes out looking for beautiful redheads to strangle and mutilate. Avallone displays all the writing ability of a ten-year-old.

Forgotten Worlds, by Robert Charroux (Walker & Co.; 354 pp.). (MICHAEL SHOEMAKER)

In SOTWJ #95 I reviewed Vincent Gaddis' Invisible Horizons and touted it highly as an outstanding contribution to the field of books dealing with true, inexplicable events. By contrast, Forgotten Worlds is an irresponsible piece of sensationalism suitable only for nut-cultists. Indeed, I gather from the preface that Robert Charroux is already the center for quite a cult-following in France, and that students flout their teachers with Charroux's crackpot theories. This is regrettable not only because of the misled students, but because it hurts the popular respectability of competently researched books by men like Gaddis.

Very early in the book one becomes aware of the lunatic nature of the discussion. On page 41 Charroux says: "One of the most extraordinary phenomena in the history of science is the French school of prehistory, with its inventions of cavemen, the ages of bronze, iron, and polished stone, and other nonsense in the same vein." Later, these ravings take on paranoid proportions, as on page 45: "'Prehistorians' officiate, reign, and pontificate in universities, museums, and academies, and at secret meetings where they hatch their plots. . ." and page 50: "It goes without saying that the opinion of the conspiracy does not impress me." His own view of ancient history is a weirdly convoluted combination of the theories of Immanuel Velikovsky and Erich Von Daniken. His theory, as propounded on page 76, goes like this: "Five thousand years ago, when the comet Venus entered the solar system and was stabilized in it, there was a great Deluge (the second (Over) .

S.F. PARADE (Continued) --

Deluge) and Initiators spread over nearly all the globe." Charroux shows on page 18, however, that he is unable to understand even the basic tenets of Velikovsky's theory: "Did Venus hold the key to Nazca and the Candlestick before it was changed into a fiery comet, then again became a planet stabilized by our solar system?"

Throughout the book, Charroux makes outrageous, irresponsible assertions, offering little or, more often, no documented evidence. His descriptions of mysteries tend to be unclear and undetailed. Most inexcusable, the inaccuracies he perpetrates are profuse. An outstanding example is his recounting of the Mary Celeste mystery. He says, on page 23:

Everything was in order. Breakfast was on the table, the deck had been washed, the lines were correctly coiled, the lifeboat was in its davits in perfect condition.

Everything was not in order, unless 42 inches of water in the hold is considered normal. Breakfast was not on the table, and there were no lifeboats on board when the ship was found. In fact, conditions indicated that a yawl had been launched. The facts in the case are thoroughly presented and documented in Invisible Horizons. Charroux quotes the last sentence in the log as, "A strange thing is happening to us..." As far as I can ascertain, this spurious quote originates with Charroux.

I am shocked that a respectable publisher like Walker would bring out such a pernicious book as this.

Verucchia, by E.C. Tubb (Ace).

(DON D'AMMASSA)

There are times when a series goes on too long. This is one of them. Tubb's Dumarest stories are so monotonous, so identical in plot, that I've started cheering the villains. Dumarest wanders from world to world, seeking his lost Earth, fleeing the evil society of clairvoyant supermen, the Cyclan. At most stops he is thrown into an arena where he battles weird beasties, wins, falls hopelessly in love with a local beauty, then loses her in time to leave for his next planet. This is the eighth of nine published.

The Light That Never Was, by Lloyd Biggle (DAW Books).

(DAVID STEVER)

It's altogether possible that The Light... is part of Biggle's Future History, the universe represented by The Still, Small Voice of Trumpets and The World Menders. As with each of these, a world is born--a world totally dedicated to art and the artist. The planet, Donovan, was nothing--a cypher--until Ian Korak came along. He knew the planet offered nothing to the universe, so he attracted artists by careful use of fellowships, giving them money if they would live and paint on Donovan for one year. As time passed, the numbers increased, and tourists followed to see the objects and scenes that had inspired the classics. But now, when Korak is an old man, his world is threatened. As it has on over twenty other planets, the forces of civil strife are growing behind the scenes--the same forces which caused the other planets to explode into war, with the off-world population against the natives.

Donov has no native population, so seemingly it will be safe from the wave of violence which is sweeping towards it. But then, a man noted for his "good works" brings in thousands of refugees from one of the riot worlds, and they shortly spark the violence that had been building. The action ever so slowly builds to a deadly crescendo, and Mr. Biggle involves the reader in his world and its troubles. Put this book on your "must read" list.

