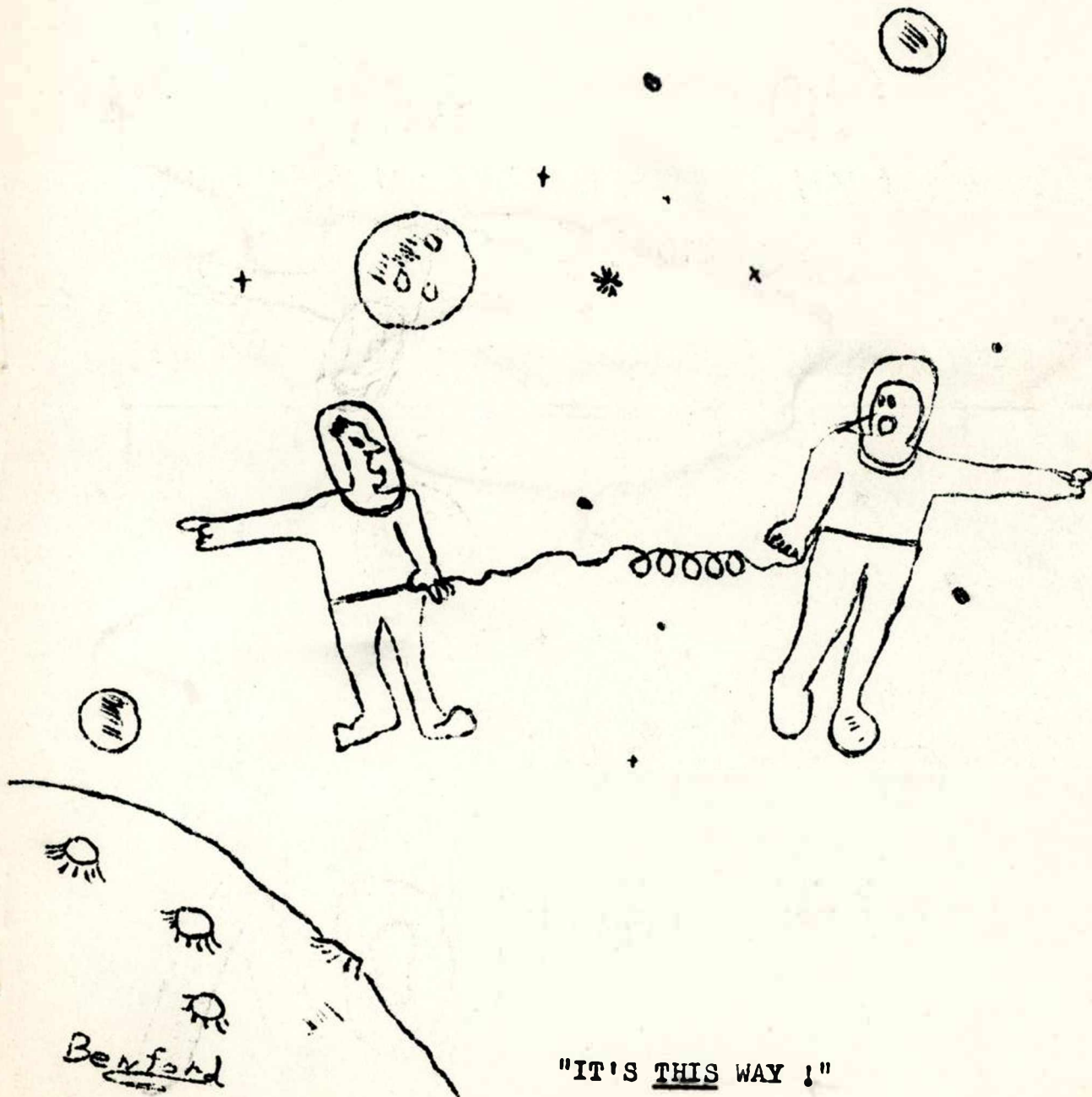


VOID

VOL. 1
NO. 2



"IT'S THIS WAY !"

BOOZE SOLD HERE

VOID

- C O N T E N T S -

VOL. 1, NO. 2

1955, A.D.

JULY

STAFF

Editor - Greg Benford

Associate Editor - Jim Benford

Art Editor - Jim Benford

Interior illos-Jim Benford

Cover - Jim Benford

VOID is published irregularly
by Greg Benford in Germany.
Address for countries outside
the U.S. is 5 Wart Weg, Gies-
sen, Germany. Address for
persons in America is % Lt.
Col. J.A. Benford, 594th F.A.
Bn., APO 169, New York, N.Y.
Subscription rates are 10¢ a
copy, 3/25¢.

ADS TRADED.

We'll be glad to exchange
subs with other fanmags.

ANYBODY WANNA' FIGHT ??!?

