

FANTASY-NEWS

the weekly science fiction newspaper

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WHOLE NUMBER 80

LOU SENARENS, 'THE AMERICAN JULES VERNE', DIES IN N.Y.

CREATOR OF FRANK READE BOOKLETS
DIES OF HEART AILMENT

By Sam Moskowitz, Ace Reporter.

Luis Philip Senarens, 76, dime novel writer who wrote 1500 books and was called "The American Jules Verne", died Tuesday, Dec. 26, 1939 in Kings County Hospital. Funeral services were held on Thursday, Dec. 28, 1939 in N.Y. Mr. Senarens created the fabulous Frank Reade, a mechanically minded genius who thrilled youngsters a half century ago. He had suffered from a heart ailment for eight years.

Mr. Senarens wrote under 27 pseudonyms, which included Noname, the most famous; and Police Captain Howard, W.J. Earle, Ned Sparling, and Kit Clyde. He leaves his widow Mrs. Mary Vaughan Senarens; a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Gunderson of Teaneck; a son, Sinclair V. of Amityville, L.I., and a grandson, William.

Lou Senarens became a familiar figure in the mind of every science fiction fan after AMAZING STORIES published an illustrated write-up of his works and predictions in the June 1928 issue. A long write-up of him also appeared in the Sunday American a year or so ago. Some interesting concerning him may also be gleaned from the second issue of H.C. Koenig's Reader and Collector.

Among Senarens' many predictions in fiction form a la "Tom Swift" style were the armored car and tank, the motor sled (Con. Col. 2)

ships capable of traversing both water and land; deep sea diving bell; the flying boat, and many others.

Nickel and dime novels of the Frank Reade Series are very expensive now. The complete set of Frank Reade stories (including the 22 originally published in the Wide Awake) would run close to \$2,000 dollars if it were possible to get a collector to sell them. Only one entirely complete collection is known.

Science fiction fans will mourn the death of the "American Jules Verne" who visualized more than fifty years ahead of his time, and whose predictions have not all yet materialized. He was an author who was everything in spirit a science fiction fan could desire.

JACK BINDER LOSES SIGHT OF ONE EYE

Jack Binder, fantasy artist, suddenly lost the use of one eye. The reason is not known, tho it is assumed the cause was excessive eye strain from the huge volume of his work. Binder has come a long way since 1935 when his first sketches appeared in WEIRD TALES. He has had drawings in almost all the pro mags and had just finished his first two covers for ASTONISHING. Binder was working for an art syndicate and had five men under him. He was doing five strips for the comic mags. This mishap may handicap his promising career, unless he emulates Wesso who has carried on in spite of a similar

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(NO STAMPS PLEASE)

BOOST SCIENCE FICTION NOT POLITICS

Editorial by Will Sykora.

One of the greatest movements in the march of progress, and one which stands to elevate our present high state of civilization to still greater heights, is the science fiction fan movement. Chry stallized under the banner and leadership of NEW FANDOM, Science Fiction Fandom's General Organization, this great, liberal movement should go forward until all readers of science fiction become fans of at least the Outer Circle.

One of the policies of this newspaper is to carry this movement forward among readers of all science fiction magazines. By publishing up-to-the-minute news of the entire field as submitted by FANTASY NEWS REPORTERS, we hope to show the general reader that not only is there a science fiction fan field, but that this field welcomes every general reader into its fold. This newspaper will spare no effort to interest the general sf reader in the activities of the fan field.

It is for this reason that news of constructive fan activities, such as the scientifilm activities of the LA and Queens SFLs, and of the Chicago Science Fiction Convention is so eagerly solicited.

This issue we present news of general interest to all science fiction fandom, and two issues hence we will have full details of the monthly Queens SFL meeting. Immediate contact is being made with the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Illini Fantasy Fictioneers, so that news of these two progressive fan organizations may be presented in future issues of FN.

THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz.