Hand of Dracula, by Robert Lory (Pinnacle Books).

(DON D'AMMASSA)

Lory should be ashamed of himself. Pinnacle Books is trying to replace the pulps: we have the Destroyer series, the Executioner, a "tough" western hero, and others. Now we have Dracula himself, controlled by a retired crime-fighter, breaking up gangs and solving mysteries. This is the worst kind of exploitation.

EN PASSANT: Lettercolumn

J.G. AMEDEO, Box 487, Peter Stuyvesant Sta., N.Y., NY 10009 (20 Jul 73)

. . . Nice to see the reviews of new books as I do not have time to read them. Only read the older weird/mystery/fantasy novels. One out of 100 of these might see reprint in a small edition, but there must be some collector interest. Two new Bookfinger titles available: The Glass Too Many, by Jack Mann, mystery fiction with a touch of fantasy originally pub. Wright & Brown Ltd. 1940; cloth; \$5; considered a scarce book. Also: Seven Sins, by Sax Rohmer; cloth; \$5; first issued in 1943; never available in paperback. That will be all for a while, although a few more titles are planned. There won't be much advertising. ("Bookfinger" is a small, part-time, one-man venture of Mr. Amedeo's. --ed.)

WARREN JOHNSON, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, IL 60134 (21 Jul 73)

(Re SOTWJ #100) . . . I personally don't care much for the hard-core fantasy and mystery elements in SOTWJ (why don't you call this thing SON, since it doesn't even form an acronym like SON OF FAT ALBERT?), but I guess others do since they're there. ## The article was too far over my head for a quick reading. Maybe if I really took the time, but....

NICK JONES, Apt. 10, 1436 Oondrell St., Vancouver 5, B.C., Canada (24 Jul 73)

. . . Nothing in particular to comment on other than the good book and fanzine reviews. Summer is our busy season for railway travel in Canada so I don't get as much reading done on the job as I can manage during the winter, but am enjoying the new Travis McGee paperback and Nova 2 presently. Also there's an interesting book from the library; haven't seen any notice of it in the 'zines but The Goon Show Scripts selected by Spike Milligan was published by Woburn Press in Great Britain in 1972. It is a good chuckle for any dedicated Goon Show fan. Maybe it's not yet available in the States. Anyway, it's mainly 1954 scripts (the earlier ones--Seagoon & Eccles).

HAL HALL, Texas A&M Univ. Library, College Station, TX 77843 (3 Aug 73)

Here, as promised, are my comments on the Quarterly Prozone index. Overall, I like the index as you are doing it, and would keep it up more or less as is. Specific comments:

Author index: OK as is. Keep giving the page numbers as you are doing, both beginning and ending of story, etc. If you are going to use the abbreviations "Nt" "Nva" etc., indicate how this differs from a short story, either in word length, no. of pages, etc.

Departments and features: Consider adding a subject index to the articles. As far as I know, this has not been done in any existing index--you might also include editorials in this subject index.

Book reviews: Give page numbers on which review appears. This is important to anyone who might have to order a photocopy.

Letters, artwork, cartoons: OK as is.

You really should add a title index to stories, and book reviews, giving better access to them. Not as critical on the book reviews, as I will give title access in my annual index.

Back to generalities, though. I like the index and hope you can keep it up over the years. With the changes I suggested and what you are already doing, it could become the Index of record for the SF magazines from 1973 on.

((Re our use of "Nt", "Nva", etc., we were using the story classifications as given in the magazines themselves, rather than trying to establish our own classifications. Perhaps it would be better to drop such classifications entirely? ## We are planning an annual index to pull together the major breakdowns in the quarterlies; perhaps this would be the best place to add title indexes for stories and book reviews? ## Since we give page #'s for entire book review column, is it really necessary to also give page #'s for individual reviews? ##

(Over)

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

Will give your suggestion re subject index for articles some thought; perhaps in annual? (We try to indicate primary subject matter for articles in which the titles are not self-explanatory. Would a separate index add much more?) --ed.))