A BOYBOY PUB

ARTICLES-

The Improbable Quest
by Joe Gibson9

Capt. Radio and his Rangers
by Dave Wills6

In Defense of CV (stinks)
by Greg Benford5

The Agacon (con report)
by Jerry Page3

FEATURES-

Out of The Void (nothing)
by ye ed.2

The Observation Post
by Jim Benford.8

VOID Reviews (nothing)
by (ugh) Greg Benford . 12

Things From the Mailbox
by (ugh) The Readers(?) 14

GALAXY Checklist 17

NEXT ISSUE : More trash & trivia

OUT OF THE VOID

COMES

THE

EDITOR



You will probably notice a few (?) changes in VOID this time. For one thing, a lot of you will be able to read this for the first time. I told you last issue that a cheap mimeo could not be had in Germany. I didn't tell you that a cheap duplicator couldn't be obtained. At that time I thought they cost 30\$. Well, the sales clerk had made a mistake in the price, and I found out it only cost \$19. And so I bought it. Of course, there were supplies to buy. The whole thing cost Jim and I \$25. So you can see why we won't be enlarging our stf collection for a while. Thish has cost us a lot of money, but I guess it's worth it. Anything for you readers.....

There are several mistakes in thish. The pages are unevenly inked, for one. We'll try to improve in no. 3, but I'm sure you won't mind it too much this time. And the margins. I know they're too large, but the screen (we've got a flatbed) is too small to permit anything bigger. I think maybe I'll enlarge VOID next issue. Maybe, maybe....

Oh yeah, for you collectors we've got a checklist of GALAXY. All you do is tear (gently) the back page off and either hang it on the wall or put it in your notebook. We'd like to know how you like this sort of thing. Your opinions will decide whether we use checklists in future issues. How do you like it?

Jim did all the interior illos and lettering in thish. And he wants to know if you want serious or cartoon covers. We haven't decided if the one on this number is serious or funny. By the way, I forgot to tell you in number one, but I'm not going to try to justify the margins. It takes up too much time and I've hardly got enough to go around now. So that ends the margins, besides I don't think they're worth the trouble. They make the 'zine look a little bit better, yes, but they aren't that valuable.

Jim and I went over to see a German fan the other day by the name of Ann Steul. She lives in a town near Giessen and it only took about thirty minutes. We talked over stf in general, fandom, fanzines, and writing styles. Had a great time. Too bad we couldn't have stayed longer. A con is being held near Antwerp, Belgium at the end of July. It's being sponsored by the Alpha S-F Fan Club. I don't know whether I'll be able to attend, but it'll probably be a real deal. We'll put out a connish, even though there might not be a con report in it.

Hope you like thish, and I'll see you in number three,

Luck,

ASFO's
answer to the
Senatorial Hearings :

The AGACON

by

Jerry Page

With comments by ye ed.

The 1st Annual Southeastern Science-Fiction Conference, the AGACON, was held in Atlanta, Ga. on April 2 and 3, sponsored jointly by the Atlanta S-F Organization (marking it's fifth anniversary) and the Charlotte S-F Club.

So that's the plot. For those of you who didn't attend, here's the show.

10:00 Saturday April 2, registration. About 12 or 1 o'clock people began to show. ((Johnny-on-the-spot, huh?))

Ian Macauley had to leave for a few minutes to see someone or something. Carson Jacks and I took over (?) temporarily. When Ian returned, our guest of honor, Dr. Harold W. Ritchey, was yet to come in. Ian went to call Huntsville (Dr. Ritchey is Asst. Manager of Thiokol Chem. Co.), Ala.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ seconds later guess who strolled in?
((Oh, no!))



I speeded out as fast as my stubby little legs would carry me, ran into the conference room, to the phono and told Ian, "Ian," I said, for a very good reason--his name is Ian, "guess who nonchalantly strolled in but Dr. Ritchey."

I had made the mistake of standing between Ian and the door. After picking myself up I staggered out to the registration desk. ((I think Ian played football when he was in school))

At about 2:15--1 hour and 45 minutes later--we started without some of the groups that were supposed to show up.

Ian T. Macauley, president of the Atlanta group, started off with the first speech. using the limerick Arthur C. Clarke That's a funny way to spell sir.....C-U-R. (I memorized all his books in one Saturday) had at the beginning of Chapter 17, "To the Stars", in his book The Exploration of Space. ((The limerick he speaks of is "There was a young lady named Bright, Whose speed was far greater than light, She set out one day, In a relative way, And returned on the previous night." Haven't you memorized Clarke's books yet?))

Everyone who read the book laughed, the others looked around blankly, noticed those rolling over in the aisle, and joined in. ((Fun))

Then Bob Madle (Pres. of the Charlotte S-F Club and publicity chairman of the con) introduced some fifty attendees.

Theodore Cogswell, stf writer, gave his speech on "S-F Meets the Critics". Very interesting.

He was followed by our main attraction, Dr. Ritchey, who lectured on using a beer-can as the 5th stage of a five-stage solid-propellent moon-rocket. Any of you fen who happen to Bottles, bottles, everywhere and not a drop to drink... have a legal brewery get in touch with him. You can do it for \$100,000! Publicity!! ((Man, what I'd do with a brewery, not to mention the beer cans!))

He followed that with a question and answer session---he answered.

Since the World Con group didn't show, (They sent a telegram. That guy sure is fond of his relatives. He's always talking about Old Grand - Dad gram at 10 A.M. Saturday and Ian received it next day) we did the logical thing!

We adjourned until the banquet. (Actually until the auction, but since I didn't attend, we'll skip that) ((Shucks!))

Sunday, April 3, we had the Banquet at noon.

