

NEWS
WHILE
IT'S
HOT!

FANTASY-NEWS

the science fiction weekly newspaper

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WHOLE NUMBER 127

TUCKER DENIES PHILLY TELEGRAM !

CLAIMS MESSAGE WAS A FORGERY:

In a letter dated November 18, 1940, Bob Tucker, popular fan of Bloomington, Illinois, denies sending the telegram to the recent Annual Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference in which the Conference was urged to withdraw all support from and to condemn the projected "Newark Science Fiction Convention". Says Tucker:- "That item" (referring to the telegram news item) "is slightly false, thru no fault of yours. Be it known that:

I sent no telegram.

I was not party to sending a telegram.

I had no knowledge of any such telegram.

I have never given anyone authority in that manner to sign my name to a telegram.

...in short, the thing is rank forgery, if such a term can be used. I deplore it muchly, not because it concerns a highly controversial subject (for everyone knows my stand on the matter) but because I resent anyone signing my name to a telegram without my knowledge or consent!

I would appreciate it if you would publish this statement, or words to the same effect as soon as possible to let it be known that I had nothing to do with that or any other telegram."

Signed:- Bob Tucker.

The telegram in question, condemning a conference not even finally planned, came as a bomb shell when it was read by Sec'y Madle at the recent Philly Conference.

THE WALTON BROTHERS, their wives, and Isaac Asimov will be present at the December 1st meeting of the Queens Science Fiction League.

'COSMIC ARGOSY' TITLE CHANGED

1940 FANTASY ANNUAL TO APPEAR

BOTH FAN MAGS MAY COMBINE.

The name of Cosmic Argosy, Blaine R. Dummire's new fan mag has been changed. The new title is Stellar Tales. The policy will remain unchanged as reported in a previous issue of this newspaper. The first number will be ready in the latter part of December, instead of November 24th as previously reported.

Richard B. Crain, prominent Queens SFL member, reports that he will definitely issue his Fantasy Annual for 1940. This new fan pub will cover the entire fantasy field. It will list the 50 best stories of the year as chosen by 5 judges, a complete list of fan mags published during 1940, as well as a list of pro mags, poll results, reprints of outstanding articles of the year. It will be a complete panorama of the year 1940 in the fantasy world. There will be 36 pp, the price will be 15¢, and the publication date is March 1941.

The new fan mag, Stellar Tales, may soon merge with Fantasy Annual. Its editor would then join the staff of the Annual. Further developments will be reported in FANTASY NEWS.

Harry Warner's popular FAN MAG REVIEW Column will soon be revived. As an adjunct to this we would like to publish a PRO MAG REVIEW regularly. Any reader willing to undertake this please write to Editor.

FANTASY NEWS is published every week by William S. Sykora.
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Associates: Jimmy Taurasi, Sam Moskowitz, Mario Racic, Jr.

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BOOST SCIENCE FICTION

EDITORIAL by Will Sykora.

A telegram is received by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference probably the most important non-convention stf gathering held annually. The message is signed by "Bob Tucker", "Mark Reinsberg", and "Erle Korshak". Immediately after news of this telegram is published, one of the signers denies he had anything to do with it.

We ask WHY? We ask WHO IS TRYING TO START UP TROUBLE AGAIN AND BRING ON ANOTHER FAN FEUD? If this very serious message is someone's idea of a joke, we must say that it is a very poor joke indeed. Was this message sent because someone sincerely believes that the Denvention will be a flop and that any competition, however trivial, may seriously damage the convention's chances of success? Does someone seriously believe that all Eastern fan activities should cease just because someone made the mistake of calling a "World" convention in far-off Denver?

It will be quite interesting to find out who really sent this telegram. Was it the Denver Boys; was it Reinsberg; was it Korshak? Tucker, one of its "signers" has already denied any connection with it. Can it be that the three Chicon leaders got their signals mixed? If so, something should be done to prevent a recurrence of something like this which might have far-reaching consequences.

Regardless of who is responsible for this false message, it is certain it did untold harm at Philadelphia.

SCIENTIFILMS by Mario Racic, Jr.

Through "Movie Magic", one of the season's most eye-compelling fashion shows has been staged on the screen with an unseen star wearing the clothes. In UNIVERSAL'S "The Invisible Woman", Virginia Bruce every now and then, takes it into her lovely head to vanish leaving a dinner gown to glide gracefully down the hall, a shimmering formal to pose at the staircase or a stunning suit to step briskly down the street.

The visibility may be low, in fact, nil at times as far as the charming Miss Bruce is concerned, but the originality and distinctive styling of her wardrobe designed by Vera West is very evident.