DENNIS LIEN, 2408 Dupont Ave. S., Apt. 1, Minneapolis, MN 55405 (15 Aug 73)

. . . Minn-STF minutes printed in 92 will be reprinted in an upcoming RUNE (with credit line to you) as I am too lazy to type up two sets of minutes. No further minutes as we have not had a business meeting (with one brief and now outdated exception) since May 5th. We are a very informal group.... For the record, we have since had meetings on May 19, June 2, and June 16, as noted in those minutes, plus June 26 (our first Tuesday night meeting of the summer) at the Hobbitat (home of Frank Stodolka, Dick Tatge, Al Kuhfeld, and an occasional fringe-fan or two, including Frank's wife), July 7 at Odren-Stearns home, July 24 at the Hobbitat, Aug. 4 at my new apartment, Aug. 14 at Chuck Holst's, and (by the time this is published) Aug. 25 at Bev Swanson's. We have also had the annual Minn-STF picnic on July 14, with a smallish turnout (so small that at times I was the only drunk present....) and six of us (Chuck Holst, Margie Lessinger, Denny Lien, Louis Spooner, Mike Wood, and Jim Young) went to Midwestcon in the Lessingers' mobile home. There's also been the odd Risk game or two (some odder than others; we tend toward "Phantom Zone Risk with Mad Bomber") and the usual fannish sound and fury. If we turn up the sound and find some interesting fury, maybe I'll have some formal minutes to report later.

#95: Re Shoemaker's review of Gaddis' Invisible Horizons: since Gaddis notes that the published works on Marie Celeste would fill a room, I doubt that his one-chapter discussion thereof is "the most thorough . . . ever published". Perhaps the most thorough Shoemaker has ever seen? I did enjoy the book, though.

#96: I don't mean to make this a pick-on-Shoemaker LoC, but I must say I don't find his opinions/analysis of current fanzines interesting enough to justify six pages.... Mike's tastes seem neither close enough to mine to use him as a buying guide nor far enough away to use him as a guide-in-reverse.

#97: . . . as I indicated before, I am glad you're doing this.

#98: Re D'Annassa's review of Dracula Returns: "Robert Lory, who is capable of writing fine stories . . .": proof, please.

#99: I'll have to send you a wantlist. And speaking of fanzines: any old YANDRO issues for sale? (Up to #80 or so, or even to #100?)

#100: I like Jeremy Fredrick's comment, "What Lin Carter lacks in scholarship, he more than makes up in enthusiasm," both for what it says and what it leaves unsaid. I've been meaning for years to write Carter a letter pointing out errors of fact in his introductions--but probably never will, as I recently talked to someone who did, and who got an apathetic postcard in return for his pains, with all of four words of response. In hopes that Mr. Fredrick is more interested, I will point out that "Wall of Serpents" is not the last Harold Shea story; it was followed by "The Green Magician" in BEYOND #9 a few months later, the the two novellas were published in book form by Avalon under the name of the former, in 1960. Other than that, I largely share his tastes, but must register a complaint re his desire that The Night Land (which I have not yet read) be abridged; it already has been, though slightly, and that rankles enough. If multiple editions were available, one might fool around with "improving" it, but with this paperback the only one available to most readers, there is a sort of responsibility to issue it in the authentic form, wordy or not (and I say this as a collector who already owns the Arkham omnibus). Abridgement is an abomination suitable for mundanes who subscribe to READER'S DIGEST, but not to be thought of by Chu-fearing fans.

#101: Sorry to hear that HAUNT OF HORROR is folding; I hope the third issue appears, if only for the Lafferty story and the promising cover.

In general, I'm becoming somewhat more reconciled to SOTWJ and your new subscription policies, but I'd still rather spend my money and time on TWJ if that
(Cont. next page)

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

were possible. As a bibliography and index collector (and as a reference librarian in the mundane world), I'm all in favor of lists with contents, etc., of upcoming books, magazines, fanzines, and whatever; they do not, however, inspire much in the way of comments, nor do they make very interesting reading at time of arrival, nor is timeliness of much importance--I'd rather have the information gathered up in quarterly huge issues which could then be filed away for reference than scattered a week at a time. However, anyway, whatever, and all that....