I arrived, saw about 15 people, and fainted. I heard we had guaranteed 50! at \$3.50 per plate! ((Joy to the world!))

Ian, backed up by Bob Madle and others of both groups, talked the manager into lower prices due to the fact that so That's funny. I left my gin right here... many failed to show up. (Those boys have talent!)

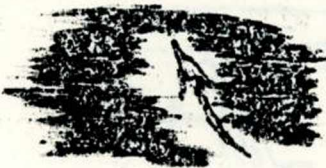
David Saddler of Mississippi was toastmaster. I overindulged about 10 servings and consequently missed the speeches. He's not drunk, he's a fan. (Of course, I took careful note to laugh when everyone else did) ((You hog, do you always have to feed your face?))

Afterwards the copy of The Immortal Storm (a history of stf you can buy by contacting the ASFO) was given away (reluctantly) to Bob Schrader of the Charlotte group. We all took a bromo, and went home.

All-in-all I'm happy to say the AGACON was a success. Next year the 2nd Southeastern Con will be held in Charlotte. If not the banquet would have been Joe's Greasy Spoon. Those things cost money. ((you're telling me))

Thanks a lot for the con report, Jerry. I always like to know what goes on a town after I leave it. Too bad you left out all the good parts about the wild, childish parties and the drunk-drinks. Oh well.....

EDITOR'S NOTE: A few weeks back some fool (I don't remember who) thought a little bit and came up with the idea that we should have some sort of an argument about Captain Video. Since he had gone off the air and I thought the network couldn't sue us, I, being a bigger fool, okay'd it. So I scribbled off a note to Dave Wills asking him to take one side of the fight. Much to my disgust, he picked to tear CV into little pieces. I wanted that part. I 'convinced' him (he owes me some money) that his side had too much of an advantage, so he decided to do a sort of a satire instead. And here it is. My part comes first, of course. END OF ED'S NOTE.



IN DEFENSE OF CAPTAIN VIDEO

by

that brawl-lover,

Greg Benford

First off I want to say that I am not a Capt. Video fan. I'm only writing this because I have to.

Capt. Video had been going for seven years before the show was discontinued. I don't think any show he has put on has been any good. Except one. But I'll tell you about that later. Soap opera, or rather, space opera, reins here. There's never been a villin or a good guy killed, and the most serious injury was a broken ankle. Except once.

The rangers have found all sorts of alien life on other planets, but they were all humanoid. Once they found a space station floating in the far reaches between the galaxies when they were on a trip around the universe. Some professor had invented a drive that was more powerful than anything known (it seems to me that they never use any of the new things that are discovered). Anyway, this space station was lonesome (it had a metal brain that only acquired human emotions), and when the Captain tried to escape a rope fell through a hole in the ceiling and everybody started running like mad. I still don't know why.

There was only one good plot in the whole thing. I think James Blish wrote it, tho I'm not sure. It was the story of an alien horde that invaded us from beyond our galaxy. The aliens swept over the forces of Earth and had it captured in two weeks (Video time). Turned out that the rangers had been fools. NATURALLY, in not guessing the truth. There were very few aliens (by the way, they were humanoid) and the ships were run by robots. Video and his crew got marooned on some rock half way across the galaxy. He returned to Earth in his wonder ship the Galaxy by installing the alien's anti-grav unit from a crashed ship. He got there just in time to break trough a wall and fall flat on his face. His comrades (non-communists, though) had to cover for him until he could crawl up to make his speech.

With one of his gang (that was what he came for) rescued, they promptly got themselves holed up in the first man-made space station. Video made off with the gold from the empires vault and coated his ship with it.

The gold plating would reflect the deadly rays of the robot ships. Finally, after much fighting, they shot the flagship and the alien commander escaped in a Earth-type space boat. He expired when one of his own ships sighted him, saw it was a Earth ship, and disintegrated that section of space. The base in the other galaxy surrendered and all was well.

During this two people were shown getting bumped off, thousands were reported dead, and a ranger got his arm half blasted off.

Old Video has broken every physical law of space in the books. He bailed out of rockets traveling at 5,000 miles per hour (in orbit), cruised along at about 50 feet above the surface at 5 or 10 mi. an hour, got within sight of a target before he fired, and once he even saved a three-ton robot from a quicksand pool.



Of course the show always came equipped with the regular stock of characters. There was a mad scientist named Dr. Poli who was always dreaming up ways to torture people (Video beat him up so much it was awful, but he always came back for more), a robot that couldn't be destroyed and always got in the hands of the villin, the good-natured executive who was always ready to give Capt. Video his official backing, and, of cuss, Video's sidekick called the ranger who takes turns rescuing Pretty Girls with CV.

This article is called "In Defense of Capt. Video"; so far I haven't done such a hot job, have I?

Ol' Video was alright for kids, though. But I bet fandom lost many a potential stf fan just 'cause of CV.

* * * * *

CAPTAIN RADIO AND HIS RADIO



by that hog,

Dave Wills



The Radio ranger sloshed through the door of Capt. Radio's office and lay in a quivering heap on the floor. The Captain put down his racing sheet and peered through fog-covered eyes at his ranger.

"Been out in some space-bar all night again, eh, ranger?", he mnttered.

The ranger grunted.