Miss Bruce was heard on the Bob Burns Show over Station WEAJ Thurs. Nov 7 at 9:00 P.M. Bob Burns also mentioned Flash Gordon in one of his quips. He even said he'd rather be like Flash than like Nat Pendleton, because Flash has a rocket gun.

John Barrymore, John Howard, Director A. Edward Sutherland, and Associate Producer Burt Kelly have all been connected with scientifilms before. Barrymore played the title role in the silent version of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" many years ago; Howard has played in many of the fantastic "Bulldog Drummond" films, Sutherland directed the hilarious fantasy, "The Boys From Syracuse", and Kelly was associated with "Black Friday", the Karloff-Lugosi horror picture and with "The House of the Seven Gables", a whimsical fantasy of hypnotic power.

Secret preparations were made behind locked doors at various points on the UNIVERSAL lot for an "invisibility machine" for John Barrymore. The chief center of construction was the electrical department, where experts are seeking means of controlling an electrical spark of more than one million volts, which has been developed, and which jumps more than five feet. Every precaution was taken to protect the actors during filming of this dangerous machine.

ASTOUNDING FACTS by Jimmy Taurasi.

Within the next month, STRELT & SMITH will issue a DETECTIVE STORY ANNUAL. The editors of DETECTIVE STORIES Monthly will select the best stories of the recent past for publication in this new annual. It is this reporter's personal guess that before long we'll see a new ASTOUNDING ANNUAL based on the same idea. Some discussion has already been concerning this innovation, but no definite steps have been taken as yet. It will probably be a super-thick magazine, similar to the AMAZINE QUARTERLY, but unlike AQ, it will be an entirely new reprint job though probably from the same electrotypes used in the mags where the reprinted yarns first appeared. The price is tentative at 25¢.

This move, like the recent ZIEFF-DAVIS inception, is ostensibly for the purpose of obtaining new readers for the regular monthly mag. The war in Europe has cut such a wide swath in the export of current issues and remainders that no effort is being spared to make up for the loss of foreign readers by the entire pulp field.

STANDARD CHANGES ADDRESS

STANDARD PUBLICATIONS, publishers of THRILLING WONDER, STARTLING, STRANGE, and CAPTAIN FUTURE, will soon move. The new address will be 10 East 40th Street, New York, N.Y.

The next "Hall Of Fame" yarn in STARTLING will be chosen by Robert W. Lowndes. His choice will be followed by one which Jimmy Taurasi claims is a "honey".

The Aug 24 issue of LIBERTY Magazine contains an article about the comic mags by Morris Markey entitled "The Comics and Little Willie", which endeavors to prove the the comics are harmless in their psychological or educational effect on growing youngsters.

From the many cases of fan forced out of the stf field by parental pressure, apparently the opposite opinion is held by parents concerning the effect of stf.

SECOND COMET NOW OUT!

The second issue of Orlin Tremaine's COMET hit the stands this week in a blaze of glory. The feature yarn is John Victor Peterson's "Lightning's Course". Other yarns are by Harl Vincent, R.R. Winterbotham, F. B. Long, Eando Binder, Frank Edward Arnold, H.L. Nichols, and Sam Moskowitz. The cover by Paul shows a huge electric gun being trained on the Earth and Moon hanging low in a lurid red sky. Other illustrations are by Forte, Kelly, Giunta, and Miranda.

FANTASY BOOK REVIEW by Russ Cox.

"Armada Of the Air" by Norman S. Bentley is another of those stories of the not too distant future. The thing that makes this one very interesting is that it has almost all come true. The book was published in 1937 and the action was set in 1946, but is actually taking place today.

The French of 1940 had as their prophet, Nostradamus, a remarkably accurate one, by the way. We of 1940 have Bentley. The

The book deals with the England of 1946. Substitute for this the England of 1940 and you will see how accurate the picture really is: England of 1946 stripped of her power, humiliated, because of a weak, idealistic Prime Minister, who disarms her; England facing a hostile Europe in the clutches of four ruthless dictators bent on conquering her and her rich dominions; England suffering a concerted air attack with thousands of planes dropping bombs on her principal cities.

The book is as fresh as the headlines on your morning paper, and well worth reading. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co. N.Y. \$2.00.

BIG PARDON: The Aug 4 issue of FANTASY NEWS stated that "The Ultra Acrobat" would appear in the Fall issue of CAPTAIN FUTURE and "Dimension Billiards" in the Winter issue, when just the opposite is actually the case. (Courtesy D.B. Thompson)

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