((Will look forward to next Minn-STF minutes, should sound & fury allow. ## May have an old YANDRO or two among duplicates, and will probably have some among first sale group--have so many fanzines, they are crowding out the books and prozines.... But it will be a while before we issue list #1, so send want-lists in the interim. ## Jeremy Fredrick is now overseas, address unknown; as soon as he lets us know where he is, we'll forward your comments to him. ## We fully agree with your dislike for abridgments--in music as well as in books. ## If our information is correct, there will be no HoH #3. ## The SOTWJ/TWJ scene is still a bit unsettled; we--after numerous unfortunate experiences in attempting to get some publishing help to insure the 'zines' continuation after our mimeo goes--are giving it up and will do virtually all our own publishing in the future. This will mean less time for typing and preparing the 'zines, and therefore fewer issues over a given span of time--but at least they will come out for as long as our health and machine last. SOTWJ gives us a lot of flexibility not present in a slower, larger TWJ--and enables us to get material out relatively soon after it is typed, while it is still fresh. TWJ will be the vehicle for long material not requiring timely publication for its value (some articles & essay-reviews, etc.), letters (we may build some of the future issues around the lettercols, as these are of a timely nature--altho better suited for a magazine like TWJ than for SOTWJ), fiction, poetry, occasional art, indexes/biblios, etc. ## No, most of what's in SOTWJ does not inspire comments (it's not meant to, altho we do appreciate an occasional comment so we know our readers still like what we are doing); nor is much of the SOTW material meant to be interesting--merely informative. But we are surprised that you feel the SOTWJ material does not need timely publication to be of value. (LUNA MONTHLY provides the best historical overview of action in the SF publishing field among the active(?) fanzines.) --ed.))

WE ALSO HEARD FROM:

Tony Waters, who sent info on a series of lectures by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific; unfortunately, his card was misfiled and the info is now outdated.

Allen Hubin, who thanks us for the mention of his fine 'zine, THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE.

Paul Willis (INFO Secretary), who thanked us for mentioning the INFO conference, corrected a statement we made (the INFO quarterly journal is named INFO JOURNAL; "Science and the Unknown" is merely a subtitle), and noted that "... the ISIS Azores tour is off. I think the reason being that not enough persons booked soon enough or something like that."

Norm Hochberg, who said, re #97: "Six sheets of 20# paper is under an ounce and therefore okay for one stamp in 1st class. This includes one staple. Or you could send six unstapled sheets (save for your folding staple) and your subbers could add their own." ((We weighed the pages on three different sets of postal scales, and came up with a max. of 5 3/4 sheets in one ounce. Besides, with only one staple, the p.o. would just find it easier to rip the pages apart. --ed.))

Martin Williams, who writes: "Did you ever hear from Discon II? I seem to be having the same problem you are; I sent in for a supporting membership on April 2, 1973 and never heard from them. Then I sent a couple of postcards, but still no word, so I called the bank where I had purchased the money order for the membership, and found it had never been cashed (this was in July). I figured it had been lost in the mail so I canceled the first money order and sent a new one (I

(Over)

EN PASSANT (Continued) --

read about your problems a few days after this). I still haven't heard anything as of 18 Aug. '73 . . . ## By the way, how come Delap never reviews the serials when he does the prozine reviews? Short stories have never done much for me, so if you left them out of the review column I wouldn't care, but I am interested in the serials." ((No, we have never heard anything from Discon II--and our check was cashed soon after we handed it to Alice Haldeman early this year. We have received no PROGRESS REPORTS or anything relating to the con--even 'tho over a month ago one WSFA member told us we should be getting something soon, as he had just helped sort a mailing in which he saw something addressed to us.... ## As for Delap's column, he has explained to past questioners that he doesn't do the serials because they come out so quickly (usually changed for the better) in book form, and he'd rather review the books. We would like, however, to have someone do the serials for SOTWJ, so our coverage will be complete. --ed.))

K.W. Ozanne ('The Cottonwoods', 42 Meek's Cresc., Faulconbridge, NSW, Australia 2776), who sends the following questionnaire which he asks us to run (just answer the questions in order, numbering them as in the questionnaire):

1. Name:
2. Address: (may be withheld if desired)
3. Age: (may be withheld if desired)
4. Year you started reading SF:
5. Year you entered fandom:
6. Fannish activities:
7. Fannish claims to fame (if any):
8. Name as many BNF's as you can (minimum 10):
9. Which prozines do you read?
10. How many fanzines do you get?
11. Are you willing to reply to casual correspondence? YES/NO/MAYBE
12. Are you willing to fill out a more detailed questionnaire? YES/NO
13. Add anything else you wish known.