"Come on, we've gotta' go on and find out what Dr. Zero is cooking up for us this time. I've just received word that his ship, the VULTURE, is near Mars. Let's go have a look-see."

"Sure thing," said the ranger as he gulped down some nerve pills.

Capt. Radio switched on the intercomm, yelled something about getting the NOVA on the field, kicked a stray dog out of the way, and staggered out the door with the ranger.

Later, out in space, the NOVA roared toward Mars.

"Ranger," the Capt. said, "there's a crank case in the control panel that's just full of cranks. Hand me a wrench, I'm going to bust the case and let all the cranks out. We'll be able to travel much faster."

The ranger had a lot of trouble finding the wrench among all the hammers and screwdrivers. Finally he yelled, "Here it is," and aiming it at the Captain's head, "and there you are."

Capt. Radio dodged and the wrench crashed through the glass porthole. They hurried to put a patch over it for fear some space would leak in.

"Look!" cried the ranger as he pointed at the radar screen.

It was Dr. Zero's ship.

"Zero is probably up to some dirty tricks. I'll hide behind a asteroid and watch what he's doing"



Radio hid behind a nearby asteroid and waited.

Presently another ship appeared and came alongside the VULTURE. A man came out of the airlock and shot a rope across to the strange ship. Soon a group of men were herded into Zero's spaceship by a man with a blaster.

"Ranger, they've got some of our own men and they're going to kill them or something. Get to the port guns."

The NOVA came out from behind the asteroid with all guns blazing. A disintegrator ray neatly carved off the rocket tubes while another melted the fins. Radio attached his grapplers to the other ship and shook everything inside. He then boarded it and took over.

They returned to Earth and crashed the NOVA near the spaceport. After locking up Dr. Zero and his men, everyone went home for a good night's sleep.

The Radio ranger sloshed through the door of Capt. Radio's office and lay in a quivering heap on the floor.....

ARE YOU A SLITHERING BLOB OR A BLITHERING SLOB? These and other timely questions are answered for you by VOID.

A LOOK AT THE S - F WORLD FROM

THE BSERVATION POST

by
Jim Benford

Last ish I forgot to tell you that this column does not deal exclusively in saucer info. But I do try to get some saucer stuff in every issue. So therefore let it be known that this thing knows no bounds.

In my opinion the best stf comic on the stands is INCREDIBLE SF. A few of you may not know what I'm talking about. With issue no. 24 WEIRD SCIENCE and WEIRD FANTASY combined to make WEIRD SCIENCE-FANTASY. Later, with issue 30, the name was changed to INCREDIBLE SCIENCE FICTION. I think the level of plots has gone down a little with the last change. In other words, it's sort of space operish.

STRANGE ADVENTURES in it's first few issues had some pretty good stories, but that's all changed now. Same with MYSTERY IN SPACE. Burroughs has two of his characters in comics, too. The first, TARZAN, and the second, JOHN CARTER OF MARS. I'm not sure, but I think the latter has folded. It had stories taken from the Mars books. SPACE CADET and ROCKY JONES are attempts by TV shows of the same names to get a few extra dollars. Both are pure corn. TOR (in the world of 1,000,000 years ago) is at a higher level and has some facts on prehistoric animals, too. CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED has so far put out two sfs (The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells and From the Earth to the Moon by Jules Verne). Way back in '52 Avon Periodicals put out an interesting saucer yarn titled FLYING SAUCERS in comic form. The plot was of the saucer-race-from-the-past type.

And now, as FANTASY TIMES says "not sf, but of interest". POGO COMICS, as you probably know (or do you?) has folded, but Walt Kelly still has his comic strip and books going and has put out a new book, THE INCOMPLETE POGO.

As Greg said in the last issue, the old MAD has folded. A new MAD has taken it's place. This one will have some text, 64 pages, slick paper, black and white interiors (sob), and 2-color covers (sob, sob). It'll cost 25¢ (sob, sob, sob), and it (the first issue) came out in May. Boy, from now on MAD ain't no comic.

Recently there was a half-hour radio show called "UFO" on the Armed Forces Network. It was about some delegates making contact with a saucer race. A saucer was sighted a few months ago with fins in the area around Giessen

In a recent issue of PX Magazine there was an article about sf toys. The article stressed the point that the toys should be more durable. One space helmet was so constructed that the occupant suffered a slight case of breathlessness (not from awe of the helmet, but because there were no openings in the thing!).

(continued on page 13)

THE

P A
I O E
M B L
B
R

QUEST

by Joe Gibson

Now that Ghu has seen fit to plant an avid, albeit inevitably lunatic fan editor somewhere in the unsuspecting midst of the West German Republic, there are certain possibilities I would definitely like to explore. What possibilities?

Continental fandom. What else?

This is something I would hesitate to mention to British fans, or even to Jan and Dave in Belgium. Those fellows happen to know Europe well enough to think of thousands of reasons why any such thing would be impractical, improbable, or at least a waste of time. They're experts, compared to a native American fan. But where they might well balk at the idea, an Amerifan probably wouldn't -- he might, instead, go right ahead and do the impossible simply because no one had told him it was.

Well, consider Greg Benford. He's a youngfan, quite possibly a neofan. He was Ghu-chosen for the task!