Manly Wade Wellman has clicked again at STARTLING with a new novel "Twice In Time". Weisinger raves it is "Truly different"...Harry Bates, old editor of Clayton Astounding returns again to science fiction with a short novel scheduled to appear on TWS...The character "Captain Future" will be drawn up and used in STANDARD'S THRILLING COMICS...Nelson S. Bond's new novel coming up in BLUE BOOK was originally rejected by Davis of ZIFF-DAVIS after Palmer had decided to take it...Otis Adelbert Kline, Bond's agent, sold it to BLUE BOOK at more than double AMAZING'S word rate...So great was the protest at Binder's killing Anton York in "The Three Eternals" that Eando Binder is bringing the "Immortal" York back again in a nov-
elet titled "The Secret of Anton York"... POPULAR PUBLICATIONS seriously considered publishing a sf mag a number of years back, even accepting a few fantasy yarns which were later returned to the authors. "Photographer of Fantasy", a short, illustrated article about George Platt Lynes, renowned photographer of macabre, grotesque, and unusual effects appeared in the Dec. 1939 issue of POPULAR PHOTOGRAPHY... A new anthology of "Famous Psychic and Ghost Stories" has made its appearance on the leading book stalls. It is edited by J. Walker McFadden, and included among its selection such famous fantasy authors as Hawthorne, Poe, Benson, Bierce, Barlow, Lytton, O'Brien, Kipling, and many others... Fern Orth Wright informs us that Dr. Dafoe who ushered the famed quintuplets into the world has long been an ardent WEIRD TALES fan. He made a habit of carrying his copy around with him during visiting hours.

STARDUST OUT! Bill Hamling of 2609 Argyle St, Chicago, Ill. reports that his semi-pro fan mag will be distributed on Dec. 28, dated March and will appear bi-monthly thereafter. Issue limited. Harry Warner's column, "Fan Mag Review" missed the deadline for this no.

WILL SYKORA OFFERS \$25.00 REWARD!!

There is on deposit at the offices of the FANTASY NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, publishers of this news paper the sum of \$25.00 REWARD for exact proof of the identity of the person who sent the anonymous Christmas Card to Will Sykora, editor of this paper.

Says Sykora: "On December 26, 1939 I received through the mails one of the most revolting forms of practical joke ever perpetrated by a filthy minded degenerate. This "joke" took the form of a "Christmas" Card, which when removed from its envelope appeared to present a condom (used for prophylactic purposes) held in a slit of the card. On the face of the card were the words (in red letters) "To Help you Make Merry Christmas Eve". On the inside of the card were the words:

This jest from Santas' bag
'tis true
Is meant especially for you,
As you cansee it's just for fun
We've really tried to fool no one.
You knew of course the half outside
Was half the glove we hid inside.
It's purpose is to bring you cheer
For a Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.

"All these words were printed and formed a part of the card itself. However, on the rear of the card, hand-written, was a sentiment which belied the "fun" the card was supposed to portray and revealed the truly despicable character of its sender. These hand-written words were:

"Dear Scum

Here's something else to screw your friends with."-- and the card was signed-"Hi-Ho"

"There is no question whatever in my mind that this unchristian, un-Christmas-like piece of rotten villainess was prompted by the many libelous and slanderous (Cont'd Col.2)

statements that have been appearing about me in the various fan mags, and that certain radicals in the fan field have been spreading against me to violate my good name and to defame my character.

"This post card was post marked 'Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 24, 1939' and was mailed at 10:30 P.M. I am determined that this sort of thing shall stop. I have done nothing in the sfan field of which I am not proud, and I feel that all of my fan activities have been based on a high sense of honor and sincerity. But when libel and slander lead to such despicable actions as this degenerate "Christmas" card I will no longer sit idly by but will take definite action. To this end I make the following statement:

TO ANY PERSON WHO SUPPLIES DEFINITE PROOF OF THE IDENTITY OF THE SENDER OF THIS CHRISTMAS CARD I WILL PAY THE FULL SUM OF \$25.00 NOW ON DEPOSIT AT THE OFFICES OF THE FANTASY NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY, AND TO PUT AN END TO THE SLANDER AND LIBEL THAT IS BEING SURREPTITIOUSLY WRITTEN AGAINST ME AND IS BEING SENT THROUGH THE U.S. MAIL, I OFFER THE SUM OF \$0.25 (twenty-five cents) FOR ANY LETTER CONTAINING ANY STATEMENT AGAINST MYSELF, MY ACTIVITIES, OR MY CHARACTER WHICH WAS MADE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1st, 1937, WITH THE PROVISION THAT ALL SUCH LETTERS WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR OWNERS AFTER A REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME." (end of Sykora's statement)

Anyone who has any information leading to the identity of the person or persons who sent this anonymous Christmas card should communicate with Mr. Sykora at once and collect the cash reward.