He adds: "Results of this questionnaire will be used to compile an interim 'Who's Who in Fandom'. It is hoped to include all actifen--but if you don't reply you don't get included. Faneds are asked to repeat this questionnaire in their 'zines, but please, nobody respond more than once. And no hoaxes, folkses. Deadline is 31-12-1973, but please reply soon for possible earlier publication."

And others with renewals, contributions, etc.

S. F. MART: Misc. short ads

PERCEPTIONS is a bimonthly journal of SF and fantasy. The current August issue contains both sercon and humorous pieces by Frank Balazs, Bill Brieding, and others. This is the second issue of a small but growing zine. 35¢ or 6/\$2.00.
WARREN J. JOHNSON, 131 Harrison St., Geneva, IL 60134.

FOR SALE: Paperback grab-bags...duplicates, review copies, items from our collection which are no longer needed. Assortments of 7 different titles (2 SF, 2 mysteries, 2 misc. fiction, 1 non-fiction), our choice of titles. Works out to 10¢ ea. / postage. DON MILLER (address on pg. 1).

SPECIAL: 500 pp. SOTWJ, \$5; 500 pp. TWJ, \$6; both lots for \$10. All different, our choice of issues. DON MILLER (address on pg. 1).

WANTED: SF-related games, and info or articles on same. Also books, pamphlets, articles, fanzines, etc. relating to SF history or SF bibliographica. DON MILLER (address on pg. 1).

Ads free up to 10 35-character lines to subscribers & traders (2¢/line over 10), 2¢/35-character line to others. Pre-printed flyers \$1.50/printed side (200 cys. needed). Full-page ads which we type are \$3 per page.

TV REVIEW: "The Classic Ghosts"
by Michael Shoemaker

ABC's Wide World of Entertainment (11:30 p.m. weekdays) offers a variety of T.V. entertainment. Recently they have aired two shows in a series they call "The Classic Ghosts". Apparently the idea of the series is to present stage productions of famous horror stories. This is a very good idea, since the stories should be vastly superior to the dreck we have been given in the recent spate of T.V. movies that have tried to cash in on the occult fad.

Unfortunately the choice of stories has not been too good so far. The first episode, The Deadly Visitor (aired July 3), was based upon Fitz-James O'Brien's "What Was It? A Mystery" (why do they insist on changing the title?). O'Brien's classic, written in 1859, is noted for being the first modern story to deal with an invisible monster, as distinguished from a ghost, which is a supernatural being.

O'Brien's story would be a fine choice for a half-hour show (or maybe even an hour, with a lot of commercials), but definitely not for a show lasting $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, such as this. Consequently, although none of the elements of O'Brien's story was changed, there were two major additions. First, the landlady is depicted as an aging widower who is desperately seeking the love of the protagonist. Second, the protagonist goes through a stage when he believes the invisible monster is his dead, former girlfriend. Neither of these additions adds anything to O'Brien's story. They only serve to bore the viewer to death and to cause the plot to nearly grind to a halt.

The production, which has a distinctly British flavor to it (can anyone tell me, is it British?), is worthy of high praise, however. The staging is so good that it induces a spooky feeling in the viewer right from the very start. That is not to say that it is by any means exotic or hokey. It has considerable restraint, but is just eerie enough to make one feel uneasy. The camera work is good and the acting is excellent, particularly in the scenes in which the protagonist is fighting the monster. One believes that the invisible monster is really there fighting.

The second in this series was And the Bones Came Together (aired July 5), by an author whose name I did not catch. The story was unfamiliar to me. It tells of an old Jewish man who tries to take a supernatural revenge on a man who is evicting him, and of the old man's dead wife, who does take revenge.

This episode sustains the viewer's interest much better than the previous one because there is not any superfluous material. However, it never really achieves the suspension of disbelief necessary to be truly horrifying. Further, the dichotomy in plot between the Jewish man's attempt for revenge and the denouement weakens the whole structure of the story considerably. The "snapper" ending will not really surprise horror fans at all. In fact, being as explicit as the producers are at the end with the horror story much of the effect, because it is simply too unbelievable. Once again the staging was among the best I have ever seen, and the acting was very effective.

These two episodes could be held up as a fine example of how to produce a horror movie that is truly frightening (so few are). Now if only they would put that ability to work on some good scripts. Productions of stories like "The Haunters and the Haunted", or "The Wendigo", or "The Bekoning Fair One".