Therefore, but without undue haste (least we alarm this most fortunate youngfan!) let us proceed. The essential problem, I think, is to discover what's going on in the region which gave us Willy Ley and Fritz Lang -- what's going on science-fictionally, I mean. Are there any German magazines with rocketships on the cover? Any fiction mags which feature an occasional s-f story? Any sort of magazines which have an occasional fact-article on space-travel or similar matters?

This, of course, is merely a preliminary step. But it's absolutely necessary. Having found any traces at all of such material, we must next make a survey of the Germans who are writing such material and editing such magazines. We must, in fact, contact them.

Now, I'm not suggesting that this is a thing to be limited to the West German Republic. Nor am I suggesting we commence a hunt for more Willy Leys, tho I wish this planet had more like him. But I would think Germany the best geographic location to commence this search, since she is inherently the crossroads of the Continent. This factor influences more than the movement of goods and people; it also affects the distribution of popular literature. Consequently, if there be science-fiction published in the Scandinavian countries, or in Switzerland or Austria or even Yugoslavia (Tito permitting) or Istanbul, any group of German s-f connoisseurs is likely to know about it -- perhaps moreso, in fact, than would some member of the London O!

Aside from that, I am undoubtedly prejudiced in favor of the West German Republic. I have some rather fond memories of the place -- and the people. Enough so, anyway, that I strongly doubt any reporter's remark that it is merely Adenaur's Republic; instead, I give much more credit to Adenaur's own statements that the West German recovery was no "miracle," but merely German common-sense reasserting itself. It is a bad thing that the Germans have no communicable education. Their Hanseatic League was one of the earliest examples of democracy in Europe; their role in the Reformation displayed a remarkable amount of good sense and tolerance--the Pennsylvania Quakers left there and came to the New World not because the Germans drove them out or persecuted them, but because Quaker children were becoming more German than Quaker! But there has been too much of young Germans having to quit school and go to work at the age of 12 or 13, before they've had a chance to absorb a really good education or develop the mental facilities to really comprehend it. Such economic conditions have, instead, forced German society into a mold of strict authoritarianism.

I found this out, of course, after we had gotten the Wehrmacht into PW camps where they needn't try to kill me and I needn't try to kill them -- a situation we combat veterans, American and German, much preferred. We were all clothed and fed, we had only menial tasks associated with garrison duty, and the rest of the time we could talk. I've marched with many a Wehrmacht detail, in ranks with them, while the German NCO called cadence and led the singing and, incidentally, carried my rifle for me-- which was never loaded. It's too bad the damned war couldn't have started out that way; nobody would've had to carry a rifle. Every Nazi I ever met was merely a crackpot who'd been indoctrinated with a common theme -- common, that is, to every crackpot Hitler could find -- and I've enjoyed quite a few discussions with German soldiers in which they and I calmly and dispassionately told some such crackpot what a blithering fool he was. But we seldom convinced many of 'em.



The German people, for a long while, were something else again. I was too much a soldier, then, to have much in common with anyone but soldiers. And, too, the civilians disliked and resented us, quite naturally, since they hadn't learned to respect us by fighting us. Still, I was often able to erase this instinctive dislike simply by showing I was tired of the whole damned thing, which I very often was. Their attitude may be somewhat different, now, than it was then.

All this was sufficiently apart from combat (which was like being on another planet) that any display of hatred or prejudice I found merely made me turn away in disgust. I had no desire to watch war breed war in a setting of crumbled ruins showing the first signs of rebuilding, the clean-swept look of streets freshly cleared of rubble, the new fullness of faces once pinched with strain and hunger among the bustling, increasingly busy throngs

of pedestrians. Then, too, it seemed completely out of place amidst the rolling green fields of Bavaria; the small villages without a single scar of war, the fat proprietor of the small, comfortable gasthaus explaining the origin of the staghorns displayed about the walls.

Besides, there was too much left to enjoy. The vineyards of the Rhine which, precularly, have their furrows planted straight up and down the steep slopes. The summer villas in little resort towns with names like Assmanshausen. The beergardens, the avenues, the Opera Haus in Wiesbaden. And, of course, Heidelberg. That beautiful, dark, rich rum. That exquisite red champagne. The chalets and woodworking shops of Ober und Unter-Ammergau, the mountaineer's paradise and ski resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen -- and is Augsburg still the sprawling, flat city it was? Regensburg still like an overgrown small town, with its central platz more like a medieval marketplace than the heart of a metropolis?

I must add, tho, that I've deeply regretted never having the opportunity to know England at all well. I'm not at all sure American Red Cross girls would have sufficed around Piccadilly, however -- I know damned well they won't if I ever get over to the London O!

All right, so I'm prejudiced about West Germany. Anyway, let's suppose for the sake of optimism there are some traces of science-fiction on German newsstands. In contacting the authors and editors, we can have but one thing in mind: are they fans? Do they know each other, meet occasionally, perhaps carry on avid correspondence and amass fantastic collections and generally misbehave in a lunatic manner which leaves no question to their fannishness? Could it be possible such a thing is happening, even on a very small scale, without its participants actually realizing what they are?

It would be, I think, at least interesting to look as far as the German newsstands and report on one's findings.

.....