BE FANTASY NEWS REPORTER! Send in a news item that is fresh and up-to-the-minute and you will receive a printed PRESS CARD and instructions for FANTASY NEWS REPORTERS. If you have 26 consecutive news items published in as many issues of FN, you will be eligible for the grade of ACE and may then handle confidential assignments. Send in your news items and BE A FANTASY NEWS REPORTER!!

ASTOUNDING FACTS by Jimmy Taurasi.

The cover for the next (Feb '40) issue of ASTOUNDING SCIENCE FICTION will be drawn by Rogers and will depict a war tank from R.A. Heinlein's story "If This Goes On---". The cover for the April number is for the companion story, Hubbard's "Final Blackout" (this is the title finally chosen, because of the similarity of the original title to a published book), and there is an interesting story connected with these two covers.

It seems that L. Ron Hubbard came into Campbell's office and saw the proof of the cover for Heinlein's story. He immediately suggested that the identical tank be used for his story "Final Blackout", but the tank to be depicted as destroyed and with an oak tree growing from its center. This is being done. The final pay-off, though, is that an army man also saw the picture of the tank as it will appear on the Feb. issue and remarked that he wished he could bring his field guns to bear on it, because the tank was so constructed that it could be smashed to smithereens in no time. Poor Rogers!

SCIENTIFILMS by FN Reporters

On Christmas Eve, Shirley Temple dramatized parts of "The Blue Bird" over station WABC on the Gulf Radio Hour. The new fantasy picture will have its premier in Hollywood on Jan. 19, 1940. (bs)

On Friday evenings over WJAF at 7:15 P.M. the "I Love A Mystery" program presents a mystery melodrama about hypnotism and a werewolf. Episodes from the story are aired on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:15 P.M. (wss)

WJAF on Fri. at 7:30 also presents "Magic Waves" a program dramatizing the scientific progress achieved through the use of radio and electronic tubes. (wss)

BARGAINS FOR STFCOLLECTORS!

JULIUS UNGER
science fiction field
1349 50th Str.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

SCIENTIFILMS by Mario Racio, Jr.

20TH CENTURY-FOX have picked Warner Baxter and Andrea Leeds for the title roles in the remake of the fantasy film "Earthbound", which was mentioned in this column several weeks ago. It is to be directed by Irving Pichel. The film was first made in 1920 by Samuel Goldwyn, and concerns the story of a man who dies but cannot leave the earth until he atones for his sins.

Barbara Stanwyk and Melvyn Douglas will star in PARAMOUNT'S version of the stf stage play by Barre Lindon, "The Man In Half-Moon Street". It is the story of a scientist (Douglas) who has discovered the secret of eternal life, through control of certain gland secretions. The picture opens with Douglas well past 100 years of age, but looking only 35. To keep up the supply of glands he commits a series of murders. The police finally suspect him and take his fingerprints. The latter match up with the prints of a man who committed a murder in Vienna 75 years ago. It could not be Douglas because, presumably, he was not alive at that time. While Douglas is detained in jail, he is unable to obtain his gland treatments, suddenly ages, and dies before the horrified eyes of his sweetheart (Barbara).

Producer Dale Van Every will soon make a stfilm concerning the exploits of the last man on earth. Albert Dekker, now playing the stellar role in the technicolor film, "Dr. Cyclops", will star in this film also. (mr)

"The Flying Deuces" with Laurel and Hardy is stf. Hardy is killed in an airplane crash and you see Hardy's spirit rise from the plane. Later Laurel is walking along a dusty road when a voice yells "Hey, Stan, here I am, come here!" Laurel runs over and sees a horse (Hardy had always wanted to be reincarnated as a horse) and the horse says, "It's me --- Ollie". (bs)

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