TV Miscellany -- At Les Mayer's request (he was out of town and it was a "Tarzan film he had never heard of") we wasted a couple of hours recently watching Apeman of the Jungle (Italian, '62 or '64). TV GUIDE said: "Jungle hero Tarzan (Ralph Hudson) aids a scientific expedition under attack by the Leopard Men." TV MAGAZINE said: "Silly nonsense about an apelike creature who lives in the jungle." TV CHANNELS said: "A vicious leopard men leads a mission to stalk human prey. Tarak comes to the rescue." The hero's name was Zoltac, he was not apelike (but it was nonsense).

SOME RAMBLING THOUGHTS

...On Books "Recently" (i.e., during last few years while on vacation or ill)
Read and Films Recently Seen:

When HARLIE Was One, by David Gerrold (Doubleday): Really enjoyed this one; HARLIE is one of the most entertaining SF characters to come along in a long, long time. ## Picnic on Paradise, by Joanna Russ (Ace): Fell completely flat for us--had no sympathy whatsoever for any of the characters (especially the "heroine"), and found the ending as listless as the rest of the book. ## When the World Shook, by H. Rider Haggard (Longmans): Our first Haggard (having put him off for years as we have Wells, Verne, and (until last year) Burroughs), and well worth the wait. A monumental adventure, breathtaking in scope, which we found (despite its 400+ pages) virtually impossible to put down. Our one real regret is that the hero passed away at the end of the book, thus precluding extending the adventure via a sequel. Haven't enjoyed a book so much in years! ## Solaris, by Stanislaw Lem (Walker): Although not as enjoyable as the Haggard, we will remember the fascinating world of Solaris long after Haggard's lost world has faded from memory. Of course, we saw the Russian film version a few weeks before reading the book, which greatly aided our visualization of many of the scenes from the book. Had we not seen the film first, the book probably would have been less rewarding. The book is slow and plodding, with entire chapters of Solaristics interspersed with the action; and the Solaristics often made difficult reading. In addition, there are some glaring errors in the book which should have been caught during the editing. The film is also slow (made even more difficult by the English subtitles), with lots of philosophy--but visually stunning. It has been called the Soviet "2001"--and in some ways (particularly the odd ending) this is so--but it is a deeper, more human, film than Kubrick's masterpiece. The book and the film differ greatly--all of the action in the book takes place on Solaris, while the first third of the film is on Earth; many of the events on Solaris occur almost word-for-word in both the book and the film--but often in different sequences and contexts--and many do not. The film gives little time to the living ocean itself, while the book dwells upon it (the best part of the book!) for chapter after chapter. The endings vary widely. (Of course, it should be noted that the English subtitles in the film cover only a portion of the actual dialogue; one wonders what was omitted.)

Also memorable: Silverberg's To Live Again (didn't like any of the characters, and didn't enjoy the book--but will never forget it and am glad for the experience); McCaffrey's Dragonflight (really enjoyed this one--a happy book, that brought tears to our eyes); Zelazny's Lord of Light (one of our favorites, even though Eastern religions are relatively weak in our hierarchy of knowledge; question: are the quotes, etc. real ones, or were they invented by Roger?); Tenn's Of Men and Monsters (really sweated this one out with the hero); White's The Watch Below (a gripping story); The Left Hand of Darkness, by Le Guin (found this a bit disappointing after its build-up, but still a worthwhile reading experience); Clarke's 2001: A Space Odyssey (as a story, found this far superior to the film, which we had seen twice before reading the book; only wish the movie had been a bit more explicit with respect to the slab and its relationship to the surrounding events); Russian film Legend of Rustam (adapted from Firdausi's epic "Shah Namah"; this was a spectacular, somewhat bizarre, frolicsome romp thru Persian non-history, with some marvelous scenes (e.g., the aftermath of the slaughter of the Persian army), some hearty laughs (the sound-track was dubbed in English by someone with a sense of humor--the love scenes, in particular, were delightfully camp), and lots of swords and sorcery); Lafferty's Past Master (strange, ultimately disappointing, but still fine reading). And forgotten: White's All Judgment Fled (enjoyed this a lot when we read it); Leiber's A Spectre is Haunting Texas (disappointing); Moorcock's The Black Corridor (were the passengers alive or dead?); Burroughs' Land that Time Forgot (really enjoyed this, too, and were itching to read sequel--but have since forgotten it); and others whose titles we forget, too....