And now a short answer. I am happy to say that there are two (2) German stf mags, UTOPIA Kleinband (Small Volume) and UTOPIA Grossban (Big Volume). The small one is 6x8 $\frac{1}{2}$ and uses thin pulp, full color covers and about 6 interior illos (black & white), is pubbed every month, and costs about 12¢. The other is the same size (I think), same pulp, color covers, no interiors, and costs 25¢. The small one is a Doc Savage one hero-character type thing. The bigger one features reprints from British and American mags. The 25¢ for the large one is bad pricing. 25¢ is a lot more to the adverage German than it is to us Americans. To a German it amoynts to about \$1, and it only has 98 pages. That is not enough.

From what I've heard, tho ed, Walter Ernsting, has pulled some pretty shady deals. A friend of mine, Ann Steul, has translated some Campbell novels for UTOPIA, and so far they haven't paid the 200 Marks they owe for them. By the way, 200 Marks is \$50. Well, I'm running out of page, so I'll just say that Jan Jansen has consented to answer this (Joo's) article in the next ish.

VOL REVIEWS

conducted

by that fun-lover, Greg Benford

Well, here I am back with a new stack of fanmags. But before I start the reviews, Jan Jansen has an answer coming. Jan, you said in your letter that you couldn't note much constructive or destructive commenting. Well, to begin with, what is a fanzine review supposed to do? Of course, it's supposed to tell the reader what the reviewer thinks of the mag in regards to the reader. It's not supposed to serve as a fanmag clinic or a free advertising department. A reader will want to know if the zine is worth anything and if he should buy it. If a reader agrees with my other opinions, he'll usually agree with my opinion of a certain zine. See? I'll give some advice, whether you think it's worth anything or not, but my main concern is always the reader. And now we get to the fanzines. The standard of zines has gone up somewhat thish. First comes....

PSYCHOTIC no. 19, Rich Geis, ed. 1525 N.E. Ainsworth, Portland 11, Oregon. Bi-monthly. 20¢ per copy, 31 pages. This is the next-to-the-last ish of PSY. I'll be sorry to see it go. Geis has gotten tired of the mag and says he's going to start another one called Science Fiction Review. Too bad. Thish contains the second part of a sf-con report by Peter Graham (very good), a grand "Non-Lewis Carol", a good column by Vernon McCain, an excellent explanation of why he got out of the generalzine field by Bob Silverberg, a great letter column, and, of course, some of the best art work in fandom. Constructive or destructive comments? None here, this zine is one of the best. Far be it from me to tell Rich how to run his mag. Besides, PSY won't be around much longer, so it makes no difference.

MERLIN Vol. 4 No. 8, Lee Tremper, ed. 1022 N. Tuxedo St., Indianapolis 1, Indiana. 5¢ per, 12/50¢, 23 pages. Thish seems to be below the usual standard set by Lee. First, the fanzine reviews have (I think) a new way of presenting a zine. Next to the review is a picture (drawing, that is) of the cover(s) of the mag that's reviewed in that space. I think it's a pretty good idea, and it gives me a better review of the zine in question. Next, a two-page "Meeb" cartoon. I think this is too much space to devote to such a thing. One page, okay, but two is a waste. The promag columns are always good. And now the letter column, which is called "The Jousting Square". It's of pretty good quality thish time and I wish I had that much space for letters thish. Nearing the end of the ish we come upon a three-page history of flight before Kitty Hawk by Dave Jenrette which is very good. "I Can Ride A White Horse" is the worse spave-waster yet. It's a short history of a mythical song with the notes. Ugh. And last but not least, Lee's editorial, Excaleebur. Why not put it in front, Lee? This zine could reduce it's size and not hurt it's quality. Why the two-inch margin at the bottom of the page? Lee, you can get rid of those margins, and I cain't, why don't you drop them? Need to fill up space? Anyway,

this one is worth a try, but it could stand to improve some,

NITE CRY Vol. 2 No. 3, Don Chappell, ed. 5921 East 4th Place, Tulsa, Oklahoma. 10¢ an issue, 6/50¢, 33 pages. Lessee, first, "Eden" by V. Paananen & Warren Link is pretty good, as fan fiction goes, "Smoke Signals" by Dan McPhail is really good, "RE;" by Aga Yonder doesn't deserve the full page it gets, the book reviews are adverage, "The Fossil" by Shirley Ray is pretty good, but I'd like to have the "...misshapen humanoid monster" explained. Claude's column I liked muchly, Hookas 1 was allright, as poems go, and "The Fanzine Trail" by Ron Ellik is the best one I've seen by him. Oh yeah, Ron plasters the farmag VOILA in his review and four pages away there's an ad for it. Nice publicity. The letter column, "Ebb Tide" is okay thish, but could be improved. The one-page cartoon is below adverage. And now to Don's editorial. He says, "Perhaps I am climbing out on a limb again by making such a wild statement but I believe that both PSY and ABBY will lose some popularity in the photo-offset format due to a loss of presonality." To me PSY hasn't lost any of it's personality. Why is it that everybody starts yelling about loss of personality every time some zine goes photo-offset? Photo-offset cain't possibly, make any difference in the material. unless the editor gets nervous and cain't squeeze enough of his personality out onto a page to suit some readers. Anyway, I don't think PSY has lost any of it's personality.

NITE CRY is a good zine and is worth the 10¢, but it should fill up some of that wasted space.

SQFAWK, The One Shot For The Birds. 1 page. Comments on beer by Rich Geis & Jim Bradely during one of their drunk-drinks. Circulated through the kind heart of Rich. Ask him for it the next time you write him.

Thaz all for this time. Send all your fmz, compliments, little black bombs, and bribe money to me, Greg Benford.

* * *

(continued from page 8)

One of the latest issues contained a feature article on IEM. A later issue of NEWSWEEK had a review of the recent book, INQUIRY INTO SCIENCE FICTION. It mentioned sf fans, cons, and fanzines.

I've read in the newspapers that Walt Disney's TV show, DISNEYLAND, will have quite a few stf shows in it's next season. I wish I was over there to see it.

Note 'fore I leave. INCREDIBLE SF put out a special non-fiction saucer report in December. This was pretty good and drew approval from many sources.

Yours 'til the Martians get me,

Jim

Things from the
MAILBOX of The
Readers

This is the letter section I promised you last issue. All your letters will be worked over with the red pencil and undoubtedly the best parts will be taken out. And all your epistles are considered for publication; if you don't want yours printed you'd better tell me, cause I just might find some space for it. Anyway, girls first....

ANN STEUL, 17 Falkenstrasse, Wetzlar/Lahn, Germany, says...

As far as the outhr or superficial appearance of VOID is concerned: get another duplicator. There are simple ones available at German firms for about 25 DM, which is not too much (\$5) ((Where are those? This one costs 75 DM, which is \$19.)). All fanzines are eager to print clearly and I have a feeling that you will never succeed with the machine you work now. ((How do you like it now, Anne?))

Second impression conveys that there is a lot of wasted space in VOID, up to now. Rather have 1 page less than give the idea that you are wasting sacred paper! ((hope we've cut down on the waste space))....."Escape from Extol" was not so bad for a first try, it could have been a little more elaborate in places.....I hope you will have fresh material for your Observation Post, which I need not tell you, is a good idea ((well, at least you like something)). Nice title also is "The Verdict". ((no more)) The only thing to suggest there is that you try to give the editors address also, so that people will know where to order the book from. That is one thing that annoys me in fanzines and prozines alike, they never give you the address where you can get the books which have been on review. ((Most reviewers figure you have some books, and the books have the addresses of the publishers in them.)) The fanzine reviews are o.k., too.....Something like the "Long Watch" has been written some time ago. I have met it before. Why always rockets? Why not something else? New discoveries, time travel, disaster, anything else to bring variety into the void ((ah, gad, what a horrible pun!)) And, for heavens sake, don't leave the last page blank! Never! Ever! Fake ads, anything but leave it blank-no! ((okay, okay, we'll put a cartoon on the back cover))

That should be enough tearing down for one day. I only hope the other fen will suggest better things for improvement, than I have been able to. Now if you want me to write you some fiction or whatnot for your third edition, I'll get up and make an effort. ((sure, I'll be glad to get some stuff from you, Anno))

RICH GEIS, 1525 N.E. Ainsworth, Portland 11, Oregon, babbles..

VOID arrived and favorably impressed me for a few reasons. But there were and are drawbacks in the initial issue. I liked your editorial attitude muchly; too often new faneds are cocky, defiant, smart-alecky and generally obnoxious. Not so you. The worst thing about the zine is, of course, the horrible print. This hecto business, while it was used extensively in the bygone years, is now practically unheard of in fandom. It can be done neatly, but... IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, get yourself a cheap ditto from Sears & Co. ((how is it?))

"A Goodlord Pub" that's pretty good. Nice touch. I didn't read the fiction, and I know that a good 90% of the fans will refrain too. Compared to pro stuff your fiction is for the birds, whereas the pros don't print fan chatter and reviews. There is where you should concentrate your attention. Most interesting was the editorial. By all means tell us more about fanning in Germany. I see you live in MY town. ((and just what, pray tell, does that mean?)) The pocketbook reviews were remarkably good. And your fanzine reviews show promise. Keep pubbing! ((will do, Mr. Geis, sir, editor of PSYCHOTIC, sir!)) ((Thanks for the suggestions and comments, Rich. Hope you like this ish better))

JAN JANSEN, 229, Berchemlei Borgerhout, Antwerp, Belgium, says, among other things, I admire your policy as stated in the fanzine reviews: to hop up a few fanzines when necessary. Too true, but you'd better get used to the fact that you'll be getting the selfsame treatment, and at the present moment, very deservedly. ((I sure hope thish doesn't need too much hoping up, Jan.)) The two stories were quite good, rather unexpectedly that. The article on the contrary didn't convey much new, nor was it written as well as could be done. However, with only the two of you to write the whole issue... ((not quite, Dave was in on the deal)) The Verdict: prozines: well, you told us what the stories were about, and either recommended them or not. I wasn't exactly 'thrilled' by them, but they were fair. And it is rather hard to really review or discuss a story, isn't it? ((you ain't just a-kiddin', boy!)) Void Reviews: I must admit that I haven't seen any of the mags reviewed here. No passing judgment therefore. I couldn't note much constructive or destructive commenting... ((I'll reply to this in the fanzine reviews, Jan.)) The Observation Post: this ought to teach me to try and review a mag without checking some. The sightings brought up were interesting perhaps to a FS spotter, but I'm not of that bunch of people. So to me, it could have been left out. That of course being a personal reaction, which will undoubtedly be nullified by the raves of saucer addicts ((undoubtedly...)). Oh, well... I found your editorial the most interesting part of the mag, ((go!)) due to the short explanation of the issue itself, to the introduction it gave me to another two 'characters' in fandom, to the easy way it was written. I did however find one good point in Tobor the Great. At least this robot didn't run off with the first good looking woman he came across.... I would however suggest you'd start learning some more about the process of dittoing. The reproduction is just about as horrible (tho still readable) as can be. You should be able to do better next time.


((how is it?)) That's all for the time being. Try and be good.
((hahahahaha, Me be good?))((Uh, sorry I had to cut ur lttr badly))

BILL GERKEN, 1130 Abbott Blvd., Palisade, New Jersey, rambles..
As soon as I saw the 'zine I was unfavorably prejudiced. This is due to the fact that the Physics Dept. uses the same color ink to run off their hour quizzes & 4 hour finals, and nothing that reminds me of Physics could possibly be any good at all((gurr..)). Aside from that, let's see. The mimeography is good, and that's an important factor in any fmz. Art work: like FEN, could be better, could be worse. Thanks for the nice review, oh-Great-White-Father((Oh, that's alright)). Liked the fiction, but why did you double-space it? To fill up space?((see ed's ed-ed)) Articles and features were okay, but nothing much to comment on. Opps!! Just noticed you said the 'zine was hectoed and not mimeoed. Pardon me.

I still think if you have something of interest to say, it can be done in an article, and leave the letters, printed mostly to let readers know how much other readers liked the 'zine and boost ye ed's ego, for private correspondence.((If it pleases the readers (or at least keeps them happy) to have their lttrs printed, aren't you trying to please somebody? It would probably boost your circulation.)) This, obviously only applies to fanzines, and not to prozines. Reviews should just briefly sketch the outline or plot of the story, book, movie, etc. & let it go at that. Occasionally I feel very strongly about a book or 'zine & we'll plug it (see FEN 2&3) but this will not be a set review column. It might be in the editorial or even have an article on it, if it rates that much. ((I think some faneds need advice, and I'm going to try to give it.))((Anyway, the next one was to Jim from...))

JERRY PAGE, 138 Midlawn Drive, Decatur, Ga., who raves.....
As for your Observation Post George Adamski (Palomar Services) told me of a newsletter called CRIFO (Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects) put out monthly by L. Stringfield, P.O. Box 1855, Cincinnati, Ohio. You should read it. I haven't seen it but it sounds good, price is \$2.00 per year..... Mr. Adamski wrote a book with Desmond Testras called Flying Saucers Have Landed which completely disproved every theory, Keyhoe's included, claimed to have met Venusians (colonized from Atlantis), and gave records of landings even before Crist! And it showed some amazing photos. I wrote him about these photos and he told me there were 19 at 50¢ each and that the older ones were not too clear. He has written a new book called Inside the Space Ships. Don't pass judgement 'till you read the book! I was skeptical, now I'm confused and am going to look into it. He's either the smartest con-man or has made the greatest discovery of the 20th century. (Atomic power, aviation, astronautics, etc. included.) ((Jim says thanks for the info, Jerry))

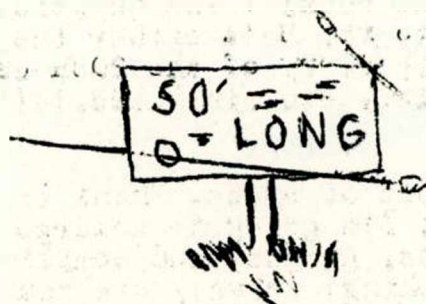
Well, us'ns have run out of space. Thanx to the people whose letters didn't get printed; I'm going to enlarge this column next ish. Send all your brickbats, gripes, and compliments (?) to me and maybe we'll print the thing. Anyway, see you in VOIP 3.

★  -16-

CHECKLIST OF

Galaxy

1950-1955

1950☐ October☐ November☐ December1951☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April ☐ May☐ June ☐ July ☐ August ☐ September ☐ October☐ November ☐ December1952☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April ☐ May☐ June ☐ July ☐ August ☐ September ☐ October☐ November ☐ December1953☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April ☐ May☐ June ☐ July ☐ August ☐ September ☐ October☐ November ☐ December1954☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April ☐ May☐ June ☐ July ☐ August ☐ September ☐ October☐ November ☐ December1955☐ January ☐ February ☐ March ☐ April☐ May ☐ June ☐ July ☐ August



HELP SEND THIS
BOY TO CAMP

VOID
% Lt. Col. J.A. Benford,
Hq. 594th P.A. Bn.
APO 169, New York, N.Y.

Return Postage Guaranteed
Forwarding address, if available, would be appreciated.

- () Contribution Copy
- () You've got a sub
- () This here thing is a sample
- (X) You trade your fine mag for mine
- () You is lucky, kid.
- () We hope you'll review this thing



TO:

Ralph Stapenhorst, Jr.,
409 West Lexington Drive,
~~Glendale~~ Glendale 3, Calif.